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Articles from members for this publication are welcomed!

The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

Joint ROPEX/NTSS Show Success

It was not your typical ROPEX! A new venue, a joint show with the American Topical Association (ATA), 50% more dealers, and twice the exhibits required more planning and more set-up work than in the past. But the combined staffs of RPA, ATA, and the Main Street Armory worked together to pull off a successful show for all involved. The three day event was held May 17th -19th. Forty-five dealers pretty much filled the available floor space in the armory building and the view from the balcony was a sight to behold. And all part of the 100th year celebration of the RPA.



A show record number of exhibits were submitted for the combined show.. The RPA exhibit area held 129 individual framed cases including 25 separate competitive exhibits while the ATA featured 125 frames and 28 competitive exhibits. The rows of exhibits can be seen behind the dealers on the show floor.

Attendance was strong as many new dealers came to Rochester with the ATA involvement and many new visitors to Rochester to view

and purchase material from the dealers who frequent ROPEX. The RPA has decided to return to the Main Street Armory for its 2014 show next May.

More details and many more pictures from the show can be found at the club website www.rpastamps.org.

Inverted Jenny Visits Rochester

One of the highlights of the exhibits was the presence of one of the 100 inverted jenny stamps from the lone 1906 sheet printed. The APS brought and displayed its copy prominently in the RPA exhibit section. This is thought to be only the second time one of these stamps has been on display in Rochester. The first time was 50 years ago at the 50th anniversary of RPA.

It is called several names, but without a doubt, it is the most famous U.S. stamp ever. It is a stamp that many collectors dream about.

This is one of only 100 in existence.



Position 65 owned by the APRL

As the new editor for Hinges and Tongs, I am very interested in what you might like to see in your club's newsletter. Or if you have something you'd like to contribute, please pass it to me in any manner you wish. I can format, edit or otherwise handle anything you send. Bring it to a meeting or send it to fredpattyhaynes@gmail.com
Thanks, Fred Haynes (203-1733)

First Day of Issue “A Flag for all Seasons”

The ROPEX/NTSS show was honored to host a first day of issue ceremony for the release of the Flag of all Season booklet stamps.



The four stamps depict our nation’s flag with seasonal scenes in the backgrounds. On the morning of May 17th, the two clubs hosting the show and the USPS held a ceremony in the lobby of the Main Street Armory. Below, RPA President Tom Fortunato, addresses those gathered for the “Flag of all Seasons” first day of issue ceremony.



Design-A-Stamp Winners

For the 3rd consecutive year RPA sponsored a Design-A-Stamp contest and 27 entries were received this year. Thanks to a generous gift from life member Frank Tritto, six youngsters were awarded prizes for their artistic efforts. Four of the six winners received their prizes at

Hinges & Tongs

ROPEX. With Frank, and from left to right they are Hannah Savine, Kendall Caton, Rachel Wilke, and Jacob McKinnis. Other winners were Thomas Devine and Dylan Osbourne. The 6 winning stamp designs are depicted below. Perhaps the USPS should take notice !



Rachael Wilke
1st Place- Grade 4-6 Age 9, Grade 4
East Rochester Elementary



Thomas Devine/
2nd Place- Grade 4-6 Age 10, Grade 4
Wisconsin Virtual Academy



Jacob McKinnis
1st Place- Grade 7-9 Age 14, Grade 9
Fayetteville Manlius High School



Dylan Osbourne
2nd Place- Grade 7-9 Age 13, Grade 7
Waterloo Middle School



Kendall Caton
3rd Place- Grade 4-6 Age 9, Grade 4
East Rochester Elementary



Hannah Savine
3rd Place- Grade 7-9 Age 13, Grade 8
Ontario Home School

2013-2014 Election Results

45 RPA members voted in May towards a new slate of officers for the coming year. The results:

President: Rich Spinelli
Vice-President: Carl Miller
Recording Secretary: Fred Haynes
Treasurer: Dave Robinson
Board of Governors: Rick Kase

The positions of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer are for 2 years. The Board of Governors is a 3-year seat and Rick will join Bob Kingston and Chuck Schultz who retain their positions. Immediate Past President Tom Fortunato also holds a seat on the Board of Governors

This group has met twice in August to initiate planning activities for this season. We also welcome any ideas for club/meeting activities from members. Bringing youth to the club is a particular focus we'd like to have this year, but silver bullets targeting that group seem hard to find.

