



The PHILATELIC REVIEW
 The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California
 And Federation Reporter
 February 2002

Coming events

Federation plans informal meeting at VENPEX

This is a smaller-than-normal issue to try to get the word out about the informal meeting at this year's VENPEX, sponsored by the Ventura County Philatelic Society.

The show will be Saturday and Sunday, March 16-17, at Santa Clara High School, 2121 Saviers Road, Oxnard. The meeting will be at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The show was moved from Seaside Park, the Ventura County Fairgrounds, because of increasing costs and parking fees.

The high school is at 2121 Saviers Road. To find it from the north, take Highway 101 to Oxnard Boulevard and follow Oxnard Boulevard to Saviers Road (the straight-ahead extension of Oxnard Boulevard). Coming from the south, take Highway 101 to Vineyard Road and proceed two

blocks to a left turn onto Oxnard Boulevard. Again, take Oxnard Boulevard to Saviers Road and Saviers to Santa Clara High. If you reach the Centerpoint Mall (Mervyns, etc.) on Saviers, turn around and go back a block; you have gone too far.

The show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

The VCPS will appreciate the attendance of anyone who's interested in keeping local shows alive.

It changed sites this year to try to save money, but the number of dealers is cut almost in half, so we won't get to do all the additional advertising we had hoped to do.

This could be a pivotal year for the show.

**Minutes of the Feb. 2, 2001,
 Regular meeting of the**

Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California

The meeting opened at 2:10 p.m. at the SANDI-CAL show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

All members and guests were introduced as customary. 13 people attended the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as posted and corrected.

The treasurer's report is as included:

As of December 31, 2001	
Balance as of Oct. 1, 2001	\$171.05
Income:	-0-
Expenses:	-0-

Balance as of Dec. 31, 2001 \$171.05
 Submitted by Waltraud Helms, FPCSC, Treasurer

The SESCAL Report was presented. A profit of \$762 was reported. A drop off of dealers may have led to a deficit if not for the donations of SESCAL Board members and the generosity of the Radisson LAX Hotel. A special thanks to all members was proposed but addressed specifically to Wallace Craig, Jim Bowman, and Ray Clary; this was unanimously agreed to by all present.

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About us

The Philatelic Review is published quarterly 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 <jwhh1939@aol.com>

President-elect: William O'Connor, <CONOCON@AOL.com>

Vice President: Kenneth Weber, 1220 Johnson Drive, No. 104, Ventura, CA. 93003 <kencar@venturalink.net>

Secretary: Carolyn Clary, P.O. Box 3485, Anaheim, CA 92801

Immediate Past President: Bill Estes, 8331 Castano Place, Sun Valley, CA 91352

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

SESCAL co-chairman: Ray Clary, P.O. Box 3485, Anaheim, CA 92801

Wallace A. Craig, P.O. Box 369, Placentia, CA 92870

More on minutes...

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A discussion on the possible restitution of funds to SESCAL through the current legal procedures commenced. A final disposition of the case concerning missing funds looks to be in the offering. Hope was expressed that SESCAL would receive what was due the organization.

Upcoming shows were advertised: APS show in Riverside, the Arizona show, and VENPEX.

The current secretary of the or-

ganization will stay on until a new one is selected. All members are invited to submit names to the Federation

An unofficial meeting of the Federation will be scheduled for VENPEX the weekend of March 16 and 17 at Santa Clara High School in Oxnard.

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

FIP honors SESCAL Web site

The SESCAL Web site <<http://www.sescal.org>> is one of 30 sites receiving a 2-Star award in the third annual FIP Web Site evaluations, which were announced at HAFNIA 01.

"This is the first time that I have not been on the panel of judges for this event, and so was able to enter the SESCAL, PCSG and my other sites into this event," reported Bob de Violini, the SESCAL web master.

Bob's Philatelic Computing Study Group site <<<http://www.pcsq.org/>>> was one of seven sites to get a Top 5% Award.

The first evaluations of the 21st century saw 71 sites entered from 18 countries, de Violini reported on the PCSG Web site. This is the greatest number of sites entered in this program, and an increase of 43 percent from last year.

The evaluation was completed by a panel of nine accredited literature jurors from six countries in Europe and North America under the leader-

ship of Francis Kiddle, president of the FIP Literature Commission. The panel was divided into four teams: Francis Kiddle (UK) and Ron Negus (UK); Michael Dixon (USA) and Toke Norby (Denmark); Charles Verge (Canada) and Ken Lawrence (USA); and Juhani Olamo (Finland) and Odd Harald Johannessen (Norway). Charles Peterson (USA) served as the senior consultant. All but three members served on last year's jury — Negus, Dixon and Lawrence.

The guidelines used in the evaluation were the same as in prior years and may be found on the PCSG site.

Bob also reported that the Top 5% group showed an increase to 10 percent of the entries from 8 percent last year, the 3-Star group was down to 37 percent from 40 percent and the 2-Star group was down a bit at 44 percent compared to 45 percent last year.

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PSE issues free grading guide

Determining the condition of a stamp is one of the biggest problems that dealers and collectors face. To try to help, Professional Stamp Experts, which offers opinions on whether a stamp is genuine and what its grade is, is offering collectors a free, 12-page, color booklet, "A Guide to the Grading of United States Postage Stamps."

The PSE guidelines result in a numerical scale ranging from 10 to 100, with 100 representing a stamp with visually perfect jumbo margins (perforated stamps) or four very large imperforate margins, no faults, excellent color impression and flawless gum (if unused).

The grading considers four factors for mint stamps (centering, soundness, eye appeal and gum condition) and three for used stamps (centering, soundness and eye appeal).

Surprisingly, most discussions of stamp grading concentrate on the centering of the stamps, ignoring such things as gum faults and even severe damage. Even so, even the newest collector understands that a stamp with no damage is worth

more than one with chunks missing.

Under the PSE guidelines, stamps are examined for creases, thins, color fading, toning spots or stains, reperforations, tears and repairs or alterations. "The condition or soundness of a stamp can be no higher than the lowest of these fault areas," the booklet notes.

The PSE method results in a numerical grade based on centering and soundness with words used to describe gum condition, faults and so on.

Copies of the booklet may be obtained by writing PSE, P.O. Box 6170, Newport Beach, CA 92658; phone (877) STAMP 88; Web page <www.collectors.com/pse>.

The PSE first gained collecting attention when it started encasing stamps it had expertised and graded in plastic holders. Many collectors objected to that idea because slabbed stamps can't be easily placed in albums or used in exhibits (they won't fit in frames).

With any luck, its ideas on stamp grading will be better received. county Stamp Clubs

More on Web honors ...

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Again, this year's entries were a largely different group than entered in either of the two preceding years. Of the 70 sites entered, all but 13 were new this year, and there were two sites entered in both prior years.

The Overall Best Web Site award went to "Post Office in Paradise — Hawaii" <<http://www.hawaiianstamps.com/>>.

Twenty-five sites were authorized to display the "FIP Three-star site logo."

The 30 sites authorized to display the "FIP Two-star site" logo also included these two sites of Bob's:

APS Hall of Fame <<http://www.west.net/~dviolini/apshof/index.htm>>

International Shows <<http://www.west.net/~dviolini/intlshows/shows.htm>>

<<http://www.west.net/~dviolini/intlshows/shows.htm>>

Six sites fell below the criteria for a 2-star site and received a certificate.

Two sites were made Hors Concours and they may show the logo "FIP Hors Concours site logo."

Inquiries about participating in the FIP Philatelic Web Site evaluation program for 2002 should be sent to Francis Kiddle at <franciskiddle@talk21.com> Subject: FIP web evaluation, or by postal mail to him at Punch Tree House, Reading Road North, FLEET, Hants, GU13 8HS, Great Britain. Fax: (44)1252 810766; Voice phone: (44)1252 613881.

The full list of the awards for all years are available on the PCSG web site at <<http://www.pcs.org>>

Editor's column

A little courtesy never hurts

One of my duties in the Ventura County Philatelic Society is bourse chairman for our annual VENPEX show. In the past, I was co-chairman, but Gordon Williams, my compatriot on the job, decided to retire this year, and I found it was impossible to fill the slots for the March 16-17 show.

I sent invitations to about 50 dealers in three different mailing and received fewer than a dozen responses. I knew that Gordon had to make lots of phone calls to fill the tables at past shows, but I've never understood why that should be. Finally, our treasurer, Bob Smith, called all the dealers who hadn't responded and was told "no, thanks."

For years, I've read the complaints in the letters columns of Linn's and Stamp Collector from people who sent want lists or other letters (and self-addressed, stamped envelopes) to dealers and never got a response. I always figured these were letters about a small minority of dealers

and that most of them would respond, even if it was only to say the material the writer wanted was not in stock.

Now, I'm not so sure.

I understand that many dealers don't do shows or do only much larger shows than VENPEX, and I have no problem with that.

But I wish they'd recognize that people who run shows — especially club shows — have to know if they have enough dealers to make the show happen, and that we must know long enough before the show so we can try to find other dealers or, if worse comes to worst, cancel the event.

Simple courtesy never hurts, be it in personal or business life.

— John Weigle, editor

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

TO: