



The Philatelic Prospector

A publication of the Sacramento Philatelic Society P O Box 13284

Sacramento, CA 95813

August - 2005

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are off & running to a great year at SPS. With the current membership over 250 we can maintain our financial solvency & get a few special projects completed.



If you were at one of the recent meetings you would surely be aware that the project to replace the storage area on the balcony is well under way. The floor area which had been occupied by the shelving unit is now clear & new shelving units have been

added to the east wall, replacing most of the balcony area. This project is being funded by SPS for the benefit of both Easter Seals & the SPS.

We are getting very close to SACAPEX time & will be having several committee meetings in the next several weeks. One is scheduled for this Wednesday, August 24th, at 7:00. It will be open to any who wish to attend. It is always nice to have input by as many members as possible. Even if your idea is not implemented immediately, it will give the committee members something to consider in the future. Please remember, we will never be able to satisfy every request. Don't let that be your reason for not voicing your opinion.

Be aware that the 'Club Circuit' will not be available during the month of September. **John & Katie** are taking a much deserved & needed vacation. During this time would be a good time for you to bring that extra material you would like to sell. It may be extra to you – but just what someone else is looking for. There is always the option to bring items in to give others the opportunity to purchase, but let's make a special effort this September.

We appreciate each person who can attend our Wednesday meetings. Please remember though – attendance is not the main agenda, having a good time & great fellowship with other members is the primary objective.

At a recent meeting Joe Ross showed us his newest catalog,

“The Revenues of Uruguay, Patente de Rodados de Departamento de Montevideo, Vehicle Registration Department of Montevideo 1928-1963”

We also learned that **Joe Schwartz** will be on the judging panel at the 2006 [World Philatelic Exhibition](#) to be held in Washington D.C.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following were elected as officers for 2005-6.

President Al Williams
Vice President John Sumpter
Secretary Arlene Simmons
Treasurer John Pavalasky

Elected to serve as Members of the Board of Directors are:

Katie Pavalasky (thru 5/2007)
Harry Mueggenburg (thru 5/2008)
Jim Stewart (thru 5/2008)

VISIT THE SPS WEBSITE

Do you want information about current activities, future events, copies of the Prospector from the last twelve months, links to other websites of interest, and much more.

The SPS website can be accessed at sacramentophilatelicsociety.org.

Our webmaster, **Dean Carl**, continues to do a super job keeping things up to date. Thanks Dean.

NO 'CLUB CIRCUIT' IN SEPT.

During the month of September we will not have the circuit at our regular Wednesday meetings. The circuit will return October 5th.

While we have this lull during September, why not plan on bringing in your extra items to sell or trade with other members of the club. It will be a different atmosphere than we usually experience, but should make it fun.

By October I'm sure we will be glad to see the 'circuit' again.

Katie Pavalasky has just finished a project consisting of cataloging and arranging hundreds of new worldwide souvenir sheets, covers, booklets, and strips. As all of these new items are too large to fit in the green boxes, they have been arranged in large and small binders.

This new material is now available at the 'circuit' at the Wednesday meetings. Come and have fun!

EVENTS ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

FIRST DAY COVER GROUP

Why not come to our meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month and share with us your experience in collecting first day covers, commemorative covers, special cancellations and other related materials.

There is something for all levels of collectors in this group. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. Hope to see you September 7th.

EXHIBITING GROUP

Since many of our members have received exhibit awards at various shows this year, we are looking to share the knowledge by starting an exhibit mentor program. If you are interested in learning the do's & don'ts of exhibiting, need help with doing an exhibit, or wish to volunteer your time to help others; talk with Bill Oliver. The group will meet at such times as requested.

OTHER GROUPS???

If you would like to start another 'study' group in some area of stamp collecting, talk to other members who might be interested in a smaller group on a regular basis (or even a one time thing) & let one of the officers know about it so that an announcement can be made at the meetings.

WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



The USPS will issue a souvenir sheet of three stamps in conjunction with WASHINGTON 2006, the [World Philatelic Exhibition](#) that will be held in the nation's capital from May 27 - June 3, 2006. The stamps, which depict three well-known Washington sights, will be printed using the original dies created in 1923 by engravers at the BEP. Art director Richard Sheaff chose a circa 1900 gravure print of the Capitol for the selvage.

NEWS FROM THE APS

The American Philatelic Society's Annual Convention and Philatelic Exhibition for 2006 will be held at Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR.

SACAPEX

SACAPEX is just around the corner. It will be the first weekend in November before you know it. **Ken Mitchell** is ready with information on displaying and **Al Williams & John Sumpter** are looking to fill all the volunteer slots to complete the tasks for **SACAPEX**. Just ask one of them at the Wednesday night meeting, if you are available that weekend for any amount of time to help out. All help is greatly appreciated.

SILENT BID SALE

WOW! What a silent bid sale was just completed. **Claude** informed us it was one of the best yet and he is looking forward to the silent bid sale at **SACAPEX**. The lots were plentiful and the bidders plentiful and so happy with their finds. Keep in mind that the silent bid sale is just one of your club benefits. One person's abundance is another's treasure, so offer and shop at each sale.

MORE NEW ISSUES



Arthur Ashe
8/27/2005



Child Care
9/7/2005



Greta Garbo
9/23/2005

A NEW LOOK

We have finally started to see the transformation of the new shelving and the disappearance of the loft at Easter Seals. What a dramatic difference it has made. The removal of the loft and the installation of shelving at Easter Seals will make it easier to get to our supplies in storage. Thanks to the helpers at Easter Seals for all their hard work.

A note about stamp collecting from the USPS

How should I judge the condition of a stamp?

Stamp dealers put stamps into categories according to their condition.

Mint

A stamp in mint condition is the same as when purchased from the post office. It may have been hinged at some time (MH) or it may be never hinged (MNH).

Unused

An unused stamp has no cancel but may not have any gum on the back.

Mint stamps are usually worth more than unused stamps.

Condition

You can begin to judge the condition of a stamp by examining the front of it. Are the colors bright or faded? Is the stamp clean, dirty or stained? Is the stamp torn? Torn stamps are not considered "collectible." Is the stamp design centered on the paper, crooked or off to one side? Are all the perforations intact? Has the stamp been canceled? (A stamp with a light cancellation is in better condition than one with heavy marks across it.)

Now look at the back of the stamp. Is there a thin spot in the paper? If so, it may have been caused by careless removal from an envelope or hinge. (A 'thin' can effect the value of the stamp by as much as 90% or more.)

How can I tell what a stamp is worth?

Ask yourself two questions: "How rare is it?" and "What condition is it in?" The price listed in a stamp catalog gives you some idea of how rare it is. However, the stamp may sell at more or less than the catalog price, depending on its condition & its desirability. Always try to find stamps in the best possible condition.

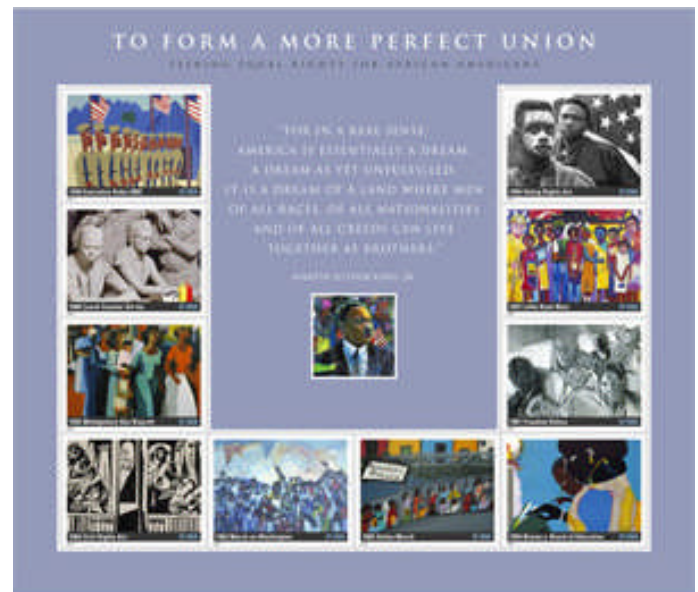
A SPECIAL SEPTEMBER OFFER

Fred Rickert will have stamp material at the September meetings for you to purchase, with the sale money being donated to CATS, a local animal rescue group.

NEW ISSUES

The Postal Service will issue a souvenir sheet of 37¢, *To Form a More Perfect Union* commemorative stamps in 10 designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) souvenir sheet of 10 stamps on August 30, 2005, in the following locations:

Greensboro, NC 27420
Jackson, MS 39205
Little Rock, AR 72202
Memphis, TN 38101
Montgomery, AL 36119
Selma, AL, 36703
Topeka, KS 66603
Washington, DC 20066



The stamps go on sale nationwide August 30, 2005. This \$3.70 souvenir sheet may not be split, and the stamps may not be sold individually.

