



# Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



Everett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM

Edmonds, (on hold)

Snohomish County PUD

2320 California Street

Volume 26

February, 2020

Number 2

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

## Everett Meeting

Wednesday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM**

- **Virtual tour of the APS** - Jim Siscel will highlight this month's meeting with a video tour of the American Philatelic Society headquarters in Bellefonte, PA. Not to be missed!

And just days later is our **SATURDAY FEB 22<sup>nd</sup> club stamp show in Kenmore** - See you there!  
Details inside this newsletter.

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

<b>President:</b>	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	<a href="mailto:stampingsteve42@hotmail.com">stampingsteve42@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Terry Ferrell,	425-408-1043;	<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>	Robin Leaden,	206-365-1794;	<a href="mailto:robinleaden@netscape.net">robinleaden@netscape.net</a>
<b>Program Chairman:</b>	(available position)		
<b>Webmaster &amp; Newsletter Editor:</b>	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	<a href="http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/">http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/</a> <a href="mailto:ktk.lange@frontier.com">ktk.lange@frontier.com</a>

**Dates for our 2020 meetings at the Everett PUD:** 2/12, Sat. 2/22 our club's show in Kenmore, 3/11 APS Pick Books, 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

Jim Siscel will highlight our **February** meeting with a video tour of the American Philatelic Society headquarters in Bellefonte, PA. Jim was impressed when he toured the building during a vacation trip last year. He admired APS's renovations to the structure it dubs the Match Factory Building, thus named because generations of blue-collar workers in and around Bellefonte earned their living manufacturing matches.

His presentation will include architectural features of the extensive renovation, activities taking place within the building and some of the headquarter's artifacts. Jim will share the "A" in the "Alphabetilately A to Z" exhibit currently on loan to APS from the National Postal History Museum.

Jim and I made a happy discovery at our January meeting. There is a roll-up screen in our meeting room at the Snohomish County PUD building. This should make Jim's presentation more enjoyable.

If time allows, members will have the opportunity to purchase stamps and supplies donated to the club, as well as items offered for sale by members.

Tentative plans for our **March** meeting are for APS circuit books. I invite members who advise me of their collecting interests, especially if there are new areas of interest since our last mailing of circuit books, which was early last year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Plans for the annual **Sno-King Stamp Show** are falling into place. The show will be held **Saturday, February 22**, at the Kenmore Community Club building at 7304 NE 175th Street. Show chairman Jim Hall reported that seven dealers have reserved tables. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a new location for our stamp show. This will be the fifth site of the show in the quarter-century that I have been a club member.

We will need members to be at the building at **8 a.m. in order to set up tables**. The hall is reserved for another party Friday night. The building has 22 six-foot tables. If we need to rent tables, we will have to arrange for delivery Friday afternoon.

As with our previous location, we will need club members to stick around until **5 p.m. in order to clean the premises**. This enables the club to avoid the expense of clean-up. In recent years, club members worked efficiently to clean the show site, much to the satisfaction of the building owners.

There will be a club table, where attendees can buy stamps and supplies owned by the club or offered for sale by members. The club will take a 10-percent cut of all sales by members.

This year's show will be an experiment, both in terms of the location and in moving the show from a Sunday to a Saturday. We can decide to use the Kenmore location next year or we can move back to the Lutheran church which hosted the last three shows.

The Kenmore club site is one block south of Bothell Way. To get there, drive to the traffic light at 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE and turn south. The club is on the northeast corner of 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and NE 175<sup>th</sup> Street. There is ample parking in the building's lot as well as on adjacent streets. During the work week, the building's parking lot serves as a Metro Transit parking lot.

When I joined the club more than 25 years ago, the show was at Everett Community College. We moved to the Everett Boys and Girls Club when the college imposed prohibitive costly security requirements. Initially, the boys and girls club offered generous terms. They became progressively less generous over the years. Ultimately, we shopped for a new location after a February show without heat. We used a downtown hotel until new owners closed it for extensive renovations. Our show convened at the church's gymnasium the next three years.

Before deciding on the Kenmore location, we inquired of the hotel's new owners. We were quoted charges which would have hollowed out the club's treasury.

\* \* \* \* \*

Scott's specialized catalog tells us this item is worth \$160. Can we sell it at any price? Or should it be consigned to the recycling bin with all the other first-day covers donated to the club over the years?

This cover features USA E14, a rotary-press special delivery stamp issued in 1951. It includes a cachet, and the envelope's face is unsullied by a mailing address, which was the preference of those who collected FDCs when such were the rage of US collectors.

As club president whose contact information is on our website, I am periodically called by people with stamp collections, usually formed by a family member, to dispose of. A distressing percentage of these accumulations consist of yesteryear's enthusiasms: first-day covers, plate blocks and mint sheets, all areas scorned by collectors in the 21st Century.

With blocks and sheets, you can at least console callers by telling them they remain good for postage. Ha. Ha. Try fitting 19 three-cent stamps on your typical first-class envelope. But with first-day covers, the best you can do is to advise your caller to check the local municipal recycling pickup schedule.

