RMS INSTA-POLL

"How do you use your computer in collecting?

July—61 responding —50 males, 11 females

Type of connection:

Dial-up—17
DSL   —32
Cable —13
Satellite —1

Your three main hobby uses for the computer:

Correspondence   —42
Access web sites   —40
Maintain lists/organizing—22
Research   —14
Producing bulletins/
    Auctions   —5
Little or no use related —4
    to hobby
Maintain web sites   —1

I couldn't help throwing in the question about whether or not collectors would be willing to receive their bulletins via e-mail. That's got to be the wave of the future, and the number of positive responses was heartening, but there are still too many collectors without computers.

That will change, though. There's a generation coming that was raised with computers, and the perceptions will thus be different.

Thanks to all the collectors who responded to the poll and thus made it possible.

Would you be willing to receive your bulletins via e-mail?

Yes—33 (27 male/6 female)
No —16 (11 male/5 female)
Prefer hard copy—11 (11 male/0 female)

Interesting results, but no real surprises here, I don't think. I

I hate to admit it, but I'm one of the 17 dinosaurs still using a dial-up connection! It's a pain, I admit, but there's just something about doubling or tripling my monthly internet provider payments that make me balk at changing. I wouldn't be surprised if, in the not-so-distant future, dial-up connections stop being offered altogether, and we'll *all* be forced to upgrade to a faster service.

As far as what people actually use their computers for in relation to the hobby, it's hardly surprising that the most common use is for correspondence, which would include both the typing of hard copy correspondence and e-mail.

As the webmaster for the RMS and Sierra-Diablo web sites, as well as my own personal hobby site, it was nice to see such a large number using their computers to access hobby-related web sites, although such a designation also includes ebay, which I'm sure accounts for quite a lot of the collector traffic.