

ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXIX No. 8

October 2007

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

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

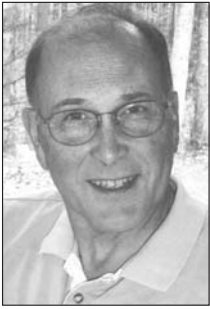
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

Volunteers Profit

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Almost every organization that has been in existence for awhile experiences the need for members to volunteer their time on behalf of the club, and this is certainly true of stamp clubs.



People to help with the annual show or bourse? Someone to run for an officer position? Someone to prepare a talk as a program at one of the monthly meetings? Someone to act as

an auctioneer? Someone to bring cocoa and cookies for a snack? The list of needs grows with the number of events the club sponsors and, conversely, the more volunteers available, the more events a club can sponsor.

The two aspects go hand in hand, and scarcely a club exists that isn't desperate for volunteers.

I've seen it in my own life. When I lived in Milwaukee, and my kids were involved in Little League, the guy who was in charge announced one year that he was stepping down and looking for someone to take over. I had had experience in coaching, not in administration, but I told him that if he needed someone I would be willing to help. That's how I became the Little League Czar, and I kept the job even after two of our boys played in the league and went to high school, and the number of teams in the league more than doubled.

I ended up coaching soccer, even though I

had never played the game, because no one else would volunteer.

In my own youth, I was a Boy Scouts dropout, but I became a Cub Scouts "den mother" and a Boy Scouts committee member. (Incidentally, I suspect the organization uses mothers to run the dens because not enough fathers volunteer.)

I took committee assignments and officer positions in professional organizations and always found the experience satisfying and educational.

As a member of my church's new members orientation committee, I try to urge the people I meet to find a position they like and volunteer for it. It'll give them a feeling of fulfillment, I suggest.

That's why I volunteered at Stampshow, the annual event sponsored by the American Philatelic Society and held this year in Portland, Ore. One of my sons lives in Portland, so we were able to visit with him a little bit. I've written here before about the advantages of incorporating a vacation trip with a stamp show; having a family member there just made it better.

Even though she doesn't collect stamps, my wife volunteered also. We worked at the registration counter, signing people in and preparing their registration packets.

I also worked at the affiliates table, where visitors could get information on the various collector organizations affiliated with the APS. The main volunteer there told me he had signed on to work the whole show, from beginning to end. That would be a bit much for me; I like to circulate. But he enjoyed it, and he was able to talk with friends who stopped by.

Finally, I helped out at the Stamps by the

Bucket booth, where kids (and adults) could sort through mounds of stamps and fill toy plastic pails with stamps for \$1 – a true bargain. Aside from collecting money from the customers, I filled my time by picking up stamps that had fallen on the floor during the sorting process. I also pawed through the piles myself and removed the stamps on red paper, figuring that I was doing a favor for the young collectors whose soaking efforts would not be doomed by the red dye in the paper.

For those who put in enough volunteer hours, the APS offered the incentive of a ticket to the Saturday awards dinner, a thoughtful gesture that also had the advantage of padding the attendance at that significant event.

Some stamp clubs encourage their members to volunteer by offering incentives also. For example, they give additional "stamp bucks" that are used in an annual club auction. The more volunteer time spent, the more "bucks" a member can accumulate, and therefore the more lots he or she might be able to get at the auction.

I still feel that people should volunteer just to help out the organization to which they belong, but an incentive doesn't hurt if the club can afford it, and it might influence more members to help out.

Inside this issue:

- 1...President's Corner
- 1...WFSC Cover Exchange
- 2...Clubs are Trump
- 2...Spooky Halloween Topical
- 3...Hits, Visits and Page Views
- 4...Hammell Donates collection

WFSC October Cover Exchange Offer

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs will once again sponsor a nationwide cover exchange program. Any stamp club, philatelic organization or individual may participate.

The program is being conducted in conjunction with National Stamp Collecting Month in October. The exchange offer will expire Oct. 31, with returns being made to participants by mid-November.

Participants must submit 10 all-alike covers

and a large business-sized envelope, addressed and franked with 58c postage. In exchange, 8 different covers will be sent back. The extra covers will be used with the Federation's youth program.

Only unaddressed cacheted covers on #6 envelopes, bearing either pictorial or first-day cancels from the United States will be accepted. A limit of 20 covers can be submitted. Clubs with leftover show, commemorative and first-

day covers can reduce their inventory by exchanging them for different covers that can be used as club auction items, door prizes or gifts.

The cover exchange program coordinator reserves the right to return covers considered unsatisfactory for exchange.

To submit covers, please write to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

The *Milwaukee Philatelist*, newsletter of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society**, carried a mock obituary for someone that most clubs will recognize. It bears repeating here.

"Sad news: I was most saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valuable members, Someone Else. Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill.

"Else has been with us for many years. Someone did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Whenever there was a job to do or a meeting to attend or a committee to sit on, one name was on everyone's lips - 'Let Someone Else do it.'

"Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can do only so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now, Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

"When you have a chance to participate, remember we can't depend on Someone Else anymore."

* * *

Program ideas

The **American Topical Association Chapter 5** likes to involve members in the

meeting programs. For example, after a presentation by Ronald Essig on his "Under the Big Top" exhibit, members were asked to bring and discuss circus-related items from their own collections.

The **Oshkosh Philatelic Society** sends its members and other interested parties an entire year's schedule of programs for its twice-a-month meetings. They include discussions of the Columbian World's Fair, Nov. 19, Washington-Franklin stamps Jan. 8 and members' philatelic errors, freaks and oddities, March 4.

Badger Stamp Club (Madison) member Larry Nix, who won the Danepex '07 Best of Show award for his exhibit, *A Tale of Two Library Stamps*, presented a program to the club on building a topical exhibit.

* * *

What others are doing

John Klenovich was elected president of the **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., and Steve Kluskens was elected vice president. Mark Pleyte and Jim Stearns continue as treasurer and secretary.

Badger Stamp Club re-elected its officers: Chuck Shoemaker, president; Bert Hart, vice president; John Pare, secretary; Dave Dyer, treasurer; and John Rettig, Stan Rehm, and Mike Lybarger, board members.

The **Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club** (Rhineland) summer show was deemed a success, even though attendance was down from last year. "We kept hoping for rain, so people didn't spend their time on the lakes," the club

newsletter related. "Again, it turned out to be a typical beautiful warm sunny summer day in Wisconsin."

Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club, West Bend, gained seven members as a result of an outreach effort at a numismatic convention.

Four new members were welcomed to the **Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club**.

The resurrected annual bourse sponsored by the **Oshkosh Philatelic Society** will be held for the third time Nov. 17.

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

Spooky Halloween topical can include funerary items

Wayne L. Youngblood

If you are at all interested in forming a Halloween topical, either for yourself or for a local display, you may want to consider some items you may not think of at first.

When forming your collection, you'll first want to include all stamps directly related to Halloween, including the 1975 *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* stamp, Irish Dracula, British Frankenstein and others. Special pictorial cancels, such as a well-known bat cancel from Transylvania, La., or other similar covers can add greatly as well. You'll also probably want to include as many stamps as you can find that picture bats, pumpkins, black cats and other traditional symbols of Halloween. But don't overlook items that can be easily tied into a collection. **Halloween topical, continued on Page 3**

Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

PRESIDENT

Maurice D. Wozniak
1010 Berlin St.
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-2025
berliners2@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Hank Schmidt
P.O. Box 3153
Oshkosh, WI 54903
artcoy@vbe.com

CENTRAL OFFICE/SECRETARY Vacant

TREASURER

Paul T. Schroeder
1750 W. 5th Ave., Apt. F
Oshkosh, WI 54902
920-426-2059

VP YOUTH DIVISION

MaryAnn Bowman
P.O. Box 1451
Waukesha, WI 53187

NE REGION VP

Al Marcus (maram@tds.net)
Green Bay Phil. Soc.
Northwoods Phil. Soc. (Iron Mountain)
Outagamie Phil. Soc.
Wisc. Postal Hist. Soc.

EAST CENT. REGION VP

Vern Witt
Fond du Lac Stamp Club
Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club
Manitowoc Phil. Soc.
Oshkosh Phil. Soc.
Sheboygan Stamp Club

SW REGION VP

Valerie Cook
Badger Stamp Club
Baraboo Stamp Club
Janesville Stamp Club
Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club
Rockford Stamp Club

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION VP

Art Gaffney
stehlee@aol.com
Waukesha County Phil. Soc.

SE REGION VP

Art Schmitz
piscine@execpc.com
Am. Top. Assn. (Chap. 5)
Belle City Stamp Club
Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club
North Shore Phil. Soc. (Milw.)
Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club
Polish American Stamp Club
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

Art Petri

American Air Mail Soc.
(Billy Mitchell Chapter)
Germany Phil. Soc.
(Chap. 18)
Italian American Stamp Club
Milwaukee Phil Soc.

CENTRAL REGION VP

Gregg Greenwald
bluebird@tznnet.com
Central Wisc. Stamp Club
Chippewa Valley Stamp Club
Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club (Rhineland)
Wisconsin Valley Phil. Soc.

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.

Material appearing in AFTP not carrying an individual copyright notice may be reproduced only by not-for-profit organizations, provided the author(s) and AFTP receive credit or attribution. All materials carrying an individual copyright notice are the sole property of the author(s). 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 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.



Hits, Visits and Page Views: Who Looks at the WFSC Website?

Steve Kluskens, WFSC Webmaster

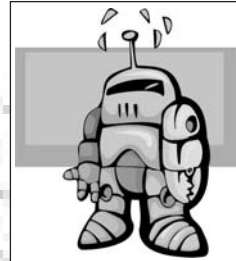
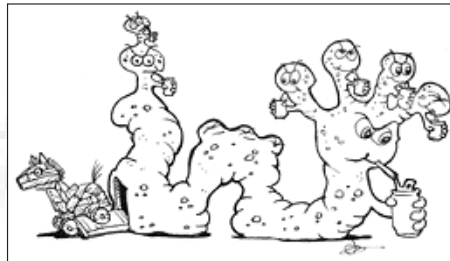
What do you collect? The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs' website (www.wfscstamps.org or www.wisconsinstamps.org) has a worldwide collection of its own. Belgium tops the list, followed by Germany, Ghana, Romania, China and Norway. There's also a little Israel, France, Denmark and even some Russia, Hungary, and United Kingdom. It is eclectic, but unlike my stamp cabinets, there's unlimited space for the website's collection of foreign visitors. It is a collection that will grow and grow.

Visitors to our website come to us through links from other websites, such as the American Philatelic Society, the American Topical Association and even the Showgard stamp mounts site. This is good, because those links raise our site's profile on search engines, and Google reigns supreme.

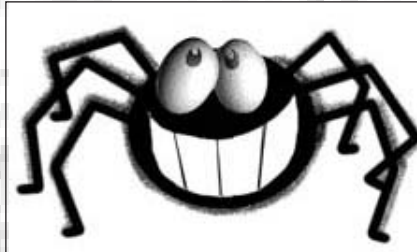
Overwhelmingly, most new visitors find us through search engines. More than 300 times each month, a search engine points someone to our site. They're searching for "stamps" and "Wisconsin," often clubs like "stamp club waukesha" or shows ("wisconsin stamp shows"), but frequently the searches are very specific: "elvis fdc wanted," "date issued of 2 cent stamp with mary lyon," and still my favorite, "fire related cenderella [sic] stamps smokey bear." They don't always find what they're searching for, but they do stay and poke around a bit.

The average visitor browses five pages of the WFSC site before moving on. From a web professional's perspective, that's golden.

What about the numbers? After all, unlike TV or radio, you can tell exactly how many people look at



It's important to make sure that traffic on the Website is people – not just an assortment of worms 'bots and spiders. Still, the WFSC Website has some significant traffic from all over the world.



your website. Well, sort of exactly.

First, you have to make sure they're people. Just like one of those science fiction movies, there are all kinds of automated creatures crawling the web: bots, spiders and worms, oh my. Since March we've had a new, sophisticated statistical package doing the counting, and it's doing a good job of sorting out the people.

Next, you have to decide how to count them. Universally, one hears about "hits." Our Belgian visitors contributed 4,131 hits in September. A TV show will brag about getting a million hits over the weekend. Counting hits gives big, impressive numbers, but it is unequivocally the *worst* way to count Website traffic. I could bump our hits up twenty-fold simply by constructing the site the way we used to build them five years ago, or fifty-fold if I needed to impress someone.

The best way is "page views." It's a face looking at a web page. "Visits" is an attempt to count distinct people, but it's really counting network connections, and since computers are increasingly bunched

together in networks, even in homes, you have to be careful about "visits," too.

It's important to know the difference between page views, hits and visits, because the moment you proudly talk about 1,000 page views on your website last week, someone's going to deflate you by bragging that they had 5,000 hits. Who had more traffic? You did. The 4,131 hits from our Belgian friends translated to 332 page views, which is still a lot of attention.

In the past six months, we've averaged 2,400 page views per month, which is a nice bit of traffic. That means that an average of 2,400 times per month, someone looks at a page of the WFSC website. Our traffic dips a bit in the summer: It was 2,800 in the spring,

and it's on the rise again this fall. Of course, the home page is the most popular, because that's where most visitors start. The show and bourse listing is the next most popular, drawing about a quarter of the views that the home page does. That tells us that about one in four people who visit the home page also look over the show listing. Many people then download the printable schedule, which nicely lists all the club meetings, too. The Wiscopex and dealers pages are next in popularity. Between 20 and 40 copies of this newsletter are downloaded each month.

We can see that visitors are looking for current information when they come to the site: What will be happening at Wiscopex? When the next shows are in their area? They're also looking for clubs. Does your club have any current information on the website? Send me your meeting minutes if you would like them to be available online. I can always edit out last names if you'd like to preserve anonymity. If you tell our Website visitors what your club meetings are like, they're more likely to become *your* visitors at your next meeting!

To have information posted on the WFSC Website, email it to me at my new address, webmaster@wfscstamps.org, or send it to me at N21531 Chapman Road, Niagara, WI 54151.

Halloween topical, cont. from Page 2 tion that may not come to mind immediately, such as covers from funeral homes and monument companies, such as the one shown at right. Mailed from Bridgeport, Conn., in 1901, the illustrated advertising cover features a scene from a cemetery with an impressive array of tombstones and monuments.



greatly to your chosen theme, but contribute an important historical element as well that won't be overlooked by either the casual observer or the seasoned philatelist.

These creepy covers, evidence of very real business, not only add

Wisconsin Does Well at National Topical Stamp Show 2007

Multi-Frame Exhibits

Gold:

Robert Mather *The Donkey in Man's World*

Vermeil:

Roland Essig *Under the Big Top*
Also: AAPE Creativity Award

Silver:

Jack Green *Jules Verne's Predictions of Apollo 13*
Also: Space Unit Gold Award

Multi-Frame Exhibits

Vermeil:

Roland Essig *The Living Fossil, Old Four Legs – It's a Coelacanth*
Also: AAPE Honor Award

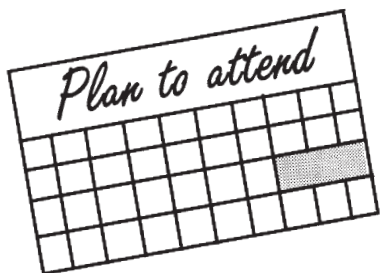
Bronze:

Jack Green *Nautilus*

Youth Silver:

Sherri Biendarra *The Olympics*
Also: AAPE Youth Grand Award
and Sports Philatelists International Certificate

Judy Essig *Mary Ann Owens Novice Award:*
Chapeau's Rouge



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.

2007 WFSC show schedule*

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

R.H.O. Postal History and Stamps

Roger H. Oswald
2514 Sheridan Place
Manitowoc WI 54220
(920) 682-6793
rhposthistory@comcast.net

12.07

Please share your knowledge
with your fellow WFSC members

Write a feature for
Across the Fence Post
today!

October 6

Monroe Stamp & Postcard Show
Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club
Monroe City Hall (lower level), 1110
18th Ave. Monroe, WI, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Earl Button, 1214 2nd St.,
Monroe, WI 53566 — 608-328-2827,
ebutton@tds.net

November 17

Oshkosh Stamp Bourse
Oshkosh Philatelic Society
Elk's Club, 175 Fernau St., Oshkosh, WI,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus — 920-725-0798
maram@tds.net

October 27-28

Tosapex '07
Wauwatosa Philatelic Society
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall 1435 So. 92nd
St., West Allis, WI
Contact: John Fagan, P.O. Box 13102,
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0102
faganfalls@aol.com

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

Hammell donates collection to Slayton Space & Bike Museum

Daniel Hammell of Beloit, Wis., member of the Janesville Stamp Club and an avid Deke Slayton fan, recently donated his extensive collection of *Mercury 7*, Astronaut Donald Kent "Deke" Slayton covers, letters, photos and related memorabilia to the Deke Slayton Memorial Space and Bicycle Museum in Sparta, Wis.

Museum Director Kay Bender commented, "We first met Daniel in February 2005. He was instrumental in assisting the museum promotions committee in producing its first cover for an open house celebrating the 30th anniversary of the *Apollo-Soyuz* mission."

Museum associates and members are reportedly "thrilled with Hammell's addition to the museum." The collection and exhibit committee have produced a work plan that includes: 1) always referring to it as the "Daniel Hammell Collection"; 2) begin the accession and preservation process immediately; 3) procure funding for the appropriate display panels; and 4) begin plans for a July 2008 open house officially introducing the collection to the community.

For more information on the museum or the Daniel Hammell collection, please write to the Deke Slayton Memorial Space & Bicycle Museum, 200 West Main St., Sparta, WI 54656, call (608)-269-0033 or email dekeslayton@centurytel.net.



Above: Deke Slayton Memorial Space & Bicycle Museum Director Kay Bender is shown with the recently donated Daniel Hammell collection.

Obituaries

Peter D. Adamini, 1942-2007

Wisconsin stamp dealer Peter D. Adamini of Green Bay died July 6. He was born Nov. 29, 1942, in Ishpeming, Mich. He was a member of the Green Bay Philatelic society.

Adamini graduated from Northern Michigan University and taught high school at Escanaba, Mich., for 17 years.



Mario Giombetti, 1914-2007

Mario Giombetti, 83, of Bristol, former president of the Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club from 1980-82, died July 9 at his home. He also was vice president of the club from 1975-79.

Giombetti is survived by seven children, eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. His wife, Marlene, died in 2002.

Nominations sought for Wis. Philatelic Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2007. Required nominee qualifications are: 1) Contributions of purely local club nature shall not be the sole reason for selection to the Hall of Fame; and 2) A deceased philatelist may not be nominated or considered for selection until at least three years after his/her death. Send your nomination(s), together with a statement identifying the nominee, a short philatelic biography and the reasons why that person should be selected for the WPHF to: Chairman, WPHF Committee Arthur Schmitz, 3615 N. 47th St., Milwaukee, WI 53216. Questions can be answered by e-mail pescador@exec.com.

Only WFSC member clubs may submit nominations, and each nomination must be seconded by two other member clubs. The nominating club is responsible for making arrangements with the seconding clubs to provide those seconds. The nomination and seconds should be sent to the chairman in one mailing.