



Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



Everett, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM
Snohomish County PUD
 2320 California Street

Edmonds, (on hold)

Volume 26

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Number 1

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

Everett Meeting
 Wednesday, **January 8th**, 7:30 PM

- **“Filatelic Phlea Market”** - Steve will package up some club-owned material for sale. Club members are encouraged to bring their own stamps to sell, as well. Any matter offered for sale should be accurately described and attractively priced.

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]

2020 Club Officers

President:	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	stampingsteve42@hotmail.com
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Program Chairman:	(available position)		
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Dates for our 2020 meetings at the Everett PUD: 1/8, 2/12, 2/22 our club's show in Kenmore, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12-Summer Club BBQ, 9/9, 10/14,
11/18-NOTE: this one is the 3rd Wed in Nov, 12/9-Holiday Lunch/Dinner

President's Column

Steve LaVergne

Now that you have thanked Santa for that twelve-pack of Dennison stamp hinges he delivered, your thoughts can turn to the new year's schedule of philatelic events. Our **January** meeting will be essentially a philatelic flea market. I will package club-owned material for sale. Club members are welcome to bring stamps to sell. Any matter offered for sale should be accurately described and attractively priced.

For our **February** meeting, Jim Siscel has volunteered to present a program on the American Philatelic Society headquarters in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. This building is a historic match factory which was converted, at considerable expense, into North America's philatelic shrine. Knowing Jim, I am expecting that his presentation will be entertaining and informative. Perhaps, some of you will be inspired to include APS headquarters in this year's travels, especially during those summer weeks when APS hosts volunteer labor.

Tentative plans for our **March** meeting will be for a selection of APS circuit books. It has been months since our club last requested these circuit books. APS is instituting changes for circuit books, beginning January 1. It will charge \$10 for each chapter circuit. This fee will be waived, if our club buys more than \$300 from a circuit. APS also waives a five-percent buyers fee when sales exceed \$200. APS is eliminating its \$2 insurance fee. So, if club members purchase more than \$300 from the next circuit, the club will pay no fees whatsoever.

APS complained that one-third of the chapter circuits it circulates generate sales of less than \$50. I believe this is not the fault of the clubs which receive circuits. My impression is that many APS members who enter their excess material in circuit books have lost sight of the fact that APS members are intermediate or advanced collectors. Too many circuit books offer stamps I added to my collection when I was 13 years old and my splurging at stamp stores was limited by my paper route earnings.

APS is eliminating the annual \$25 insurance fee it charged chapters receiving circuit books. I do not recall that APS ever charged this fee to our club. That might be because, unlike other clubs, ours ordered circuits sporadically rather than once every month.

APS has strict rules for chapters which receive circuit books. The chapter should designate one member, who must also be an APS member, to take responsibility for handling the circuit books. Lately, that has been me. The chapter must prohibit individual members from taking books home. I suspect outright theft is a secondary reason. I suspect APS has lost books that went home with chapter members who died unexpectedly or suffered disabling medical conditions.

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Most members recall when our club met twice a month. On the second Wednesday and later on the third Friday, the club met at the South Snohomish Senior Center near the Edmonds ferry landing. We suspended those meetings when the City of Edmonds announced plans to replace the aging building with a modern building which takes advantage of its waterfront location.

We drove by the site recently. Nothing remains of the senior center. What lies behind the construction fencing is a concrete foundation, reportedly poured in November, and lots of rebar. The web site for the Edmonds Waterfront Center, the official name of the new facility, tells parties interested in renting rooms to check in after January 1. Reopening is tentatively scheduled for September.

The Edmonds Waterfront Center promises to be a magnificent structure. The lobby will feature glass walls two stories high, giving users a spectacular view of Puget Sound ferry traffic and the Olympics. The building will offer beach access, unlike its predecessor structure, which essentially walled off the waterfront. It will be more than a senior center. All generations will mingle with a mix of programs geared for all ages.

The center contemplates increasing its yearly operating budget from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000. It proposes to finance this increase from several sources. Among them are a "growth" in "rental income." Does this mean it hopes to increase the number of rentals? Likely, yes. It is counting on the patronage of brides who dream of beginning married life in breathtaking waterfront settings. Will it increase rental rates? Again, likely. The sorry state of the old building depressed what the senior center could charge for room rental.

So, it may be that this club will not be able to afford the rates set by the Edmonds Waterfront Center. The new building will have four "multi-purpose rooms" on its second floor, which will be accessible by elevator. Our club will have to decide whether to meet again at the Edmonds center, hold a second meeting elsewhere in the region or meet but once a month.

