

Volume 39 #4 (4th Quarter:) Oct.-Dec. 2021)

GOLD COUNTRY STAMP CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Meetings of the Gold Country Stamp Club are held the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month:

Forest Springs Mobile Park Rec Center, 10084 Forest Springs Rd.

2:00-4:00 pm

2020-2021 Officers:

President: Bob Brennan—478-0130 * <rabrenan@gmail.net>

Vice President: John Schwabecher—477-2012

Secretary-Treasurer: Carole Ward—477-0108 * <ancward@yahoo.com>

Directors: John Schwabecher, Rick Lund

Newsletter editor: Ron Tranquilla * <ron2401@att.net>

Webmaster, Gold Country Stamp Club Website:

Ron Carpenter—2722-295 * <corporateone@gmail.com>

The Prez Says

I want to thank those members who have been able to attend when we returned to having meetings. We will continue to meet in 2022 whenever possible. I am sad to report that we have lost two of our members: Steve Hickok and George Roden—see their obituaries in this issue. George was a member since 1992, but poor health prevented him from attending meetings his last several years. Steve was vice president and key to the success of our club. He surely will be missed.

Note that Ron Carpenter has created a website for our club and has agreed to be our "WEB MASTER." The Website's URL is <goldcountrystampclub.com>. Check it out, as we will be adding our *Newsletter* to this site and other items yet to be determined. My best wishes for 2022.

—President Bob Brennan

A Word from the Treasurer

Beginning with this issue of the *Newsletter*, our Quarterly financial report by Carole Ward, our Treasurer, no longer will be posted to our club *Newsletter*, but rather will be reported as part of our Club meetings.

In Memoriam

George Edward Roden

April 30, 1942-October 16, 2021

Source of facts and quotes in the following is George's obituary published in the *Union*

George Edward Roden died on October 16, 2021, at the the age of 79. Born in Dayton, Ohio, George graduated from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he met Carletta Jones. George and Carletta married and they eventually moved to "The Ridge" in North San Juan, California, where he died. He is credited by the writer of his obituary, published in the *Union*, as being "a devoted partner to Carletta throughout her life."

He served in the Vietnam War as a mechanic "maintaining and repairing" military vehicles. Twenty years before his death, he married Theresa Aburto.

According to his obituary, George had a "dry wit," loved puzzles, had impressive skill at cards—and knew "how to make just about anything work." Furthermore, he was a "quiet participant" in the life of his "Ridge community."

George was a knowledgeable and avid stamp collector. Although not a Founding Member, he joined the Gold Country Stamp Club early its life, about seven years after its founding, in February, 1992. He was one of only two surviving members from that era.

According to his obituary, he is survived by a sister, his wife Theresa, 6 children, 13 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and "numerous nieces, nephews, and niblings."

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Steve Hickok

June 13, 1956-October 30, 2021

The following obituary for Steve Hickok was written by his dear friend Keri Callahan and was lightly edited by the *Newsletter* Editor.

Steve was born to Marilyn and Wallace Hickok in Citrus Heights, California.

When just a young child around the age of 5, he moved to Japan with his parents and older sister Mary Louise. His dad, being in the Air Force, felt it best for the family to integrate with the culture and so they lived off base where Steve started kindergarten in a mixed Japanese-American classroom. His Dad's travels with the Air Force also led the family to move often and take many trips across the United States. In 1969, Steve's parents settled in Grass Valley on Polaris Drive, where Marilyn and Wallace would live until their deaths. →

Steve's early post-high school education led him to Arizona where he studied Electronics. Later he would work for Fig's Landscaping, where he specialized in pesticide application. In Calanan Park in Nevada City, corner of Broad and Union Streets, stands a great Sequoia tree that Steve at one time rescued from dying when he treated it for whatever bug was attacking it.

