

# Nevada

P.O. Box 2907

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N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
in the NNMC at 1855 Oddie Blvd. in Sparks

<http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/>



## N.S.S.S.



### POST BOY

December 10, 2011

#### Closed Albums

**Al Shay** passed away on November 10, 2011. Al was a member and past Vice President of the Reno Coin Club, and a member and past President of the Nevada Stamp Study Society. At his request, there will be no services. A family gathering will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donation may be made in Al's name to the Nevada Humane Society or a charity of your choice. Condolence messages may be left in the Book of Memories Online Tribute at [www.waltonsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.waltonsfuneralhomes.com)

Its the month of Christmas and another year is almost gone. The club's Christmas is about to take place on the 3rd. A map to the location is in last month's issue and, by now you should know what to bring. Have a good time.

This month's "My Favorite is about "These are a Few of My Favorite Things" and features the words from the song. It is brought to us by **Terri and Harvey Edwards** who invented My Favorite Things for us.

This month's issue features a couple of recipes you may find useful when Santa come down your chimney. You can fix him a cup of Winter's Day Espresso to kick start the rest of his night and a nice bread pudding flavored with praline. Then there's a rather interesting story about Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and how he may not be a girl after all. I hope you enjoy this publication even if

there isn't a lot about stamps.

**PENPEX** will be held on Dec. 3-4 at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave. in Redwood City, California  
<http://www.penpex.org/>

**NOVAPEX** will be held on March 3-4 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Sacramento, 6151 "H" Street. Hours are 10-6 and 10-4.

<http://www.reddingstampclub.com>

**FRESPEX** 2010, March 24-25 10am - 6pm, 10am - 4pm Veteran's Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Avenue (block east of Clovis Ave at 5th Street) Clovis, California

**Easter Seals**, no information yet.

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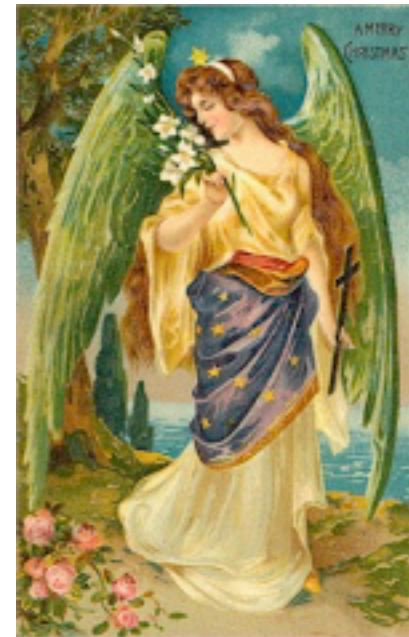
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*Merry  
Christmas*



### **Why Does Rudolph Have a Red Nose?**

It's no wonder Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer is the most famous member of Santa's team -- on top of being a skilled flyer, his nose, as his name suggests, glows bright red. This unusual variation on the reindeer nasal prominence could have all kinds of benefits, the most important of which would involve guiding Santa's sleigh.

According to folklore, if the weather's ever bad on Christmas Eve, Santa's cleared for flight -- by the FAA, for that matter -- thanks to the brightness of Rudolph's nose.

But how does Rudolph's nose actually work? How could one reindeer create a light bright enough to lead a sleigh through darkness and inclement weather? And how could a reindeer actually develop a red nose?

Although no one may ever know for sure just how Rudolph got his unusual nose, we at HowStuffWorks have what we think is the most logical explanation for how the doe-eyed deer guides Santa's sleigh.

#### **Rudolph's Bioluminescence**

Rudolph could use something many organisms use on Earth in order to create natural light -- a neat little scientific trick called bioluminescence. Animals can make their own light by mixing certain chemical compounds together to produce a glow. The reasons vary -- fireflies, for instance, flash light at each other in order to attract mates, while some fish that live very deep in the ocean use light to locate prey.

There would be three parts to his nasal beacon. The first would be just like any other reindeer nose (so his playmates technically shouldn't have shunned him from any reindeer games in the first place). He would breathe oxygen through it, and it would be made up of two layers -- the dermis, the thick, inner layer of skin that contains blood vessels and hair follicles, and the epidermis, the thin, outer layer that you can see and touch. The other two parts, however, would set Rudolph apart from all the other reindeer.

The second part is a thin, enclosed layer of a light-producing organ between the dermis and the epidermis. Inside this layer is luciferin, a light-producing substance, and luciferase, an enzyme that catalyzes the light-producing reaction.

