

	BULLETIN			
	<u>PRESIDENT</u> Loren Moore POB 1181 Roseville, CA 95678 877-752-6247	<u>TREASURER</u> Jack Benbrook 1328 E. Rosser St. Prescott AZ 86301 928-772-3763	<u>MEM SECRETARY</u> Janet Johnk 6 Truman Dr Novato, CA 94947 415-897-6724	
No. 283		July 2008		

Sierra-Diablo Takes a Byte

Out of Production Costs!

by
Mike Prero

Beginning with this issue, Sierra-Diablo Matchcover Club will begin shifting to an electronic bulletin. I'd like to have been able to say that we were the first in the hobby to do so, but the Trans Canada and Southeastern clubs have already beaten us to it. (at least as far as using it to cut down on hard copy bulletin mailings; I believe we *were* the first to post a bulletin on a web site)

Although I'll have a somewhat broader discussion of this in the next RMS Bulletin, I'll address the salient points vis-a-vis Sierra-Diablo here, since members will want to know what this new shift in technology will mean to them, individually.

First off, if you don't have internet access, you will continue to get your regular hard-copy bulletins via postal mail just as you always have. So, in that respect, our new on-line bulletin will have no immediate effect on you at all.

Most clubs in the hobby, I believe, are going to be making this shift (probably not some of the smaller clubs, though). It's simply a matter of cost. As with any club, Sierra-Diablo tries to keep its dues static, but production and mailing costs are always rising. Your dues simply don't cover bulletin costs, especially when you factor in ink cartridges, paper, etc. We've been able to make up the difference because of our bulletin auction, which, thanks to Dan Bitter and Loren Moore, has long been recognized as one of the top auctions in the hobby. But, with the declining membership in the hobby at large, and the huge inroads that ebay has made into hobby auctions...Well, almost all clubs can see the writing on the wall.

Going to electronic bulletins means a significant savings in the club's expenditures for paper, ink, copying, and mailing. It won't mean a 100% savings, since, for the rest of my generation at least, there will always be some members who aren't on-line and who will require the traditional hard copy mailed at the post office. But, the amount of savings should gradually increase as more and more members get on-line and recognize all the advantages that electronic bulletins offer.

Advantages to members include: a brilliant, full-color bulletin; no lost bulletins; no bulletins arriving ripped or banged up; no more stacks of old paper bulletins growing bigger and bigger in some closet; very easy to archive and store. Plus, remember that there's a complete article index to all Sierra-Diablo

bulletins on our site. So, for example, remember that there's an article you want to consult in a past issue, but you don't remember in which issue? Just look it up on the web site. By the way, the web edition of the bulletin will contain the current monthly auction. You're not losing anything here except paper...which most collectors eventually throw out anyway! Plus, I will have a master copy of each bulletin, beginning with February 2008, archived, myself, and *you* will now easily be able to archive past bulletins either on your computer or a storage drive.

If you're worried that you're still on dial-up, don't! I'm on dial-up, and, judging from the June bulletin that I tested, each bulletin is only a little over 3 megs. That's not too bad on dial-up, and, by going to the web site rather than getting the bulletin e-mailed to you, *you* can choose the most convenient time to download.

The immediate problem, and one which all the clubs going to electronic bulletins face, **is that we don't have e-mail addresses for a lot of members!** The following is a list of those members for whom we need e-mail addresses. If you see your name here, ***PLEASE SEND ME YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!*** (if you have one) [send to the Ed: rmsed@matchpro.org] I guarantee that you will be pleased with the quality of your new bulletin and the ease of the new process. **Also note: if you employ e-mail filters, be sure to add rmseditor@peoplepc.com to your 'admit' list** so that the bulletin reminders get to you.

