

Central Florida Stamp Club – Newsletter

May, 2004

Editor – Steve Patrick

Change of Address

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We will be missing Louis Wiseman as he is moving back to his home town of Dunlap, Tennessee.

CLUB SURVEY

Mark Friedland has initiated a number of ideas to improve the club and gain membership. The club is asking members to respond to a survey with two central questions: What do you like best about the club? And, what do you like least about the club.

The survey will be at the welcome table the next few meetings. If you would like to respond directly, send your answer to Mark at 2613 Clementon Park Ct., Orlando 32835 or e-mail at stampsguy@aol.com

LIBRARY PRGRAMS

The club presented two programs introducing stamp collecting at the Orlando and Apopka Public Libraries. The Apopka one was very good with several kids attending. If they show up at the club, we need you to make them feel welcome.

SUNPEX IS HERE

The SUNPEX show and bourse will be held at the Maitland Civic Center Saturday and Sunday, May 15, 16.

Generally, this is when the club has a competitive exhibit and gives the Alvin Hintz award. However, the board has voted to change the format. With the growing success of the Florida State Stamp Show in December, we will shift our more competitive exhibit to that show.

We will still have an exhibit at SUNPEX, but it will be more informative than competitive. We will still honor an exhibit with best in show. But we are asking members to share smaller one or two frame exhibits with themes that will appeal to the starting collector.

Please inform John Shirley ASAP (407-788-6067) whether you can help with the exhibit. Several officers will be gone so the leadership for this show will be John Shirley, Jim Estes and Steve Patrick.

The good news is that there is a rumor that powers are beginning to work to bring back FLOREX as a national show by 2005.

Francis Ferguson has been elected the new treasurer of the Florida Stamp Dealers Association, and the success of a renewed FLOREX will rely on our club.

Auction News – Our April 1 auction had a new auctioneer. Jim Estes was gone, so John Shirley stepped in for the first time. You had to make up your mind quickly with John as “going once, going twice” moved along swiftly and decisively.

Our new treasurer makes the following request. On auction nights and even in the silent auction, it takes a few minutes to gather all the lots and calculate charges. Members can help in the following ways:

1. **Wait until your name is called** before hovering over the table. Allow time for proper record keeping.
 2. **Sellers need to wait patiently** until all the buyers have paid for their lots.
- Thank you for your cooperation.

Philatelic Equipment

The board has been deliberating over the purchase of special philatelic tools that can be used by the membership. We believe that our treasury could purchase one or more of the following items:

1. An **electronic perforation gauge**. The price would be in the neighborhood of \$250. The emphasis is on accuracy to a quarter perf good for some of those difficult foreign stamps.
2. An **electronic watermark detector**. Again this would be in the \$250 range. It would help avoid chemicals and be safer for your mint stamps.
3. A **magnifying glass** that would connect with a computer for demonstration on a video screen. The cost is about \$100 and could enhance presentations at the club.

Questions are: Would any of these be used? Who is in charge of storage? What about breakage? Can they be checked out between meetings or only used on Thursday nights? Please make your wishes known to a board member or use the member survey form currently available. The good news is the club has received a \$250 gift that would help defray one of these tools. Which one?

INVITATION

The new APS/APRL headquarters in Bellefonte, PA, will be dedicated on June 26 and we are all invited. The program starts at 2:00 p.m. and includes a fund-raising dinner that evening. Got cash?

Lewis and Clark

The new Lewis and Clark stamps commemorating their voyage of discovery will debut at 11 sites on May 14. A prestige booklet at \$8.95 will have 20 portrait stamps. Both portraits and the commemorative are in a very attractive traditional style. The booklet will have limited distribution so make your plans early.