

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 54 - Issue No. 1 w332

January - March, 2023

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 7:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 235
San Carlos, CA 94070

More info at:
www.penpex.org/ssc



President's Message

Hello fellow members of the Sequoia Stamp Club which in my opinion, is one of the most active stamp clubs in the entire USA. Thanks to all of us, our club is thriving. One reason is that our club finds ways to involve our entire membership in stamp related activities. As the incoming club President, with Kevin Kraemer taking on the Vice President role, we are planning a variety of fun philatelic programs for 2023.

One of the items for discussion with our governing board will be how we can increase the amount of trading between club members. Currently, we allow each member to post five items in our silent auctions. Maybe it is time to increase the number to ten items. We are also thinking of ways to improve our technology through purchasing equipment that will allow members to better see and hear speakers and presentations. In addition, we will be reaching out to our members with a survey to provide the governing board with feedback which should result in new ideas for our consideration.

As I write this message, it is two days after our annual PENPEX show. What a successful show which as always is led by the one and only Kristin Patterson, and the large team of volunteers. I spoke to many of the dealers including a first-time dealer, and they all were pleased with their sales. Many of our members literally rolled up their sleeves to help make PENPEX a success once again. Thank you everyone!

Please feel free to reach out anytime with ideas, suggestions or just to connect on philately.

Jay Strauss, jaybstrauss@gmail.com



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Calendar: Club Meetings (in black), Stamp Show (in red), & Other Event (in green)

- ♦ Jan 10: Inauguration of Officers. Past Presidents Present. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Jan 14: **PENPEX Wrap-up & Appreciation Brunch, 10 AM, Sizzler, 1011 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City**
- ♦ Jan 14 & 15: **San Jose Stamp Fest, Napredak Hall, San Jose**
- ♦ Jan 24: 6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome). 7 PM Live Auction (Bolleri Consignment), Jim Giacomazzi, auctioneer.
- ♦ Feb 14: Allan Salz Klauber Historic Cover Collection by Laura Peterhans. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Feb 28: Swap Meet, members' sales tables.
- ♦ Mar 14: Philatelic Quiz by Ken Perkins. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Mar 28: Members Live Auction, Wally Jolliff, auctioneer.

The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

Message from the Out-Going President

Dear Fellow Sequoia Philatelists,

The Sequoia Stamp Club just celebrated its founding of 75 years ago. It is truly amazing what a great club we are a part of. The exchange of stamps, information, and building friendships is the foundation that builds the Sequoia Stamp Club. The last couple of years have given our club some of the most rapid changes with processes and technology due to the pandemic. Our club has endured through this time, and we've come out a better stronger club.



Thank you for giving me the honor of leading the Sequoia Stamp Club for the last two years. I look forward to supporting our incoming President Jay Strauss and Vice President Kevin Kraemer, and I will enjoy being part of the board.

Here's to many more years (at least 75 more) of enjoyment and success for the Sequoia Stamp Club!

All the best,

Patrick Ford

Sequoia Stamp Club President 2021-2022



Tom Hayes, Patrick Ford, and Joe Spina
at the East Bay Collectors Club Stamp
Show, October 22, 2022

Photos courtesy of Peter Adams



Wally Jolliff, Jim Sauer, Richard
Clever, and Robert Brilliant at the
Western Philatelic Library Open
House, October 15, 2022

Picture Gallery

2022 Holiday Raffle Prizes



John Vogel won the Great Britain "seahorses", Scott #222-224



Marty Moorbrink selected
the Iceland airmail, Scott #C2



Kevin Kraemer selected
the Russia airmails, Scott #C50-52

Newsletter Staff: Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jay Strauss; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; PENPEX Caboose: Kristin Patterson; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin.

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.

First Man in Space

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin would ultimately be selected as the final candidate from a group of six front-runners called the Vanguard Six, to become the first cosmonaut to orbit the earth for the Soviets. He was twenty-six years old, married and just five foot five. His intelligence and devotion to the Communist Party was admirable, and he was not the type to panic if things failed. He had an infectious personality wherein he easily made friends.

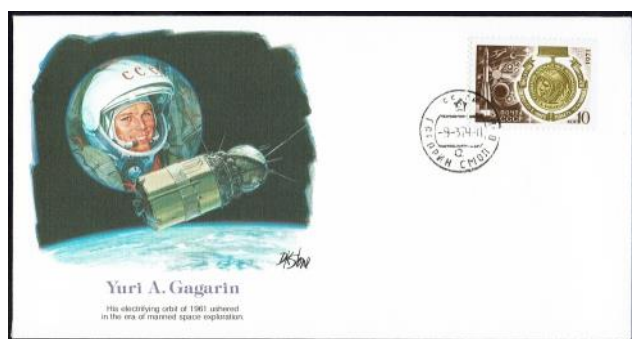


The Soviets prepared for their manned flight with secrecy. Using dogs and then a human mannequin they named Ivan Ivanovich, they performed covert test flights. After much trial and error, finally when they had success, they wanted to launch Gagarin to space. But there were still fears that it may not succeed as there was no 100% guarantee of safety. Additionally, since no one knew what to expect with regards to how weightlessness in space would affect a human being, there were fears of a cosmonaut sustaining blindness, heart failure, or having difficulty with breathing or swallowing, and possibly even going insane. Gagarin and the others of Vanguard Six had undergone extensive training and stressful tests of endurance to prepare them for unknown conditions.

The Soviet flight was planned for a single orbit around the earth, with an expected landing place inside the USSR. The date of the flight was to be the morning of April 12, 1961, where the spacecraft Vostok would take off at the launch pad at Site 1 at the Tyuratam Cosmodrome.

During the early morning of April 12, Gagarin underwent a brief physical and was suited up and entered a bus to drive him to the launch pad. He was then helped into Vostok, lying back on an ejection seat with the hatch behind him. There was a TV camera pointing at his face to transmit live pictures back to the Soviet Union. There was a tape recorder for him to record his experiences. Gagarin was then successfully launched into orbit.

But still, there was suspense. Would he return safely? When Vostok was aligned for reentry, the braking engine fired. Its burn started to slow him down to take him out of orbit to begin his descent. As Vostok entered the atmosphere, great heat was burning off the asbestos shield. Gagarin would later say that he felt like he was trapped in a house on fire, and was able to smell the burning and hear the crackling sound. The capsule was shaking and rocking violently. Finally, close to earth, Gagarin ejected his seat from the capsule. His small stabilized parachute popped open to slow down his speed and stop him from spinning. As he came closer to landing, his main parachute opened and his seat automatically fell away from him. The Vostok capsule landed with its own parachute.



Russia #3840 on first day cover

Gagarin landed safely in the middle of a ploughed field, which belonged to a collective farm in Russia, near the small towns of Smelovka and Uzmorie. Everything would be different for Gagarin now. The news of his arrival had spread quickly. Gagarin was now the most famous person in the world. He had accomplished what no one had ever done before him.



Romania #C151

Gagarin's story is illustrated in the book, "Beyond: The Astonishing Story of the First Human to Leave Our Planet and Journey into Space" by Stephen Walker. International stamps memorialize Gagarin's achievement.

Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

This month's cover is from the New Hebrides. It is franked with three low-value stamps from the 1941 overprinted set of 12. It has a 28 OCT 41 Circular Date Stamp Port-Vila cancel and a bilingual "Passed by Censor" marking. It is addressed to a Monsieur Bayer in New York City.



The archipelago of the New Hebrides is situated about 1500 miles northeast of Sydney, Australia. The New Hebrides was a philatelically fascinating territory, being neither a British nor a French colony. Instead, it was governed by the two powers jointly as a so-called condominium. The Condominium was established in 1906 as a result of an alliance between France and the United Kingdom. Under the Condominium there were three separate administrations – one French, one British, and one joint administration with the latter having jurisdiction over the postal service. However, in most postage catalogues, the British and the French stamps of the New Hebrides are listed separately, which obscures the interrelationship of the issues. The condominium lasted until 1980, when New Hebrides gained its independence as the Republic of Vanuatu.



General
Charles de Gaulle

In the early 1940s, world history arrived at the New Hebrides. The French administration made history by refusing to give allegiance to the superior colonial administration of New Caledonia (which was loyal to the regime of Vichy) and joining the "France libre" movement of General de Gaulle on July 22, 1940. The overprint "France Libre" was made in New Caledonia, which had joined the "France libre" movement shortly after the New Hebrides. Approximately 6000 French sets of 12 from the 1938



Free French Flag Patch

gold currency definitive issue were overprinted and released in Port-Vila on April 15, 1941 and in Santo on April 19, 1941. A part of that was sent to General de Gaulle's headquarters in London and sold to collectors. There are examples of commercial use, but a great many covers bearing the overprint are of philatelic origin as is the one shown above.

Information for this article comes from a Presentation for the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, 10/24/2021: "Early New Hebrides Philately and Postal History" found at:

https://www.franceandcolonies.org/docs/Early_New_Hebrides_Philately_And_Postal_History.pdf

Postcard Corner:

The Last of the United States Battleships

By Shav La Vigne

While on a vacation to the east coast in June 2022, I was able to fulfill a goal that I had made for myself many years ago. That goal was to see, board, and experience the last of the mighty ships that were, for years, the mainstay of the United States Navy.

The last of these mighty ships on my list was USS *Wisconsin* currently in Norfolk, Virginia as a museum ship. The *Wisconsin* was the last of four *Iowa* class battleships built during World War II. She was preceded by USS *Missouri*, *New Jersey*, and *Iowa*.



Postcard with Port Side View of USS *Wisconsin*

As the United States entered into World War II, after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, the battleship was still the mainstay of strength among the navies of the world. This attack caused the destruction of USS *Arizona* and USS *Oklahoma* and caused severe damage to USS *California*, *West Virginia*, and *Nevada*. All of these damaged ships were eventually salvaged and returned to service.

USS *Utah*, a World War I dreadnaught battleship, was also sunk during the attack with the loss of 58 crewmen. Some attempts were made to salvage the old ship, but attempts were eventually abandoned.

The last four US Navy battleships began service in 1943 when USS *Iowa* and *New Jersey* were commissioned. These were followed by USS *Missouri* in 1943 and finally by USS *Wisconsin* in 1944.

My first opportunity to visit one of these magnificent ships was in 1967 when USS *New Jersey* was at the port of Long Beach, California on her way to Viet Nam. What a sight she was to see! She was docked adjacent to the recently retired SS *Queen Mary* which had just completed her final voyage to Long Beach; two massive ships forming kind of a V shape. *New Jersey* is currently a museum ship docked at Camden, New Jersey.

We visited USS *Missouri* during her stop in San Francisco during Fleet Week while she was still on active duty during the Viet Nam war. As a student of history, it was a thrill for me to see and be on board the ship where Japan finally gave up. *Missouri* is currently a museum ship docked at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii very near our first involvement in World War II, the USS *Arizona* and her memorial.

Living in the San Francisco Bay area, I always felt sad while driving around the Benicia, California area. There, just off the coast of the Carquinez Strait in Solano County, sat the magnificent USS *Iowa*. While many of her sister ships were at their various homes as museum ships, poor *Iowa* just sat after being rejected by several homes, including San Francisco. Finally, in 2012 *Iowa* was adopted and towed to the port of San Pedro in Los Angeles, California.

