



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

June, 2018

Number 6

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

Everett Meeting Wednesday, June 13th, 7:30 PM

- **AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION - CLUB AUCTION** - Go through your duplicates and other philatelic material you've acquired but don't collect. Offer items at reasonable discounts from catalog value. (Bear in mind the collecting interests of your fellow collectors.) You can offer up singles or sets or country lots or thematic lots. Pay attention to marking condition as needed.

** Include necessary sales information. You should describe the item (Usually, a Scott catalog number will suffice). You could add details if your stamp is a watermark, perforation, or printing-method variety. You should enter both the catalog value and your reserve value - that being the minimum you will accept for your stamp or lot. Also - Don't forget your name.

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
Vice President:	Terry Ferrell,	360-863-3019;	tferrell@juno.com
Treasurer:	Ray Anderson,	425-776-4442;	rand37@frontier.com
Secretary:	Ruth Stevens,	206-546-3357;	wastevens@frontier.com
Program Chairman:	(available position)		
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor:	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/ ktk.lange@frontier.com

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

President's Column

Our **June** meeting will feature a club auction, an event we haven't tried since late last year. I encourage members to go through their duplicates and through collections they purchased with the intent of stripping of stamps they need. Also, sort through philatelic material you managed to acquire, but don't really collect. Offer them at reasonable discounts from catalog value. Bear in mind the collecting interests of your fellow collectors.

I recommend that classic material be offered as singles or sets. For modern material, you might find it more salable if offered as a country or thematic lot. Bear in mind that serious collectors, which include those who fill our membership rolls, are selective about condition. Many prefer to leave a space empty than fill it with a tattered second. They certainly abhor arriving home with a purchase they thought was a bargain, only to find they paid good money for a "laceration variety."

Those who attended the **May** meeting may have wondered why the featured dealer was not the one you read about in the May newsletter. As I was going to press, Kathleen Cook e-mailed her regrets. She and family members planned a vacation for the week of our meeting. She suggested Bob Cibulka as a replacement. Bob, who does some work for Bel-Kirk Stamps, accepted my invitation to appear. He brought his stock, mostly assembled from collections he purchases. I will invite Ms. Cook to appear at some future meeting.

In the meantime, we need to plan our **August** get-together. Typically, that is a club picnic. So far, no member has volunteered to host this event. If you are willing to have a mob of philatelists in your backyard on some Wednesday evening in August, please let me know. Absent that, I will assemble a committee to plan a picnic in a public park. Failing that, I will propose a dinner out at a restaurant which has outdoor dining.

Sean O'Donnells is a possibility. We held several Christmas meetings there years ago. We moved our holiday meal after one unappetizing meal featuring uninspired pub grub. Having dined there several times since, I can report that the food has improved. I especially enjoyed the shepherds pie. In any case, this will be a topic for the business portion of our June meeting.

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I hope other members will join me in wishing a full recovery for stalwart member Dick Janusch, who is treating for injuries suffered in a nasty fall at home several Mondays ago. He landed hard on his temple and cracked a bone in his eye socket. Combined with pre-existing conditions, he is currently coping with a loss of vision. Doctors are trying to reduce a blood clot in his eye. If that fails to restore his vision, Dick will undergo surgery. Until he retains his vision, he will not be able to enjoy what he describes as his favorite pastime. We look forward to seeing Dick at a Sno-King meeting before too long.

Dick has a number of collections and stock books he borrowed from the club and individual collectors. Diane, his wife, will bring them to the June meeting and settle up accounts.

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SeaPex will happen this **September**. The dates are Friday, September 14, through Sunday, September 16. This three-day show will take place at the Tukwila Community Center, which has hosted SeaPex since its move from the Seattle Center.

SeaPex is run by a non-profit corporation which operates independently from any local philatelic organization. Jack Congrove is SeaPex's president. The organization's vice-president is Keith Edholm. Other officers are Eric Bustad, secretary, and Jim Hall, treasurer. As with recent years, SeaPex is asking local clubs for financial and other support. In recent years, our club has made a financial donation. At our June meeting, we will vote on whether to continue this support.

SeaPex also asks individual collectors to volunteer for such functions as registering attendees. This year, SeaPex made a special request for a volunteer to manage the youth table. This person need not be present at the youth table all the time, as others can host the table for stretches. SeaPex does ask that the youth table manager be present at the show all three days. If interested, contact Jack Congrove at SEAPEX@comcast.net.

SeaPex's website announced that 30 dealers are expected. The web site identifies 20 dealers who signed up by April 24. There will be chapter meetings of specialized groups for collectors of Germany, Switzerland and postal history. The schedule includes a presentation on U.S. colonial postal history by one Dr. Ben Franklin. One is tempted to ask if that is Jack Congrove's idea of a joke.

In past years, collectors can volunteer online. I expect that SeaPex will soon announce how volunteers can sign up for shifts at the registration table and for other functions.

