



# Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News

Everett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM  
Snohomish County PUD  
2320 California Street

Edmonds, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 7 PM – 9 PM  
South County Senior Center  
220 South Railroad Avenue

Volume 24

February, 2018

Number 2

Online at: <http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/> copies of these newsletters available there, too!

## Everett Meeting Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM

- **APS Circuit Books** - The books are here. We have USA plate blocks, USA earlies (including five mint Columbians), USA possessions (DWI, CZ, Hawaii, Ryukyus), PRC, Czechoslovakia, India with states, Eritrea, Victorian-era British empire (includes provinces), Southeast Asia and Canada.  
Please join us and pick through the books.

Most meetings also include **show-and-tell**, along with time to **buy and sell** stamps

[**Edmonds** meetings are on hold until further notice to sort out some  
how / where / when details]

### 2018 Club Officers

<b>President:</b>	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	<a href="mailto:stampingsteve42@hotmail.com">stampingsteve42@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Terry Ferrell,	360-863-3019;	<a href="mailto:tbferrell@juno.com">tbferrell@juno.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ray Anderson,	425-776-4442;	<a href="mailto:rand37@frontier.com">rand37@frontier.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ruth Stevens,	206-546-3357;	<a href="mailto:wastevens@frontier.com">wastevens@frontier.com</a>
<b>Program Chairman:</b>			
<b>Webmaster &amp; Newsletter Editor:</b>	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	<a href="http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/">http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/</a> <a href="mailto:ktk.lange@frontier.com">ktk.lange@frontier.com</a>

**Everett 2018** meeting dates at the Snohomish P.U.D. (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month):  
2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, (Aug BBQ), 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, (Dec Dinner)

## President's Column

At our January meeting, I asked members in attendance their preference for our February meeting. Did members prefer a club auction or a selection of American Philatelic Association (APS) circuit books. Members voted overwhelmingly for circuit books. So, I submitted a request for circuit books to APS. Judging by experience, APS should send me a selection well in advance of Valentine's Day, when our February meeting takes place.

I sent an email to club members, soliciting requests for individual circuits. One member asked for US Shanghai overprints. I requested US possessions, the category which most closely corresponds, appending a note asking for Shanghai overprints. We will find out if APS can accommodate that request. I asked for several categories of US material, including plate blocks. Surprisingly, the club has been contacted by three potential members who collect plate blocks. I also requested circuits for China, Canada, Great Britain and India states.

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**UPDATE:** The APS circuit books arrived just days ago. We have books for USA plate blocks, USA earlies (including five mint Columbians), USA possessions (DWI, CZ, Hawaii, Ryukyus), PRC, Czechoslovakia, India with states, Eritrea, Victorian-era British empire (includes provinces), Southeast Asia and Canada.

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I plan to institute a new system for tracking member purchases. The system we have been using isn't working. That system involves passing around the club's rubber stamps from person to person, as members make selections. I suspect that sometimes the rubber stamp's passage is delayed as one member finds a particular circuit a trove of philatelic treasures. As a result, members' aggregate cash payments do not cover all purchases. This means the club has to cover the shortfall. In one case, I covered it and effecting reimbursement by acquiring stamps which belonged to the club.

The new system is one which works for another club which frequently orders APS circuit books. I will provide each member with a paper. I will ask members to enter, for each stamp selected, the number of the circuit book, the page number, row number, column number and retail price. Let me emphasize that prior shortfalls were the result of predictable human error. I doubt that any member intentionally took advantage of the club.

I will also have to levy a five percent surcharge. For club circuits, APS levies a five percent surcharge if the aggregate purchase is less than \$200. Should we surpass that \$200 threshold, I will refund the surcharge.

This will be the club's fourth circuit since I became president. We met the threshold on the first two circuits. We fell short on the third. I attribute that to the quality of the circuit books. Too much material was suitable only for beginning collectors. Our members, whether they specialize or collect worldwide, are either intermediate or advanced collectors.

At the February 14 meeting, I will hand out the philatelic equivalent of a party favor. A recent donation to the club included six copies of an Afghan stamp promoting tourism. It has been decades since that unhappy nation issued stamps touting its tourist attractions. Our State Department recommends that Americans past military age avoid travel to Afghanistan.

Don't forget that our meeting night falls on Valentines Day. To assure a tranquil February 15, don't leave home without bestowing the love of your life with a few tokens of your affection. How about a packet of stamps depicting roses or orchids?

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Carol Edholm informed me that dealer Bill Parker died recently of cancer. Parker, who specialized in US stamps and covers, and his wife, Sharon, were a fixture at local stamp shows until about two years ago, when his failing health forced him to slow down. He and Sharon lived in Puyallup.

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The APS web site features a link to a letter which provides intriguing details about the catastrophic collapse of the Regency auction house. The letter was written last October by Kathleen Yurchak, a Pennsylvania attorney, to Scott English, APS executive director. I infer Ms. Yurchak's firm, which specializes in elder care, represents APS. The letter spoke to the plight of APS members who consigned philatelic holdings to Regency. "That material was neither sold nor returned to them," the letter reads.

