

ACROSS THE FENCE



Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By WFSC President Karen Weigt



It was one of those times. You remember the day, your place in time, the spine-tingling joy of victory. It happened on Friday, February 22, 1980, at the Winter Olympics held in Lake Placid, NY. The score was USA 4 – USSR 3. The US ice hockey team had actually won! But given that the competing countries were in the depths of the Cold War, it was more than just a win for an Olympic medal position: It was a conquest for our nation's soul.

To further add to the excitement, the US was dubbed by far the underdog with its “rag-tag” team of college youth against the polished professionals of the USSR. What happened, though, went down in Olympic history as the *Miracle on Ice*. The event was so huge it was immortalized by Hollywood in the movie “Miracle.”

The culmination of the competition took place a few days later on Sunday, February 24. In Madison, Wis., my church was filled to capacity for early service. Everyone wanted to be home in time to see “the game,” which was televised later that morning. This time it was USA 4—Finland 2, and the US team took the *gold* medal.

Two DANEPEX 1980 covers commemorate Madison's Olympic heroes for that year. Mark Johnson and Bobby Suter are honored as locals who played on that memorable hockey team (Figure 1).

More Madison natives are honored on the speed skating cover: Eric and Beth Heiden, Dan Immerfall, and Mary and Sarah Doctor (Figure 2).

Eric Heiden, who won five gold medals on his own, absolutely mesmerized fans with his spectacular performances. His sister Beth



Figure 1. Two Madison, Wis., natives were part of the *Miracle on Ice* at the Winter Olympics in 1980.



Figure 2. A DANEPEX cover honoring the speed skaters from Madison, Wis., at the 1980 Winter Olympic Games.

won a bronze. Between the two of them, they won half the medals awarded to Americans at the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Immerfall and Mary and Sarah Doctor weren't any slouches either. Their highest placements respectively were fifth, sixth, and tenth.

DANEPEX (Dane County Philatelic Exhibition) 1980 was held on November 1 in Madison, Wis., and was sponsored by three area clubs: Madison Stamp Club, Universal Ship Cancellation Society (Madison Chapter), and the Badger Stamp Club. The next and final DANEPEX of that decade was held in 1982, whereupon the MSC and USCS disbanded. DANEPEX was picked up again in 1990 sponsored solely by the Badger Stamp Club.

And now the rest of the story.

DANEPEX covers were held by the MSC until the few remaining members merged with the Badger Stamp Club sometime in the mid-1980s. (This is ironic in itself as Badger Stamp Club was originally an offshoot of the MSC and intended as a youth group.) Badger Stamp Club now had many boxes of earlier DANEPEX covers, including a large leftover stock of the Madison heroes Olympic covers.

Some years later, a part-time dealer offered to take all the early DANEPEX covers and sell them on behalf of the club. He had stored them in a warehouse in the Sauk City area that subsequently burned down destroying the entire lot.

Duane Zinkel, one of those remaining MSC members, still has a handful of the DANEPEX 1980

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ISSUE THEME: Winter Olympics



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Editor's Desk:

Two clubs, Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club and Wauwatosa Philatelic Society, were inadvertently left off the Christmas greeting on page 10 of the December 2013 issue of *ATFP*. The online version of the newsletter has been corrected. A New Year's greeting from these clubs appears in this issue on page 6. My sincerest apologies to both clubs.

-Aimee Devine

Madison Olympic hero covers. If you wish to add them to your Wisconsin memorabilia collection, you can contact Duane at dzinkel@charter.net. ☞

FEDERATION FOCUS

By WFSC President Karen Weigt

WFSC 2013 Accomplishments

The WFSC did very well in the past year, and a review of our accomplishments should provide confidence that we can handle whatever challenges in the future. Here are some of our major achievements:

- Inducted two into the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame
- Added four new faces to the WFSC administrative body
- Expanded the "Club Resources" section on the WFSC website

- Made a grandstand appearance at StampShow 2013
- Produced a booklet: "The ABC's of Wisconsin on Stamps"
- Produced a first-day cover for the Art Deco Eagle stamped envelope
- Spread the word of stamp clubs and shows throughout the state at our StampShow 2013 booth
- Began executing plans to sponsor our own WISCOPEX 2014

WFSC Executive Board Meeting

A WFSC Executive Board meeting has been scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 11, 2014, at Mancino's Downtown restaurant. The restaurant is located in the Retlaw Plaza Hotel, One North Main Street, Fond du Lac, Wis. The meeting will be held in Mancino's Epic Room. Interested WFSC members are always welcome to attend and participate in discussions. For further information, contact WFSC Secretary Ken Grant at 608-356-7593, or Kenneth.grant@uwc.edu.



