

ACROSS THE FENCE



NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

WFSC CLUBS AT A GLANCE: OSHKOSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Figure 1: Ninetieth year celebration cake.

BY SANDRA KEMP

Oshkosh Philatelic Society

Oshkosh Philatelic Society has a long history. The first meeting was held February 24, 1930. This year at our February 11 meeting, we celebrated with a cake decorated with a cachet and honored 90 years of OPS (Figure 1).

The Society was first known as the Oshkosh Stamp Club. A meeting was held in the fall of 1929 in the Oshkosh Public Museum "to arouse interest in stamp collecting and to see if there would be enough interest by collectors to form a club." That was recorded by Steve Langkau back in 1996 in a booklet titled

"Oshkosh Philatelic Society / 1930-1996 / 65 years of Progress."

In the early years members wore suits and ties to meetings. Membership records show that the 100th member, Mrs. E. H. Wilson, joined January 9, 1941. Since then 280 more names have been added to the roster. Although many members hail from Oshkosh, others come from other places such as the Appleton area, Neenah, Menasha, and Fond du Lac.

The first meeting in 1930 was held at the Boy Scout office on Main Street in Oshkosh. For many years it met in the First National Bank community room.

In the 1990s, the club began meeting

at Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh and continues to this day.

There was a time when meetings were held at the Oshkosh Post Office. The only reason we left there was that if the scanning equipment they used sounded an alarm we would have been required to leave the building. That would mean leaving behind everything we brought. Presently our club meets monthly from September through May on the second Tuesday of the month at Evergreen.

OPS predates WFSC by two years since the Federation (first called Wisconsin Association of Philatelic Societies) was organized in 1932. Three times OPS has hosted WISCOPEX: 1934, 1948, and 2010. Over the years, nine club members have been inducted into the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. They are Charles J. Peirce, (membership # 39), Douglas H. Henkle, Elmer C. Foote, Al Marcus, Paul T. Schroeder, Henry "Hank" J. Schmidt, Fr. Augustine Serafini, Jay Bigalke, and Dave Carney.

Several current members were interviewed for this article. Memories include picnics at members' homes, going to others' homes to buy stamps, and the people who had been with the club early on. They include Gil LaBudde, Charles Peirce, Al Marcus, and Bob Sparks who collected Machins.

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APS Chapter 350



ATA Chapter 107

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EDITOR'S LETTER

BY ALEX GILL

Editor-in-Chief, *Across the Fence Post*
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I hope this issue of *Across The Fence Post* finds our readers safe and well during these difficult and uncertain times. Although our lives have changed dramatically as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, I hope that our readers have had the chance to enjoy the spring and early summer months. I also want to salute those in the medical professions who are putting their lives on the lines to work tirelessly to save lives of others. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

The virus and quarantine has left us with more questions than answers. We are living in uncertain and unprecedented times and are having to make difficult decisions we never imagined we would have to make. Many are facing difficult circumstances: desperate financial and family decisions, unemployment, loneliness, and frustration. For those who are working, they face working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales. Some want to return to work but are unable to as they don't qualify for unemployment or are running out of money. Some of us know people who have experienced the virus first hand and it is scary.

However, I hope this time has allowed us philatelists to ease our anxiety by working on our collections. Although the virus has forced numerous shows and events to be cancelled or postponed, the hobby continues. Many dealers are still operating and rely heavily on philatelists to keep their business running. Make it a point to support your favorite stamp dealer(s) during this difficult time and work on your collections. I remain optimistic the virus will pass and we will be able to see each other again soon at exciting shows and events. In the meantime, stay well!



Recent stamp issuances by Iran (left), Switzerland (right) drawing awareness of COVID-19 and commemorating the hard work of medical professionals on the front lines battling the virus.

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CLUB CONNECTIONS

BY MARYANN BOWMAN

Waukesha County Philatelic Society

The pandemic has put a damper on local stamp club meetings and shows, but it does not have to put a stop on your philatelic activities.

The Badger Stamp Club found a great way to get stamps into the hands of some of their members even though no meetings are being held. Previously, the club had received several of the APS boxes that were offered to clubs and individuals. Filled with thousands and thousands of stamps, member Nancy Warner sorted through the boxes and created five different offerings for members: boxes of U.S. off paper, boxes of U.S. on paper, boxes of foreign off paper, boxes of mixed foreign off and on paper, and parts of the original boxes.

Members were able to make arrangements to pick up the boxes of their choosing which were left on the doorstep to her home thus keeping social distancing. Members were allowed to go through the boxes and take what they wanted.

She also started a by-mail circulation of envelopes of approximately 200-250 stamps. Members were to take what they wanted and then send the envelope to the next person on the list.

There is not much club news to present in this issue and I am looking forward to the time when clubs are back to meeting and can provide information about their activities.

The American Philatelic Society (APS) has done a good job of keeping its members active during the safer-at-home campaign. Newsletters emailed to members detail some of the ways one can stay active in the hobby as well as entertained.

The APS has held virtual Town Hall meetings. These can be viewed on the APS YouTube channel. Likewise, the APS has been holding Stamp Chats. A benefit of APS membership is the opportunity to learn more about stamp collecting by participating in the C3a Learning Platform. What are you doing during these unusual times to keep active in the hobby?

I had hoped to be able to share with you information about Milcopex, but at the time of this writing, there is still much uncertainty regarding just what group activities will be permitted.



A PIECE OF WISCONSIN HISTORY

BY RAY D. PERRY

Green Bay Philatelic Society



U.S. Scott 2781 honoring Charles Lindbergh and The National Postal Museum

With all the rain, snow, and flooding in Wisconsin recently, it is interesting that MaryAnn Bowman would forward me a part of an article she read recently in *Penta* magazine. The article describes some terrible conditions in southwest Wisconsin during the spring flood of the Wisconsin River in 1923. It turns out that the only doctor in the area, Dr. Bertha Reynolds (or Dr. Bertha as she was fondly known), could not get across the river to attend to patients on the other side. Dr. Reynolds drafted a 21-year-old college dropout that was barnstorming in the area and had just landed in Lone Rock, Wisc. She got him to fly her across the raging river to her patients. The young flyer was none other than Charles Lindbergh. Four years later he would make history by being the first to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

What about Dr. Bertha? According to Wikipedia, she was born in Thiensville, Wisc. on May 22, 1868. Her parents had moved from Quebec, Canada to the Milwaukee area several years earlier. Dr. Bertha grew up on her parents' farm in Ozaukee County. At the age of 24 she moved with her family to the Lincoln, NE area. She wanted to become a doctor as had a number of her family members. She was discouraged at both Marquette and the University of Nebraska hearing that the medical profession was not suitable for a woman. Finally, in 1898, she enrolled in the Woman's Hospital Medical College of Chicago and completed her MD degree in 1901.

Following graduation, she joined the practice of one of her brothers in Lone Rock, Wisc. When her brother moved to Milwaukee, Dr. Bertha became the only doctor in the area. She continued to practice medicine in the area until 1940 when she attempted to retire. She moved to Avoca, WI, in Iowa County. When that town's doctor (its only doctor) was called into service during World War II, Dr. Bertha came out of retirement and practiced until 1953 when she again retired.

Dr. Bertha Reynolds passed on October 31, 1961. She received several honors, most notably the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Who knew? Now you do.

WFSC CLUBS AT A GLANCE



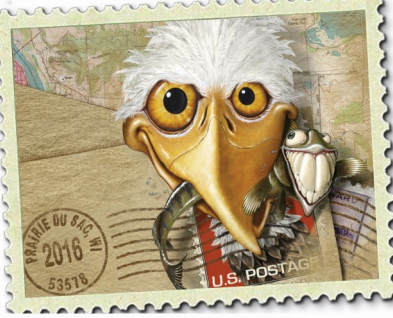
Figure 2: Member Greg Van Oudenhoven at the AMERIPEX show on May 31, 1986.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the 1970's the Oshkosh Philatelic Society, Appleton and Fond du Lac Clubs, chartered a bus to a stamp show in Chicago. Member Greg Van Oudenhoven was a teenager at the time and recalls an exciting time. In fact three of the four interviewed were teens when they first joined. In 1986, another group of philatelists from the club traveled by bus to Chicago to attend AMERIPEX. In 2013, our club chartered a bus to Milwaukee for the annual APS summer show.

Many club meetings are centered around a topic such as World War II stamps and covers, airmail stamps, and stamps of Great Britain. Any member can share what they have and add their "2¢ worth." Games and quizzes have been popular. Every meeting includes a quiz of 10 questions and the one who creates the quiz thinks it is easy. The rest are lucky (knowledgeable) to get six correct answers! Scavenger hunts and the stamp catalogue game are fun events which get repeated.

Wayne L. Youngblood
YOUR FRIEND IN THE HOBBY



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CLOSED ALBUM

Bob Lambert, my great uncle and long-time member of the Green Bay Philatelic Society passed away on November 17, 2019. Bob struggled for several years with Parkinson's disease but occasionally was able to attend meetings with the help of generous members picking him up and getting him home afterwards. Bob collected mostly U.S. material. He was always interested in what his friends were collecting and always had a positive comment about their collections at meetings.

He was 91 years old and the last sibling of seven children to pass away, all of whom were proud to be descendants of the first Belgians (1850's) to settle in the Bay Settlement area of Wisconsin. The avid baker was known for his Belgian pies and Christmas candy. His "jolly" booming laugh always reminded us of a good Santa Clause laugh.

Bob had many friends as he was an agent for Metropolitan Life Insurance for 34 years in Green Bay and Oconto Falls. He drove a Lamers school bus for 10 years after retirement for after school activities such as track, basketball and football. He was a mentor and role model for these young people he admired and befriended. Bob's many hobbies besides stamps were theater, acting as a fur trader at Heritage Hill, grafting fruit trees, gardening, wine making, traveling, rock polishing, wood carving and especially a good game of cards with family and friends. Bob has been and will be missed by our members at GBPS. I miss him greatly too. Respectfully submitted, Tom Aldrich.

CORRECTIONS

The April-May 2020 issue included a closed album for Bill Hodge, a member of the Oshkosh Philatelic Society. We regret that the photo published with the article is not Bill Hodge. Our apologies to the Oshkosh Philatelic Society for this error.

In the April-May issue, Mary Yahr, of the Kettle Moraine Club, wrote about attending the First-Day Ceremony for the Wild Orchids stamps in Coral Gables, Fla. The title used in the photo caption "Postmaster Generals" of Fort Lauderdale and Miami is incorrect. It should be noted that Postal Service personnel are "postmasters" period. There is only one "Postmaster General."

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF TWO RIVERS POSTAL HISTORY

BY DARLENE WATERSTREET
Green Bay Philatelic Society

The following article is from an exhibit originally intended for BAYPEX '20. This year's BAYPEX show was cancelled in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Two Rivers, Wisconsin, is a city of just over 11,000 people on the shore of Lake Michigan in Manitowoc county, where the East Twin and West Twin Rivers come together.

Postal service began early, because Two Rivers was on the mail route between Green Bay and Chicago. The first known mail carrier was Alexis Clermont, who traveled the old Green Bay Trail on foot, passing through Two Rivers, usually taking a full month to make the round trip. He was often accompanied on the trip by an Oneida Indian. Their pay was \$60 to \$70 for the trip. Clermont made his last trip in summer of 1836.

Most of the early Post Offices were in stores. Frank Riley, postmaster at the turn of the 20th century, built the first separate post office, which later became a bus station (Figure 1).



Figure 1: The Riley post office (left) sometime in the 1920s.

The first city mail delivery in Two Rivers also occurred during Riley's tenure, starting on November 16, 1908, with three city routes in addition to three rural routes (Figure 2).

A government-owned post office was erected in 1933 with floor space of approximately 10,000 square feet, at a cost of \$130,000 (Figure 3). The cornerstone was laid and the building

dedicated on July 21, 1933 as part of the Wisconsin Postmasters Association's annual convention which was held in Two Rivers that year. There was an "open house" for the public on November 4, 1933, and the building was expected to open for business "some time next week."

The post office was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 24, 2000. The NRHP cited it for its Georgian Revival architectural style, but also because "it was one of the very first post offices built during the Roosevelt administration's Depression-era public works relief projects." Groundbreaking for the building was held on November 17, 1932, only nine days after the election of Roosevelt, so it was begun before the start of FDR's Public Works Administration, but PWA may have provided funding and manpower in 1933 during construction.

In 1958, the city as well as the post office celebrated 50 years of mail delivery to the homes in Two Rivers (Figure 5). By that year city routes had increased to six, and rural routes had dropped to two.

