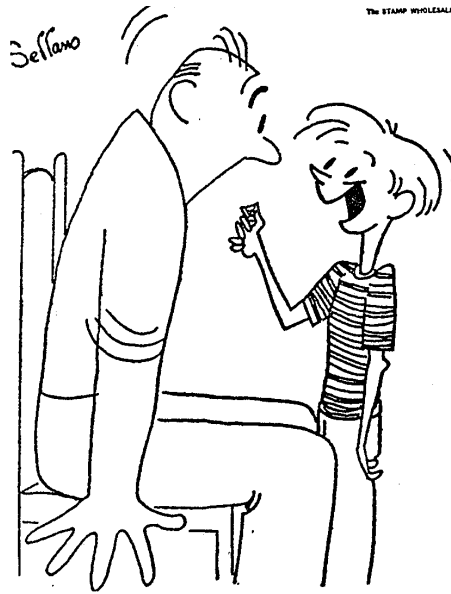


UnHinged...Hap E. Nuyear



Scifano
 "Oh, those old stamps! I threw them out - they were used already!"



Scifano
 "Remember your stamp with the misspelled word on it? I swapped it for a good one!"

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Stamp Chatter

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January/February
 2008

Newsletter of the Sequoia Stamp Club, Redwood City

From the President

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy new year. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday, and that you have recovered from your family gatherings and from your New Year's Eve celebration and the bowl games that seem to be proliferating more each year. This might be a good time to look back over the highlights of 2007 for the Sequoia Stamp Club, and to look ahead to see what 2008 holds.

I would say that 2007 was a very successful year for our club. Our membership numbers are over 100, and we are averaging a turn-out of approximately 35-40 members per meeting. That says a lot about us, especially when the membership of so many other clubs is in a decline. Thanks to our program chair Ernie Lee and VP Ed Rodriguez, we have had some excellent presentations this past year. Both the live auctions and the silent auctions continue to be very popular among our members.



A big thanks is due Bill Dutcher who so ably managed the silent auction over the past few years. The sales books that are so ably managed by Jim Mosso are an effective way for members to acquire and dispose of a variety of material. Let's not forget about the social events such as the club picnic, pizza party, and holiday party that everyone enjoyed so much. We continue to have a great relationship with the Redwood City Recreation Department, especially the community center at Red Morton. A large part of the credit for this goes to Hank Washauer who is so proficient at community relations and giving us positive pr. Financially, under the guidance of our treasurer Richard Griffone the club is doing well. Thanks to donated items, our youth budget is at an all time high. The Penpex stamp show, with Kristin Patterson at the helm, was just held in December and was a resounding success. In order to be successful, a show like Penpex depends on the dedicated efforts of all the club members. We can all be proud of the show, and I sincerely thank all the members for their hard work.

President's Message - Continued on Page 2

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Upcoming Meetings

January 8
 Installation of Officers
 Past President's
 Exhibit

January 22
 Swap Meet

February 12
 Live Auction

February 26
 Film

March 11
 To Be Announced

I have very positive feelings as the club goes into 2008, which will be our 61st year. The current slate of officers will continue in office for another year, and I would be remiss not to salute Ed Rodruguez, Darlene Hickok, Richard Griffone, and all the other appointed offices and standing committee chairmen for their excellent work this year. Ernie Lee continues to publish our club newsletter, which is getting rave reviews from all the members. We already have some good programs on tap with Presidents' exhibits and a swap meet for January. I have a suggestion for your new year's resolution: Get more involved with the club. Give a program, volunteer for a position, or head up a committee for next year's Penpex. A huge need for the Sequoia Club is for someone take over the position of Youth Director. We have kids, we have material, and we have a healthy budget; what we don't have is someone with energy to step up and assume the leadership role. It is a rewarding job, and one that will pay great dividends to the future of our hobby.



So I wish a happy Year of the Rat to all. Let's be pleased with the accomplishments of our club this past year, and vow to make 2008 even better. And may this be the year that you find that one item that you have been looking for to complete your album page, your topic, your country, or your exhibit. Happy Hunting!

Jim Giacomazzi
President, Sequoia Stamp Club

Dear PENPEX Attendees;

By all accounts the PENPEX show was once again a wonderful event. I heard this from veteran dealers and attendees as well as from first time exhibitors. The credit goes to all the volunteers and dealers that work preparing for and at the show.

