



WASHINGTON CITY DESPATCH



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On line @ www.dcstampclub.org/desptach.htm

Despatch Awarded Medal at NAPEX 2009

By Bill and Janet Hughes

As we have reported in months past, WSCC members have been heavily involved in many of the national philatelic shows. During the recent NAPEX (National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington, D.C., Inc.) show, held in our own local area, McLean, Virginia, from June 5 – 7, numerous WSCC members entered exhibits or were involved in planning and executing this exciting show.



Our own *Washington City Despatch* was entered in the Literature Exhibits and was awarded a Silver Bronze Medal. The certificate was presented to **Bill and Janet Hughes** by **Dan Piazza**, NAPEX Literature Chairman, at the WSCC meeting on June 17th. The editors are pleased to be a part of this effort and want to pass on our thanks to the club members who contribute articles for this publication. We want to include topics that are interesting and informative to all the members and we want to reflect the fun and enthusiasm within our club while we enjoy philately in its many and various aspects.

The NAPEX show also included a USPS First Day Ceremony. WSCC member **May Day Taylor** was the Director for the USPS First Day Ceremony honoring the 44 cent United States Flag stamp in a Booklet of Ten. The photographer of this flag image, Rick Barrentine, participated.



As part of this event, WSCC members created cachets, as seen on the left, which were used as First Day covers and displayed during the show. These covers were presented to Rick Barrentine at the end of the show in recognition of his important role in the creation of the new stamp.



In addition to WSCC member's cachets, students in WSCC member **Jill Piazza's** first grade class at Glenridge Elementary School in Landover Hills, Maryland created unique cachets with a patriotic theme. Student cachets, seen above on the right, included the Washington Monument, United States Flag and the Statue of Liberty. **Jill** has started a budding new group of stamp collectors. Congratulations to all for your hard work.

Philately Hits YouTube

By Janet Hughes

With the advent of the internet, we have more opportunities to promote stamp collecting as a hobby and to encourage the study of history through stamps. The popular web site YouTube is a perfect place for this to happen. The National Postal Museum recently launched its own channel on YouTube, which includes over 30 video presentations. The URL is <http://www.youtube.com/SmithsonianNPM>. At the recent NAPEX show, **Cheryl Ganz** entered the Single Frame Alphabet Challenge “L” competition with the topic “LZ126, ZR3 Los Angeles: Mail flown by the reparations Zeppelin built in Germany for the U.S. Navy.” This exhibit is now available to millions of viewers at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lCmqIz63Oc>. Also the NAPEX First Day Ceremony for the USPS 44 cent Flag Stamp, held on June 5, 2009, has been made available for viewing as well. The URL is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9lk4jrjyE8>. Watch for new philatelic videos or create one and share your collecting interest.

National Postal Museum Highlights



In May, the *Washington Examiner* interviewed **Cheryl Ganz**, Chief Curator of Philately, NPM, and asked what her typical day on the job was like. Her response was: “I have a really cool job; I have a dream job, to be honest. As a curator of philately at the museum, I work on approximately 6 million postage stamps. It’s our country’s national stamp collection. The wonderful thing is I have no two days the same. I study these stamps, I research them, I think about exciting exhibits.” Not surprisingly, when asked what her favorite stamp was, she replied: “The most famous iconic stamp, it’s called the inverted Jenny. It’s where the Bureau of Engraving and Printing made a mistake and the printed the airplane in the center of the stamp upside down. That was in 1918.”

Cheryl Ganz and Dan Piazza, Assistant Curator of Philately, recently unveiled the latest exhibit at NPM. Called “Delivering Hope: FDR & Stamps of the Great Depression,” this exhibit will run from June 9, 2009 until June 6, 2010. On June 20th, **Dan** led a special tour of the exhibit for members of the WSCC.



Members who participated in Dan Piazza’s special tour included, from left, Matt Cassetta, Jill Piazza, Charlotte Brown, Virginia Randolph, Phil Uhlmann, Don Sever, Bill Hughes, and Tadas Osmolskis. Also present: C.A. Stillions and Janet Hughes.

