



# 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 25**

**April, 2019**

**Number 4**

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

## Everett Meeting Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM

- **The Pitcairn Predicament** - The program for the April meeting will be a presentation and round table discussion about the time when sales of postage stamps financed the rudimentary government services on Pitcairn Island, the only inhabited island of the four which make up the Pitcairn island chain. With the declining popularity of stamp collecting, especially among youth, the philatelic revenues fall short of paying for essential government services, which now require subsidies from Great Britain.

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]

### **2019 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>	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	<a href="mailto:ktk.lange@frontier.com">ktk.lange@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>	(available position)		
<b>Webmaster &amp;</b>			<a href="http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/">http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	<a href="mailto:ktk.lange@frontier.com">ktk.lange@frontier.com</a>

**Everett 2019** meeting dates at the PUD: 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, (August BBQ), 9/11, 10/9, 11/13,  
(Dec Dinner)

## President's Column

The program for the April meeting will be a presentation and round table discussion which might be titled, "The Pitcairn Predicament." There was a time when sales of postage stamps financed the rudimentary government services on Pitcairn Island, the only inhabited island of the four which make up the Pitcairn island chain. With the declining popularity of stamp collecting, especially among youth, the philatelic revenues fall short of paying for essential government services, which now require subsidies from Great Britain.

Islanders and the British government have made a number of attempts to boost the island's economy so that essential services can once more be self-sustaining. What makes this topic fascinating is that so far, none of these efforts have succeeded in finding a replacement for the lost revenue from the sale of postage stamps. Meanwhile, there is a greater threat to Pitcairn society. Thanks to a diaspora of island residents, there may not be enough working-age Pitcairners to maintain an economy. Pitcairn's future might be as a bird sanctuary much like the other three islands.

I found a rich Internet trove of articles about Pitcairn's varied predicaments. I invite you to review these so we can have a true round table discussion rather than a monologue.

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With the February Fenwick show snowed out, Puget South area collectors had to make do with only two stamp shows, one of them Sno-King's, during the first three months of 2019. That will change in April, when collectors can mingle with fellow collectors the first three weekends of the month.

On Saturday, April 6, collectors will have their choice of two philatelic events. One is the John D. Arn Philatelic Symposium in Moses Lake. The other is the Olympia Stamp Club Roundup in the Yardbirds building in Chehalis. One week later, snow will be the least of Fenwick's worries. Its April 14 show should proceed as scheduled. The following weekend is the two-day spring show of the Evergreen Stamp Club at the Kent Commons.

If stamp-show weariness has not set in by then, collectors can book a flight to San Francisco for WestPex, being held the last weekend of the month. To climax this frenzy of stamp buying, PIPEX opens in Portland Friday, May 10, and runs through Sunday. Some 35 dealers have reserved tables for this three-day event, organized by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. Revenue collectors should have a special interest in this year's show. The American Revenue Association and the State Revenue Society are listed as "convening societies."

Missing is any mention of the Bellingham Stamp Show, long a fixture of the April philatelic calendar.

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Among the critical decisions facing the Sno-King Stamp Club is what to do with the \$105,000 the Funding Circle wants to lend us. A recent Funding Circle mailer notified me that our club has been "pre-selected" for a "fast affordable business loan" with rates as low as 4.99 percent. The Funding Circle is not the only enterprise dangling loan offers to the club. I have received similar pitches from three other lenders.

In addition, a letter arrived from Dun & Bradstreet, offering to manage the club's "credit profile." Its pitch featured large print advising, "D & B has received 4 inquiries on Sno-King Stamp Club in the past 30 days."

Evidently, a number of lenders have mistaken our hobby club for a startup enterprise in dire need of working capital. They probably got my address from the Secretary of (Washington) State's office after I registered the club as a non-profit organization, this to qualify for a lower rate on our hall rental.

