

Call for Nominations – 2016 Board Elections this June

2016 is an election year for your club officers. Elections will be held in June, with ballot counting in July so that we can announce our new officers and Board at the Annual Meeting in August.

Now is the time to consider how you can help the club by running for an office or a seat on the Board. Check the inside cover of your *Coil Line* or the website to see the officer and Board positions. It's important that we have more than one person running for each position so that members might have a choice in casting their vote. If you've recently retired and are looking for a way to use newly found time for a good cause, why not spend some of it in support of our hobby? Most of the positions don't require a lot of time.

Please contact the Nominations Committee chair, Gene Trinks, at 623-322-4619 or gctrinks@cox.net to discuss how you can help.

Not sure of your PNC3 Membership Number?

Have a look at your cancelled check for 2016 membership renewal. If you didn't know your number, the Treasurer wrote it near the upper left corner of your check. Please write it down for future reference. (*Tip: Each year, add your membership # to your check register entry for dues.*)

New Member Applicants

Club members are reminded that names of applicants are published for review (page 23 this issue). A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Membership Committee Chair Michael Conway with the objection (mjcconway@hotmail.com or 203-268-5896.) Applicants are accepted as members one month following notice in *Coil Line* if no objection is made.

Our 29th Year

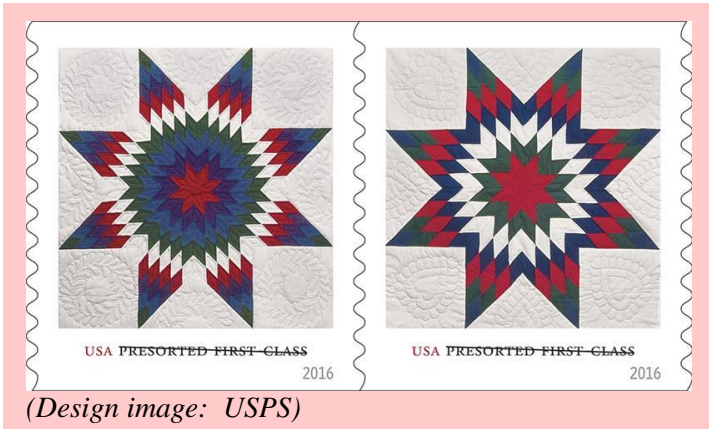
PNC³



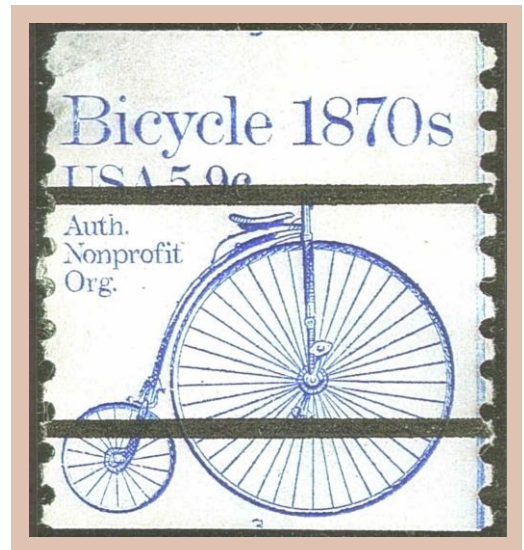
Coil Line

Journal of the PNC³ www.pnc3.org
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

February 2016
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Whole No. 332



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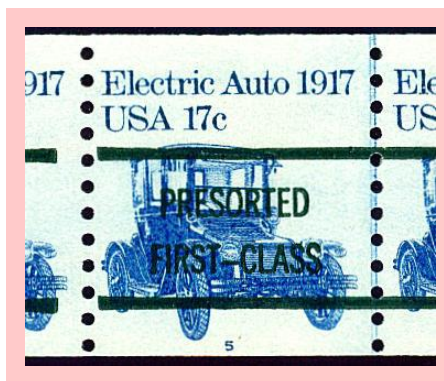


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Coil Line

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Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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Scott #3044 plate # 1111 (issued
January 20, 1996, over 20 years ago)

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(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, Digital Version only, Add \$25.00)

A check or money order, made out to **PNC³**, 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¢ per word cost 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 available digitally with annual dues of \$14.00. Printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed edition 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: coilineditor@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. Phone: 505-404-1624.

Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near January 30, 2016.

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digital edition emails: Frank Covey
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President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

I hope that everyone remembered to pay their dues, or this might be your last *Coil Line* issue.

Over the past two months, I wrote about issues that some members are having using our website. Most of the issues revolve around Apple products and portable devices. During that time, I heard from a total of three members. Two were in favor of the website's current layout and one was adamantly against it. I have shared this with the board and respondents were in favor of leaving the website as it is. Therefore, I informed our webmaster Allan Clapp and our webmistress Jill Ambrose of our decision. (Note that downloading and using the Google Chrome browser seems to solve these issues.)

During the past year I have mentioned that we need a Chairperson for our Awards and Exhibits Committee. This committee needs at least one volunteer, but more would be appreciated. It entails contacting the chairpersons for each of the various stamp shows to see if there are any exhibits that will include PNCs. PNC³ has two awards that are available in such cases. They are the "PNC³ President's Award-Best Exhibit of Plate Number Coils" and the "PNC³ President's Achievement Award." Each award must meet certain criteria and both are available for any show. The awards are made by the judges for each of the stamp shows. The Committee itself would only make sure that the awards are available to the judges before each of the shows with PNC exhibits. Also, you do not have to be a member of PNC³ to be eligible for the awards.

This past month, I put a list together of the various shows that are scheduled during the next twelve months. It includes all of the contact information of the show chairs. Although there are more than 100 local, regional and national shows each year, there are only about 60 shows per year that have exhibits. That works out to be only about five shows per month. Most of the work can be handled through an email to the show chairperson to determine if there are any exhibits that qualify. If so, you would simply send the awards to the chair of the show. If not, you would simply put it on the list for next year. I hope one of our members will consider taking this on.

— Robert E. Thompson



Welcome!



If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC³ is in our 29th 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!

PNC³ Regional Meetings

Sarasota, Florida – February 6 Regional Meeting

Welcome to sunny Florida! A PNC³ Regional Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 6, 2016 during the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, February 5 – 7, 2016. The PNC³ meeting place is in the North Balcony of the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium (same as the show location).

There will be time for you to address any PNC questions you might have. For this year, let's try something different: please bring something to "show and tell." Also bring stamps to trade and sell.

The auditorium address is 801 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. The exhibition hours are Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further details on the PNC³ meeting, contact Al Light at al.light@verizon.net. For more information about the exhibition, contact this year's chairperson, Liz Hisey, at lizhisey@comcast.net.

(more regional meetings, page 16)

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
(PNC³ meeting notices in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor 3 months before the meeting.)

ARIPEX 2016 – February 20 Mesa, Arizona

There will be a **Regional Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club** at the ARIPEX 2016 show on Saturday, February 20, 2016. The show is held at the Mesa Centennial Hall, 263 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ (same venue as last year). The meeting is scheduled to be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in a room to be announced at the show. The club will have a table on the show floor to welcome you and offer club information to visitors.

Information on the show and directions to the Centennial Hall are available online at the show website www.aripex.org (or you may call Gene Trinks at 623-322-4619.) Please note that there is a \$5 admission charge to the show (good for three days, Feb 19 – 21), but the meeting room is accessible without a charge. Further information is available from Gene, who is hosting the event. Contact Gene at 16415 W. Desert Wren Ct., Surprise, AZ 85374 or gctrinks@cox.net. –Gene Trinks

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Garfield-Perry March Party Regional Meeting – March 12

A PNC³ Regional Meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 2016 during the Garfield-Perry March Party, March 10 – 12, 2016. (*Note this is a changed, later time than shown in last month's issue.*) Ohio's largest stamp show will be held at La Villa Conference & Banquet Center, 11500 Brookpark Road, Cleveland OH. (The location is near routes I-480 and West 130th.)

The PNC³ meeting room is still to be decided, pending plans to avoid conflicting with other societies' meetings. The meeting agenda includes discussion of more recent PNCs, die cutting varieties and marginal markings. Door prizes will be given and time set aside for trading and conversation. Non-members are welcome to attend.

The Garfield-Perry show hours are Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further details on the PNC³ meeting, contact Ray Beer at rbeerdds@roadrunner.com. For more information about the show, visit its website at www.garfieldperry.org.



New PNCs Coming

"Wildlife" Series Supplanted; End of "WAGs"?

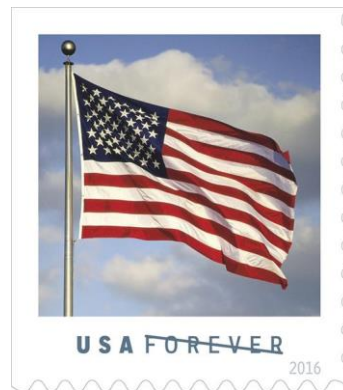


Announced so far:
On Sale, January 17
Rolls/10K,
Self-adhesive,
Item 799315,*
No automatic
distribution to POs.

Design image, USPS
*–rolled strip of 500

Near the time we were finalizing this issue in mid-January, additional details emerged about the budding 2016 USPS stamp program. We mention January stamps known or likely to be coil-related.

The big news concerns the upcoming "Fruits" series, with artistic renderings like the Pears on the 10¢ coil shown above (frame added by us). It's planned to be issued January 17 as a self-adhesive large roll for affixing equipment. This is the first time this format is used for an ordinary 10¢ stamp, and only the second time for any ordinary stamp (*please see page 20*)



Announced so far:
On Sale, January 29
Rolls/100,
Item 787304,*
No automatic
distribution to POs.

Design image, USPS
*–printer not given.

PNC³ Catalog Committee NOTICE

Orders for PNC³ Catalog items will **not** be accepted and processed from now through February 29, 2016. But look for new and updated offerings in the next (March) issue of *Coil Line*.

Readers' Forum



A bit off-kilter, I. I think I may have stumbled onto an unlisted die cut for Scott 4490-4491, the 2011 Liberty Head & Flag. I have a used V111111 PNC copy of 4491 with 9x9 [peaks at left, right] die cuts and I don't remember it being written up in a past issue. If it is new, I believe I would send a scan to you for inclusion in the newsletter. ...

I finally got the scanner to work with the updated Mac system and put a normal 10x10 stamp [left, above] next to the 9x9 [center, above]. They both have matching die cuts, but the 9x9 has been shifted down a lot when it was trimmed.

