

## PNC<sup>3</sup> PNC Catalog Chapters Order Form (May 2014)

The Plate Number Coil (PNC<sup>3</sup>) Catalog Committee is accepting orders from PNC<sup>3</sup> members for the new publication and re-offered publications listed below. These will be available as long as quantities last. Orders can be expected to be filled within 60 days; thereafter, mailing might be intermittent.

	<u>Quantity Ordered</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<b><u>A. New Publication</u></b>		
2014 Values List, <b>6<sup>th</sup> Edition</b> (PS5, PS3, Used Singles, Covers), Introduction & Prices, 68 pages, Black & White	\$ 6.00	_____
<b><u>B. Re-Offered Publications</u></b>		
2013 New Issues: 29 pages		
Stamp Illustrations in Color	\$12.00	_____
Stamp Illustrations in Black & White	\$ 5.25	_____
2014 Cumulative PNC-ID Index, Cross Reference PNC ID and Scott Numbers Index, and Alphabetical Name Index (3 items), B&W, 69 pages	\$ 6.50	_____
Precancel Gaps Values List (29 pages), B&W	\$ 4.50	_____
Avery Die Cut Varieties, <b>5<sup>th</sup> Edition</b> , 29 pages		
Illustrations in color	\$10.50	_____
PNC <sup>3</sup> Illustrated Glossary, <b>4<sup>th</sup> Edition</b> , 26 pages		
Including 1 page of color illustrations	\$ 4.50	_____
Flags Of Our Nation (FOON), 20 pages,		
Illustrations in color	\$ 7.65	_____
\$0.42 Flag 24/7 (15 pages, illustrations in color)	\$ 8.25	_____
\$0.41 Flag on Pole (27 pages, illustrations in color)	\$10.50	_____
\$0.39 Lady Liberty & Flag (28 pages, illus. in color)	\$12.75	_____
\$0.37 Flag Waving (26 pages, illustrations in color)	\$11.50	_____
\$0.32 Flag Over Porch (19 pages, illus. in color)	\$ 8.50	_____
<b><u>C. Postage &amp; Handling</u></b>		
\$2.85 for first item ordered	\$ 2.85	
\$0.30 for <u>each</u> additional item ordered	\$ _____	
Total Postage & Handling		_____
TOTAL REMITTANCE (US Funds ONLY), payable to PNC <sup>3</sup>		\$ _____

Mail Order and Remittance to: Andrew M. Jakes  
5203 Hayden Woods Ln.  
Hilliard, OH 43026-7473

PNC<sup>3</sup> Member Number \_\_\_\_\_ [pnctreasurer@aol.com](mailto:pnctreasurer@aol.com)

Your Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address or evening telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Our 27<sup>th</sup> Year

# PNC<sup>3</sup>



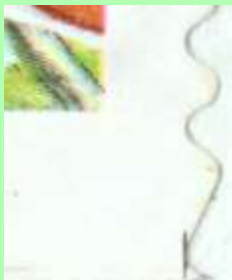
# Coil Line

Journal of the PNC<sup>3</sup> [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org)  
**Plate Number Coil Collectors Club**  
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

**May 2014**  
Vol. 27, No. 5  
Whole No. 311



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# Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number  
Coil Collectors Club (PNC<sup>3</sup>)

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**Editor:** Ronald Blanks  
[coillineeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:coillineeditor@yahoo.com)

**Print Edition Mailings:** Brian and Cory Snippen  
[snippenb@gmail.com](mailto:snippenb@gmail.com)

**Electronic Edition Emails:** Frank Covey  
[ecoilline@comcast.net](mailto:ecoilline@comcast.net)

**Scott #2127b plate # 1**  
(issued May 26, 1984 - 25 years ago)

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Contacts

**PNC<sup>3</sup> Website** [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org)  
Allan Clapp, Webmaster  
email: [webmaster@pnc3.org](mailto:webmaster@pnc3.org)

(For *Coil Line*-related matters, please  
see column at left for appropriate contact.)

### Advertising Rates (one-time)

Full Page	\$ 100.00	Eighth Page	\$ 20.00
Half Page	\$ 80.00	Business Card	\$ 20.00
Third Page	\$ 65.00	Back Cover	Add \$ 50.00
Quarter Page	\$ 45.00	Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
Sixth Page	\$ 35.00	Color, full page	Add \$ 100.00

(For Color Ads, Electronic Version only, Add \$25.00)

A check or money order, made out to **PNC<sup>3</sup>**, must accompany camera ready ad. Advertising copy must be submitted by the 1st of the previous month prior to the publication date. Please send all copy to Ronald Blanks, Coil Line Editor, PO Box 531, Windsor, VA 23487.

The Classified Ad rates are six cents a word per issue, with a minimum of \$3.00 per individual ad. (Two 50-word ads per year per member are available at no charge. There is a 10¢ a word charge for words over 50.)

All material, including articles submitted, will be edited and formatted for inclusion in **Coil Line**, and must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

**Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.**

**Coil Line** is published monthly and as a member benefit is sent electronically with annual dues of \$16.00. Printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed version add \$14.00 for Bulk Mailing; add \$22.00 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$27.00 for mailing. Past print issues of **Coil Line** available at \$2.50 per copy (quantities limited).

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All content matters, letters to the Editor, and advertising questions should be sent to **Coil Line**, c/o Ronald Blanks, PO Box 531, Windsor, VA 23487. Phone 757-478-8719; email: [coillineeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:coillineeditor@yahoo.com).  
*For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.*

**Postal mailings prepared by:** Brian Snippen, PO Box 5542, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5542. Email: [snippenb@gmail.com](mailto:snippenb@gmail.com). Phone: 505-404-1624.  
Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near April 28, 2014.

