



The PHILATELIC REVIEW

The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California
And Federation Reporter
April 2003

The Shipwreck of the OCPS

(This editorial is reprinted from the April issue of the Orange County Philatelic Society newsletter with some minor editing for style. My comments will follow. — Editor)

I have been a member of the OCPS for about 15 years, during which time, we have mostly just drifted along without any real direction from the club leadership. What happens when you just drift along? Maybe you'll just run aground or maybe you'll be swept over the dam. One thing for certain — you will not get anywhere; you will not accomplish anything — for it cannot continue indefinitely, and ultimately comes the shipwreck.

We have run aground before.

But this time we are about to go over the dam itself.

The club is not healthy; the club is moribund. We have no president and have had only one board meeting in God knows how long. Bill Snyder, in his September letter, correctly noted that we have had no meaningful presentations or activities in years. Attendance has fallen: in the early 90s, winter-time attendance ran 40-50 or even more, dropping to about 30 in the summer; now, we're lucky to get 30 and there were only 18 at the last meeting. We get few visitors, and hardly anyone ever joins our club; membership is in steep decline; many have stopped coming — and why not? Our meetings are dullsville. The main event of

our meetings is a chintzy raffle.

The club is in desperate need of leadership: We need a board that meets regularly to conduct the club business. (We had decided at one time that all business would be done in board meetings. The club meeting would be reserved for stamp collecting activities.) We need a president that will provide the impetus and direction for that leadership. The club leadership needs to start planning activities and presentations for the club meetings so that the meetings are worth coming to again. And finally (or maybe even first and most of all), we must increase the membership of the club if it is to survive.

Of course, this is easier said

(Continued on page 2)

NEXT FEDERATION MEETING

The next Federation meeting will be at 12 noon, Saturday, June 14, at the home of Louise Christian, 2461 Beacon St., Fullerton; phone (714) 524-0809. Lunch will be at noon, with the meeting starting at 1 p.m.

To get there, take the 57 Freeway (south or north) to Yorba Linda Boulevard. Turn east to Placentia Avenue, cross Bastanchury Road and turn left on Mystic Avenue. The first street on the right will be Beacon Street.

About us

The Philatelic Review is published three times a year by The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California.

The SESCAL Web site, which also includes information about the Federation and a list of member clubs, is at www.sescal.org

News about Federation or club events and other articles should be sent to the editor, John Weigle, at P.O. Box 6536, Ventura, CA 93006-6536 or, by e-mail, to jweigle@vcnet.com

Officers:

President: Jerry Harwood, 3600 S. Harbor Blvd., No. 84, Oxnard, CA 93035-4136

(805) 644-4022
jebay63@aol.com

President-elect: William O'Connor, Fallbrook, CA (760) 723-7372
conoco@aol.com

Vice President: Kenneth Weber, 1220 Johnson Drive, No. 104, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 654-8044
kencar@venturalink.net

Secretary: Carolyn Clary, P.O. Box 3485, Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 632-5664
rayclary@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Bill Estes, 8331 Castano Place, Sun Valley, CA 91352 (818) 767-2431
westes0380@aol.com

Treasurer: Waltraud Helms, 11925 Ringwood, Norwalk, CA 90650-7773

SESCAL chairman: Wallace A. Craig, P.O. Box 369, Placentia, CA 92870
WAMCraig@aol.com

More on OCPS ...

(Continued from page 1)

than done. All types of organizations and clubs are in decline. People aren't joining or partaking anymore of group activities for whatever reason. This is all the more poignant, that we squandered the momentum of the expansion in club attendance when we moved to the Brookhurst Community Center. Turning this club around is going to be a formidable task. I don't wish it on anyone.

Michael Cress
Newsletter Editor
Former President
Former Secretary

Comments by John Weigle

From the outside, the Orange County Philatelic Society has always seemed to be one of the Federation's most active and successful clubs. It has put on a wonderful show for many years (except for the year it was put out of business by the unfortunate timing of a MegaShow in Anaheim) and its newsletter appears regularly.

But it's suffering from the same problems that many stamp clubs — and, as Michael notes, other non-philatelic organizations, too — are experiencing. You'll note in the minutes on page 4, for instance, that the Federation still does not have a secretary.

While we can't help the other groups, Michael's editorial should raise many questions in the minds of board members of all the Federation clubs, among them the following:

— Is the membership of your club rising or falling? Why? The answer to that is important whether membership is increasing or decreasing.

— Are your members renewing or dropping out when renewal time comes? If they're dropping out, why, and what have you done to try to get them back? Has it worked?

— Are your meetings worth attending, or have they fallen into a routine of nothing but raffles and auctions, if that?

— Are you helping your members to learn more about their hobby? Do you have programs, push a library, discuss issues in the hobby?

— What are you doing to recruit members? Do you announce your meetings in the local newspaper(s) and radio station(s) and their associated Web sites? Do you have meetings worth announcing?

— Do you have any outreach events (shows, exhibits in libraries or post offices, speakers at service clubs, tables at your county fair or at other hobby shows or commercial bourses in your community)?