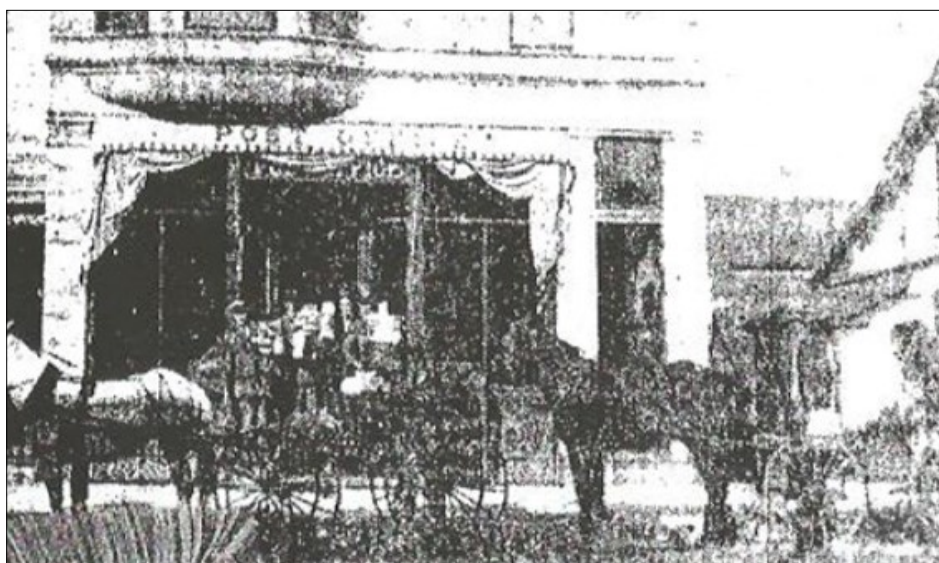
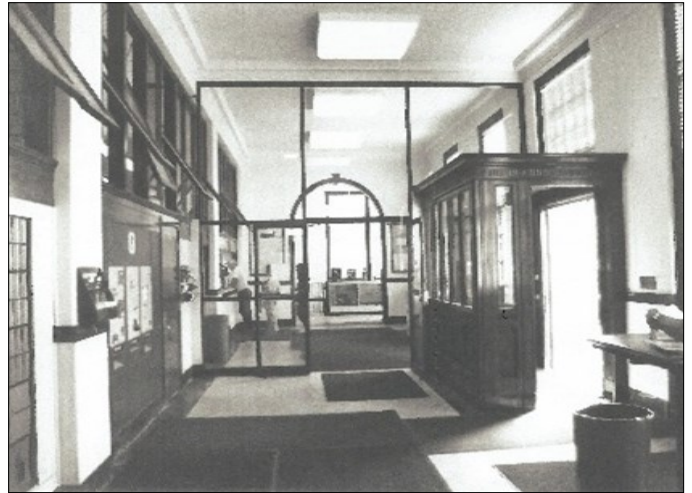


Figure 2: Original mail carriers standing in front of the post office, 1908.



Figures 3-4: The exterior and interior of the 1933 and current post office.

TWO RIVERS AND THE WFSC

Once upon a time, Two Rivers had an active, but very short-lived stamp club. The Lakeshore Philatelic Society (later renamed Lakeshore Stamp Club of Two Rivers) was welcomed into the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (WFSC) in 1971. The club held annual shows and bourses from 1972 to 1976, which included postal stations, a meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of America, and the first Wisconsin Philatelic Symposium. In 1973, the club publicized itself as “Wisconsin’s fastest growing stamp club.” Show attendance that year was estimated at over 400.

The club made tentative plans to host WISCOPEX in 1974. Unfortunately, these plans did not come to fruition due to lack of a suitable convention site in either Two Rivers or nearby Manitowoc.

Meetings were scheduled for the spring of 1976, but by October of that year the club was listed in the *Bulletin* as disbanded. The club was composed mostly of students. When they left town for college or work, there were not enough members left to keep it active.



Figure 5: Staff celebrating 50 years of delivery in 1958.

