

Stamp Chatter

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Newsletter of the Sequoia Stamp Club, Redwood City

From the President

I hope everyone has had a happy Holiday Season, and may your New Year be a healthy and prosperous one!

As the "Old Year" becomes history and the "New Year" makes its entry, I want to thank all of you who worked hard on the recent PENPEX show...judging by the feedback from our staff volunteers, exhibitors, vendors, and the general walk-in public, the show was a success. That and the annual Christmas party put a wonderful ending to the year 2004.

The year 2005 is shaping up to be a good one. There was an enthusiastic response to the ideas generated from the November 23rd meeting, and we need to work on getting them underway. The event calendar is already over half booked, and the variety of subject matter looks to be very interesting and informative. There is also the challenge of building our youth program and expanding our membership.

Just to remind everyone, we will be holding our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of January and February at the Veteran's Memorial Building, in the Sequoia Room. (Now there's a properly named room!) Starting with the first meeting in March, we will be back in our usual location at the Rec Center on our normal days of 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Ed Rodriguez



Lunar Year Souvenir Sheet

The new USPS commemorative sheet will show all 12 designs published each year since 1992. The Lunar New Year is celebrated by people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tibetan, and Mongolian heritage. Also called the Spring Festival, the traditional Chinese New Year is a time of renewed hope for a prosperous future.

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Upcoming Meetings

Event Calendar:

- 1/12 Installation of Officers/ Past President Exhibits
- 1/26 1901 Buffalo Exposition, Ed Bierman
- 2/9 Live Auction
- 2/23 China, the history of stamps, Ernie Lee
- 3/8 Mystery topic, Hank Washauer

Sequoia Meeting Place Moves — December Through February



Temporary meeting room at the Veteran's Memorial Building.

During the months of January and February the club will meet at the **Veteran's Memorial Building** in the Sequoia Room Wellness Center (Old 49er Bldg).

Directions: On Valota Road and Madison Avenue proceed to St. Francis Street which is a one way street proceed around until you approach 711 Nevada Street. The Sequoia Room is located at the far end next to the park.

Meetings will be the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of the month: 12/15, 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23.

Pictures from Penpex



Miriam toasting Penpex



Pre-banquet entertainment



At the awards banquet



Dealers tables during show.

Stamp Meeting Note Summary

October 24, 2004

Meeting called to order by President Ed Rodriguez at 8:00pm.

Discussion:

- Ed Bierman brought in the Chatter to pass around to those that are present tonight.
- Larry Christiansen is passing around an event calendar for members to sign up to give a presentation for the coming year.
- Kristin Patterson talked about a book she found for beginners for PENPEX. It is called "The Lost Stamps".
- Hank Washauer talked about PENPEX and signing up for volunteer slots. We need you. Signup sheet being passed around.
- Hank Washauer also talked about the next year's slate of officers.
- Jim Mosso said he needs the PENPEX auction lots by next meeting. Bids to be minimum of \$5.00.
- Darlene Hickok discussed donations for PENPEX. We need donations. Does not have to be philatelic.
- No SUNPEX (Sunnyvale) this year but they will have an auction. Paul Swierstra has a list of auction items. The auction will be November 14th at 1:30pm.
- Raffle of circuit book certificates: \$10 = Ed Bierman; \$ 5 = Herb Nishio
- Tonight's program was started by Ernie Lee on Computers and Stamp Collecting. Great program Ernie.
- Live Auction
- Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

November 9, 2004

Meeting called to order by President Ed Rodriguez at 8:00pm.

Discussion:

- Kristin Patterson talked about "The Lost Stamps" Book mentioned at the last meeting. We will be ordering a few but she needs members to look for US stamps #230-775 range to use with the books during PENPEX.

- Paul Swierstra mentioned that if anyone is going to the auction at SUNPEX, he has maps.
- Hank Washauer announced that the nominations for officers for next year are: Ed Rodriguez for President; Jim Giacomazzi for Vice President; Darlene Hickok for Secretary; Richard Griffone for Treasurer
- Hank Washauer also announced that he has exhibit forms for PENPEX. See him if you need one.
- Volunteer signup sheets are still going around to sign up for PENPEX weekend. We need your help.
- Banquet dinner tickets are available now. Make checks payable to Hank Washauer, PENPEX Treasurer. See Darlene Hickok for tickets. They are \$25.00 each with choices being Salmon, London Broil w/mushroom sauce and Chicken Cordon Bleu.
- December 15th, Wednesday is our Christmas get-together at the new Sequoia Room meeting place.
- The Executive Board meeting will be November 23rd at 7:00pm here (Community Activities Building) in the Fireside Room.
- Larry Christiansen mentioned that we need to think about topics for presentations next year.
- Raffle of circuit book certificates: \$10 = Chris Thompson, \$5 = Budd Dickinson
- We'd like to welcome Sonia back at the meeting. Nice to see you Sonia!
- Fritz Gelb gave a great presentation on "My Travels and Wanderings with Stamps". Very nice Fritz!
- Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

November 23, 2004

Meeting called to order by President Ed Rodriguez at 8:00pm.

Discussion:

- Christmas Party December 15th in the Sequoia Room at the new meeting place, 711 Nevada Street.
- We'd like to welcome guests tonight: Claude Godcharles collects Canada and Wally Martino collects Argentina
- Slate of officers: Ed Rodriguez – President; Jim Giacomazzi – Vice President; Darlene Hickok – Secretary; Richard Griffone – Treasurer
- Voted and seconded, unanimously passed. Congratulations new officers!

- Fritz Gelb said he has a couple sheets of the Elvis Souvenir Sheets for sale.
- Kristin said a few words about the youth group at PENPEX and how we plant a seed about stamp collecting. They may not be too interested now and may put the love of collecting aside for awhile, but later in life they will remember what they learned and may get interested again.
- Jim Mosso talked about the silent auction and passed around a potential auction item list. He said they are full and some lots may have to be pulled. He has about 565 lots. WOW!
- Raffle of circuit book certificates: \$10 = Jack Drach; \$ 5 = Budd Dickinson (lucky Budd)
- In place of a presentation tonight, Ed Rodriguez went over the brainstorming ideas from the beginning of the year.
- A list will be typed up later, but just to mention a few ideas:
 - Name tags – teepees; Introductions once a quarter on Executive Board Meeting nights;
 - What do you collect – can be a list;
 - Advertise to younger clubs;
 - Stamp Swap Program – currently there is one in Foster City which meets on the 3rd Saturday from 1-3pm.;
 - Kiloware Program – Fritz Gelb will start a list going around to list what people are interested in;
 - Contacting no-shows – hold this for Paul Swierstra;
 - Flea Market – Ernie Lee will research;
 - Better communication – updated roster;
 - Yearbook – Aldo Pech and Bill Dutcher;
 - Live auction every two months;
 - Quarterly Newsletter
- Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Hickok, Secretary



January/February USPS Releases

- Lunar New Year, 1/6
- Black Heritage: Marian Anderson, 1/26
- Ronald Reagan, 2/9
- Love Bouquet, 2/18
- Spring Flowers, 3/3

Sequoia Officers

Ed Rodriguez – President
 Jim Giacomuzzi – Vice President
 Darlene Hickok – Secretary
 Richard Griffone – Treasurer

Stamp Chatter Staff

Editor: Ed Bierman
Distribution: Paul Swierstra



Popularity of Vatican Mail

It is reported that the Italian Postal Service leaves so much to be desired that it has fostered a new postal statistic.

It seems that Romans now trust the Vatican City postal service more than the Italian government for delivering their mail.

Vatican City holds the record for **more mail per inhabitant each year**, than from any other postcode in the world. Last year it handled about 6 million items or 7200 per inhabitant. That is calculated by the population of the Vatican of about 833.

For its part, the Italian postal system handled 3.6 billion pieces of mail last year, or about 109 per person. This means that many Italians are trusting the Vatican with their mail. It is often reported that people in Rome often cross themselves when they drop their mail into a post box.

Submitted by Paul S.



Penpex A Success

Below are some thoughts and reviews of Penpex 2004 — we received positive feedback from dealers and attendees.

Comments from Exhibits Chairman: Wow, the Show ran SO smoothly -- I kept waiting for something to go wrong! We must be doing something right; there were so many positive comments from attendees and dealers. Vesma

Can you pass on my thanks to the Penpex committee for another great show. I was very surprised to receive the Reserve Grand award as this was the first time this exhibit has been in any type of competition. Many thanks for the Crystal Platter as the award. I hope to exhibit next year with something new. (Probably something a little more fun) I really enjoy this show due to the high quality of exhibits, a diverse set of dealers and a friendly well organized committee. Take care and see you in March. Andrew Urushima

Exhibit Awards for Penpex 2004

GRAND: Gold Rush Days, Dennis Hassler

RESERVE GRANDS:

Single Frame: The Olympic Jubilee – Lausanne 1944, Andrew Urushima

Multi-Fame: Imperial Railroad Cancells of the Trans-Siberian Railroad Chelyabinsk to Chita, Dr. Ed Laveroni

SPECIAL AWARDS:

APS CERTIFICATE: Gold Rush Days, Dennis Hassler

AAPE SILVER PIN: Switzerland 1949 Engineering and Landscapes Issue, Bruce Marsden

Sweden: Charter Sigillata 1844-1880, Joe Ross

ATA AWARDS: Flags of the United States, Tom Klein

UNITED STATES STAMPS SOCIETY: From Chaos to Order: the 5 Cent UPU Rate, John Sumpter

FAVORITIE FILATELIC FINDINGS: Postal Souvenirs from the 1901 Pan-American Fair in Buffalo, New York, Ed Bierman

Peninsula Club Page



The Peninsula Stamp Club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM , with the exception of one month off for summer and one month off for Christmas. We meet at the Villa Cafe, 4000 S. El Camino, San Mateo. This is a dinner meeting with a charge of \$15, and is followed by an invited speaker. The topics are selected to include as many aspects of philately as possible. The meeting is open to all whether or not the person is a member of the club. However, membership is encouraged.

It is helpful to have information as to who will be attending. For contacting or additional information use 650 343-5195 or e-mail at labpath@aol.com. Paul Ortega and Vesma Grinfelds are officers who are available for assistance. Our club has been a member of the American Philatelic Society for over 50 years, and we are most interested in its success.

Stamps R Us

With the closing of the Schaeberg Library, I have had to re-think the Stamps R Us Beginner's/Youth Club Program for lack of a meeting place and attendance. Before the library closed, we had a hard time getting beginners to attend due to the fact that there are just too many things to do in the Bay Area for youth.

We need, however, to promote philately and so it has been decided to try a new mail program this year. With the help of Kristin Patterson's expertise, we will keep in contact with youth and older beginners through letters. While it looks like the mail program will be mostly youth participants, I don't want to exclude older beginners that might be homebound that can benefit from a mail program. Please keep that in mind when recruiting.

During the year, each member will receive a packet of stamps to search and a packet of stamps to soak. They will be sent how-to information and fun projects during the year that they can earn points for when completed. When they return to PENPEX in December, they can redeem their points for prizes. If they cannot attend PENPEX then they can choose their prize from a list through the mail.

During the PENPEX weekend we had a record 21 youth visit. I enrolled 7 of those as new members because of the mail program. We now have 13 members in the Stamps R Us Program. The hidden images were a favorite during the PENPEX weekend along with stamp searching and stamp soaking. The album Kristin ordered this year, "The Lost Stamps" was a hit and I believe 2 were given out to the more serious collectors. Because kids were in and out at different times, we couldn't get the game, "Patriot Challenge" started very well. It was donated to us by the owner, Christine Nelson.

Darlene Hickok, Youth/Beginner Coordinator

The Caboose

Special Notice

The Required January General
Committee Meeting For Penpex

Will Be Held On
Saturday, January 22, 2005
10:00 AM

It will be a breakfast meeting at the
Waterfront Restaurant
1 Ucelli Blvd
Redwood City CA
(The Same Place We Had The Banquet)

Agenda will consist of discussing the
2004 show and the nominations and
election of officers for 2005.

Hank Washauer
Secretary



| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Officers | |
| Co-Chair | Bill Dutcher |
| Co-Chair | Ed Rodriguez |
| Co-Chair | Darlene Hickok |
| Secretary/ Treasurer | Hank Washauer |
| | |
| Activity Chairs | |
| Program/ Graphics | Ed Bierman |
| Mailing List | Ed Bierman |
| Set-up | Don Freeman |
| Bourse | Tony De Angelis |
| Registration Desk | Darlene & Hank |
| Exhibits | Vesma Grinfelds |
| Youth Center | Kristin Patterson |
| Awards | Paul Ortega |
| Judges | Vesma Grinfelds |
| Seminars | Ed Rodriguez |
| Cachets/ Cancels | Miriam Thurston |
| Banquet | Mary Thomason David Hodgson |
| Public Rela- tions | Hank Washauer |
| Silent Auction | Jim Mosso |
| Frames | Don Freeman |
| Snack Bar | Tom Klein/ Fritz Gelb |
| Dealer Lunches | Robin Gorday |

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Visit us at
www.penpex.org
ed@biermans.com

Many Thanks for Penpex Help

As one of the Co-Chairs, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for another great job this year. It couldn't have happened without your dedication and time. Everything was a success.

- Ed Bierman's **program** was a delight again. I know you spent many hours on your project that includes too many things to list here.
- Hank, my partner, thank you for putting in extra time at the **Registration Desk** and thank all that volunteered for a time slot and beyond (Don Freeman, Larry MacKallor, Eve Santos, Michael Leippe, Ernie Lee, Paul Ortega, Ed Rodriguez, Ed Bierman, Fritz Gelb, Bill Dutcher and anyone I might have missed).
- The **Youth Center** was well organized **Kristin**. Thank you for putting in so much time there. I would also like to thank your helpers - Sonia, Katherine, Natasha and Holly - they all did a great job.
- **Tom Klein and his daughter, Sheila**, did a marvelous job with the **snack bar**. I hear the egg salad was a hit this year. Thank you **Fritz** and your wife for getting the egg salad and tuna salad prepared.
- Once again, the **dealers** were very happy with their **lunches** which Robin Gorday organized without a hitch. Thank you Robin for your help again this year.
- The **Banquet Dinner** was very nicely organized thanks to Mary Thomason and David Hodgson. Much better on the top floor.
- The **raffle** was fun this year. A big "thank you" goes out to all donors and especially the Hickok boys for cutting slots in all the raffle can lids. Next year we definitely need a "ticket hustler" that can walk around. Thank you Paul! Ortega for your support in helping with the raffle. A special "thank you" goes out to Tony DeAngelis who came through when I really needed him.

~Darlene