



Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News

Everett, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM

Snohomish County PUD

2320 California Street

Edmonds, 3rd Friday, 7 PM – 9 PM

South County Senior Center

220 South Railroad Avenue

Volume 24

April, 2018

Number 4

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

Everett Meeting

Wednesday, **April 11th**, 7:30 PM

- **APS Circuit Books** - It's circuit book time -

Refer to pages 3 and 4 for all the details

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

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

President's Column

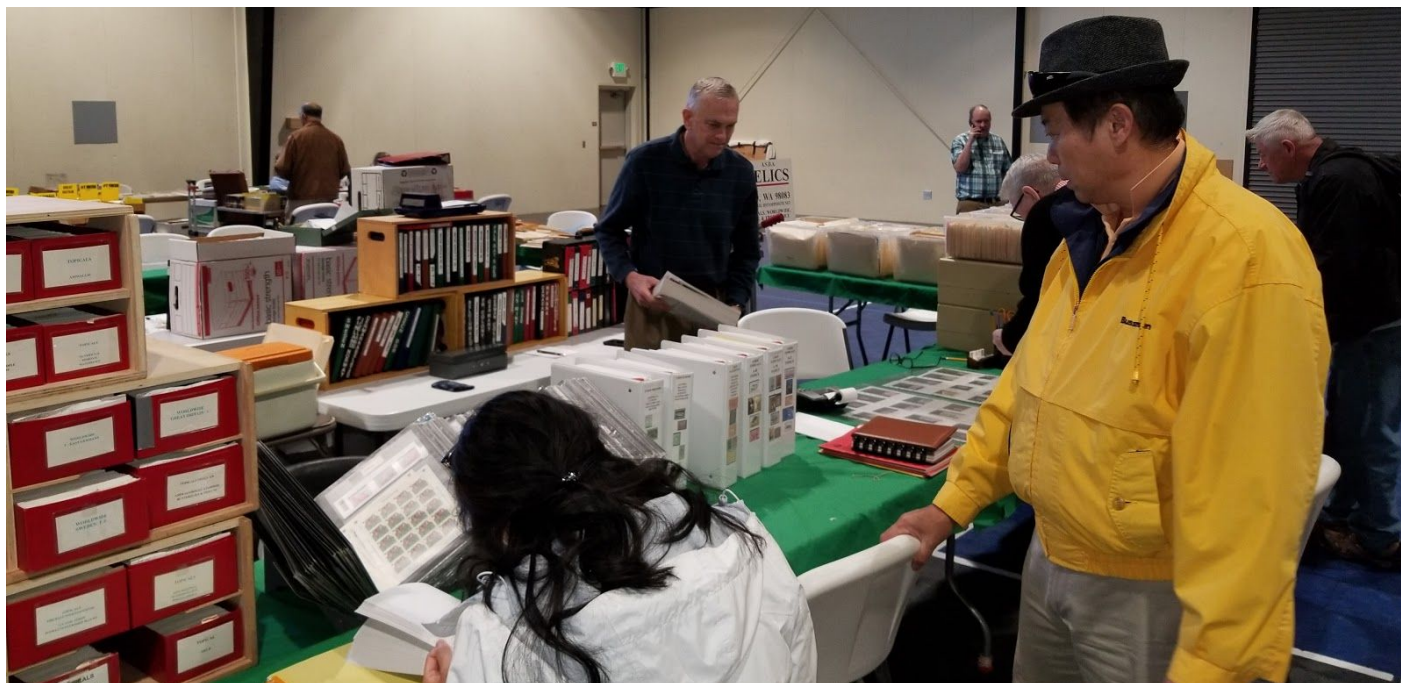


Sno-King Stamp Club members have every reason to be pleased with the club's annual stamp show, held Sunday, March 11, at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. As I drove home, after nearly nine hours inside Savior Hall, I passed a sign announcing that the current temperature was 73 degrees. Great day, I told myself, to stay home from a stamp show and ready the garden for spring planting. Despite this, we had what I believe is a record turnout. About 80 people signed in. During the heaviest traffic, dealers hosted three or more customers at a time. Dealers reported many customers busted their stamp budget. After all, this show was the only show in March and the first since GESSPEX in late January. *(Note that the editor is pretty darn proud about finally getting some photos of the show this year. Far too many prior shows brought on the end of the day thought, "Oh, great it's all done and I forgot to get some photos, Again!")*



Even though only nine dealers participated, the show generated a modest profit. The club had expected to absorb a slight loss. A slight loss would not deter the club from hosting shows in coming years. Such a loss is a worthy price for promoting philately and attracting new members. I attribute the turnout to this year's

concerted effort to promote the show, both through local media and other clubs in the region. A hearty thank you to everyone who assisted in spreading the word.