Eight months of interest on that \$105,000 loan would probably wipe out our bank account. What could we do with that loan? Open a philatelic thrift shop? There are a number of caveats. The Funding Circle can't guarantee that we would qualify for its lowest interest rate. We have to provide data regarding our "business revenue." OK, just how much has the club grossed from the kiddie stamp collections donated to the club in recent years? Then, there is the

loan origination fee. How much? The Funding Circle didn't say. However, if the club provides the "promo code" by May 12, the lender will knock \$250 off that fee.

Among the "frequently asked questions" in the Funding Circle pitch was "Why was I invited to apply?" The answer was the "preliminary information about your business" convinced the Funding Circle that our club would be an "excellent candidate" for a loan. What does the Funding Circle know that I don't?

I digress to relay a story told me by my late sister, a former Dun & Bradstreet worker. This story should tickle the funny bone of readers who are past or present Boeing workers. My sister made an inquiry, on Boeing's behalf, to the Dun & Bradstreet office in New Orleans. At the end of the call, the New Orleans worker asked what D & B customer should be billed.

"Boeing Aerospace Company," my sister replied. That's the name Seattle's aircraft behemoth used in the 1970s.

"That's a funny name for a company," the New Orleans contact said. My sister was puzzled by this comment, but said nothing.

She understood the comment when the bill crossed her desk. It was made out to the "Bow and Arrow Space Company."

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The journal, BNA Notes, carried an interesting commentary on a statement made by Canada Post in connection with last July's issue of five stamps depicting sharks which chomp marine life in Canadian waters. Canada Post reported that the Greenland shark, the subject of one stamp, is the longest living vertebrate on earth, its life span exceeding 400 years.

How would Canada Post know, BNA Notes asked rhetorically. These sharks are typically found between 200 and 500 meters below the surface of the northern oceans. They are rarely observed by humans. Moreover, no single member of the species has been observed from birth to death. Certainly, no individual Greenland shark born in 1619 has been followed throughout its life span.

Science has developed a method for estimating the age of a Greenland shark, but not one so precise as to confirm a four-century life span for any individual shark. Fish biologists use a combination of "growth curves" and radioactive carbon measurements of the shark's eye lens. The eye lens develops in the womb. If a shark was born after 1960, it will have a measurable amount of radioactive carbon in its eye lens. Beginning in the 1960s, atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons dumped a lot of radioactive material in the world's oceans. An older shark will have virtually no radioactive carbon in its eye lens.

One researcher examined what he believed to be the oldest Greenland shark ever studied. Using the foregoing method, he calculated the shark's age as 392 years, give or take 120 years. Since the shark died prematurely, he concluded that the life span could exceed 400 years. With the margin of error, the Greenland shark was at least 272 years old. Prior to this study, the bowhead whale, known to live as long as 211 years, was thought to be the vertebrate with the most longevity.

The Greenland shark will have to expand its life span to achieve the highest longevity of any animal. That honor goes to the ocean quahog, a member of the clam family which can live more than 500 years. A scientist who attended one quahog's 500th birthday party reported the birthday boy was as happy as a clam.

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I bet you didn't know that international rules bar countries from using postal paper to propagate fake news. The Universal Postal Union has a regulation which requires member nations to refrain from issuing stamps with false or offensive content. As with many rules adopted by international organizations, this rule is hard to enforce, as it would require sanctions on sovereign nations. The most flagrant violator of this rule is North Korea. Its offenses continued after it joined UPU in 1974.

In the nether regions of the American Philatelic Society's website, you can find an article published in a 2017 issue of North Korea Review. This article described the animus behind that country's stamp program. North Korea's stamps are not popular with American collectors. Little mail originating in North Korea reaches North America. What few North Korean stamps linger on the philatelic market are largely canceled to order.

Yet, that country's stamps are fascinating, if your collecting taste runs to the use of postage stamps as propaganda or to postal meanderings into the truly bizarre. Although North Korea is lagging in the race for space, it once issued a set fancifully depicting North Korean astronauts landing on a planet where dinosaurs ruled. This stamp postulated the North Korean invaders subjugating the resident reptiles.

