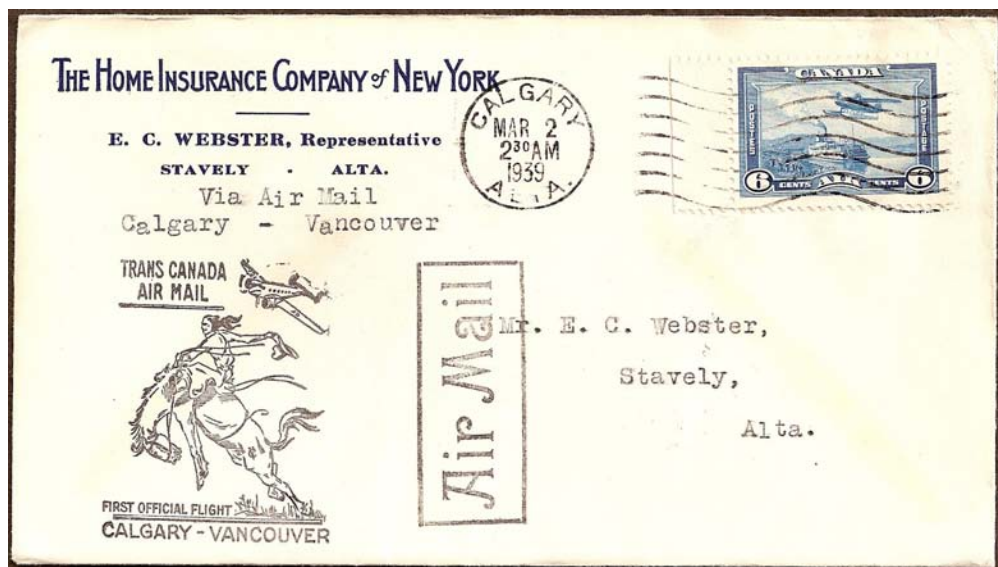


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 130

October 2014



You've probably seen Webster covers in the dealer bourses. The story behind the covers is on page 11 inside this issue.

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Membership dues for the season are \$15, plus an initiation fee of \$10 for new members. Send to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes or enquiries about missing copies should be sent to the Membership Chairman, not the Editor.

The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

Articles or advertisements for Calgary Philatelist should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue for hardcopy, jpeg, or pdf format only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word 1997 format only. Mail to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, handed to Dale Speirs at meetings, or emailed to opuntia57@yahoo.ca Please do not email club business to this address.

The CPS was founded in April 1922 by Dr. Edward George Mason. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society, and Chapter 91 of the American Topical Association.

A cumulative subject index from issue #1 to date for the CALGARY PHILATELIST exists but because of its length is too long to be published in this bulletin. A copy can be had for free from the editorial address.

2014-2015 EXECUTIVE

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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

POSTAL FUN IN GOLDEN

by Ron Tabbert

Golden, British Columbia, has another retail postal outlet (RePO). A previous one in a computer store long ago closed. This one is in the People's Drug Mart.

On the opening day, July 12, 2014, I went to get a cancel as well as mail a letter. It soon became obvious the learning curve was great. The staff told me they only heard about it two weeks before. Canada Post employees speak as though it is the beginning of phasing out the regular post office.

I asked if I might get a cancel on a few envelopes and mail a letter. First, we had to determine that what I referred to as a cancel, the clerk called a "stamp." Finally, she let me cancel four covers. Subsequently, it became clear these may be the only cancelled envelopes that exist. I handed her a letter to mail, expecting a cancel on it, but she just threw it in a big grey box on the floor. She said we take them to the other post office and they "stamp" it. So I took the letter back.

Further conversation revealed that patrons on the rural routes of the Canada Post post office are directed to the Drug Mart RePO to pick up parcels. The "stamp" (cancel) is used on their receipts or similar. So, now the challenge is to look for an actual mail piece with a routine cancel.

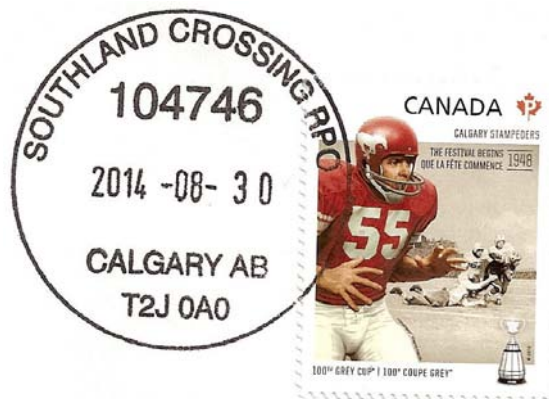


CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 31

by Dale Speirs

New Postmarks.

Every time a retail postal outlet (RePO) changes ownership, it is issued with a new postmark and serial number.



Haysboro: shopping plaza on northwest corner of Southland Drive SW and Macleod Trail. The Southland Cigar and Drycleaning (which I always thought was an odd combination; stink up your clothes with cigars and get the stench removed in the same place) is now the Southland Cards and Drycleaning as of early 2014. The new owners were assigned POCON #104746.

Closures.

Marlborough Mall: I previously reported that the post office in the mall was to close this year. In early September, I spoke with a clerk who said that although it is still on the hit list, it will probably quite a while yet before it closes.

CANADA POST SLOWLY RETURNING TO PROFITABILITY

An August 27th press release by Canada Post says that the corporation made a \$26 million profit in the first half of 2014, compared to a \$36 million loss for the first half of 2013 (all accounts before taxes). The full release is at www.canadapost.ca (scroll to the bottom and click on "News Releases").

Letter mail, which Canada Post now calls Transaction Mail, declined but the massive postage rates helped make up the revenue. Parcels increased by about 10%. That is where the future of postal systems will be, and Canada Post has been aggressively chasing that market. It has more outlets than any private courier, and is using that advantage to get business from merchants shipping out orders received on the Internet.

Another factor was a labour deal whereby new employees get lower wages and a defined-contribution pension rather than a defined-benefits pension. The end of door-to-door delivery service and replacing it with supermailboxes will help cut labour costs in the long run. Smaller mail sorting plants continue to be closed and consolidated into the big cities.

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POSTAL HISTORY OF ALBERTA: BEISEKER AND IRRICANA. PART 1

by Dale Speirs

Beiseker and Irricana are villages about a half-hour drive northeast of Calgary. They have the peculiarity in that both the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and the Canadian National Railway (CNR, then the Grand Trunk) ran tracks closely parallel to each other through the area. This had to do with the terrain, which is treeless flatlands with poor drainage. There are abundant sloughs, marshes, and alkali flats throughout, forcing both railroads to follow ridges that required minimal clean fill for the trackbeds.

The CPR reached Beiseker and Irricana in 1910, and the CNR arrived in 1911. For both villages, the CNR had the mail contracts. The CPR has pulled its tracks but the CNR still runs today. Both villages are prosperous, with newer houses evident. Beiseker has about 800 people and Irricana about 1,200 people. Figure 1 is a 1922 map of the area.

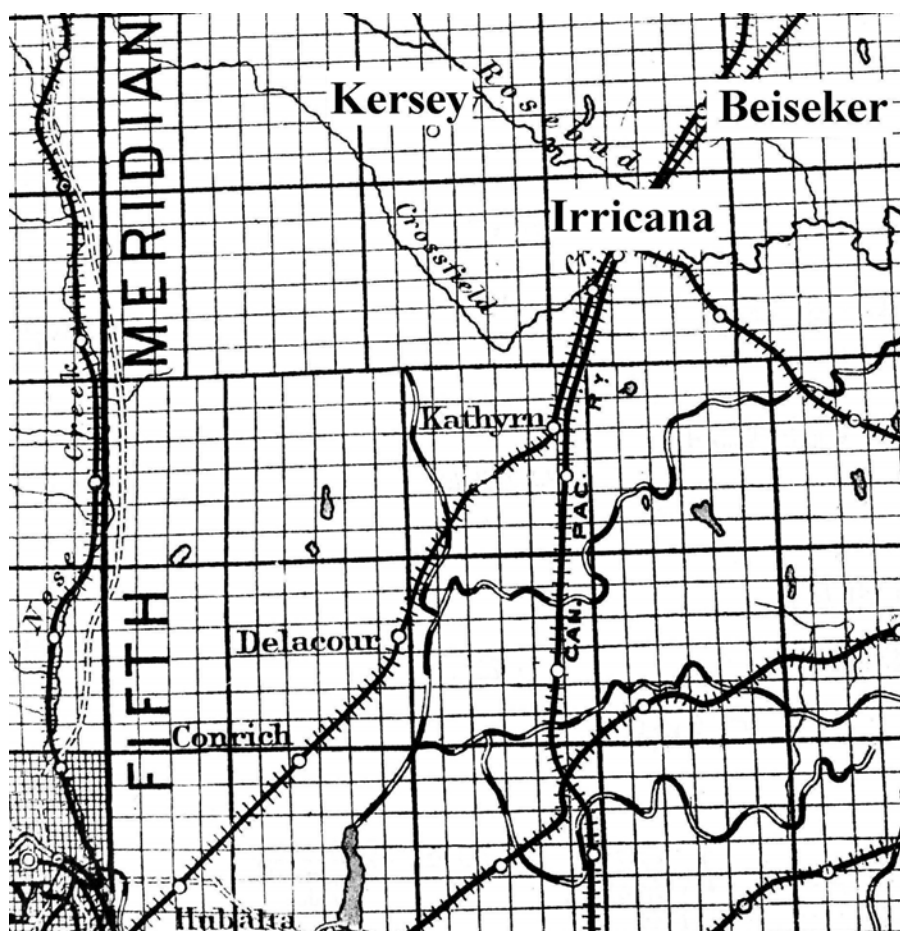


Figure 1

Beiseker.

Thomas Beiseker was a director of the Calgary Colonization Company (CCC) that sold land to homesteaders in the area. He lived in North Dakota and as far as is known never went near the village that bears his name. He donated land for a townsite and the village began developing in 1909 as the railways approached the area. Later the CPR bought out the CCC for its own colonization plans [1].



error



corrected

P.H. and Elizabeth M. Black opened a grocery store in 1909 at Beiseker. The post office opened on 1910-04-01 with P.H. as the postmaster. The first canceller sent to the post office mis-spelled the name as “Beiscker”, so a second canceller was ordered (Figure 2 at left). In those days, supply orders were handwritten, so it is easy to see that poor penmanship could have caused the mistake.

P.H. died after only a year in office, so his widow Elizabeth took over on 1911-06-30 and ran the store and post office by herself for a couple of years. She sold the store to J.C. Stillmanks, who became postmaster on 1913-11-26, and then she remarried and moved elsewhere. It was belatedly discovered that Stillmanks wasn't a Canadian citizen and he was soon removed from office, although he kept running his store [2].

The postmastership then went to O.E. Stevens on 1914-03-26. He moved the post office into his small store, and lived at the back of the building. Charles J. Fryer bought the store/post office and became postmaster in 1921. He in turn sold out to Carl Frederick (Charlie) Lohrke, who on 1927-08-23 became postmaster. Lohrke was an American homesteader who arrived near Beiseker in 1910. After seventeen years of farming, he and his wife Phoebe tired of the work and moved into town. Besides the post office they had a small store and insurance agency.

In the autumns, Charlie and his son Carl Frederick William (Carl) would work on harvesting crews, so Phoebe would run the post office. The building burned down in 1945, taking the post office and its contents with it, but was rebuilt. After the fire, the post office was moved to a temporary shack until a new building was constructed. The new place was a confectionery in half of the building and the post office in the other half. The post office became a civil service position in 1948. Charlie retired in 1950 and Carl succeeded his father. Carl's wife Vera took over as postal clerk.

