



# Hinges & Tongs

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC  
P.O. Box 10206, BRIGHTON STATION  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610-0206

The RPA meets the second and fourth Thursdays, 7-9 PM, Sept.– June.  
Meeting at the Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Rd.

## Sept.-Oct. 2007

### RPA Web Site Revamped; ROPEX Prospectus Available

The Rochester Philatelic Association is pleased to announce that its web site has been redesigned and now has its own domain at <http://www.rpastamps.org> detailing the past, present and future of upstate New York's largest stamp club. The RPA has had an online presence for more than a decade.

The site contains over 1,500 files (pages, images, etc.) with 250 megabytes of content. Most main pages highlight a piece of Rochester's postal history. Surfers will find an interesting postmark, cancel, meter, or stamp that had its first day of release in the city.

A good portion of the site is devoted to the history of the stamp club that was founded in 1913. Newspaper articles, photographs, programs and other ephemera have been digitized from archives presenting viewers with a complete retrospective of the group. More will be added in the upcoming months.

Other pages display information about membership, the current meeting schedule, the RPA constitution, covers produced by the club, and USPS commemorative cancels approved for use in Rochester. Past issues of the RPA's award-winning newsletter, "Hinges and Tongs," will appear shortly along with more recent copies.

Rochester's annual national philatelic exhibition, ROPEX, is also well represented on the site. Details about the 2008 show, scheduled for May 16-18, include the exhibitor prospectus, an online exhibit application form, information for dealers, and much more. Web pages from prior ROPEX shows may be viewed and contain show programs, exhibitor title and synopses pages, and award palmars.

Information about the Rochester Philatelic Association and/or ROPEX 2008 may also be requested by writing to: RPA, PO

### **RPA OFFICERS 2007 – 2008**

President- **Ray Stone**  
Vice President- **Dave Bombard**  
Treasurer- **Rich Spinelli**  
Recording Secretary  
**Diane Bombard**  
Corresponding Secretary  
**Joe Doles**

### **Board of Governors**

**Bob Kingston**  
(term expires June 30, 2008)  
**Chuck Schultz**  
(term expires June 30, 2009)  
Dave Robinson  
(term expires June 30, 2010)

Immediate Past President  
**Rick Kase**

### **Appointments**

Librarian - **Joe Doles**

Articles may be submitted for publication  
to: **Joe Doles, Editor**

**105 Lawson Rd.,  
Rochester, NY 14616-1444.**

Neatly hand-written or double  
spaced typewritten or sent electroni-  
cally to **JKD52@aol.com.**

Any originals submitted for  
scanning will be returned if re-  
quested.

### **What's up, Doc... er, Ed?**

Some of you may recognize former RPAer Ed Kawa-  
saki next to the big bronze rabbit familiar the world  
over. Ed is still down in Wal-Mart land, Bentonville,  
Arkansas, and is now Warner Brother's main liaison  
with the retail giant. Can Porky Pig be far behind?



# Recent USPS First Day covers have not been returned. Are you missing any?

Kelly Armstrong

Most of you know that I am a cachet maker and create covers for most US first day issues. Very rarely do any covers come back damaged ( maybe 2 per year) and there has never been a problem in having them returned. - - - Until Now--- May and June of this year were loaded with many first day issues.

It all started late in June. All my Star Wars covers had returned except three (all the same cachet). Without them , that makes three incomplete sets. I contacted Kansas City. They advised on July 25 that they were gradually getting back covers and working on getting them re-wrapped and sent back out. It is now August 30, and no covers.

What makes things frustrating, is that I am still waiting for all of Margaret Chase Smith, Harriett Beacher Stowe, and Pacific Lighthouses (all June issues). I mail my covers for cancellation no later than the first week after being issued. Today's mail made me laugh, "kind of ". I received all of my Silver Hearts (late June) and all of my Marvel Comic (late July). What happened to the rest of the June issues?

I contacted Jay Bigalike with Linn's , just to see if other collectors and cachet makers were experiencing similar issues. He told me that he had spoken with the folks in Kansas City a few weeks ago. They had indicated that they had fallen behind in covers processed through the city

Jay also mentioned that "if I became a registered dealer and produce more than 50 covers of any one issue on a fairly consistent basis, this would speed up the process if this would help" 50 covers per issue ? I don't think so. I can handle 10 at most, sometimes more (Star Wars and Marvel Comics), but my cachet business is a part time job. I am a registered cachet maker with the AFDCS. What about good customer service for the "less than 50" customers? Maybe Kansas City USPS did not staff adequately for the amount of issues?

If you are a "non volume" collector and also have not received your covers, this article may explain a little. Hang in there, your covers may arrive by 2008 (or maybe not). We still have August -October issues left!