Most members missed my award-worthy impression of Art Van Bergeyk. Many times I have been in Art's store, Aurora Stamps, when he hosted visitors offering collections handed down from past generations. In many cases, these collections were formed by folks who flirted with the hobby without becoming serious philatelists. Many times, I heard Art tell these folks the stamps in the collection are so common as to make the collection next to worthless.

I manned the club table for most of the show. I talked to a couple who brought in a collection built by an aunt who had traveled extensively in Europe, reportedly picking up philatelic treasures in the process. I expected the collection to feature classic or elusive material. These expectations were crushed. The collection appeared to have been assembled by sweeping behind file cabinets at H. E. Harris.

"Most stamps are common," I heard myself saying, repeating a line I had heard many times at Aurora Stamps. "Most dealers have many copies of all the stamps in this album and can't find buyers for what they have. No dealer is going to offer money to acquire more stamps they can't sell." Now, I could have said, "Go see Art. He's at the far table." I hope Art, if he reads this, is grateful I didn't.

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At the March meeting, club members voted for another round of **APS circuit books** as the program for our next meeting, which will take place **Wednesday, April 11**, at the Snohomish County PUD. As I was applying the final touches to the president's column, they arrived. The most intriguing book offers classic US at one-third catalog value. How about US 154 off-center, but otherwise sound (CV \$300) on sale for \$99.95?

Or an off-center US 116 with a "fancy cancel" (CV \$120) available for \$39.95. Most stamps have centering issues, but are sound, except for those whose owner noted defects.

I requested Turkey, being aware that one member, whom I know to be a general collector, has recently concentrated on Turkish stamps. APS provided two books which included Turkey along with an array of other nations. Sadly, APS sent no books which featured Turkey exclusively.

Other books: Middle East, mostly MNH; cats; Romania and Bosnia/Herzegovina; Czechoslovakia; French Colonies, mostly MNH; PRC MNH; flowers; Canada (KGV and earlier), MNH; USA bob; USA plate blocks; British Victorian era; Australia states; British Empire used.

When I requested a China selection, I encountered a limitation to the APS menu of circuits. It does not accommodate a preference for PRC, Taiwan or pre-1949 China. I hoped for either of the latter two. Instead, for the second straight selection, we got mainland China. Moreover, the PRC stamps are mint. I doubt any will interest anyone in our current membership.

The APS circuit books provided for our February meeting proved popular. We were able to make them available a second time at our March meeting. Club members purchased an aggregate of \$340 retail from those circuit books. About half of that total represented some choice used stamps from the Italian colony of Eritrea.

The new system of tracking purchases by club members, instituted in February, worked well. The money collected from club members covered all the purchases, so there was no need to tap the club treasury to cover a shortfall. We will use this system at our April meeting.

When I submitted our request on-line, I included a note, "No CTO, please." We did get CTO. I guess if you request Czechoslovakia, you're going to get CTO.

I will also bring a collection, housed in 10 stock books, recently donated to the club. The mostly foreign stamps are neatly assorted by country within these stock books. I observed stamps which might be of interest to members. However, the owner decided to donate the collection after spurning a "ridiculous" offer she received from a dealer, whom she did not identify. There are highlights, even though the collection is what you would expect from a customer of Mystic Stamp Co. Among the highlights are five stock sheets with a tasty offering of MNH USSR.

In my opinion, Mystic performs a disservice to philately by gulling neophyte collectors into believing gaudy labels from an island "dependency" (Manama) of a sandspeck emirate (Ajman) have a place in a stamp album.

Moreover, it appears Mystic' customer base consists largely of philatelists who collect in isolation. They do not gravitate to stamp clubs, where they can tap the knowledge of expert philatelists. Who's to tell them that plastering album pages with Iron Curtain and third-world CTO is less satisfying than a more discriminating approach. Who's to challenge Mystic's skewed sense of market values. So, they pay Mystic a quarter for a stamp they might acquire for a nickel or dime at a stamp club swap night. Case in point: the owner of the donated collection paid \$2.25 for a packet of seven used stamps from the USA 1993 rock musicians issue.

