

Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



Serving collectors in Snohomish County and north King County since 1960

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



QR code - you can use your Smartphone
to go to the club's website

Volume 29

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Number 10

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

Everett Meeting Wednesday, November 13th, 7:30 PM

- Elections for club officers, locking in a holiday gathering lunch location (to be held at Noon on Wed. 12/11), and general socializing to show your interesting finds, admire others' acquisitions, and, naturally, **buy and sell** so bring along your items for the marketplace.

Most meetings also include **show-and-tell**, along with time to **buy and sell** stamps

2024 Club Officers

President:	Steve LaVergne 206-361-3774;	stampingsteve@gmail.com
Vice President:	George Wanaski 425-224-4178;	ghanaski@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Kurt D Lange, 425-343-7435;	kurt.d.lange@gmail.com
Secretary:	Robin Leaden, 206-365-1794;	robinleaden@netscape.net
Program Chairman:	(available position)	
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor:	Kurt D Lange, 425-343-7435;	http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/ kurt.d.lange@gmail.com

Dates for our 2024 meetings (2nd Wednesday at the Everett PUD)
11/13, 12/11 Holiday Dinner

Put them into next year's calendar now...

Dates for our 2025 meetings (2nd Wednesday at the Everett PUD)
1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 7/9, 8/13 BBQ, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10 Holiday Dinner

President's Column

Steve LaVergne



The above illustration, ripped from the Sunday funnies, highlights the bitter partisanship that plagues the elections of hobby clubs such as the Sno-King Stamp Club and assorted non-profit organizations.

Oh wait. We have four candidates for the **four elected positions**. All are incumbents running unopposed. Barring some last-minute insurgency, all will be elected at our November Meeting.

The four candidates are Steve LaVergne, president, George Wanaski, vice-president, Robin Leaden, secretary, and Kurt Lange, treasurer. Their terms will run from January 1 through December 31, 2025.

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This will be the **last issue** of the club's newsletter in 2024. We are skipping the December issue since our only activity that month will be the annual holiday meal which takes the place of our normal meeting.

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There will be another vote as part of our November meeting. Members will decide where to hold the club's annual **holiday dinner**, which will take place on **December 11**.

So far, the only eatery which has been proposed is the **Buzz Inn on Evergreen Way**. This is where last year's holiday meal took place. So I write this with the expectation that the Buzz Inn will host us this year. However, club members could choose to dine elsewhere.

There is more than one Buzz Inn in Everett. There are other Buzz Inns scattered through Snohomish County. Make sure you show up at the correct Buzz Inn.

We will gather at **noon**. We hope to welcome those members who miss meetings this time of the year because they are reluctant to drive after dark.

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I plan to order more American Philatelic Society **circuit books** for our **January** meeting. For the November meeting, I hope to circulate APS's list of categories for their circuit books. Categories include countries, regions, some topics and for popular countries, special-purpose stamps. This should give members the opportunity to refresh their preferences.

Club members aggregated more than \$400 in purchases from the circuit books which were available in September. APS levies a five-percent surcharge, which it waives for purchases totaling more than \$200.

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I am bemused whenever an advanced collector bemoans the fact that none of his sons or daughters have any interest in inheriting his philatelic holdings. Now, he may have three dozen albums, all bulging with stamps and boasting for many countries completion rates of seventy percent and higher.

Now, if I were a twenty- or thirty-something scion of this collector, I would disdain starting my collection with such a massive trove of postal paper.

Dear Old Dad has long since acquired the low-hanging fruit, stamps that are plentiful and inexpensive. Once I and my siblings became self-supporting, he could afford to pay double-digit amounts to fill his empty spaces. Which he did, limited only by Mom's forbearance.

So, I begin my collecting life hunting down stamps which are elusive and expensive. Most of my paycheck goes to cover the mortgage and the expenses of raising children. My wife begrudges what little I spend on stamps. I am able to add so few stamps to my collection that I am not having much fun.

Moreover, knowing so little about the hobby, I am not able to spend wisely what little I spend.

I miss out on the pleasure of building a collection from the ground up. I would be better off starting with an album with space for 8,000 stamps and then moving up to an intermediate album with quadruple the capacity. From there, I graduate to multi-volume sets. As I progress, I am learning the hobby.

I discover whether I want to collect the world or whether I prefer to specialize. I can sample the myriad ways of collecting, whether it be approvals by mail, dime books in a brick-and-mortar stamp store, Ebay, HipStamp, auction catalogs or slogging through red boxes of 102 cards at a stamp show.

Starting off collecting with your father's 300,000 stamps housed in 36 volumes is like skipping grammar school, skipping high school and college and enrolling in graduate school.

World's Largest Ball of Stamps

An idle pastime becomes a record holder in Boys Town, Nebraska.