A recent Armstrong cover.

## NEW ISSUES TO WATCH FOR



# Rochester Philatelic Association Annual Business Meeting - June 26, 2007

Called to order at 7:45pm.

**Quorum is declared:** 27 members in good standing (plus 42 mailed ballots) present out of a total membership of 104 (84 + 2 honorary + 18 life members).

**Treasurer report:** For the year 7/1//2006 - 6/30/07

ROPEX '07 made a \$605.48 profit!

However the RPA had a (\$1313.00) loss; Yet the RPA over all treasury is still very much in the BLACK.

Full report to be published in "H & T".

**Comment from a member:** The need for a donation box at ROPEX Show to allow the public to contribute money to ensure show success.

Comment from ROPEX Committee: The new 2008 ROPEX Committee will discuss this suggestion.

**Audit Report:** RPA President chosen Audit Committee of two has reviewed the Treasurer's Report and finds it correct.

**Old Business:** RPA and Rochester Numismatic Association Joint future 100th Anniversary Show?

The APS is in favor of this concept, however the ANA has not decided up or down on this future joint meeting and exhibition in Rochester, NY some time in 2012.

The local chapter of the Israel Philatelic Society wish to be absorbed into the RPA was turned down by the National IPS.

**Election Report:** 42 Ballots were presented, and the following were elected;

**Ray Stone** President

**Dave Bombard** Vice President

**Diane Bombard** Recording Secretary

**Joe Doles** Corresponding Secretary

**Richard Spinelli** Treasurer

**Dave Robinson** Open Board of Governor Seat

\* As report by the President's Election Committee

## **New Business:**

**Observation;** member Paul Gerwitz requests the new Officers and Board members should follow the current RPA Constitution schedule and guides, the out going officers were not .

All Board of Governor Meeting must be scheduled in advance of the new RPA season and then cancelled in season if not needed. A motion from the floor was presented on this point, and seconded, vote by the membership present, and passed.

**2nd Observation;** member Tom Fortunato suggested that the new RPA Officers and Board should review the Constitution and suggest revisions if found necessary.

**3rd Observation;** moving the RPA Meeting to a smaller room at the church would save \$21.00/meeting rent money. The present room the RPA rents costs \$50.00/meeting as long we setup and take down tables & chairs. The new officers and Board will investigate this other meeting site in the church. No other New Business was brought up.

Motion from the floor to Close the Annual RPA Business Meeting; duly seconded, and yes voted record by the membership present; time 8:45pm.

Meeting was adjourned and strawberries feasted on!

Submitted by John Kellas III in the absence of the Recording Secretary.

# Information You Can Use

NEW SHIPPING AND MAILING OPTIONS

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® MAY 2007

## DOMESTIC MAIL PRODUCTS AND PRICES



### FIRST-CLASS MAIL SINGLE PIECE

Weight Not Over (Ounces)	Letters	Large Envelopes	Packages
1	\$0.41	\$0.80	\$1.13
2	0.58	0.97	1.30
3	0.75	1.14	1.47
3.5	0.92	1.31	1.64
4	–	1.31	1.64
5	–	1.48	1.81
6	–	1.65	1.98
7	–	1.82	2.15
8	–	1.99	2.32
9	–	2.16	2.49
10	–	2.33	2.66
11	–	2.50	2.83
12	–	2.67	3.00
13	–	2.84	3.17

**Additional Ounces** . . . \$0.17  
**Postcard** . . . . . 0.26

Letters that meet any nonmachinable characteristics in DMM 101.1.2 are subject to the \$0.17 nonmachinable surcharge.

### FIRST-CLASS MAIL



The new \$0.41 Forever Stamp™ is good indefinitely on First-Class™ one-ounce letters, regardless of price increases.

### EXPRESS MAIL Service

Weight Not Over (Pounds)	Custom Designed	Next Day and Second Day Post Office™ to Post Office	Next Day and Second Day Post Office to Addressee
0.5	\$14.15	\$13.85	\$16.25
1	17.40	17.10	19.50
2	19.30	19.00	21.40
3	22.40	22.10	24.50
4	25.50	25.20	27.60
5	28.60	28.30	30.70

NOTE: \$100 of insurance is included with Express Mail. Also available: Express Mail Flat Rate Envelopes at the half-pound rate from Post Office™ to Addressee.