It turns out that Regency owed a St. Louis bank \$4 million, an amount secured by "company owned assets." In December, 2016, Regency defaulted on that loan, having only a few hundred dollars in its bank account. The bank loaned Regency additional funds so it could auction unsold consigned material. That auction took place in January, 2017. An attorney representing the bank informed Ms. Yurchak that Regency had yet to provide an itemization of the proceeds of that auction.

The bank's attorney also stated that the bank "claims no security interest or other interest in consigned goods or proceeds from the sale of consigned goods." The bank insists it never asserted control over consigned goods. This is good news for the owners of consigned material which actually sold. However, Regency's apparent failure to itemize auction results is apparently holding up recovery. "I have concerns that a proper accounting will ever be completed," Ms. Yurchak wrote.

One wonders how a \$4 million loan dwindled to a bank account containing a pittance. Some observers cited the failing health of David Kols, Regency's owner. The bank's attorney told Ms. Yurchak that "some merchants" received proceeds from the January auction and another auction held in November, 2016. Ms. Yurchak told English "we are not aware of a single person who received money" from either auction.

Last August, APS expelled Kols for failing to fulfill contracts and failure to settle numerous philatelic debts. The attorney representing Kols and Regency told Ms. Yurchak that Kols initially intended to abandon Regency and make no attempt to properly liquidate its holdings. He later decided to work with the bank and cooperate with the liquidation process. Regency has no plans to file a corporate bankruptcy. Kols reportedly plans to file a personal bankruptcy. The bank's secured interest includes his home.

Ms. Yurchak invited collectors who still have property on consignment with Regency to contact her and Regency's attorney. Contact information is in the letter, which remains on the APS website.

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A word to club members involved with the annual Sno-King Stamp Club show, scheduled for Sunday, March 11, at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in southeast Everett. March 11 is the first day of daylight savings time. Make sure to move your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night.

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Last month, we reported that Aripex, the three-day Arizona show taking place Presidents Day weekend, is one of the few stamp shows which charges admission. The fee is \$5, which is waived for enrolled members of Native American tribes. This prompted one philatelic observer to comment that the show should be exempting youth collectors. After all, the future of the hobby depends on younger collectors. So, we queried Aripex's organizers.

Aripex doesn't exactly have a youth exemption from the admission charge. What it has can be more accurately described as a pre-pubescent exemption. Admission is free to kids 12 and under. My informant asked if I plan to attend. I replied that I don't attend stamp shows I can't reach by car. In my surly old age, I seek to minimize time I spend in airports. Moreover, even though I look younger than my true age, I doubt I can pass for 17, much less 12.

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Some time ago, I needed a home phone number for Dr. Alexander Hamling, M.D., one of our newer members. I decided to look for it online. While rummaging for contact information, I came across several videos featuring Dr. Alex, a Pacific Medical Center pediatrician, and his trademark bow tie. In 2016, a Channel 13 newswoman interviewed him about cyberbullying. Alex has an engaging TV presence. I recommend this, especially if your extended family includes children aged 11 through 14. I twitted him about his PacMed video profile. "In my spare time," Alex said, "I enjoy hiking, attending farmers markets and spending time with my family." I asked Alex if he was too ashamed to identify publicly as a philatelist. He assured me that video was filmed before he discovered stamp collecting. (Editor's Note: see more Alex news below)

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Every so often, I am astonished by mailings addressed to the club at my home address. Recently, I received a piece of mail addressed to the "manager" of our club's "shipping department." It was a 700-plus-page catalog of "warehouse essentials." Whatever the typical stamp club warehouse might need, it's in there. We can buy tilt tables, spill containment gear and vented pallet wrap. Of course, the club's shipping manager position is currently vacant. Moreover, my predecessor as president left town without turning over the warehouse key. Or, for that matter, divulging the location.

I can't wait to sort through the philatelic treasures which must be occupying our warehouse. There must be boxes and boxes of first-day covers. Also, mint sheets galore going all the way back to 1948. Stacks of albums which long-ago teen collectors started on a Monday and abandoned the following Saturday. Not to mention massive amounts of moldy bundleware. At 25 cents a stamp, the catalog values must be immense.

Editor's additional comments:

So, a little coincidence here. Before I knew that Steve would be including any comment regarding Alex (above) I captured this screenshot of my TV as he gave an interview this past month on the Q13 morning news about the current flu situation. Nicely Done, Alex!