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April is busting out with stamp shows. Local philatelists will have their choice of five philatelic events in April. The month begins with two competing events **Saturday, April 7**. There is a show in Bellingham and the John Ard philatelic symposium in Moses Lake. On **Sunday, April 8**, Fenwick returns to the Red Lion Inn in Renton. This will be the first Fenwick in four months, as Fenwick was unable to line up a February date.

On **Saturday, April 14**, the Olympia Stamp Club will host its biannual Roundup at the Yardsbirds shopping center in Chehalis. Then, the Evergreen Stamp Club will host a two-day show the following weekend (**April 21 and 22**) at Kent Commons.

As if this schedule of shows isn't enough strain on the typical collector's stamp budget, PIPEX looms just around another turn of the calendar. It is scheduled for **May 11 through 13 in Portland**. What is the point of driving to Portland without a thick wad of blank checks to lavish with the dozens of dealers signed up to participate.

The PIPEX schedule for Saturday, May 12, includes meetings for several specialty organizations. They include the Great Britain Collectors Society, the Iran Philatelic Study Group and the Pacific Northwest Postal History Society. The Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, which hosts PIPEX, will hold its annual meeting Sunday, May 13. If any member would like to represent the Sno-King club, please let me know. I plan to attend PIPEX Friday, May 11.

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Sno-King members interested in regional postal history should enjoy Marv Olsen's treatise on discontinued post offices in Skagit and Snohomish Counties. Olsen, secretary and webmaster of the Olympia Stamp Club, posted his essay on the club's website. Olsen, a native of Mount Vernon, lived in the Stillaguamish River valley much of his childhood. He collects early cancellations and sells them on eBay. He prizes cancellations from discontinued post offices and from forerunners of current post offices.

He peppers his treatise with references to the "scarcity index" of certain cancellations and offers observations of factors which affect the value of postmarks. For example, a cancellation which fails to "tie" the stamp to the cover reduces the price to be expected from an eBay auction.

His prize possession is a three-cent pictorial from the issue of 1869 with a pen tic-tac-toe cancellation from the town of Centreville, founded in 1866 on land reclaimed from marshland along the Stillaguamish. In 1877, the postmaster renamed the community Stanwood in honor of his wife's family. Washington Territory already had a Centerville, this in Klickitat County. This also prompted settlers in Centerville, Lewis County, to rename their community Centralia.

During pioneer days, general store operators in emerging farm communities secured appointments as postmasters. Post offices proliferated in the Skagit and Stillaguamish valleys. Improvements in transportation rendered post offices redundant. Post offices in many communities closed as their residents were able to patronize post offices in neighboring towns. For example, the Fir Island post office closed when the south fork of the Skagit River was bridged, providing access to Conway. When the Baker River was bridged near its confluence with the Skagit River, the Concrete post office began serving residents once served by the Baker post office. Eventually, Baker was absorbed by the town of Concrete.

The community of Hazel outlasted its post office, which closed in 1927. The town died after World War II when its lumber mill closed, and shifting Stillaguamish River currents inundated what was left of the townsite.

For many years, the Sauk post office operated in the Presentine general store. It was served by train until the tracks were removed. The state routed a highway, which bypassed the general store, since converted to a residence. Olsen's treatise includes a photo of a cover postmarked in Sauk during World War II. It is franked with the Win the War stamp and bears the slogan, "USA will knock the Germ out of Germany, the Nip out of Nippon and the It out of Italy." The Sauk post office closed in 1944.

In 1954, post offices in Fortson and Oso closed. Afterwards, the Oso general store operated a contract post office. The general store is now empty. Fortson lost its post office when its lumber mill moved to Darrington, sucking the life out of the community. Olsen is seeking cancellations from the town of Allen, which was renamed Oso to avoid confusion with the Mason County community of Allyn. Olsen can understand why Allen was renamed for bears, but why the Spanish word for bear. Washington Place Names states that locals were inspired to rename the community after Oso, Texas.

