

CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB – HISTORY

Beginnings

The Central Florida Stamp Club, with Francis Ferguson as President, A. Stephen Patrick as Vice President – Programs, Robert Dowrick as Vice President – Operations, Josh Furman as Secretary, and Jim Archbold as Treasurer, is 73 members strong at the beginning of 2010. But where did this club have its beginnings? Who were the people and when did it start?

Since accurate information is difficult to find, answering these questions becomes like trying to find the first use of a given postage stamp. For more recent stamps this may be an erroneous use earlier than the first day of issue. For earlier stamps it may actually be a date after the first day of issue. Either way, tracing down the beginning information about the club may take similar forms of deduction. As more information comes to light, the inception date can be moved earlier.

The American Philatelic Society (APS) has records of club memberships. A couple of calls got information that the club joined the APS in July, 1951 and were active until August, 1961. The club then rejoined in August, 1968 and has been an active chapter since that time. Additionally the club joined the Society of Philatelic Americans (SPA) in June, 1951 and maintained membership until December, 1983 when the SPA disbanded. This establishes that the club has been in continuous existence from at least 1951 to present.

The APS also furnished a copy of the club application for membership from June,

5000k.

Please Print or Type
Please Read This Blank Carefully Before Filing It Out 29160
MAY 25 1951

To The American Philatelic Society:

Mail to:
H. CLAY MUISSER, Executive Secretary, Central Office, P. O. Box 830, State College, Pa.

We hereby apply for admission to membership in the AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY. \$100 admission fee is retained herewith, together with the dues and subscription to the American Philatelist for the current fiscal year* at the rate shown on the back of this sheet. These amounts are to be refunded to us if our application is not accepted.

Index Name: Central Florida Stamp Club
City: Winter Park, Florida
Name of President: Mr. Ray Von Klippstein
Address of President: 450 E. Main St., Orlando, Fla.
Name of Secretary: Lawrence A. Kittinger
Address of Secretary: Box 881, Winter Park, Fla.
Name of A. P. S. Representative: Lawrence A. Kittinger
Address of Representative: P.O. Box 881 Winter Park, Florida.
Place and Time of Meeting: Florida Power Corp. Lounge, Park Ave., Winter Park, Fla. 1st and 3rd Thurs., 8 PM.

NAME AND NUMBER OF FIVE A. P. S. MEMBERS

2006R Mr. Ray Von Klippstein, 450 E. Main St., Orlando, Fla.
2121C Mr. Alan A. Snyder, College Point, Winter Park, Fla.
27987 Mr. Lawrence A. Kittinger, Box 881, Winter Park, Fla.
2692R Mr. Samuel Smith, Winter Park, Fla.
24764 Mr. Walter D. Boston, 220 W. 11th Ave., Mt. Dora, Fla.

I herewith endorse the above application and propose:
CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB as the membership
President: Samuel A. Kittinger
Membership No. 27987.

*The fiscal year of the Society begins June 30th, and all annual dues are figured accordingly. See By-Laws on other side.

Approved—Board of Vice Presidents: [Signature]

1951, which also reveals that Ray Von Klippstein was the President and Lawrence A. Kittinger was the Secretary at that time. The club met in the lounge of the Florida Power

Membership No. 29160

APPLICATION

Approved by the Board of the American Philatelic Society

Received: MAY 17 1951
Admission Fee: MAY 17 1951
Published: MAY 31 1951
Address: JUL 31 1951
Membership Card Number: JUL 27 1951
Over 1.75
1.75

EXTRACTS FROM BY-LAWS—Article II, Membership

Any person of good character interested in Philately may become a member. Application for membership shall be in writing. The admission fee shall be two dollars, the annual dues shall be three dollars. The society fiscal year shall begin July 1st. Dues shall be payable in advance. If an application is not accepted, the membership fee and dues shall be returned to the applicant. Application shall have been published in the American Philatelist for a period of not less than 30 days before admission to membership.

All applications for reinstatement shall be published in the American Philatelist and treated in the same manner as a proposal by an existing applicant for membership. All applications for reinstatement must include the two dollars required for admission fee.

All remittances must be in bankable funds, postal or express notes, cash or check. Do not remit in postage stamps.

Life membership granting all privileges the life including admission fee, \$75.00. Any member may become a life member on payment of \$75.00.

Any Chapter may become a Life Chapter on payment of \$20.00.

A former member reinstated within one year from the time of resignation or being dropped, may have his former number assigned. If longer than one year, a new number shall be assigned.

Application	Admission	Dues	Subscrip-	Total
Month	Fee	Rate	tion	Due
April, May, June	\$2.00	\$1.75	\$1.25	\$5.00
July, August, September	2.00	1.50	.95	\$4.45
October, November, December	2.00	.95	.80	\$3.75
January, February, March	2.00	.80	.65	\$3.45

The above schedule is intended so that a member in paying nothing will be or due is actually charged. The "Total to Date" column should accompany each application.

Corporation on Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida.

Another way to determine club existence is to find artifacts (covers, caches, and mailings) the club created. The late Herb McNeil supplied the following cover, commemorating the centennial of the Orlando Post Office on May 30, 1950. This indicates that the club existed on or before May 30, 1950. At present, this is the earliest known artifact of the Central Florida Stamp Club.



As earlier artifacts surface, the date can be pushed earlier.

The late Wade Berry indicated that he had heard of a stamp club in Orlando as early as 1933. Another source, monthly bulletins of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs (FFSC), sheds light on his recollection. "... a member of the old Orlando Philatelic Society... Oliver Joe Bailey... The Orlando Philatelic Society has long since been disbanded, but a few of its members now belong to local clubs..."¹. Wade Berry most likely heard about this club, rather than the Central Florida Stamp Club. Thinking that the two clubs probably did not overlap and that the disbandment date for the Orlando Philatelic Society might give an earliest possible date for the formation of the Central Florida Stamp Club, APS records were again searched. No information on the Orlando Philatelic Society was found in APS or SPA records.

Having seen volumes 3 – 6 of the FFSC monthly bulletins (May, 1953 to April 1957), the bulletins appear to have been started in May, 1951. The FFSC was organized in 1949. Was the Central Florida Stamp Club a charter member of the FFSC? At present this is not known.

The FFSC bulletins also give us knowledge of one charter member of the Central Florida Stamp Club. "At our February 18th [1954] meeting, Dr. Frederick L. Lewton, a charter member of the Central Florida Stamp Club, gave us a talk on some U.S. patents granted for stamps and canceling devices."²

Francis Ferguson states that he has seen references to the Central Florida Stamp Club as having been in existence as early as 1944 or 1945 in the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs monthly bulletins. When this information is corroborated, it will be quoted and footnoted.

¹FFSC monthly bulletin, Vol 6, Nov. 1956, pp 8-9.

²FFSC monthly bulletin, Vol 3, April 1954, p 2.