Adams, Alma	Fischer, Marie	Meyer, Brian	Skrocki, Ed
Avitt, Mike	Floyd, Charlotte	Milas, Lee	Slagle, Scott
Barbieri, David	Fox, Derek	Morrissey, Florence	Spangler, T.
Bowman, Bob	Fry, Dorothy	Moser, Les	Stroka, John
Briggs, Don	Goodyear, Jackie	Nant, Ilah	Sword, Ray
Carrico, Curtis	Gross, Dr. Irwin	Neforos, John	Takahashi, John
Cisneros, Gary	Hampton, Dave	Nelson, Ron	Valachovic, Tom
Cody, Orville	Harpster, James	Norton, DJ	Varille, George
Conner, Bob	Harris, Eugene	Nye, Bill	Walker, Blane
Cooke, Jenny	Henley, Doug	Pitcher, Bob	Willard, James
Cronin, Margaret	Heskett, Bob	Rauzy, Jim	Williams, Dorothy
Dayager, Bill	Lauer, Randy	Reese, Marilyn	Wisniewski, Robert
Dorval, Pierre	Leonardo, Louie	Sanders, Jeri	Woelfle, Bob
England, Bob	Lubow, Barbara	Schultz, Gail	
Evans, Bill	McMillan, Bob	Simmons, Spike	
Fawcett, J. Scott	McNeil, Karl	Skordas, Pete	

At the same time, we don't want to 'depersonalize' the bulletin experience (and possibly lose member interest), so we're not just saying, "The bulletins are going to be on the web site, so go there from now on." Instead, I will send you a bulletin 'reminder' each time I post a new bulletin on the web site. The reminder will include *direct* links to:

- the new bulletin
- the comprehensive bulletin article index
- the current club roster
- the Ed. (for bulletin/web site input)
- the auction master (for auction input)
- plastic page ordering
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (in case you need it)

Even though I've pre-tested everything, and everything works as expected, as with any new process, there may be some kinks in the system that haven't been foreseen and that will necessitate adjustments here and there. But, this is not only the way the world of communication is going, it's the logical and practical way to go. Home phones are disappearing, checks are disappearing, land lines will eventually disappear...and electronic bulletins are here!

Errors III: Spelling Errors

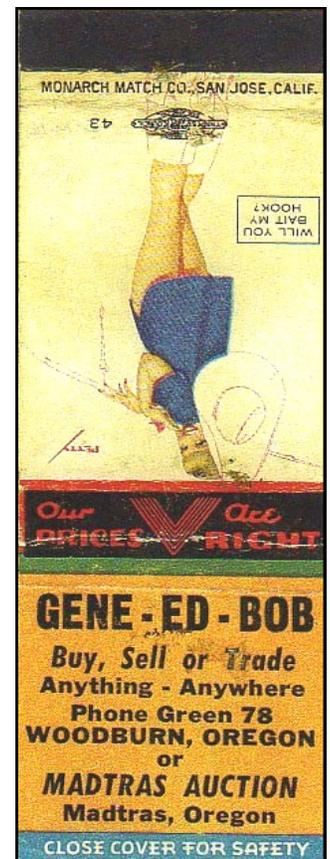
I classify any type of text transposition as a Spelling Error, even something such as MN instead of MT for a state abbreviation. My reasoning is that whatever the reason for the incorrect letter, the result is still the same...a misspelling.

It's always seemed to me that spelling errors provide the most entertaining examples of all the error covers. Often, the spelling error is simply an innocuous extra letter or an incorrect letter that produces gibberish. But sometimes...*sometimes*...you get a beaut! In the May/June issue of the *RMS Bulletin*, for example, I just ran a cover that had Big *Beer* Lake, CA, rather than Big *Bear* Lake, CA.

As errors go, this type is much less common than the miscut variety, although I suspect that there are significantly more, but simply unnoticed. In most cases, the error is obvious, but should the error appear in the spelling of a person's name, for example, it could be unnoticeable to all but that particular individual. Or, in a street name, and so forth. Even so, that's where almost most spelling errors seem to occur--in the names of people, streets, cities, and states. My theory is that spelling errors in the rest of the text are much more noticeable, and thus much more likely to be caught before the job is actually run. Considering all the text that has been used on all the matchcovers/boxes that have been produced over the years, it's actually quite a tribute to the typesetters and 'proofreaders' that so few spelling errors have made their way out into circulation.

Almost all spelling errors occur in the main cover text. A much rarer type is a spelling error in the manumark.

[Below: correct spellings are - "El Reno", "Lorain", Hackettstown", and "Madras"]



Pre-War Navy Ships

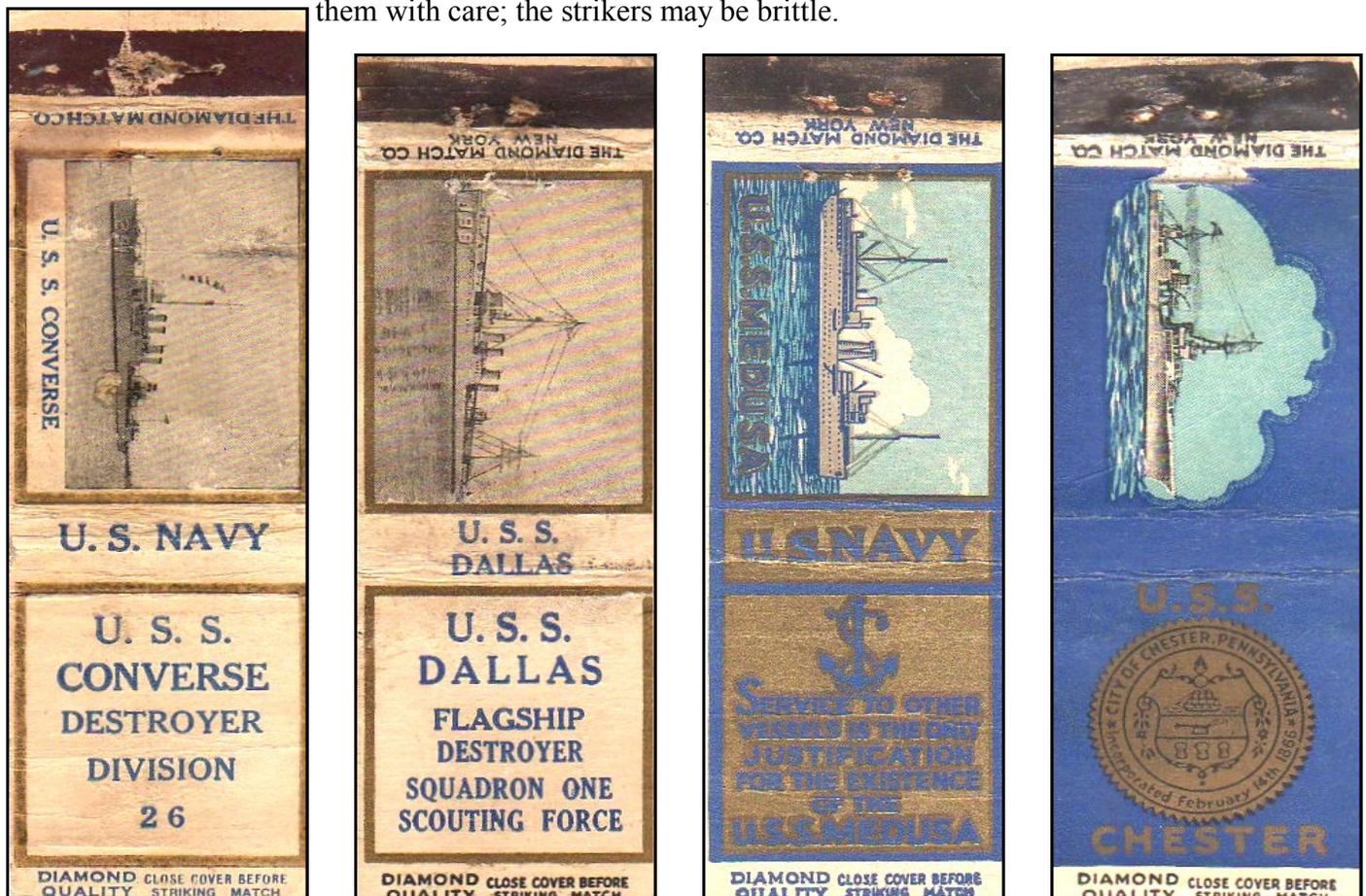
Pre-War Navy Ship covers are those issued before Sep. 2, 1945, although that actually works out to those issued before Dec. 7, 1941. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy prohibited the use of any ship name or number on matchcovers, for security reasons. Thus, none were issued during the war.

This is where most of the hard ones are. There are some absolutely great old covers here. Most of the U.S. Navy Pre-War Ship covers were put out by Diamond Match Co., including the first, but there are a lot of Federals, as well, and covers from several other match manufacturers.

Of the 1,183 Pre-War covers listed, the Walter Mensch listing of 1956, which I have updated, lists some 53 Diamond Qualities (*after 22 years of collecting, I have 6!*). Four are pictured here. Note that the U.S.S. Converse cover [*lower left*] is an “extra-long,” or “tall.” The darker covers are the U.S.S. Medusa and the U.S.S. Chester, respectively. There are over 140 listed Federals and only one Crown, the U.S.S. Dupont, DD-152.

