



PERF-DISPATCH

GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB

Established 1884

Saint Louis, Missouri

Volume XXVI Number 2



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Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO

When 4th Monday each month at 7:30 PM

Membership \$15 for Regular members
\$10 for email only

FEBRUARY MEETING

For the February meeting Gary Hendren will discuss St. Louis area stamp dealers. There may be more than you think, and they can be good sources.

2020 SCHEDULE

March.....	TBD.....	TBD
April.....	Oil.....	Jerry Schultz
May.....	Snoopy.....	Katrina Whitaker
June...Bahamas Spec. Del. Issues..	Nathan Esbeck	
July.....	StampFest Mailings.....	All
October.....	Philatelic Jeopardy.....	Guy Gasser
November.....	Auction Bux Auction.....	Guy Gasser
December.....	Annual Christmas Party/Dinner	

All other months are open at this time. Contact Ed Bayham to volunteer to give a program.

BREAKFAST CLUB MEETING

The Breakfast group meets the second Monday of the month. The next meeting is **March 9**, at the **Olive Street Café**, 12710 Olive Blvd., at **8:30 AM**. The Breakfast group meets year round.



WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hi All! It's that time again. Time just keeps slipping by. I'm usually on top of getting this column done even though Phil reminds me every month, but not this month. The past month flew by and I have been busy as ever to the point that I'm glad that Phil reminded me. I lost track of the days and didn't realize my deadline was approaching. I'm glad we have Phil to keep your president on his toes, but isn't that what secretaries are for. It was Alan, our immediate past secretary that got me to start writing these columns in the first place!

This month I want to talk a bit about shows. We are all lucky live in this area when it comes to stamp shows. There is a stamp show of some type every month. I can't think of any area except for Orange County in Southern California that also has a show every month. We have the big big show, Expo, in March; a big show, Stamp Fest, in August; and the monthly small shows, SOCOPEX, in South County. That's a lot of shows! You're probably thinking about now what's my point of all of this? My point is attendance.

One of our club members, on his own, did an analysis of the number of club members who attended SOCOPEX in 2019. The number is surprising. There are 59 club members. The total number of different club members who attended throughout the entire year was only 16, or 27%! This does not count the seven club members who are dealers at the show. When I look back at the number of club members

who attended Stamp Fest, that number was not much better. If my memory serves me correctly, it was about 24 or 41%. That, ladies and gentlemen, is just not good. One would think that over a period of a year, twelve shows, that almost all of the club members would attend SOCOPEX at least once.

The question then becomes why is that? We are members of a stamp club. We all collect stamps in some way or some type of philatelic material. That means that we have to acquire material for our collections. How are you getting your stamps and such or are you? Has the majority of the club gone to buying online? If the excuse is the dealers never have anything I'm looking for, how do you know if you don't go? The dealers who work SOCOPEX bring new material with them all the time. Go see and find out. If you can't find anything you are looking for, talk with the dealer who handles your type of material and tell them what you are looking for, and ask them to try and find it. Guess what? They will! It may take some time, but they will.

The show is also a great place to meet and greet other collectors. It's a chance to socialize with people who have a common interest. One can't do that from home! Show attendance is also critical to keeping a show running. I remind everyone that dealers don't do shows for free. While they are hobbyists, they are also business people. Dealers have to make money to keep doing shows. Therefore, I'm asking every club member to attend at least one of the twelve SOCOPEX shows during the year, just one! And while not directly sponsored by the GMSC, SOCOPEX is really a club show. I'm also now asking every club member to attend your show, our show, the club's show, Stamp Fest, this August.

This month is voting month for last year's stamps issued by our postal service. Therefore, if you have the December issue of *Linn's*, please bring it as it has all the stamps, envelopes, and wrappers issued in 2019. It's fun to talk about what we liked and didn't like from the past year. After we vote we will send our ballots to *Linn's* for counting and the club will get recognition when *Linn's* publishes the results in May. This month Gary will also enlighten us about St. Louis stamp dealers. I have a suspicion that he's not going to talk about current St. Louis stamp dealers either. This should be very interesting. Come vote and come listen. That is all.

Guy

Did you know: MAD magazine began spoofing stamp designs in 1956 and continued to do so throughout its run.

DUES

Dues for the 2020 year are now due. We still have a number of members who haven't paid their dues for 2020. You can see what our records show by looking at the "Thru" date on the left side of the front of the envelope in which you received this newsletter. If it says "2019", you have not yet paid your dues for 2020. Please either send them to the return address shown on the green envelope or, better yet, come to the meeting this month and give them to the Secretary there. Don't miss out on what should be a fun year for the club and for some new features from time to time in the newsletter. Dues are \$15 for 2020, with the option of a \$10 level if you choose to receive the newsletter by email only.

SHOWS

Gene Stewart has a bourse the 2nd Saturday of each month from **9AM to 3PM**. It is now located at Holiday Inn South County on the northeast corner of I-55 and Lindbergh, behind The Mattress Firm. Don't miss out.

www.GreaterMoundCity.org

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PHILATELIC FEATURES

From time to time I would like to add feature stories on stamps our members collect and on other philatelic items of interest. Thanks to John Deutch we can begin with an article from him this month.

My Philatelic Interests

By John Deutch

My stamp collecting interests? Wow, where do I begin? Like so many others of my vintage, I started collecting stamps back in 1950 or 1951 when I was in 4th or 5th grade in north St. Louis. There was no one in my family who collected stamps, but I had several friends in my class at school who did. In those days we all sent our nickels and dimes off in the mail to various stamp companies for those “wonderful offers” (with approvals, of course) that were advertised in the back of comic books and BOYS LIFE. I continued to collect sporadically until marriage and kids, and then I sold my stamps.

Ten or fifteen years ago I got interested in stamps again. I built a pretty good collection of Scouts on stamps, which I sold, Belgium, which I sold, and Denmark, which I also sold. Today my collecting interests are centered around the stamps and postal history of the Pontifical or Roman States, and the stamps and postal history of Vatican City up to the death of Pope John XXIII in 1963. I also have a small U.S. collection of stamps, souvenir sheets, covers and other ephemera from the International Philatelic Exhibitions that were held in this country in 1913, 1926, 1933 and 1947, and the same sort of material from the 1933 APS convention, the 1934 Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Exposition, and the 1937 meeting of the Society of Philatelic Americans. It is enough to keep me occupied, and mostly out of trouble.

(To be continued next month)

Stories of the Dead

By Phil Schorr

We will also share stories of the “dead”, dead countries that is. There are many of these and they all have a story.

One of the good things about collecting dead countries is that you get to decide what counts as a dead country. If you feel that a country that issued stamps for several years, then stopped for many years, then started again counts as a dead country for the earlier period, then it counts. If not, then it doesn't. If “offices” established by one country within another country counts, such as French offices in China, then it does.

Another good thing is that you get to decide what is “complete”. If you feel every stamp issued within the country counts, then they do. If you feel a stamp overprinted or surcharged by a local post office shouldn't count, then it doesn't. However, you know they won't be issuing more stamps next month, so you really can reach completion.

Where do I start collecting dead countries? First think of smaller states that were combined into a larger, new state such as the old German or Italian states. Another possible group are the native tribal homelands within the Union of South Africa (Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and Venda). Each of these four states issued their own stamps from about 1980 until 1994.

If you don't want to start with a dead country that issued hundreds of stamps, some of the pricey, then you don't have to. There are places for which only a very few stamps were issued. Imagine how good it feels to buy only three or four stamps and you have a complete country collection.

We will begin telling the stories of dead countries and their stamps in future issues. Stay tuned.