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Does a career in philatelic journalism appeal to you? If so, you should polish your resume for an open position as an editorial associate with the American Philatelic Society (APS). This position would require a move to the environs of Bellefonte, Penn., where APS is headquartered. This full-time job pays a maximum of \$3,000 a month.

Here's what APS expects for that salary. You should have a bachelor's degree in journalism, English, communications or history. You should have experience writing for social media. You should have strong writing skills, with emphasis on grammar and proper sentence structure. You should be able to meet rigid and recurring deadlines. You should have basic computer skills as well as familiarity with programs used for

magazine layout and photo-cropping. On top of these, you should be a team player and a self-motivated individual with a strong work ethic. Of course, one desired quality is stamp collecting knowledge.

If hired, you would write for APS publications and review articles submitted by outside writers, all under the direction of APS's editor. These publications include the American Philatelist, Philatelic Literature Review, electronic newsletters, fundraising solicitations, pamphlets, press releases and dealer newsletters. Ability to offer constructive criticism to outside contributors is a must. You would fact-check written submissions. The APS web site has a detailed job description.

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At least one Linn's customer is grumbling online about changes in the Amos Advantage lineup of philatelic publications. Amos Advantage owns Linn's Stamp News and Scott Publishing. Recently, Amos scrapped Scott's Stamp Monthly and replaced it with a magazine-format version of Linn's, which it published as an adjunct to Linn's weekly Stamp News.

This reader complained that when Linn's magazine made its debut, subscribers to the news weekly were not given the option of taking only the weekly publication. They had to take both the weekly and the monthly magazine, at a cost of \$70 a year. It is possible to subscribe to only the magazine, at a cost of about \$25 a year. A glance at Linn's web site reveals that the only two options are magazine-only or the two-publication package.

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A 1936 issue of Weekly Philatelic Gossip tells us an informed source revealed that noted philatelist Franklin D. Roosevelt deplored the fact that too many collectors specialized in U.S. stamps. President Roosevelt believed that U.S. collectors were missing out on the rewards of collecting a wide variety of foreign stamps. He especially favored collecting stamps from Latin America.

The pages of Weekly Philatelic Gossip reflected the strong interest in U.S. stamps among collectors during the Depression years. Once a leading publication in the world of philatelic, this weekly newsletter devoted much ink to plate blocks, Bureau precancels, potato tax exemption issues and debates over current and proposed U.S. issues. Favored with a sizable news hole, this periodical did cover foreign issues extensively.

One sign of those times was an article expressing concern that the then-proposed Army-Navy issue, with its total face value of 30 cents, would prove too expensive for the typical collector of U.S. new issues.

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Another 1936 issue of Weekly Philatelic Gossip reported on that year's Pacific International Philatelic Exhibition and Convention, an early version of PIPEX, held in Bellingham. The headline read, "Northwest Federation (of Stamp Clubs) Closes Successful Convention." The two-day show was hosted by the Bellingham Stamp Club. Other federation members in 1936 were the Bremerton Stamp Club, British Columbia Philatelic Society, Everett Stamp Club, Inland Empire Philatelic Society, Tacoma Philatelic Society, Vancouver Island Philatelic Society, Washington State Philatelic Society and the Wenatchee Stamp Society.

A Saturday evening banquet attracted 150 attendees. The conventioners decided that the Washington State Philatelic Society would host the following year's show.