The 9x9 reacts the same under longwave and shortwave UV light, the microprinting is in the right place, and the sequence of plate number colors is the same. If this turns out to be legitimate, there must be others.
– Dennis Ladd #1821

[Not trimming, but die cutting of **true 10x10s** was shifted. This is the **first report** in Coil Line of an Avery/CCL “thimble” diecut shape for Avery’s 2011 flag in rolls of 100, and it’s a numbered one at that. (The rolls were first issued over five years ago, Dec. 1, 2010.) At the end of the Editor’s Message in the July 2012 issue, after listing recent articles on these shapes, I asked: Why are Avery’s die cuts of its 2011 Lady Liberty and Flag issue devoid of these variations, sandwiched between its 2009 and 2012 issues with plenty of varieties?

It turns out I overlooked the only other report of such shapes for this coil. Bob Murrin’s finds of a “knoll” at bottom, on the Liberty design and on a numbered Flag design, are shown on page 181 in

the Dec. 2011 issue. Frank Covey illustrates very well many of these shapes on 2013’s *A Flag for All Seasons* coil in the Aug. 2013 issue, pp.100-101. In fact, the same shape as Dennis’s nice find, replete with the same caption used in that Coil Line, is shown again nearby.

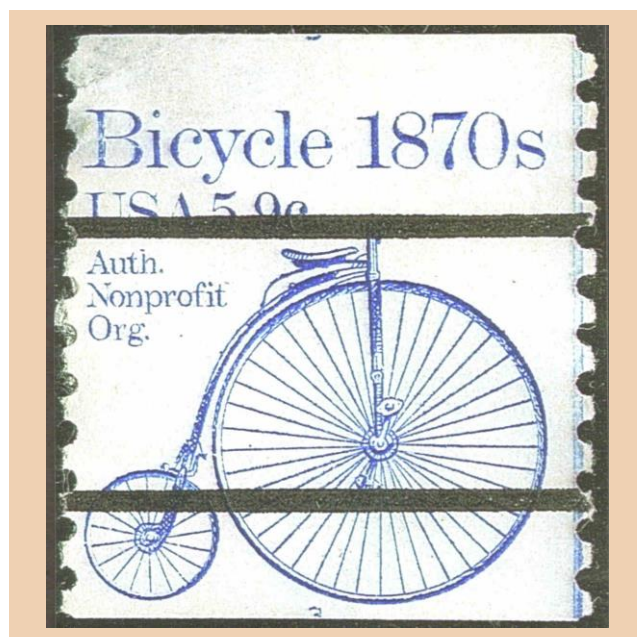
Note at the top corners’ edges downward, the peaks and valleys don’t start right away. These are from the **top row** of the printed web, revealed due to **die cutting that was shifted downward**.

Are more shapes (bells, embedded knolls) out there unreported (especially numbered)? Readers, please share. – Editor]

A bit off-kilter, II. I’m enclosing a Bicycle 5.9¢ stamp photograph, number 3 on bottom, and top. The tail end of the 3 is on top, although it was almost a miss. It isn’t tagged, since it’s a precancel. I sent a photo last January, 2015 to Mark Schultz but I saw in *Coil Line* near that time that he passed away.

Would you know the value of this stamp? Has anyone made a value list yet on these rare stamps?

Thanks for all your articles on phosphor coated stamps and other tagging issues. As for me I’m finding it’s a very complex field as it’s very time consuming. – (Member’s name withheld by request.)
(please see page 20)



VARIETY PRICE LIST

Dear PNC Collector: As most of you know, after participating in PNC activities for almost 35 years, I've decided to retire. I'm in my 80s, and need a rest. My price list from 3/15 is still active (SASE) and there will not be an update. Meanwhile, over the years I've set aside some varieties and have pulled most of them together and they are listed below. I feel I've priced them extremely attractively and hope that you order some of them.. During the current lull of PNC issuance, collectors are adding to their collections with varieties, errors, Gaps, etc.

Please study the list and pick out some and send me an order. I expect an active response so please, to avoid disappointment, order soon.

TERMS: Please remit cash or check for anything you want. order below \$50, send \$2.00 for postage and handling. All others will be postpaid and insured.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEW ISSUE SUBSCRIBERS, THAT SERVICE CONTINUES

**DR. ROBERT RABINOWITZ, 37 STANWICK PLACE
STAMFORD CT 06905 203-325-2312 RABINCOILS@AOL.COM**

2. 1897 1c Omnibus #6; long plate crack at 2L PS5 XF	9.00
4. 2045 2c Woodpecker 1111 "dunce" feather atop head, # stamp PS5 XF	5.00
5. 2045 2c Woodpecker 1111 black dot above head # stamp PS5 XF	5.00
6. 2045 2c Woodpecker 1111 reddish brown branches vs normal grey, all stamps PS5 XF	5.00
7. 1898A 4c Stage #2: double comma over 8 on # stamp PS5 F-VF	6.00
8. 2228a 4c Stage #1 tagging gap bar at 1L, 1R, 2R each PS5 XF	ea. 6.00
9. 2149a 4.9c Buckboard #4 Buggy Whip 2L and LG PS6 XF-S	ea. 9.00
10. 2149a 4.9c Buckboard crack through #6 PS5 XF	8.00
11. 2149a 4.9c Buckboard #6 Buggy Whip 2L	8.00
12. same GAP 3L and No GAP PS5 XF	10.00
13. 2149a 4.9c Buckboard #6 No GAP and 1R	ea.10.00
<u>I HAVE MANY MANY 4.9a 1.2.5.6 WITH VARIOUS gaps AND ROWS 1.2.3.4 PLEASE INQUIRE</u>	
15. 1900a 5.2c PC #2 Famous Sleigh Rein with split #2 nice example at low price. No Gap	5.00
16. 1900a 5.2c PC #1 red dot over h on # stamp and over g on 1R stamp PS5 NG	ea. 5.00
17. 1900a 5.2c #2 crack through #2 number stamp PS5 XF	6.00
18. 1900a 5.2c 4,6 set PS GAP 2L HASH MARKS AT 4R PS12 F-VF	set 30.00
19.. SAME XF-S	42.00
20. 2255 7.6c #2 PS5 very light printing. Lines on wheels absent. XF	6.00
21. 2128 8.3c mint: low entry #1 whole number at bottom PS5 XF	9.00
24. 1903a 9.3c #3 crack through #3 Line Gap PS5 Fine \$6.00	XF-S 12.00
25. 1903a 9.3c #4 PS 5 from 3L type II paper	8.00
26. 1903a 9.3c Wagon 5,6 3L HASH MARK 3R PS12 XF-S	10.00
27. 3769 10c Lions gummed S11111 PS5 one perf hole very large in middle XF-S	5.00
28. 2130 10.1c Mint Oil Wagon flying comet above wagon smoke stock at 4R PS6 XF	8.00
29 2130 10.1c Mint Oil Wagon "rocket approaching" top Wagon 3R PS9 XF	12.00
30. 1904 10,9c mint Hansom Cab 1,2 Light purple color PS5 XF-S	set 18.00
33. 2131 11c Bearcat #3 "floating green comma" adjacent to joint line PS5 XF	8.00
34. 2131 11c Bearcar #3 clearly upward design transfer far left stamp (2L) very obvious PS5 XF-S	10.00
38. 1906 17c Auto mint #5 "reclining comma" variety 1R stamp to left of USA PS5 XF-S	9.00
39. 1906 17c Auto mint #3 Blue dot bottom left 1R stamp PS5 XF	8.00

(continues next page)

41. 1906a 17c Auto PC #3 same variety blue dot as mint version, lot 39 PS5 XF NG	8.00
44. 1906a "B" type #5 1L PS6 number 100+% on top	17.00
45a. 1906a 17c PC 5.7C PS5 XF HIGH BRIGHT No GAP PS5 XF	60.00
47. 2150 21.1c Letters 11121 blue dot in right margin far right stamp PS5 XF	8.00
48. 2150a 21.1c Letters very long angular black scratch thru 2L stamp; Same 1R stamp PS5 XF ea	7.00
49. 2150a 21.1c Letters long black angular scratch thru 1R into 2R PS5 XF	7.00
50. 2115b 22c Flag #2 PS3 WIDE TAG (PS5 retail \$130) XF	10.00
51. 2464 23c Lunch #4: 2 blue dots at the bottom # stamp PS5 XF.	7.00
52. 2464 23c Lunch #4: Blue dot to right of Lunch, # stamp PS5 XF	7.00
53. 2464 23c Lunch #4 blue dot below "s" of 1890, # stamp PS5 XF	7.00
54. 2279 "E" 1222 with last 2 shifting to overlap next to last 2 creating superimposition 122 PS5 XF	12.00
55. 2281 25c #1 Bee black shifted to bring end of wing outside frame line PS5 VF	5.00
56. 2281 25c Bee #1: design shifted down about 2mm. too weird to describe, #s cut T and B PS5 F	6.00
57. 2281 25c Bee #2: number 1/2 into design PS5 XF	5.00
58. 2281 25c Bee #2: number shifted entirely into design PS5 XF	13.00
60. 2281 25c Bee #2 Seam line 1L PS5 round corner tag	10.00

**IN STOCK IS A VERY LARGE GROUP OF 25c BEES, 1,2 WITH JOINT LINES TO 18L AND 18R:
INCLUDED IS PROBABLY THE WORLD'S STRONGEST STOCK OF JOINT LINE FULL SERIFS**

61. 2280a 25c Yosemite #1 Prephos: bottom of 1 missing in space where it should be XF PS5	12.00
62. 2280a 25c Yosemite #14 edge of guide mark onto all stamps; full plate PS5 VF	9.00
64. 2609 29c White House #1 Unusual DOUBLE SERIF PS5 XF	13.00
65. 2609 29c White House #7 Bottom half of the #7 not printed PS5 XF	8.00
66. 2609 29c White House #18 "red eagle" variety perched atop each flagpole PS5 XF	10.00
71. 2915A 32c Flag-Porch 13211A continuous crack 2L from Top to Bottom PS5 XF	12.00
72. 2915A 32c Flag-Porch 87888: series of angular red dashes bottom margin 1R stamp PS5 XF	14.00
74. 2915A 32c Flag Porch 89878 11x10 red dot under date # stamp VF PS5 VF	8.00

IN STOCK ARE MANY DIFFERENT DOT VARIETIES ON MANY DIFF. 2915a NUMBERS

75. "H" 1131 large blue comma to left of hat rim, on 1R stamp PS5 VF	10.00
76. 3281 1111A, 5555A, 8888A: dark red colored stripes in Flag PS5 XF	each 6.00
77. 3632A S2222 BROKEN double vertical double die cut-striking variety PS5 XF	9.00
78. 3829A 37c Egret P1111 Lighter blue color all stamps PS5 XF	8.00

LATE ADDITIONS

79. 1906a 17c AUTO # 3 A-B GAP 5R #3 completely ON TOP PS11 F-VF RARE	200.00
80. 1904a 10.9c PCL #2 dropped transfer at 1R, GAP 3R PS9 XF	100.00
81. 1900 5.2c Mint set 3,5 WITH TAGGING GAP at 4R: PS8 XF: absent on typical PS5/PS6s	195.00
82. 2281 25c Bee #1 Full Serif WIDE TAG PS5 F-VF \$18.00; VF-XF \$22.00; XF-S \$27.00	
83. 3228 10c Bike 333 Very scarce ROUND SHOULDER PS5 XF	24.00
84. 2132 12.5 Mint #2 tagging shifted 1/3rd to the left (or 2/3 to the rt.) PS5 XF	8.00

SUPERSPECIALS 1/2016

101. 2115b 22c Flag #8 <u>WIDE TAG</u> PS5 XF	\$65.00
102. 2903a (5c) Mountain <u>TAGGED IN ERROR</u> PS5 XF	12.00
103. 3785b (5c) Sea Coast P2222 <u>TAGGED IN ERROR</u> PS5 XF	29.00
104. SAME, <u>TAGGED IN ERROR # 0N #</u> PS5 XF	59.00
105. 2260b 15c Tug #2 <u>UNTAGGED ERROR</u> PS5 XF	95.00
106. 3632A 37c Flag S4444 <u>SMOOTH TAG</u> PS5 XF	39.00
107. 2466b 32c Ferry Boat #5 <u>BRONX (BRIGHT BLUE)</u> PS5 XF	35.00
108. 2257b (10c) Canal Boat #4 <u>UNTAGGED ERROR</u> PS5 XF	50.00
109. 1904a 10.9c Hansom Cab 3,4 <u>RARE # - RARE GAP 1R</u> PS5 XF SET	495.00

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE ITEMS ARE PRICED BELOW MY 3/15
F-VF LIST AND ARE OFFERED IN XF-S CONDITION. NO 40% PREMIUM.**

(from page 17, Readers' Forum)

[When it comes to "off the beaten track" oddities like this, beauty is most often in the eyes of the beholder. For example, at least one collector welcomes higher-value stamps that the mailing post office missed canceling and later received pen scribbles or heavy marker obliteration. And aren't some readers collecting end-roll PNCs with the funky between-roll cut on one side, making them damaged in the eyes of others? (Many consider this split-# average at best, or damaged with a thin at upper-left.)

We remind members of two club benefits to glean a level of market value for such items. One, you can take advantage of two free classified ads per year. (See page 23 for details.) Two, you can consign coils to one of our two auctions each year, setting a minimum bid that you would accept. The latter is anonymous; to be anonymous in an ad, contact the editor to serve as go-between. – Editor]

A bit off-kilter, III. A few months ago, a member mailed in a mint unnumbered strip of five 1¢ Kestrel coils, commenting that perhaps the evident mis-shifted row slitting was noteworthy. (A single from the strip is shown as the first coil below.)

In perspective, it appears to be an off-centered stamp (within the tolerance of normal product; note the pale yellow background block is intact).

Compare the 1¢ with the two random finds from the Transportation Series shown to its right. Each design image is shifted from perfectly centered at least as much as the 1¢. The 5.5¢ is from shifted row slitting; the 7.6¢ from shifted perforating. Are these in "average" condition, or below-average? Are they of no interest to PNCers because none have a plate number?

The last stamp below is a 1¢ Kestrel with #1111 "100% on top" that can occur from shifted row slitting. Unlike the first three coils, some highly seek coils like this due to these considerations: (a) it has a plate number, so it is more challenging to find;

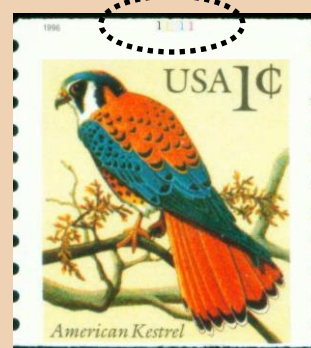
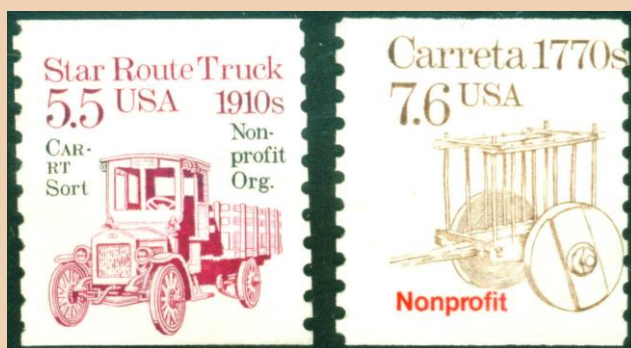
(b) a *wholeness* condition is met: the plate number is intact (due to the extent of the "off-center" up-and-down shift – it reached a needed threshold); (c) the oddity is visually striking for the average stamp collector (whether or not they collect plate numbers), due to the unexpected position of the whole number at top when it is supposed to be at bottom... In contrast, the unnumbered, off-center coils only show a little more blank space.

A (10¢) Snowflake report. I just read your column on the (10¢) Snowflake coil and want to report the first one I have seen on cover, which I just received on December 24th. (It contained an automobile dealer's marketing letter soliciting a trade-in for the recipient's late-model vehicle.) Thanks for your great work on *Coil Line*! Best regards. – Rob Kutz # 1291 (please see page 24)

(from page 16, New PNCs coming)

below the first-class letter rate. As the current 1¢ Bobcat from Ashton Potter in rolls of 3K and 10K is the first ordinary low-value coil that is self-adhesive, the Bobcat might become a "one-off," last hurrah of the Wildlife series. In addition to the 10¢ Pears, the USPS released designs for 5¢ Grapes and 1¢ Apples stamps to be issued later in 2016, formats not given.

The remaining coil that is planned for January (on the 29th) is a replacement for the first-class letter rate Star-Spangled Banner flag rolls of 100 we've had since early 2014. I speculated in early 2015 that the SSB might be replaced then due to its heavy black background, but that didn't happen. Interestingly, I was recently visiting non-collecting friends out-of-state. Out of the blue one mentioned that the SSB was our worst flag stamp due to its use of black ink. I think, and some recent online posts opine, that the new design (shown on page 17) is a 180-degree turn for the better. – Ron Blanks



Recalling Hunts for Tougher Plate Numbers by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz

Starting about 1960 I was dealing in plate blocks by number and position. I focused on both common items and especially scarce numbers such as the 6¢ Eagle & Shield of 1938 (Scott C23), bicolored 16¢ Airmail – Special Delivery (CE2), the Champions of Liberty 8¢ Kossuth and 8¢ Bolivar, and, of course, the 1968 and 1969 Christmas issues.

To find the older numbers I visited stamp shows and the many dealers that lined New York City's Nassau Street at that time. Many had stocks of C23 and CE2 but hadn't the time or interest to sort them. And I knew the better items by number and selvege markings. I did very well.

By the early 1980s, these kinds of pickings slowed down considerably. During a get-together with the now-deceased Al Cibulskas, a friend and colleague, he showed me a PNC price list, probably from Dennis Chamberlain. What caught my attention was the fact that some of these PS3s (plate strips of 3) and PS5s were quite scarce and commanded high prices. Immediately I began looking for them.

From my plate block experience for more than 20 years, I had lots of post office contacts and took advantage of them. I had a good contact within the Kansas City philatelic offices. I received no special service but realized that they would supply rolls of designated plate numbers from items they had in stock.

I still have a copy of an order where I specified and received rolls of 500 and 3,000 of all the desirable plate numbers of the 18¢ Surrey including 1, 2 and 3, 4. In the same order I purchased 15 rolls of 100 of 20¢ Pumpers 7, 8. Understand that I had no special relationship here, just the knowledge that the manager would look for and find these numbers.



At the time I had a friend who ran a mailing business that had a list of about 300 similar businesses around the country. This was an opportunity to purchase unused roll ends when a job was finished. I got on the phone, contacted some, and the response was good but few sent me material. When I asked, I was told that counting the stamps was a time-consuming problem.

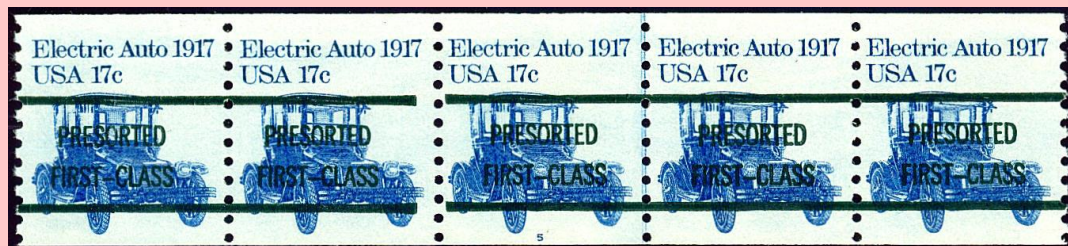
I then realized that 500 stamps weighed just about exactly 1 ounce, so I sent out letters to all 300 offering to purchase Transportation series 5.2¢, 5.9¢, and 9.3¢ roll ends (by weight) at a premium. I risked this because at the time, the basic precancel price was higher than today and the possibility existed of getting better plate numbers and/or precancel gaps.

The material started coming in and represented a major portion of my "Gap" stock. There was one mailer in Connecticut who didn't send anything in but invited me to visit. I did, and found several partial rolls of 10.9¢ 3, 4!!

The 17¢ Electric Auto precancels, with their three typefonts (A, B, C), offered a great challenge at the time. Good numbers like 3, 4B and 5, 7C and some of the combos like 5, 6 BA were highly sought-after. I called some post offices in the greater New York City region, including northeast New Jersey. All told me I was too late; they had sent their entire stock to Pittsburgh.

When I called Pittsburgh I was told that they had a major mailer who requested a huge quantity but had backed out, *(please see page 22)*

**17¢ Electric Auto #5,
precancel type A,
gap @ 1L**
*(as strip of 5,
unmoored from other
paired plate # of roll)*



(from page 21, *Hunt for Tougher PNCs*)

and Pittsburgh was sitting on them. I quickly made arrangements to fly to Pittsburgh and bring along a number of \$510.00 cashier checks (17¢ x3,000). What a bonanza was there. Rolls of 3,000 3, 4; 5, 7C; 3, 4 BA (gap at fourth stamp to right of plate number, or “4R”) rolls and other better items. And it was there I discovered 3, 4 AB (5R), unknown until that point. I exhausted all my funds on that trip and requested the manager to set aside a bunch of additional rolls which I subsequently sent for.

When the (10¢) Eagle & Shields began appearing in the early 1990s, plate numbers were all readily available. Then I heard a rumor that new number A32333 was found in New England, maybe Vermont or New Hampshire. I obtained some phone numbers and perhaps the first or second office I called had them in rolls of 3,000. I bought all they had and my guess is that these represented most of those that are in collections today.