President Roosevelt had a passion for philately and worked on his collection every evening. He appointed James Farley to the position of Postmaster General. Together FDR and PG Farley revolutionized the look of postage stamps. Included in the exhibit are sketches of several stamp designs, drawn by FDR himself.



Not only did FDR design stamps, he approved the use of modernistic images and more subtle and non-standard colors. In one case, the use of red for the 3 cent Maryland Tercentenary Issue caused confusion at post offices, since red had been used for 2 cent issues prior to that time. Clerks were used to sorting the mail by stamp color; therefore, some letters were marked as “Postage Due 1 cent”, since the clerks thought they only bore a 2 cent stamp, rather than the correct 3 cent rate. The use of “baby blue” for the Virginia Dare and Parents issue of 1937 also was a departure from the ordinary.

The last stamp that FDR approved was the “Toward United Nations, April 25, 1945” issue. Since FDR died the day after he approved the design, his name was added to the stamp. Thanks to **Dan Piazza** for his in-depth tour.

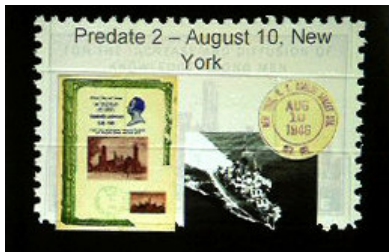
Dan Piazza Presents “The 3 cent Smithsonian Commemorative of 1946: Design, Production and Use”

At the WSCC meeting on May 20th, **Dan Piazza** gave a talk on the 3 cent Smithsonian Commemorative to the club. As **Dan**, Assistant Curator of Philately at the National Postal Museum, put it, “It is not unusual for people to collect stamps related to their work.” Since his involvement with the NPM, he has researched the history relating to this stamp. The idea of a Smithsonian stamp was first proposed in 1940, since the founding of the Smithsonian Institution would occur in 1946.



Dan pointed out that when doing a single-stamp exhibit, it is usually important to have a die proof in the exhibit. Because he has not found one, he included an autographed plate block, signed by the stamp designer, the picture engraver and the letter engraver.

The Smithsonian Issue was supposed to be released on August 10th, 1946. Because the Iowa Statehood stamp was to be released on August 3rd, 1946, both stamps were sent to Post Offices in the same package. Apparently 6 sheets of the Smithsonian stamp were sold in Newark, NJ a full week prior to their release date of August 10th. These were placed on cacheted covers and cancelled on August 7. Many of these covers were removed from the mail stream in Philadelphia prior to August 10. However, they were sent on to their destination after the 10th with the erroneous cancellation date. Also there was an additional cover found, cancelled on board the USS Destroyer Hugh Purvis on August 10th



with the Smithsonian stamp affixed. Release of the stamp was supposed to be in Washington D.C. only on that date with subsequent release to other cities on August 11th. So these covers do exist and are very collectible! It is always good to be aware of these anomalies when searching through stacks of covers.

Finally, **Dan** mentioned that he is looking for die proofs, pre-cancels, perfins and any First Day of Issue items signed by Joseph Lawler, Alexander Wetmore, Catherine Manning, and Vincent Burke. Good luck to **Dan** and thank you for educating us on researching a single stamp for exhibit.

Second Strike of Scarce Smithsonian Slogan Sighted

By **Daniel A. Piazza**

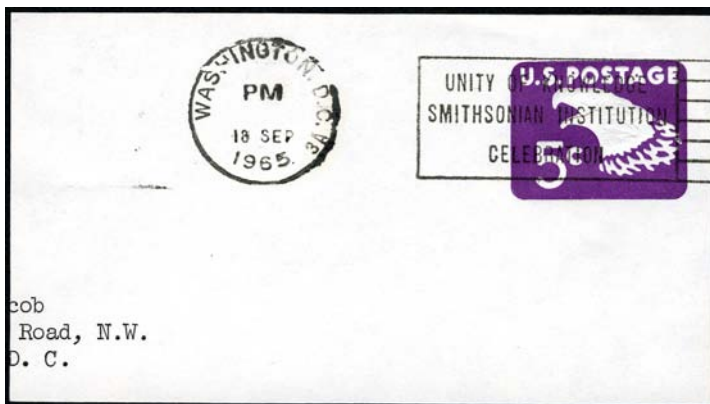
Assistant Curator of Philately, National Postal Museum

Nearly a year ago, C.A. Stillions contacted me at work about the slogan cancel classified as OMS103 in the 2008 edition of his catalogue, *Washington, D.C. Rapid Cancelling Machine Slogan Cancellations Through October 2001: Earliest and Latest Dates of Use*. This is a simple, three-line boxed slogan that reads UNITY OF KNOWLEDGE / SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION / CELEBRATION. Despite his research in several collections, C.A. had seen only one strike of this cancel used in D.C. - the listing copy, dated August 24, 1965. He wanted to know: 1) whether I had ever seen another example, 2) whether I could account for its apparent scarcity, and 3) whether I could use my connections at the Smithsonian to turn up any additional information about the Unity of Knowledge Celebration.

Despite the fact that I actively collect Smithsonian-related stamps and covers, and have been looking for one of these slogans myself, I had never seen one. The Smithsonian Institution Archives had no information about the Unity of Knowledge Celebration, except to suggest that 1965 was the birth bicentennial of James Smithson, the Smithsonian's founding benefactor, and the celebration may have been related.

In his weekly syndicated philatelic column for August 15, 1965, my predecessor, Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., mentioned the UNITY OF KNOWLEDGE cancel and wrote that it was being used at Washington, D.C. and seven other cities. On September 5, he wrote that three additional cities were using the UNITY OF KNOWLEDGE cancel and that the last day would be September 18. This suggests a usage period of slightly more than one month, accounting for their scarcity.

On May 7 of this year, while working on object selection for an upcoming NPM exhibition, I chanced upon a shoebox of slogan cut squares labeled T through V. Could there be a Unity of Knowledge strike in there? I took a chance and was rewarded with the second known copy, illustrated below:



It is on Scott #U550, the 5¢ bright purple “Screeching Eagle” stamped envelope printed by U.S. Envelope Company. A portion of the address remains, indicating that it was a local cover addressed to Northwest. The date stamp portion is dated September 18, so it may be the last day of use. This specimen is from the Kenneth D. Jacob collection of approximately 4,300 worldwide slogan markings, most in cut squares such as this one and stored in alphabetical order. The museum's accession

number for this collection is 1979.0332. Now I hope there's another one out there for my collection!

Annual Hungerford Competition: A Friendly Event

By Janet Hughes



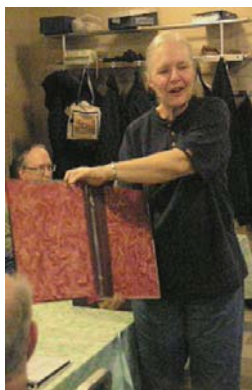
Nine entries were submitted for the annual and highly animated Hungerford Album contest, held at the WSCC meeting on May 6. There was a lot of excitement before the beginning of the meeting, as albums were examined and ad hoc explanations given of the contents. What was clear was that there was a wide range of subject matter and depth within each collection. Many had exhibited other albums in prior years, while some were beginning collectors with their first album.



The first entry, submitted by **Doug Lehmann**, was an old Philippine Stamp Album, pictured on the far left. It contains stamps of the Spanish Philippines.



The second entry was submitted by **Don Peterson**. He started his Postal Meter collection in May, 2008 when his Spanish Philippine stamp collecting was at a lull. This meter collection ranged from May, 2008 to May, 2009 and he said he would give it to the highest bidder. We shall see!



The third album was entered by **Virginia Randolph**, seen on the far left. It was an old French Album for all the Indian States through 1973. Even though it contained no stamps, Virginia pointed out that it did have lovely marbled paper on the inside covers. There was immediate interest in acquiring this album within the club.

Jill Piazza, pictured on the right, entered a unique album of Christmas issues of Vatican City, as entry number four. The album had been designed for her by her husband, **Dan**, as a Christmas gift. Even though it is a work in progress, **Jill** was quick to point out that even new collectors can get in on the competition. The album traces the Vatican City Christmas issues from 1959 through 2007. **Jill** has been working on filling in the collection on the many trips to the APS this year.