## Elected Officers

Gene Trinks, **President**, 16415 W. Desert Wren Ct, Surprise, AZ 85374. email: [President@pnc3.org](mailto:President@pnc3.org) 623-322-4619

Andrew Jakes, **Vice President**, 5203 Hayden Woods Ln, Hilliard, OH 43026. email: [VicePresident@pnc3.org](mailto:VicePresident@pnc3.org) 614-850-0308

Harvey Wales, **Secretary**, 13 Birmingham Pl, Vernon Hills, IL 60061-2103. email: [Secretary@pnc3.org](mailto:Secretary@pnc3.org) 847-367-2629

John Himes, **Treasurer**, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453. email: [johnwhimes@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwhimes@yahoo.com) 714-826-8552

Ron Maifeld, **Past President**, PO Box 54622, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0622. email: [ron.maifeld@pnc3.org](mailto:ron.maifeld@pnc3.org) 513-231-4208

Michael Mules, **At Large**, PO Box 267, Mukwonago, WI 53149. email: [pnc5dealer@wi.rr.com](mailto:pnc5dealer@wi.rr.com) 414-234-9867

Robert Thompson, **At Large**, 12431 Golden Thistle, Houston, TX 77058. email: [rthompson@pncvarieties.com](mailto:rthompson@pncvarieties.com) 713-397-1772

**PNC<sup>3</sup> Catalog Committee:** Frank Covey, Andy Jakes, Jill Ambrose, Gene Trinks, Peter Tukker  
**PNC<sup>3</sup> auctioneer:** Joe Sedivy

## Coil Line Production

**editor:** Ronald Blanks

**electronic version producer:** Jill Ambrose

**senior consultant:** Gene Trinks

**technical consultant:** Alan Thomson

**writers:**

Frank Covey, Doug Iams, Gene Trinks, Rob Washburn

**contributing writers:**

John Himes, Bob Rabinowitz, Mark Schultz,  
Robert E. Thompson

**proofreaders:** Ron Archer, John Himes

**printing:** State Wide Printing - Albuquerque NM

**printed mailings:** Brian and Cory Snippen

**electronic mailings:** Frank Covey

**subscriptions:** Harvey Wales

## President's Message

### *from the PNC<sup>3</sup> president ...*

Please see the biographical sketches contained in this issue of the members running for the Board. The ballot for elections will be provided in the next issue, and must be returned before the end of June. Though all of the candidates for officer positions are running unopposed, there are four candidates vying for the two Member-at-Large positions on the Board. These positions are a link between the membership as a whole and the Board, and serve as a voice to the Board on matters of concern to the general membership, so give careful thought to who can best represent your interests. Please contact them to voice your opinion on the operation or condition of the club. Feedback from members is important to the officers in deciding on operational matters.

Your current Members-at-Large are Michael Mules and Robert Thompson (contact information is on the previous page). You might wish to contact either or both of them to express your opinion on a matter that will be discussed at the forthcoming Board meeting in August: namely, what is to be done about declining membership, and the possible need to revise mailing options for *Coil Line*. We have proposals to drop one of our mailing options, either bulk mail or first-class mail.

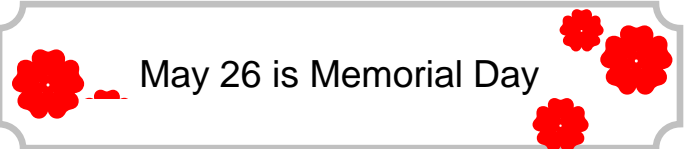
If you are currently receiving bulk mail, would you be willing to pay slightly more for first class? If you are receiving first class, would you be OK with bulk (as your only option) at a reduced surcharge? Rather than switch delivery from one mail option to the other, would you consider receiving *Coil Line* electronically, at zero surcharge? Share your thoughts with your Board representatives so they can present the consensus of the membership to the Board.

If you have other thoughts concerning the ongoing operations or needs of the club, this would be the appropriate way to convey those ideas to the Board. We are always seeking members' input, and I am surprised that we don't get more of it. Perhaps this reminder will result in some good input from those not interested in sending Letters to the Editor for publication in *Coil Line*.  
— Gene Trinks

**Welcome!**



If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC<sup>3</sup> is in our 27<sup>th</sup> year. We are a community of stamp collectors specializing in plate numbered coil issues of the USA. The first PNCs were issued in 1981 and, in February 1988, a network of PNC specialists founded our club. *Coil Line* was launched in May, 1988 and serves (along with other club literature) to inform collectors on the many aspects of PNCs. Studies include scarce numbers, varieties, printing methods, market values, PNCs on mail, and more. Thank you for visiting, and we hope you'll join us!



## PNC<sup>3</sup> Regional Meetings

*(no meeting notices received for this issue)*

### Want to Sponsor a Regional Meeting?

Contact Tony Bruno for suggestions. He can put you in contact with others who have taken on the task. Several members have made it a regular habit of promoting meetings in their area.

#### Regional Meeting Chairman

Tony Bruno, PO Box 624, East Lyme,  
CT 06333-0624; email, [tbbee@aol.com](mailto:tbbee@aol.com)

(PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting notices in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor 3 months before the meeting.)



**Mark Schultz reports finding a new plate number, P2222 on recently issued 34¢ Hummingbird.**

## A Letter from the Webmaster

**Greetings PNC<sup>3</sup> Members,**

To say the least, it has been a busy time for Jill Ambrose and me during the months of March and April. But it has been very productive. Below is my description of what we have been working on.

### Changes to “List of PNC Data Pages” Section

The List of PNC Data Pages is now current all the way back to 1981! This also means that in the process, the menu list has grown from 800 items to over 1,200 items. We created new menu items in the “Listed by Year” section, adding all of the PNCs from 1981 through 1992. In the process we found some data pages that previously didn’t have any menu entries.

### Changes to the “Mobile” Site

I recently received a request to alter the buttons on the site to accommodate smaller screen sizes. When I talked it over with Jill, we decided to make some changes to the mobile site. First, we increased the font size of the mobile site links down the left-hand side to make it easier to click on. Then we changed the menu so that each link is “back-lit” in alternating colors to make it easier to determine which link is which.

### My Open Door Policy

My door is always open to you. Feel free to write to me anytime you have a concern or a suggestion on how to improve the site. My e-mail address is [webmaster@pnc3.org](mailto:webmaster@pnc3.org).