In 1969, a standalone post office building was constructed by the Canadian Post Office. It is still in use, and Figure 3 on the next page shows it as of 2014. Carl retired in 1971, and Kenneth Neil Peers succeeded him. Peers was from Empress, Alberta. During World War Two, he served in the Canadian Postal Corps. Afterwards, he was in business for several years at Empress before becoming postmaster at Acadia Valley. He then transferred to Beiseker in 1971.



Figure 3

Canada Post records cut off after that due to privacy legislation but a local history mentions him as still in the job in 1977. He was succeeded by G.A. Wilkinson sometime later [3]. Figure 4 shows the Beiseker pictorial cancel, and Figure 5 is the regular business postmark.



Figure 4



Figure 5

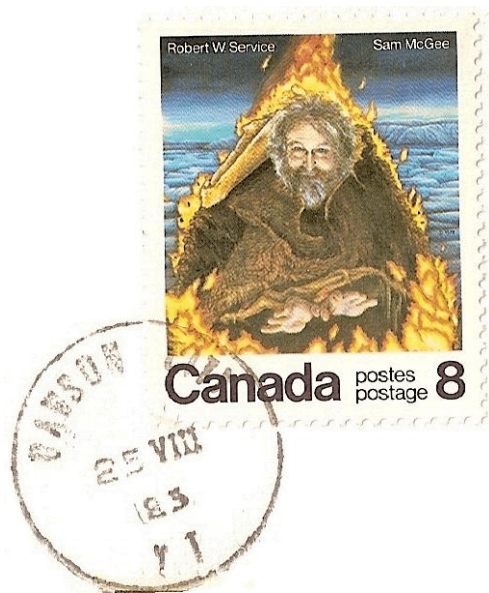


Figure 6

Beiseker has one claim to fame in the wider world. It is the burial place of William Samuel McGee (1868-1940), who farmed just outside the village. Prior to taking up the farm, he worked in the Yukon, where the famous poet Robert Service was a clerk in the bank where McGee had his account. Service asked McGee for permission to use his name in a poem, the famous “The Cremation Of Sam McGee”. The real McGee was born in Ontario, but the corpse in the poem was based by Service on a Tennessee man who froze to death in the Yukon. Figure 6 shows the stamp, cancelled in Dawson City.

I have been looking for years to find a cover with the stamp postmarked in Beiseker, but no luck so far.

References.

- 1] Schissel, Wendy and Ben, and Lyn Harty (1977) BEISEKER’S GOLDEN HERITAGE, published by Beiseker Historical Society. Pages 7, 13, 17 to 19, 25, 277 to 278, and 304
- 2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2014-08-19) Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices
- 3] Hughes, Neil (1998) ALBERTA POST OFFICES 1876-1998. Privately published by the author, Edmonton, Alberta.

[to be continued]

CALTAPEX 2014

The annual show of the CPS will be held October 17 to 19 at the Kerby Centre at 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, in the main floor gymnasium. Show hours are 13h00 to 18h00 on Friday, 10h00 to 17h00 on Saturday, and 10h00 to 16h00 on Sunday. For more information, the Show Chairman is Walter Herdzik (238-7845).

For those who have never been to the Kerby Centre, there is free parking on Saturday and Sunday directly across the avenue on the north side of the LRT station. Because Friday is a regular business day, parking is not available without a permit. For those using public transit, take the 69 Street-Saddletowne train to the Kerby station directly in front of the building.

There will be an auction at the show, as well as the usual club tables and activities. The Junior Club will also be meeting at the show.

The dealer bourse is as follows:

MJR Postcards	Edmonton, AB
RD Miner Philatelics	Calgary, AB
Royal William Stamps Ltd.	Edmonton, AB
Zatka Philately Ltd.	Calgary, AB
The Stamp Collection Connection	Sherwood Park, AB
J Garvey and Sons	Edmonton, AB
Luciano Bassetto	Burnaby, BC
Peter Fleck	Red Deer, AB
Firmin Wyndels	Victoria, BC
Tom Watkins	Victoria, BC
Wayne Dods	Kelowna, BC
Don Kaye	Kelowna, BC
Clyde Vincett Ltd	Calgary, AB

The theme of the show will be World War One, and an appropriate show cover is in preparation. The theme is doubly appropriate because the founder of the Calgary Philatelic Society was Dr. Edward George Mason, who was also Lt.-Col. Mason, commanding the 50th Battalion, the first unit based in Calgary to go overseas in the war.

