

ACROSS THE FENCE



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<http://www.WFSCstamps.org/>

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

Obit for a Club

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

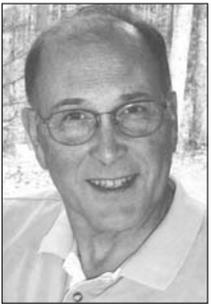
The Belle City Stamp Club of Racine gave up the ghost last fall.

"Due to our recent extremely low member attendance, and due to the fact that only five members paid their 2007 dues, it has been decided to merge our philatelic interests with the Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club," the official announcement revealed.

The proximity of the Kenosha club, which has an active program and welcomed their fellow collectors from across the county line, made the disbanding of the Racine club a viable alternative to its continuing to struggle along. (The name of the club, incidentally, derived from the nickname of the city of Racine itself. "Belle" is French for "Beautiful.")

The Belle City Stamp Club was once a thriving club. It was founded the same year as the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs - 1932 - and within a few years its membership rose to 36 collectors.

The club hosted the annual Wiscopex conventions in 1940, 1949, 1955 and 1962. Club member Alvin H. Andersen was president of the WFSC in 1942 and 1943. The club had more than 60 members in the 1940s, but its rolls had dwindled to 33 members by 1962



and continued to erode slowly.

We mourn not for those collectors who enjoyed the years of a sense of purpose and camaraderie but for those who will not have the chance they had.

I'm sure there are collectors in Racine today who were not aware that the club existed, didn't think they'd feel welcome or were worried that they weren't "good enough" collectors to join. Those collectors may be lost from our ranks forever. Philately, and those of us who enjoy the hobby, will be the poorer for it.

All stamp clubs should heed the fate of the Belle City Stamp Club. Organizations that aren't growing are dying, so it behooves you to initiate and operate an aggressive recruiting program, whether you feel endangered now or not.

It's important that you create opportunities to go public.

With the disappearance of stamp stores, you must find some way to make contact with collectors.

Rest assured, stamp collecting remains popular, but it always has been a solitary hobby. The public image of a single collector armed with magnifying glass and tongs, sorting through tiny, colorful bits of paper is not far off - especially today, when much of the accumulation of stamps and covers is in private, over the Internet and through the mail. There is so much more to collect today - more stamps from more countries and more categories than 50 or 60 years ago, when people had the misguided notion that the way to wealth was to sock away pane after pane

of new issues. Those are the stamps we can still buy today at face value or less.

Stamp shows and exhibitions in your area are the best way to meet new recruits, and you should try to start at least a weekend bourse. Nearby dealers may be willing to help you get started.

But a show isn't the only way to reach out.

Find some way to integrate stamp collecting in community events.

Produce souvenir covers or cancels for local celebrations. Invite kids to learn about the hobby that has so intrigued you.

Set up a display at the library or post office if you get permission.

At least talk to acquaintances about your hobby.

Once you attract a collector who might become a member, you must make him or her feel welcome, needed and appreciated. Show off a schedule of lively meetings with interesting programs. Indicate that the newcomer's help with club activities will be important.

Of course, this means you must have club activities. They serve several purposes. Primarily, they offer members something to do, so they won't get bored with the meetings and decide they no longer have to par-

President's Corner is contd. on Page 2

Inside this issue:

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WFSC is going to Pennsylvania!!



WFSC is sponsoring a bus trip to APS Headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa., June 19 - 22, 2008. There will be much to see and do on this fun road trip...

**Space is limited, so please make your plans soon!
Full details will appear in the March AFTP...**

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Asking for club members' input to add interest to your club newsletter sometimes seems like a waste of time. It's a constant complaint of anyone who edits a club newsletter. Even getting people to send in reservations for dinner meetings can be a struggle sometimes. It's gratifying to see some editors plugging along anyway, and we can surely empathize.

Clete Delvaux, in the newsletter of the **Green Bay Philatelic Society**, joined the discussion on the ethics of reusing uncanceled stamps. His take: "It always seemed like a form of stealing. What do you think?"

Tim Wait of the **Rockford Stamp Club** in Rockford, Ill., addressed the problem of finding nice, used commemoratives on incoming mail,

President's Corner, contd. from Page 1

participate or support the club. Activities make it clear to others that the club is alive and prospering. They make it possible to get your word out, attract attention, and recruit new members.

At your next meeting, take your club's pulse. I hope you find a strong, steady beat, but if you find it's feeble and stuttering, do something about it now. Initiate a program of recovery before it's too late. For the sake of the hobby and the army of collectors, we all want to add clubs to the active list, not lose them to the obituaries.

The bus is coming...

even if you can get the company mailroom to save incoming letters for you. "I agree that soaking self-adhesive stamps has become too much of a chore, and too many very hard-to-find commemorative stamps are ruined in the process," he wrote. "Many collectors just clip the paper close to the stamp and save them on paper. What are you doing?"

Green Bay and Rockford also are trying to get members to tell about their favorite stamps.

Wait also listed "Pet Peeves From an Old Time Collector," without asking for further input.

Program ideas

The speakers bureau of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs has a number of presentations by Wisconsin collectors that can enliven your meetings. The **Kenosha Stamp and Cover Club** arranged for one recently – "Collecting Dead Countries" by Art Schmitz, southeast regional vice president of the WFSC.

A Wayout Topical Contest, with cash prizes, became a program for the **Green Bay Philatelic Society**. Members were asked to bring 6-12 on one page depicting a display consistent with its title.

Often, you can find program ideas in the collecting interests of your own club members:

Brian Lietke, a member of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** and a former president of the WFSC, talked at a meeting of the MPS about how postal history and stamp collecting is part of his interest in genealogy.

Adriana Kori Graf gave a talk at an

American Topical Association Chapter 5 meeting on her interest, "Classics of English Literature That Found Inspiration in Switzerland."

What others are doing

The **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., planned to participate in the International Fair in November. Activities included a box of free stamps for kids, a "guess the number of stamps" drawing jar and other give-aways and exhibits. Taking part in community activities and having club brochures handy can turn up other collectors interested in joining your club.

Joel Hafferman is president of the **Wauwatosa Philatelic Society** for 2008. Al Eckl Sr. is vice president, John Fagen is treasurer, and Nada Bevic, secretary.

MaryAnn Bowman is president of **ATA Chapter 5** for 2008. Rob Henak is vice president, Robert Ulatt is secretary, and Raymond Sullivan, treasurer.

MaryAnn Bowman also returns as president of the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society**. Bob Ulatt is vice president, Art Gaffney secretary, and Lloyd Rectenwald treasurer.

Larry Marten is president of the **Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club**, Rhinelander. Bill Julian is vice president, John Barnick is secretary, and Norm Braeger, treasurer.

Information for "Clubs Are Trump" is gathered from club newsletters. Please send newsletters to Maurice D. Wozniak, 1010 Berlin St., Wauwacca WI 54981.

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Polish American Stamp Club
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

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(Chap. 18)
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Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please contact the Central Office.

AFTP is published monthly September through April, and every other month May through August (10 issues per year). News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. Editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy.

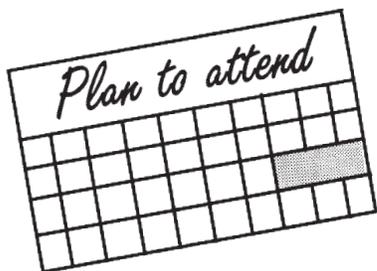
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Submission deadlines for editorial and advertising materials are for the 1st of the month preceding month of publication (i.e. Jan. 1 for Feb. issue).

All show calendar information, along with all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. (youngblood@tds.net) phone: 715-467-4416.

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, AFTP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney@new.rr.com) phone: 920-687-9077. For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.





Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or other event here!

Calendar listings are free for one WFSC member-club event per year. Classified advertising rates apply for all non-members and other events appearing in this section.

2008 WFSC show schedule*

*Some dates and details may be subject to change, and there will likely be additional listings.

Feb. 10, 2008

**Janesville Annual Exhibition and Bourse
Janesville Stamp Club**
Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Pl.,
Janesville
Contact: Gary Wentworth
(608)-756-1380, wnstamps@aol.com

March 8-9, 2008

**ROCKFORD '08
Rockford Stamp Club**
Forest Hills Lodge, 9500 Forest Hills Rd.,
Rockford, IL
Contact: Tim Wait, 1718 Northrock Ct.,
Rockford, IL 61103
(815)-670-5869, t.wait@insightBB.com

June 21, 2008

**26th Annual Show and Bourse
Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club**
James Williams Middle School, 915
Acacia Ln., Rhinelander, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Larry Marten, 3295 Hancock
Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI 54529
(715)-282-5636, lfmarten@yahoo.com
or Bill Julian (715)-277-2692

June 28-29, 2008

**TRI-PEX Stamp Fair
ATA Chapter 5
and North Shore Phil. Society**
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So.
92nd St., West Allis
Contact: Robert Henak, NSPS, P.O. Box
170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217
(414)-351-1519, henak@execpc.com,
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Feb. 17, 2008

**CENWISPEX '08
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**
JADECO Stamp and Hobby
North Point Mall, 200 Division St.
Contact: J.D. Manville, P.O. Box 845,
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715)-341-5555, jadeco@charter.net

March 15, 2008

**BAYPEX '08
Green Bay Philatelic Society**
Best Western Midway Hotel, 780 Armed
Forces Dr. (formerly known as Packer
Dr.), Green Bay, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Ray D. Perry
920-469-8925, fiveperrys@athenet.net

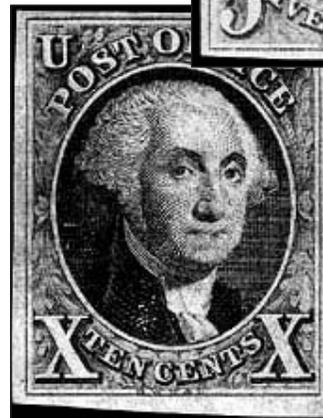
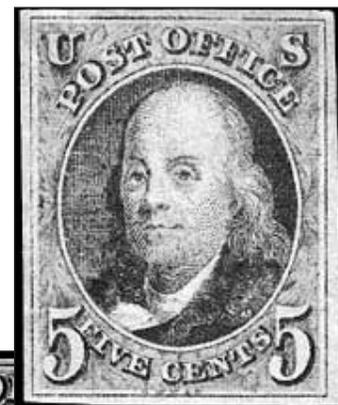
Our nation's first stamps

Carol Schutta

On March 3, 1845, an act of Congress established uniform and reduced rates throughout the nation. There was a uniform rate of five cents for distances less than 300 miles. Congress did not authorize the production of postage stamps until 1847, so many areas had their own stamps. These provisionals are rare.

On March 3, 1847, the postmaster general gave a contract to the engraving firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, and Edson in New York City to produce the first United States postage stamps. The new stamps were to be imperforate.

The 5c stamp paid for letters traveling fewer than 300 miles; the 10c stamps for destinations



greater than 300 miles, or for those that were twice the weight.

The 5c stamps can still be found, but most have poor impressions and the color isn't uniform. They are difficult to find with clear impressions.

Most 10c stamps have strong impressions.

March 1-2, 2008

**STAMPFEST '08
Milwaukee Philatelic Society**
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis
Contact: Carol Schutta, 10250 W.
Sharon Ln., #5, Milwaukee, WI 53225 -
(414)-464-6994,
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

April 12, 2008

**Wiscopex '08
hosted by the Outagamie Philatelic
Society**
Fox Valley Lutheran High School
5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, WI
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus—
920-725-0798, or Verna Shackleton
corosec@sbcglobal.net

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April 20, 2008

**DANEPEX '08
Badger Stamp Club**
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington
Ave. (across from East Towne Mall)
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Bob Voss, 5533 Kevins Way,
Madison, WI 53714
(608)-221-2311, lestamps@charter.net

2008

Stevens Point Stamp Bourses
Feb. 2, March 22, April 19 & May 17
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
JADECO Stamp & Hobby
200 Division St.
Stevens Point WI
(715) 341-5555
jadeco@charter.net

May 10, 2008

**Sheboygan Stamp and Coin Show
Sheboygan Stamp Club**
Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St.,
Sheboygan Falls
Contact: Barbara Stohl, P.O. Box 907,
Sheboygan, WI 53082 (920)-458-4883

Retired CIA Agent Wins Jenny Invert at Charlotte APS Winter show

Stampwants.com, an online stamp auction site that is attempting to compete with the massive eBay juggernaut, gave away a 24c Inverted Jenny (Scott C3a) Jan. 18, during the recent APS Winter show in Charlotte, N.C. The giveaway was the culmination of a pro-

motion that has been going on for many months. The stamp, pictured nearby, has a straight edge at right and no gum, but it is a Jenny nonetheless.

John Shedlock, a collector from Alta Loma, Calif., was the lucky winner. He is a retired CIA agent.

Although collectors were encouraged to enter daily, Shedlock entered just 150 times; a total of almost 1 million entries were received. Shedlock and runner-up Michael Flanagan of Scottsdale, Ariz., were both flown in for the final drawing by Miss New Jersey,

Amy Pumbo.

Flanagan was given a mint set of Zeppelin stamps, Scott C13-15 as a consolation prize – an award he said completed his airmail collection.



The Milwaukee Philatelic Society



presents

STAMPFEST 2008

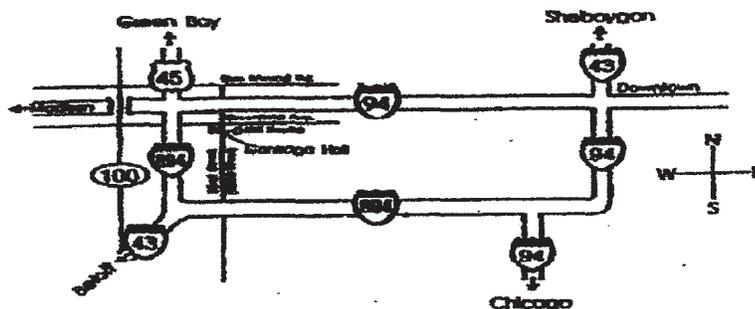
At

**St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 S. 92nd Street
West Allis, Wisconsin**

Saturday, March 1, 2008 10 AM—5 PM

Sunday, March 2, 2008 10 AM—4 PM

Free Admission and Parking



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