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The fifth entry contained two albums, both from collector **Frank Correl**. One album contained covers from countries that he had visited. He had taken a trip from Germany to Switzerland in 1935, which begins the first album. He also collected stamps and covers from each of his assignments as a Foreign Service Officer, which job he held for 27 years. **Frank** said that his collection, remarkable as it is, is really meant to show how much fun one can have in the process of doing work.



The sixth entry contained the widest variety of collectible items. **May Day Taylor** has covers and postcards associated with places and events that occurred on May 1st, like those pictured here. She has stamps that were issued on May 1st from the United States and foreign countries as well. She has numerous covers with the “May Day” cachet. It is a collection that she began years ago and which contains items that span the time period May 1, 1840 to May 1, 2007.

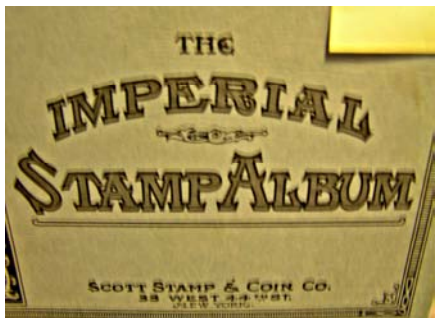
C. A. Stillions presented his Washington D.C. postmark collection as entry number seven.

The time period spans pre-1800 through 1860. He pointed out the postmark from Dec 1, 1800. The Federal government took over the District of Columbia on the first Monday in December of 1800. He also had a stampless cover from 1808 with the Gallatin free frank. In addition he had one of the covers with the Wiley Post stamp that the club had heard about in a recent presentation.



On the left we see two additional postmarks on covers in his collection which show both City of Washington and Washington City D.C. cancellations.

Entry number eight was submitted by **Bill Sandrik**. He had four miniature stamp albums, one of which is shown here. These albums dated from 1899 to 1925 and one of them had been sold at Kresge's Department Store. In addition he included a lovely old album of pictures of Washington D.C. that also included some pictures of how Washington looked in 1810.



Lorraine Bailey shared her extensive collection of mint and used stamps of Madagascar as entry number nine. Her mint collection is almost complete. In addition she showed off her Madagascar cover collection which includes a cover from Madagascar to Bern Switzerland with Swiss postage dues. She obtained this cover many years ago from another WSCC member, **Bill Sandrik**, shown next to **Lorraine** on the right.



The end of the competition brought a few surprises. **May Day Taylor** won for her stunning collection of May Day stamps and covers. Her prize was \$25. **Frank Correl** and **Jill Piazza** won second and third place, respectively.

The final surprise came when **Don Peterson** gave his Meter Collection to **Geraldine Whitley**. On the left we have **Geraldine** giving **Don** a big hug.

The 'Trill' of It All

By Phil Uhlmann

These days, as we perhaps discuss the vicissitudes of the economy, the term "trillion", as in dollars, has increasingly become a household word. We seem to toss it around without a second thought. But do we really have any realistic concept of the downright enormity of this number, **one trillion: 1,000,000,000,000**; one thousand billion? I have calculated out a couple of ratios that might bring this 13-digit numeral into a more understandable perspective, to wit:

A. At one second per second, how much time would it take to count off one trillion seconds?

Answer: 31,688 **years!**

B. What would be the linear distance measured off by one trillion inches?

Answer: 15,782,828 **miles!**

Actually, we can link this virtually inconceivable numeral to our own philatelic sphere by answering the following question: "How long would it take the USPS to process one trillion pieces of mail?" Answer: 4 years, 11 months (based on a USPS FY 2007-08 statistic).

President's Message

By C.A. Stillions

July is here and that means dues time. Elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter you will find the dues notice and hopefully a return envelope (We are still working out the logistics as I write this message.) Please send in your payment promptly. While we have a nice little endowment, it is the dues that pay our principal expenses of this newsletter and our meeting hall rental. The sooner dues are received, the better your officers can plan for the club's needs and make adjustments as necessary.

Baseball season continues and parking on baseball nights does not seem to be a problem. The parking adjacent to the stadium seems to be able to handle all the National's fans as we have not seen any problems. Our two August meetings will both be in competition with National's baseball and thus street parking restrictions will be in effect. There are three parking lots within two blocks of Christ United Methodist Church that can possibly be used; one behind the Southwest Branch Public Library at Third and K Streets, SW (enter lot from K Street), another behind the Presbyterian Church across the construction zone from Christ United Methodist Church, and there is a parking lot on the Fourth Street side of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. Please let your club's leaders know if you have any difficulty parking on baseball nights.