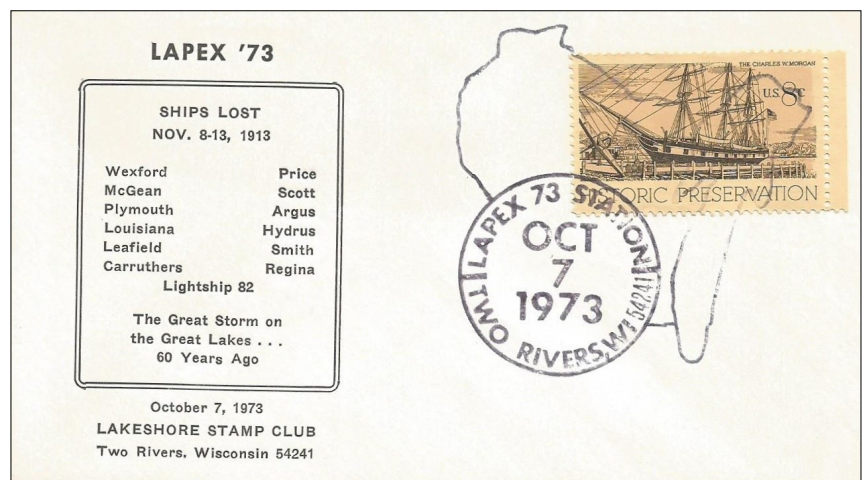


Figure 6: Lakeshore Stamp Club show cover.

TWO RIVERS AND SODA FOUNTAIN FAVORITES STAMPS

Two Rivers is recognized on a Wisconsin historical marker as the birthplace of the ice cream sundae. The story goes that in 1881 a man walked into Edward Berners' soda fountain and asked for a dish of ice cream topped with chocolate sauce (Figure 7). The dessert caught on, and Berner began selling it for a nickel, but only on Sundays. Later, a 10-year-old girl insisted on having a dish of ice cream "with that stuff on top" but was told it was only available on Sunday. She suggested that they "pretend it's Sunday" and she got her dessert.

Other cities have also claimed to be the birthplace of the sundae, including Evanston, Il. and Ithaca, NY. A good-natured rivalry between the cities was capped by an assertion by Two Rivers that there is no longer any doubt over where the sundae began. In 2016, the federal government through the United States Postal Service formally recognized Two Rivers through the 2016 Soda Fountain Stamps (Scott 5093-5097) during a dedication ceremony at the Washington House Museum in Two Rivers (Figures 8-9).

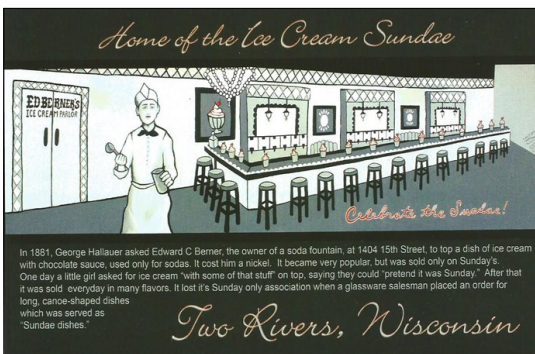


Figure 7: Ice cream sundae postcard.

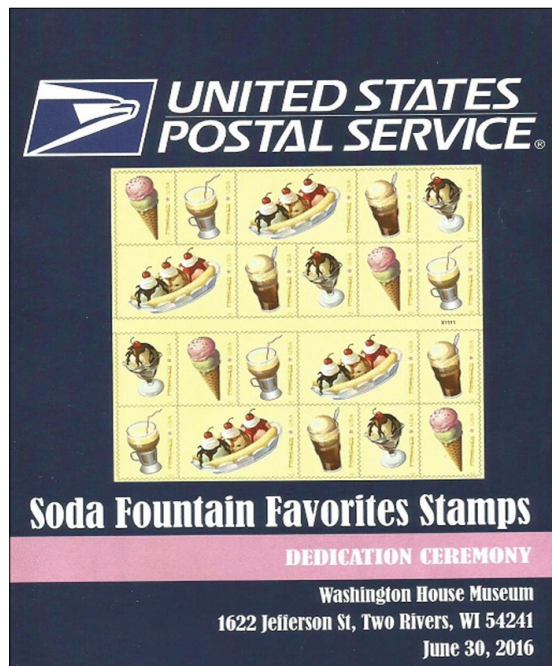


Figure 8: Dedication Ceremony program cover.

ICE CREAM SUNDAE FIGHT SONG (sung to the tune of ON WISCONSIN)

In Two Rivers, in Wisconsin
history was made.
And our pride in that first sundae...
It will never fade.

Made right here by old Ed Berners
Eighteen eighty-one.
Now we celebrate that sundae
and have lots of fun.

Others try to claim the sundae
started in their towns.
But the story of our sundae
turns their smiles to frowns.

Evanston and Ithaca, they
are among the worst
But confronted with our facts
they see that Ed was first.

Topped with chocolate, or with
cherries
and with lots of nuts
Try to claim our sundae, and we'll
kick you in your butts!

