

Stamp



Chatter

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Jan, Feb, Mar, 2015

SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second and fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, at 7:05 pm.

Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

More info at:

www.penpex.org/ssc

Club Officers Elected for 2015

At the meeting on November 25, the Sequoia Stamp Club elected officers for 2015. Craig Butterworth was chosen to be the new president with Jim Giacomazzi as vice-president. John Corwin, Richard Griffone, Kjell Enander, and Jim Mosso were re-elected to their previous positions, Sec., Treas., and two directors, respectively, while Ken Perkins steps in as a new board member.



Above are your Sequoia Stamp Club officers for 2015. Front (l-r): John Corwin (secretary), Craig Butterworth (president), Ken Perkins (board member). Back row: Jim Mosso (board member), Kjell Enander (board member), Jim Giacomazzi (vice president), and Richard Griffone (treasurer).

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2015 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- Jan 13: Inauguration of new officers. Past Presidents' Short Presentations. Silent Auction.
 - Jan. 17-18: Great American Stamp Expo Napredak Hall, San Jose.
- Jan 27: Live Donation Auction. (Governing Board Meeting at 6:00PM - open to all members).
 - Jan 31: PENPEX Brunch 10AM at Sizzler, 1011 Veterans Blvd, RWC.
- Feb 10: "Inca Mailmen" by Ed Rodriguez. Silent Auction.
- Feb 24: [Berlin Airlift - 50th Anniversary First Day of Issue](#) - (Exhibit from Stamporama website). Silent Auction.
- Mar 10: Live Member Auction.
- Mar 24: "Due to the Civil War" by Kristin Patterson. Silent Auction.

Outgoing President's Message



It has been a pleasure serving as Sequoia Stamp Club President. I like the reserved seat, but enjoy even more the people attending the meetings and activities. I have noticed that stamp collectors are passionate people, treat their stamp treasures with care, and enjoy chocolate cake. All things I like. Most of you know, my primary collecting interest is U.S. revenue stamps, especially playing cards, yet you still elected me President. It shows that no matter what we collect, we have more in common than not.

Just to be clear, I will still be active in the hobby. I will continue as SSC membership chair and am scheduled to make a club presentation on March 24. I will be chairing PENPEX Stamp Show which will be held December 5 & 6, 2015. As a WESTPEX Director, I manage their archives. If you collect show memorabilia and are in need of PENEPEX or WESTPEX material, do not hesitate to contact me. Also, if you have donations for either of them, I am happy to take them for the respective show archives. Lastly, but certainly not least, as APS Director-at-large, I will be attending the APS upcoming shows. If you have suggestions that can help the hobby, please tell as I am happy to pass them on.

I am now working on my U.S. 1st Issue "Playing Cards" revenue stamps for an exhibit in the upcoming WESTPEX show. It gives me great delight to organize my material and learn something new about at the same time. I hope everyone takes time to appreciate their material and show it to others. All the best with your collections and enjoy the hunt.— Kristin Patterson

Incoming President's Message



I want to thank you all for offering me the opportunity to provide a service to Sequoia Stamp Club! My membership in SSC has allowed me to enhance both my collection and my stamp knowledge in a very short time. In three years of exposure to the stamp collectors I see twice a month, I have improved my knowledge about stamp valuation, desirability, and history more than in thirty-eight years of collecting. I hope to be a part of bringing that enjoyment to others.

I would not be qualified to manage the meetings if it weren't for the help of those who came before me. Jim Mosso introduced me to the club after a big win at a PENPEX auction. Jim Giacomazzi and Severin Morger came over to take a look at my collection and encourage further participation. Hank Washauer put a vote of confidence in my attendance at CNCSC meetings. Jose Lopez, Mike Donofrio and Gil Goodrich gave me good guidance for my collection. Kristin Patterson has shown me top notch organizational ability. Richard Griffone trusts me with the silent auction accounting. Hank Schoolman even predicted I'd be president in the near future.

My intention is to maintain a program that seems to work. We are financially healthy. We have a good rapport with the Redwood City staff. We have a good sound system with a microphone that allows us all to hear (and which I will use). Importantly, - as I experienced - we continue to be attractive to members. I will do my best to keep the same mix of auctions, programs, and special events. Above all, I will try to convey the enthusiasm and welcome of those who indoctrinated me.— Craig Butterworth

Newsletter Staff: Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Feature Writer & Photographer: Ken Perkins, Cartoon: Miriam Thurston, President's Message: Craig Butterworth, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Printing: John Corwin, and Webmaster: Ed Bierman.

