

Stamp Chatter

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March/April
2005

Newsletter of the Sequoia Stamp Club, Redwood City

From the President

Well our sojourn into different quarters has come to an end! The Club returns to the **old "digs"** newly renovated on the first meeting in March.

Hats off to everyone for bearing-up through the change and its attendant inconveniences. The folks at the Recreation Center did their best in giving good service during their refurbishing period.

Since the first of the year, two of the suggestions made by the membership at our last "Brainstorming" session, have been implemented. The first, making **available place cards** with the members' names was rather easy. Members can better interact with each other and not have to stumble over the awkward name issue.)

The second, providing an accurate **members list** for those who want it has been a little tougher. The problem is a nice one to have. It occurs because we've done a good job in bringing new members on board, which means our lists become obsolete shortly after being published.

We are progressing gang, and I want to thank you all for helping make it happen.

Ed Rodriguez



21st stamp in the Literary Arts series, the U.S. Postal Service honors poet, novelist and educator Robert Penn Warren on the centennial of his birth. This distinguished man of letters was America's first official poet laureate (1986-87) and a three-time recipient of the Pulitzer Prize. He is the only writer, as yet, to win the prize in poetry (Promises: Poems, 1954-1956, in 1958, and Now and Then: Poems, 1976-1978, in 1979) as well as fiction (All the King's Men, 1947). **Releases 4/22.**

Table of Contents

1	From the President
2	Meeting Place 1946 Airmail Stamp
3-4	Meeting Notes
5	Deciduous Forests
6	Peninsula Page Stamps R Us
7	Penpex Caboose

Upcoming Meetings

Event Calendar:

- March 8: Mystery Topic - Hank Washauer
- March 22: Donation Auction - Paul Swierstra
- April 12: Live Auction
- April 26: E-Bay Live Auction Demo - Kristen Patterson
- May 10: Western Airlines - Ernie Lee
- May 24: all About APS & ATA - Bill Dutcher

Sequoia Meeting Place Returns to Community Center

Important Notice

Sequoia Stamp Club
Will Again Meet
At Its Regular Meeting Place
Starting Tuesday, March 8
1400 Roosevelt Avenue
Community Activities
Building
Redwood City, CA

Upcoming Shows

WestPex
April 15-17 2005
San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel

Golden Gate Stamp Fair
May 14 & 15
Novato Oaks Inn
215 Alameda Del Prado
Novato CA

The Skymaster Airmail Stamp



The 1946 airmail stamp featured the venerable DC-4 Skymaster. The DC-4 at the time was a symbol of reliability and speed. The impressive red color alerted postal sort clerks that the letter is airmail and needed to be transported to the nearest airport mail facility.

This stamp heralded one of the most sweeping rate reductions in U.S. Air Mail history. For many letters this reflected a three cent reduction, but for the Territories of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii the reduction was much greater. This was doubly critical, since mail to the territories took weeks to arrive unless sent via air. According to Glass, in some cases this reduction was from as much as 90¢ an ounce!

Nice site with images of U.S. airmail stamps
<http://www.livefromsiliconvalley.com/airmail/airmail.html>



Final version showing
rate increase for airmail
stamps in 1949



Weight reduction was
important in airmail
and the USPS did their
part in this smaller
version in 1947.

Stamp Meeting Note Summary

December 15, 2004

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

Discussion:

- Club finances equal about \$4,899 net worth says Richard Griffone, Treasurer
- Ed Rodriguez said that he thought PENPEX was very successful this year. Silent Auction sold about \$5,400. Youth had a record number of visitors. Miriam Thurston said the caches were a success but she has a surplus.
- Hank Washauer commented that PENPEX couldn't have run better. Darlene Hickok should be commended on her work. Hank Washauer asked about why our club was not in the Redwood City Bulletin and was told because our club is not sponsored by the City or we don't charge as a class someone would sign up for.
- Raffle of circuit book certificates: John Michelin won 1st raffle \$10.00 Dean Mawdsley won 2nd raffle \$5.00
- Upcoming is the installation of officers January 12th and on January 26th
- Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