RPA Library Exhibits

The club was able to advertise itself and the upcoming ROPEX/NTSS show by exhibiting a variety of stamps and stamp items in both the Brighton and Pittsford libraries in May. Fred Haynes organized the displays, but it was truly a club effort to generate such a selection of items. Charlie Adrion contributed local pre-cancels which Fred mounted onto a Monroe county map. Tom Fortunato had topical stamps and also an exhibit on the different types of stamps. Dave Roehrig provided a particularly interesting poster for the Pittsford library including an envelope commemorating the first air flight from Brizee-Harmon airfield in Pittsford to Rochester. Stamps were the theme for both exhibits, but the displays were balanced by postal trucks contributed by Carl Miller and Ray Stone and other stamp related trinket items. Fred filled the remaining space with "tools of the trade", a "Stamp Collecting is Fun, Educational and Stimulating" poster,

books from the RPA library, and yes, you guessed it, more stamps.

Both libraries told us that the exhibits attracted significant attention and we will do this again this year, perhaps seeking other libraries, senior centers, etc. where secured display cases exist for clubs to display their hobbies.



Brighton Library



Pittsford Library

DUES are due ! Just a gentle reminder: The club's membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. Yearly dues are only \$20, and are payable now for the 2013-2014 year. Please send to Florence Wright, 33 Northumberland Rd., Rochester, NY 14618, or bring cash or check (made payable to RPA) to the first fall meeting on Sept. 12.

Save time, and our energy, by paying promptly - we'd rather collect stamps than send out reminder notices!

New US Issues

Here are two interesting September new issues planned



The War of 1812: The Battle of Lake Erie

The USPS continues its multi-year series for events of the War of 1812 with a stamp commemorating the Battle of Lake Erie, which took place on September 10, 1813. The stamp depicts Oliver Hazard Perry in the small boat he used to transfer from his ruined flagship, the *Lawrence*, to the *Niagara*. Perry departed from Put-in-Bay, OH for his decisive victory and the new forever stamp will be released there 200 years to the day, on September 10, 2013. ...



Yes, that is an inverted Jenny. But this time it is on purpose and on a commemorative souvenir sheet featuring six stamps with a \$2 denomination. The sheet will be issued on September 22nd in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the opening of the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the National Postal Museum.

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings will be held downstairs at the Brighton Reformed Church, 805 Blossom Road beginning at 7 PM. The first half hour is reserved for silent auction viewing, show and trade among members, and general social interaction. The night's program kicks off at about 7:30 PM. An elevator is available for handicapped members.

At press time five of our six meetings before the end of the year have a program. We are looking for program topics for the other slot and also for winter meetings in early 2014.

Thursday, Sept 12... "What I did this Summer"

Thursday, Sept 26..... "Computers and Philately: Creating Free Album Pages" by George Fekete

Thursday, Oct 10..... "Dinner Meeting with Called Auction" at the Morningstar Restaurant, 850 Merchants Rd (dinner at 630 PM – cost \$15, auction to follow at ~7:30 PM) Register by Oct. 7 [Contact Ray Stone (266-2524) for details]

Thursday, Oct 24..... "Psycho-Philately: Adolph Hitler" by Dr. Anthony Labrum

Thursday, Nov 14..... "Minerals on Stamps" by Fred Haynes

Thursday, Dec 12..... "Medical Stamps" by Steve Eisinger

Tentative plans/schedule for 2014:

Thursday Jan 9 "Exhibiting Basics 1" by Tom Fortunato

Thursday Jan 23 ... TBA

Thursday Feb 13 "Exhibiting Basics 2" by Tom Fortunato and others

Thursday Feb 27 "Stamp Quiz with huge prizes!"