The **Stamp Chatter** is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: www.penpex.org/SSC or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

PENPEX CABOOSE

PENPEX 2014, the 41st show, was again a huge success thanks to the volunteers and participants. We had perfect sunny weather so lots of people attended on Saturday and Sunday and some even attended both days, even though December 2014 may go down as the wettest.



PENPEX had 16 dealers including the USPS who staffed their table both Saturday and Sunday. The USPS also produced two show cancels that were designed by PPX cachet maker, Miram



At left USPS worker, Jean, helping PENPEX Chair Kristin Patterson pick out a cover.

Thurston. The show had 66 exhibit frames. The Awards Banquet was again held at Harry's Hofbrau, that is only four minutes from the Community Activities Building. The awards were presented quickly and everyone enjoyed the hardy German meal with chocolate cake and ice cream for dessert.



PENPEX cachet with red show cancel held by Miriam Thurston with cancel tattoo on her arm.

Congrats to Grand Award winner Robert Rawlins for his "U.S. Navy Battleship Mail During World War I" exhibit.

Again the youth area was active on Saturday, with fun activities and free give-aways for young collectors, some returning from the previous year. The Sequoia Stamps R Us youth program signed up 9 new members. There were also many Boy Scouts and Club Scouts that enjoyed hunting for stamps.



Tara Nemeth helps her son soak stamps while Youth Coordinator Richard Coleman looks for more stamps.



Richard Coleman with Rosie, who was at the show both days and during setup.

The silent auction, run by Jim Mosso and Richard Griffone had lots of bidding activity as people watched their lots as the clock struck 2:30 pm on Sunday. Winners were able to pick up their winning lots by 3:45 pm.

Many thanks to Kjell Enander, Wally Jolliff, Ken Lewetzow, and Chris Thompson for helping at the snack bar. The snack bar again supplied patrons with tasty sandwiches along with the long-time favorites of donuts and cookies.

The show's success could only be accomplished by a hardworking team of 25 philatelists and friends. The setup team lead by Eduardo Martino was on their game with both setup and takedown of the tables and exhibit frames. The team was enjoying

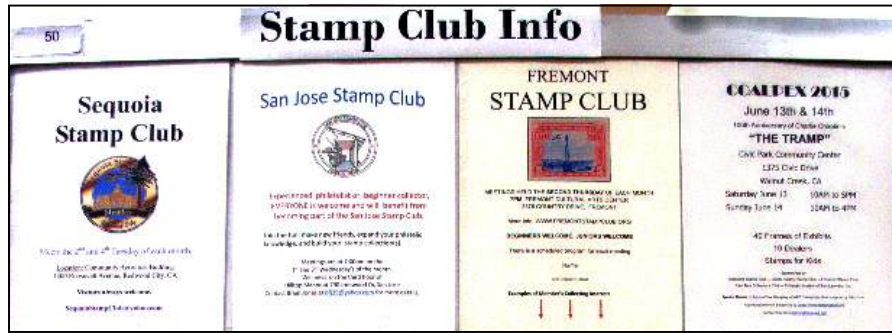
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At right, Wally Jolliff could not be happier than serving cookies to the show attendees.

See more photos and details at www.penpex.org.

Cont' from p.3. a sandwich break by 4 pm. The exhibits were mounted immediately. This year, Sequoia Stamp Club had a fun cover contest. Five of the contest winners showed their winning cover in a non-competitive frame. I hope everyone had a chance to look at this frame. Also, PENPEX had a frame that promoted the local clubs and resurrected COALPEX stamp show.



Title pages of 4-page exhibits on local clubs and COALPEX stamp show.

PENPEX thanks the jury that consists of Henry Marquez, Bob Grosch, and David McNamee for their fine work. There were many great exhibits.

The success of PENPEX is due to the volunteers that run the show. As a thank you, PENPEX is inviting all show volunteers to a 10 am January 31st, wrap-up meeting followed by brunch at Sizzler, 1011 Veterans Blvd, Redwood City. Please RSVP to PENPEX Chair

At right judges, Henry Marquez (l-r) & Bob Grosch discussing the exhibits at the frames with exhibitor Robert Pope.



Exhibits Chair Vesma Grinfelds mounting one of 26 exhibits.



Eduardo Martino with power tool in hand repairs a dealer table.



Kristin Patterson at 408-267-6643 or penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com.

Mark your calendars for PENPEX 2015 on December 5 and 6.

At left, PPX attendees visiting dealers booths like Peter Sargent's (right.)

Thanks to Ken Perkins for taking these great photos.

Howard Hughes

by Marsha Brandsdorfer



Howard Hughes in 1936
New York Times photo.