Olsen reports that a cow pasture now sits where the Cicero post office and a few town buildings once stood. If you attend this year's Darrington Bluegrass Festival, you will probably drive through Cicero, although you may not know it. Cows graze where the town once thrived, near the junction of Hills Road and Highway 530, just east of the highway bridge spanning the north fork of the Stillaguamish.

I have this hope that Olsen will be available some time to present a program to the club. Members, anyone else interested? His treatise will appear once you open the Olympia Stamp Club website. You won't even need to click on a link.

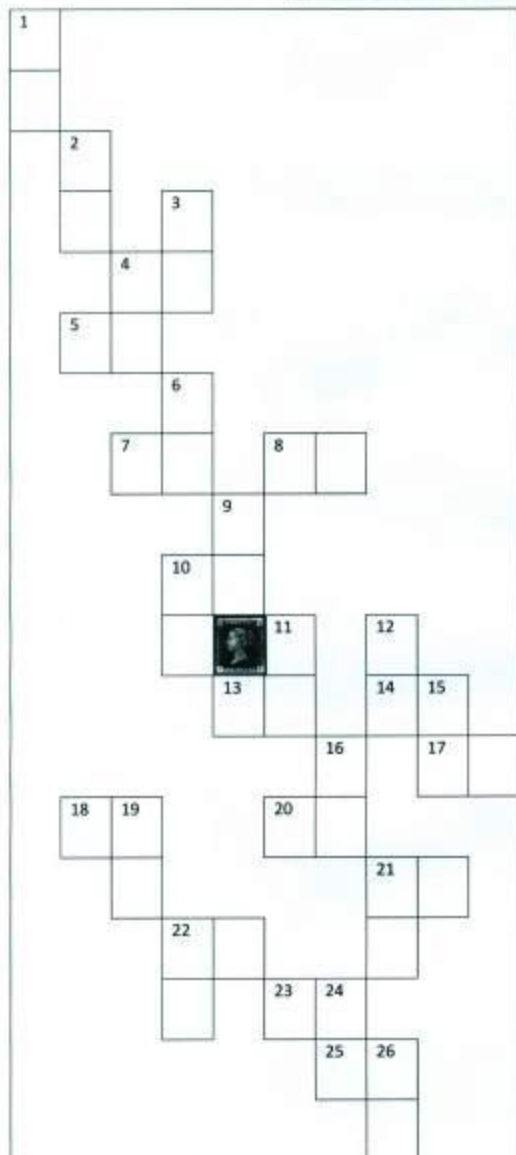
A **crossword puzzle** for you from StampoRama.com, an online stamp discussion forum, made by user "earwaves" / Joe Kowalski - based on the Great Britain "Penny Black" stamp (with the assortment of 2 letters in the corners), thus each answer here is just 2 letters long.

The answer key is on the next page...

Penny Black Crossword by



No answer longer than two letters!



Across:

4. Football field general
5. That is
7. Old five-cent metal
8. Weatherman Roker or MLB half
10. Not you or Pine Tree State
13. Lung disease
14. Yankee pitcher Sabathia
17. Cleanup hitter, often
18. Land of Disney and NASA
20. Dodgers or Bayou State
21. Yes in Essen
22. Non-Navy ship prefix
23. The Ocean State
25. Electronics maker or shirt size

Down:

1. 3.14159 etc.
2. British sports car
3. ____-GYN
4. Her Majesty (not Victoria)
6. Lei land
9. Poet Cummings
10. Yummy!
11. King, of the Blues
12. Some crazy little women there
15. Shiny round music medium
16. Twelve-step program
19. Opposite of hi
21. Harry Potter creator Rowling
22. Yes in Cancun
24. Land of Lincoln
26. Light bulb & jet engine maker

Answers to crossword puzzle:

Across: 4 QB, 5 IE (id est), 7 NI, 8 AL, 10 ME, 13 TB, 14 CC, 17 DH, 18 LA, 21 JA, 22 SS, 23 RI, 25 LG.

Down: 1 PI, 2 MG, 3 OB, 4 QE, 6 HI, 9 EE, 10 MM!, 11 BB, 12 KC (Kansas City), 15 CD, 16 AA, 19 LO, 21 JK, 22 SI, 24 IL, 26 GE.

2018 new USPS issues for April

April 6 STEM Education
WASHINGTON, DC

April 21 Peace Rose
SHREVEPORT, LA

Carol Edholm found this one
in the March 2018 issue of the AARP Bulletin:

