



CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB

A WHOLLY OWNED ENTITY OF THE MID-FLORIDA PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 1206 ---- PLYMOUTH, FL 32768-1206

Program Schedule (June/July/August)

June meetings will be a \$2 minimum auction night for June 7th and David Allen will talk about "Three Takes on Exhibiting" at the second meeting.

The first meeting in July has Jim Pullin giving us the low-down on the "Black Ball Line 1818-1822", the second meeting as no assigned topic booked (any takers?)

The first meeting of August as no assigned topic booked. The second meeting is a \$5 Auction Night, come with material to sell and come with money to spend. These auctions have proved to be very popular in past years – let the trend continue!

The third board meeting of 2007 is August 31st at a location to be announced. Board member's please mark your calendars and plan to be present.

May Meeting recaps

The first meeting had a presentation of French FDCs, by Stephen Patrick. Quiz #62 was won by Tom Hart, with a perfect score. This is only the seventh time a perfect score has been achieved on a quiz in over 5 years.

Event Calendar 2007

CFSS Fall (TBA) Sept 22-33, 2007
FLOREX 2007 (CFF) Nov 30, Dec 1,2 2007

For more info: www.FloridaStampShows.com

SUNPEX 2007

The first year of running a show in a new location can be tough – and it was. The crowds just did not show up, but the ones that did spent some nice dollars. Of the seventeen dealers present, all but three reported average to much better than average

sales, which is truly remarkable considering the rather thin crowd.

Many thanks for the efforts of Jim Archbold, Bill Bomar, Mark Friedland, Stephen Patrick, and Team Priest for all the effort that went into their areas of concern. Your generous donation of time and effort has netted the club, enough income to cover roughly 5 months of meeting nights. Thank you for a job well done. SUNPEX 2008, is scheduled for May 17-18, mark your calendars!

Donation!

The club has received a huge donation of material for the youth program from Bob & Marti's Stamps of Oneco. Please acknowledge this very generous act the next time you see them.

Monthly Fun with Stamps Quiz

The on-going series of quizzes continues in 2007 with the following scheduled,

- July (2nd meeting) Swiss Cheese Anyone?
- August (1st meeting) Not "I-rated"
- September (1st meeting) Sun + Three
- October (1st meeting) Hocus Pocus V
- November (2nd meeting) Wilbur & Orville Started it

Grading U. S. Stamps - My Opinion

by Phil Fetting

The search for a "perfect" copy of a desired stamp for your collection has always been a part of our hobby. I see nothing wrong with this goal and have engaged in the practice many times myself. Now however, the playing field has changed with the introduction of grading U.S. Stamps. I do not have a problem with this practice when dealing with classic items or even just older issues that are not that common in the better grades of condition. We each can make our informed decision on

www.centralfloridastampclub.org

paying the percentage of catalog, or I should say, the multiple of the catalog value for the stamp. There are many sources of information on grading available, starting with the Scott Catalog and the Scott Stamp Monthly Magazine.

The area that does bother me is the multiples of full catalog being paid for relatively common stamps of the 20th Century. In a recent (Dec 2006) Shreves Auction, a 1 cent Yosemite (Scott 740) with a catalog value of twenty-five cents and a top grade of GEM-100 never hinged, sold for \$1,840. Does this high grade make the well centered stamp worth over 7,000 times catalog? There also have been extremely high prices paid in the last few months for well centered copies of the Overrun Countries issue (Scott 909-21). It seems to be that the difficult task would be to find a stamp for this set, that is not well centered!

One of the most difficult and uncomfortable times a dealer can have is trying to explain to a widow or relative that the value of many, but not all, U.S. Stamps from the 1940's to the present is about 70% of face value. I certainly do not want to see that copy of the 1 cent Yosemite walk through the door of the store!

Serendipitous Philately **A Picture is Worth a Thousand Stamps** by Bruce Mc Pherson

In 1979 I moved from Ithaca, NY to Orlando, Florida. An acquaintance suggested that I might be interested in a local stamp show. As a result I joined the club. At a club meeting in 1994 one of the collector/dealers, Paul Percha, knew of my interest in German stamps and offered to give me three covers that carried common German postage. However, these envelopes still had their contents. Apparently two teenage girls were exchanging letters but I only had one side of their communication. The young teenage German girl was living in West Berlin during the allied occupation. Her letters were written to a 'Pen Pal' girl in Massachusetts. The content of her letters were interesting; the girl expressed her concern for the conditions in Germany. She was very impressed that the U.S. girl had her very own bedroom, a

record player & a radio in her room. One of the letters had a small picture included. It showed an "Achtung" Street Sign and advised travelers that they were leaving the British Sector, I found the items in the background to be of special interest. The Brandenburg Gate was in view and the Quadrega had been removed at that time by East Germany. The Berlin wall had not been constructed in this area as yet The Gate showed signs of the war.

Well, with all that said, my curiosity was primed. I remembered some of the German stamps showed the Brandenburg Gate. So, I asked myself; How many stamps had the gate in the design? How old was the gate? Was the gate shown on stamps of other countries? This all led to a serious study of the 'Gate' history and the story became very interesting. My study resulted in a special collection of stamps and pictures. One picture was sent to me by a man that I had never met but heard of my interests. The picture was taken between 1945 and 1949. The Quadrega was still in place, being removed for renovation in the mid 1950's. [Editor's note: A big thank-you to Bruce for providing this series of articles for the newsletter. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated!]

Quotable

"Drawing on my fine command of the English language, I said nothing."
Robert Benchley (Writer, 1889-1945)

NOTE: The Editor of this newsletter, Francis Ferguson can be reached at 407.493.0956 (Cell) or fergapk@gmail.com.