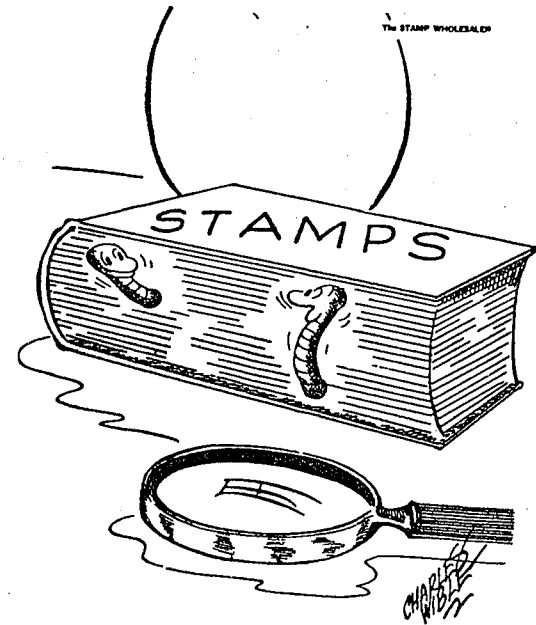


UnHinged...R.U.A. Collector



"Those 1918 European stamps are delicious!"

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"The red in this issue sorta reminds me of the henna in your hair!"

Stamp Chatter

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March/April
2008

Newsletter of the Sequoia Stamp Club, Redwood City

From the President

At a recent Harmer-Schau Auction I purchased a lot that was entitled "Eclectic Group". Webster's dictionary defines "eclectic" as having components



from diverse sources or styles;" in other words, odds and ends from all over the place. I can never resist a lot like this. Along with a few retired sales books with some nice stamps, this



lot also included revenues, telegraph stamps, Christmas seals, charity stamps, poster stamps, labels, stickers, reprints, and probably some forgeries. For example, there is a set from "Lundy", which is an island in the Bristol Channel near England that issued private labels as local stamps that are not listed in the popular catalogues. There are "stamps" issued in the United States for the National Parks Passport Series. There are stamps from around the world to raise



money for children suffering from ill health or physical disabilities. Some of these stamps will be included in my collection as collateral material. I think that adding



some non-catalogue stamps to a collection can make it a little more interesting. Linn's Classified Ads and almost all auction catalogues have a section called "Ephemera" where collectors can purchase paper items other than postage stamps to supplement their collection. Some items can even make an exhibit more appealing.



However, the non-used items can begin to pile up. The Sociable Stamp Society blog entitled "The Fourteen Per Cent Solution" on the Glassine Surfer website comments on this. It talks about the difference between clutter and chaos for a stamp collector.



We all have a closet or attic stuffed with envelopes and boxes of god-knows-what that hasn't been opened in the last four years. The difference between clutter and chaos is that the contents of controlled clutter are known, mentally inventoried, and appreciated,

President's Message - Continued on Page 2

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Upcoming Meetings

March 11
South of the Border -
Jim Giacomazzi

March 25
Stamps, Rocks
& Minerals -
Cathy Phalen

April 8
Live Auction

April 22
APS Guest Speaker -
Dennis Gilson

May 13
Collections That Might
Be Shunned By
Christie's & Sotheby -
Hank Washauer

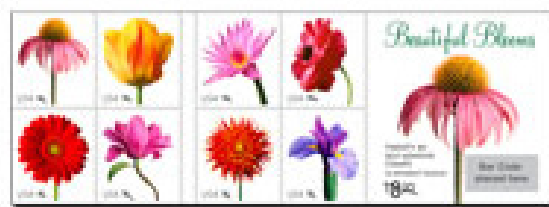
while chaos is a messy frenzy of unknowns. Clutter can be considered the backroom of our collections, where collectors go to play. On the other hand, chaos is a swamp of homeless ephemera, postal history, maxim cards, curios, and stamp show impulses. We all have a certain amount of chaos mixed among the controlled clutter of our stamp collections.