The third part is where the "red-nosed reindeer" part comes in. Most bioluminescent life forms, like fireflies, produce green light. The outermost part of Rudolph's nose, however, would be a red phosphorescent layer -- once the light-producing organ started creating light, the phosphorescent part of his nose would absorb the green light and emit a red light.

How would his nose get so bright, though? Bioluminescence often requires another substance, like oxygen, to make light, and Rudolph would breathe lots of oxygen right near the light-producing organs, providing enough reactions for long, intensely shiny bursts of light.

### **No Bull**

Although Rudolph is what's called a bull -- a male reindeer -- there's a rumor that many of Santa's reindeer might be cows, or female reindeer. Why is this?

Have you ever seen pictures of Santa flying in his sleigh with his team of reindeer? If you have, you'll notice that the reindeer have fully grown antlers. The interesting thing is, though, male reindeer typically shed their antlers by early December, well before Christmas Eve. The antlers grow back in the spring, and the cycle of growth and regrowth continues. Cows keep their antlers all year long, however, so the chances that there are more females than males on Santa's sleigh are a bit higher.

This isn't to say that all of the reindeer are female and Rudolph's the only guy out there. Most males shed their antlers, but not all of them, and it's possible that a bull won't lose his antlers until after December. Accounts of Blitzen, a part of the original team of reindeer, identify him as Rudolph's father, so we know that Santa has both male and female reindeer leading his sleigh.

### **Rudolph and Evolution**

So we know that Rudolph stands out a bit from other reindeer, but how could something like this have happened? Could Santa be some kind of a mad scientist, tweaking reindeer DNA for his own benefit, or could Rudolph's nose be a biological accident?

It's possible that Rudolph's bright honker could be a reindeer atavism. But what's an atavism?

An atavism is a trait of distant ancestors that randomly pops up in modern-day organisms -- a whale with legs or a human with a tail are two examples. These traits may have served a purpose for the animal way back when, but for whatever reason the trait was "silenced" over time, every once in awhile making a rare triumphant return in modern times. Could distant reindeer ancestors of Rudolph have needed to produce light in order to survive in the wild? You'll find most reindeer in Scandinavia, and it does get pretty dark there during the winter -- so could Rudolph's ancestors have needed a better way to get around at night?

But that doesn't explain why only Rudolph has a bioluminescent nose. When we look closer at Rudolph's childhood, however, it could be that his bright nose was a rapid evolutionary adaptation. It's possible that the real reason Rudolph couldn't play in all those reindeer games was due to his poor eyesight -- he developed the red nose in order to compensate, and it just happened to save Christmas when Santa really needed it.

Although his playmates treated him like a misfit in the beginning, Rudolph actually proved himself to be the stronger specimen. Determined to excel, he could have adapted out of necessity. The question now is whether or not future generations of reindeer could also take on Rudolph's unique traits.

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/holidays/christmas.htm>



## How Christmas Works

This particular site comes from a larger site called “How Stuff Works.” I thought you might enjoy this part or the Christmas Season. You will probably want to go back to it to learn how other stuff works, but after the first of the year.

The story they give you takes you from Christmas as it was celebrated in the earliest days, through the Middle Ages and right up to electric lights and aluminum Christmas trees. The word “Christmas”, for instance comes from the olde English (around the time of Elizabeth I) and it was called "Cristes maesse" or Christ's Mass. The Christmas celebration was created in the 4th century to compete with the Roman Saturnalia. It was a much more somber occasion at the time but became a full fledged holiday by the 9th century when it began to take on some of the characteristics it has today.

The article is five or six, maybe even seven pages long and is very comprehensive, talking about such subjects as the history of gifts and the evolution of traditions. At the bottom of each page is a brief article related to the main topic.

I like the site and hope you do too. I think it's one site you may return to once you see some of the other articles such as “Stuff They Don't Want You to Know” and “Myth Busters Videos.” There is still a lot more on this site, more than I can tell you about here and probably more than meets the eye, once you get to another page. Yes, you'll return to it from time to time.

One more thing. The story about Rudolph's nose came from this site. You'll find the link to it (and several others) on the seventh page. It points out that Rudolph and the other reindeer could have been boys.

The Christmas quiz again. For those of you who are new to the club, if you plan on doing the quiz, this is the one to start with. It will be the easiest one of the year. You are almost guaranteed a return of 110 Auction Bucks. Good way to start the year.