Now, there are still collectors who specialize in first-day covers. A Spokane club recently elected an FDC specialist to a club office. Someone representing an FDC collectors club manned a table at last year's SeaPex. There aren't nearly enough FDC specialists to soak up all the 1950s and 1960s covers saturating today's markets.

The club will be open to a reasonable offer to buy its special-delivery FDC, which will be available at the February 22 show.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was to be the first local stamp show of 2020. I was one of many collectors who were primed to drive to Redmond's VFW Hall for the 2020 version of GESS-PEX, put on by the Greater Eastside Stamp Society. The two-day event, set for the final weekend in January, didn't happen. A day or two before the weekend, the Eastside club learned that it had neglected to reserve the hall. It was forced to cancel the show.

After notifying dealers who had reserved tables, the Eastside club used its email lists to alert as many collectors as possible of the cancellation. I was so advised Friday afternoon. However, that club wasn't able to reach all collectors. A number showed up looking for a stamp show. They were bewildered when they discovered a far different event taking place. They queried VFW members, who attempted explanations. Some would-be attendees were left with the impression that the VFW club had abruptly cancelled the stamp show reservation simply to accommodate another party.

That was not the case. The VFW exercised its prerogative of scheduling another party when the Eastside club failed to follow through on its initial inquiries. It is not the purpose of this entry to point fingers or to excoriate any individual. Rather, it is to share thoughts as to how stamp clubs can avoid repeating this lapse when they hold shows of their own.

It bears repeating that stamp clubs rely on volunteers when they hold events open to the general philatelic public. Moreover, such volunteers are of an age group prone to health emergencies which disrupt event planning. That appears to have been a factor in the GESS-PEX cancellation. It behooves stamp clubs to devise some redundancy and accountability into event planning. Club officers should ask to be copied on emails sent by show committee members with key roles.

Club officers can take steps to quietly monitor developments. Booking a hall for a stamp show often entails advance payment of fees and deposits. A club president can ask the treasurer if the show committee has requested checks to cover these payments.

I suspect that certain dealers, those who incurred costs involved in mailing notices to customers, weren't too pleased. I know of one dealer who benefited from the abrupt cancellation. Aurora Stamps kept busy that Saturday, catering to collectors who flocked to that Edmonds store to slake their stamp lust.

\* \* \* \* \*

For years, collectors could dispose of collections by donating them to the Veterans Stamp Club, a project of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care system. That opportunity is coming to an end. The VA health care system reported it is "downsizing" the Veterans Stamp Club because of the retirement of Maurice Storck, the volunteer who was the program's spark plug.

Instead, collectors can make donations to the Postal History Foundation, based in Tucson. This organization will distribute stamps to school teachers throughout the country to use as teaching aids. The foundation offers 100 lessons which use postage stamps as illustrative material. It reports that its programs enhanced the education of 14,000 students.

Founded in 1960, the Postal History Foundation has four paid staff members and relies on the services of 50 volunteers who organize donated stamps into lessons which can be provided, at no cost, to teachers. Readers can learn more by accessing its web site.

\* \* \* \* \*

This newsletter is being circulated a few days later than usual. The delay is the result of interruptions in my Internet service. On Monday, I was unable to access the internet or even use my landline phone. Late Tuesday, a Comcast technician restored my access to both. On Wednesday, my access was once again interrupted. A Comcast worker told me this interruption affected much of my Seattle neighborhood.

When service was restored, my CPU wouldn't start my computer. On Thursday, a Geek Squad worker tested my equipment and found it to be working. He speculated that restoration of internet access caused some hiccup which temporarily disabled my unit. I returned home and happily found my equipment working normally. I had feared a repeat of my last experience with a computer meltdown. On that occasion, my unit worked nicely in the computer repair shop but continued to malfunction once I returned home.

This outage caused my friend, Renee, no end of panic. As my phone service was out, I was unable to make my usual mid-evening phone call to her. When she called my number, she was directed immediately to voice-mail. Assuming the worst, she was all ready to ask law enforcement to perform a welfare check. In her anxiety, she failed to consider more realistic scenarios, such as that I left town to romance one of the Kardashians.

\* \* \* \* \*

USPS - New Stamps for February 2020

February 3 **Presorted Star**  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108



February 14 Forever **Let's Celebrate**  
MESA, AZ 85201 (ARIPEX stamp show)