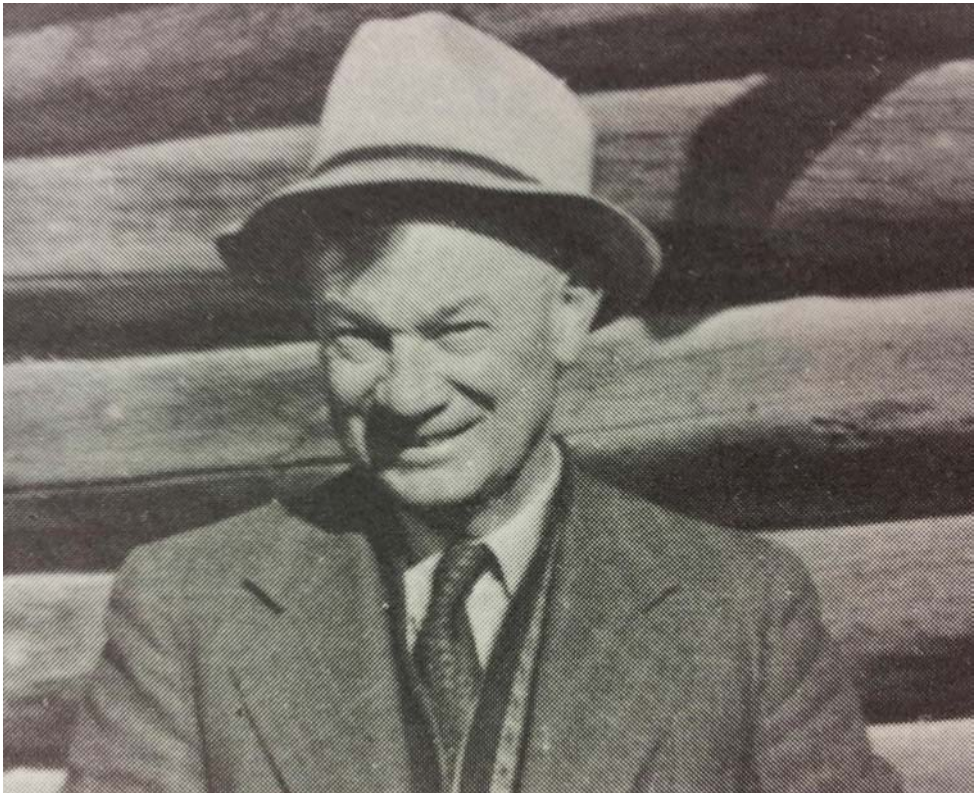
CONNECTIONS TO OUR PAST: PART 2. E.C. WEBSTER

by Dale Speirs

One of Stavely's most prominent citizens was Edwin Charles Webster. He joined the Calgary Philatelic Society in 1936, but because of his distance did not serve in any positions. He was very active as a philatelist and produced thousands of airmail, first-day, and event covers, all addressed to him at Stavely. Any CPS member who has spent time browsing through Canadian covers at a bourse will have seen Webster's covers.

Webster was born in Ontario and as a young man worked in West Virginia where he was friends with both the Hatfields and McCoys of the famous feud. He came out to southern Alberta in 1908, settled in Stavely, and spent most of his life in the insurance business there. He held numerous elected and appointed positions on the town council and school board, including a term as Mayor, and was actively involved in sports clubs.

Webster collected Canadian postal history in the days when it was still being born as a distinctive branch of philately. Back then most collectors said "the stamp's the thing", and soaked them off covers. For many years Webster wrote a column on Canadian stamps for the American magazine WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP. He suffered a serious stroke and died a few months later in February 1952.