1. Is Santa Claus cleared by the FAA for flight, even in bad weather?  
A) Absotively                      B) Posilutely                      C) Of course
2. Why is Santa cleared even in bad weather? Because;  
A) Rudolph leads                      B) Of a bright red nose                      C) A & B
3. Why is Rudolph's nose so bright?  
A) Bioluminescence                      B) luciferin                      C) luciferase
4. Is Rudolph a boy?  
A) Probably                      B) Its likely                      C) Could be
5. The word "Christmas" came about around the time of;  
A) Elizabeth I                      B) The first Elizabeth                      C) Queen Elizabeth
6. What is "praline" made of?  
A) Pecans                      B) Sugar                      C) Water
7. Was King George V a stamp collector?  
A) You bet!                      B) Yes, he was                      C) His was the Royal Collection
8. How may sets were issued for the British Empire Exhibition?  
A) In 1924 & 1925                      B) Two sets                      C) A reissue in 1925
9. "These are a Few of My Favorite Things" was recorded by;.  
A) Julie Andrews                      B) Ella Fitzgerald                      C) John Coltrane
10. In which month do we celebrate Christmas?  
A) December                      B) March                      C) The twelfth month

Bonus question: If you get all of the questions answered correctly will you score 110 Auction Bucks?

You may consider the tenth question to be a trick question but when you consider that Christmas is a celebration of the soul, the month really doesn't matter.

When you walk down a street in a small village like Moron de la Frontera, you were likely to see a small group of Spaniards, one playing a guitar, one dancing the Flamenco and the rest doing a staccato clap to the beat of the music. Seems like everyone in Spain knew how to dance the Flamenco. Even children.

1. B. The 1982 World Soccer Cup was coming to Spain and #2211 and 2212 were issued to commemorate that event with a stamp portraying soccer players.

2. A. A set of five stamps (#2179-2183) were issued in November of 1979 showing the kings and coats of arms of the Hapsburg dynasty (Austria), including Carlos I, Philip II, Philip III, Philip IV and Carlos II.

3. B. In 1978 Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin were honored on a two stamp set (#2116-2117) for their parts in the liberation of several South America states.

4. C. 1976 was the hundredth year of the introduction of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell. #1936 celebrates that event.

5. B. Two souvenir sheets of four stamps each (#1877 and 1878) were issued in 1975 to honor the works of Spanish goldsmiths over the centuries.

6. A. May 6 was Stamp Day in 1965 and Spain, who love its horses, loves its bulls even more. The stamp shows a bull, apparently fighting some stamps on #1306-08.

7. B. On December 29, 1962 Spain issued #1153 for the 21st Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church (Spain was very religious and very Catholic) at the Vatican. It pictured Pope John XXIII.

8. A. El Greco's mother called him Domenikos. He was born in Crete and El Greco means "the Greek". The painting of St. Peter on #973 appears to have come from his later works and is similar to "St. Peter in Penitence," painted in 1605.

9. B. The set (#879-886) was issued on the 400th anniversary of the death of Charles V also known as Carlos I. In Spain there is a very excellent brandy called Carlos Primero (the first). The Spaniards were very fond of Charles V.

10. A. Two franchise stamps were issued (#S1 and S2) by Spain. The first was for Diego Castell to distribute his books on Spanish Postal History. The second was issued for Antonio Fernandez Duro for the same purpose. Reprints have been made of S2 on different colored paper.

Bonus question. As a matter of fact, if you read the last Post Boy and looked at the pictures, you saw a painting of the inside of the mentioned turret as a German postcard of WWII. The answer is yes. "No" is a good answer too, if you didn't see it.

### Maple Bread Pudding with Praline

#### ingredients

- \* 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- \* 1/8 cup water
- \* 1/4 cup chopped pecans, toasted
- \* 4 eggs
- \* 2 cups half-and-half or light cream
- \* 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- \* 1/2 cup maple syrup
- \* 1/2 tablespoon vanilla
- \* 1/2 pound egg bread, torn into bite-size pieces (about 7 cups)
- \* Vanilla ice cream

#### directions

1. For pecan praline: Lightly grease a baking sheet; set aside. In a small saucepan, combine granulated sugar and water. Cook over medium heat, stirring to dissolve sugar. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Without stirring, boil gently, uncovered, 7 minutes or until mixture turns a deep amber color. Remove from heat. Stir in pecans. Quickly pour onto the prepared baking sheet. Cool. Break or chop into small pieces; set aside.
2. In a very large bowl, whisk together eggs, half-and-half, brown sugar, maple syrup, and vanilla. Add bread; stir to moisten evenly. Cover and chill for 1 hour.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly grease a 3-quart rectangular baking dish. Transfer bread mixture to the prepared baking dish. Bake, uncovered, about 40 minutes or until golden brown and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 30 minutes.
4. Serve warm bread pudding with scoops of ice cream. Sprinkle with pecan praline. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

### Winter's Day Espresso

#### ingredients

- \* 1/3 cup dairy eggnog
- \* 1/2 cup hot espresso or very strong coffee
- \* 1 - 2 teaspoons Irish-cream-flavor syrup for coffee
- \* Whipped cream
- \* Ground nutmeg

#### directions

Place the eggnog in a large microwave-safe coffee mug. Microwave on 100 percent power (high) for 35 to 60 seconds or until hot. Add the hot espresso or coffee and syrup. Top with whipped cream and a sprinkling of nutmeg.