It is the ratio that is important. A certain amount of personal collection chaos is healthy. A totally controlled collection is boring, but if it gets out of hand, the

chaos can become overwhelming. According to the Glassine Surfer the ideal ratio of clutter to chaos in a collection is 7:1. That's eighty-six percent clutter to fourteen percent chaos. Go look at your closet of boxes, envelopes, and drawers of stamps and assess your ratio. If you are way off target, it may be time to sort and sell. I'm going to go check now. This last purchase of mine may just have put me over the limit.

Jim Giacomazzi, President, Sequoia Stamp Club



Beautiful Blooms, Doublesided Booklet of 20, Available from the USPS.

APS Seminar at WESTPEX 2008

The WESTPEX 2008 Stamp Show, which will be held on April 25-27, 2008 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel, will host a special seminar by the American Philatelic Society for collectors of the United States Washington - Franklin issues. This will be an intensive two-day course to help in the identification of the issue.

The course will be led by Dennis Gilson of the APS, on April 23 and 24 at the show site, to learn how to identify the 2 and 3 cent types, of which there are more than 200 varieties, and how to recognize fakes and forgeries. Although there are no prerequisites to take the course, some understanding about perforations, watermarks, printing methods and papers as described in the Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalog would be helpful.

The course, which will include resource material for participants, costs \$195 for APS members and \$295 for non-members. More information is found in the November issue of The American Philatelist, page 1021, at a link on the WESTPEX web site www.westpex.com, or at the APS web site, www.stamps.org. Registration forms are located at the sites and the journal.

The 2008 WESTPEX show will host COPAPHIL, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group, the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, and the Ethiopian Philatelic Society. This is a World Series of Philately show with a 5000+ page exhibition, 75 national and international stamp and postal history dealers, Schuyler Rumsey Auction, meetings and seminars, Awards banquet, Youth area, Western Philatelic Library and the U.S. Postal Service, the premier stamp show on the West Coast.

Why Hurry?

Commuting is a neccessity for many of us. I usually travel about fifteen minutes a day from home to work. Some days it becomes twice as long if the the freeway gets jammed with cars. I have noticed ants crawling faster than my car. This is just to travel 10 miles.

One day while slugging it out in traffic, it dawned on me that I have a better way....a wheelchair!. I could actually push my way to work faster than I can drive. Just imagine rolling down the highways in between the lanes of cars and all these heads turning at you staring with envy! Whoa! What was that...that just flew by?

A wheelchair is a great alternative form of transportation. It is environmentally friendly. Has great mileage...100 miles to the push...and does not need an oil change, tune-up or even a smog certificate. The wheelchair overall will last about ten years with only twenty dollar tire changes every two years. It is a money saver. Try that with your gas guzzling horseless carriage.

We have carpool lanes, bus lanes, and bike lanes. We need a wheelchair lane. The wheelchair lane does not need as much room as bikes because wheelchairs don't need all that room for balancing. If a bike ever collided with a wheechair, guess who would win? The wheelchair! A wheelchair has four wheels and a bike only has two. With a titanium frame, a wheelchair is indestructable.

What does this have to do with stamp collecting? Stamp collecting is a hobby to be enjoyed one stamp at a time. We have the most relaxing time at PENPEX. It's a wonderful place to meet and make new friends. PENPEX is like fine wine, it must be sipped slowly to enjoy!

So I hope you get the chance to come and enjoy PENPEX 2008. Afterall, it sure beats sitting in a traffic jam.

