



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

May, 2018

Number 5

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

Everett Meeting

Wednesday, **May 9th**, 7:30 PM

- **Dealer Night - Kathleen Cook**, owner of the Fenwick entity and she works for Bel-Kirk Stamps Coins & Comics in Kirkland

Email Steve to pass along your collecting interests to share with Kathleen so that she can bring useful items

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

President:	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	stampingsteve42@hotmail.com
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Program Chairman:			
Webmaster &			http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/
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Everett 2018 meeting dates at the Snohomish P.U.D. (2nd Wednesday of each month):
5/9, 6/13, 7/11, (Aug BBQ), 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, (Dec Dinner)

President's Column

Our May meeting will feature the first Dealer Night of 2018. Our featured dealer will be Kathleen Cook, owner of the Fenwick entity which operates the semi-monthly stamp shows at Renton's Red Lion Inn. Kathleen works for Bel-Kirk Stamps Coins & Comics in Kirkland. I have asked her to bring certain albums which correspond to the collecting interests of our members. **I invite members who plan to attend to send me an e-mail describing their interests.** I will pass that information to Ms. Cook.

I asked her to briefly describe her collecting history and offer comments on trends in stamp shows. She acquired the Fenwick brand when its previous owner retired. She also works as a real estate broker, first licensed in 2006, affiliated with a real estate office in Redmond.

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The American Philatelic Association mailed me its annual collection of forms relating to the Sno-King Stamp Club's affiliation with APS. So I can complete this paperwork, I ask Sno-King members to inform me whether they hold individual memberships in APS. Please send this information to my personal e-mail account. If this request finds you in arrears on your dues, either with the Sno-King club or with APS, this should be an opportune time to make yourself up-to-date.

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We recently stumbled on an exhibit, at a Seattle library, featuring an author whose mission is to restore the nearly lost art of writing personal letters. Her name is Margaret Shepherd. She has written two books on the subject. They are "The Art of the Handwritten Note" and "The Art of the Personal Letter."

Her view is that people who write personal letters take greater care in choosing words, thus enhancing connections among humans, as contrasted with the ill-chosen words of many e-mail messages, which result in insensitive tones and hurt feelings.

She suggests some personal touches. One is using a variety of stamps on the envelope. It appears her illustrated examples involve affixing a dollar's worth of postage to dispatch a 50-cent letter. Another touch is the use of artistry on the envelope.

She cautions against artistic excess, lest it obscures the address and cause the artfully crafted personal message to get lost in the mail. Here, she treads on shaky ground. She cited, without attribution, some statistic that the U. S. Postal Service boasts a 94 percent success rate in delivering mail. She arrived at a questionable inference that this leaves a six percent chance a letter will get lost in the mail.

This is a misreading of the actual statistics. Delivery failures are due more to mail undeliverable as addressed. The postal service reported that in 2010, 4.7 percent of mail could not be delivered as addressed. This represented a variety of factors. People moved. People died. Letter-writers scribbled an incorrect address. Inclement weather smeared the ink on the envelope. In what postal employees term "last-mile failure," the carrier deposited mail in the wrong mailbox. Much misdelivered mail works its way to the correct recipient.

The postal service states there is no way to calculate the volume of mail actually lost. If there was, the postal service explains, such mail would not be truly lost.

Now, your president serves as an officer in his high school alumni association. His position requires him to pick up mail at the association's post office box. Recently, the alumni association sent a mailing to 7,000 non-member alumni in an effort to boost membership. More than 300 pieces were returned as undeliverable, mostly because the addresses on file were too many years old.

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Every so often, I report on some article carried by American Stamp Dealer & Collector, the publication of the American Stamp Dealers Association. Despite its affiliation with the stamp dealers organization, this publication has mounted efforts to boost subscriptions by general collectors. One strong point was its editing, which produced readable think pieces, many on the state of the hobby.

Late in 2017, Randy Neil, editor of ASD&C, retired. Wayne Youngblood, a veteran of philatelic journalism, took his place. Readers are beginning to notice changes he has implemented as the new editor.

One reader commented that the magazine has become a clone of the American Philatelist, publication of the American Philatelic Society. Gone are the fond reminiscences of philately's glory years. In their place are the "story behind the stamp" articles that resemble the stock-in-trade of the American Philatelist. I invite regular readers of this publication to share their observations.

Now, the fond reminiscences served as counterpoint to articles exploring the current state of the hobby. Those articles often offered thoughtful analysis of the future of stamp collecting. Some challenged conventional wisdom that the hobby is but a generation away from extinction. Judging by reader comments submitted just a few years ago, readers of ASD&C liked those articles.