2018 new USPS issues for June

June 9 **Flag Act of 1818**
APPLETON, WI



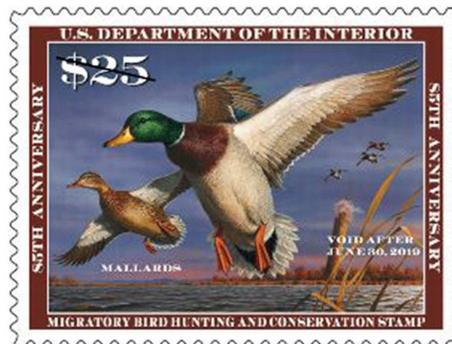
June 20 **Frozen Treats**
AUSTIN, TX



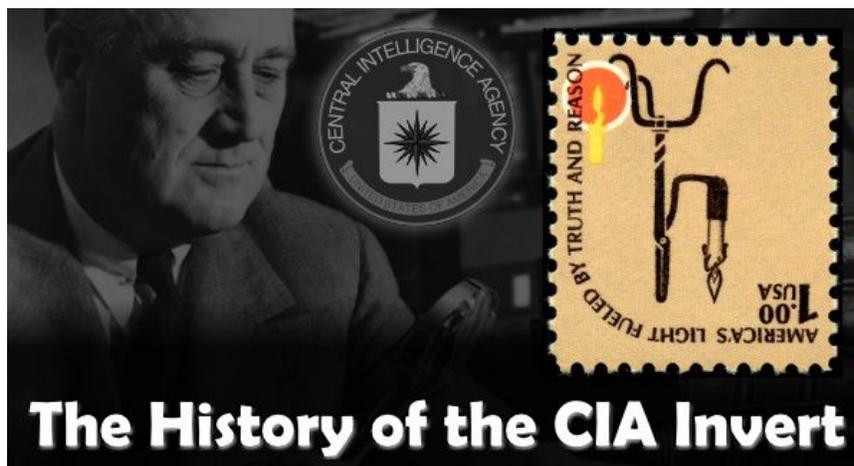
June 27 **Statue of Freedom**
\$1, \$2 and \$5 stamps
BELLEFONTE, PA



June 29 **Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp**
AKA this year's "Duck Stamp"
HANOVER, MD



An article from the stamp auction and sales site www.HipStamp.com
(where there was a “CIA Invert” stamp auctioned a few days ago)



Do you know the unbelievable true story behind the CIA Invert? What started as a secret agreement among CIA employees in 1986, became international news just a year later, and when the dust settled, three CIA employees would be forced to resign, in the most exciting stamp story in decades. But where did it all start, and where did it all go wrong?

The \$1 colonial rushlight holder stamp was first issued on July 2, 1979, as part of the Americana series produced by the United States Postal Service. However, it would not be until seven years later when the only known pane of 100 inverted stamps was first discovered. As these \$1 stamps were printed in sheets of 400, at one time there must have been three more additional panes – but none were ever found. An interesting fact in itself, but where did the name “CIA Invert” come from?

In the spring of 1986, an employee of the CIA visited the local post office in McLean, Virginia, who had been sent by the CIA to buy stamps for the agency. His purchase included a pane of 95 \$1 colonial rushlight holder stamps (five had already been removed and sold individually). Unbeknownst to the purchaser, and likely unnoticed to those who purchased the first five from the pane, these were in fact invert errors. However, it was not until several days later, when another CIA employee needed a \$1 stamp for agency mailing, that the purchaser first noticed that the flames were inverted relative to the candle holder and lettering.

The man quickly shared his information with eight colleagues, and the nine decided to purchase 95 normal \$1 colonial rushlight holder stamps, and replace these with the agency's. They next revealed their new found invert errors to a local stamp dealer, Ike Snyder of Annandale, Virginia, who in turn pointed them in the direction of New Jersey stamp specialist Jacques C. Schiff, Jr. After negotiating a deal, the nine CIA employees each kept one stamp, and the remaining 86 were sold for \$25,000.

The story which Jacques C. Schiff, Jr. told from there, was that the stamps were discovered by a business in northern Virginia, after the first 14 were used for mailing purposes, and that the original owner wished to remain anonymous. This might have been where the story ended, had 50 of the stamps not then been sold to a group of individuals, including Mystic Stamp President Don Sundman.

Sundman, curious as to where the stamps came from, eventually obtained a Freedom of Information Act request with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. From the report, he was able to piece together the true story, which quickly became national news! From there, the CIA launched their own internal investigation, and ultimately demanded that each of the nine employees return their copies of the stamp, or face termination, fines and jail time. Five employees returned their stamps, one claimed to have lost their copy, and three employees resigned; and all were eventually cleared of any wrongdoing.

Now that you know the story, here's your chance to be a part of it. With a starting bid thousands of dollars below cost, and ending Tonight, June 4, 2018 place your bid on this beautiful CIA Invert.

UPDATE FOR THE ABOVE ARTICLE - by the time you read this, the auction has already completed -
The final price for the invert was a mere \$11,995.00.
(Sorry that you missed out at this bargain price - maybe next time)

Numbers to Grow By

35

Million **Save the Vanishing Species** semipostal stamps sold to support the Multinational Species Conservation fund.

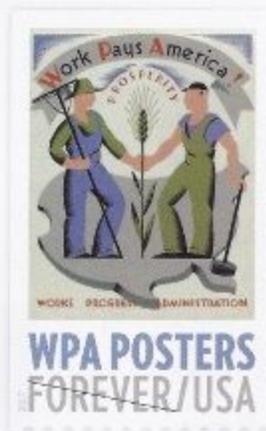


174

Gantry robotics systems, the largest robotics fleet in the world, moving 314,000 mail trays per day to serve Postal Service™ customers.

1,400

Murals and/or sculptures from President Roosevelt's New Deal Programs are housed in Post Offices around the nation.



227

Thousand vehicles in the Postal Service™ civilian fleet, one of the largest in the world.



1992

The first pressure sensitive self-adhesive stamps rolled out nationally.



2016

In June 2016, at the World Stamp Show, the **Classics Forever** stamp featured the first water-soluble pressure-sensitive adhesive, enabling philatelists to remove the stamps from envelopes after they have been used by soaking them in water.