Some of the more interesting covers in this category [*to me, anyway*]: Cover #B122, U.S.S. Bear, AG-29...this ship was commissioned in 1876! Cover #39, U.S.S. Langley, CV-1...this converted carrier was used for some of the original experiments with planes taking off and landing on a ship; Cover #L199j, U.S.S. Louisville, CA-28...this cover is a pair of uncut 20s, forming a 40-strike; Covers #S54a,b,c, U.S.S. Salt Lake City, CA-25...this ship eventually ended up as a target at the Bikini Testing Range in the Pacific.

Pre-War Navy Ship covers are sure to be some of the most prized possessions of any collector. Handle them with care; the strikers may be brittle.



Post-War Navy Ships



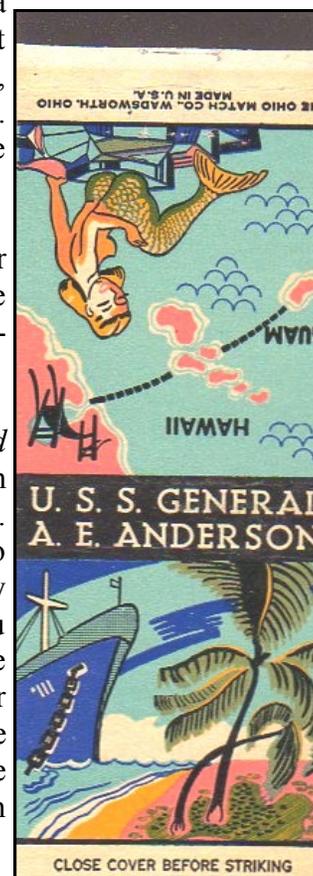
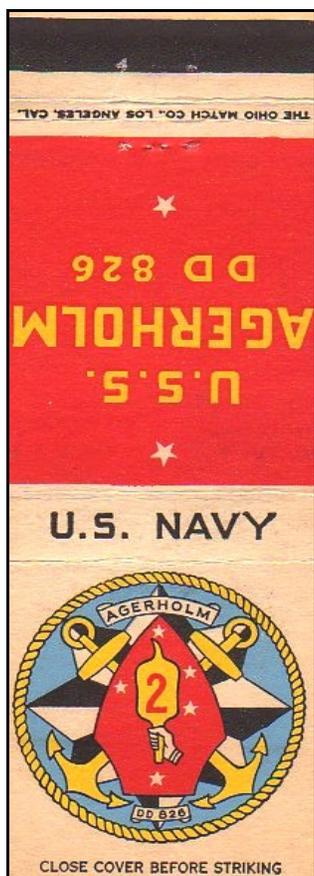
Although, as previously noted, Ship covers weren't issued during the war, the battleship Missouri issued a cover bearing the name of the ship and "TOKYO 2. SEPT. 1945" to commemorate the surrender of the Japanese and the signing of the armistice, which took place on the deck of the Missouri. This is the first Post-War Navy Ship cover, and all covers issued after this are categorized as Post-War covers.

This is where the bulk of the Navy Ship covers are, almost twice as many as the Pre-War issues. there are no *old* covers here, no DQs, no Federals, no Crowns, but the great diversity of designs and colors, I believe, make up for this. Here, there are Giants, Features, full-color photos, and lots of Disney-like logos.

A few of the more interesting covers: Cover #B48a, U.S.S. Bushnell, AS-15..."SQUADRON" is misspelled as "SQUARDRON;" Cover #E17a, U.S.S. Epping Forest, LSD-4..."FOREST" is misspelled as "FORREST;" Cover #K8a, U.S.S. Keppler, DDE-765...a variation of this cover is identical, except someone forgot to print the ship! Cover #R44a, U.S.S. Richard S. Edwards, DD-950...reads "RICHARDS;" Cover #S14, U.S.S. Saratoga, CVA-60...the first ship actually built from the hull up as a carrier (1942).

The COMBINE listing is the master list for Post-War ship covers. It was done in the 1960s-1970s, and I have updated it and maintain it. There are currently 2,115 Post-War covers listed.

One other word, by the way, being both a Navy Ship *and* a Ship Line collector, there are Navy Ship covers that can go in your Ship line collection, should you chose to do so. Many of the ship lines' cruise ships were pressed into service during the war, and if you can track down exactly what they were converted into, those covers can help you "round out" the historical picture that your Ship line collection presents. The cruise ship *President Adams*, for example, became the *U.S.S. President Adams*, and the same for the *President Jackson*....but if no covers were issued during the war, would you be able to find such covers???