The article listed, by Scott number, more than a dozen stamps stoking animosity against the United States. One egregious example is a 2009 stamp celebrating the anniversary of the capture of the USS Pueblo, which the stamp described as a "spy ship." One 2001 issue was heralded by a press release from North Korea's postal administration accusing American soldiers of ghastly atrocities in 1950. GIs reportedly herded 35,000 North Korean civilians into a building, doused them with gasoline and ignited the fuel. Another accusation had American tanks trampling pregnant Koreans.

Other issues celebrate putative Communist triumphs, such as North Korea's "victory" in the Korean War. Lionizing the ruling dynasty and its founder, Kim Il Sung, is a recurring theme. There are stamps depicting Kim Il Sung's Mercedes Benz, a flower named for him and a bear skin gifted to him. Other stamps curry favor with the People's Republic of China. One example is a stamp quoting passages from the Thoughts of Mao (Tse-Tung).

North Korea issued a stamp depicting the assassin who gunned down the Japanese prime minister in 1909, making North Korea one of three nations to depict assassins on stamps. At the time, it issued another stamp depicting the assassin's handgun. This issue is understandable, inasmuch as the assassin's motive was to advance the liberation of Korea from Japanese rule. The assassin is a hero in South Korea, as well, although his visage has yet to appear on a South Korean stamp.

Contrast this with Iran's postal depiction of an assassin. In what has to be the most appalling postal commemoration since 1839, the Islamic Republic lionized the Egyptian Army captain who gunned down Anwar Sadat. Although Sadat and Iran's rulers loathed one another, neither nation was attempting to colonize the other. Cuba is the third nation with an assassin on a stamp.

One odd element of North Korea's postal issues is the profusion of stamps issued in connection with the marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. So many sets were issued, one might be forgiven for assuming the wedding took place in Pyongyang. I somehow acquired a cover with a Lady Di stamp. This stamp portrayed Diana Spencer as she looked before she became a princess. Fresh-faced and without makeup and with hair brushed, but not styled, she looks like she might belong to a 4-H Club.

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## Dues for 2019 - roughly a dozen members remaining...

**\*\* Take a closer look at your newsletter envelope and if you have a star drawn on the front - under Steve's address label - that's your reminder you still need to pay dues for this year. Thanks! \*\***

Please pay treasurer Kurt Lange either at an upcoming meeting,  
or mail directly to me at my home address - [Kurt Lange 11409 28th Dr S.E., Everett, WA 98208]

Just \$10 per year! - Thanks!

**AND THANK YOU** to those who have paid them already!

## USPS New Stamps to be Issued in April 2019

April 2 Forever **Marvin Gaye**  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90052