This 1930s postcard depicts the Hotel Retlaw, location of the WFSC's 1932 founding convention. WISCOPEX 2014 will be held here.

Dues are Due

WFSC Treasurer Al Vick has mailed the 2014 dues notices to your club treasurer or contact. Al puts a lot of time and energy into preparing these notices. It's helpful when clubs respond promptly so he can close the books on this annual activity. We appreciate the same for our members-at-large.

WISCOPEX 2014 Update

The event will feature a 14-dealer bourse chaired by Bob Voss. For booth rental information, contact Bob at 608-838-1033, or lestamps@charter.net. A publicity flier with more event features can be viewed on the WFSC website, www.wfscstamps.org.



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-Northwoods Philatelic Society
-Oshkosh Philatelic Society
-Outagamie Philatelic Society
-Wisconsin Postal History Society

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-Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club
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-American Topical Association (Chapter 5)
-Germany Philatelic Society (Chapter 18)
-Italian American Stamp Club
-Milwaukee Philatelic Society
-North Shore Philatelic Society (Milwaukee)
-Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club
-Waukesha Country Philatelic Society
-Wauwatosa Philatelic Society

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-Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society

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 visit the website, www.wfscstamps.org.

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 other gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy.

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

Editorial matter should be sent to: Aimee Devine, Editor *ATFP*, 2111 E. Luther Road, Janesville, WI 53545. Phone: 608-758-1354 (spanishmoss72@sbcbglobal.net).

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, *ATFP*, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. Phone: 920-687-9077 (dcarney1@new.rr.com). For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified, and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.

CLUBS ARE TRUMP

By Maurice Wozniak

Keeping in touch with other nearby stamp clubs can serve to enhance the experience of a club's members with new ideas, new friends and wider interests. Sharing, during a club meeting, what's going on at other clubs lets members realize that the hobby may be wider than they think.

For example, a member of the Northwoods Philatelic Society, Iron Mountain, Mich., revealed at a meeting during the summer that a well-known author and expert on postcards would talk at a meeting of a new stamp club in Houghton, Mich., the next week. Northwoods club members fairly regularly visit at neighboring club meetings, notably in Green Bay and at other stamp clubs in the Upper Peninsula.

In southeastern Wisconsin many collectors belong to multiple clubs and likewise share social and philatelic events, including community events, show sponsorship and club programs.

*** Program Ideas ***

A Milwaukee-area collector, who joined the Milwaukee Philatelic Society after his presentation, talked to the club on the contributions and experiences of Jews in America, based on their depictions on stamps. MPS also heard a program on the American buffalo on stamps, based on a collector's specialty.

"A Glimpse of Milwaukee Through Its Advertising Covers," which also was presented at the American Philatelic Society StampShow in Milwaukee this summer, was part of a program at American Topical Association Chapter 5, in the Milwaukee area. The program is based on 20 years of collecting. Club members were invited to show items from their own collections to enhance those shown at the talk.

At an ATA Chapter 5 youth club meeting, members were challenged to find varieties of the U.S. 32¢ Flag Over Porch stamps available in a stamp mixture.

Another program with ties to the APS Stampshow was presented at a meeting of Central Wisconsin Stamp Club, Stevens Point. It was based on a member's groundbreaking collection of Puerto Rican revenue stamps.

Badger Stamp Club, Madison, had a Power-Point presentation on the U.S. Wild Turkey stamp and also a CD presentation prepared by Dave Burrows of the Green Bay Philatelic Society on "Philatelic Terms: Paper, Printing and Separation" (a good example of how WFSC clubs can help each other).

*** What Others Are Doing ***

Bob Voss of Badger Stamp Club, Madison, is looking to arrange an annual fall bourse with no exhibits in Madison, starting this year.