Howard Hughes had an eccentric personality. Hughes was the richest man of his time, known for his many affairs with celebrities, both male and female. He inherited his riches from his father's successful business, the Sharp-Hughes Tool Company, which supplied parts to oil drilling companies. Hughes' younger years included being a film producer, director, pilot, and inventor.

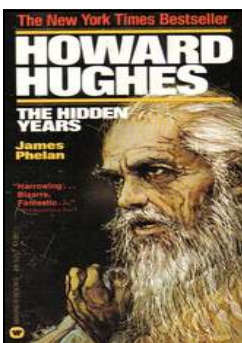
Ironically, as he became older, he became quite removed from society. The last twenty years of his life,

he lived mostly in solitude. He became obsessed with not letting anyone touch him or touch anything around him. He had many assistants, onsite doctors, and cooks, and he also set up many rules for them to follow. He instructed his staff to handle items using Kleenex tissues, and instructed them to do things in a certain orderly fashion, per his precise directions. For instance, if meat was not cut in a certain way, he



On Jan. 19, 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes flew his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., in 7 hours, 28 minutes to set a new transcontinental speed record.

would return it to the kitchen, and refuse to eat it. If he saw a spot on an employee's clothes, he would demand that it be cleaned immediately. It seemed like all the fame, all the responsibility of monetary and business affairs were too much for him. He became paranoid and mistrusting. Although he had precise rules on aspects of his daily life, he couldn't and wouldn't make important business decisions. This made it hard on his on his employees and professional relations to know what to do since Hughes would not instruct them on how to proceed.



Later in his life, he refused to shave, brush his teeth, take a bath, cut his hair or cut his nails. He sat in his own filth, and wouldn't exercise. At the time, no one really understood Hughes' peculiar behavior. Perhaps the only cure for such behavior that would have been considered at the time was a lobotomy. However, today we know that Hughes had a phobia for germs and also suffered from a condition called "Obsessive Compulsiveness." This is a trait wherein an individual must feel control of things around him or her. It is an urgency that may perhaps seem nonsensical to others, but it is

very important to the person with the obsession. Howard Hughes was a genius and with that genius came madness. He died on April 5, 1976 due to kidney failure and dehydration, and died intestate.



Howard Hughes' giant Flying Boat -
Popularly called the Spruce Goose.

Another One Bites the Dust

By Ken Perkins

*And another one gone
And another one gone
And another one bites the dust.*

(lyrics by John Deacon of Queen)

The Globe Stamp store of Oakland. Richard Wolfers in San Francisco. Laurel Stamps in San Carlos. The Stamp Shoppe, with **two** locations: San Carlos and San Mateo. All places where a collector could walk in and actually handle stamps before buying them, or just sit and talk stamps, and all of them gone.

And now, as Freddy Mercury tells us, 'another one bites the dust. This summer, Warren Sankey closed the United States Stamp Company, located at 368 Bush Street in San Francisco. Possibly the last street-level stamp shop in the City, and certainly the oldest; the United States Stamp Company was founded in 1928. Mr. Sankey's father bought it from the founder, and Warren in turn bought it from him in 1980.

When I was working in San Francisco, a walk up to his shop was a fine way to spend part of a lunch hour. He never got rich off of me, but I learned a lot from his knowledgeable employees.

But stamps must have been providing Mr. Sankey with a good living. He owned and drove vintage road racing cars, including a Formula 1 McLaren (think 600 horsepower in a single-seat car weighing about as much as a VW Beetle...you do not handle those with stamp tongs!). On one long ago visit to his shop, I mentioned that I had seen him drive one of his Formula 1 cars at a recent vintage car race. He lamented that the event had seen him blow a gear in the car's transmission. You do not just go down to your local dealer for a new 3rd gear for a vintage F1 car; he was waiting for a new gear to be manufactured for him in England.

Mr. Sankey also at one-time was owner of one of the rarest Ferraris, a 1949 166MM, one of only 25 made. He was also active in San Francisco Bay yachting, at one time owning the ocean-going Yacht *Rowena*, which finished 3rd in class in the 1992 Master Mariners Race in San Francisco Bay.



1949-Ferrari-166-MM-Touring-Barchetta

www.fotos.org/galeria/showphoto.php/photo//89457



United States Stamp Company

(www.yelp.com/biz_photos/)

But, according to a 2011 article in the San Francisco Chronicle, he eventually had to reduce his staff from 8 down to 2: himself and his daughter. And a few years ago I noticed an ad in *Linn's* offering to sell the store. In a brief call to the United States Stamp Company last week, I learned that Mr. Sankey will continue in the stamp business, but the retail store is gone. In fact, like any good dealer, he asked me if I had any stamps to sell, so he will be around. So go visit your local stamp store before the Internet eats them all up. If you can find one.

Winning Covers!!

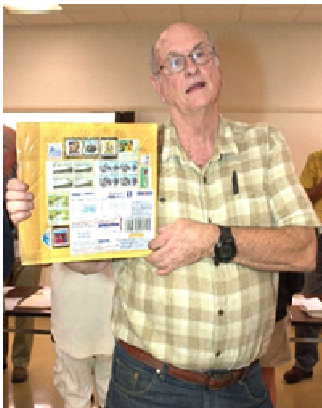
The program at the Tuesday, October 14, 2014 Sequoia Stamp Club meeting was a contest to see who had various categories of covers. It was an opportunity to show other members their material. Shown on this page are photos of some of the club winners with their triumphant cover. The contest had many great entries and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the program.

The categories and winners are as follows:

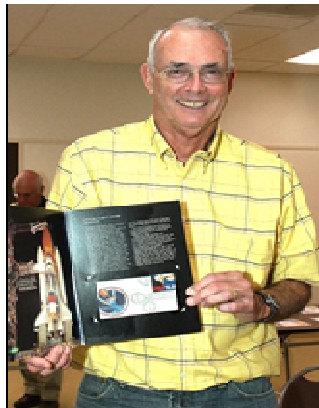
1. **Smallest:** Miriam Thurston (2" x 3")
2. **Largest:** Ken Perkins (258.19 in²)
3. **Most postage stamps:** Mike McGee (44)
4. **Highest face value:** Richard Griffone (\$31)
5. **Oldest:** David Abrahams (1789)
6. **Most postal markings:** David Abrahams (32)
7. **Traveled the furthest:** Jim Giacomazzi won with a cover that traveled over 21 million miles!



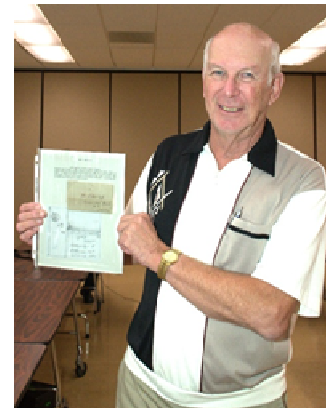
Mike McGee



Richard Griffone



Jim Giacomazzi



David Abrahams

Fraud Alert From APS!

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE BEWARE: An individual or group has been reported to APS as using the name of past APS President, John Hotchner, in a scam requiring a substantial cash deposit (which is then stolen) as basis for help in selling a collection. Members should be on guard against any such offer. There is no circumstance in which a cash deposit for being bonded should be required to sell your collection. Mr. Hotchner is not associated with any commercial venture involved in buying or selling collections, and has no involvement of any sort with this scam.

PLEASE REPORT CALLS AND ANY INFORMATION: We are trying to gather as much information as we can in order to turn this over to the authorities. If you have been contacted by these people, please call the APS at 814-933-3812 or email Complaint Manager Wendy Masorti, wendy@stamps.org, and provide any details you have. And if you have given money to these people, please be sure to contact us and provide details as we can use this information to build a case.



**PHIL A. TELLICK
& SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'**

By Miriam S. Thurston 2014 All Rights Reserved c



THIS JUST MIGHT BE THE SMALLEST ENVELOPE EVER SENT THROUGH THE US POSTAL SYSTEM.
THIS LITTLE ENVELOPE, (2 X 3" IN) NOT ONLY MADE ITS WAY THROUGH THE POST OFFICE ROUTING SYSTEM.
BUT IT CAME AWAY WITH A PARTIAL CANCEL OVER THE POSTED STAMP.
AND "YES" IT SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED TO ITS DESIGNATION!

THE REASON IT GOT THRU IS BECAUSE IT'S A "SHORT" MAIL RUN DELIVERY?



FYI: The letter-size Mail Dimensional Standards with United States Post Office for **MINIMUM** size Envelope and Post Cards are, 3-1/2" x 5", with today's stamp price of 49c and Post Card stamp of 34c.

The **MAXIMUM** Legal size Envelope and Post Cards is, 4-1/4" x 6" still at 49c and Post Card stamp is 34c.

If you ever do mail out a smaller size envelope the PO processing cancel routing system may not be canceled do to the smaller size or may be rejected by the PO, or return to sender or it slip through the cracks or it may end up in the dead letter file ?

If you mail out beyond the maximum letter size envelope then you have to either add extra postage or the post office will probably send it back stating additional postage due \$\$\$!

Note: This USA 15c stamp featuring Dolly Madison may be the '**smallest**' stamp it measures (5-16" x 3/4") inches.

