



Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



Everett, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM

Edmonds, (on hold)

Snohomish County PUD

2320 California Street

Volume 25

December, 2019

Number 11

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

Everett Meeting

Wednesday, **December 11th**, 11:30 AM

- **Holiday Gathering** - At “le Bistro” restaurant, located at the Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center at 9001 Airport Road - near the north end of Paine Field.
Menu: Carved brown sugar-baked ham, traditional French onion soup, sticky toffee pudding with a caramel glaze. \$16.26 per person

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

President:	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	stampingsteve42@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Terry Ferrell,	425-408-1043;	tbferrell@juno.com
Treasurer:	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	ktk.lange@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 2019 meeting dates:
12/11 Holiday Lunch 11:30AM

Dates for our 2020 meetings at the PUD: 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

Steve LaVergne

Our December meeting will feature ham instead of chicken. The culinary arts program at the Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center informed us that it changed the menu for the club's annual holiday meal. Instead of the chicken entrée originally planned, we will be served carved brown sugar-baked ham. One side dish will be traditional French onion soup. The dessert will be sticky toffee pudding with a caramel glaze.

Our holiday meal will take place Wednesday, **December 11**, at le Bistro, the diner associated with the Sno-Isle skills center, which is at 9001 Airport Way, near Paine Field. We can be seated at **11:30 a.m.** We will have to wait 30 minutes or more to dig in. This year's holiday meal combines two changes from past holiday meals. First, we are having a luncheon in lieu of a dinner. Second, we will enjoy continental cuisine, as distinguished from last year's Chinese buffet or the Irish-themed pub fare from several years before.

The cost will be \$16.26 per person. That includes entrée, dessert, tax and gratuity. Le Bistro levies a 50-cent charge for credit card payments. Club members will have the option of ordering off the regular menu, which features hamburgers and other sandwiches. We will be sharing the dining room with members of the general public. We could have reserved the entire dining room, had we obtained commitments from at least 25 people to attend. We had about half the necessary commitments. I notice that the day before and the day after our holiday meal, le Bistro is reserved for private parties.

I fervently hope that the student chefs who prepare our meals get A-plus grades for the day. Those students are high school juniors and seniors who are among those who enrolled in the many vocational programs at the skills center. College credits are available to certain students. Culinary arts students labor without pay. They don't even share in the gratuities that are part of the meal's cost. Tips support student activities.

Tuition is free. Culinary arts students must purchase certain required supplies. They must pay \$15 for a chef's apron and \$6.25 for a chef's hat, among other items. They must have a state food handlers permit, which costs \$10. They must adhere to a strictly enforced dress code. They rotate through all the tasks in a restaurant. Today, a student might saute the entrée. Tomorrow, he will cook a side dish. Other days, he will wash dishes or take orders from diners. All this under the supervision of instructor Mark Luepnitz, whose decades of experience includes stints in four-star hotel restaurants.

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We will take a few moments from our holiday revelry to elect officers for the coming year. Club members nominated a slate of candidates at the November meeting. They include holdovers Steve LaVergne, president; Terry Ferrell, vice-president, and Kurt Lange, treasurer. The other nominee is Robin Leaden for secretary. Ruth Stevens is giving up this post, which she has held for several years. Our thanks to Ruth for her years of service and to Robin, for stepping up.

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We made an adjustment to our meeting schedule for 2020. Our November meeting will take place on the **third** Wednesday, November 18. Our traditional second Wednesday meeting date falls on November 11, which is Veterans Day. The Snohomish County PUD building is closed that day. This necessitates a move to an alternate date.

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You may not recognize the name Roger Albanese. He was a fixture at the monthly auctions of the Collectors Club of Seattle. His Seattle home was within walking distance of my home in the Broadview neighborhood. He was featured in a one-page article in the November issue of the American Philatelist, the publication of the American Philatelic Society.

Not many Collectors Club members knew Roger intimately. He was quiet and withdrawn. At auctions, he would hover behind the three auctioneers and make himself useful by moving unsold lots off to the side. I do not recall him actually bidding on anything. He quit attending auctions when the Collectors Club, having lost its Seattle meeting space, moved its auctions to the Unity Church in east Bellevue.

Unbeknownst to members, Roger gave generously to the APS philatelic research library, even though he was not an APS member. Scott English, APS executive director, recalls joining the APS staff in 2015 and processing Roger's \$100,000 donation, which enabled APS to finish the library's construction. Similar donations arrived in 2016 and 2017. Roger attached on condition to these contributions. APS was not to mention his name, at least during his lifetime.

After Roger died in 2018, APS learned that its library was the sole beneficiary of Roger's \$1,500,000 in investments. This windfall enabled APS to retire two of the three mortgages held on the library. Remarkably, Roger amassed his impressive portfolio on his earnings in the culinary profession, a calling he learned in Army mess halls as a young enlisted man. English used this article to encourage readers to emulate Roger and include APS activities in their estate planning.

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Recently, the club acquired a huge box of modern US on paper. I will be asking club members for suggestions as to how to make this trove available, either as direct sales to club members or by sale to the collecting public as a means of enriching the club treasury.

Most of the on-paper trove consists of workhorse definitives. They might appeal to specialists who search for minor varieties listed in the Scott specialty catalogs by small letters which run the gamut from "a" to "j." There are commemoratives and even a smattering of foreign issues. In combing through the upper layer of this accumulation, I discovered stamps from Oman and Malaysia.

I received this box from a widow who contacted me after spotting my name on the club's web site. It turned out her late husband was a high school classmate of mine. He and I played together

when we lived in the same Fremont neighborhood during our year in second grade. Our association ended in the third grade. My family moved to a different neighborhood. He was stricken with polio. Unbeknownst to each other, the two of us were introduced to stamps about the same time. My friend took it up to fill the idle hours he was confined to his home. I started when I eagerly dived into a beginner's kit which was a Christmas present from a favorite aunt and uncle.

I visited the widow's home in north King County and evaluated her husband's philatelic holdings. Mostly, they were uninspiring. He patronized a new-issue first-day-cover service. He loaded up on plate blocks. He had a nice duck-stamp collection. Sadly, the earlier issues were less than sound copies. The only area he collected systematically was US airmails. His collections featured mint copies of the first six airmails. It boasted not one, but two mint sets of the zeppelins. The widow showed me an invoice revealing he paid \$1,275 for one set in the mid-2000s. She plans to divide the airmail collection among the couple's two sons.

While we visited, the widow and I shared memories of her husband. Rather bitterly, she described his mother as "mean." While I have no memory of the mother, I can attest to her maternal meanness. Before he was diagnosed with polio, her son had a problem with bedwetting. The mother's response would leave most pediatricians aghast. She gave my friend an ultimatum. The next time it happened, she told my playmate, he would have a choice. Either, he could spend the next day confined to his back yard or, if he wanted to visit friends, he would have to wear diapers. I have a vivid memory of him, eight years old, sitting forlornly on a neighbor's porch, swaddled in baby diapers.

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Not long ago, when I opened my computer, I encountered an on-line advertisement from a firm offering to buy unused US postage. Curious, I clicked on the ad's link. It appeared that the sponsor was coy about the name of the business and its location. It took some right-click sleuthing to learn that this postage brokerage is affiliated with West Coast Stamps in Fresno, Calif.

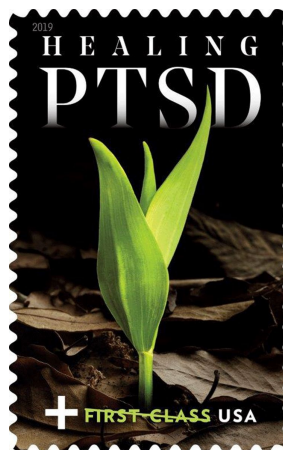
This enterprise offers a sliding scale, based on percentage of face value, for unused postage. It offers 70 percent for complete sheets, rolls and books, in good condition, of forever stamps which pay rates for international mail and one-, two- and three-ounce mailings. Bent, folded or partial sheets will net only 50 percent. The 50-percent rate also applies to forever stamps which pay the second ounce or the postcard rate. Pre-forever stamps will garner only 40 percent. Presumably, this company will sell its stocks of forever stamps to large mailers for a profit, but still at a discount from face value.