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### Hot Spiced Cider

#### ingredients

- \* 8 cups apple cider or apple juice
- \* 1/4 - 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- \* 6 stick cinnamon
- \* 1 teaspoon whole allspice
- \* 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- \* Small apple slices

#### directions

1. In a saucepan combine cider and brown sugar. For spice bag, tie cinnamon, allspice, and cloves in double layer of 100-percent-cotton cheesecloth. Add the spice bag to the cider mixture.
2. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove the spice bag; discard. Serve cider in mugs with small apple slices, if desired. Makes 8 (about 8-ounce) servings.

## Winick Snippets III- Worldwide

By Les Winick

<http://www.stamps.org/CAC/artf003.htm>

King George V of England was an avid stamp collector and owned more than 300 stamp albums. The story is told that his wife, the Queen, read an article out loud from a London paper about someone who paid the equivalent of \$12,000 for a postage stamp and remarked that there certainly were idiots in this world.

The King is said to have replied, "I was that idiot." But, even the King of England could not get all the stamps he wanted. In 1922, the rarest stamp in the world, the 1856 British Guiana, was put up for auction. The King's bid of \$27,500 was too low. This was the only major rarity missing from his collection of British Empire issues. Incidentally, the stamp sold for \$935,000 several years ago in another auction.

After the King died in 1936, the contents of his collection were valued at approximately \$2.5 million. The collection is still in the hands of the monarchy and is now called the "Royal Collection."



The first British stamp showing King George V, issued for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition, caused a public uproar because people thought the British lion pictured on the stamp looked too thin. The stamp was redrawn and reissued in 1925.



Ed note; Hmmm. That second lion doesn't look any fatter to me. My guess is they fooled some of the people most of the time.

## ClassicNevada

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**WANTED:** Germany Third Reich postcards from the **Carl Werner Studios** - B/W or color, photo or illustrated, mint or used. Paying \$35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or [stlaine@aol.com](mailto:stlaine@aol.com)

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WANTED - US aerogrammes addressed and used to overseas locations. Needed: UC42, UC44, UC44a, UC46, UC49, UC52 to UC62, UC63a and UC64. Paying up to 100% of SCV. John Walter [john@walter-us.net](mailto:john@walter-us.net)

**For Sale;** Stamps and Covers at my online store at **Wensy.com**. Type "artfulputz" in the search box. click on "user" then "go". You'll have to join but its easier than eBay. Most prices start at 1/3 of Scott. Contact Howard at [artfulputz@aol.com](mailto:artfulputz@aol.com)

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**Wanted;** the 1949 Silver Wedding issue. Have you seen this stamp? There are several like it from other British colonies. I need about half of them to complete my collection.

Contact Howard at (775) 677-7143 or [artfulputz@aol.com](mailto:artfulputz@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Germany Third Reich illustrated postcards by the **artist Wolfgang Willrich** - B/W or color, mint or used. Paying \$35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or [stlaine@aol.com](mailto:stlaine@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Germany Third Reich "**Kinder Cards**" mint or used. These are cards showing children "playing at war" usually with some junior sized weapon, helmet and/or uniform. Most are color but some can be B/W. Most are illustrated, but some are photography. Paying \$35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or [stlaine@aol.com](mailto:stlaine@aol.com).

# My Favorite Things

An easy way to get started on your first full frame exhibit. Just show us what you like on one page and tell us a little about it.

## These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things

Nevada Stamp Study Society members have wide and varied philatelic interests. This exhibit provides each of our members, novice to experienced, an opportunity to expound briefly on their philatelic interests and specialties. Each mini-exhibit is limited to one page to develop and illustrate their story.



Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens  
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens  
Brown paper packages tied up with strings  
These are a few of my favorite things



Cream colored ponies and crisp apple streudels  
Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles  
Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings  
These are a few of my favorite things



Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes  
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes  
Silver white winters that melt into springs  
These are a few of my favorite things



When the dog bites  
When the bee stings  
When I'm feeling sad  
I simply remember my favorite things  
And then I don't feel so bad

