

Green Bay Philatelic Society

Newsletter

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GREEN BAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY 397 Southern Star Ln., De Pere, WI 54115

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The Next GBPS Meeting

WHERE: FESTIVAL FOODS on University Ave.

2430 University Ave., Green Bay, WI 54302

WHEN: October 15, 2026 (third Thursday of every month)

TIME: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Stamps of Japan video, but also, bring some show-and-tell items!

Note: We will meet at Festival Foods through December of 2026. They book annually.

September Meeting Minutes

Vice President Darryl Ruprecht called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Eight were in attendance: Randy, Curt, and Bruce Kuehl, Havey Jaeger, Richard Krainz, Clete Delvaux, Mark Kohls, and Darryl Ruprecht. Mark read the meeting minutes from June. Karen had emailed the treasurers report and stated that there have been no transactions this summer and provided the account balance [withheld here].

Mark Kohls gave an update on the stamp collecting merit badge that will be taught at MILCOPEX on September 26. Supplies have been purchased and he is updating the curriculum. Three Harbors BSA council did marketing for us and signup has been slow. An expense report will be submitted after the event.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 and Mark provided an excellent 23-minute video called Stamps of Russia: S4E4 by Graham of Exploring Stamps. Mark showed his Russia stamp preservation project that is in progress.

Stamp Collecting Purposes

I've been thinking about how I meant open or close the stamp collecting merit badge that I will be teaching next weekend. Answering the key questions on the minds of youth ages 11 to 17 are:

Why do people collect postal stamps?

What is the purpose of philately?

Why should I be interested in this hobby?

I started by making a list of purposes that a variety of people have. In an order that youth may care about, here is what I came up with:

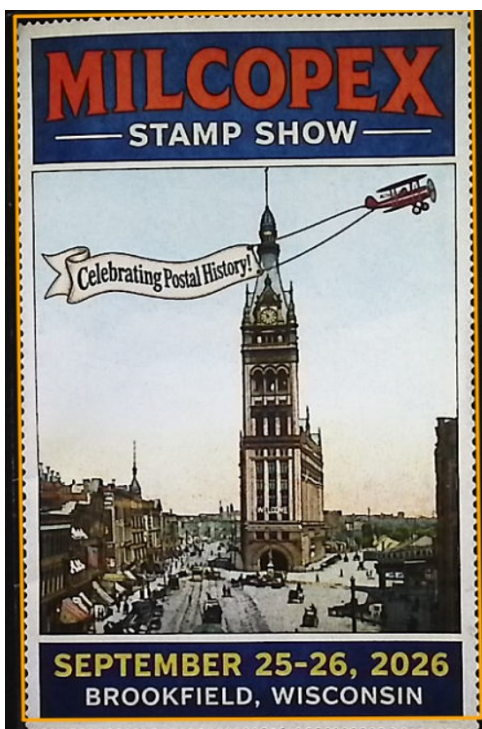
1. To unplug from screens, in short, leisure.
2. To get a better grade on a school paper
3. To understand our culture or the culture of other countries
4. To understand history
5. As a guise for socialization
6. To understand geography
7. To understand politics and propaganda
8. To win philatelic awards
9. To change beliefs and default thinking

10. To look at pretty stamps that are miniature art.
11. To make art out of colorful stamps
12. To gain approval of acquaintances
13. To understand historical printing techniques
14. To improve communication (think of Ben Franklin)
15. To keep their mind going while they age.
16. To teach history, social studies, politics, communication, marketing, science, literature, psychology, ...
17. To collect things
18. As a form of investment

As I go through these, I'll explain or have them interpret what type of people apply to each.

MILCOPEX in Review

Four members of the GBPS attended this show in Brookfield on Friday September 25 (I did not attend Saturday). The MPS put on a fabulous show, with nine philatelic presentations in person and 20 Zoom presentations done leading up to the event, many dealers, a USPS First Day Ceremony, and three auctions per day. I would say that it was the best show that I have attended.



Kristin Patterson's presentation on The State of Wisconsin's Funding of the Gettysburg Cemetery was first-rate and appropriately well attended. Kristin has exceptional philatelic credentials (5 years as APS Director at Large, organizer of WESTPEX and PENPEX, etc), and the presentation was well received. It was a pleasure to talk to her afterward.

The auctions were particularly fun, and I walked away with about eight items that will take most of the winter to process into my collections. Additionally, I purchased items from four dealers and spent almost an hour reading displays in the exhibition area.

If there was one improvement that could be made for the future, it would be to provide more space for the dealer's customers. There was almost no room to work.

Lastly, I caught up with GBPS members who were in attendance to find out what projects that they are working on, so it was a social day as well.

The Joy of Stamp Collecting

I am a stamp collector and not really a philatelist, and I admit it. With only perhaps three years of serious collecting, because I now have the time and money for it, I am not into printing methodologies, postal rates, postmarks and cancellations (not much anyway). I enjoy saving stamps, appreciating their beauty, messages, and what they say about a country's culture. I suppose the last two of those items are more philately than stamp collecting, and I suspect that my interests will mature of time. Regardless, I like to get one or more of everything, to preserve it, and present it in a way that is orderly. I'm not an investor in stamps. Friends from the club gift me things that they consider philatelic junk (cancelled souvenir sheets are a great example), and I happily accept them.

Today, I'm hoping to finish up on a Russia project. I purchased a book that I spent a whole \$35 on that clearly someone spent hundreds or perhaps thousands of hours on. It extends to

1992 and has many early stamps (1860-1909), but all the valuable stamps were removed if they were there in the first place. What's left is 100% hinged, another thing that some people abhor. I'm putting them in stock pages. I'm marking the change of year in black marker on the stock page, which is not exactly as professional as some of my labeling, but it is a first step and allows me to see every stamp's front for later identification. Mine are not the see-through Vario pages, which is fine because I don't want to see the remaining markings from a removed hinge either! I do like MNH stamps because of their originality and purity.

Enough background. The story is that this is the perfect project for what I need to be joyous today. It is a bright sunny day, low 60's, and the branches of the backyard trees are moving heavily. So, I set up in the kitchen's dining area which has a high table so that I can stand and look out at the back yard of my suburban home and admire the birds, clouds, leaves that are just starting to turn yellows and reds. My foot is not being happy today because it is recovering from a nail removal, so I move the soft mat that is normally in front of the sink to the table and stand on it. Oh, that's better.

The project has been going on for a while, and I can feel a sense of completion is possible. Part of being a perfect day would be if I could finish this project. In the house, there are more things are incomplete than I prefer because I was recently at MILCOPEX and came home with another six projects. My set up is in the image here. I am using Vario stock sheets with various numbers of rows, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8. They in a semi-circle above, and I pull down the type that I need for the size of stamps being pulled off the page. I pile of hinges can be seen on the right.



I am 5 days out of total shoulder replacement, so I need small movements of my left arm. Holding stamps down to pull the hinge off fits the bill. Now I call on Alexa to play some music for me on Barbara Streisand radio. It has her work, but also many others from the 60's to the contemporary (Celine Dion, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Jonny Mathis, etc). It is all music that focuses on the singing where you can understand the words and the words have meaning. Crank up the volume, my spouse is gone to Feed My Starving Children, and the music drowns out the tinnitus! I'm not beyond singing out loud, though I am far more conscientious after my wife caught me doing just that to a Josh Groban song about two years ago when she was not yet retired and I lost track of time! He and I sing nicely as a duet. At least in my mind! I do sing in two church choirs and have what my director said is a beautiful baritone sound; and my range is well into tenor if required for the song at hand. I'm not without talent, but it's a good thing that I didn't take it up as a career. My dear spouse encourages me to have no solos. I'm not singing today since I was intubated for surgery and the voice won't return to normal for a while. I said earlier that I needed this project. This music is so sublime.

Page after page, I work on preserving my Russia stamps, today covering 1984 to 1992. "Junk" in most collector's minds since Russia produced 4x to 6x the number of releases that the USPS does. But for me it is bliss, the shoulder pain is under control (I gave up pain killers yesterday), the toe does not hurt, the tinnitus of 30 years is imperceptible, and vocal artist after artist put their heart and soul into each song, eliciting emotions that bleed from their voices. I have an inkling of how much work it takes on top of their talent.

Along the way, I come across beautiful works of art, stamps that my friends would appreciate, and stamps that are a surprise to me. There were so many, but here are some examples:



Scott #5604: 70th Anniversary of the Socialist Revolution in 1917

Scott #5604 is a 5 Kopeck 1987 stamp commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Socialist Revolution in 1917. It is a beautiful painting by V.A. Serov that is in Moscow at the State Tretyakov Gallery. We tried to go to Russia on a cruise and hoped to see a ballet in St. Petersburg but the Ukraine war put those plans on hold.

I came across six duck stamps over multiple years and thought of my friend Tom who likes to collection duck stamps (though his are the Wisconsin duck hunting stamps).



Scott #6009, Northern Pintail Duck, 5k;
 Scott #6010, Greater Scaup Duck, 15k;
 Scott #6011, White-headed Duck, 20k, all from 1991.

Olympic stamps are a favorite, despite the doping scandals, but I won't include them here. They're proud of their athletes too. I am amused at the number of astronaut stamps. It seems that every Russian astronaut gets their own stamp. Why not?

Then I come upon a series of three stamps that bring reality to the front, showing popular cartoons. Everyone remembers Gena the Crocodile, right? Of course, kids grow up there too and have fun programs to watch.



Middle stamp, Scott #5639, 4 Kopecks, 1988.

I finished! Just in time to take it along on this afternoon's visit a friend whose spouse broke her leg is unable to come home from the hospital and rehab. My wife made some creamy chicken soup for him and I'll take some homemade Door County cherry jam that I made two weeks ago too. We'll solve the world's problems. And if not, it was a joyous day, after all. Just the stamp project that I needed today.

I'm in agreement with Matthew Kelly from his book "*Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy*". Leisure is required for joy and is a foundation for living a fully human intentional life. Stamp Collecting is a key component of leisure in my life. What a joy it is.

Stamp Donations to the GBPS

Do you have a stamp collection, postal material such as cards or letters, or collecting items to donate that you don't want to throw away? If you have determined that they have little to no monetary value to you, consider donating them to the Green Bay Philatelic Society. Your stamps will find an appreciative home since we have youth and adult programs that we support. For more information, contact Mark.Kohls@att.net or Text/Call 920-639-4991.

Guests Welcome at Month Stamp Collecting Meetings

Do you live in the Green Bay area and have an interest in stamp collecting? You are welcome to join our group for any of our upcoming meetings! The format of our meetings tends to be 15 to 30 minutes society business topics followed by an educational program featuring stamps and socializing. Anytime we have guests, we find out what their interests are, and we attempt to help them.

You don't need to tell us in advance that you want to attend. Just show up at Festival Foods (2430 University Ave, Green Bay), go to the back of the store and up to the second-floor community meeting room via the stairway or the elevator. The floor is small, so you can't miss us.

Invitation to Signup for This Newsletter

While all society members already receive this newsletter and this newsletter is published on the Wisconsin State Federation of Stamp Clubs monthly, you are welcome to submit your email address to the editor to receive this newsletter

automatically each month. It is free. Send a request to Mark.Kohls@ATT.NET

Would you like to contribute an article for publication in future months?

If you would like to write an article for the next GBPS newsletter, please do not hesitate, write it now, and send it to Mark.Kohls@att.net.