February 21 Forever **Wild Orchids**  
CORAL GABLES, FL

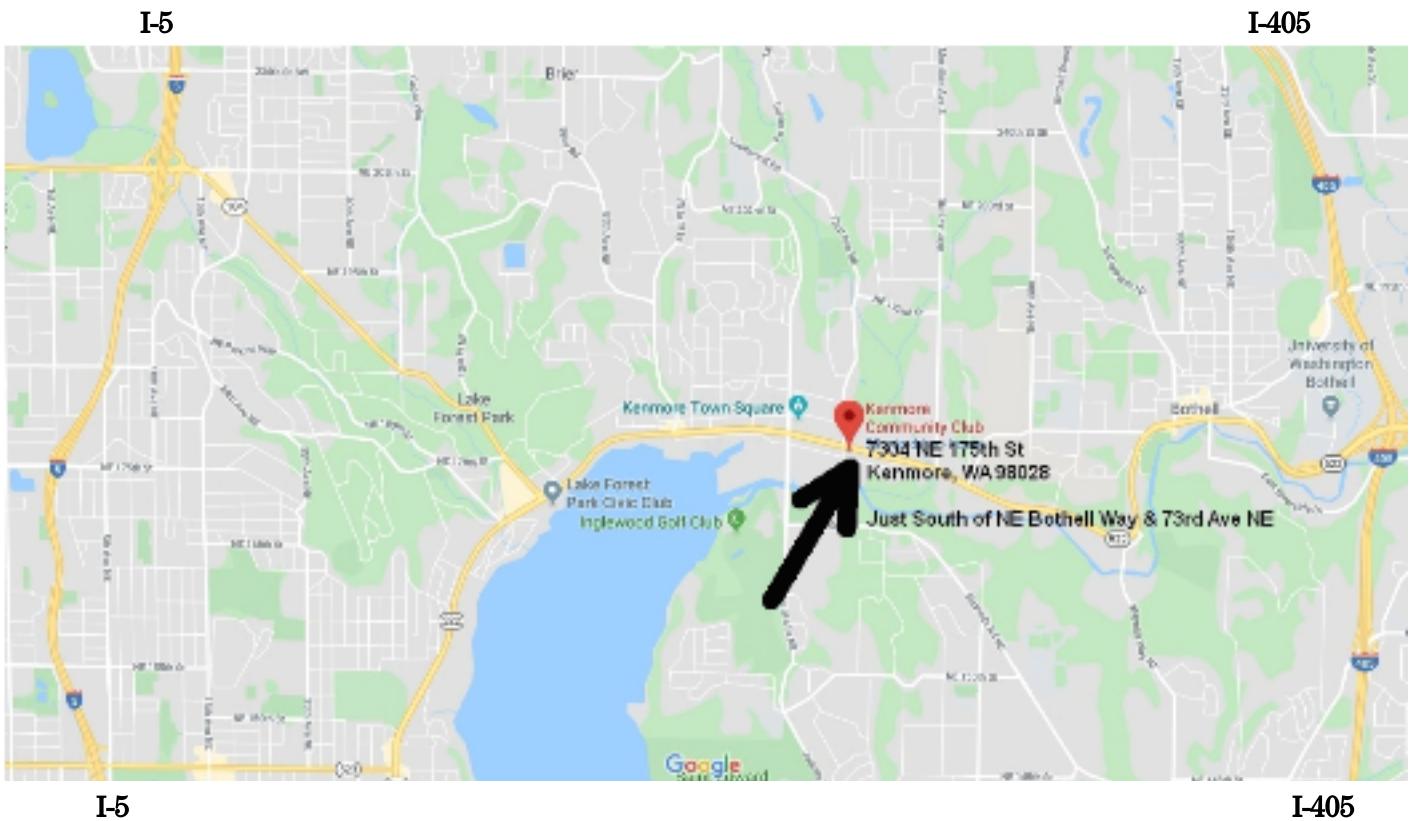


***Details for our club's show on Saturday 02/22/20 ( which backwards is 02/22/20, by the way )***

Setup for club volunteers will begin at 8AM and the show is open to the public from 10AM-4PM. Takedown for club volunteers is from 4PM-5PM. Many hands make for light work (hint, hint).

If you have room in your vehicle, bring along your own folding tables and folding chairs - maybe they will be put to use in the club sales area or somewhere else. If not needed, they can just remain in your car, but at least they will be available if you bring them.

Below is a map to the Kenmore Community Club for the **Saturday 2/22** show or put into your GPS, **7304 NE 175th St - Kenmore, WA 98028**



## DUES / DUES / DUES

Out of our entire roster of members, only 22 remain to pay for 2020 - that's less than half! Well done!

- **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...

- - - - -  
from Bloomberg.com:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-31/new-from-the-austrian-post-office-brexit-trolling-first-class>

### Special Delivery From Austria: Brexit Trolling, First Class

By Boris Groendahl  
January 31, 2020

Cheeky? Lazy? Or simply cheap? Austria had planned a stamp to commemorate Britain's departure from the European Union, but when the presumed deadline--March 29, 2019--came and went with no Brexit, the postal service found itself with 140,000 stamps bearing the wrong date.

Fast-forward 10 months, and as Britain finally heads for the exit, Austria is releasing the stamp--with the original date crossed out and Jan. 31, 2020 printed just below.

The stamp shows the remaining 27 members of the European Union in deep blue, while the United Kingdom is printed in a transparent, light blue--a shadow, so to speak. The stamps have a denomination of 1.80 euros, the price for sending a standard-sized priority letter to overseas destinations--something Great Britain isn't considered. Yet.

The stamps are available in a handful of Oesterreichische Post AG branches and its online shop. It wasn't immediately clear if the operator had retained some sheets in their original state, without the overprint--creating a new object for philatelists to fetishize.