If you have not visited our club's website, you should. Recent additions include a listing of the post offices in the district compiled from the U S Post Office Guides, a listing of the post marks of the temporary post offices of the Washington, DC Post Office (that is the Pictorial Postmarks), a listing of the First Day of Issue postmarks used in Washington, an updated listing of the Machine Slogan Postmarks of the Washington, DC Post Office, and Arthur Hecht's *Postal History of the District of Columbia* which appeared serially in the WPS Bulletin. The first three are still drafts and can use your input. So, please take a look at them.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our meetings. If you are away for the summer, we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

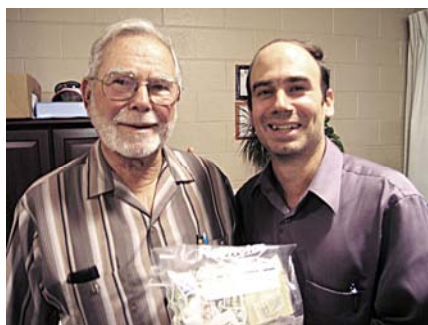
WSSC Meeting Schedule

- July 1** **Speciality Society Night:** members of specialists societies are invited to speak on behalf of their speciality.
- July 15** **Swap and Trade**
- August 5** **Swap and trade (Nationals Baseball parking restrictions)**
- August 19** **Donation Auction (Nationals Baseball parking restrictions)**

**NOTE: Information will be coming up about our annual Awards Banquet
Mark your calendars for Oct 7th! Details to follow!**

Member Updates

It has been reported that long-time Washington Philatelic Society member **Robert A. Truax** died on May 24, 2009. According to WPS/WSCC member **Seymour Stiss**, **Robert Truax** held the record as the longest surviving member of the WPS, which he joined in 1936. He joined as a junior member. He was best known for his interest in Streetcar philately. He published many books and journal articles on the Washington streetcars. He was a long-time member of the Mobile Post Office Society and was a highly regarded D.C. historian and philatelist. **Robert Truax** was given an Honorary membership in the WPS which continued on with the WSCC. That makes for a membership of 73 years! His legacy for the WSCC will always be remembered.



Two very active WSCC members will be leaving us for a while. **Joyce Adams** will be interning in Great Britain over the summer and will return to pursue her law studies here the end of August.

Our former WSCC president, **Matt Cassetta**, has been reassigned for a two to three year period in the southern Caribbean. He has promised to visit from time to time, however, and will try to attend whenever we have an auction. Here we see **Frank Correl** and **Matt Cassetta** after the June 17th auction. **Matt** was stocking up on his World Wide stamps. Good luck to both **Joyce** and **Matt** and we hope to have you back soon.

ACCOUNTS OF MEETINGS

By Jeff Meade, Recording Secretary

6 May 2009 President **C. A. STILLIONS** presiding, 28 members attending. President **Stillions** reported that we will have a table at NAPEX from June 5 – 7 in the club room, but we will not have to man the table. The next meeting will be on May 20 and will include a talk by Member **Dan Piazza**. The June 3rd meeting will be a Swap and Trade and we will have a member auction on June 17. **Dan Piazza** will also present a special tour of the new FDR exhibit at the National Postal Museum for WSCC members. We are to meet at the Museum at 10:00 a.m. for the two hour presentation. The Postal Museum Library will also be open that day. Member **May Day Taylor** announced that there would be a First Day ceremony for the 44 cent Flag Stamp on June 5 at NAPEX. Those members who create a cachet for the NAPEX display will receive a First Day cover with Rick Barrentine's special cachet that he is preparing for the event. There will be a second First Day ceremony for the United Nations rate change stamps. The United Nations has a NAPEX special for individuals to order personalized stamps at this event. Member **Jill Piazza** thanked everyone for stamps they had given her for her school class. Many of her first graders are continuing their stamp adventures at home and are quite excited about collecting stamps. The program for the evening was the Hungerford Album competition.