I found A33334 in Manchester CT in an office that had a huge customer who would have used them in one day and ship them out immediately. I asked the manager to look out for A33334 and sure enough, he found them. I bought what I needed for retail and wholesale.

When the “G” Flag issue (Scott 2890) came along, again there was one very tough number, A4435. I know I found quantities of rolls of 100 but have no recall of the circumstances. (Perhaps a reader out there can help my memory here.) There are quite a number of better 32¢ Flag over Porch (red “1996”) self-adhesives (Scott 2915A) including, of course, 88898 and 89899. I never was able to find any of these and all that I had were from other fortunate finders.

The 10¢ Canal Boat (Scott 2257d) #5, the untagged error, “dropped into my lap.” I had ordered two rolls of 10,000 from the “Kansas City Caves.” Both came in with some of the stamps untagged. I guess these rolls were from the beginning of a press run.

When the (10¢) Atlas appeared in the early 2000s, there was a continuum of different plate numbers. When I visited a distribution center in New York I asked the manager, who had helped me many times before, to bring out a case of 10 rolls for me to check. Mixed numbers had been the rule with these. And there it was: the last roll that I looked at, the previously unknown V12111. I believe it might have been the only find of this number.

The V12111 Atlas was my last find of anything important. Yes, I wanted to have found the rare 37¢

ORCOEXPO PNC³ Meeting Report

On Saturday, January 9, members Jeff Haas, Frank Covey, Dan Forgues, and John Himes hosted a PNC³ meeting at the OrcoExpo Stamp Show in Fullerton, California. 19 members and guests attended, and it was one of the best meetings we’ve held in recent years.

Jeff kicked off the meeting with introductions. It was truly amazing to hear what attendees collect – both PNCs and other philatelic material.

John next showed images of six new coil stamps that are expected to be issued in 2016: a new Forever flag coil, presort first-class coils of quilts (two se-tenant designs), and three new low-value coils showing fruits (apples, grapes and pears).

Next up was Dan who delivered a brand new presentation on die cuts, die cut anomalies, die cut ties, etc. Dan had attendees actively engaged over “bells,” “knolls,” “thimbles,” “cobras,” etc. A lot of interest in the odd die cuts was apparent. Dan pointed out which are common, which are rare, and which are ultra-rare on particular issues.

Frank presented a newly discovered *lightly* tagged (10¢) Lion plate #S55555 coil. He also noted that 5-digit back numbers are now known on the 2014 Fern rolls of 3K. (3K rolls usually have 4-digit back numbers.) He also spoke of the SSP <49¢> Star Spangled Banner stamp with new luminescence, and the fact that repeating 00000 back numbers have been found on the (10¢) Stars and Stripes stamps.

Frank and Dan then provided recent copies of *Coil Line* to attendees, offered to sign up new members, and conducted a round table discussion with attendees. Frank presided over the distribution of door prizes, and everyone in attendance walked away with a nice item for their collection. Many thanks to show dealer (and PNC³ club member) Dave Cobb who generously provided door prizes.

The meeting ended with a rousing session of trading amongst members, as well as last-minute discussions about mounting collections, etc. It was truly one of the highlights of OrcoExpo for all of our members and guests. – *John Himes*

Egrets including V3221 but my searching luck had run out. (Mike Lipson found this one, I believe.)

Why were so many postal people willing to cooperate? In many cases, they were just nice guys. In other cases, besides that, they were interested in volume. I know that the office where I found the V12111 and where I made many other mundane purchases often had me write my checks to small offices in that region to support the sales there. ■

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. Member 957L

* * *

USED PNC'S on and off cover. Our new 8-page list #15-3 of Used PNC's is yours free. We also have a free new 33-page list of MNH PNC's, Booklets, Booklet Panes, many by plate number and position. Specify which list is wanted. Vic Collinino, PO Box 300-P, Stratham, NH 03885-0300 or email your name and address to vimco@comcast.net. Member 748

* * *

Attention Exhibitors: Ohio's largest stamp show, the Garfield-Perry March Party (a National World Series of Philately Show), is holding its 126th annual show on March 10-12 2016 and is accepting applications for exhibits. Go to garfieldperry.org, click on the "March Party" tab and select "Prospectus 2016" from the drop-down menu.

* * *

Used PNC collection. Includes over 700 DIFFERENT used US plate number coils, both on and off paper. Includes different diecuts/perf varieties (VP, PV, 11/10, 10/10, etc). From 1 to 3 of each number/variety. Cat. \$2000++. Email for more details. fiszbein@sbcglobal.net. Jeff Fiszbein #1148.

CLASSIFIED AD rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion. (Only members may advertise in *Coil Line*.)

PNC³ 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 2.)

Coil Topics Index this issue...

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<49¢> Flag & Clouds, new 2016 design.....	16
2011 Liberty & Flag, Avery thimble top PNC..	17
5.9¢ Bicycle, #3 split on top, bottom.....	17
(10¢) Snowflake, ad mail report.....	20
3¢ Coffeepot, business-reply use.....	24
2¢ Jewelry, #S111111 overlooked cover.....	24

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 Applicants

John A. Burns (2305)
4127 Elizabeth Dr.
Stevensville, MI 49127-9530
baldarcher@comcast.net

William A. Travis (2306)
4207 Amber Court SE
Olympia, WA 98501-4206
watr@prodigy.net

Vincent K. Jones, III (2307)
825 Revere Wy.
Emerald Hills, CA 94062-4020
vincekjones3@gmail.com

Reinstated

Eugene Y. Liu (0509)

Resigned

James Shamel (0547)
Robert D. Simpson (0762)
Walter J. Paton (2253)

Deceased

Michael A. Courtney (0749)
Lena K. Winzeler (1874)

Life Member Applicant

Thomas P. McFarland (1046-L)

Previous Members	533
New Applicants	3
Reinstated	1
Resigned	-3
Deceased	-2
PNC³ Members	532

USO Turns 75; Mixes Up its Coil Uses

It was interesting to see a popular Sunday-paper insert magazine in January tout the 75th anniversary of the USO and some of its current support programs for U.S. military personnel and their families. Their direct-mail fundraising in the past few years has featured five 1¢ Bobcats on business-reply envelopes as an attention-getting device.

Shown at right are remnants of a torn-up USO mailing recovered from trash on December 15, 2015. My records show that they last used a coil combo for this device in April, 2014. (Could they be testing which of the 5¢ and 6¢ uses gets more replies?) The odds of a find with a PNC # on *both* issues is very low; who will be first to report one?

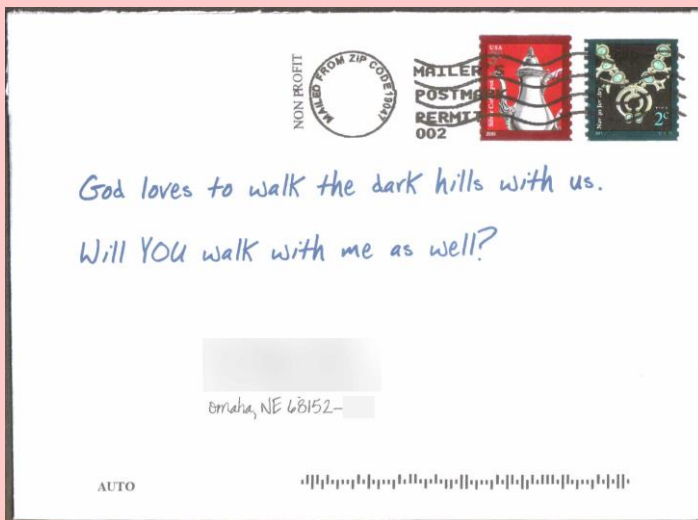


The USO recently returned to adorning its business-reply envelopes with a 3¢ Coffeepot coil in addition to 1¢ Bobcats.

Watch Out for those Faint PNC Numbers!

This has happened to me twice with the 2¢ Navajo Jewelry (at least what I caught so far), and the same happened for the “P1111” <49¢> Star-Spangled Banner coil – I don’t notice the plate number until I happen to handle the cover again later for some reason (for 2¢ at right, over a year later.) I might have misplaced a 4¢ Chair for the same reason. Readers are cautioned to double-check their coils. – *Ron Blanks*

Close-up of plate number S111111 on the 2¢ coil from the cover shown at far right.



The plate number on this 2¢ coil from a late-2014 mailing was easily overlooked. (See number close-up, at left.)



(from page 24, Readers' Forum)

A letter dated December 24, 2015 contained two coil clippings (shown at left) and this comment: “Yesterday I found this in a five pound lot I’m going through. Looks like the last stage of printing was omitted [for stamp on right].” – (Member’s name withheld)

As this member is a printed-edition subscriber, she or he had not received the January 2016 Coil Line yet with Jim Fowler’s detailed explanation on this color page of the inks involved with this coil. Earlier in the year a couple of issues showed the effect of fading (likely from sunlight or fluorescent light) on some 5¢ Toleware coils still affixed to paper.

Given “yellow” was not used on this (25¢) Spectrum Eagle, all other inks still seem present.

Editor's Message

This month marks the start of the club's 29th year. With the May issue, *Coil Line* will begin its 29th year. Meanwhile, the 2016 publication year is going to be filled with a lot more "club business" pages than usual. The March issue coming next will have our Spring Auction pages, which could number as high as seven or eight. This situation repeats later this year for the Autumn Auction in the October issue. Our Board elections will require candidates' biographies by the May issue for the June election.

This is timed just before the usual summer doldrums will hit indoor hobbies, reducing news and features available for issues before October's. So, a modest amount of PNC feature content can get lost amidst the wave of pre-assigned pages. We solicit your help in keeping **your** journal interesting and useful.

Do you enjoy collecting PNCs in a popular format, but with a twist? We would like to learn about your collecting angle. You might be surprised to later find out that another member also collects that way, or you might spark more interest.

Is there a particular story behind one of your finds? Have you had a "Murphy's Law" moment in acquiring a prized item (or losing the chance to acquire one) that is astounding?

Coil Line has included color images for a few years now. But many interesting PNC varieties, especially those dealing with ink colors, have only been shown in the past as grainy black-and-white images. Do you have the original item of one of these long-past published pictures that our current membership might enjoy seeing in color?

The above only scratches the surface of feature ideas, short or long, that are possible. If you are holding back on a story due to concern over finishing it or polishing it up, the *Coil Line* production team is willing to help. Perhaps you are engaged in a collecting angle, or have a research idea, that you think is too specialized to interest anyone else. In such cases, as well as the above, please consider an inquiry to the editor to get feedback.

In closing, I thank member Dr. Robert Rabinowitz for his material participation in this issue. It should be pointed out that the timing of his history article in the same issue as his two-page display ad is coincidental, and was not in his control. – *Ron Blanks*