# CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB – HISTORY

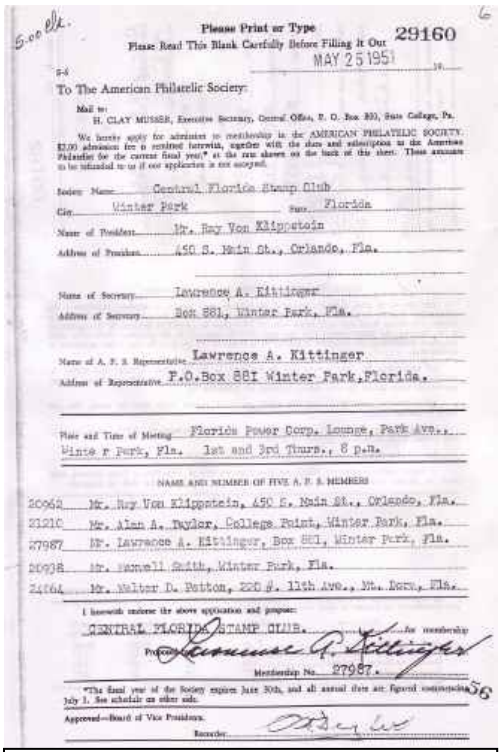
## Beginnings

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, 1951, Figures 1a & 1b, 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



Please Print or Type
Please Read This Blank Carefully Before Filling it Out 29160

MAY 25 1951

To The American Philatelic Society:

Mail to:
H. CLAY MUSSER, Executive Secretary, Central Office, P. O. Box 800, State College, Pa.

We hereby apply for admission to membership in the AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY. $2.00 admission fee is remitted 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 to be refunded to us if our application is not accepted.

Society Name: Central Florida Stamp Club
City: Winter Park State: Florida
Name of President: Mr. Ray Von Klippstein
Address of President: 450 S. 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 p.m.

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

20962 Mr. Ray Von Klippstein, 450 S. Main St., Orlando, Fla.
21210 Mr. Alan A. Taylor, College Point, Winter Park, Fla.
27987 Mr. Lawrence A. Kittinger, Box 881, Winter Park, Fla.
20938 Mr. Darnell Smith, Winter Park, Fla.
24164 Mr. Walter D. Patton, 200 S. 11th Ave., Mt. Dora, Fla.

I herewith endorse the above application and propose:
CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB for membership
Proposer: Lawrence A. Kittinger
Membership No. 27987.

*The fiscal year of the Society expires June 30th, and all annual dues are figured commencing July 1. See schedule on other side.

Approved—Board of Vice Presidents.
Recorder:

**Figure 1a**

APPLICATION
of
Central Florida Stamp Club
Winter Park, Fla.
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
The American Philatelic Society

29160

Received MAY 17 1951
Acknowledged MAY 17 1951
Published JUL 31 1951
Admitted JUL 27 1951
Membership Card Mailed
Admission Fee $2.00
Subscription $ 4.75
Dues $ 4.75
Total $ 5.00

The above blanks are for the exclusive use of the Executive Secretary

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 accompanying fees and dues shall be returned to the applicant. Applications 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 provided for an ordinary application 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 order, draft or check. Do not remit in postage stamps.

Life membership granting all privileges for life including admission fee, $72.00. Any member may become a life member on payment of $75.00.

Any Charter may become a Life Charter on payment of $30.00.

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.

All applicants must forward with their application two dollars for admission fee and amount of dues and subscription for balance of fiscal year, (July to June) as follows:

| Application sent in during | Admission Fee | Dues | Subscription | Total To Remit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April, May, June | $2.00 | $1.75 | $1.25 | $5.00 |
| July, August, September | 2.00 | 1.50 | .95 | 4.25 |
| October, November, December | 2.00 | .87 | .63 | 3.50 |
| January, February, March | 2.00 | .44 | .31 | 2.75 |

The above schedule is arranged so that a member in paying catching until he or she is actually admitted. The "Total to Remit" amount should accompany each application.

**Figure 1b**

Power 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 cover in Figure 2, 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.

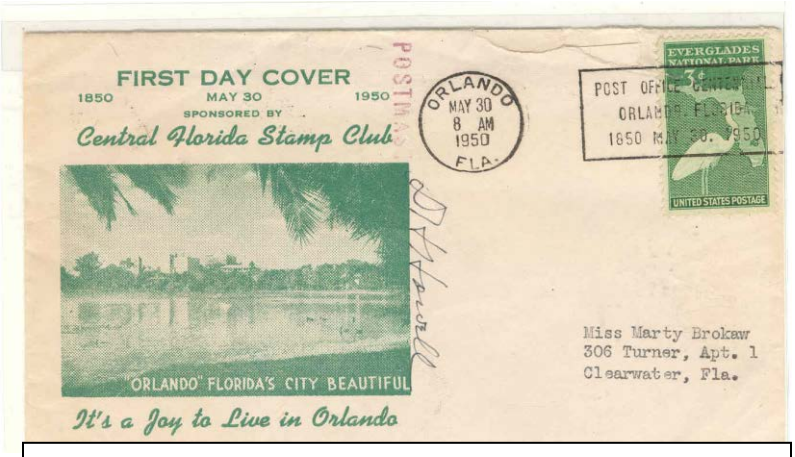



**Figure 2**

An earlier artifact has now been found (Figure 2a) that dates the club's existence to December 1949.

***FIGURE 11***

***Christmas Day 1949 cover sponsored by the Central Florida Stamp Club. Type F/1 4-bar postmark. No text above Christmas tree cachet.***

Figure 2a

The late Wade Beery Jr. 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 Beery Jr. 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? The answer appears to be "Yes". In the club notes for Central Florida Stamp Club in the April 1987 issue of The Florida Philatelist, the writer states the fact in the form of a question indicating that the club was a charter member[1a]. This means the club existed when the FFSC was formed sometime in 1949.

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.