



# Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



**Everett**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM  
**Snohomish County PUD**  
 2320 California Street

**Edmonds**, (on hold)

**Volume 25**

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

Everett Meeting  
 Wednesday, **October 9<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30 PM

- **Dealer Night** - Carol Edholm - will be bringing her Peafowl Philatelics stock to this month's meeting.  
 Come pick up those items you've been searching for.

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

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## **Everett 2019** meeting dates at the PUD:

10/9 Dealer Night-Carol Edholm, 11/13 Dealer Night-Art VanBergeyk, (12/11 Holiday Dinner)

Note **the dates for our 2020 meetings** are now set: 1/8, 2/12, 2/22 our club's show in **Kenmore**, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, August BBQ, 9/9, 10/14, **11/18** - NOTE: this one is the 3rd Wed in Nov, 12/9 Holiday Dinner

## President's Column

Our club is holding another Dealer Night at our October meeting. Longtime club member Carol Edholm will offer choice items from the stock of Peafowl Philatelics, the name she chose when she became a stamp dealer. We only hope that the throngs which visited her table at SeaPex didn't go home with all her best material. As a bonus, her husband Keith will have the opportunity to proselytize on behalf of topical collecting. Perhaps, Keith will favor us with a recap of the recent three day SeaPex show (Keith serving as an officer of the organization which holds this annual show).

I will break down another box of material donated to the club and offer lots for sale to club members. In the past two months, sales of donated material added almost \$300 to the club treasury.

In keeping with our club's status as a democracy, we will discuss and, I hope, vote on where and when to hold the club's annual holiday dinner. Member Jim Siscel has obtained information about a new location. This is response to vice-president Terry Ferrell's comment that a Chinese buffet is hardly the ideal setting for a holiday meal. Jim will be sharing what he learned about Le Bistro, a sit-down eatery associated with the culinary program at Everett Community College.

Jim obtained information regarding costs and attendance stipulations. He believes that a midday meal will be cost-effective, as compared to an evening repast. Le Bistro is open for lunch, but not for the dinner hour. Groups reserving that place for evening meals are required to pay for insurance coverage. That adds about \$5 to each diner's cost.

To reserve Le Bistro for a dinner hour, we must guarantee minimum attendance of 25. This is because culinary students need to stay after normal class hours in order to prepare food. Your choice will be limited to the daily entree. With fewer than 25, we can sit as a group for a luncheon. If anyone doesn't want the day's entree, he or she can order from the burger and sandwich menu.

Jim believes that since most members are retired, the luncheon option has a certain attraction. My comment is that the luncheon option would benefit those who find it difficult to drive after dark.

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I recently sent the **Kenmore Community Center** a check to confirm our reservation for our 2020 stamp show, which will take place on **Saturday, February 22**. We will need to get the word out to the collecting community, with emphasis that not only we are moving to a new location, but also switching from a Sunday show to one **taking place on a Saturday**. Should we learn that February Saturday isn't viable, we do have time to cancel.

I regret that we won't be returning to the church where we have held our last three shows. The church's contact person was excellent to work with. However, our arrangement there worked in every way but one - and that was financially.

I am optimistic that this new location will work out. There is ample parking. The Kenmore center is easy to find. Moreover, there are no other stamp shows in our geographical area, which takes in everything from the Lake Washington Ship Canal to the northern boundary of Snohomish County.

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I received a postal card announcing that the National Postal History Museum will hold an exhibition of stamps with a baseball theme in 2020. If your travel plans for the coming year involve Washington, D.C., you should include this in your itinerary.

Things brings to mind an observation concerning the 1939 commemorative celebrating what was believed to be the 100th anniversary of Abner Doubleday's invention of the national pastime. For decades, baseball historians believed that Doubleday organized the world's first baseball game in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1839. Since that stamp was issued, historical research has uncovered evidence that variants of the game were played in England as early as 1744. Immigrants brought versions of the game to Canada.

In 1988, Canada issued a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first baseball game to be played in Canada. Together, that stamp and the 1939 issue tell an intriguing narrative. Canadians first played baseball one year before the game was invented in America. According to Wikipedia, the first "officially recorded" baseball game was played in Beachville, Ont., June 4, 1838.

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I devoted two mornings to volunteering at the SeaPex registration desk. I left, convinced that this year's show was successful, especially in terms of one measure not easily quantified. That is dealer satisfaction. For Friday and Saturday, the show's busiest day, more than 250 attendees signed in. Of course, any collector who returned Saturday, having left Friday with money to spare in his stamp budget, was counted twice. Some 24 dealers offered their wares on the sales floor. This is less than the forecast of 30-plus participating dealers in SeaPex's earliest publicity. This could only delight those dealers who rented tables, as they faced less competition for the swarms of philatelists with unlimited stamp budgets.