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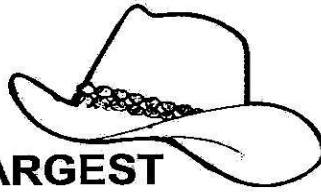
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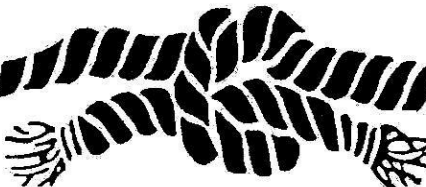
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members, and will also appear on the CPS Website at no additional cost. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings.

NOTE: Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

WANTED TO BUY: Book of Alberta proof postmark strikes by Robert Lee. Call Milton Lowe at 243-0412 or email at aromatics@excite.com

FOR SALE: Fine used modern Canada and Australia. Please contact Michael Teekens at 805-4442 or michateekens@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Extensive collection of Alberta postmarks uniquely filed in 28 binders. Supplemented with historical data items of postal relevance. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@shaw.ca

WANTED: Used GB Machin Queen stamps with any selvage attached. Cash or trade (many countries). Call Georg at 547-0409.

WANTED: I volunteer at the Mennonite Community Centre store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disasters, and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. To donate, please contact me, Greg Lang, at 282-1644.

FOR SALE: various QE2 Canada plate block sets between Scott #727 and #1070, various QV to KGV Canada VFNH singles and pairs between Scott #51 and #300. Contact Les at 278-3511.

FOR SALE: Large accumulation used off-paper, mostly pre-1990s commemoratives. Canada, USA, GB, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and kiloware. Phone Roland 243-1637 or decaenr@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Major collections of many countries at liquidation prices. Call John at 474-1212.

WANTED: Canadian military covers and postcards with hospital ships (white with red crosses). Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcjperfins@hotmail.com

CLUB NEWS

The August bulletin was mailed from Priddis with the k.d. lang stamp.

At the September 3 general meeting, our new President Larry Tweedale awarded the President's Pot (a samovar that is kept by the club as a permanent trophy) to outgoing President Peter Fleck. This was not only due to his service as President but the special circumstance that he lives in Red Deer County and despite the 200-km round trip in all kinds of weather, never missed a meeting.

Congratulations to Fitz Roett, who won a silver medal at PhilaKorea 2014 for his book "BARBADOS: THE BRITANNIA ISSUES".

The speaker at the meeting was Jim Taylor, who served on the jury at PhilaKorea 2014. Jim showed slides of this international stamp show, which had massive facilities and services.

Gerry Vader has retired as Private Treaty Books director. If no one can be found to replace him, this club service will cease to exist after 35 years of operation. If you are seriously interested in taking over, please contact him at 293-0158.

DUES ARE DUE!

Membership dues of \$15 for the 2014-2015 membership season are now required. If you haven't already paid them, please see Julius Szekrenyes at the meetings or mail a cheque payable to the Calgary Philatelic Society to: Membership Chairman, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Circuit books	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Life Members	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Private Treaty books	vacant	
Programmes	vacant	
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2014

September	13	Junior Club meeting
	17	Auction
	24	CAPE meeting
October	1	General meeting
	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	15	Auction
	18	Junior Club meeting (at CALTAPEX)
	17 to 19	CALTAPEX 2014
	22	CAPE meeting
November	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for December bulletin
	8	Junior Club meeting
	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	19	Auction
	26	CAPE meeting
December	3	Christmas social

2015

January	7	General meeting
	7	Deadline for February bulletin
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	21	Auction
	28	CAPE meeting

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, Room 205 (Lecture Room), 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow bidder viewing.

CALTAPEX 2014 is at the Kerby Centre. Information from Walter Herdzik at 238-7845.

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP of the BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets second Wednesdays. For details about meeting places and times, contact Dave Bartlet at 829-3580.

JUNIOR CLUB meets monthly on Saturdays. Information from Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

CAPE (CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS) meets fourth Wednesdays at the Condon Building boardroom. Contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.