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As committed as I am to organized philatelic endeavors, I have taken on yet another responsibility, this outside the club. About 12 years ago, I joined the Collectors Club of Seattle, this at the urging of a collector who is a high school classmate. When I retired, I joined the club's Tuesday mixture group, which met in a church basement in Seattle's Maple Leaf neighborhood. The group leader would bring an on-paper mixture and make a pile for each member present. Participants would select stamps from their pile and move the remainders to the left. They paid a nickel for each stamp they took home.

Well, the group's facilitator moved to Moses Lake, and the club lost its meeting space. The leader asked me to assume coordination of the group. We meet less frequently, mostly in library meeting rooms. Death and disability have thinned our ranks. Any collector who enjoys "kitchen table philately" is welcome.

I now rely on one source for mixtures. The group once ordered worldwide mixtures from a variety of mixture dealers who published lengthy price lists of country and regional mixtures. That meant their best material went into the more focused offerings, leaving a desultory collection of leftovers for their worldwide mixes. Now, I buy from a vendor who sells nothing but a half-pound worldwide mixture. The typical packet contains a variety of countries, mostly European, and little

duplication. The stamps are mostly on single paper. Since mixtures are usually sold by weight, unscrupulous vendors send stamps on double paper, meaning you get fewer stamps per ounce.

My newest responsibility might be termed facilitator or coordinator of an informal group that holds noontime meetings on the third Monday at the Northshore Service Center in Bothell. Several Sno-King members take part in this gathering. There is no program, no set agenda and no dues. It is basically buy, sell and gossip. Dave Dubois has been handling this gathering for years. He decided he has reached the post-philatelic stage of life. He asked me to assume his role.

I will take over Dave's role of sending emails in advance of meetings. I plan to refine this function by asking members to announce what materials they plan to offer for sale or what countries they hope others will bring.

There is one variation to the third-Monday schedule. The Northshore center will close on the third Mondays of January and February, both days being holidays. So, the group will meet on the fourth Monday in both months.

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The following excerpt of a telephone conversation took place in a stamp store, which I will not name. The caller inquired about selling his collection. "I have just about every stamp ever issued," he reportedly said. "And I have them in four albums." If so, he must need an overhead crane to hoist each album. I probably have fewer than 20 percent of every stamp issued. I have dozens of albums. I know collectors who boast of more than a hundred albums.

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The following tale's only connection to philately is that the destination was a gathering of stamp collectors. I've told it to several people, who found it amusing. So, I will tell it here.

A longtime friend, whom I will call Benny, invited me to join him at his stamp club's holiday dinner on the Thursday before Christmas. I accepted. Dinner starts at 5 p.m., so I will pick you up at 4, he told me.

Come Thursday morning, I was lying in bed. The phone rang. The caller ID told me it was Benny. I was unable to get to the phone, in another room. The phone rang again. This time, I was able to answer. It was Benny, calling from his car. "I am here, in front of your house," he said.

"Benny, it's five o'clock in the morning," I said.

As he explained later, because of several medical problems, he sleeps nights in a recliner. He spends his days in the same recliner, with two feisty Chihuahuas in his lap. He fell asleep Wednesday night and awakened after 4 a.m. He looked at the clock and panicked. Hey, I need to pick up Steve, he told himself. At that time of the year, it is nearly as dark at 4:30 p.m. as at 4 a.m. Later, he reflected that traffic seemed unusually light for what he thought was a late afternoon drive.

USPS - New Stamps for January 2020

January 11 Forever **Lunar New Year: Rat**
MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754



January 18 **Big Bend Priority Mail**
BIG BEND NATL. PARK, TX 79834



January 18 **Big Bend Priority Mail Envelope**
BIG BEND NATL. PARK, TX 79834



January 18 **Grand Island Ice Caves**
Priority Express Mail
MUNISING, MI 49862



January 23 Forever **Made of Hearts**
MEMPHIS, TN 38101



January 30 Forever **Gwen Ifill: Black Heritage Series**
WASHINGTON, DC 20066



A great time and a great meal at the December Holiday Club Gathering:



UPCOMING STAMP SHOWS / BOURSES					
SHOW DATES			Major events in bold / PNW events in italic	Revised: 16 November 2019	
FRI	SAT	SUN	SHOW NAME	LOCATION	TYPE
	25-Jan		<i>Coin & Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
	25-Jan		<i>OMPA Show & Bourse (Okanagan Stamp Clubs)</i>	Lake Country, BC	Bourse
	25-Jan	26-Jan	<i>GESSPES (Greater Eastside Stamp Society)</i>	Redmond, WA	Bourse
		26-Jan	<i>Victoria Stamp & Postcard Fair</i>	Victoria, BC	Bourse
		9-Feb	<i>Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
	15-Feb	16-Feb	<i>Regina Philatelic Club Show</i>	Regina, SK	Show
	22-Feb		<i>Sno-King Stamp Show (new venue)</i>	Kenmore WA	Show
28-Feb	29-Feb	1-Mar	<i>APEX (Anchorage Philatelic Society)</i>	Anchorage, AK	Show
	14-Mar	15-Mar	<i>VICTOPICAL (Vancouver Is. & Greater Victoria PS)</i>	Victoria, BC	Show
	21-Mar		<i>Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition Stampfest</i>	Eugene, OR	Show
		22-Mar	<i>Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition STAMPEX</i>	Salem, OR	Show
	28-Mar		<i>Roundup Stamp & Coin show (Olympia Philatelic Soc)</i>	Chehalis, WA	Bourse
	28-Mar		<i>Coin & Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
	28-Mar	29-Mar	Edmonton Spring Show (Edmonton SC) (WSP)	Edmonton, AB	Show
	28-Mar	29-Mar	<i>Apple Blossom (Inland Empire Philatelic Society)</i>	Spokane, WA	Bourse
	4-Apr		<i>John D. Arn Stamp Symposium (NWFSC)</i>	Moses Lake, WA	Education
	18-Apr	19-Apr	<i>Spring Bourse (Evergreen Stamp Club)</i>	Kent, WA	Bourse
24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	WESTPEX (WSP)	Burlingame, CA	Show
2-May thru 9-May			London 2020 FIP Specialized World Stamp Exhibition	London, UK	Intl Show
8-May	9-May	10-May	PIPEX (Northwest Federation) (WSP) (new venue)	Portland, OR	Show
	30-May		<i>Coin & Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
	6-Jun	7-Jun	<i>Greater Seattle Postcard & Paper Show</i>	Kent, WA	Bourse
		7-Jun	<i>Victoria Stamp & Postcard Fair</i>	Victoria, BC	Bourse
12-Jun	13-Jun		<i>SOPEX (Southern Oregon Philatelic Society)</i>	Central Point, OR	Show
		14-Jun	<i>Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun	Royal 2020 Royale	Fredericton, NB	Show
	18-Jul	19-Jul	<i>Summer Show (Evergreen Stamp Club)</i>	Kent, WA	Show
		9-Aug	<i>Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
		16-Aug	<i>Victoria Stamp & Postcard Fair</i>	Victoria, BC	Bourse
21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	Great American Stamp Show (begins 20-Aug) (WSP)	Hartford, CT	Show
11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	SEAPEX Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (WSP)	Tukwila, WA	Show
	12-Sep		<i>Coin & Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
	19-Sep		<i>Greater Eugene Stamp Society Show</i>	Eugene, OR	Bourse
		20-Sep	<i>Salem Stamp Society Show</i>	Salem, OR	Bourse
	26-Sep	27-Sep	<i>Apple Harvest (Inland Empire Philatelic Society)</i>	Spokane, WA	Bourse
	3-Oct	4-Oct	<i>VICPEX (Vancouver Is. & Greater Victoria Phil. Soc.)</i>	Victoria, BC	Show
		11-Oct	<i>Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
20-Nov	21-Nov	22-Nov	Chicagopex (WSP) (WE Fest VII)	Itasca, IL	Show
	28-Nov		<i>Coin & Stamp Show (North Shore Numismatic Soc.)</i>	Burnaby, BC	Bourse
		29-Nov	<i>Victoria Stamp & Postcard Fair</i>	Victoria, BC	Bourse
		13-Dec	<i>Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show</i>	Renton, WA	Bourse
Repetitive Events			<i>Rose City Stamp Fair (2nd Saturday OSS clubhouse)</i>	Portland, OR	Bourse
			<i>Collector's Corner (4th Saturday OSS clubhouse)</i>	Portland, OR	Bourse

Reminders:

- With winter upon us now, make sure to check your email and voicemail in the afternoon/evening before heading out to a wintry snow & ice covered meeting. There could be a last-minute cancellation due to **poor weather** and we try to get out the word as best we can if that happens.
- **Dues** for 2020 are now due
- Just **\$10** to the treasurer: Kurt Lange 11409 28 Dr. S.E. Everett, WA 98208
- Make checks payable to "Sno-King Stamp Club"
- Or, as usual, paying at a club meeting works just fine.
- Your dues make the club possible - postage and other newsletter costs, rental fees for monthly club meeting, APS dues, NW Fed of Stamp Clubs Dues, etc...
- And Thanks to those who have already paid their dues for 2020 - so make sure not to send in more dues! (FYI, that would be Horner, McMurtrie x2, Mierau, Nielsen, and Sells - Again, Thanks!)
- Make a note of this year's meeting dates onto your home calendar (or digital device) and note that November's meeting is one week LATER than typically planned (due to Veteran's day being the second Wednesday).