An American Tour: 24



California's Catalina Island

Santa Catalina Island, often called Catalina Island, or just Catalina, is a rocky island off the coast of California, 22 miles south-southwest of Los Angeles. The island is 22 miles long and 8 miles wide.

Over a span of 7,000 years, various native American groups inhabited Catalina, but after 1820, Spanish rule gave way to Mexican occupation. Since tariffs were the Mexican Government's only source of revenue, they established a customs house at Monterey in 1821. This provoked many trade-merchants to look for ways to circumvent the system. Skippers, fed-up and frustrated, began to smuggle most of their valuable goods past customs to avoid paying high duty. This is when Catalina Island became a smuggling Eden; a cove was even named after the activity: Smugglers Cove.

One of Catalina's most notable transactions took place in 1887 when investors of the Lick estate resold Catalina for \$200,000 to George Shatto, a businessman and entrepreneur who was perhaps ultimately responsible for the Catalina we know today. He intended to turn the island into a tourist resort, beginning his five year reign by surveying the land and building a hotel. To expand Avalon's tourist base further, Shatto used steamships to ferry tourists to and from the mainland. Some island tourists arrived to purchase lots in Avalon, which Shatto auctioned off for \$150 to \$2,000, depending on location and size. However, Shatto racked up some hefty bills and defaulted on his mortgage payments and soon lost the island. William Wrigley (Wrigley's Gum) eventually took over and constructed the famed Casino in 1929, which he figured would improve his revenues by attracting more tourists. Though the Casino was never used for gambling, it was a place for people to gather and enjoy some camaraderie and entertainment. It held a variety of functions after its grand opening, but the Casino's earmark during this era was ballroom dancing to the live music of a big band.



Today, Avalon remains Catalina's principal tourist attraction. Catalina contains all essential utilities such as electricity, water and phones. Rainwater is stored in reservoirs throughout the island's interior, which is subsequently purified then piped to the towns of Avalon and Two Harbors. A desalination plant also services Avalon, which, most importantly, supply's water during periods of drought. All electricity and water service is furnished by the Edison Company, while Pacific Bell provides telephone utilities. [<http://www.visitingcatalina.com/history.html>]

New Members

913. Jeri Sanders, P. O. Box 14945, San Francisco, CA 94114
Collects: General?

914. Eugene Harris, 1720 S. 82nd Street, West Allis, WI 53214
Collects: General?

Ads

MATCHCOVER WANTED: Afro-American cover of A. Philip Randolph, Westchester Chapter. Please contact Alan Cahn, 847-676-4064. E-mail: Rphnate1@comcast.net.

LISTS! REFERENCES! RESEARCH MATERIALS! Need a hobby glossary? Want to find out how old that cover is? Need information on an obscure trademark? All that and more is available with the right source. Check out what there is at The Vault - <http://matchpro.org>

WANT TO TRADE OR PURCHASE FEATURES OR GIANTS: Richard W. Lauck, 9424 Odin Way, Bothell, WA 98011-1646, 425.486.4501, rlauck@verizon.net

TRADERS WANTED! I'm easy to trade with and have trading material available in most categories. Mike Prero, 12659 Eckard Way, Auburn, CA 95603 (rmsed@matchpro.org)

Coming Up

RMS CONVENTION 2008:

August 3-8, 2008. The Inn at Hunt's Landing Best Western, Matamoras, PA. (570-491-2400) Room: \$99 More details coming, but you can always get the latest at Convention Central on the RMS web site.

CONNECTICUT MC 35th ANNIVERSARY MEET: September 25-28, 2008. Marriott Hartford/Springfield Airport, Day Hill Rd., Windsor, CT 06095. (1-800-228-9290) Room: \$94+tax, includes 2 breakfast buffet vouchers per room. Covers, games, auctions, displays, raffle.