A member of the Northwoods Philatelic Society, Iron Mountain, Mich., shared with the club his good fortune in finding a hidden treasure

in a dealer's "dollar box" of covers at a show. He said the item, an early first-day cover, has a catalog value of \$500. As Jim Stearns put it in the club's newsletter, "This proves that there are rarities out there, waiting to be discovered, and the spoils go to those who will dig for such rarities."

Tom Pleyte agreed to fill the vacant position of vice president of the Northwoods Philatelic Society and therefore advance to president next year. Bob Schultz is currently president, Mark Pleyte treasurer and Jim Stearns secretary.

Bob Mather, who prepares the mailings for ATA Chapter 5, in the Milwaukee area, passed on the information that the ATA had introduced a nationwide members' sales program, details of which can be found at TopicalsOnLine.com. The club was also trying to get its own "Buy-It-Now" program established last summer, a vehicle so that members could buy and sell to each other.

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

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Meet the Mascots — Winter Olympic Games 1968-2014

By MaryAnn Bowman

Collecting the Winter Olympics philatelically offers challenges for the topical collector. There are many hundreds of stamps that have been issued for the Olympics, whether representative of specific sporting events within the Games or of the symbols that have come to represent the Olympics themselves. If you are looking for a smaller topic within the Winter Olympics collecting area, consider a mini-study of the mascots.

Olympic mascots are a rather recent addition having been unofficially “born” at the Grenoble Olympic Games in 1968. Over the years, they have evolved as popular icons representing the history and culture of the host country as well as lending a festive air to the Games and associated celebrations.

The first unofficial Olympic mascot was named Schuss (Figure 1) and was depicted as a little man on skis. Making his appearance in 1968, it was the first of many more to come. The first official mascot was created for the Summer Games in Munich in 1972. Mascots have been around ever since. The first mascots were animals that were representative of the host country. Later mascots were based on people and even imaginary creatures. Depictions of these mascots illustrate the imagination and creativity of the artists while welcoming the world of athletes and guests to the host country.



Figure 1. The first unofficial Olympic mascot, Schuss.



Figure 2. Schneemann, the 1976 Winter Olympics mascot.

The Lake Placid Olympics in 1980 used a raccoon, a familiar animal to the region. They named it Roni, which is an Iroquoian word used by the native people in that area and means raccoon. The black and white mask of the raccoon’s face is reminiscent of the sun-glasses worn by some of the competitors.

Sarjevo 1984’s mascot was named Vučko and took on the appearance of a wolf (Figure



Figure 3. A souvenir sheet from Korea featuring Vučko in the lower right corner.

3). This mascot was chosen through a contest and voted on by readers of newspapers and magazines. In Yugoslavia, the wolf represents courage and strength.

Polar bears Hidy and her brother Howdy were selected as the mascots for the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. They were the first mascot couple. The names were chosen by a citizen’s jury following a contest that was organized by the Calgary Zoo. As you might suspect, Hidy is a form of “hi” and Howdy is short for “how do you do,” both of which are friendly greetings representative of the Calgary region’s hospitality. These polar bears wear Western style hats and outfits. Originally, the brown bear had been considered as a mascot, but the 1980 Olympics in Moscow had used a brown bear so the polar bear, more representative of the cold winter season, was chosen.

The first mascot to be chosen that was not an animal was Magique (Magic), an imp in the shape of a star and cube. Selected to represent the Albertville 1992 Olympics, his coloration came from the French flag and his star shape symbolizes dreams and imagination.



Figure 4. Haakon and Kristin are seen in the top left corner of this souvenir sheet from Bulgaria.

Two human form mascots, Haakon and Kristin, were based on historical figures from 13th century Norway (Figure 4). Wearing medieval costumes, these modern-day children represented the Lillehammer 1994 Olympics. During the Olympics, eight pairs of children, each from a region within Norway, were chosen for the role of the “living mascots.”

Nagano 1998 used four owls known as Snowlets as their mascots: Sukki, Nokki, Lekki, and Tsukki (Figure 5). They represent fire, air, earth, and water, respectively. The first one or two letters of each individual owl’s name formed the word *Snowlets*. Originally, the Games mascot was to be a weasel named Snowpie but was later changed to the four owls whose worldwide perception is one of wisdom.



Figure 5. A cover from Moldova that has the “Snowlets” as the cachet.

Three mascots, Powder (a snowshoe hare), Copper (a coyote), and Coal (a black bear) were chosen to represent the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Games. These three animals also illustrate the Olympic motto Citius, Altius, Fortius (faster, higher, stronger) through the hare’s speed, the coyote’s climbing ability, and the black bear’s strength. Interestingly, Milwaukee was one of three focus groups that were shown preliminary sketches of the mascots and were instrumental in the final selection of the mascots.

Neve and Gliz, a snowball and ice cube, were the mascots for Turin 2006 (Figure 6). Representative of the needed elements for a successful Winter Games, Neve is Italian for snow, dressed in red, and her rounded shape is symbolic of harmony and elegance of movement. Gliz is



Figure 6. An Italian stamp showing Neve and Gliz.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 4)



Figure 7. A Canadian souvenir sheet showing the mascots from the Vancouver 2010 games.

related to the Italian word for ice and wears a blue outfit. His angular shape represents the power and strength of athletes. An international contest among design, advertising, and graphic artists was held to create the image.

Vancouver 2010 used two mythical animals, Quatchi and Miga, as their mascots

(Figure 7). Quatchi, a sasquatch, lives in the forest and has thick fur and wears boots and earmuffs. Miga is part whale and part Kermode bear. The pair had a friend Mukmuk, an endangered marmot, who became an unofficial mascot due to his popularity at the Games.

You will see a lot of the hare, the polar bear, and the leopard (Figure 8) if you watch the Sochi 2014 Games. Representative of the three places on the Olympic podium, the mascots were chosen after a contest where over 24,000 drawings were received. The field was narrowed to 10 and professionals were used to create the final designs. A vote by the public as a part of TV programming resulted in the three mascots selected. They are featured on a 25-ruble coin

released by Russia in 2012.

The mascots of the Winter Olympics have provided both a colorful and entertaining presence at the Games. As a marketing tool, the creation of these symbols represent another collecting area for the Olympic enthusiast. 



Figure 8. A commemorative cover showing the 2014 mascots.

COVER CONCEPT

The Challenge of Collecting Postal Cards

By John Paré



On December 29, 1983, the USPS issued airmail postal card (UXC 21) in Milwaukee. It depicted a speed skater and was issued to coincide with the U.S. Speed Skating Time Trials held at the Wisconsin Olympic Ice Rink adjacent to the State Fair Park in West Allis. The trials were the lead-up to the XIV Winter Olympics held two months later in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

The 28 cents paid the international airmail rate for cards, a rate in effect from January 1, 1981 to February 17, 1985. A separate postal category for airmail and surface cards ended on April 30, 1977. From that date forward, airmail and surface first-class service of letters and cards was ended as all first-class mail transport

was by “the most effective means,” whether surface or air.

UXC1, the first airmail postal card, was issued on January 10, 1949. UXC28, the last one issued, was issued on February 22, 2001, 24 years after the decision to send all mail by the most effective means. Airmail cards were



never widely used for personal communication. Most were used commercially as meeting notices, as past due bill payment reminders and often the message side of the card contained a standard printed message. So, what’s the challenge here?

If your goal is to collect and exhibit postal cards, you know that judges insist on seeing personal or commercial items in exhibits rather than philatelic items. The challenge is finding such postal cards, and an even bigger challenge is finding commercially-used air mail postal cards. A quick search of eBay for UXC21 turned up 41 listings – none commercially-used. Since they are air mail cards, many, no doubt, are collecting dust in closets overseas. Well-known Wisconsin postal historian, Neal West, recently considered collecting and exhibiting UX113, the postal card issued in Mineral Point in 1986 to commemorate the Wisconsin Territory Sesquicentennial but

abandoned the project when he realized how scarce commercially-used cards are.

So, enjoy this lovely card issued in Milwaukee because of the West Allis ice arena – the home rink for our state’s long list of world-class speed skaters. In the 1980s, who among us

doesn’t remember Eric and Beth Heiden, Mary and Sarah Doctor and Dan Janssen? And, although from Champaign, Ill., who can ever forget the smiling face of Bonnie Blair? 

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WFSC members are entitled to
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(See page 7 for details.)





WFSC Show Schedule

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

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

Contact Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562.