The U.S. Postal Service recognizes the courage and achievements of the men and women who, during the years of the civil rights movement, struggled to bring the vision of the nation's founders closer to reality. Stamp designer Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland, used details from contemporary artworks to comment on all of the 10 historical events commemorated on this souvenir sheet.

MEMBERSHIP

What a year the club is having! Once again this year we have reached over 250 members. We welcome all our new members and know you are enjoying the club and all its benefits. Where else can you get so much for your membership fee. We hope you will tell all your collecting friends of the many benefits of becoming a member and invite them to join our club. We look forward to having you attend our Wednesday night meeting where you can go through the shoe boxes and find that rare stamp you have always been looking for. Remember the diligent collector sooner or later will come up with that rarity. Just ask Ernie about the \$3,500 find he purchased for just 2 ¢.

SPS CALENDAR

Regular meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 7 -9 at the Easter Seal Center, 3205 Hurley Way.

Aug	24	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. Special program – Hank Isben Soth Africa
Sep	31	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	7	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit. FDC Group meeting.
	12	BOD meeting (7:30)
	14	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit.
	21	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit. Special program – Keith Loder Farley's Follies
	28	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit.
Oct	5	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. FDC Group meeting.
	10	BOD meeting (7:30)
	12	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	19	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. Special program
	26	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.

Each meeting we normally have our club circuit and penny boxes available for your shopping pleasures. **During the month of September there will be no 'club circuit'.** There are also members who enjoy just talking about their collections or helping you with yours. You might even find a member with a similar interest as you have and you can initiate a stamp swap. Come see us – it's a lot of fun. 'Shoe Boxes' of 2¢ stamps can be taken home to search through during the week.

Officers & Board of Directors

President	Al Williams
Vice President	John Sumpter
Secretary	Arlene Simmons
Treasurer	John Pavalasky

BOD

Dave Anderson	(thru 5/2006)
Ken Mitchell	(thru 5/2006) (Chairman)
Brian Freeman	(thru 5/2007)
Katie Pavalasky	(thru 5/2007)
Harry Mueggenburg	(thru 5/2008)
Jim Stewart	(thru 5/2008)
Al Williams	(thru 5/2006)

Committee Chairmen

Easter Seal Show	Katie Pavalasky
Library	Ken Hilmer
Membership	Debbie Jean Hopkins
Programs	Harry Mueggenburg
Prospector	Arlene Simmons
SACAPEX	John Sumpter & Al Williams
Website	Dean Carl

Stamp Shows In Our Area For 2005

Save the dates for the following shows in our area.

SEP	9-4	Great American Stamp Expo Napredak Hall 770 Montague Expwy - San Jose
SEP	16-17	SF Coin & Stamp Show Cathedral Hill Hotel - SF
SEP 30-OCT 2		Filatellic Fiesta Parkside Hall – San Jose
NOV	5-6	SACAPEX Scottish Rite Temple, Sacramento
NOV	17-20	SC Stamp & Collectibles Expo Santa Clara Convention Center

APS STAMPSHOW 2005

Bill Oliver

The APS annual stamp show, which was at Sacramento last year, was held August 4th - 7th, 2005, at Grand Rapids, Mich. at DeVos Place. It is a very large facility with nearly three acres of floor space. This four day extravaganza of stamp collecting is the largest in America and offers collecting fun for hobbyists at every level of experience.

There were 150 dealers from across the Nation, and some from overseas, at one end of the facility, and about 13,000 pages of exhibits at the other end. This is the StampShow where all the Grand Award winners from all the APS sponsored shows (34 shows) can enter their winning exhibit in the World Series of Philately to see which exhibit will be judged as the "Champion of Champions".

The United States Post office held First Day ceremonies for the new Presidential Libraries stamp, and the United Nations, and Marshall Islands also had First Day ceremonies for their issues. These were all issued on Thursday, the opening day of the show.

There were many Society meetings, educational programs, and lectures relating to stamp collecting, philatelic writing, and judging stamp exhibits, beginning on Thursday and continuing through Sunday. There was something there for everyone.

The weather cooperated with cool temperatures and low humidity. We were fortunate there were no thunder showers.

Useful (or Useless) Information

All **first day cancellations** may be received after affixing stamps and sending to:

Customer Affixed Envelopes

Postmaster

_____ (first day city)
_____ - 9991 (5 digit ZIP + 9991)

The normal limit to submit for FDCs is 20 per request. If you want them returned without addresses, you must enclose a self addressed envelope, with sufficient postage applied, to insure their return. There is no charge for this service.