While being prepared for the tow to Los Angeles, *Iowa* was briefly at Richmond, California. It was there that I was able to clearly see and experience this mighty ship firsthand. She was the first of her class and has been visited by more Presidents than any other battleship, Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Donald Trump, and Joseph Biden.

Continued on page 8 . . .

PENPEX CABOOSE

This year's PENPEX Stamp Show was again a huge success plus the rain holding off both Friday and Sunday. We had many volunteers who chipped in to make PENPEX 2022 run smoothly. PENPEX will be showing its thanks by hosting a **Wrap-up and Appreciation Brunch** at Sizzler, 1011 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City on Saturday, Jan 14, 2023 at 10:00 am. Please RSVP to Kristin Patterson, email: PENPEXRedwoodCity@yahoo.com or call 408-267-6643. The photos on this page (taken Fri., Dec. 2) and the next page were taken by Ken Perkins.



(l-r) Joe Coleman and Eduardo Martino unloading the trailer.

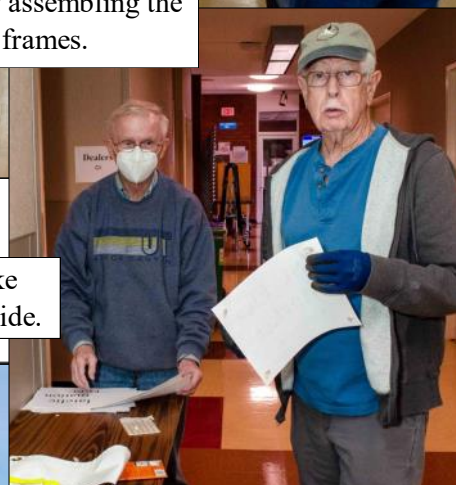


(l-r) Kjell Enander, Franz Kemper, Eduardo Martino, and Kevin Kraemer assembling the exhibit frames.



(l-r) Mike O'Brien, Eduardo Martino, Mike McGee, and Kjell Enander hanging the PENPEX sign.

(l-r) John Corwin and Mike O'Brien putting up signs inside.

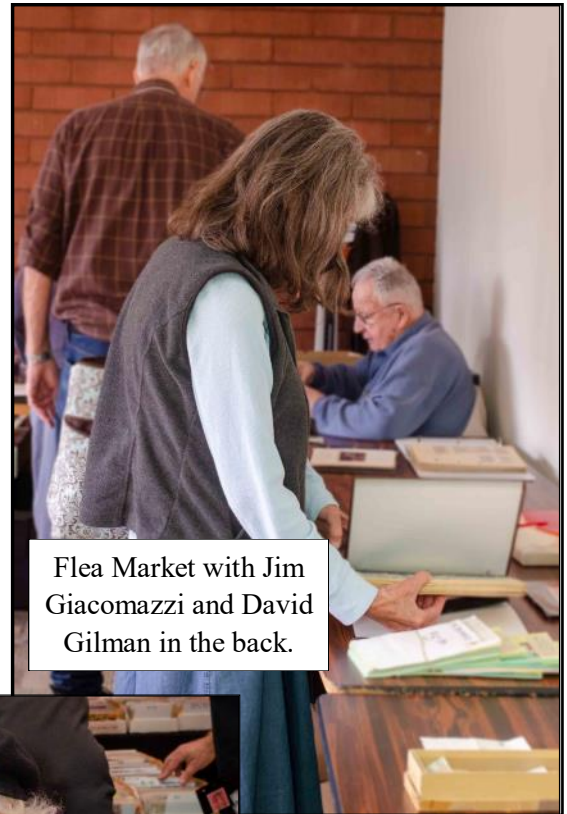


DURING THE PENPEX SHOW

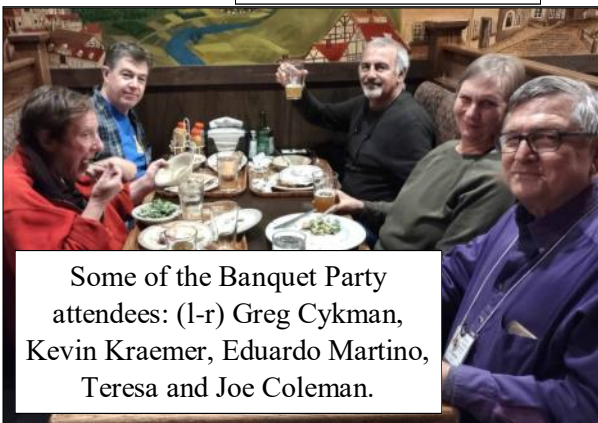
The show was well attended and dealers were pleased. Shown here are more photos that were taken on Sunday.



Goyo Alvarez who oversaw the Youth Area, examines a cover a young collector won.



Flea Market with Jim Giacomazzi and David Gilman in the back.



Some of the Banquet Party attendees: (l-r) Greg Cykman, Kevin Kraemer, Eduardo Martino, Teresa and Joe Coleman.



Miriam Thurston selling PENPEX cachets.



Grand Award winner, Kristin Patterson, receives award from Exhibits Chair, Tom Hayes.



Raul Menjivar (left) and Cathy Phalen working the PENPEX snack bar.



Right: Annie Wong making sandwiches for the dealers and snack bar customers.

The Last of the United States Battleships ... Continued

Finally, in June 2022, I was able to see and board the last of the U.S. battleships USS *Wisconsin*! *Wisconsin* served our Navy through September 30, 1991. After being decommissioned on July 1, 1948, she came back to service in the Korean War on March 3, 1951, and again on October 22, 1988, to take part in the Gulf War.

After being equipped with modern missiles and drone surveillance aircraft, USS *Wisconsin* along with USS *Missouri* were able to pinpoint target areas in occupied Kuwait. Using information from drone aircraft, and using their 16" guns, the two targeted and destroyed occupying Iraqi targets as far as 25 miles away. On September 30, 1991, *Wisconsin* was decommissioned for the final time.



Postcard with Sunrise View of USS *Wisconsin*

Although Aircraft Carriers and Submarines have taken over the spotlight from Battleships, these magnificent and powerful ships live on as symbols of U.S. Navy's continued power throughout the world.

New Members

On September 17, 2022, Sequoia Stamp Club celebrated its 75th anniversary with a wonderful party, during which several people submitted applications for membership. Then at our October 11th meeting, we voted in those people as new club members.

Donald Hill collects Biafra, WWII Malta, and US airmails. **Bill Bauriedel** mainly collects US stamps, but he admits to having many foreign issues as well. **Dale and Edie Eggen** both enjoy stamp collecting; Dale has eclectic interest in Swiss issues and Edie likes Nevada postal history. **Xander Haislip** collects US and Russia stamps. **Bob Gordon** has a worldwide stamp collection. **Linda Harrison** joins her husband Chip as a club member. Welcome to all of you.

We also welcome the **Western Philatelic Library** as our first honorary organizational member.

Members' Advertisements

Save the Date: You are invited to the Alameda Stamp Bourse Invitational with FREE Admission on May 20th 10am to 3pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church fellowship hall. A chance to sell your duplicate stamp material. Join us. More info will be provided soon. John Kofranek, (510) 523-6617, jakmjos@comcast.net

Ten 2-sided exhibit A-frames used by area stamp shows are available. Each A-frame (pictured at right) contains 2 exhibit frames. The plexiglass is surrounded by an aluminum frame with paper backing that holds 4 rows of pages. Size: 40" wide by 48" tall, weight ~25 pounds. They come with or without legs. The original cost was \$200 each, but you can have them for a small donation to the Council of Northern California Philatelic Society. Contact Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643.



Sequoia Stamp Club members may submit advertisements for no charge. Full details are available at <https://www.penpex.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rules-for-Classified-Ads.pdf>