With so few journals on the philatelic newsstand, publications should be encouraged to seek their own identity instead of imitating other established periodicals. Let each magazine develop its peculiar focus and do its job well. The collecting public will be better served by a diversity of philatelic journals.

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The January 2018 issue of American Stamp Dealers Association carried a revealing article about Jim Crow-themed postcards, many of them printed in England. Written by Kevin Lowther, the article was entitled, "Blacks sometimes had last laugh on a few Jim Crow-era postcards." However, that was only sometimes. Most racially-themed postcards carried degrading messages about African-Americans. Even the few that lampooned racist attitudes included racially offensive language.

None of the six postcards illustrated were demeaning to blacks. The article implies that most of the postcards produced in England reflected attitudes popular in the segregated South. One English firm sold these postcards widely throughout North America.

This article did not explore the truly dark side of racially-themed postcards. In the South, lynch mobs exacted a peculiar form of justice well after the introduction of the penny postcard. Lynchings were festive occasions. Photographers recorded of the grisly proceedings and sold snapshots for perhaps 50 cents each. Some of these photos were fashioned into postcards, which traveled through the mails, adorned with a one-cent stamp and perhaps a cheery "wish you were here" message.

Eventually, the Post Office Department issued a directive, announcing it would no longer deliver these cringe-worthy missives.

2018 new USPS issues for May

May 1 **United States Airmail**
(blue stamp version)
WASHINGTON, DC



May 23 **Sally Ride**
LA JOLLA, CA



Stamp Identifier Series

This is the sixth and final installment of a several part series. An online stamp acquaintance of mine created several of these charts which help sort through the different types of stamps of different modern series. He said I could share them as long as I also included a link to his stamp selling store which is:

<https://www.hipstamp.com/store/noernberg-stamps>

I'm hoping our members find the charts useful for some of their modern U.S. definitives. Good Luck with them!

~ Kurt L.



"Fort McHenry Flag and Fireworks Forever stamp" Identifier

Cat. No.	Format	Perf.	Denom	Gum	Year Date	microprint	Features
4853	Coil	serp die cut 8.5 (vert)	Forever	Self-adhesive	2014	none	
4854	Coil	serp die cut 9.5 (vert)	Forever	Self-adhesive	2014	"USPS" on right side of lowest white stripe	
4855	Booklet	serp die cut 11.25 x 10.75 (2,3 sides)	Forever	Self-adhesive	2014	"USPS" on right side of lowest white stripe	
4868	Coil	serp die cut 11 (vert)	Forever	Self-adhesive	2014	"USPS" in Fireworks above flagpole	
4869	Booklet	serp die cut 11.25 x 11.5 (2,3 sides)	Forever	Self-adhesive	2014	none	
4870	Booklet	serp die cut 11.25 x 10.75 (2,3 sides)	Forever	Self-adhesive	2014	"USPS" in Fireworks above flagpole	
4871	Booklet	serp die cut 11.25 x 11 (2,3,4 sides)	Forever	Self-adhesive	2014		Thin paper (ATM booklet)

Carol Edholm found this info about the early airmail system from the website 99percentinvisible.org:
<https://99percentinvisible.org/article/concrete-airmail-arrows-accessing-bay-areas-unique-double-arrow-set/>

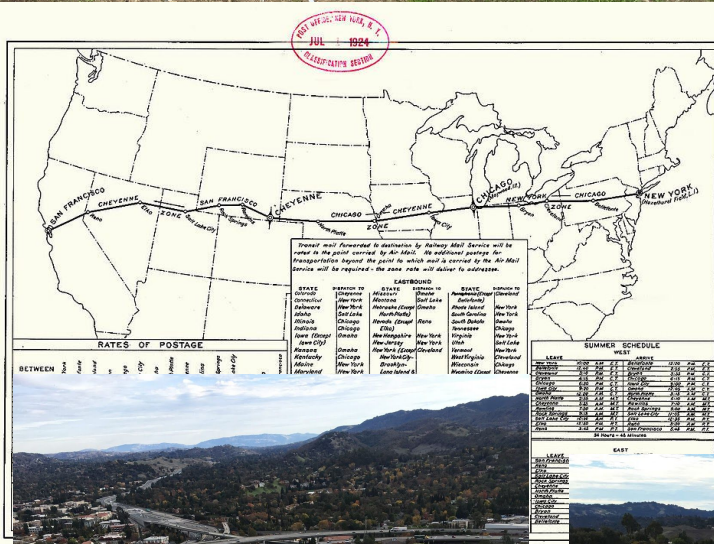
ARTICLE BY KURT KOHLSTEDT

Concrete Airmail Arrows: Accessing the Bay Area's Unique 'Double Arrow' Set

From New York to San Francisco, often in remote locations, the remains of a series of huge concrete Transcontinental Airway System arrows can be found. Here's how to get to one of the rarest examples — a paired arrow set pointing in two different directions, each with a tail and a head jutting out from a shared center. But first: the backstory.