– Allan Clapp, Webmaster

*(from upper-right, editor’s message)*

shapes, novel direct-mail uses, constant plate varieties, and of course errors, freaks, and oddities). And as demonstrated by Robert Thompson’s several contributions to this issue, more finds of recently discovered markings are possible. They can help us fill out the picture to answer production mysteries.

Finally, as revealed in Doug Iams’ “This and That,” it seems more simultaneous PNC issues to discuss will be heading our way soon. – Ron Blanks

## Editor’s Message

The fifth month of the year will have arrived by the time you read this. Yet I began work on this May issue in the last week of March, so the list in the March issue of ex-PNC<sup>3</sup> members dropped due to non-payment of dues was still on my mind.

That set up the irony I recalled often throughout April as I processed a greater-than-average stream of news, PNC finds, and interesting reader submissions. It wasn’t a matter of just this year’s loss of members, but the cumulative number over the past three or so. At a time of rising content, we have the fewest members with us since the peak of 2006 and followed by the decline that Bob Rabinowitz discusses in this issue’s Readers’ Forum.

It’s too early to say if subject-wise we’ve turned a corner, back from famine to feast on PNC interests to our members as reflected in *Coil Line*. The annual “summer slump” experienced by most indoor hobbies will soon be here. But we’re blessed, at least momentarily, with more content contributions that have yet to appear in an issue. So help maintain our new-found momentum and keep sending those letters and items. (Note that the editor’s address has changed – you can no longer grab an older issue for the address. The new one is printed for the first time on page 58.)

What might you write about or send in? Always welcome are new finds for specialty areas that were shown in recent years (earliest uses, die-cut  
*(please see lower-left)*

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Catalog Offerings Updated for 2014

On one of the inside wrapper pages of this issue you will find the new 2014 order form for your club’s latest available catalog publications.

Please note: The Catalog Committee will have already decided on how many copies of the **2013 New Issues** to print in color by the time this issue reaches you. Be aware that you might receive a black-and-white version of this chapter if your order comes in after the color copies are exhausted. (The cost per color copy is too high to make a second printing.) Everything else should be available whenever your order reaches Andy Jakes for fulfillment. (See order form.)

## Readers' Forum



**Small, intermediate and large holes.** Frank Covey's explanation of Avery and CCL back number positions (Readers' Forum, April) is something I have not seen in *Coil Line* before and is a piece of useful information. As far as perforation size on water-activated gum coils, both Frank and I use objective determinations of large vs. small hole. Frank uses a tapestry needle. I measure with a scale in the eyepiece of a dissecting microscope. Both methods are valid, but it seems we have both made an arbitrary determination (also valid as long as defined) of what is large and what is small.

Tapestry needles vary in size at the thread end. I assume the shaft of a number 24 is of a uniform dimension among different manufacturers. Is it the shaft size or the thread-end size that determines "small" or not? From the photo on the April *Coil Line* cover, it looks like the thread end.

I measure the diameter of the hole and the distance between holes, then divide to get a ratio. Arbitrarily, with Sennett variable diameter perforations, less than 0.9mm is small hole, 0.91-1.15mm is intermediate hole and greater than 1.15mm is large hole. With these perfs it's just like Burger King – you can have it your way.

– Rudy de Mordaigle #1830 (please see page 62)

### Editor's Mailing Address Changed

Please note new address for mailing items and letters to Ronald Blanks, *Coil Line* Editor:  
P O Box 531, Windsor VA 23487.

## Changes in Plate Number Coil Collecting

**Bob Rabinowitz**

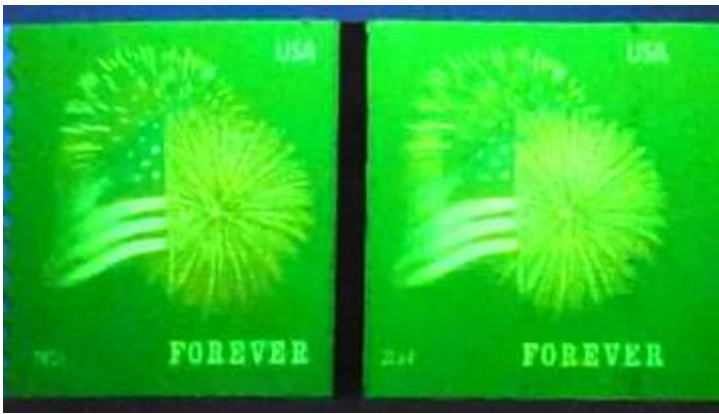
Up until the David Failor debacle (the USPS stamp manager's 2007 decision to end plate number changes), collectors enjoyed chasing the various plate numbers that appeared on single design issues. One never knew what would be found at the post office or in a lot of canceled stamps. Now being limited to, in most instances, one plate number per issue, many collectors became bored and looked for other things to collect. A much greater emphasis on varieties took place.

Yes, collectors had noted these varieties years ago such as the 4.9¢ Buckboard's Buggy Whip, imperforate PNCs (particularly on 20¢ and 22¢ Flags), taggant errors, precancel gaps, precancel mat differences, plate numbers on top, and many others.

While such varieties continue to be pursued more vigorously, now a much greater emphasis has been placed on die cut differences, back numbers (especially those behind a numbered coil or "# on #," and font differences), longwave fluorescence, etc. Some collectors have chosen to go after other PNC varieties, such as split plate numbers, longer-than-conventional strips, and very minute repeating constant plate varieties (dots, lines, and so forth).

Color shade varieties have also been noted and collected. The most widely known are the 29¢ Mt. Rushmore "Toledo Brown," the 29¢ White House "Indigo Blue," and the 32¢ Ferry "Bronx Blue." Among the others are some that have very limited appeal because the differences don't stand out to most, but some collectors choose to pursue anything different.

I think (and hope) that the pursuit of these varieties will sustain the PNC market until the USPS realizes the mistake it made and restores consecutive numbers when plates are changed. What appeared to be USPS greed fostered the change-over from the conventional plate blocks of 4 to the 1970s "biggie" plate blocks of 6-20 stamps (that eventually largely killed plate block collecting). But there seemed to be no good reason for the Failor change – at least no reason that would lead to cost savings higher than the lost revenue from collectors. (please see page 62)



approx. 1.5mm wide: | | (images enlarged)



approx. 2mm wide: | | (full image on page 72)

**Initial adventures with Star Spangled Banner rolls.** The Sennett Security Products (SSP) <49¢> Star Spangled Banner coil has a tagging break at 2L (left side of the stamp to the left of a numbered coil) and it does vary in width.

I have attached two images to show this break under shortwave ultraviolet light. One is 1.5mm (1/16th inch) and the other is 2mm (3/32 inch).

I have limited experience with these as my area received one batch of the coils that went on sale February 18th. Since then, the most recent shipment of Star Spangled Banner coils has been the Ashton Potter variety. (It was the first Star Spangled Banner to be sold in Western Illinois). We have never had the CCL version, and I wonder where it is besides Kansas City.

There is also an off plate number seam line on the SSP Star Spangled Banner. It is hard to see since it is black on black. But the stamp's black ink is shiny and the off plate number seam line is dull.

– Frank Covey #319L



**Spelling troubles.** Recently, I was sent a coil label for the 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers in the 10K roll format printed by SSP. As I was putting it away I noticed that it is spelled “Keleidoscope.” I already had a label for the 3K format. Since SSP also printed it, I pulled it out for a close look. While “Kaleidoscope” was spelled correctly on the 3K label, I did notice that instead of **FIRST DAY SALE DATE**, it reads **FIRST SAY SALE DATE**.

– Robert E. Thompson #1415L



the FIRST SAY  
re Postal bulletin

**Where there's glow, there's phosphor?** In the April issue, Rudy de Mordaigle wrote “CCL Label has printed [10¢] Snowflakes coils on prephosphored paper.” This is not true. He is correct that the coating is on the paper under the printing. However, the coating does not include the phosphor taggant (which gives off the familiar yellow green glow). Can't be prephosphored if it doesn't include phosphor. Rather, it includes lots of optical brighteners that produce a very hi-brite response, strong enough to trick the facer-cancelers. This sometimes happens with hi-brite envelopes too.

That doesn't make the Snowflakes or the envelopes prephosphored or tagged any more than a well-made fake ID makes a 19-year-old 21. The Ferns are on the same hi-brite coated paper and give off a very similar bluish-white glow to the Snowflakes, yet if you look closely with a magnifier you can see dots of yellow-green taggant. But the hi-brite glow is so strong that the combined color looks very similar to that of the Snowflakes that lacks the tagging.

– Doug Iams #625

(from page 61, *Changes in PNC Collecting*)

One other thing. Maybe I'm paranoid, but I do think the tendency these days to print multiple design issues (like all five of the recent first class stamps) involves the same mentality that brought us the “biggies” 40+ years ago. Won't they ever learn?

## Elections 2014: Candidates for PNC<sup>3</sup> Offices

Current officers, with the exception of John Himes (Treasurer), are term limited, having served two terms in the same position, and must be replaced. There are no rival candidates for the officer posts, but please consider **two** ballot choices among the four candidates for the two Member-at-Large positions.

**Please keep this material handy for use in filling your ballot, to arrive in next month's (June) issue.**

### **Robert Thompson** – *Candidate for President*

Robert is 57 years old and has been collecting stamps since he was a child. A friend introduced him to PNCs when they first started and he has been collecting them ever since. He collects pretty much anything to do with PNCs. His personal long-term project is to document all known varieties on PNCs, including cracks, layout markings, tagging varieties and errors. He has included all reports from *The Plate Number*, *Coil Line*, *Linn's Stamp News* and many other sources, too numerous to list. His plan is to have scanned images and descriptions of all of the different PNC varieties. He believes these varieties are one of the things that make stamp collecting interesting and also believes that once he has completed this project, many years from now, it will add greatly to the club.

### **Lynette Wood** – *Candidate for Vice President*

Like many collectors, Lynette began collecting stamps as a child. Also like many collectors, her collection was set aside as she pursued college studies, which resulted in her acquiring a PhD in Applied Mathematics in 1986. Since that time, she has made a career initially in satellite remote sensing and then, for the last 20 years, in the management of international development (more commonly known as “foreign aid”) projects. During this time she has been privileged to travel, live, or work in almost 60 different countries, and has accumulated quite a diverse set of stamps as a result.

It was in 1996 that her interest in serious stamp collecting was truly revived. In that year, she inherited a great uncle's collection which included many worldwide classic-era stamps that he had apparently accumulated in his own travels before and during WWI. Identifying these old stamps rekindled Lynette's interest in studying, cataloging, organizing and appreciating stamps – not just accumulating them. She has been a passionate collector ever since. Her collecting specialty is U.S. stamps, with a particular interest in PNCs which she has collected seriously for more than a decade. In addition to new and used U.S. stamps and PNCs, she has fun with small but growing collections of “Mr. Zip” on selvage, postage due on vintage postcards, and British Machin varieties.

### **Richard Beecher** – *Candidate for Secretary*

I have been a PNC<sup>3</sup> member since the 1980s. I have served as Treasurer in the past, as well as a few stints on the ballot counting committee. I work in non-profit financial management. I have been collecting and accumulating stamps as long as I can remember, especially modern U.S. postal history from about 1965 up through the latest new issues. For PNCs, I mostly collect mint strips of five, coil leaders and full rolls. I'm a firm believer that stamps are meant to be used as well as collected, so I'm especially keen on PNC-era material on commercial mail (e.g., domestic and foreign rates and usages, advertising mail, stamps used on USPS forms, etc.). I like the challenge of finding new material on eBay or searching through boxes of covers at a stamp show. Besides being a member of PNC<sup>3</sup>, I also belong to the APS, the United States Stamp Society, British North America Philatelic Society, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, American Topical Association and the Christmas Philatelic Club. *(please see next page)*

**John Himes** – Candidate for Treasurer

John is a native southern Californian, and still lives there today. He has been a stamp collector for 49 years, starting when he was in grade school. In the late 1980s, he developed a keen interest in PNCs, joined PNC<sup>3</sup> soon afterward, and has been a Life Member of the Club for several years, as well as a member of the American Philatelic Society. Two years ago he took on the role of Club Treasurer, and has filled that position since.