January 12, 2005

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

Discussion:

- Correction to January/February 2005 Chatter: Page 4 in bulleted list – Aldo Pech should be changed to Aldo Pessagno. Sorry Aldo, can't explain that error.
- Ed Rodriguez printed name cards for all members to place in front of where they sit. Ken Kunz will be responsible for picking them up at the end of each meeting.
- Hank Washauer installed the officers for 2005 as follows: Ed Rodriguez – President, Jim Giacomazzi – Vice President, Richard Griffone – Treasurer Darlene Hickok – Secretary

- Jim Mosso said that the PENPEX sales hit \$5,400 and that around 60% of the lots were pulled because they were unrealistic.
- Hank Washauer mentioned that around the 1st of the year we vote on whether to continue PENPEX. Tonight members voted that we should continue.
- New members present tonight are: Stan Doten from Menlo Park collects US Ray Bolleri from Redwood City collect British and US. Welcome to both of you!
- Raffle of circuit book certificates: Steve Morger won 1st raffle \$10.00 Stuart Phillips won 2nd raffle \$5.00 (thank you for donating this to the youth)
- Richard Griffone announced that club dues of \$3.00 are now due.
- Paul Swierstra told us that the USPS has published 2 books that can be ordered online from prabkin@usps.gov. The books are "U.S. Postal Service. An American History 1775-2002" and "Sources of Historical Information on Post Offices, Postal Employees, Mail Rates and Mail Contractors".
- Paul Also mentioned that with the last chatter mailing, if you noticed alongside where the stamp was placed, there was a notation of the letters A P C and a number. This corresponds to the number on the sheet of stamps. Talk to Paul if you want more details.
- Aldo Pessagno said that Costco sells US postage stamps cheaper than actual cost. Let's go!
- Ed Rodriguez gave a presentation on Planning Strategies in Stamp Collecting. Very informative Ed! Nice presentation.
- Silent Auction ended
- Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

January 26, 2005

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

Discussion:

- Ed Rodriguez is passing around a club roster so members can edit the existing data and add e-mail if they want. Bill

Dutcher will be formatting a new roster soon.

- Ray Bolleri and Stan Doten were nominated as members and was so moved by John Inglis and seconded by Ed Morey. Welcome Ray and Stan.
- Bill Dutcher said he gave a presentation at the San Mateo Senior Center and that only a handful of people were there. Hank Washauer commented that Bill gave a great presentation there.
- Wednesday, February 23rd is the Executive Board meeting at 7pm up above where the Sequoia Room is at the Veteran's Building. This includes committee members.
- John Dusel gave us an interesting short story about his collection and interest in Captain John Cook.
- Kristin Patterson talked about the hidden image program and how you can tell which stamps have a hidden image in the USPS Stamp Philatelic Catalogue by the ? icon within a box by the stamp image. Kristin asked that members help us find some of the stamps that have a hidden image and has sheets that members can take to look for the stamps needed.
- Frank Coltart is a guest tonight. Welcome Frank. We hope you will return.
- Raffle of circuit book certificates: Richard Griffone won 1st raffle \$10.00 John Michelin won 2nd raffle \$5.00 (thank you for donating this to the youth)
- Bill Dutcher announced that he has live auction forms. Please ask him for some if you plan on selling in the live auction. We need to use one form that is the same.
- Ed Bierman gave us a nice presentation on the 1901 World Exposition. Beautifully done Ed! Those inverts were spectacular.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

February 9, 2005

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

Discussion:

- Ed Rodriguez said that the member roster is being bashed again and again. It changes constantly. He has a few copies of what has been done so far and will keep updating and printing to hand out at the meetings.
- We have visitors, Joe and Ivy Allen from Menlo Park. Joe collects US, UN, Ryukyu and Marshall Islands. Welcome and we hope you return.
- Ernie Lee told us that the Events Calendar is being passed around and is that the 2006 calendar is still pretty much empty. Please see him if you need help with any presentation or help with any ideas.
- Paul Swierstra mentioned that Frespex will be held March 12-13 at the Veterans Memorial Bldg., 5th and Hughes Ave., Clovis CA. Contact Dick Richardson, 559-431-5013 for info – Fresno Philatelic Society.
- John Michelin lost a US #24 straight edge stamp at the last meeting. Can everyone please look around your things and see if you have it by chance.
- Raffle of circuit book certificates: Don Freeman won 1st raffle \$10.00, John Dusel won 2nd raffle \$5.00
- The first meeting in March, Hank Washauer is giving a mystery presentation. Wonder what it is?
- Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Hickok, Club Secretary

Sequoia Officers

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

Stamp Chatter Staff

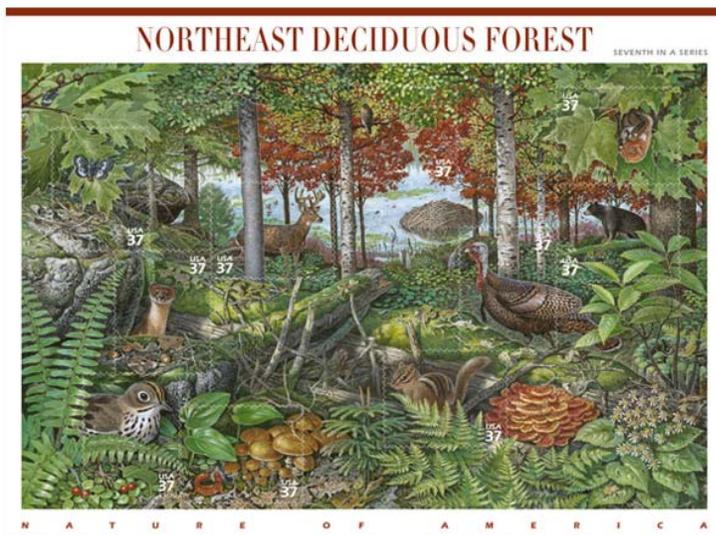
Editor: Ed Bierman
Distribution: Paul Swierstra

March/April USPS Releases

- Northeast Deciduous Forest, 3/3/2005
- Spring Flowers, 3/15/2005
- Robert Penn Warren, 4/22/2005
- Yip Harburg, 4/28/2005



New Releases – Northeast Deciduous Forest



The Northeast Deciduous Forest stamp pane is the seventh in an educational series designed to promote appreciation of major plant and animal communities in the United States.

Featured on the pane is a painting by artist John D. Dawson. Although the scene itself is imaginary, all of the species depicted can be found in deciduous forests of the Northeast.

A description of this type of forest community and a numbered key to the artwork appear on the back of the pane, along with a corresponding list of common and scientific names for 27 selected species.

Here is a nice site on deciduous forests:

<http://www.scsc.k12.ar.us/2000backeast/ENatHist/Members/CovingtonN/>

Deciduous forests are forests in which the leaves fall from the trees during autumn and early winter.

Deciduous forests occupy most of the eastern half of the United States.

Throughout the southeast, where soils are dry, the most predominant tree genera are oak (*Quercus*) and hickory (*Carya*). On moist soils throughout the northeast, the most predominant tree genera are maple (*Acer*), birch (*Betula*), beech (*Fagus*), and hemlock (*Tsuga*). Basswood (*Tilia*) is also common. Chestnut (*Castanea*) was common prior to the chestnut blight of the 1920s. There are no mature American Chestnut trees to be found from New York to Virginia today, which once was the common range. It is very rare to find a tree of enough size to bear fruit.

Peninsula Club



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

Our youth mail program has started! This will be a one-year pilot program to see how well everything goes. The Program will be re-evaluated at the end of PENPEX 2005.

Packets will be mailed approximately every 6-8 weeks and will include how-to's on hinging, use of tongs, hidden images, etc. Also enclosed in the packet will be a game sheet that will be completed and returned to earn points to claim a prize from the Treasure Chest at our Penpex Show in December. A small select group of loose stamps are enclosed according to what the youth member collects, as well as a select group of stamps on paper to soak. Another small group of unsorted stamps are enclosed to spark other areas of interest. Each mailing will also have an information pamphlet for older youth and parents to browse and keep as reference.



Packets were mailed to 17 youth members in February with instructions on how to soak and hinge. I have a sample packet if anyone would like to see what exactly was mailed out. I will keep these for each mailing.

The Caboose

Here are portions of an interesting article, in the editors opinion, about successful stamp shows. From 1998, the points still ring true in 2005



ARE STAMP SHOWS DOOMED? by dealer James Lee

Stamp shows are one segment of the philatelic marketplace. Shows and show dealers compete with auctions, retail stores, mail order, display advertisers, direct marketers and the Internet for collector's time and dollars. Shows in general have seen a decline in attendance (collectors time) which in turn has meant stagnate or declining dealer show revenues.

It is important to remember that our total market is driven by the collector and his/her desire to acquire material for their collections. Given the limited discretionary time people have today, collectors are looking for the best venue at which they can succeed at buying material....

Are stamp shows doomed? No! Not if club show organizers and commercial show promoters take stock and determine what changes they need to make in order to provide a competitive attractive venue in the marketplace....

The show committee needs to put the responsibility for advertising and promotion into the hands of a member with experience in that area or a professional organization to insure their message reaches their target audience. Constant promotion, promotion, promotion throughout the year will equal attendance, attendance, attendance.

In today's competitive market it is important to make the focus of a show a year long project. The need is to create interest in the next show starting at the end of the current show. The collectors desire to attend needs to be piqued over the course of the year. You want to make it an important event he/she will want to attend.

Stamp shows require a large investment of time and money on the part of both the show committee and the attending dealers. Therefore, the success of a show depends on the efforts of both parties. (<http://www.stamps.net/opinion5.htm>)

Officers	
Co-Chair—General, chair meetings & policies	Bill Dutcher
Co-Chair — General & set-up	Ed Rodriguez
Co-Chair/Secretary	Darlene Hickok
Co-Chair/Treasurer	Hank Washauer
Activity Chairs	
Financial, Bourse, Registration Desk & Public Relations	Hank Washauer
Graphics	Ed Bierman
Set-up & Frames	Larry Christiansen
Mailing List	Aldo Pessagno
Youth/Beginners Table	Kristin Patterson
Exhibits & Judges	Vesma Grinfelds
Awards	Paul Ortega
Seminars	Ed Rodriguez
Cachets Cancels	Miriam Thurston
Banquet	Darlene Hickok
Silent Auction	Jim Mosso
Snack Bar	Tom Klein
Dealer Lunches	Robin Gorday

Penpex
PO Box 235
San Carlos, CA 94070



Canada's first adhesive postage stamp, the 3-penny beaver. The stamp was designed by Sanford Flemming, a Scot.

Prior to 1851, letters could be sent in Canada without stamps. The cost was borne by the receiver. In 1850, Britain's colonial office, which was running affairs in Canada, decided that postal matters should be turned over to local authorities. James Morris was the first postmaster-general, although Benjamin Franklin had held a similar post for Canada and the American colonies before the American Revolution. Although Morris had a package of proposed designs for the expected stamps, he decided to see what "Canadian talent" could produce. Fleming was a volunteer who met Morris at Ellah's Hotel in Toronto and produced his sketches for the stamp in February 1851. Fleming was born Jan.7,1827, at Kilkeady Fife. He studied the relatively new process of lithography printing in Scotland, before he and his brother came to Montreal in 1845.

On April 29,1849, rioters set fire to Canada's Parliament buildings, Fleming was a draughtsman student in Montreal, and a witness, and rushed into the burning building to save a painting of a youthful Queen Victoria. The next day he left for Ontario, the painting in his baggage. Its image became one of Canada's first stamps, known as the 12-penny black.

The 3-penny beaver was the first stamp to be issued, on April 23, 1851.