Ernie Lee
2008 PENPEX Chair

PENPEX
December 6 and 7, 2008

The Caboose



PENPEX COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Ernie Lee
Vice-Chairperson	Ed Bierman
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
Exhibits	Vesma Grinfelds
Awards	Paul Ortega
Judges	Vesma Grinfelds
Frames	Open
Seminars	Ed Rodriguez
Cachet Program	Hank Washauer
Cachet/Cancel	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

Sequoia Stamp Club Honors 2008 Officers and Past Officers



Sequoia Stamp Club 2008 Officers,
L to R, Ed Rodriguez Vice President, Jim Giacomazzi
President, Richard Griffone Treasurer,
Darlene Hickok Secretary



Sequoia Stamp Club Past Presidents
L to R, John Dusel, Hank Washauer, Jim
Giacomazzi, Ed Rodriguez, Kristin Patterson
attending the Installation of Officers 2008.

Sequoia Stamp Club Meeting Summaries

February 12, 2008

Redwood City Community Activities Building

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

Guests/Membership: Hank Washauer read a letter from-Lauren Singh who would like to become a member.

Correspondence: Hank Washauer has correspondence about Coalpex. This year they are sponsoring a “women only” philatelic exhibition and dealers’ bourse. If you are a woman and would like to exhibit please see the Secretary, Darlene Hickok for an application form. This exhibition will be held June 14-15 at the Walnut Creek Civic Park Assembly Hall in Walnut Creek. Hank also received numerous newsletters from a few clubs which have been given to our Librarian, Leroy Harbaugh. If you would like to read them please see Leroy. Kristin Patterson read a letter from the Community Activities Center thanking PENPEX for our generous donation.

Committee Reports: Our treasurer, Richard Griffone announced that dues are due now - \$3.00 Jim Mosso announced we have new sales books – check them out!

New PENPEX slate:

President – Ernie Lee

Vice President – Ed Bierman

Treasurer – Bill Dutcher

Secretary – Hank Washauer

Announcements for the Good of Philately: Sad news that Catharine Dusel passed away February 1st. A moment of silence was honored. Our prayers and thoughts are certainly with John and his family. Jim Sauer discussed the Filatelic Fiesta coming up March 7-9, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Parking is \$8.00 but with a receipt you will receive a \$5.00 voucher for any vendor. See Jim Giacomazzi if you are interested in purchasing covers. Reminder that the Executive Board Meeting is February 26th before our next meeting at 7:00pm.

Old Business: Darlene Hickok will continue as the Youth Chairman and has announced that we now have a Youth Team. A big thank you goes out to John Inglis, Richard Coleman and Leroy Bertsch for stepping up and helping to keep this program alive. Hopefully we will also have a writer joining the team soon.

New Business: Jim Giacomazzi has called for volunteers to join the Youth Activities Team. Please see Darlene Hickok for further information and to signup. Miriam Thurston said that Novapex is looking for exhibitors. If you are interested please let her know or let Vesma Grinfelds know.

Raffle Drawing: 1st Drawing was won by Hank Washauer 2nd Drawing was won by Ed Morey

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm to proceed into live auction.

February 26, 2008

Redwood City Community Activities Building

Meeting called to order by President Jim Giacomazzi at 8:02pm

Committee Reports: Our Treasurer, Richard Griffone gave a Treasurer Report that was previously accepted by the Executive Board. Ernie Lee suggested that a few members add a 10-15 talk to the Events Calendar talking about their collections. This would mean that the Event could consist of 2 members talking about their interests per event. Sounds good! Darlene Hickok reported that the new Beginners Club is still moving forward and pieces are coming together before a meeting is scheduled.

Highlights of the Executive Board Meeting: Reports were given by the Treasurer and the new budget was motioned and seconded and therefore accepted as stated. It was also mentioned that our Tax Form 990 has been filed, Beginners Chairman, Librarian, Sales Chairman, Program Chairman, Membership Chairman and PENPEX Chairman. Sequoia Club flyer was finalized and a half sheet with a membership application on the second half. This should be ready to have on hand at the Filatelic Fiesta Show. There was a discussion on having our annual Pizza Party moved from June to November 11th when the CAB will be closed for our regular meeting night. We will keep a handler and a collector when the live auction takes place. It is working out very well.

Old Business: The Filatelic Fiesta is March 7-9 and Ernie Lee is getting a Sequoia Club flyer ready that will have information about our club on the top half and a membership application on the bottom half.