Phone: 608-836-1509 (kweigt@tds.net)

WFSC CLUB SHOWS

February 9, 2014

JANESVILLE ANNUAL EXHIBITION & BOURSE

Janesville Stamp Club
Holiday Inn Express,
3100 Wellington Pl., Janesville, WI
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Aimee Devine
2111 E. Luther Rd.
Janesville, WI 53545
608-758-1354
spanishmoss72@sbcbglobal.net

March 1-2, 2014

STAMPFEST '14

Milwaukee Philatelic Society
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis, WI
Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact: Carol Schutta
6814 Southview Cir.,
West Bend, WI 53090
262-388-1453
harryncarolschutta@gmail.com

March 22, 2014

BAYPEX '14

Green Bay Philatelic Society
St. Matthew Catholic Church,
Multipurpose Room
2575 So. Webster Ave. (parking in rear)
Green Bay, WI
9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Ray D. Perry
920-469-8925
fiveperry@athenet.net

April 13, 2014

DANEPEX '14

Badger Stamp Club
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
4402 E. Washington Ave. (across
from East Towne Mall), Madison, WI
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Bob Voss,
P.O. Box 35, McFarland, WI 53558
608-838-1033, lestamps@charter.net

April 26, 2014

OUTAPEX '14

Outagamie Philatelic Society
V.F.W. Hall, 501 N. Richmond St.
Appleton, WI
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Corey Gartner
P.O. Box 11, Appleton, WI 54912
920-257-4028
clgartner@digitalsilk.net

May 17-18, 2014

WISCOPEX '14

Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs
83rd Annual Convention

Retlaw Plaza Hotel
One North Main Street
Fond du Lac, WI

Contact: Karen Weigt
4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562
608-836-1509, kweigt@tds.net

www.wfscstamps.org

June 28-29, 2014

TRI-PEX STAMP FAIR

ATA Chapter 5, North Shore Phil.
Soc. & Waukesha County Phil. Soc.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis, WI
Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Robert Henak, MPS
P.O. Box 170832
Milwaukee, WI 53217
414-351-1519
henak8010@sbcbglobal.net.net

July 2014

(Date to be announced)

BAY DE NOC STAMP & COIN SHOW

Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Club
Joseph Heirman Bldg. (off lobby
entrance), Bay College,
2001 N. Lincoln Rd. Escanaba, MI
10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. EDT

Contact: Mark Kuehn
7019 Co. Rd. 426, M.5 Road
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-786-2103
triplejump@charter.net

OTHER MAJOR SHOWS AND BOURSES

January 18-19, 2014

MSDA WINTER STAMP SHOW

Midwest Stamp Dealers Assoc.,
Comfort Inn (formerly Wingate)
600 Milwaukee Ave.
Prospect Heights, IL

January 25-26, 2014

POLARPEX '14

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St.
West Allis, WI

March 8-9, 2014

ROCKFORD '14

Rockford Stamp Club
Forest Hills Lodge
1601 W. Lane Rd.
Rockford, IL

March 14-16, 2014

ASDA MIDWEST POSTAGE STAMP SHOW

American Stamp Dealers Assoc.
Linder Conference Center
610 E. Butterfield Rd.
Lombard, IL

APRIL 5-6, 2014

MSDA SPRING STAMP SHOW

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association
Comfort Inn (formerly Wingate)
600 Milwaukee Ave.
Prospect Heights, IL



The Ray of Light
and Snowflake are
the mascots for the
2014 Paralympic
Winter Games held
in Sochi, Russia.



Roger H. Oswald R.H.O. Postal History and Stamps

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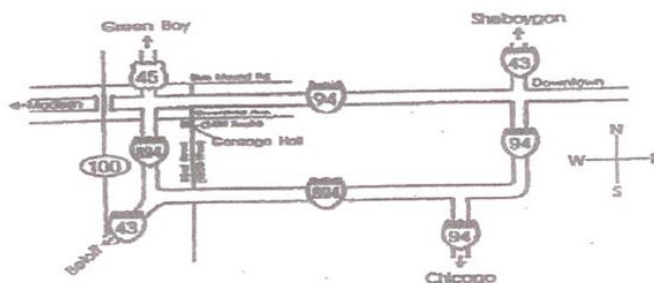
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Www.milwaukeephilatelic.org