### PRIORITY MAIL Service

Weight Not Over (Pounds)	Local Zones 1 & 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
1	\$4.60	\$4.60	\$4.60	\$4.60	\$4.60	\$4.60	\$4.60
2	4.60	4.90	5.30	6.20	6.55	7.00	7.50
3	5.05	5.70	6.40	8.25	9.10	9.65	10.55
4	5.70	6.65	7.70	10.20	11.10	12.20	13.45
5	6.30	7.55	8.90	11.90	12.90	14.35	15.85

- Postage for the Flat Rate Box is \$8.95.
- Postage for the Flat Rate Envelope is \$4.60.
- For local delivery and zones 1–4, packages that weigh less than 20 pounds but measure more than 84 inches in combined length and girth are charged the applicable rate for a 20-pound package.
- For zones 5–8, certain large, lightweight packages may be subject to dimensional-weight pricing.

## RPA Board Meeting

August 2, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

Board members in attendance

Ray Stone, Rich Spinelli, Joe Doles, Bob Kingston, Chuck Schultz, Dave Robinson, Rick Kase  
Guest - Frank Tritto.

Absent were Dave and Diane Bombard.

By order of the president, the 1st Thursday of each month will be reserved for RPA Board meetings. Only canceled if it is determined there is no business to transact.

### New Business

ROPEX chairman accepted unanimously by Board. Co-chairing will be Dave Robinson and Frank Tritto. ROPEX 2008 will be held May 16-18, 2008 at the ESL Sports Centre.

The Board elected to keep refreshments at regular meetings as long as there is no expense to the club. Ray Stone will be "Keeper of the Pot". Donations, so far, have made this self supporting. A recommendation was made that cookies could also be supplied for our non-doughnut eaters.

Security bars and locks will be purchased and installed for the Club cabinets that holds the library and

other club supplies. Some items have been reported missing. Joe Doles has volunteered to pick up and install the security bars and locks. They will be purchased from Advanced Safe & Lock Inc. Total price is \$288.00. Voted unanimously by the board.

Rick Kase received a request from APS for our membership list in order to determine our free dues status. Joe Doles offered to contact Connie at APS. (WE do have enough members for free APS chapter status. 73 out of 113 RPA members also belong to the APS, we needed 12 for free status.)

### Old Business

Discussion by the board on looking into using a different room at the church for regular meetings. The board has decided not to pursue this issue. The current meeting room, although not lighted the best for our needs, has the large projection screen and enough floor space to set up extra tables when needed. The other choices are to crowded for our size group. Lighting was discussed and Rich Spinelli has offered to see what he can do to bring in extra lighting for the circuits table and the auction tables. We were also reminded that we save money by setting up the room ourselves.

The board thanks Frank Tritto for his hospitality and for allowing the board to meet at his home.

Meeting was closed at 8:45 PM.

**YOUR  
HELP IS  
NEEDED**

The success of any organization is dependent upon the involvement of its members. The RPA has a long list of active philatelists in its long history. Anyone can go to the APS traveling programs and see many RPA members that had contributed slide programs to the APS in the past. Some of these slide shows have been updated but many have not. Our club has viewed just about all of these shows and some have been seen several times. Recently, we have had members come forward to present programs of their collecting interests. They have all been warmly received and the presenters have been glad they did it.

Joe Doles is willing to work with anyone that would like to put on a presentation of their collecting interests. He will scan or photograph your items and place them into a PowerPoint presentation, in the order that you direct, and make a finished presentation for future use. This is a free service and you will receive a copy of the presentation. Anyone interested can see Joe at any meeting or give him a call at 585-621-3012 anytime. It's painless! Really!



The Stamp Insider™ is published six times per year by the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies for the Federation of Central New York Societies, Inc., a non-profit organization, at P.O. Box 401, Fulton, NY 13069-0401. RPA member subscriptions: \$4.50 per year. RPA members attending meetings can pick up their free copy at the front table.

## 2007-2008 Dues are Due

Please send your annual \$20 membership fee to:  
Rich Spinelli, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 10206 Brighton Station  
Rochester, N.Y. 14610-0206

## Upcoming Meeting Programs

SEPT. 13	SEPT. 27	OCT. 11	OCT. 25
What Did You Do This Summer?	Crisis in the Gulf Kelly Armstrong	WW II & US Stamps Luis Greiff Jr.	

# ROPEX 2008 Rochester National Stamp Exhibition

An APS "World Series of Philately" Event

**Friday, May 16 - Sunday, May 18**



Featuring national conventions of the  
**American Helvetia Philatelic Society**  
(<http://www.swiss-stamps.org/>)  
and the  
**Scouts on Stamps Society International**  
(<http://www.sossi.org/index.shtml>)



### ***Hinges & Tongs***

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**2007 – 2008**

### **Dues Are Due September**

Please send your \$20.00 annual dues  
to the Club's PO Box

Attention

**Rich Spinelli – Treasurer**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**