

The Central Florida Stamp Club is a 70+ year old organization governed by a Board of Directors elected by the general membership every two years and, dedicated to the enjoyment of the hobby of stamp collecting.

- Membership is a reasonable \$12 per year, \$6 for youth.
- Meetings are twice a month on the first and third Thursdays.
- The Membership of the CFSC includes many diverse interests that cover the range from A-Z and everything in between.
- The meeting location is centrally located to downtown Orlando and can be easily accessed from SR 50 (Colonial Drive) and I/4.
- The Marks Street Senior Center has been our host for the last 10 years and provides a pleasant meeting room with easy access and plenty of free parking.
- The informal part of the meeting runs from 7:00-7:30. The business side of things from 7:30-7:50. Cried auction and/or presentation to start at 7:55 until 8:30. Followed by auction wrap up and informal discussions from 8:30 to 9:00. We must be out of the building by 9:10 without exception.
- The Membership of the CFSC participates as the host and sponsor of the SUN-PEX show in June of each year. In addition, are the resident hosting club for FLOREX, and many of the smaller local shows held in the Orlando area.
- The CFSC maintains a website: CentralFloridaStampClub.org
- Benefits of membership include, monthly newsletter, access to loaner equipment & catalogs, participation in door prize drawings & quizzes, the right to bid in cried/silent auctions — and much more.

Central Florida Stamp Club



NOTE: Opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the authors placing articles, and are not reflective of the CFSC or any members.

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

CFSC Officers (2008/2010)

President	Francis Ferguson
Vice President	A. Stephen Patrick
Treasurer	Jim Archbold
Secretary	Josh Furman
Director-at-Large	Larry Stiles
Director-at-Large	Tom Hart
Director-at-Large	Al Nagy



November 2008



What interests you?

Program Schedule (Nov/Dec/Jan)

November meetings --- the first on 11/06 is \$2 auction night while the second on 11/20 we will have Al N. presenting: "Zeppelins Revisited".

December meetings --- the first meeting on 12/04 which conflicts with the setup for FLOREX 2008, will revolve around a very large mound of stamps for those that can make the meeting. The second meeting on 12/018 is of course the Holiday Party.

January meetings --- The first meeting of the year which lands on New Year's Day, has been cancelled. The second meeting on 01/15 will be a brief annual business meeting and the ever popular Club Donation Auction.

The Board meeting for 2009 are: Jan 29, April 30, July 30, & October 29. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

October Meeting recaps

Dinner was a nice affair with 9 attending—everything goes better with food. The meeting was sprinkled with youth, potential new members, and infrequently seen regular members. Tom H. gave a very colorful and intriguing presentation on cinderellas. The much anticipated Hocus-Pocus quiz yield a good deal of groans --- Jim A. was our top point'r. The silent auctions continue to generate a great deal of interest with three tables completely covered – 21 lots changed hands for a total just short of \$140. Way to go folks – this was a very vibrant and interesting night!

The second meeting found the President in the Northeast looking at leaves and enjoying a 2 week vacation. The meeting was chaired by Steve P. with Larry S. giving an interesting talk on the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. The stories are always the highlight of Larry's presentation and once again he did well! Even though there was only two that showed up for dinner, 25 made the meeting. Thanks to Josh F. for handling the auction.

Membership Dues 2009

The invoices for the club membership dues for 2009 will be available at the first meeting in November. Those not picked up will be mailed to the member's address of record. Please sign the paperwork and return with a check for \$12 made out to the CFSC.

FLOREX 2008

The show is just around the corner. Sign-up sheets for the registration table are available and need to be filled. This event is one major source of revenue for the club during the year. There will be a show cancel along with a special postage stamp and a sheet of cinderella stamps.

Holiday Party

Come one, Come all! Mark your calendars for the annual Holiday Party that will be held starting at 7:00pm on December 18th. Jim A. will be coordinating the event. A turkey and ham will be provided. Side dishes are requested as in previous years. The Glue Awards will be given out for 2008 --- be there -- or be missed!

Newsletter changes

It looks like this newsletter is going to move to a four page format that will allow for more creative things to be done. This also means that the need for material will increase. The new look should be ready for roll-out for the January 2009 newsletter. If you have a bent for writing, please send something along.....

Times are a changing

As of the first meeting of October our official time for occupying the room AND being able to transact any and all business is 7:00pm. The doors will be opened at 6:50pm. *While we now have a full 2 hours for stamp related fun – we MUST be out of the building by 9:10pm at the latest. We will start the business side of the meeting promptly at 7:30.*

Dinner Plans

Come join the group for dinner at Viet Garden at 6pm before each meeting. Bring your appetite – and your wallet. If you need directions or more information call Francis at 407.493.0956. Everything goes better with food --- be there or be missed!

Event Calendar 2008/2009

FLOREX 2008	Dec 5, 6, 7, 2008
CFSS-Winter	Jan 24-25, 2009
Florida Precancel show	Feb 11-14, 2009
CFSS-Spring	April 11, 2009

For more info: www.FloridaStampShows.com

Monthly Fun with Stamps Quizzes

Nov High Five Liberty (2nd meeting)

There are no quizzes in December of 2008 or January of 2009 – returning February of 2009

January things to NOTE....3 things!

(1) There will be no scheduled meeting held on 01.01.09 as this is a holiday and the building is closed. In accordance with our By-Laws the second meeting of the January is required to be a Business meeting to discuss and inform the membership on what has happened the previous year. Since this is not an election year, the business side of the meeting should last no more than 15-20 minutes. We will also be holding a cried auction. This is the Annual Club Donation Auction, so come prepared to participate.

(2) The newsletter for January of 2009 will be mailed to all active club members on or before January 1, 2009. Check your mail box.

(3) If you have not paid your club dues for 2009 please do so.

My Delayed Confession... By Stuart B.

I really do not know how I started stamp collecting. In 1940 I was 8 years old and I think it was a peer thing to do. I collected anything and everything. We would gather at other kid's homes and check out their collection. There was petty thievery rampant to some degree. I remember many years later meeting an old friend and confessing to him; he smiled and said he was guilty also. Although we both grew up in Brooklyn tenements my friend and I met accidentally taking our daughters to enroll at Duke University. So amidst the gothic spires we admitted our sins. We knew that Duke had started to admit descendants of New York riff-raff. President Roosevelt collected stamps and that was inspiring. Later we heard he died looking at his collection. Is that true?

I liked the association of stamps with history and geography. It was always fun to take the subway to Nassau Street with other kids where there were many stamp stores in Manhattan. The stores always appeared dark with little old men running them and they were not too glad to deal with the small change crowd. Later on Macys and Gimbals Department Stores had better looking stamp departments. Sunday morning the New York Times had a great stamp column on many subjects.

Mail addressed to a kid is very exciting and writing away to get stamps on approval became fun. I did not enter into crime in this area --- as I always returned what I did not buy. A friend from my adult life told me he grew up in Texas and lots of kids cheated the Stamp Approval Companies. Apparently crime was nationwide during the Great Depression. When I was about 18 I lost interest and gave my collection to my nephew. I forgot what he told me he did with it.

In 1972 my wife gave me a gift subscription to the First Day Cover Society; namely, a subscription service which sent a beautiful U. S. first day cover along with an information page. Looking at these items spurred my interest again and I started collecting U.S. first day covers.

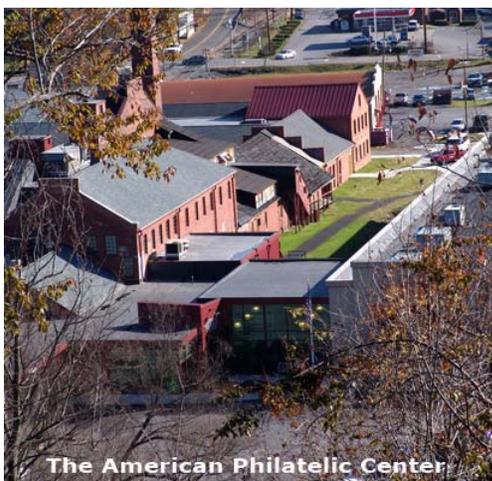
Now history, works of art, geography and science are all there on first day covers. It was a great respite from the work-a-day world.

