

ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXXII No. 1

January 2010

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

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

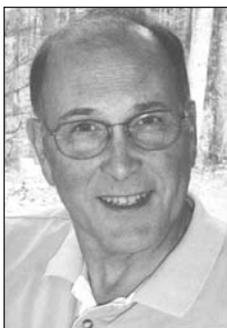
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

A year's project

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

January is as good a time as any to start to assemble a stamp calendar. You'll find it inexpensive but enormously



challenging and fulfilling. The pursuit of the project will afford you the chance to use up a few of those extra stamps you have lying around, and it might even rekindle a dwindling interest in the hobby.

Further, if you finish in time for a gift-giving event, such as a birthday or next Christmas, a stamp calendar might make an interesting gift for someone who might have a latent interest in the hobby.

At its simplest, a stamp calendar is an assemblage of 366 stamps – one canceled on each day of the year – including the elusive Dec. 25, Jan. 1, and Feb. 29. Generally, this will require a circular date stamp cancellation with the date legible. If you are assembling a general calendar, the year date doesn't have to be visible.

As spray-on cancellations grow in popularity in the United States and around the globe, the chances of finding a date on a canceled stamp are greatly diminished. Fortunately for a calendar project, we have millions of older stamps canceled with older technology to look through.

Most of them, however, will bear a wavy- or straight-line cancellation, or some other kind of



Although the cancellation on this stamp is not struck squarely, it is legible enough to read the Aug. 16 date. It would be a fine addition to a calendar.

smudge or pen mark. Relatively few will have a CDS socked squarely enough for you to read the date; that's what makes this little collection so challenging.

You can impose greater degrees of difficulty upon yourself if you wish. For example, you can use stamps from a single country, such as the United States, instead of having the stamps of the world to choose from. (Because of the diversity possible, it seems to me the better choice would be a worldwide calendar. Finding holiday cancels is easier with worldwide stamps as well.)

You could even limit the calendar to a single stamp, such as a 2c red Washington or a 3c Jefferson or all British Machin heads.

Here's another consideration: Should you use small definitives exclusively, or should you allow commemoratives or other large stamps? The chance of getting a suitable cancel is

greater on a larger stamp, but the aesthetics of mixing sizes in your collection would be strictly up to you.

Even if you want to use small stamps with socked-on-the-nose cancels exclusively, you might want to plug a vacant date with a not-quite-suitable stamp until you find a better one.

The search for suitable stamps begins in your own home with your duplicates or extra stamps. Some of your fellow collectors at your stamp club might be willing to look through their own accumulations to help you. Some dealers at stamp show bourses have low-cost boxes you can paw through. None of these sources is likely to break your bank.

You can keep track of what you need with a wallet-sized calendar. Mark an "X" on the dates you are satisfied with, and circle or put a hash mark on the ones you're missing or would like to upgrade.

Finally, how should you display a stamp calendar collection? Mounting the stamps on 12 pieces of typing paper with ruled spaces would be a simple option. Using a wall calendar with spaces large enough for stamps would work, but those with little half spaces for the last couple of days of a month would not.

Twelve plastic stock sheets in a loose-leaf binder might be the most attractive option.

The project is primarily a calendar, so mount the stamps so the date (not necessarily the stamp) is right-side-up.

When you're done (or even close to being done), show it around. Even people who aren't stamp collectors understand calendars and can appreciate the challenge you faced.

Getting club information into AFTP

To make sure your stamp club's activities and information are noted in the "Clubs are Trump" section of *Across the Fence Post*, please send newsletters or other information to President Maurice Wozniak, 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca, WI 54981 (mwoz@live.com).

Submissions of club news may be sent directly to the editor.

Page 1

*Remember...
We're all collectors.
Please use stamps
on mail to others.*

Across the Fence Post

Inside this issue:

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December 2009

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

At a meeting of the **Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, Chuck Shoemaker called attention to the promotional advertising that Eastern Auctions has done and continues to do in this publication. He pointed out that to take part, **BSC** could get a Club ID number and provide mailing addresses of club members interested in becoming new Eastern Auctions mail sales bidders. Eastern Auctions would give **BSC** \$25 for each of those first-time successful bidders.