My friend, Renee Bird, accompanied me both days. She was tapped to fill in for the dealer's wife who had volunteered to run the hospitality room, but who woke up Friday with a contagious illness. With her outgoing personality and the genuine interest she takes in those she meets, Renee provided a welcoming feel to the hospitality room and made new friends in the process.

Here are three vignettes from my two days at SeaPex:

One visitor eyed the plastic bin inch-deep in mostly common stamps. A specialist in Great Britain, he spotted an ordinary-looking two-penny orange stamp. Looking more closely, he recognized it as a minor variety which, according to his Stanley Gibbons catalog, was worth 40 pounds. Sadly, he was not able to add this to his collection, even by paying full catalog. Signs stated the stamps were free to youth collectors and off limits to adults. White-haired and stoop-shouldered, he would never pass as a youth philatelist.

After my shift, I circulated in the sales area and made a few dealers happy. One dealer offered an attractive Japanese stamp overprinted for occupation of Korea. The dealer could not guarantee that the overprint was genuine, and this was a widely faked overprint. I offered to consult one attendee whom I knew to be knowledgeable about such overprints. He assured me it was fake. How could he tell?

The overprint consists of two Japanese characters at the bottom of the stamp. My informant told me that in genuine overprints, the space separating the characters is equal in width to the actual characters. The separation on the suspect stamp was too wide. I reported this assessment to the dealer, who pulled the item from his stock book and relegated it to his "reference collection."

We all know that philately is a hobby which attracts some quirky personalities. For the most part, they are good-hearted and well-meaning. Armed with people skills, the typical collector can develop ways to get along with them. I encountered one exception while working on the registration table. He gave me a surly response when I offered him a show program and a SeaPex souvenir tote bag. When I told him he needed a name tag to enter the showroom, he snarled, "Try and stop me."

I learned that on SeaPex's opening day, this collector, begrudgingly sporting a name tag, walked into the show area before the official opening time. Two SeaPex officials confronted him and eased him into the waiting area, where he joined early arrivals content to wait until show officials opened doors to the public.

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A member unable to attend the September meeting asked me to write about PostCrossing, the subject of my show-and-tell presentation. In short, PostCrossing is a global postcard-exchange website. You can register by contacting the PostCrossing website. The website will give you the name of someone, most likely in Europe or Asia, to send a postcard to. Meanwhile, someone around the world will be given your name. You should in short order receive a postcard from that participant.

Participants should notify the website whenever they receive a postcard. That will trigger the next round. Participants are encouraged to write a short message, focusing on daily routines and the like, on their postcards. PostCrossing is not intended as a penpal-matching operation. Typically, you will receive only one postcard from any single participant. Postcrossing emphasizes that while stamp and postcard collectors might benefit from joining, it is not intended as a collection-building activity.

A friend of Renee's gave me several dozen postcards she received as a PostCrossing member. I can tell you that PostCrossers make the effort to affix interesting stamps to their postcards.

Globally, PostCrossing has 779,000 members from 208 separate countries. Membership seems strongest in Europe and Asia. Russia leads the world with 99,000 participants. There are 94,000 in Taiwan, 72,420 in China, 72,169 in the United States, 54,000 in Germany, 40,000 in the Netherlands, 33,000 in Poland, 30,000 in Belarus, 26,000 in Ukraine and 21,000 each in Finland and the Czech Republic. Participation in some countries is in single-digits. However, the surprise in your mailbox could originate from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Eswatini (new name for Swaziland), Norfolk Island or East Timor.

PostCrossing encourages participants to write in English, although it makes provisions for those who don't understand English. One sobering note for members in the United States. It costs \$1.15 to mail a postcard anywhere outside the United States.

## USPS New Stamps to be Issued in October 2019

October 4 Forever **Purple Heart**  
NOBLESVILLE, IN (Indypex)



October 11 Forever **Spooky Silhouettes**  
MILFORD, NH



John Brew sent in this link  
from Spink Auctions:

## Lot 1

**24c Carmine rose and blue, Center Inverted, positions 45-46 and 55-56**, being the block of four with vertical and horizontal guide lines crossing at the center, beautiful centering, with the left pair being especially choice, disturbed original gum, which it has away been since in Col. Green's possession, very fine; 1991 and 2019 PF certificates...

SOLD FOR: **\$ 1,740,000**



## Lot 101

**#C3a, 24c Carmine rose and blue, Center Inverted, pos. 39**, an extraordinarily choice and exceptionally fresh mint example of this coveted and storied error rarity, wonderfully well centered amid large margins, beautiful rich colors on crisp clean paper, while full and even perforations all around further enhance its considerable eye-appeal, plus its reverse reveals full original gum which is quite lightly hinged,...

SOLD FOR: **\$510,000**



For more details (a pre-auction video by Spink)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBZgFz72Azg&feature=youtu.be>