Joining the stamp club and meeting people who do not think stamp collecting is weird continues to encourage my interest and bring back old memories as well as stimulate new one. Having the opportunity to write for the newsletter is fun. Who knows maybe I will start buying stamps on approval again? Retirement is a chance to return to your childhood.

Quotable

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." The magic man himself Walt Disney [1901-1966]

What I did on my vacation...



miles in 12 days.

A road trip to the Northeast in August was in the works, but the price of gallon of gas at nearly \$4.00 was giving us serious pause. October sounds better. Thankfully the cooler weather and the declining price of petrol made for less stressful fill-ups as we covered 3,221



I am pretty sure the details of the trip that revolved around family and friends would bore one and all, but the two days in Bellefonte, PA — that is a much more interesting story.

We left Niagara Falls, NY headed southeast toward central Pennsylvania, on a crisp fall day. The fall colors really made the trip interesting as you never did know what you would see around the next turn in the road. Our GPS (named Myrtle) managed to get us to Bellefonte without a hitch, but then seemed to have numerous issues with some of the oddly configured roads of the town. That is an ugly story so we will just not go any further on that topic. After resetting Myrtle's brain we found our way to a lovely B&B located on Linn Street named the Queen. This 1890s mansion houses a delightful small operation that makes staying in hotels so very generic. A short 5 minute car ride to the APS headquarters was made the next morning.

Wow. My first impression was, not good — the first thing one sees when entering the complex is the unrestored section of the Match Factory that leaves a rather unsettling impression. However, as one drives around the back, towards the renovated section things get much, much better. The spacious uncluttered lobby/reception area is well thought out and very welcoming to a visitor. It is obvious after being escorted on a tour of the building that a great deal of thought and consideration has gone into the evolution of the plans for this building. The renovations completed and planned in the future will turn this complex into a world class facility for the current and future generations of philatelists. I spent a very productive 3 hours in the APRL facility doing some research that would have been next to impossible to do any other way. (Many thanks to the extremely helpful and cheerful staff that helped to point me in the correct direction as I kept asking rather obscure questions --- and they did know the answers!) The APRL facilities sometime in the future will be moved into a much larger area of the complex that still awaits renovation. I was given a very brief viewing of the area slated for



future APRL use, and it is a very large open space that currently is having serious roof issues that need to be resolved first. Seeing blue sky inside under a “roof” is not a good sign during wet weather conditions --- so I have been told.

The wonderful APS Journal that many of us read every month is not produced by an army of typesetters and proof readers but rather out of about two hundred square feet of very densely used office space. These five dedicated individuals produce this monthly gem, with almost no overhead and what would seem to be very limited resources. Looks can be deceiving. I am still stunned to know that, the monthly Journal is produced with so little physical support structure. Helen, Barbara, Connie, Bonny, and Barb you do a incredible job!

The other departments that I visited included; Information Technology (Brian), Expertizing Services (Mercer), Sales Division (Tom). A special thanks to Ken, Peter, and Dana who made me feel so welcome.

Postscript

Writing this article made me think --- I returned to the hobby in 1998 and immediately joined the APS. Why? Before the recent visit to Bellefonte my response would have been more generic and more colored by my encounters with the APS staff at shows and other events. I would have said something like “for the greater good of the hobby”. Now I can be much more specific in my comments, something that only comes from personal experience.

The Match Factory complex in Bellefonte has been redeveloped in a way that showcases the strengths of the structures. The features of the place leave a lasting impression, from the massive hand-honed support beams to the 3 foot thick brick walls. It is all there to stay.

This is our home. Now I can say, without equivocation that my membership in the APS is important to myself as a collector but more importantly it is about being a small part of the larger collective that is called philately.

The Editor