New Business: Jim Mosso mentioned the article in Linn’s about the new State Revenue Catalog. A show of hands told us a few members are interested, but after a motion was moved and seconded for the Exec Board to purchase the catalog at about \$70 proved not to pass. Miriam Thurston said that she will showcase at the main Redwood City Library in November and invited the Beginners Club to be present. Ernie Lee said that the State of PENPEX is good and that an Executive Board meeting is scheduled on March 11th at 7:00pm before the regular Sequoia Club meeting. This is NOT a committee meeting. Jim Giacomazzi tossed out an idea to the members about having a survey and sending it out. More about this to come later.

Announcements for the Good of Philately: Paul Swierstra announced the FRESPEX Show in Clovis on March 15-16. For more information call 559-431-5013. Mark your calendars to attend WESTPEX April 22-27 in Burlingame at the Marriott Hotel. Call 415-387-1016 for additional information. Jim Giacomazzi has a couple of shoeboxes full of BOB items of interest for sale. See him before it’s all gone.

Raffle Drawing: 1st Drawing was won by Jim Giacomazzi 2nd Drawing was won by Jose Lopez.

Sequoia Stamp Club Meeting Summaries

January 8, 2008

Redwood City Community Activities Building

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

Guests/Membership: No guests this evening but Norman Richt was voted in unanimously as our newest member. Congratulations Norman and forgive me if I have made a mistake in your name.

Committee Reports: Jim Mosso said that sales books are on sale; 3 for \$1.00 or .35c each. Our treasurer, Richard Griffone announced that dues are due now - \$3.00. Ernie Lee told us there are a lot of openings on the event calendar. Sign up to tell us about your collection

Announcements for the Good of Philately: Recent newspaper articles in the Chronicle included a 2008 list of stamps coming out and an article about the inverted Jenny selling for \$825,000. The Great American Stamp Expo is coming up January 19-20 at Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose. For more information go online at www.stampexpos.com.

Old Business: Ernie Lee reminded us that the swap meet is coming up January 22nd which is our next meeting. Ernie is renting tables starting now.

New Business: Hank Washauer will swear in the new officers this evening. The slate for 2008 is:

President – Jim Giacomazzi

Vice President – Ed Rodriguez

Treasurer – Richard Griffone

Secretary – Darlene Hickok

Jim Giacomazzi talked about needing a Youth Chairman. A team is really needed to carry on the youth program. Kristin Patterson announced that a PENPEX Committee meeting will be held at Fresh Choice in Redwood City’s Sequoia Station at 10:00am on January 12th. Please RSVP to Hank Washauer.

Raffle Drawing: 1st Drawing was won by Ernie Lee, 2nd Drawing was won by (maybe Ray Boller)

Tonight we are honored to hear from our past President’s with our Past President’s Exhibit. Kristin Patterson presented “Playing Cards”. It is always interesting to hear Kristin talk about these gems. John Dusel discussed “Earl’s Court Stamp Show”. This is where he purchased railroad stamps and got a line pair from the middle sheet. An 1830 issue. John is a wonderful speaker. Hails from Stanford you know! Paul Swierstra told us a true story about when he was in Paris getting cancellations from different post offices. Ask him about it – very enlightening story.

Hank Washauer shared with us some nice covers. Ed Rodriguez gave a presentation on the Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Whew....! Great presentation as always from Ed.

January 22, 2008

Redwood City Community Activities Building

Meeting called to order by President Jim Giacomazzi at 8:04pm

Guests/Membership: No guests

Correspondence: We received a \$900 check from PENPEX. Thank you PENPEX Executive Board for honoring the Sequoia Members for their hard work during this fun show.

Committee Reports: Jim Mosso said that sales books are on sale; 3 for \$1.00 or .35c each. Our treasurer, Richard Griffone announced that dues are due now - \$3.00. Ernie Lee told us there are a lot of openings on the event calendar. Sign up to tell us about your collection

Announcements for the Good of Philately: Something of interest to research further is the Harmer-Schau Auction at Orcopex. See Jim Giacomazzi for further details. Jim Sauer discussed the Filatelic Fiesta coming up March 7-9, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Miriam Thurston announced another show that is the first weekend in March called Novapex in the Shasta area.

Old Business: We need to vote on a By-Laws change to reduce the time it takes for membership cancellation for non-payment of dues from 9 months down to 6 months. This unanimously passed.

New Business: Jim Giacomazzi has called for volunteers to join the Youth Activities Team. Please see Darlene Hickok for further information and to signup.

Raffle Drawing: 1st Drawing was won by Ryszard Brusilo. 2nd Drawing was won by Alain Ridard

Meeting adjourned to proceed into swap meet.

*Stamp Collectors
Stick Together*

*If you have something
interesting to share,
why not write about it
for the Stamp Chatter?*



Chess Game

By Marsha Brandsdorfer



While at a stamp show, I found some stamps showing Chess game pieces. I do not think that generally there are many Board games on stamps. The problem is the post office would need permission from a game manufacturer or else it would be causing copyright infringement. Of course, we don't want countries' governments breaking the law!

For instance, a favorite game of mine is Scrabble where I play with an organized Scrabble group almost every Monday night in Palo Alto at Boston Market. Hasbro owns the registered Scrabble trademark, so Hasbro would need to grant permission in order to have their game likeness shown on postage stamps. And if they did give permission, they would probably want to share in the profits governments would make on selling the stamps.

However, Chess on stamps could be a good topical, as many countries do replicate this game on postage stamps.

Doing a search on the web, I found the below sites, and there are probably more. They show that chess on stamps has been available in numerous countries, including Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Great Britain, France, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Tonga, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Viet Nam, and Yugoslavia. For more details, see:



- <http://www.trussel.com/stamps/cheslist.htm>
- http://www.trussel.com/f_stamps.htm
- <http://www.tri.org.au/chess/>
- <http://www.queensac.com/chesstampintro.html>
- <http://www.mkgraphic.com/chess.html>

When I lived in New Orleans, I met my friend Charles who worked in a dusty used bookstore on Royal Street in New Orleans. However, when the owner moved the bookstore uptown to the tip of Magazine Street, Charles and I found an old chess set. The board was made of wood, but the chess pieces were of simple black and white plastic. We would sit in the bookstore for hours chatting and playing chess with this old set. Occasionally, a customer entered the store and interrupted our game. Rarely did anyone buy anything. The customer would seem more curious about our chess game and us than any book in the store. We provided some warm coffee and sometimes the customer would spend some time with us chatting before leaving us to continue our game.



Many of the moves I learned by playing Chess with Charles, I would have to relate to in my life. Recently I was fired from my job. My office manager as the strong opponent Queen, hated me, and went in for the attack. I saw it coming and guarded myself with as many pawns as I could, but she was sneaky and found a square I hadn't seen. She knocked over my Bishop and she was up against me. But, I as the King knew I had played a good game, so although I had lost, I left the office proudly with my dignity still intact. Coincidentally, I had been working for a law firm, which specialized in patent litigation and copyright infringement matters.

Beginner/Youth News



Sequoia Stamp Club recognizes that a person is never too old to start the hobby of stamp collecting. This is why a committee has been formed headed by Darlene Hickok as Chairperson to work in getting people of all ages involved in Stamp Collecting. Assisting her on the committee will be Rich Coleman, John Inglis, Leroy Bertsch, Joan Doherty and Marsha Brandsdorfer who will write articles for the Beginner/Youth News column in the club newsletter.

The Committee will work throughout the year ending in December at the PENPEX Stamp Show where a room will be dedicated to beginner/youth activities.

Any club member who has ideas to promote collecting among youth or beginners should pass them on to any of the committee members.

Funding Love and Treasures



At Sequoia's Swap Meet