



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

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Number 10

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

Everett Meeting Wednesday, November 14th, 7:30 PM

- **DEALER NIGHT!** - Art Van Bergeyk of Aurora Stamps in Edmonds (21016 76 Ave W.) will be the featured dealer and will bring along a stamp or two (but contact him if you have specific requests as he can't pack up the entire store)

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;	tbferrell@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):
11/14, (Dec Dinner)

NEXT YEAR'S MEETING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Everett 2019 meeting dates: 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13

President's Column

Our **November** meeting will be another Dealer Night. This month's featured dealer will be Art Van Bergeyk of Aurora Stamps. Art will bring selected items from his vast worldwide stock and will recount anecdotes from his quarter century in the stamp trade.

Since Art can't haul his entire stock to our meeting site, I invite members to identify their interests. Members can contact Art directly or they can ask me to pass on what I know about their philatelic focus.

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There will be other business for our November meeting. We will nominate club officers to serve during the coming year. Nominations are held in November, and the actual elections are held in **December**.

For the past few years, the club has operated smoothly with the four present officers. At some point, the club will need fresh leadership. So, if you seek a role in managing the club and implementing fresh initiatives, you should offer your name when nominations are requested.

Now, elective offices within the club are non-partisan. You need not declare your party preference in order to secure a nomination. You don't have to tell fellow members whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Freedom Socialist or, if your politics hark to the 1850s, a Know-Nothing.

At the meeting, we will also decide where to hold our annual holiday meal. There is no reason why we can't hold it at the V Star (Chinese) Buffet, the scene of our last two holiday dinners. Members should feel free to propose other locations.

We should also discuss the details of the club's 2019 stamp show. During a chance meeting with an interested dealer, I was asked about plans for our show. This prompted me to take the first steps towards picking a date and selecting a location.

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The Everett Coin Club will hold its annual stamp-and-coin show at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Saturday, November 17. The show opens at 10 a.m. and runs through 5 p.m. The coin club makes little effort to promote this show with the philatelic community. Hence, I have no information as to what stamp dealers plan to be present.

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The June 2018 issue of American Stamp Dealer & Collector featured in intriguing exchange between an editor and a reader. The reader challenged a recurring theme of that magazine's writings, that being that philately, far from being a dying hobby, remains healthy, even though it is in transition.

The reader contended the magazine's "glowing report defies reality." He maintained that applicants to the American Philatelic Society are mostly "super seniors" seeking an outlet for selling collections. He lamented the dearth of ads in philatelic publications offering to buy collections.

He cited his own experience as a dealer specializing in plate number coils (PNC). He said he ran two ads in Linn's, offering PNCs at greatly reduced prices. These ads yielded \$30 in sales. This he cited as proof that philately is in its death throes.

This panegyric inspired a heated rebuttal by Wayne Youngblood, editor of the magazine. His point is that PNC collecting was a special case which bears no relationship to the overall health of philately. There is no earthly reason why coil stamps require plate numbers, he said. Instead, this was a "contrived collectible" which "had an expiration date stamped on it from the beginning."

This, in itself, did not kill PNC collecting. That was the product of the "Wild West" approach of those dealers who catered to the PNC market. Youngblood accused many PNC dealers of unethical conduct that smacked of speculation. He cited dealers who entered into sweetheart deals with bulk-mailing facilities.

As for the reader's assertion that philately is increasingly the hobby of the elderly, Youngblood rejoined that it has always been that way. To illustrate his point, the magazine ran a 1911 photo of an APS convention crowd. Hardly a young face can be seen, he wrote.

With regard to one point expressed by this disgruntled reader, I am struck by the sheer number of full-page ads in philatelic publications placed by dealers eager to buy collections.

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The October issue of American Philatelist featured a letter by club member Alex Hamling, commenting on a July article entitled, "Wartime's Secret Philately." Dr. Hamling was "disappointed" that article failed to decipher secret messages in any of the postal cards illustrated.

Describing himself as a member of the American Cryptogram Association, Alex detected the "Null Cypher" as one of the "hidden in plain sight" messages.

Alex offered some parting words, which are: Super Eight Nightly Desserts Make Orange Raspberry Eclairs Melt All Into Lumps." I am guessing the hidden-in-plain-sight message is "send more mail." Here's hoping Alex brings his home-baked orange raspberry eclairs to next year's summer picnic.

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Every now and then, you hear of a collector picking up a high-catalog-value treasure item from a pick book or a trash bin. Why can't this happen to me, you tell yourself. Recently, this happened to me. Sort of.

If you frequent stamp shows, you are familiar with boxes of covers offered at a low price, ranging from a quarter each to a dollar apiece, with discounts for quantity purchases. I was scouring through one box when I spotted a Burundi stamp depicting a hyena.

I recognized it as being in the same set as a Burundi animal stamp which I found in a collection I purchased. That stamp carried a Scott catalog value of \$90. So, I gladly paid 50 cents for the hyena stamp, curious as to what its catalog value would be.

The hyena stamp turned out to be the top value in the set. It carried an eye-popping catalog value of \$525. Now, some wives of collectors would be mentally compiling a list of all the household decorations they could buy with that \$525.

Scott used italics to express the catalog value. That is the editors' way of alerting collectors it needed more information to provide a realistic value. That animal set might be one of the Burundi issues targeted by speculators. Once they flood the market with their holdings, catalog values will tumble.

So, I am not dreaming of selling this item for \$525. Or even \$500. Perhaps, I can sell it to the first collector who offers to buy for \$499. In the meantime, I will bask in the contentment of knowing I purchased a stamp with a catalog value a thousand times what I paid for it.

New 2018 USPS issues for: November

Nothing!

The Post Office has completed all of their new issues for this year.



This photo (another taken by Renee - Thanks!) is Paul Price, long-time Sno-King Stamp Club member and current resident of Tumwater - taken at the Olympia Roundup in Chehalis a few Saturdays ago. Good to see you, Paul!

Paul tries to attend Sno-King events, but is hampered by distance and health. He attended a Sno-King show a few years back when it was held at the Holiday Inn.