

# ACROSS THE FENCE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
KAREN WEIGT

**JUST DO IT!**



I have much on my mind right now. Seeing that WISCOPEX '19 (May 4-5, Madison) will be hosted by my home club, there's an overload on my to-do list. Most

troubling, however, is my promise to enter an exhibit this year. It is absolutely haunting me!

Some of you know that years back I had exhibited with marginal success. I gave it up due to the vast scope of the subject I'd chosen and impossible acquisition of the material needed to progress to a first-place ribbon. As time passed, I decided that life was just too short to venture back into exhibiting. Within the last couple of years, however, I've again become intrigued with the challenge of this area of philately. But how to get started?

Hum-m-m. I'm a U.S. collector and I have a large specialty collection of Flag Over Porch. I also have a lovely-to-look-at collection of F-Flowers and the 29-cent Tulip issues. I'm told, though, that exhibiting is not just showing a collection. It presents a study of the material shown and has to tell a story, with a beginning, middle and ending, which I've never quite understood.



Figures 1-2: Will it be the tulips or the flags?

Another problem is I want to start with a one-frame (16-page) exhibit. Right now, I don't have enough material for the tulips and I don't know how to present just one phase of the flags. And timewise, a multi-frame flags exhibit is impossible.

I've spoken with at least a couple of WFSC judges and each has told me "just do it." Our WFSC judges are nice people and want to help all exhibitors. During the critique, they provide ideas of how to progress.

For WISCOPEX, an exhibit is judged by points as follows:

- Presentation (20 points) – evaluate clarity of display and overall aesthetic balance of the exhibit
- Treatment/Plan (25 points) – development and completeness of subject
- Knowledge (20 points) – knowledge and analysis of subject
- Research (20 points) – personal or original research
- Condition and Rarity (15 Points) – evaluation based on existing material for subject shown and difficulty of acquisition

Except for the Best of Show and Champion of Champions awards, exhibits compete against themselves. They are each awarded a first-, second-, or third-place ribbon depending on the point totals, for which the breakdown is:

- First Place 80 – 100
- Second Place 60 – 79
- Third Place 40 – 59

Of course, one can also earn only a certificate of participation for points below 40. If my exhibit frame at WISCOPEX '19 is lacking a ribbon by Saturday afternoon, you'll know I need heaps of help.

Thinking of exploring the world of exhibiting? Come on. Jump in and join me in this venture. Request your packet of exhibit entry material for WISCOPEX '19 as offered on page 4. In fact, all you need is four or six pages for a mini-exhibit that is not judged. This is a great way to get started. I did it for my tulip issues some years ago. I still have those four pages and now need only 12 more...

So now that I've committed myself to the entire WFSC membership, I'd better get started and "just do it!"



@ www.wfscstamps.org



@Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs



APS Chapter 350



ATA Chapter 107

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

ALEX GILL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



In this issue, we feature several interesting articles to intrigue both philatelists at all levels and non-collectors. First, Darlene Waterstreet of the Green Bay club writes about philatelic items featuring both birds and

Stamps—a popular subject throughout philately. Secondly, this issue features John Pare's third and final installment in his series of early flights to Bermuda.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to WISCOPEX. The show is Wisconsin's annual philatelic exhibition. This year's WISCOPEX will commemorate the 50th anniversary of man on the moon and will take place May 4-5 in Madison, Wisconsin. It is not too late to think about and submit an exhibit!

Sincerely,

Alex Gill  
Editor-in-Chief, *Across the Fence Post*  
Email: [algill737@gmail.com](mailto:algill737@gmail.com)

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## PRESIDENT:

**Karen Weigt**  
4184 Rose Ct.  
Middleton, WI 53562  
[klweigt@gmail.com](mailto:klweigt@gmail.com)

## VICE PRESIDENT:

**Greg Schmidt**  
1978 Fox Burrow Ct.  
Neenah, WI 54956  
[gschmidt7@new.rr.com](mailto:gschmidt7@new.rr.com)

## SECRETARY:

**Clarence Davis**  
W4022 Linden Drive  
Malone, WI 53049  
[davisclarence@gmail.com](mailto:davisclarence@gmail.com)

## TREASURER:

**Allen E. Vick**  
2090 River Estate Lane  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
[aavick2090@gmail.com](mailto:aavick2090@gmail.com)

## VP YOUTH DIVISION:

**MaryAnn Bowman**  
P.O. Box 1451  
Waukesha, WI 53187  
[maryann15b@mac.com](mailto:maryann15b@mac.com)

## EAST CENTRAL REGION VP:

**Don Kurki**  
[kurki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurki@sbcglobal.net)  
-Fond du Lac Stamp Club  
-Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club  
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**Art Schmitz**  
[pescador@milwpc.com](mailto:pescador@milwpc.com)  
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[fiveperrys@athenet.com](mailto:fiveperrys@athenet.com)  
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## CENTRAL REGION VP:

**Chuck Rebek**  
[chasrebek@aol.com](mailto:chasrebek@aol.com)  
-Central Wisconsin Stamp Club  
-Chippewa Valley Stamp Club  
-Lakeland Stamp & Coin Club  
-Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society

## SW REGION VP:

**John Paré**  
[pare16@mhtc.net](mailto:pare16@mhtc.net)  
-Badger Stamp Club  
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-Tri-State Stamp Club

*Across the Fence Post* is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please visit the website, [www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org).

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# CLUB CONNECTIONS

MARYANN BOWMAN, WAUKESHA COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## MORE ABOUT TRIVIA CONTESTS

In the December issue, I suggested that clubs try trivia questions if they needed a program in the spur of the moment.

Dave Carney, who has connections to several different stamp clubs, wrote to tell me about two WFSC clubs that offer a different twist on stamp trivia programs.

The Oshkosh Philatelic Society has a trivia contest at every meeting. He states that some questions are very challenging but the unique aspect is that there is a prize for the winner of the contest AND a drawing to determine who has to create the next trivia contest.

The Green Bay Philatelic Society invites their members to submit the questions and then one club member selects the final questions. Members are given the questions a week prior to their meeting and come to the meeting with their answers.

## MOVING AWAY FROM FORMAL PRESENTATIONS

Dave also writes that the Oshkosh Philatelic Society has gone away from presentations due to the difficulty of finding members willing and able to present. The executive committee determines topics that might be interesting to discuss and on the evening of the meeting, members bring examples of the items being discussed or questions about the topic.

Their December meeting featured a stamp catalog game. Several packets of 20 U.S. and foreign stamps (equal numbers of each) were assembled. Members could work in groups of up to three to identify the stamps in their packet. For the U.S. stamps, they had to identify the type of stamp, the Scott number, and the year issued. For the foreign stamps they had to identify the name of the country, the Scott catalog number, and the year of issue. About 30 to 45 minutes was allowed for the activity.

My personal opinion is that this is a very worthwhile program. One cannot assume that everyone knows how to read a catalog and this practice exercise is a good way to do so without pointedly making anyone look unknowledgeable. Design numbers as well as the need to know about watermarks and perforation varieties provide an opportunity for mini-lesson as well.

## OPTING FOR THE SCAVENGER HUNT

Another easy-to-assemble program idea is the philatelic scavenger hunt. A large pile of stamps and a list of what to look for is all that is needed. Don't make the list of topics too long. It is suggested that a bingo-type sheet with spaces be created so that members can fill the space with the stamp as it is found in the mixture.

There are already several prepared "hunts" on the WFSC website in the youth section. These could also be used at youth and beginner tables. The WFSC has some ideas such as Australia Stamp Hunt, Topical, American Symbols, Patriotic, Number, Cinderella, and Winter Olympics Stamps. These scavenger hunts are located under Youth—Club Leaders.

Scavenger hunts can be done for prizes as well. Offering points such as two points for every stamp unique to its category (meaning that no one else competing in the hunt has that same stamp in the same category) as well as one point for every space filled can be one method to try and determine a winner.

Likewise, a scavenger hunt can be completed at home before coming to a meeting. In that situation, you can become a bit more creative in the categories offering such ideas as a cover with the most stamps, the smallest envelope with a stamp, covers with the most postal markings, etc. A show-and-tell of items and discussion surrounding those pieces could make for an interesting evening of sharing.

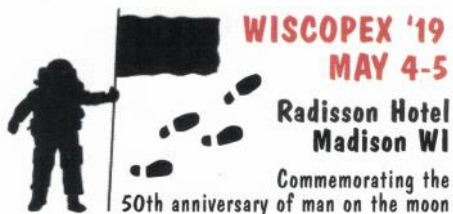
If you have ideas for scavenger hunts, or a different format, or unique twist to the activity, share it with me and I will include your ideas in a future column. If you would like to have your scavenger hunt posted to the website, I can see that it is written in a format suitable for publication on the internet.

A special thank you to Dave Carney for sharing information - I'd love to hear from someone in your club too! You are all doing great work - let's use it to help others get excited about club meetings and programs.



**CORRECTION**

The latest donation to the AFTP digitizing fund came from the Oshkosh Philatelic Society. Acknowledgement in the January AFTP failed to include that the \$25 donation was in memory of deceased OPS member Vern Gauger. Thank you again to the Oshkosh Philatelic Society.



**WISCOPEX '19 CALL FOR EXHIBITS**

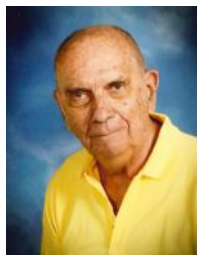
Plan now to enter an exhibit at the annual Wisconsin Convention and Philatelic Exhibition. Show dates are May 4-5 at the Radisson Hotel, 517 Grand Canyon Dr., in Madison, Wis.

Traditional exhibit divisions offered at WISCOPEX '19 are Champion of Champions, Open (including Display), Single-frame, Youth, and Non-competitive. Frames are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

WISCOPEX also encourages beginning collectors to participate in the non-competitive 4- and 8-page exhibit division. These smaller exhibits provide an opportunity for collectors to get a taste of this phase of philately. They also provide a means of showing the public a wide range of collecting interests. There are no frame fees for these 4- and 8-page exhibits, which will not be judged.

(Note: The theme for MILCOPEX '19 is Christmas. Consider a 4- or 8-page Christmas themed exhibit for WISCOPEX in May and enter it again at MILCOPEX in September.)


Request a prospectus and exhibit entry form from Exhibits Chair John Paré, 608-852-7358, pare16@mhtc.net. These documents, which include rules and further information, also are available at the WFSC website, www.wfscstamps.org. Just click on WISCOPEX.



**DONALD "DON" HUEBNER**, aged 86, of the Badger Stamp Club, passed away November 29, 2018, after a seven-month battle with cancer. He was a veteran, retired bank examiner, Badger and Packer fan, and an ardent collector of many antiques. Lorna May, his wife of 60 years, said "He got his love of antiques and collecting from my mother!"

Don especially loved and had a great eye for postal history and other items that had a story to tell. Sometimes it was just the eye appeal of the cover or postcard, but he had a lot of knowledge of "rates" and interesting destinations. If you did research on a cover or destination, Don was always appreciative, as it added to his knowledge. He had a great love for the postal history of the various Zeppelin flights and Zeppelin memorabilia, like toys, menus and books. He always asked a particular dealer friend about "what new treasures" he had acquired or had for sale. Don enjoyed attending shows and club meetings where he could search for new treasures. Don will be missed by our club. A full obituary can be found at: <https://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituary/287674/Donald-Don-Huebner/>.

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by Wayne L. Youngblood



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# BIRDS AND FLOWERS

DARLENE WATERSTREET, GREEN BAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Figure 1: U.S. Scott 1953-2002, a complete sheet of 50.

The idea of state flowers originated in 1893 at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and bird watchers soon extended the idea to the selection of state birds. A pane of stamps honoring all of the states was suggested at least as early as 1932, when a pane of 50 with 48 state stamps, one for the District of Columbia, and a special stamp in the center was suggested. The earliest specific request for stamps picturing state birds came in 1935, and state flower stamps were suggested in 1937. The first state pane issued was the state flags pane in 1976 (Scott 1633-1682), which was highly successful, both in sales and on popularity polls. A follow-up pane with a combination of state birds and flowers was considered, but the U.S. Postal Service was in no hurry, believing that five or six years would be soon enough.

The president of Uncover Corp., producers of Fleetwood philatelic products, was sorry the Postal Service had not chosen birds and flowers instead of flags. While he couldn't issue stamps, he decided to offer a set of commemorative covers in 1978 postmarked in each of the state capitals on their statehood anniversaries, with the birds and flowers theme provided by the cachet art. The set was issued under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. As for the artist, Uncover chose wildlife artist Arthur Singer, who had illustrated *Birds of the World* in the 1960s. Singer's wife worked with him on the Fleetwood cachets until her death in 1978. Their son Alan helped with the project after his mother became ill, and later painted the flowers for the state Birds and Flowers stamps.

Perhaps based on the success of the Fleetwood covers, the Postal Service decided to issue a pane of Birds and Flowers stamps in 1982, and selected Singer as the artist. Uncover Corp. offered to contribute the artwork of all 50 of Arthur

Singer's original paintings for use on the stamps. But it was learned that the paintings, created for cachets several times stamp size, were in an unusable format and could not be adapted for stamp design without starting over and redoing the paintings. In late January 1980, arrangements were made between the Postal Service and Singer for the 50 Birds and Flowers to be painted for a fee of \$50,000 for the fifty designs.

The issue date was set arbitrarily as April 14, 1982, at an outdoor ceremony at the Tidal Basin in Washington, D. C. First day covers could be issued with the Washington cancellation with "First Day of Issue" in the killer bars, or with a handstamp cancel to be used in the fifty state capitals. Arthur and Alan Singer were named as the stamp designers. The pane (Scott 1953-2002) was first issued in a thirteen million print offering, and went on to sell over 500 million sets of the fifty stamps.

Uncover issued a set of Fleetwood first-day covers with the Washington cancel, and the original Singer cachets from the 1978 set. In 1985, another Fleetwood set of commemorative covers was issued, postmarked in each of the state capitals on their statehood anniversaries, like the 1978 set. However, this set had cachets done by Don Balke, a wildlife artist who grew up in northern Wisconsin. Because of a postage increase during 1985, the covers for those states with anniversaries late in the year required extra postage.

Sets of first-day covers were issued by popular cachet makers, and hand painted by artists ranging from simple folk art to detailed illustrations. Some cachets reproduce Singer's stamp art, while other cachets have original art, sometimes of the bird and flower for one state, sometimes for multiple states.

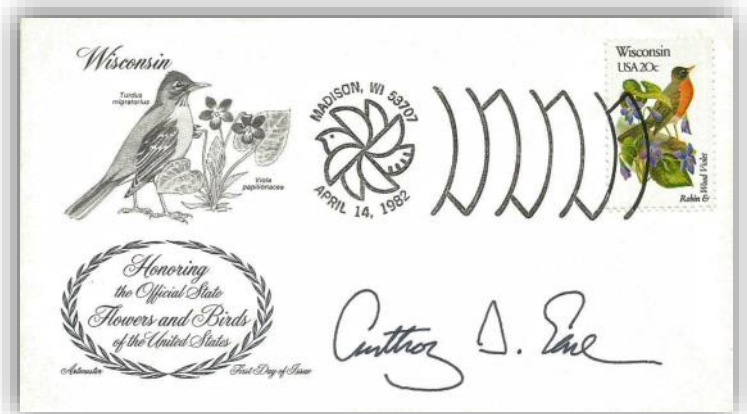
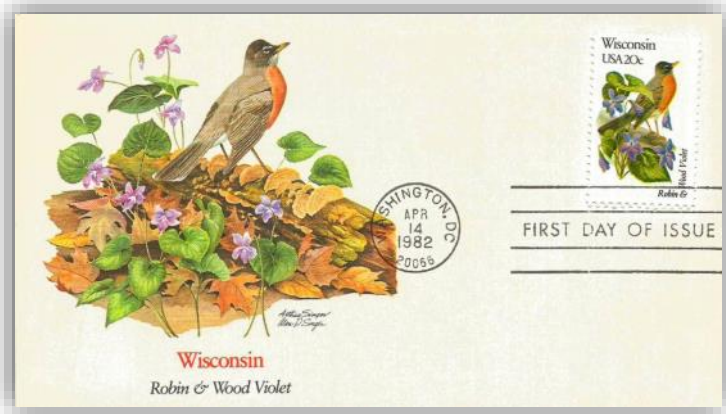
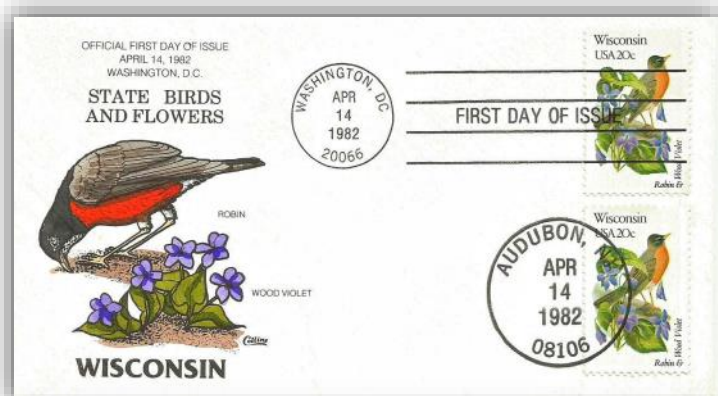


Figure 2: The Wisconsin stamp on a first-day cover signed by then Wisconsin Gov. Anthony S. Earl.

In addition to covers, collectors can find mint sets, booklets, commemorative panels, proofcards, maxicards, trading cards, stamp pins, and other collectibles relating to the birds and flowers stamps. As recently as 2004, a company in Germany issued a calendar using U.S. state Birds and Flowers stamps as monthly illustrations.

Although the Postal Service would issue a number of 50-stamp sets after 1982, including North American Wildlife (1987, Scott 2286-2335) and Wildflowers (1992, Scott 2647-2696), it would be 20 years before there was another issue with each stamp dedicated to a specific state: the Greetings from America stamps in 2002 (Scott 3561-3610). Beginning in 2008 and ending in 2012, there was a return to the original idea of the 1976 state flag stamps, but this time the set consisted of 60 stamps because of the inclusion of the U.S. flag as well as flags of territories and was issued as six sets of coil stamps.



Figures 3-6: A collection of covers created for the series and a collection of lapel stamp pins commemorating the stamps.

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# THE THIRD AIRPLANE FLIGHT TO BERMUDA

JOHN PARE

On January 3, 1931, Mrs. Beryl Hart, a 26 year old widow and an experienced pilot, and Lt. William S. MacLaren, USNR, a pilot and navigator, departed North Beach, Queens, New York (later La Guardia Airfield) and set out for Bermuda. The two aviators flew *Tradewind*, a custom-built white Bellanca CH300 that carried 400 gallons of fuel. They also carried cargo as Hart wanted to demonstrate the feasibility of aircraft carrying cargo across the Atlantic. Because of that, her flight was often referred to as the “payload flight.”

Their plan was to fly to Bermuda then to the Azores and finally to Paris. But, after several hours in the air, bad weather and a broken sextant forced them to head to Hampton Roads, Virginia. They remained at the Naval Operating Base in Norfolk until the morning of January 7, 1931 when they departed for Bermuda. They landed in Hamilton Harbor in the early afternoon completing a six-hour and 660 mile flight to Bermuda. This was the first non-stop flight from the U.S. that set down in Bermuda.

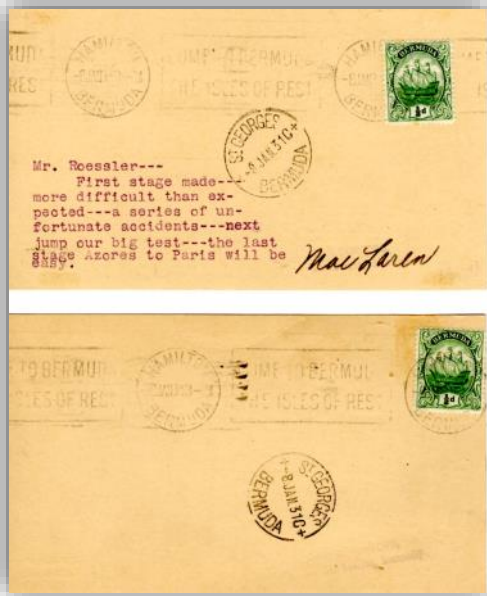


Figure 2

Amidst the cargo were postcards and letters cancelled in the United States at East Orange, New Jersey. on January 3, 1931, which were back-stamped in Hamilton or St. Georges or both on January 8, 1931. The cards were the second effort by stamp dealer A.C. Roessler to profit from these early flights to Bermuda. You may recall he prepared cards for the 1930 flight of *Miss Columbia*.

On January 10, after three days of rest they departed Bermuda. They planned on the flight to the Azores taking 21 hours and were due to arrive in Horta at 8:15 a.m. the next day. These two aviators were never heard from again. A search by ships in the area was futile. A few weeks later a ship reported seeing possible wreckage 20 miles north of Horta.

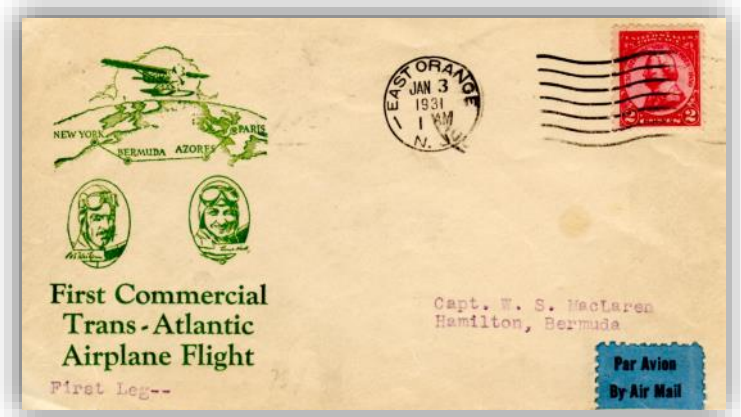


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows an envelope cancelled in East Orange, N.J. and carried by MacLaren on the flight. He mailed the letter in Bermuda to himself in the U.S. The back of the cover is franked correctly with a Bermuda 1-penny stamp for carriage by sea to the United States.

Figure 2 shows the backs of two cards that have the same cachet on front as the cover in Figure 1. The back of one postcard carries the ominous statement many believed was printed by Roessler after the crew had been lost. Most believe that he placed the statement next to MacLaren’s signature to make it appear that the statement was from MacLaren. Thirty-nine of these cards have been reported. Seven similar cards without the statement on the back have been reported and are, therefore, scarcer. All the cards are franked on the back with a Bermuda half-penny stamp paying the correct postcard rate.



Figure 3

Figure 3 shows a card thought to have been prepared by Roessler or a German stamp dealer von Weigand in anticipation of *Tradewinds* arriving in the Azores. The news clipping was pasted on the card later. The next airplane flights to Bermuda took place six years later in May, 1937 with the advent of large commercial flying boats that carried passengers, mail and cargo.



# SHOW CALENDAR

Want to list your event? Contact Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562 P: (608) 609-6173 E: klweigt@gmail.com

## WFSC CLUB SHOWS

### February 9, 2019 60th Annual Exhibition & Bourse

Janesville Stamp Club, exhibits & bourse. Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Pl., Janesville, WI. Sat. 9:30a-4p.  
C: Aimee Devine 608-758-1354  
E: spanishmoss72@sbcglobal.net

### March 2-3, 2019 STAMPFEST '19

Milwaukee Philatelic Society, bourse only. St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1441 S. 92nd St., Milwaukee WI. Sat. 10a-5p., Sun. 10a-3p.  
C: Robert J. Mather 262-968-2392  
E: burrobbob@wi.rr.com

### March 23, 2019 BAYPEX 2019

Green Bay Philatelic Society, exhibits & bourse. St. Matthew Catholic Church, Multi-purpose Rm., 2575 S. Webster Ave., Green Bay, WI (parking in rear). Sat. 9a-4p.  
C: Mark Schroeder 920-337-9616  
E: markthetuba@gmail.com



### May 4-5, 2019 WISCOPEX 2019

WFSC 88th Annual Convention, hosted by the Badger Stamp Club. Judged exhibits, seminars, bourse, auctions. Radisson Hotel Madison, 517 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p  
C: Karen Weigt 608-609-6173  
E. klweigt@gmail.com

### July 13, 2019 Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Show

Bay de Noc Stamp and Coin Club. Bourse only. Bay College, 2000 N. 30th St., Joseph Heirman Bldg., Rm. 952 (accessed from Danforth Rd.), Escanaba, MI. Sat. 10a-3p EDT.  
C: Richard Reiffers 906-233-9261  
E. rgrpaperboy@earthlink.net

### July 27, 2019 14th Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club Summer Show

Lakeland Stamp & Coin Club. Bourse only. Woodruff Town Hall, Hwy. 47E., Woodruff, WI. Sat. 9a-2p.  
C: Dean Martin 715-356-9453, P.O.B. 202, Woodruff, WI 54568

## OTHER SHOWS

### March 9-10, 2019 Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo

Rockford Stamp Club, exhibits & bourse. Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 W. Lane Rd. (Hwy. 173). Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-4p.

### March 22-24, 2019 ASDA Midwest Postage Stamp Show

American Stamp Dealers Association, bourse only. Holiday Inn Chicago Oakbrook, 17W350 22nd St., Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Fri & Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.

### April 6, 2019 PARFOREX 2019

Park Forest Stamp Club, judged exhibits and bourse. Flossmoor Community House, 847 Hutchinson Rd., Flossmoor, IL. Sat. 10a-5p.

### April 6-7, 2019 MSDA Spring Show

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse only. Ramada Plaza North Shore, 1090 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL. Sat. 10a-5p., Sun. 10a-3p.

### May 31 - June 2, 2019 COMPLEX 2019


Chicago Area Philatelic Societies, judged exhibits and bourse. Guerin College Prep., 8001 W. Belmont Ave., River Grove, IL. Fri. & Sat. 10a-6p, Sun. 10a-4p.

### July 6-7, 2019 MSDA Milwaukee Show

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse only. Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 So. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.

### July 27-28, 2019 MSDA Spring Show

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, bourse only. Ramada Plaza North Shore, 1090 So. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL. Sat. 10a-5p, Sun. 10a-3p.



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