This presents a good opportunity to mention here that advertisers in *Across the Fence Post* are taking that extra step in providing financial support of our hobby as well as the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs.

While most advertisers probably understand that their return on the money spent on ads in a relatively small-circulation publication like *ATFP* is relatively small, their support is appreciated.

Individuals can do their part by acknowledging to *ATFP* advertisers, in person at shows they attend (or through a brief note), that their ads are appreciated – and even making a token purchase or a more substantial one at the same time.

Program ideas

Badger Stamp Club, Madison, had a presentation on cover collecting by a member who has collected and accumulated covers over many years.

A member of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** who plans to create an exhibit of coil

stamps gave a program on his efforts. In upcoming months, **MPS** will hear from a dealer giving observations from the other side of the table, an expert revealing how to tell real stamps from the fake ones and a postal inspector talking about the police effort against postal fraud.

ATA Chapter 5, Waukesha, continued its “Alphabet Night” programs: Members were asked to show and tell items with the letter M, such as Malta or Monaco, Machins, Mailboxes or Meteorology. It’s a simple way to establish a theme for a meeting.

What others are doing

In announcing the annual dues collection, the **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** observed membership is a bargain: “Where else can you get attractive club mailings, interesting programs, a free holiday dinner and (if earned) a steak dinner at our summer picnic?”

Central Wisconsin Stamp Club, Plover and Wisconsin Rapids, spent \$1,100 to replace the glass in its tabletop show frames with plastic.

The **Wauwatosa Philatelic Society** considered moving the annual Tosapex show from its long-time venue, Gonzaga Hall, but after a discussion members voted unanimously to stay there.

At **Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, most of the membership receives the club meeting minutes via e-mail so, unless there are corrections or additions, they won’t be restated at the meetings.

ATA Chapter 5, Waukesha, gained 14 new members during a promotional effort at the

Milcopex show in September. They include two people from Illinois, and one from Minnesota.

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

WHO’S WHO IN THE HALL OF FAME

The Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame was established to recognize prominent Wisconsin philatelists for contributions to the hobby in the state of Wisconsin and beyond.

This series of short columns will familiarize *Across the Fence Post* readers with some of the individuals who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since 1976, as well as some of the interesting details about them.

Which individual most closely matches the following statements? The correct answer appears elsewhere in this issue of *ATFP*:

This month’s HOF member successfully guided the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs through the process of achieving the IRS nonprofit 501(c)(3) status. He served as WFSC president for the 1990-91 term, and also served as president and treasurer of the Clermont County Stamp Club.

- (a) Art Schmitz
- (b) Vern Witt
- (c) Ray Vedder
- (d) Paul T. Schroeder

Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

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Italian American Stamp Club
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Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please contact the Central Office.

ATFP 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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Unless explicitly stated by an officer in conjunction with official WFSC business, opinions expressed by the editor or individual authors are not necessarily endorsed by the WFSC.

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 *ATFP*, 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, *ATFP*, 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.

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Stamps & Terms®

Bull's-eye. Bull's-eye, or socked-on-the-nose, refers to canceled, or used stamps with the circular-dated (plus town name) portion of a hand-stamp or machine cancel nearly perfectly centered on the design area of the stamp itself. The more well-centered and legible the cancel the more desirable it is. Bull's-eye cancels may be collected by date, type, town and many other methods. Many collectors of bull's-eye-canceled stamps form calendar collections. The term also applies to the early issues of Brazil that somewhat resemble a bull's eye.



Bull's-eye cancel.

Miscut. A miscut is a fairly common form of freak occurrence that is a result of stamps being poorly trimmed during the processing stage

after printing. Miscuts can occur on stamps from any format (sheet, booklet or coil), in any degree from minor to major and represent a desirable form of collectible. The more major the miscut (and resulting unusual appearance), the more desirable the variety. Miscuts can include portions of other stamps, marginal markings, plate numbers or other information that would appear on an uncut printing sheet. A single miscut stamp can be larger or smaller than its normally sized counterpart.



Miscut stamp.