KEYSTONE-LEHIGH VALLEY FALL WEEKEND: Oct 29-Nov 1, Holiday Inn, 230 Cherry St., U.S. Rt 10, Morgantown, PA 10543 (Exit 22) (1-800-339-0264). Room rates announced later. Reservation NTL Oct. 1, ask for K-LV rate. Halloween Party w/ costumes, two auctions. FMI: Jane Ruffner, 105 Gibraltar Rd., Reading Pa 19606-3321

8th ANNUAL SIERRA-DIABLO SPRING SWAPFEST: April 4th and 5th, 2009, Roseville, CA. Early Bird BBQ on Friday, April 3. More details coming. FMI: Loren Moore, POB 1181, Roseville, CA 95678 loren@bgsplanco.com 877-752-6247

AMCAL's Veterans' Salute

During May's AMCAL

convention, there was a very touching salute to veterans (the convention's theme was 'Patriotic'). Flag Bearers and Presenting flag were Mel Reese, Ken Schneider, Don Ewart and Vivian Bolton (she was injured. at AMCAL)..an Ex -Marine drill sergeant but should be accounted for). Vets on stage were Doug Fouquet, Bob Connor, Larry Ziegler, Dick Hanson, Dick Hagerman, Loren Ross, Bob Hiller, and Duane Johnk The presentation and tribute to Veterans was read by President Bobbie McKenzie AMCAL members all sang "God Bless America" with a background of Kate Smith's recording. Very impressive and not a dry eye in the House.

Readers Write

John Boal, CA: I came across a matchcover with 'TC ASF' along with Los Angeles Port of Embarkation, which I had in my navy section. Lo and behold, I found it to be the Transportation Corps of the US Army. 'ASF' means Army Service Forces. As I was removing the cover to put into the army section, I discovered that I had the Station Hospital Los Angeles Port of Embarkation cover in the navy section, as well. So I googled it and found that it too was army, and that is now known as Harbor General Hospital, about 2 blocks away from where I lived in the 60's. Small world! So that cover was transferred as well to the army section. Then, I opened up the new bulletin and find you

Happy Birthday!

Benbrook, Jack.....	7-1
Eggleston, Kay.....	7-1
Spangler, T.A.....	7-5
Jackson, Ken.....	7-7
Meyer, Brian.....	7-9
Mitchell, James 'Mitch'.....	7-10
Mason, Wilton.....	7-13
Schwimmer, Mike.....	7-14
Varille, George.....	7-14
Cooke, Jenny.....	7-16
Heskett, Robert.....	7-18
Nelson, Ron.....	7-19
Kennaday, Dave.....	7-23
Lauck, Richard.....	7-26
Dixon, Barbara.....	7-29
McMillan, Bob.....	7-31

that members marked as “Willing to trade’ on the roster are not only not trading, they’re not even responding to trade queries. Please check the current roster (either the one on the web site or a hard copy, if you have one). If you’re listed as wanting to trade, but you no longer are, please let me know so that I can correct the listing. The new roster is about to come out, if it hasn’t already, and we don’t want incorrect information on the hard copies for another year. *Thank you!*

Dave Landy

Very long-time member Dave

Landy, member #90, passed away on June 19th. I used to see Dave every year at AMCAL. He was a retired law enforcement officer from Southern California. He was an ardent supporter of both the club and the hobby. Our sincere condolences to both his family and friends all around the country.

have written an article on ports. Very nice article. I usually don’t read the article unless they deal with California. Quite a co-incidence that I started the evening with the port of embarkation and finished with ports of the world. I would sure like to find one from the San Francisco port of embarkation, as I have an actual license plate from there.

Do You Really Trade?

We’ve recently gotten in a complaint

July’s Smile

[Thanks to Larry Danver for this one]

Name
Phone Number
Real Name
Real Phone No.

BE SAFE CLOSE COVER BEFORE STRIKING
Atlas Match Corp., Euless (D/FW), TX

COMING UP



Aug: “Ghiradelli Square”

Sep: “San Francisco”

Oct: “Lake Tahoe”

SIERRA-DIABLO...we’re the hottest club in the hobby!

The Sierra-Diablo Bulletin is a monthly publication of the Sierra-Diablo Matchcover Club. Deadline for all submissions is the 10th of each month. Any information herein may be reproduced with appropriate credit line. Dues of \$10 (individual), \$15 (family), \$15 (Canada/Mexico) or \$20 (outside N. America) are payable to the Sierra-Diablo Matchcover Club, c/o Jack Benbrook, 1328 E. Rosser St., Prescott, AZ 86301.

Visit the Sierra-Diablo Web Site at: <http://www.matchcover.org/sierra>

You can reach the Ed. on line at RMSED@matchpro.org for help with Bulletin/hobby questions, concerns or problems.