20 May 2009 President **C. A. STILLIONS** presiding, 17 members attending. **President Stillions** began by mentioning the upcoming meetings in June and the special meeting at the NPM on June 20. Member **Phil Uhlmann** announced that he had run into member **Brock Covington** at the Fairfax Stampfest, held at the Elks Club. **Phil** noted that he wrote **Mr. Covington** a letter welcoming him back to the WSCC. Member **Virginia Randolph** announced the upcoming Northern Virginia stamp show at the Franconia Volunteer Firehouse in Springfield, VA. Member **Gerard Marandino** announced the date for the upcoming Annual Members' Award Dinner will be held on October 7th. He suggested a vote to see if the dinner should be held at Tony Chung's Restaurant, the same location as last year. The Club voted overwhelmingly to return to Tony Chung's. Member **May Day Taylor** announced that May 20th, the date of the WSCC meeting, is Dolly Madison's 200th Birthday. **Member Gerard Marandino** noted that the date was Balzac's Birthday as well. On that note, President **Stillions** introduced member **Dan Piazza** and his featured presentation on the 3 cent Smithsonian Commemorative of 1946.

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3 June 2009 President C. A. STILLIONS presiding, 15 members attending. Vice President Don Peterson announced that he had scheduled another trip for the WSCC to St. Elizabeth's Stamps for a Living program on June 24th. Any member who wishes to attend must put their name on the list by June 7th because he has to turn in the list by June 8. President Stillions reiterated the information regarding the upcoming NAPEX show in McLean, Virginia. Directions to the McLean Hilton were reviewed as it is sometimes difficult to know exactly how to get there. The evening program was a Swap and Trade.

17 June 2009 President C. A. STILLIONS presiding, 22 members, 4 guests attending. Member Dan Piazza, who was also the Literature Chairman of NAPEX, presented the NAPEX Silver Bronze award to *Despatch* co-editors and members Bill and Janet Hughes. The *Despatch* newsletter had been entered in the Literature category at NAPEX and won this award. The evening program was a member auction, featuring several albums, stock sheets of mint and used stamps, the ever present memorial collection of hinges from Tadas Osmolskis, a number of heirloom cigar boxes full of 'mystery stamps', a small 1830 book that was resold after the auction, and the usual selection of old catalogs, some of which were actually purchased. One of 'Farley's Follies' mint souvenir sheets went for \$7 and a brand new copy of the FDR exhibit souvenir booklet, valued at \$20, brought \$10. The evening and auction were a huge success.

CLASSIFIEDS

Members may place classified ads in the newsletter for free on a space available basis. The submission date for ads is the same as for other submissions, the last meeting of even numbered months. Send your copy to the Editors, Bill and Janet Hughes at the address in the panel on the last page. Hand written or typed, mailed or hand delivered, faxed or emailed, any way is acceptable, but email is preferred.

STAMPS FOR SALE

39 + 42 cents Hi-Ends	\$17.00 a pound	Appraised value 38 cents and over	5 or 10
34 cents and under Low-Ends	\$ 9.00 a pound		cents a piece
Christmas	\$ 1.00 a pound	Plate # stamps	5 cents a piece
Bulk Stamps	\$ 1.00 a pound	Foreign Stamps	\$15.00 a pound

Order from Stamps for a Living Business, FO18/JHP/OT Dept., 2700 M L King Avenue, S. E., Washington, DC 20032-2601. Or call Mark Melanson at 202-645-4953.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB

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Circuits Manager: Virginia Randolph

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Membership information may be obtained from the Executive Secretary. Dues are due June 30th and are \$16.00 a year for resident members, \$8.00 a year for non-resident members, and \$8.00 a year for junior members.

Meeting are held the First and Third Wednesdays of the month Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street, S. W. Washington, DC starting at 7:00 PM. (Enter Church Education wing from I Street, S.W.)

WSCC DUES NOTICE



It is time to send in your dues for the Club Year 2009-2010. Regular member dues are \$16 per year. The dues for non-resident and Junior (under 18) members are \$8.00. Checks made payable to WSCC should be sent to: Gerard Marandino, 5105 Skyline Village Court, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Thank you.