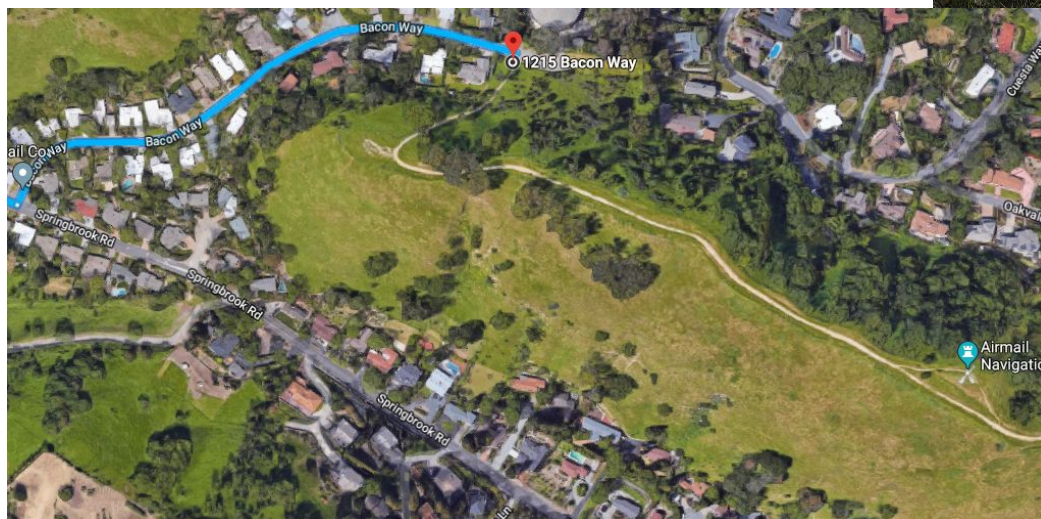
Installed in the 1920s alongside fifty-foot beacon towers, these arrows originally directed airmail planes across the United States. They became obsolete with advances in radar and radio communications, but, for a brief time, they guided night flights from coast to coast.

The towers are largely gone, stripped for steel during wartime, but many arrows remain, including a particularly fascinating 'double arrow' configuration near Oakland, California. And it is open to the public.



Getting to this Walnut Creek arrow located along Acalanes Ridge is not as easy as it looks — follow online map directions and a would-be visitor will wind up on the wrong side of a steep incline.

The trick, as it turns out — visible once you toggle to a ‘satellite view’ of the area — is to park near the entrance to this open space along Bacon Way, then wind up the path to the top of the ridge.



tower are still visible. The arrows, though, are mostly intact. Chipped and faded away, their original yellow coat has been replaced by multicolored graffiti.

Today, the beacon tower and original sleeping hut for its operator are long gone, but the steel footings of the

From the top of the ridge, it is easy to see why someone chose this spot, and imagine the advantages for pilots using the route. It is high up and exposed, with great visibility (and views) on all sides.



According to Arrows Across America, a site documenting many of these around the U.S.: "This is the second arrow on the San Francisco-Reno Section of the San Francisco to Salt Lake Airway of the Chicago-San Francisco Contract Air Mail Route #18. Arrow point #1 on the left points to Beacon '2B SF-SL' on Vine Hill" at the Military Ocean Terminal Concord. "Arrow point #2 on the right points to Concord Air Mail Field '2A SF-SL.' Arrow shaft #1 on the left is aligned with '1A SF-SL', now the Oakland City Stables. Arrow shaft #2 on the [right] points to an unnumbered beacon on the San Francisco-Los Angeles Airway."

By the end of the first year of the program, the airmail service had 18 terminal airfields and more than 500 beacon lights in operation along the main mail delivery route. But by 1933, new technology and the high cost of operation during the depression shut the program down.

This is not the only remaining example, but it is well-preserved and publicly accessible, making it well worth a trip if you're in the area.

for more photos (and larger photos) see the original article at
<https://99percentinvisible.org/article/concrete-airmail-arrows-accessing-bay-areas-unique-double-arrow-set/>