If your club isn't doing any of these things, you're going to face the same problems the OCPS does.

If your club is doing things to attract members, you'll succeed and have new volunteers to do the things you want to do. If you've found ways to keep old members and attract new ones, please share them with clubs that have been less fortunate? Send them to me — John Weigle, P.O. Box 6536, Ventura, CA 93006, by regular mail or to jweigle@vcnet.com by e-mail — and we'll publish them in the next issue.

Philatelic news and notes

ORCOPEX COMING AUG. 15-17: Despite its problems, the Orange County Philatelic Society still plans to present ORCOPEX — its major fund-raiser to pay for its meeting place — this year.

The 29th annual ORCOPEX hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Aug. 15, and Saturday, Aug. 16; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17 at Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim.

Admission and parking are free, and the show will have exhibits, door prizes and dealers.

The contact person is Stephen Pattillo, P.O. Box 604, Fullerton CA 92832; phone (714) 995-0548; and e-mail, number1banana@hotmail.com.

Pattillo is becoming Southern California's "Mr. Stamp Show," serving as bourse chairman for SESCAL and ORCOPEX and running several of his own shows at several locations around Los Angeles and Orange counties.

SESCAL DATES SET: The 59th Annual SESCAL (Stamp Exhibition of Southern California), sponsored by the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, will be Oct. 3-5, 2003, at the Radisson Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles.

SESCAL 2003 will also hold its 26th Annual Exhibit of Philatelic Literature, which includes handbooks, catalogs and periodicals in paper or electronic format.

The prospectuses for both the stamp exhibition and the philatelic literature exhibition are available at the SESCAL Web site (www.sescal.org).

The entry deadlines are Aug. 20 and July 14, respectively.

SESCAL 2004, the 60th Anniversary show, will be Oct. 1-3, featuring conventions of the China Stamp Society and the Society for Hungarian Philately.

PRESIDENT ELECTED PRESIDENT: Federation President Jerry Harwood has been elected president of the Ventura County Philatelic

Society after serving as vice president.

JERRY KASPER WINS VENPEX GRAND: Jerry Kasper's Aerogramme Errors, Freaks and Oddities won the Grand Award at this year's VENPEX, the annual show of the Ventura County Philatelic Society, which was held March 15-16. The exhibit also won a gold, and the APS certificate for the best exhibit by an APS member.

Kasper was the only exhibitor who is not a VCPS member.

Although heavy rain Saturday hurt attendance badly, Sunday's attendance picked up, but not as much as the club hoped.

The fewer than 100 people who did attend had a chance to see material in the exhibits that they weren't likely to see at club meetings, and the dealers had a lot of good material to search through.

Here is a complete list of award winners:

Grand Award (Best of Show): Jerry Kasper, Aerogramme Errors, Freaks and Oddities, plus gold, APS certificate (Best exhibit by an APS member)

Gold: Steve Turchik, A Postal History: The Stampless Covers of the City of Basel, Switzerland, between 1770 and 1865, plus Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California Award (Reserve Grand)

Vermeil: Caroline Weber, From the Branches of a Family Tree; Steve Tucker, French Guinea

Silver: Jay Shoemaker, China Pa Kua Cancels; and Jay Shoemaker, Canada, 3¢ Small Queens, plus Kurt Holschauer Memorial Award for Best Exhibit of British Empire.

Silver-Bronze: George Lyon, Picture Post Cards of Early Alaska

Bronze: Frosty Godfrey, HANDS on Stamps, Cards and Covers (plus ATA Merit Award Ribbon for Best Topical/Thematic One-Frame Exhibit); Jerry Harwood, Submarines; and Jerry Harwood, Middle East.

Minutes of the
**Federated Philatelic Clubs
of Southern California**

Meeting of Feb. 8, 2003

Federation Meeting at SANDICAL, San Diego, CA, 2 p.m. February 8, 2003.

Eight members were present, which did not constitute a quorum. An informal meeting was held.

Minutes were distributed from the last meeting in October. The Treasurer's report was given for information purposes.

SESCAL Report: The attendance for the show was 1,000, a great increase from prior shows, which were averaging 400 persons. Dealers were in general most happy with the show this year, which augers well for the future. The show did lose money this

time; a complete financial report is available from the SESCAL committee.

Wallace has been asked to continue as chairperson of the SESCAL committee by the president of the Federation. A different layout for the dealer booths seemed to work well; a total of 55 booths will be available for this year's show. The chairman most appreciatively thanked all those who participated in the presentation of the show for 2002.

In a general discussion that followed, it was requested that copies of the constitution and bylaws of the Federation be made available

to all officers, and interested members. The next meeting for the Federation will be June 14, 2003. Details concerning the meeting will be made available in due course. It is hoped that all clubs will send a representative to this meeting. Additionally, any person wishing to place his/her name in consideration for the position of secretary of the Federation would be most welcomed.

**Submitted by
the President Elect,
William O'Connor**

**FPCSC Philatelic Review
c/o Waltraud Helms
11925 Ringwood Ave.
Norwalk, CA 90650**

TO: