

We are on the web:
www.fremontstampclub.com

**Published monthly by
The Fremont Stamp Club**

**Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1061
Fremont, CA 94587**

Meetings held on the second
Thursday of each
month at 7 PM in the
Cultural Arts Center
3375 Country Drive, Fremont

Please address correspondences to
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2010 Officers

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Dave Epps	Vice President
Darrell Nielsen	Junior Vice President
Bev Tinker	Secretary
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Al Harris	Past President

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Valentine's month

Several countries had issued stamps related to Love, Friendship and many the forms of celebrating Valentine's day. Is there an equivalent to Valentine's day in those countries that don't celebrate it? Do you know?

Notes from Last Month meeting

An sparse attendance to January meeting made the group realize it is time to do something collectively to bring club activities back to the levels it was not too long ago.

There was a motion to procure some of the CDs with presentations produced by the ATA. FSC members should be able to check them out for home viewing. Other organizations also publish this tipe of reference material, having those available in our library for members to review,

should be one of the benefits of FSC membership.

Linn's 2009 stamp popularity poll took place during our January meeting, members in attendance where able to cast their vote. If you did not have a chance to do so, check page 3 of this newsletter, in there you'll find a link to Linn's online site.

The club is planning a number of programs for the year, your attendance and support are appreciated.

Theme of the Month

Computers in Philately.

Technology advancements are part of everyday life, and our (sometimes perceived) "old fashioned" hobby, is coming mainstream with the use of online resources, databases, research tools, books online, etc. Want to see what is out there on the web but don't know where to start?

Well, more than the usual number of internet links are included in the newsletter, but if you like to delve even further, for example, taking a class specific on computers and philately, consider yourself very lucky.

Coming to San Francisco, right before Westpex 2010 next April 21-22 there is a two full-days APS seminar on that topic, interested? Point your internet browsers to www.stamps.org/education/edu_Courses.htm for more information.

Philatelic Auctions



Lately there have been a number of important philatelic auctions around the world. The results don't stop surprising many people, not only collectors but people not involved in the hobby who don't completely believe that in time of resection record level prices are achieved by collectable pieces. This phenomenon is not only noticed in philatelic auctions but in many other collectible items also.

SPGI Shreves, for example, sent a summary email to clients, here an excerpt:

"The auction attracted an unprecedented amount of excitement, drawing collectors, dealers, religious organizations and museums from literally around the world. The end result? The auction realized a stunning \$7,001,720. This figure did not include the buyer's premium and was far in excess of the \$3,250,000 high-end presale estimates found in the auction catalog. An impressive number of bidders participated in the auction via mail bids, telephone, in person and bidding live through the Internet. In fact, we set a record for the number of bidders participating live via the Internet, with well over 600 unique internet bidders during the course of the three day sale. The Spink Shreves auction room itself was filled to capacity with serious buyers."

A sign of a strong philatelic market, for the right pieces of course, must be a sign somehow of philately is, and will continue to be, a hobby that attracts today many people.

Closer home, remember that in April FSC has planned an auction night for our monthly meeting. Conversely to what the collectibles market is seeing, prices for the lots are more down-to-earth in our club, but the philatelic satisfaction is guaranteed at the same levels as of the expensive items.

Stamp Shows

APS AMERISTAP EXPO - February 19-21

Riverside Convention Center, Riverside CA

NOVAPEX - March 6-7

Senior Citizens Hall, 2290 Benton Dr. Redding, CA

FRESPEX - March 13-14

Veterans Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Avenue, Clovis, CA

WESTPEX - April 23-25

San Francisco Airport Marriot , Burlingame, CA

Looking for stamps for your collection?

The club has a couple of boxes with stamps, covers, and other philatelic items available to its members. These aren't the open boxes you might be already familiar with, these are older ones still in the cabinet that apparently haven't been opened in a very long time. Will these "mystery boxes" hide a philatelic jewel? Who knows... but at least they will be a lot of fun for philatelic hunting. They are available for review during our meetings.



Facebook, Twitter, and so on..

You heard of the social networks, people meeting online, sharing ideas over quick communications. Guess what? There are many philatelic communities built by members of this networks. Few Philatelic organizations are taking advantage of these sites, APS is one of them. Traditional ways to promote the hobby don't work well when newer generations communicate over a different platform. FSC should have a presence in this forums, what do you think? After all is free. Junior members, where are you?

A little bit of everything

“Get Rid of Stamps???”

Current Lynn’s news issue of February 15, 2010 has this article on the front page: **“Postal Service Inspector General: “Get Rid of Stamp?”**

alluding to a posting on *Pushing the Envelope* website <http://blog.uspsog.gov/> asking for ideas on reducing cost associated with postage stamps.

There must be a happy medium where stamps and automated postage could coexist in a balanced conditions without affecting USPS bottom line. If you have some ideas, please post them on the aforementioned website.



Linn’s 2009 US Stamp Popularity Poll

Did you cast your vote yet? If not, make sure you get to your nearest computer to access Linn’s voting site:

<http://www.linns.com/Poll/Default.aspx>

Philately portal

Wikipedia.org is an online free encyclopedia made possible by thousands (maybe millions) of authors around the world, who contribute with information in almost any topic you can think of.

Of course philately is one of them and even has its own portal. Check it out:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Philately>

Promoting FSC

At our last meeting there was a discussion on how to promote our club, augment membership, and foster attendance to our monthly meetings. Key elements to ensure the continuity of FSC.

What isn’t working? Is Thursday a bad day for a meeting? Is the place we meet not adequate? Is the newsletter not arriving on time or not interesting at all? What is it?

One idea was to explore the feasibility of hosting our meetings at the Main Fremont Library to gain visibility to the club by the high traffic of people attending the place who, very likely, are interested in cultural hobbies.

Many philatelic clubs around the nation struggle to stay up due to lack of participation. Together we can make the difference.

Penpex

I neglected to mention in our January issue that, Mr. Steve Shay’s exhibit “*St. Patricks Day Naval Cancells and Cachets*”, was awarded a medal at the last Penpex show.

Steve did a presentation to the club on that very same topic. Now that I remember, that presentation got me started on searching for Naval Covers on my favorite topic. Thanks Steve!

Monthly Programs

These are the upcoming programs:

- Feb** Al Harris – Valentine’s Philatelic topic
- Mar** Pizza & stamp trade night
- Apr** Auction

For the march program we need to have a count of people coming, so please let us know if you’ll be attending and what type of pizza you like. We even have an online survey to collect your responses: <http://alturl.com/mier> Please complete it by Feb 15. (online survey has expiration date)

A valentine's Philatelic topic By Al Harris

Thursday February 11
Doors open at 7 PM

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First Class



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responsibility before printing this
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