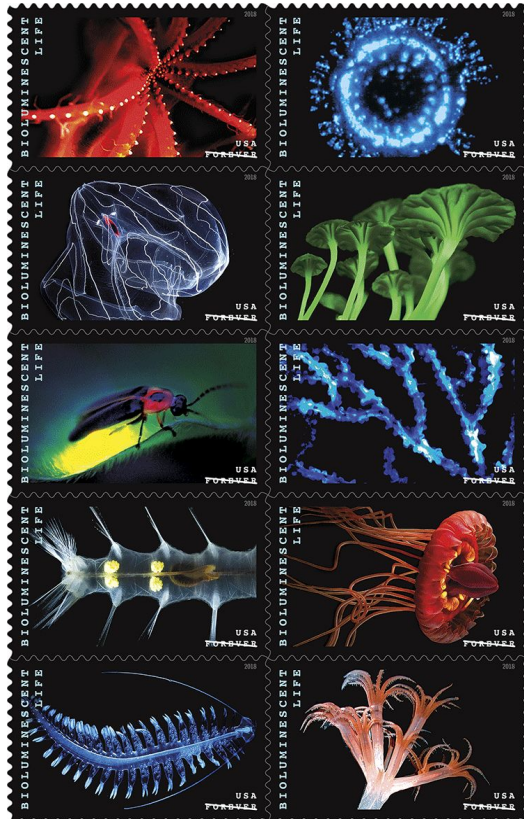


# 2018 new USPS issues for February

February 9 Forever U.S. Flag  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL



February 22 Forever Bioluminescent Life  
FORT PIERCE, FL

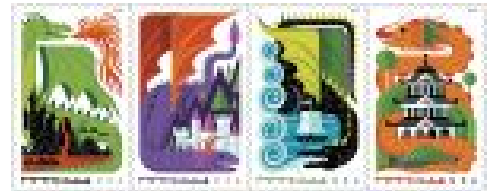
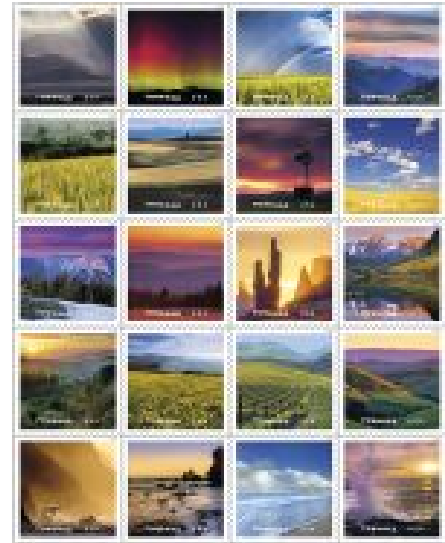
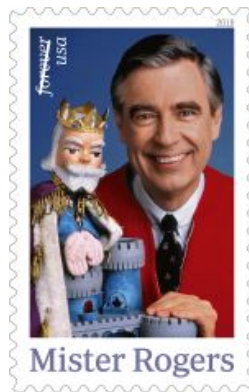
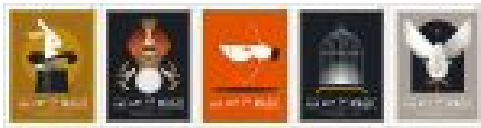


## New 2018 rates

If you haven't heard, a first class stamp is now an even **50 cents**.  
For the rest of the details, here's a USPS chart:

First-Class Mail® Letter (1 oz.) - Retail/Post Office Rate*	\$0.50
First-Class Mail Letter (1 oz.) - Metered Mail/Stamps.com Rate	\$0.47
First-Class Letter - Additional Ounces	\$0.21
First-Class Flat/Large Envelope (1 oz.)	\$1.00
First-Class Flat/Large Envelope - Additional Ounces	\$0.21
First-Class Letter International (1 oz.)	\$1.15
Postcard	\$0.35
Priority Mail Express® (0.5 lb.)	\$21.98 and up
Priority Mail® (1 lb.)	\$6.55 and up
First-Class Package Service (1 oz.)	\$2.66
Parcel Select Ground® (1 lb.)	\$6.55 and up
Media Mail® (1 lb.)	\$2.66
USPS Retail Ground™ (1 lb.) - Retail/Post Office Rate*	\$6.70 and up
Global Express Guaranteed® (0.5 lb.)	\$61.28 and up
Priority Mail Express International® (0.5 lb.)	\$40.38 and up
Priority Mail International® (1 lb.) Canada	\$31.35 and up
Priority Mail International (1 lb.) Other Countries	\$38.24 and up
First-Class Package International Service® (1 lb.)	\$15.20 and up

## A Sneak Peek into the Upcoming 2018 US Stamp Program



...and I'm guessing at least another one or two dozen that they haven't yet announced.

(and a final note from the newsletter editor - I'm Retiring! When this summer wraps up, I'll have worked my last career day and I will be done - can you tell that I'm just a little bit excited? I fully admit that I am nearly 100% likely to pick up a part time gig somewhere just for entertainment purposes for something to do - and of course who wouldn't want a little additional stamp money- but the requirement to go to work will be finished. Ahhh, one very happy camper here :) but with a long list of things that I need take care of on my to-do list! *Kurt Lange* )