It has been a delight working with so many dedicated people who did much prep work before the show started on December 1. Volunteers worked on acquiring dealers and payments, advertising, updating the website, creating the show cachets and cancels, purchasing the snack bar food and donuts, sorting and arranging auction lots, ordering tables, getting new exhibits, making reservations for the banquet, selling banquet tickets, scheduling meetings, assigning volunteers to tasks, and telling everyone they knew about the event.

Then the Friday before the show, the Redwood Community Activity Center allowed us to come in at 11 am to start setting up. With the tables and exhibit frames delivered by noon, the setup began shortly after noon. This meant that by 5 pm 90% of the setup was done and the show signs were displayed at the street. This made dealer move in extremely easy. To my surprise we had volunteers showing up at 5, who were greatly disappointed that they had missed the setup. This definitely shows the willingness of our group to help out. But we still had dealer who needed help as well as exhibits to mount.

During the show, we had volunteers working the front desk, selling show cachets, working the snack bar, making and delivering lunches to the dealers and judges, help at the youth area, running the silent auction (and closing the auction at 2:30 so that winners could pick up their lots by 3:30,) administrating the Saturday night banquet, and people willing to answer questions of the attendees. I must add here a special thanks to Robert Martin who came up on a last minute request from Gilroy both days to assist with the Youth Area. He did a wonderful job and we are grateful for his expertise and assistance.

Once the show ended at 4:00 pm on Sunday, volunteers had the exhibit frames dismantled and collapsed, tables folded, snack bar cleaned up, auction closed and packed up, youth area boxed up, dealers moved out, and the facility put back the way it was found by 5:30 pm. This is only possible with the hard work of many (more than 20) volunteers. Thank you all for help throughout the show.

I sent out to all the dealers a feedback form asking if they enjoyed the show. I got many replies that it was a great show (some said best ever) and that they would like to come back next year. One dealer was so pleased with the business, that they made a donation to PENPEX of \$200.

A reminder that all expenses should be submitted immediately to the Treasurer, Bill Dutcher so that a final report can be made. Also, all committee chairs should prepare their reports for the meeting on January 12. If you cannot attend, please email me your report.

As special thanks, all volunteers are invited to attend the PENPEX wrap-up meeting on Saturday, January 12, 2008 @ 10 am at Fresh Choice in Redwood Station. At the meeting, we will announce the final treasurer's report and committee reports. Following the meeting will be brunch paid for by PENPEX.

Kristin Patterson
2007 PENPEX Chair

The Caboose



PENPEX COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Kristin Patterson
Vice-Chairperson	Ernie Lee
Secretary	Hank Washauer
Treasurer	Bill Dutcher
Sequoia Pres.	Jim Giacomazzi
Peninsula Pres.	Paul Ortega
Program/Graphics	Ed Bierman
Mailing List	Darlene Hickok
Facility	Kristin Patterson
Setup	Eduardo Martino
Bourse	Kristin Patterson
Registration Desk	Ernie Lee
Youth Center	Darlene Hickok
Exhibits	Vesma Grinfelds
Awards	Paul Ortega
Judges	Vesma Grinfelds
Frames	Open
Seminars	Ed Rodriguez
Cachet Program	Hank Washauer
Cachet/Cancels	Miriam Thurston
Banquet	Joan Doherty
Raffle	Darlene Hickok
Public Relations	Hank Washauer
Silent Auction	Jim Mosso
Snack Bar and Dealer Lunches	Open
Security/Insurance	Bill Dutcher
Welcome Area	Ernie Lee

Swap Meet

Open to Everyone
Buy • Sell • Trade
Tuesday, January 22
Tables are 50¢ and \$1
Call Ernie for more information
at (650) 455-1710

Sequoia Stamp Club Meeting Summaries

November 27, 2007

Redwood City Community Activities Building

Meeting called to order by President Jim Giacomazzi at 8:00pm.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Giacomazzi on November 27, 2007 at 8PM in the Community Activities Building.

There were 35 people present.

The President gave a report on the Executive Committee meeting.

Ernie Lee says he always welcomes articles and pictures for the newsletter, the more the better but try to email the material to Ernie Lee airptg@pacbell.net.

Report on PENPEX given all set including Banquet.

Motion to sent \$50.00 to the Western Philatelic Library to be used for binding S/D/P.

There will be a vote on revised by laws in January.

Drawing held, Kristin Patterson and Jose Lopez winners.

Ed Rodriguez is ordering DVDs for future programs.