Thursday March 13 TBA

Thursday March 27 "Everyone a Dealer"

Thursday April 10 TBA

Saturday April 26 Called Auction, Possible kid's event

Thursday May 8 TBA

Friday-Sunday May 16-18 ROPEX

Thursday May 22 ROPEX in review or TBA

Thursday June 12: John Babbitt, topic TBA

Thursday June 26 business mtg./ Strawberries

2013 APS StampShow

The annual APS StampShow took place August 8-11 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and several RPA members were seen there. The event was held in the downtown Convention Center, a massive building in the center of the city. This largest of US stamp shows featured 150 dealers, 50 society booths, 15,000 pages of exhibits, first days, meetings and two public auctions. Here's a photo of the APS booth during one of the more quiet times during the show and a view of the exhibit awards table straddling the extra wide center aisle of the facility. Initial reports are that the event was very well attended. Several first day ceremonies took place sponsored by the US Postal Service (A Flag for All Seasons booklet variety, one cent water activated bobcat, eagle envelope), United Nations Postal Administration (cosmos) and the Marshall Islands (Indian headdresses).



2013 Local Stamp Club Survey

By Tom Fortunato

Back in June I received an email from Robert Bell asking whether a nationwide "scientific" survey of stamp club participants had ever been attempted. Not to my knowledge, I replied, and he sent me a number of questions that a few tweaks later formed the basis of this survey.

The questions were posted using SurveyMonkey (www.surveymonkey.com) from a link found on the CAC web site home page (www.stamps.org/cac/). Cookies placed on responders' computer by SurveyMonkey assured only one survey per computer could be made.

It was readied by July's APS monthly email blast to members who were invited to take the survey. An email by me to representatives of the various clubs making up the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies as well as various stamp club federations around the country brought in additional responses.

Please note that these results to date cannot be considered "scientific" in any way, but the answers do show definite trends. SurveyMonkey responses were collected and placed in a spreadsheet designed to automatically tally the totals. Answers to Questions 4 and 5 were freeform "fill in the blank" type responses. After the first 50 surveys were completed, I devised bucketed responses in three categories (club activities, club meetings and club membership) and several sub-categories, and then matched the verbatim answers as close to the bucketed responses as possible. An "Other" response was used as a catch-all for those not matching a bucket response.

As of this writing (August 2) 88 participants have answered our questions.

General response results:

1. A good range of club sizes were represented in the survey in closely even proportions. (Question 1)

2. On average, stamp club members felt success in having their own philatelic needs and interests met by the club was slightly lower than their club's success as a whole. (Questions 2 and 3)
3. Of the factors considered most important to the overall success or failure of one's local stamp club, the top response was Meeting- Programs (52 responses), followed by Membership- Involvement (23), Club- Stamp Show (23), Meetings- Auctions (23), Membership- Leadership (23) and Membership- Fresh Blood *i.e.* new members (22). (Question 4)
4. Answering what their club's greatest need was, the Membership category led with 62 of the 84 total responses and Membership-Fresh Blood itself capturing 28% of all responses. (Question 5)

Here are the results of the first three questions as of this date.

1. If you belong to a local stamp club, please answer these brief questions! First, roughly how many members belong to your club?

1-9	4	4.4%
10-19	10	11.0%
20-29	17	18.7%
30-39	6	6.6%
40-49	13	14.3%
50-59	13	14.3%
60-74	7	7.7%
75 or More	19	20.9%
Unsure	2	2.2%

Responses: 91

2. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being "Very Successful," how would you rate your club in meeting your philatelic interests and needs?

1	2	2.2%
2	7	7.8%
3	3	3.3%
4	1	1.1%
5	10	11.1%
6	7	7.8%
7	16	17.8%
8	18	20.0%
9	13	14.4%
10	13	14.4%

Responses: 90

Average: 6.9

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being "Very Successful," how would you rate your club's overall success?

1	1	1.1%
2	3	3.3%
3	3	3.3%
4	4	4.4%
5	8	8.8%
6	10	11.0%
7	14	15.4%
8	19	20.9%
9	15	16.5%
10	14	15.4%

Responses: 91

Average: 7.2

Survey results should be posted on the APS CAC web site by the time you read this and will be updated from time to time. Additional participants are welcome.

Buy, Sell, Trade

Submit a free 50 word Buy/Sell/ Trade ad for our web site to stamptmf@frontiernet.net.



Did you get your New England coastal lighthouse stamps in July? This is the 6th set of lighthouse stamps in this popular series that started way back in 1990.

Just a reminder: If you would like to come to our meetings, but have no transportation, please let us know. We have volunteer members all over Monroe County willing to provide rides. And the venue has an elevator to the meeting room.