On Two Rivers! On Wisconsin!
it's with pride we burst
as we shout out to the whole world
ED WAS FIRST!

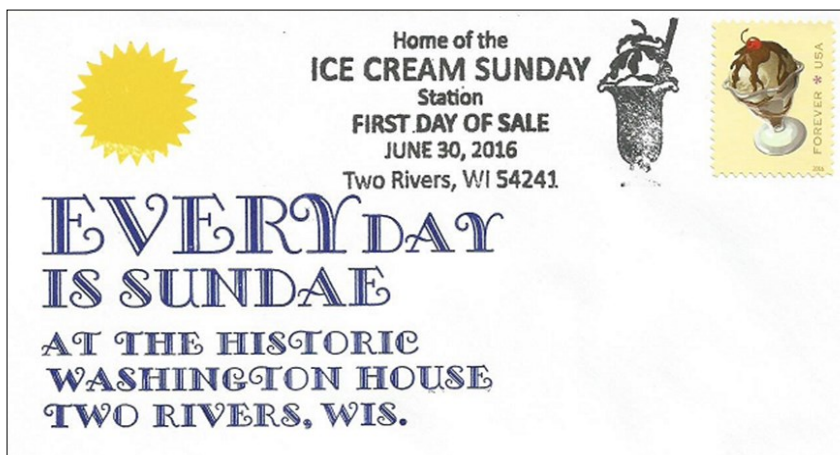


Figure 9: First Day of Sale cover from Two Rivers.

SHOW CALENDAR

Want to list your event? Contact Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Madison, WI 53562
P: (608) 609-6173
E: klweigt@gmail.com

This information is current as of May 1, 2020. Prior to traveling to a show, we recommend that you confirm that the event is still taking place.

WFSC CLUB SHOWS

July 11 Bay de Noc Stamp & Coin Show

Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Club, bourse only. Bay College, 2000 N. 30th Street, Joseph Heirman Buildings, Room 952 (accessed from Danforth Rd.), Escanaba, MI. Sat. 10a-3p EASTERN STANDARD TIME.
C: Richard Reiffers (906) 233-9261
E: rgrpaperboy@earthlink.net

July 25 14th Annual Lakeland Stamp & Coin Summer Show

Lakeland Stamp and Coin Club, bourse only. Woodruff Town Hall, Hwy. 47E, Woodruff, WI. Sat. 9a-2p.
C: Dean Marin (715) 356-9453

September 25-27 MILCOPEX 2020

Milwaukee Philatelic Society, judged exhibits, bourse, seminars. Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI. Fri. 10a-6p, Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.
C: www.milcopex.org

October 10 Monroe Stamp and Postcard Show

Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club, bourse only. Monroe Moose Lodge (behind Farm & Fleet), 639 3rd Ave., Monroe, WI. Sat. 9a-3p.
C: Randy Riese (608) 558-6430
E: rdiese@tds.net

October 17 CENWISPEX 2020

Central Wisconsin Stamp Club, exhibits and bourse. Holiday Inn Stevens Point, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point, WI. Sat. 10a-4p.
C: J.D. Manville (715) 341-5555
E: jadeco@charter.net

October 17-18 TOSAPEX 2020

Wauwatosa Philatelic Society, bourse only. St. Francis Lions Community Center, 3476 E. Howard Ave., St. Francis, WI. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.
C: Gerald Madritsch (414) 628-7910
E: gmadritsch@hotmail.com

October 24 Tri-State Stamp Expo

Tri-State Stamp Club, bourse only. NICC Peosta Campus, 8342 NICC Drive, Peosta, IA. Sat. 9a-2p.
C: Iowa Stamps (563) 582-6247
E: sales@pfhls.com

OTHER SHOWS

May 29-31 COMPEX '20

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK!

July 17-19 Minnesota Stamp Expo

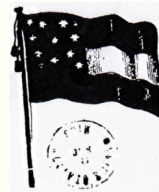
Maplewood Stamp Club, Twin City Philatelic Society, Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club, Minnesota Stamp Dealers Association, judged exhibits, seminars and bourse. Crystal Community Center, 4800 North Douglas Drive North, Minneapolis, MN. Fri. 10a-6p, Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-4p.

July 25-26 MSDA Summer Show

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse only. Ramada Plaza Wheeling, 1090 South Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.

September 19-20 MSDA Fall Show

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse only. Holiday Inn Chicago Oakbrook, 17W350 22nd St., Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.



Roger H. Oswald

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