Professionally, John is the Delivery Executive overseeing a major computer outsourcing agreement for a Japanese automaker’s U.S. division, based in Torrance, California. In that role, he is responsible for managing more than 125 employees and handling a budget in excess of \$10M annually. He is also a member of the Board of a local Mega-church in southern California, helping to ensure its growth and financial stability.

John is one of the organizers of the PNC<sup>3</sup> meetings in the Southern California area, and tries to make sure that meetings are held in conjunction with both the SESCAL and ORCOEXPO shows each year. He is interested in making sure PNC<sup>3</sup> remains financially viable over the next several years, and hopes to continue contributing to *Coil Line* as time permits.

**Jill R. Ambrose** – Candidate for Member -at- Large

My name is Jill R. Ambrose and I am running for an At Large position. I have been a member of PNC<sup>3</sup> for many years and have member number 425. I have served in many capacities over the years, including two terms as President. I am currently the Web-Mistress and a member of the Catalog Committee. I normally attend the Annual Meeting in August every year and I have officiated at numerous Regional Meetings including those at the APS winter shows and the Plymouth Show in Michigan.

**Mel Borofsky** – Candidate for Member -at- Large

I have been a philatelist for over 60 years. In addition to the PNC<sup>3</sup> Club, I am also a member of APS, Canal Zone Study Group, United States Postal Society and am one of the Central Florida Stamp Club’s elected Board of Directors. I am a senior officer in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and a Vietnam era USAF veteran. I am a graduate engineer but I retired in 1993 after 27 years as a new and used automobile dealer (Ford products).

My collections focus on the United States and Canada issues, PNCs, singles, plates, souvenir programs and FDCs. My interest in plate number coils was stoked about seven years ago when I received a sales circuit from APS. Within that circuit were many PNC strips of five and I was intrigued by a new collecting avenue. I didn’t realize, until then, that there were issues that had as many as 20-30 different plate numbers. It presented a challenge that exists to this day... collecting all of the varieties. I am proud to say that my PNC5 collection, to date, is about 80% complete. I have always been a collector, rather than an accumulator and very rarely a dealer.

If given the opportunity I can share some recruiting skills that could help strengthen our cause and increase membership numbers in our organization. *(please see next page)*

**Clarifications for April’s Issue**

**Life members.** It is customary for *Coil Line* to add an “L” to denote life membership in PNC<sup>3</sup> when adding a contributor’s membership number to a signature in Readers’ Forum. Frank Covey is a life member; his letter in April should have shown that.

**Peak/Valley vs. Valley/Peak.**

Rob Washburn reports that he reviewed again his eleven examples of <45¢> 2012 Four Flags PNC S11111 on-cover and concluded that none are of the “VP” die cut type. So, as “variety not known” was indicated for the S22222 on page 52, so should the S11111 be noted. So far only PV is known for these.

### Andrew Jakes – Candidate for Member -at- Large

Andy has been Vice President of PNC<sup>3</sup> for the past four years. He has been a member of the Catalog Committee since its founding in 2002, and has served as its Treasurer ever since then. Previously, he was Treasurer of PNC<sup>3</sup> from 2000 to 2006. He collects plate strips of five and used single PNCs. He has introduced stamp collecting to a grandson, and supports APS activities to interest youth in stamp collecting. Andy plans to continue both of these hobby growth endeavors.

### Thomas McFarland – Candidate for Member -at- Large

I have collected stamps for more than 50 years, having started a collection for a Cub Scout achievement. I joined PNC<sup>3</sup> in 1994 shortly after beginning to collect PNCs and have previously served as club Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President. I look forward to rejoining the Board and continuing to look for ways to improve the club, promote PNCs, and enhance the collecting of them. In addition to PNCs, my other collecting interests are modern US booklets, general U.S., Canada, Ireland, and Machin definitives. I've been a member of APS for over 25 years, and also belong to the United States Stamp Society and the Eire Philatelic Association. Professionally, I have worked in the IT industry for almost 40 years. In addition to stamps, my leisure interests include old cars and music.



**“Patriotic” design choice now available for mass mailers at first-class <49¢> rate.** (Coil Line mockup based on USPS publicity image.)

## New “Red, White & Blue” Large-Roll Issue

PNC<sup>3</sup> member Jay Bigalke, reporting in the April 28<sup>th</sup> issue of *Linn’s Stamp News* (page 8), shares details from the U.S. Postal Service concerning the newest domestic “Forever” large-roll coils issued to date. The “patriotic” coils are supplied by CCL. The first day of issue for the 10,000-count rolls is April 25<sup>th</sup> and they are priced at the first-class stamped-letter rate (currently, 49¢).

Technical details of note: The plate number “C11” occurs every 32<sup>nd</sup> stamp. The two ink colors used are “red” and “blue.” Since these are not presort-rate coils but priced at the “retail” stamped-letter rate, they are also phosphor-tagged with an overcoating. (The paper itself is plain.)

It now seems apparent the USPS has a policy to offer mass mailers two large-roll design choices for the retail letter rate on an ongoing basis: a

“pretty” design and a “patriotic” design, just as it has occasionally done in the past for rolls of 100.

(Actually, it’s been a few years now since the 100-count rolls came in such choices. The 41¢ Flag and the 41¢ Garden Flowers were issued in 2007. See Doug Iams’ “This and That” column on page 70 for future USPS design plans in this direction for large rolls.)

Mass mailers who can afford the cost of full first-class postage use large rolls in lettershops to affix to outer envelopes. The mailings are usually targeted to clients, donors, or prospects on-file who are flagged as more likely to respond, or to respond with a greater commitment. Also, these affixer-use rolls are used in some mailings for which first-class is normally used and not used just to impress (beyond avoiding a meter or imprint). Financial, notification and greeting-card uses are some in this group.