April 10 Forever **Post Office Murals**  
PIGGOTT AR 72454



April 23 Forever **"Little Mo"**  
Maureen Connolly Brinker  
DALLAS, TX 75260





UPCOMING STAMP SHOWS / BOURSES					
SHOW DATES			Major events in bold / PNW events in italic	Revised: 23 February 2019	
FRI	SAT	SUN	SHOW NAME	LOCATION	TYPE
1-Mar	2-Mar	3-Mar	<b>APEX</b> ( <i>Anchorage Philatelic Society</i> )	Anchorage, AK	Show
		3-Mar	<i>Sno-King Stamp Show</i>	Everett, WA	Bourse
	9-Mar	10-Mar	<b>VICTOPICAL</b> ( <i>Vancouver Is. &amp; Greater Victoria PS</i> )	Victoria, BC	Show
	9-Mar	10-Mar	<b>FRESPEX</b> ( <i>Fresno Philatelic Society</i> )	Fresno, CA	Bourse
15-Mar	16-Mar	17-Mar	<b>RICHPEX</b> ( <i>British Columbia Philatelic Society</i> )	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
	16-Mar		<i>Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition Stampfest</i>	Eugene, OR	Show
		17-Mar	<i>Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition STAMPEX</i>	Salem, OR	Show
	23-Mar	24-Mar	<b>Edmonton Spring Show</b> ( <i>Edmonton SC</i> ) ( <b>WSP</b> )	Edmonton, AB	Show
	6-Apr		<i>John D. Arn Stamp Symposium (NWFSC)</i>	Moses Lake, WA	Education
	6-Apr		<i>Roundup Stamp &amp; Coin Show (Olympia Philatelic Soc)</i>	Chehalis, WA	Bourse
	13-Apr	14-Apr	<b>NOVAPEX</b> ( <i>Redding Stamp Club</i> )	Redding, CA	Show
	13-Apr	14-Apr	<i>Calgary Spring Bourse (Calgary Philatelic Society)</i>	Calgary, AB	Bourse
		14-Apr	<i>Fenwick Stamp &amp; Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
	20-Apr	21-Apr	<i>Spring Bourse (Evergreen Stamp Club)</i>	Kent, WA	Bourse
26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr	<b>WESTPEX</b> ( <b>WSP</b> )	Burlingame, CA	Show
		28-Apr	<b>AMPEX</b> ( <i>Fraser Valley Stamp Club</i> )	Abbotsford, BC	Show
10-May	11-May	12-May	<b>PIPEX Pacific Intl. Philatelic Exhibition</b> ( <b>WSP</b> )	Portland, OR	Show
	25-May		<i>Coin &amp; Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
	25-May		<i>Alberta Joint Collectors Meeting</i>	Red Deer, AB	Bourse
	1-Jun	2-Jun	<b>Greater Seattle Postcard &amp; Paper Show</b>	Kent, WA	Bourse
	8-Jun	9-Jun	<b>SOPEX</b> ( <i>Southern Oregon Philatelic Society</i> )	Central Point, OR	Show
		9-Jun	<i>Fenwick Stamp &amp; Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
		9-Jun	<i>Victoria Stamp &amp; Postcard Fair</i>	Victoria, BC	Bourse
	20-Jul	21-Jul	<i>Summer Show (Evergreen Stamp Club)</i>	Kent, WA	Show
26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul	<b>AMERICOVER</b> ( <b>WSP</b> )	St. Louis, MO	Show
	27-Jul	28-Jul	<b>Greater Reno Stamp &amp; Cover Show</b> ( <b>NSSS</b> )	Reno, NV	Show
2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug	<b>NTSS-APS StampShow</b> (begins 1-Aug) ( <b>WSP</b> )	Omaha, NE	Show
	10-Aug		<i>Strait Stamp Show (Strait Stamp Society)</i>	Sequim, WA	Show
		11-Aug	<i>Fenwick Stamp &amp; Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
		11-Aug	<i>Victoria Stamp &amp; Postcard Fair</i>	Victoria, BC	Bourse
13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep	<b>SEAPEX Seattle Philatelic Exhibition</b> ( <b>WSP</b> )	Tukwila, WA	Show
	14-Sep	15-Sep	<i>Coin &amp; Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	<b>VANPEX</b> ( <i>British Columbia Philatelic Society</i> )	Burnaby, BC	Show
	28-Sep		<i>Central Oregon Postal Collective Show</i>	Redmond, OR	Bourse
		13-Oct	<i>Fenwick Stamp &amp; Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
	9-Nov	10-Nov	<b>Filatelico Fiesta</b> ( <i>San Jose Stamp Club</i> ) ( <b>WSP</b> )	San Jose, CA	Show
	23-Nov		<i>Coin &amp; Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
		24-Nov	<i>Victoria Stamp &amp; Postcard Fair</i>	Victoria, BC	Bourse
29-Nov	30-Nov		<i>Vancouver Stamp Fair</i>	Vancouver, BC	Bourse
<b>2020:</b>					
24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	<b>WESTPEX</b> ( <b>WSP</b> )	Burlingame, CA	Show
21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	<b>APS StampShow</b> (begins 20-Aug) ( <b>WSP</b> )	Hartford, CT	Show
11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	<b>SEAPEX Seattle Philatelic Exhibition</b> ( <b>WSP</b> )	Tukwila, WA	Show



## Snapshots from the show...