West Coast Stamps maintains it has the capital to buy even gargantuan accumulations of unused postage. It reported that it has paid as much as \$30,000 for unused postage. In reply to one FAQ query, the web site stated that any US stamp issued since 1935 remains valid for postage. It explained that stamps issued before 1935 might be worth more as collectibles. The web site provided a link to West Coast Stamps, which invited people to submit such earlier stamps for offers.

The web site is misleading in a way. US stamps issued prior to 1935 are valid for postage. The web site does feature a useful guide for collectors of modern US. There is a color chart listing the face values for pre-forever non-denominated issues. To access it, simply click on the red lettering, "What is face value?"

USPS - New Stamp for December 2019

December 2 **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**
("Semi-Postal" issue)



Gary Hoecker news

I received a typical postcard from a dealer that many of you are familiar with. Gary Hoecker from Oregon included an alarming note with this month's mailing that he wasn't going to be able to make the Fenwick show this month "due to a heart attack and quadruple bypass surgery in Sacramento earlier this month." On a positive note, he did add that he planned on attending other Fenwick shows and the Eastside show in January.

He has been one of our Sno-King Stamp Show dealers in the past and we certainly hope to see him in top health by the time our February show rolls around.

Stamps, candles and pens – 50 per cent of Britons own a collection

From the Express UK website: PUBLISHED: 12:33, Fri, Nov 29, 2019

<https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/1210995/Stamps-candles-pens-Britons-own-collection>

Half of Brits are proud owners of a collection – including everything from coins and fridge magnets to items from hotels. Stamps, candles and pens also made the list of collectable pieces. Of the 2,000 adults polled, 83 percent have collected something during their lifetime, and 57 percent currently have a hoard on the go. A total of £1,232.58 has been spent on each collection over the years and the average set is worth £1,502.11.

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Nostalgic products including comic books, cassette tapes and train sets also made the list – and one respondent even said they collect snail shells. The average compilation contains 159 items – although a sixth has more than 500 pieces – and has been ongoing for 19 years.

The research was commissioned by The Royal Mint, whose director of consumer Nicola Howell said: "It's great to see that collecting is still a current hobby and something Britons are genuinely interested in. Over half of every age group – even 18-24 year-olds – currently have a collection, which shows even in the digital world traditional hobbies are still popular. As coin producers, it's positive to know there is still a lot of public interest in unique coins as well as other items. Nostalgia certainly has an impact on collection, we have seen this first-hand when it comes to our childhood character coins."

Despite the expense, over a third of assortments live in storage at the owner's home, with many under the bed or in the attic. A further sixth of collectors keep their pieces in a spare room, while just a quarter proudly have their collection on display within their home. Forty percent feel "happy" when they think of the assortment they've built and over a quarter are nostalgic.

The majority of collectable items have been unearthed in niche stores, when on holiday, and on online shops. And a sixth have also purchased pieces at market stalls and from online bidding sites. According to one-third of respondents, their stockpile is their "legacy" and something they hope to one day leave for others to continue. Of those who are parents, a quarter collects items which they believe will benefit their children in terms of inheritance in the future. Similarly, one in five collectors owns a collection which was started by someone else and passed down to them.

Over an eighth of those polled via OnePoll have socially benefited from their collecting hobby and met new friends through the shared interest. Although six in 10 admitted collecting takes a lot of dedication, 44 percent believe they will never stop adding to their trove. But those who do think they will one day end their collection think it will only happen when they "get bored" or run out of space.

One-sixth of Brits said they would like to start a collection – whether they already have one or not. Nicola Howell added: "The new coin collecting hub on our website is the perfect place for anyone who might be interested in starting a new collection. We have everything from mintage figures – so you know which lucrative 50ps to look out for in your change – to tips on getting your children interested in collecting. And for those who are already keen collectors, we have a 'swap shop' on Facebook which is also brilliant for meeting likeminded individuals."

Top 20 Things Britons Collect

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Stamps | 11. Shells |
| 2. Coins | 12. Football programmes |
| 3. Fridge magnets | 13. Marbles |
| 4. Books | 14. Keyrings |
| 5. Vinyl records | 15. Ornaments |
| 6. Postcards | 16. Comic books |
| 7. Tickets from concerts or holidays | 17. Cassette tapes |
| 8. Badges | 18. Mugs |
| 9. Soft toys | 19. Toy cars |
| 10. Magazines | 20. Lego |