

RMS INSTA-POLL

"What change(s) would you most like to see RMS make for the future? (in any area(s) that RMS has responsibility)." You can name up to 3, please.

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| <p><u>Conventions:</u> - 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2-day weekend convention instead of whole week, w/full days of freebie tables, displays, dealer rooms and program elements. -Hold convention where somebody wants to go, not small places in OH, PA, and now MD, such as low room rate places as Las Vegas, Atlantic City or New Orleans during summer. -Move convention to after Labor Day for better rates and less conflicts -2 -Choose more centralized locations. -2 -Have successive conventions at one site for a couple years, if we can get same rates -RV parking provisions -Return to the Friday banquet and shorter week -Hold more conventions somewhere other than the east coast | <p><u>Bulletin:</u> - 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Some occasional color pages -Publish more articles of contemporary interest -Cut down on the "Oldies but Goodies" -Relax requirement re duplication of regional club articles -Go to web-based bulletin -7 -Include more regional club info -2 -Sign authorship on any non-editor written articles -more positive news as opposed to doom and gloom news -Reduce number of pages from 32 to 24 -Improve visual quality of photos & illustrations | <p><u>Dues:</u> - 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide a discounted membership for online members while keeping the more expensive dues for hard-copy members. <p><u>Display Rules:</u> -1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Change display rules. Allow unmounted matchbox labels in any display and add a display category for . <p><u>Miscellaneous:</u> -1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -RMS should get involved in producing more new matchbooks. It will be easier to get new members if we have the product for them to find. |
| <p><u>Publicity:</u> - 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Publicize the hobby more -3 -RMS provided articles/publicity pieces for local use with the media -more promotion of local events and meetings -RMS should sponsor clinics around the country (where local clubs are not) to display, promote and recruit for our hobby. | <p><u>Recruitment:</u> - 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Encourage full-book collectors to join -One year free dues for every 3 new RMS members signed up. -Attract more minorities -Mentoring for new members | <p><u>Auction:</u> - 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improve bulletin auction. Item descriptions are so poor it makes valid bidding next to impossible -4 -Set up auction site -Put auction on-line, preferably on ebay -Add pictures -2 |
| <p><u>Web Site:</u> - 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Upgrade "members section" of web site to encourage new online members to revitalize hobby. -On-line catalog of covers. Collectors could scan covers onto a shared website -RMS Users Group on Yahoo where collectors could get real time info | <p><u>Trading/Communication:</u> - 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Encourage more trading -Encourage collectors to exchange info on their collections, category lists, etc. | <p><u>Supplies:</u> - 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide one source of cover supplies <p><u>Roster:</u> - 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Web-based roster |

Thirty-two members responded (but I haven't included four, since they had no changes to propose).

Note: I've left out the accompanying arguments for the proposed changes offered on the preceding page due to lack of space.

Note: The number accompanying the response (i.e., '-2') shows how many responses

Bulletin: The bulletin got the largest number of responses, although several members apparently misinterpreted the polling question as to referring *only* to the bulletin. 1) Color bulletin pages is strictly a matter of cost (of course, if we went to a web-based bulletin, they'd *all* be in color!); 2) I think we're doing a pretty good job of including local club info. Any more and we'd be stealing the local clubs' thunder; 3) As far as I know, any member writing anything for the bulletin is acknowledged with said text; 4) Visual quality of the bulletin depends almost entirely on the printing company that RMS uses and what type of paper is used. I think the quality has significantly improved since we've changed companies. (A web-based bulletin (There would be no quality concerns with a web-based bulletin); et al)

RMS Convention: 1) For at least as long as I've been in the hobby, there has been significant dissent re having so many conventions in the East, usually at the same cities. The return argument is going to be "That's where the most collectors are, and the clubs that are willing to do the work"; 2) Since so many of our members are retired, I don't understand, myself, why the convention is constantly locked into a summer timeframe. RMS has done surveys on this in the past; I don't remember the results.

RMS Bulletin Auction: Almost everyone who mentioned this area noted that the accompanying lot descriptions were inadequate. This would should be quite easy to fix.

Publicity: I was surprised at how many people mentioned this. RMS *does* have a publicity chairman and a publicity budget, but I think a big portion of the problem, here, is that most members have no idea one way or the other what RMS does in the way of publicizing the hobby. I've asked Ellen Gutting to write an article outlining RMS's annual efforts in this regard.

Recruitment: We're *always* looking for new members, but 1) perhaps more incentives for actually finding them might stimulate the search; 2) Various mentoring programs have been tried across the hobby off and on over the years. It sounds logical, but I don't recall any of the attempts actually yielding an significant results. When surveys have been done on the reasons people leave the hobby, the main reasons given are things involving problems finding traders, dealing with traders, obtaining those hard-to-get covers, and so.

Web Site: 1) An on-line catalog of covers, collectors posting scans of their collections, etc. is a *massive* undertaking, far too large for the RMS web site. At best, I think, the RMS web site could link to someone else's site who wanted to do this. Loren Moore, President of Sierra-Diablo is working on something like this on his own, as pet project, and I'm in the process of putting up a much smaller on-line catalog of *types* on my own web site...but I've been working on it for months, and it's still not done; 2) Users group? We had a chat room on the web site for a few years. After the initial curiosity, no one used it.

Trading/Communication: 1) Encourage trading? I've been doing that for years, in all three bulletins I write for. It is what it is! 2) Encourage collectors to exchange info on their collections, category lists, etc.? All that's already on the web site for those that are interested (i.e., Trading Center, etc).

Thank you to everyone who responded. I hope your responses stimulate discussion in the proper circles.