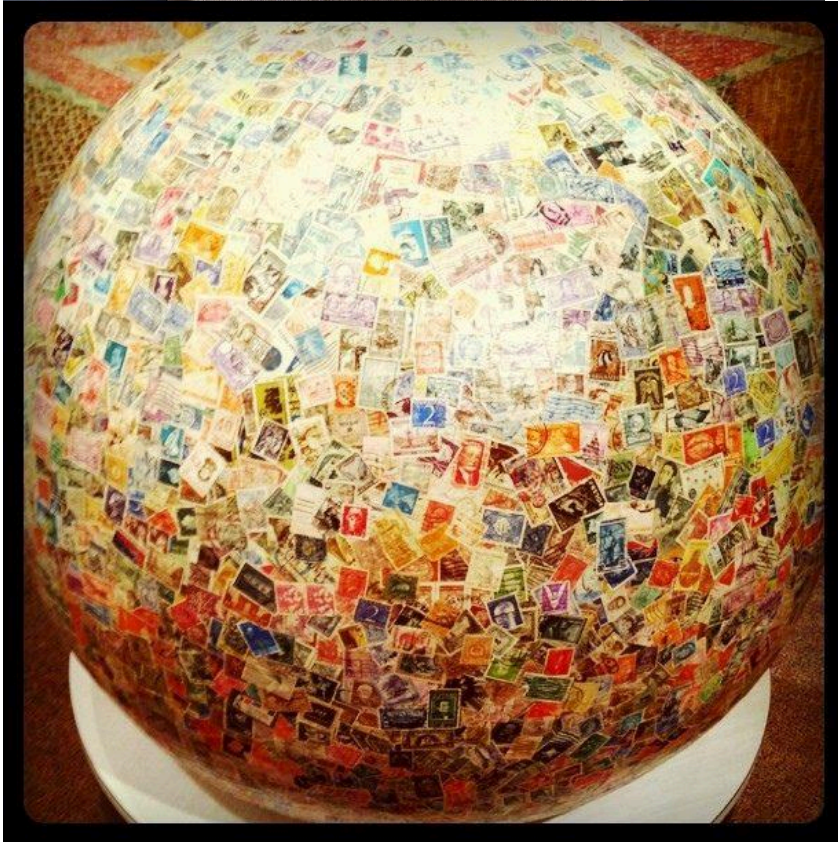
See this original article located at:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/world-s-largest-ball-of-stamps>



With the advent of e-mail in modern society, stamps and other traditional mail paraphernalia are slowly phasing out of use.

There's still nothing quite like looking at a giant ball of the sticky postage in front of a framed sunburst mural (also made of stamps) to really get a stamp collector's blood pumping. The gigantic ball measures at 32 inches in diameter, weighs about 600 pounds, and is estimated to have over four million canceled stamps.



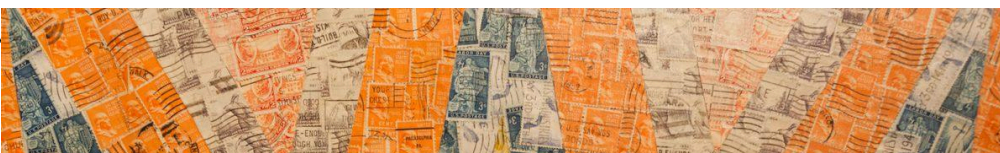
The origins of this quirky anomaly date back to 1953, when a group known as the Boys Town Stamp Collecting Club started to consolidate the less-valuable stamps using a golf ball as a base.

The motivation behind the activity is unknown, but Mary Haurd, manager of the Boys Town Visitor Center, suspects that the origin of the project is not all that mysterious: The stamp collectors were probably just bored.

The stamp ball grew steadily until 1955, when it caught the attention of the writers at Ripley's Believe It or Not, a syndicated newspaper column at the time. Soon, people from all over the country went to gaze at the giant sticky sphere. It was at about this time that the Boys Town Stamp Collectors lost interest in their pet project.

The stamp ball still resides in Boys Town, at the same size it was in 1955. It's open for any curious onlooker to view—just don't peel off any of the stamps.

Nov





An early peek at just some of the 2025 stamp shows for your calendar planning:

March 1	Sno-King Stamp Club Annual Show Kenmore, WA
March 29-30	Edmonton Stamp Club Edmonton, Canada
April 25-27	WESTPEX Burlingame, CA
May 2-4	PIPEX Clackamas, OR
June 1	Vancouver Coins, Stamps & Collectibles Show Vancouver, Canada
June 7-8	SOPEX Medford, OR
July 20-21	Evergreen Stamp, Postcard, and Paper: Summer Show Kent, WA
Aug 10	Strait Stamp Show Sequim, WA
Aug 15-18	Great American Stamp Show (GASS) Hartford, CT
Sept 13-14	SEAPEX Tukwila, WA
Sept 22	STAMPEX Salem, OR
Sept 28	Central Oregon Stamp Club Bourse Redmond, OR
Oct 5	Roundup Stamp and Coin Show Lacey, WA
Oct 19-20	CALTAPEX Calgary, Canada