After marrying his wife, Terri, Steve's next career adventure would lead him to the medical field. He entered the adult ROP Program and was placed in the Cardiology Department at Sierra Nevada Hospital where he met his life-long friend Keri Callahan. Together they enrolled in the Echocardiography program at Butte College in Oroville. For 2 years they commuted 3 days a week, sharing the burden of studying and driving together. After achieving certification, Steve moved his family to Great Falls Montana and worked at the local hospital doing cardiac ultrasound, both adult and pediatric, worked in the cath lab, surgery, took calls, and had a very productive career. From there he moved to Wasila Alaska and continued his echo career.

After getting burned out with hospital politics, he and his wife opened a very successful gift shop in Wasila, which they ran together until they needed to come home to California to care for Steve's elderly father. He returned to Polaris Drive where he would live out his life.

Steve had many personal gifts. He was able to identify so many different trees, shrubs, flowers, and bugs. He even easily could identify the difference between species. He rescued many dogs in his lifetime. His mother instilled in him a love for German Shepherds, about which he would say the Polaris property always had a shepherd living on it. He was from early childhood a Philatelist. He loved history, and the stories behind the stamps, and letters on which they arrived. He was a twenty year member of the Gold Country Stamp Club, and served in many ways, most recently as Vice President and as Programming Director.

Steve fought a hard 3-year battle with bone cancer. He rarely if ever complained. He lived strong to the very end and passed at the family home on Polaris Drive with his loving family by his side. He leaves behind his wife Terri, son Philip, stepchildren Talisa and Harley, and three grandchildren.

I think if Steve could leave you with a parting thought it would be to stop and appreciate today. Enjoy each sunset, rainbow, new flower blooming, the birds arriving at the feeder, unending love from your dog, time spent with friends, and honor the love and connection of family.

Keri 11-30-2021

United States Postal Service: Two Recent Innovations

Informed Delivery

<<https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>>

Would you like to know what's coming in your mail each day? Keep tabs on important mail?

Now, through a relatively new optional, free service of the USPS, you can view grayscale images of your incoming mail for the day usually before 9:00 AM, before the mail arrives. This service is **Informed Delivery**, a free and optional notification feature for most residential and PO Box consumers. This innovation gives consumers the ability to digitally preview each day's letter-sized mail by e-mail—whenever, wherever on a computer, tablet, or digital device. Informed Delivery is now available for residential and eligible PO Box customers in most Zip Code™ locations in the United States. (A quick check shows Biggs—at least no PO Boxes—and maybe Foresthill—no street addresses available—seem to be the only Club members' addresses currently not eligible. I didn't check all members, so this finding might be incomplete.)

In addition to Zip Code eligibility, a resident must be able to verify his or her identity. Find the **Informed Delivery** Link on the menu of The USPS Website (<usps.com>) or among the links in "Quick Links" on the site menu. Click on **Informed Delivery/Sign Up** to check your Zip Code eligibility, and then follow the instructions given to create your account. Verifying your identity then can be accomplished through text message or e-mail. You will receive a temporary code with which to verify your identity when you log in to your account for the first time.

Some mail, such as catalogs and magazines, will not appear because they are not imaged by the USPS automated equipment. If a scan has been made of this type of mail, your e-mail will show a message stating: "A mailpiece for which we do not currently have an image is included in today's mail." The software aids in the creation of an Informed Delivery "Dashboard," through which package delivery dates can be managed, delivery instructions can be sent, and Tracking Updates are available. There's more! Visit the Informed Delivery Website.

"Mailin' it" Podcasts

<<https://usps-mailin-it.simplecast.com/episodes/informed-delivery>>

Summary of Episode 3: October 26th, 2021



In this episode of *Mailin' it*, our hosts Yasmine and Dale chat with Bob Dixon, Product Technology Innovation Director for USPS, about one of the Postal Service's flagship mail innovations of the past few years – Informed Delivery. With over 43 million subscribers, and 1 million more signing up each month, Informed Delivery has quickly become the way to learn what's coming to your mailbox by looking at your inbox.

We'll take a deep dive into how customers and marketers are combining mail and digital with Informed Delivery, and how the Postal Service's ongoing investments in technology help make USPS more relevant in the digital world.

Learn more about Informed Delivery: <<https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>>