Misperf. A misperf, or misperforation, simply put, is a misalignment of a stamp's perforations in relation to the design. Misperfs, considered freaks rather than errors, are some of the most visually attractive and sought-after EFO items and can range from quite inexpensive to rather high-priced. Misperfs can appear in many different ways. These include vertical or horizontal misalignments (or both), diagonal or even so-called "crazy perfs," where the resulting stamps can appear in odd geometrical patterns and non-defined shapes. These are usually caused by foldovers after printing, but before perforating. Another form of misperforation deals with

jumbo or boardwalk-margin stamps. These stamps, which frequently sell for many times the standard catalog value, appear normal but have huge margins. They frequently appear in higher-end auction catalogs. More often than not these premium items were caused by improper settings of perforation pins. Stamps adjacent to these "monsters" (as they are frequently referred to) are usually small and quite poorly centered.

Mourning cover. Most mourning covers are notable due to a black border running around the edge of the envelope. Such covers were devised originally during the mid-1800s (during the Civil War, according to most accounts) specifically give the reader a clue about the impending bad news of the death of a loved one, so the immediate shock and grief upon opening the letter would not be as intense as it might otherwise be. As the use of mourning covers increased, some people used them for outgoing correspondence during the mourning period for a loved one (one year), and some have been created as memorial or souvenir covers for collectors and non-collectors alike. The most notable of these is the black-bordered first-day cover created by George Linn for the 1923 2c U.S. Harding Memorial stamp. The use of mourning covers in the United States faded away after the telephone and telegram became more expedient means of relaying bad news.

ZIP block. This term refers specifically to a margin block of United States stamps bearing the inscription "use correct ZIP code" in the selvage. ZIP blocks were collected similar to plate blocks primarily during the 1960s and 1970s.

— © 2009, Youngblood Ink

Letters...

A fish story and a question

Every February I go to Leech Lake, (Walker) Minnesnowta for a week of ice fishing. February '09 was no exception, except I was able to combine my two hobbies; fishing and philately.

On the morning of Friday the 13th, I joined the Men of Hope, the men's group of Hope Lutheran Church in Walker for breakfast. After a great meal of French toast and sausages and a brief business meeting, I presented my slide show of "Collecting Dead Countries." There wasn't a stamp collector among the 30-plus men present, but they were unanimous in their positive reaction to the program.

On another matter, am I within the bounds of reason if I tell one of my clubs that with 30-plus clubs in the Federation, no club can expect to have its activities shown in each issue of the *ATFP*? Or, is there some other reason for the snail-mailed copy of the Northwestern Mutual's entries not appearing?

— Art Schmitz

Art, thank you for your letter. We could use a few more! It's amazing how positively stamp talks are generally received by non-collecting groups. You'd think we could recruit more collectors from their ranks!

As for club information, although I receive some newsletters, all communication intended for the "Clubs are Trump" column should be sent to President Maurice Wozniak (see information on Page 1). Certainly there may be times when it's not possible to get everyone who communicates in, but it's fair to say it can usually happen.

— Wayne



misperfed stamp.

Bring a friend to your next stamp club meeting or activity. Your friend and club will thank you!

Across the Fence Post Ad Rates (revised 1/06)

Type Size	Commercial Rate	Club Rate
A Full page (7 1/4" x 9 1/2")	\$42.00	\$33.75
B Half page (7 1/4" x 4 3/4")	\$26.25	\$21.00
C Large 1/4 page (4 3/4" x 6")	\$20.50	\$16.50
D Medium 1/4 page (4 3/4" x 3 3/4")	\$14.75	\$11.75
E 1/8 page (2 1/4" x 3 3/4")	\$7.50	\$6.00
F Econo Ad (2 1/4" x 2 3/4")	\$3.75	\$3.00
G Reduced Business Card (2 1/4" x 1 1/4")	\$2.75	\$2.25
H Back page (7 1/4" x 9 1/2")	\$57.75	N/A

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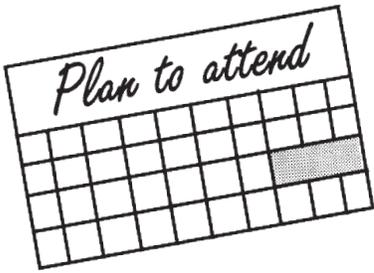
Attention Stamp Club Presidents:

Would your club benefit from additional membership?

Would your club be able to offer more engaging programmes if your Treasurer's Report was further in the Black?

Eastern Auctions is starting a new incentive program to help Local Stamp Clubs increase membership as well as improve their balance sheets.

Please contact Bill.Burden@easternauctions.com for further information.



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.

2009-2010 WFSC show schedule*

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

Feb. 14, 2010

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

March 6-7, 2010

West Allis - Stampfest '10 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,
 harryncarolschutta@gmail.com/
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

March 20, 2010

Green Bay - Baypex '10 Green Bay Philatelic Society
 St. Matthew Catholic Church
 Multi-Purpose Room
 2575 S. Webster Ave.
 Parking in rear of facility
 Contact: Ray D. Perry
 2016 Baltic Terrace
 Green Bay, WI 54311
 fiveperrys@athenet.net

April 10, 2010

Wisconsin '10 (Annual Convention and Exhibition of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs)
 Hosted by the Oshkosh Philatelic Society
 Christian Schools, 3450 Vinland Rd.,
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Contact: Al Marcus (920) 725-0798,
 allan.marym@hotmail.com

April 18, 2010

Madison - Danepex '10 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, P.O. Box 35,
 McFarland, WI 53558 - 608-838-1033,
 lestamps@charter.net)

Other major non-WFSC shows near Wisconsin (right, below right):

April 24, 2010

Appleton - Outapex '10 Outagamie Philatelic Society
 VFW Post, 501 N. Richmond St.
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Contact: Al Marcus, 920-725-0798,
 allan.marym@hotmail.com

May 8, 2010

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

June 19, 2010

Rhineland 29th Annual Show and Bourse, Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club
 James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Ln., 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 26-27, 2010

West Allis - Tri-Pex Stamp Fair ATA Chapter 5, North Shore Phil. Soc., and Waukesha County Phil. Soc.
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
 1435 So. 92nd St.
 Contact: Robert Henak, NSPS, P.O. Box 170832, Milwaukee, WI 53217 - 414-351-1519, henak8010@sbcglobal.net,
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

Answer to Who's Who quiz on Page 2: Ray Vedder

Jan. 16-17, 2010

West Allis, WI - Polarpex '10
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
 1435 So. 92nd St.

Jan. 30-31, 2010

St. Paul, Minn. - Snowpex
 Kelly Inn, I-94 & Marion St.

Mar. 13-14, 2010

Rockford, Ill. - Rockford '10
 Rockford Stamp Club, Forest Hills Lodge,
 9500 Forest Hills Rd.

Mar. 27-28, 2010

St. Paul, Minn. - Springpex
 Kelly Inn, I-94 & Marion St.

May 1-2, 2010

West Allis, Wis. - Maypex '10
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
 1435 So. 92nd St.

May 28-30, 2010

Arlington Heights, Ill. - Compex '10 Chicago Area Philatelic Societies,
 Forest View Educational Center
 2121 So. Goebbert Rd.

July 16-18, 2010

Crystal, Minn. - Minnesota Stamp Expo
 Maplewood Stamp Club, Twin City Phil. Soc., Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club,
 Minn. Stamp Dealers Assoc.
 Crystal Community Center 4800 N. Douglas Dr. North

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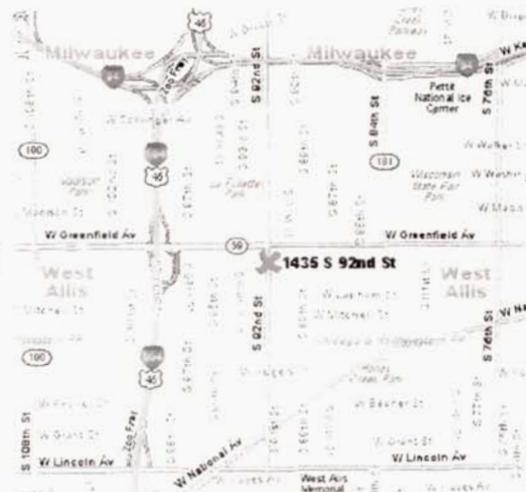
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