November 11, 2008 will be our Pizza Party.

Election held and results as follows: Jim Giacomazzi, President, Ed Rodriguez, Vice President, Darlene Hickok, Secretary, Richard Griffone, Treasurer.

Meeting adjointed at 845PM for program by Ernie Lee, Lost Airlines and Silent Auction.

December 11, 2007

Redwood City Community Activities Building

Meeting called to order by Vice President Ed Rodriguez at 8:00pm – Jim Giacomazzi is on vacation

There were 33 in attendance.

The Treasurer gave his report to the club

Norman Licht a guest was introduced. He collects US plate blocks.

The President cautioned the members that we must vacate the facility by 10PM so in order to do this we must adhere to a schedule set up to do so

It was announced there would be a Pizza Party on November 11, 2008.

Fritz Gelb gave a short report on the results of four of his items in a recent Schuyler Rumsey auction

The President announced the following positions are open for 2008:

Silent Auction Director (Pit Boss)

Youth Director

He also announced some overstock soda was available

Hank Washauer of the Nominating Committee announced the following are nominated: Jim Giacomazzi, President, Ed Rodriguez, Vice President, Darlene Hickok, Secretary and Richard Griffone, Treasurer. The slate was elected and will be installed at the first meeting of January.

The drawing was held for the Circuit Books and Silent Auction.

Hank Washauer presented a slide show of PENPEX taken during the show.

There was then a general discussion of the show and comments were as follows: Great Show, Great Snack Bar, Great Exhibits, Great New Frames, and everybody thought that Kristin Patterson did a Great Job coordinating the show.



OLYMPIA, GREECE

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

In October 2007, I traveled to Greece. (See Figure 1.) I went on a one-week tour with a travel group called "Insight Vacations." My tour took me to Olympia, birthplace of the original Olympic games. The remaining ruins of Olympia were almost destroyed recently by arson fires on the hilltops. So, when I visited Olympia, I could see the blackened trees and grass. Workers were cutting down the trees, and smoothing out the land. It was noisy, but then a miracle happened and all got quiet while my tour guide explained the history of Olympia.

In Olympia, lie the ruins of several temples and the gymnasium. (See Figure 2.) The Greeks had a strong religious belief and prayed to the Gods. All rooftops of the buildings are gone, destroyed by time and weather. Much of the still-existing artwork from the temples and gymnasium has since been stored for viewing in the nearby modern archaeological museum.

The athletes needed to train. So, the gymnasium was important for working out and socializing. Since only men were allowed to compete in the Olympics, they would walk around freely without any clothes on. In fact, the Olympics were done in the nude. My tour guide told my group that originally athletes wore clothes, but since clothes were draped around a man's body, it would get in the way or become uncomfortable. In fact, a famous athlete of the time lost an important race when his clothes fell off. Thus, it was decided that men should not wear clothes and that only men attend the Olympics to watch the competitions, while the women remained home to take care of the home and children.

Surrounding the gym area had been statues of famous athletes. (See Figure 3.) Most of these statues have since been destroyed or vandalized with time, but some of them have since been collected in the nearby museum for our modern day viewing. The Greeks had enormous pride in their athletes and enjoyed the beauty of the healthy, strong male body. (See Figure 4)

The actual Olympics were completed on an open field, which I did see on my tour. (See Figures 5 & 6.) While I was visiting, teenagers were running up and down the field, competing with each other for fun. Men would come to the Olympics and sit on the grassy fields to watch the competitions. Only the judges sat on raised platforms. The athletes would compete in running sports, javelin and discus, as well as other sports. (See Figure 7 showing wrestlers competing in the nude.) The competitions were judged and the winners awarded. It meant a lot to a town if your athlete won and would bring great pride to its people.

The basics of the Olympics have not changed in thousands of years. However, today people travel from all over the world to compete in the Olympics in different hosting cities. Greece hosted the modern Olympic games in 2004. The winners receive medal awards, and the sense of pride revolves back to the country and perhaps city or town where the athlete was born.

It was educational seeing the roots of the Olympics in its birthplace of Olympia, Greece. It was also fun to find visions of my vacation on stamps.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5 & 6



Figure 7

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The 2008 PENPEX Committee has many open spaces to fill.

Be a part of a great team!

*Call Ernie at
(650) 455-1710 or (650) 403-0058*

It all happened at...



Pictures courtesy of Hank Washauer



PENPEX 2007