Finally, large-roll coils are also used for prepaying postage on courtesy reply envelopes. This might be done for any type of mailing. –Ron Blanks

# Catalog Corner

Frank Covey

PV



The first-class rate “forever” <49¢> **Star Spangled Banner in coils of 100** from **CCL Label** was to be issued January 28, 2014 but was not available from Philatelic Fulfillment in Kansas City, Missouri until a day later.

The **C11111** plate number shown to the left and below repeats **every 20th** stamp along the roll. Most collectors will save this as a PS5 (plate strip of 5) with the plate numbered stamp in the middle of the strip.

CCL Label continues to use the die cutting tool of its predecessor, Avery Dennison. The two basic die cuts, i.e., the peak/valley (**PV**) shown to the left and the valley/peak (**VP**) shown at lower left, are intentional. These are identified by the first shape feature in the upper left corner and the last feature in the lower left corner (assuming normal row-slitting horizontally dividing the short “row separator” vertical run of die cut). Of the two die cuts, the VP is the most difficult to find. In a typical flat of 50 rolls, only about four can be expected to have a VP die cut.

Forever <49¢>  
 Star Spangled Banner (CCL)  
 (self-adhesive)  
**Plate C11111**  
 PNC ID 2014-4

Microprinting is not a feature of this issue.

The roll of 100 is sealed with a wrapper like the one shown at the bottom of the page. The coil is inside of a clear shrink-wrapped package. These packages are chained together in strings of up to five coils long.

When row-slitting equipment is misaligned, die-cut shapes caused by misplaced row separator areas can be expected; i.e., “bells,” “knolls” and “thimbles.”



Enlargement of  
 plate number  
 C11111

Wrapper

VP





**Figure 1. Strip of unused counterfeit coils from recently acquired roll.**

On February 14, 2014, Bob Murrin found the first reported example of a counterfeit stamp on the 2012 Four Freedoms flags issue. Bob's example is on-piece with die cutting styled after the Avery Dennison version of the coil (first shown in April's *Coil Line*, page 48).

The white background is clean white paper. The print quality is very good except for the blurred micro-printing of the "USPS" on the end of the bottom white stripe. The die cutting is very smooth and clean with no ties. The stamp is untagged, as is normal for the PNC counterfeit issues, and does not have a plate number. The paper is dead under longwave ultraviolet light. Without checking the stamp for tagging, I'm not sure if I would be able to spot it as a fake.

On February 24, 2014, I found a full roll of counterfeit stamps that are based on the Sennett version of the Four Flags issue. (See *Figure 1.*) When I first got the roll I noticed it was not sealed, so I assumed that it had already been opened. That's when I took a closer look. There are no plate numbers on the roll. The stamps are printed on untagged hi-brite paper. They are self-adhesive stamps on thin paper with thin backing paper. The white background is covered with black, yellow, blue and red specks.



**Figure 2.**

The print quality is not very good, especially around the lettering. The stamps appear to have been printed in strips of eight; however, the strips are not identical. The strip of eight starts with "Freedom" and ends with "Justice" in two sets of four. However, in one case the strip of eight ended with "Freedom" and the next set began with "Freedom." Depending on how the strips are cut, you can usually see a small mark in the upper and lower corners where the strips of eight have been separated. I'm assuming that these marks are to mark the location for vertically cutting the strips. (See *center of close-up's bottom edge, Figure 2.*)

The roll starts off like the Sennett version with the paper label and clear tape. Next there are four stamps, followed by twelve strips of eight stamps to make up the roll of 100. The loop on the end of the roll has been copied just like the Sennett version, (please see page 68)



**Figure 3.**

## Markings on Recent Sennett Coils

by Robert E. Thompson

I recently bought a die-cut omitted roll of stamps of the Sennett version of the <45¢> 2012 Four Flags with plate number S22222. Along the top of the roll there are die cutting registration guide marks. Figure A (*upper left*) shows a closeup of one. These are similar to the marks along the bottom reported by Frank Covey in the August 2012 issue of *Coil Line* and further discussed in the November 2013 issue.

However, my roll does not show the partial stamp circle with the vertical extension on top of the earlier item. As my roll is imperforate, it also does not have the small mystery die cut of Frank's report, either. The pair of marks on the imperforate roll are located between the numbered stamp and the stamp to the right of it (at "Zero gap"), and at the (2L) gap. (*See This and That on back page for image of pair.*)

Like the plate number, the marks repeat every 32 stamps (to be expected, since the same black plate prints them as well as the stamp designs including the black plate number).

Turning to the Sennett version of the <46¢> 2013 Flag for All Seasons, I have found an unexplained short vertical die cut along the bottom of the (3L) stamp (*second to left of S1111 coil, Figure B*). It also repeats every 32 stamps. But while these coils have die cuts, they do not show the other marks that appear on Frank's reported item.

Finally, also regarding the Sennett version of the Flag for All Seasons, I have found an example on-cover with a die cutting registration guide mark in the lower-right corner of the stamp that measures 1.1mm. (*please see next page for Figure C*)



Figure B.

↑ unexplained short die cut



Figure A.

(from page 67, Counterfeits)

followed by twelve strips of eight stamps to make up the roll of 100. The loop on the end of the roll has been copied just like the Sennett version, except the black horizontal line on the end of the backing paper is missing. It appears that the strips have been cut by hand along the top and bottom, since the stamp heights vary. It also looks like the vertical die cutting has been done by hand, since some of the die cutting is doubled in places. As a result, the width of the stamps varies as well. The strips have been taped together with clear tape on the back of the roll.

On March 1, 2014, I purchased what I believe to be the first reported example of a counterfeit stamp from the 32¢ Flag over Porch issue. This example is used with cancel, and no perforations or die cutting is visible. (*See Figure 4.*)

The printing is of very poor quality made of large colored dots. The red year date in the lower left corner is just a blur. [*Some genuine booklets, as well as coils, used a red year date. – Editor*] The stamp is on untagged dead paper, but there are some hi-brite threads running through the paper.



Figure 4. Counterfeit from unknown format.

# PNC<sup>3</sup> Auction #50 Results

Joe Sedivy,  
Auctioneer

Closed Date March 31, 2014 – We had 38 bidders in this auction, with 36 of them winning at least one lot and one bidder won 38 lots! Of the 415 lots offered, only 223 sold this time (not a good percentage). I thank all consignors and bidders as they are the members that make these club auctions work! Also, a big thanks to all who donated lots for this and future auctions. Only eight did not sell in this auction.

LOT	BID	LOT	BID	LOT	BID
6	\$20.00	76	\$4.00	136	\$6.50
10	\$6.00	77	\$435.00	137	\$6.50
11	\$6.00	78	\$3.00	138	\$6.50
15	\$5.00	80	\$4.50	139	\$8.00
19	\$5.00	81	\$6.00	140	\$7.00
24	\$50.00	82	\$4.00	141	\$48.00
27	\$25.00	83	\$2.00	142	\$6.00
31	\$110.00	84	\$3.50	143	\$2.00
32	\$22.00	85	\$3.00	144	\$46.00
34	\$230.00	86	\$4.00	145	\$6.50
35	\$140.00	87	\$1.50	147	\$4.00
36	\$42.00	89	\$2.00	148	\$45.00
37	\$38.00	90	\$6.00	149	\$6.50
38	\$26.00	92	\$1.50	150	\$15.00
39	\$10.00	93	\$1.25	151	\$7.00
40	\$10.00	97	\$6.00	152	\$8.00
41	\$15.00	98	\$8.00	153	\$7.00
42	\$1.50	99	\$15.00	156	\$8.50
44	\$4.00	100	\$8.00	157	\$8.50
45	\$6.00	101	\$5.00	159	\$835.00
47	\$11.00	102	\$5.00	161	\$7.00
48	\$10.00	108	\$6.00	162	\$11.00
49	\$13.00	109	\$8.00	163	\$7.50
50	\$8.00	110	\$6.00	164	\$7.50
51	\$25.00	111	\$170.00	165	\$6.00
52	\$13.00	112	\$6.00	166	\$6.50
53	\$2.00	113	\$7.00	167	\$1.25
55	\$1.25	114	\$5.00	168	\$90.00
58	\$300.00	115	\$6.00	169	\$80.00
59	\$2.00	118	\$4.00	170	\$6.50
62	\$13.00	119	\$5.00	171	\$6.50
63	\$26.00	120	\$7.00	172	\$7.50
64	\$10.00	122	\$7.50	173	\$22.00
65	\$18.00	123	\$2.00	177	\$19.00
66	\$10.00	125	\$7.00	178	\$21.00
68	\$2.00	126	\$6.50	179	\$19.00
71	\$2.00	130	\$8.00	180	\$13.00
72	\$2.50	131	\$150.00	181	\$13.00
73	\$15.00	132	\$8.00	182	\$22.00
74	\$5.00	133	\$7.00	183	\$40.00
75	\$3.50	135	\$6.00	184	\$25.00

LOT	BID	LOT	BID	LOT	BID
185	\$9.00	281	\$100.00	352	\$22.00
186	\$7.50	288	\$45.00	353	\$23.00
187	\$9.00	290	\$2.25	354	\$30.00
190	\$9.00	291	\$30.00	355	\$33.00
191	\$11.00	292	\$10.00	356	\$15.00
195	\$3.50	294	\$29.00	357	\$30.00
197	\$10.00	295	\$10.00	358	\$4.00
209	\$10.00	296	\$7.00	361	\$3.00
210	\$10.00	301	\$17.00	362	\$7.00
212	\$8.00	303	\$5.50	365	\$11.00
213	\$8.00	304	\$8.00	366	\$2.50
214	\$16.00	310	\$4.00	367	\$4.00
215	\$11.00	311	\$3.50	371	\$18.00
217	\$36.00	312	\$3.00	374	\$4.00
233	\$4.00	314	\$3.00	377	\$5.00
237	\$2.00	315	\$5.00	380	\$60.00
239	\$11.00	318	\$7.00	384	\$12.00
240	\$67.50	319	\$3.00	392	\$15.00
241	\$125.00	322	\$55.00	395	\$135.00
248	\$130.00	324	\$5.00	401	\$1.50
249	\$170.00	325	\$11.00	402	\$1.50
251	\$125.00	335	\$10.00	403	\$2.00
254	\$145.00	337	\$18.00	404	\$2.25
257	\$55.00	339	\$4.00	405	\$1.50
258	\$7.50	341	\$150.00	406	\$2.00
259	\$10.00	344	\$35.00	407	\$3.00
260	\$8.50	346	\$3.00	409,412	\$1 ea.
261	\$8.00	347	\$8.00	413	\$2.00
262	\$11.00	350	\$8.00	415	\$6.50
263	\$6.00				
264	\$23.00				
266	\$2.00				
267	\$16.00				
268	\$16.00				
269	\$20.00				
273	\$32.00				
275	\$10.00				
276	\$8.00				
278	\$10.00				
279	\$10.00				
280	\$4.00				

(from page 69, coil markings)



Figure C.

# This and That

Doug Iams

## Fun with Ferns



A small section of a roll of 10K of the 49¢ Ferns was found that was mis-slitted to the extent that the stamps were split in two with part of the bottom from one row ending up at the top of the row below. Only about 20 stamps were affected. Unfortunately the plate number in this section was where there was only a small shift and the plate number was split in half (left image) instead of producing a full number on top. The maximum extent of the mis-slitting is shown at the right.

To the right of the numbered stamp you can see one of the digits of the back number showing through the liner. About 10% of the roll had the back number completely behind the numbered stamp, but then it wandered off. A similar problem has been reported for the recently released Forever version of the Ferns where only about the first 200 stamps of one roll had a number on number before it wandered off.

Like other recent CCL-produced coils, the 49¢ Ferns have several coatings. One covers the paper with a lot of optical brighteners, and a phosphorescent tagged coating is over the ink.

## Star Spangled Banner White Stripe

A former member reports that dealer member Mike Lipson has found a roll of the CCL-printed <49¢> Star Spangled Banner coil with a white stripe

along the bottom. The stamps were slit with a narrow margin at the top and a wide margin at the bottom. It is reasonable to guess these were from the bottom row of the web and that with normal slitting the white would have been trimmed off.

What is a bit surprising is just how close the white comes to the normal bottom of the stamps. It is possible that there was an inking problem that left more of the edge of the web unprinted than normal. If this really is where the inking is supposed to end, then a wider white stripe would be possible if the slitting is mis-aligned more. It might also be possible to find a white stripe at the tops of the stamps from a top-row roll.



(Note: The stamps' bottom edge stops at the bottom of the white line. The original image has black as the scanned background color – this was replaced by gray in editing to show the true height better. The top edge of the stamps was almost invisible until similarly edited while viewed at twice normal size.)

## More Die Cutting Guide Marks

Robert Thompson has come up with an imperforate S22222 plate strip of the Sennett version of the <45¢> 2012 Four Flags showing two pairs of black die cutting guide marks at the top of the strip (see image on page 72).

(please see page 72)

## Classified Ads

**PNC used singles**, used strips, MNH PS5s. Great prices! Guaranteed quality! No hassles! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send LSASE for lists to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453. Please specify what you collect. Or e-mail [johnwhimes@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwhimes@yahoo.com). Member 957L

\* \* \*

**CLASSIFIED AD** rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion. **PNC<sup>3</sup> members** are entitled to two free 50-word ads per year. (There is a 10¢ charge for each word over 50 with free ads.) Contact the editor to place an ad (see page 58).

For the answer to the quiz in this space last issue: Below, a counterfeit coil is shown to the right of its genuine counterpart. It has been noted that on the fake, the year date looks larger and the white stars look smaller. But there is one more obvious difference one can tell from the images – can you spot it? Answer at right.



Ans.: Year date too close to "Forever" on fake.

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## Display Advertising Rates Coil Line

• Full Page	\$ 100.00
• Half Page	\$ 80.00
• Third Page	\$ 65.00
• Quarter Page	\$ 45.00
• Sixth Page	\$ 35.00
• Eighth Page	\$ 20.00
• Back Cover	Add \$ 50.00
• Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
• Color Ad (for full page)	Add \$ 100.00
• Color Ad - Electronic Version	Add \$ 25.00

(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)

## Membership Update

### New Applicant

James Berryhill (2245)  
104 Palomino Crossing  
Waco, TX 76712-8885  
(254) 752-9810

Names of applicants are published for review. A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Membership Committee Chair Michael Conway with the objection ([mjconway@hotmail.com](mailto:mjconway@hotmail.com) or (203)268-5896.) Applicants are accepted as members one month after notice if no objection is made.

### Reinstated

Kurt Albrecht (2117)

<b>Previous Membership Count</b>	<b>508</b>
<b>New Applicant</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>Reinstated</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
<b>PNC<sup>3</sup> Membership Count</b>	<b>510</b>

### Mailing List Available

Rental of the club mailing list is available upon request. A one-time usage fee of \$50.00 includes preprinted address labels. Contact Harvey Wales, Secretary. Email: [hwales16@aol.com](mailto:hwales16@aol.com) or see page 58 for more contact methods.

Previously, die cutting guide marks had been found at the *bottom* of a couple of recent Sennett coil issues (33¢ Apples and the <45¢> 2012 Four Flags; see the November 2013 issue of *Coil Line*, page 137 for more details).



**Die cutting guide marks at right of PNC S22222 and second to the left.**

The strip is from the top row and was slit with a wide top margin, revealing the bottom ends of vertical marks that are normally trimmed off. [A closeup of the marks is shown on page 68. Read more about Robert's finds in his articles in this issue.]

### Possible Future New Coils

*The Washington Post* obtained a working list of future stamp subjects being considered by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and published it on February 20<sup>th</sup>. It offers a glimpse into possible stamp issues for the next few years, including coil issues.

The following are listed under "2015 – Rate Change" (even though the rates are not expected to change in 2015):

*First-Class Large Coil Patriotic* (Denominated)  
*Seashells First-Class Large Coil* (Denominated)  
(both of the above may get changed to Forever, on the heels of the re-release of this year's Ferns as "Forever"; the list was produced back on January 7<sup>th</sup>)  
*Penguins 2nd oz. Rate*  
(possibly another in the Egrets etc. series of designs Nancy Stahl has produced, or similar to the recent 83¢ Puffins pane issue)  
*Coastal Birds Postcard Rate*  
*Presorted Standard Holiday*  
*U.S. Flag*

Only the top two are explicitly stated to be coils, but history tells us the others will be issued as coils.

### 2016 – Rate Change

*First-Class Large Coil Patriotic* (Denominated)  
*First-Class Large Coil Pretty* (Denominated)  
(yes, it says "pretty")  
*2nd oz. Rate*  
*Presorted Standard Holiday*  
*U.S. Flag*  
(I suspect a postcard rate issue was an unintentional omission.)

### Year TBD – Rate change

*5- and 10-cent low denomination designs* (no details) and a long list of designs that might or might not become coil issues.

Also I noted they are calling the *Large Coil 4 Flags* issue due April 25<sup>th</sup> the "Red, White & Blue." [See breaking news near deadline, page 65.]

And one wonders if they will produce a new Presorted Standard Holiday coil for this year since they have them slated for both 2015 and 2016.

### Tag Break on Sennett SSB Coil

A tagging break of varying widths has been found on the Sennett version of the Star Spangled Banner coil on the 2L serpentine die cuts (between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stamp on a plate strip of five). Frank Covey reports widths from 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch to 3/32<sup>nd</sup> inch (1.5 – 2mm). (See his Readers' Forum item; image of widest 2mm break courtesy of Frank Covey is shown below).

