

Federated Philatelist

Journal of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs

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Topical Stamps in Washington State Symbols

Vera Felts, of the Strait Stamp Society, gave an informative and entertaining presentation on “Topical Stamps in Washington State Symbols” at the SEAPEX 2020 virtual show. In the presentation, Vera had the sound clip of the state amphibian, the Pacific Chorus Frog. She also had embedded in the PowerPoint Woody Guthrie playing the state folk song, “Roll on Columbia, Roll on”.

The presentation was recorded and can be viewed at <http://seapexshow.org/>

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The Federated Philatelist

Editor

Sept 2020 - Darin Cherniwchan

Dec 2020 - George Struble

The World's First Virtual Stamp Exhibition

<https://stampex.vfairs.com>

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www.nwfedstamps.org

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Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs Meeting @ SEAPEX – Lisa Foster

There were 20 in attendance at the September 12, 2020 NWFSC Meeting held on zoom during SEAPEX 2020's virtual show. The Federation is seeking a permanent editor for the Federated Philatelist and a webmaster for the website. If interested, or have a suggestion please let a board member know.

There was also a call out for nominations for the 2021 elections; a treasurer and two directors. Alex Hadden is the incumbent treasurer, and the incumbent directors are Jim Hirstein and Darin P. Cherniwchan.

Larry Crain shared that he feels like he is attending a bourse weekly as he is finding things he didn't know he had in his closet of stamp boxes. Larry noted that philatelists will probably fair well during these times as we are used to solitude.

Bill Ailes shared he is enjoying attending events online including the Virtual Stamp Show, philatelic meetings, facebook and also organizing his own collection.

Attendees shared some of the many organizations that are holding virtual stamp club meetings. Dickson Preston shared the Puget Sound Collectors Club meet on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. and have a show and tell, which is open to all. The Strait Stamp Society and Evergreen Stamp Club are also holding meetings by zoom. George Strubble shared the Salem Stamp Club has been holding meetings by zoom and is planning to hold a joint meeting with the Sacramento Stamp Club.

The Peace Arch Stamp Club has been holding parking lot stamp sales. Information and photos from their events can be found on their website <https://www.peacearchstampclub.com/>. It would be great if all the NWFSCs would send the dates/times of their meetings, with information on who to contact for an invitation, to be published in the NW Philatelist. Bill Ailes gave a brief presentation about the NWFC Facebook page which was started five years ago. On it he shares new stamps, historic stamps, NW philatelic history, videos, and posts honoring individuals. Bill encouraged members to post to the site.

Bill Ailes is also the NWFSC Historian. In 2018 he picked up materials held by David Harris and Jack Congrove. He has a total of eight boxes of programs, newsletters and items. Bill encouraged member clubs to send him items to be archived. A discussion followed regarding options for permanent archiving, the dream of a NWFSC museum and so much more.

Eric Knapp announced the American Topical Association is planning a series of programs in October for Stamp Collecting Month, with the theme, "Fall into Topicals." Attendees do not need to be members of the ATA and it is free to attend. Information and registration will be on the new ATA website. <https://americantopical.org/>

The next NWFSC General Meeting is planned to be held at PIPEX 2021

The image is a screenshot of a Zoom meeting. The main window displays a grid of 20 participants in a 5x4 layout. The participants are: Row 1: Eric Knapp, Lisa Foster, Bill Ailes, Paul Kurtz; Row 2: Judithretton, George and Elsa Str..., Larry Crain, Eric; Row 3: Keith E. Edholm, Larry Mann, dickson preston, Carol Edholm; Row 4: Peg Smart VPS, James, Myron, Ted Cookson; Row 5: Anne Harris, Terry Leishman, Lefty Dundee, and a mute icon. A yellow box highlights the 'Lefty Dundee' tile. On the right side, there is a chat window with the following text: "From Eric Knapp to Everyone: 09:09 AM Permanent Editor for Federated Philatelist Webmaster for website Call for nominations for the 2021 election Treasurer - Alex Hadden is incumbent 2 Directors - Jim Hirstein and Darin P. Cherniwchan are incumbents Any committee reports that are ready. Will ask generally Any issues or opportunities for PIPEX 2021 Anything Else Adjournment". At the bottom, there is a search bar and a taskbar with various application icons and a system clock showing 9:43 AM on 9/12/2020.

Evergreen Stamp Club: Zooming through the Pandemic

– Lisa Foster

The Evergreen Stamp Club had not had a meeting since February 2020 due to COVID19. In June, the ESC held its first virtual meeting via Zoom. There were eight attendees who checked in and shared what they have been doing during this time of social distancing. Ann Byerly, the ATA Chapter Coordinator was a guest at the meeting and shared information regarding her role at the ATA, some of the benefits are available to chapters, and what some clubs are doing during the pandemic. We also had some fun guessing the idioms demonstrated through philatelic material in Tom Fortunato's exhibit, "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries; Idioms Illustrated and Explained. His exhibit is available online at <http://www.frontiernet.net/~stampmf/exhibits/idioms/index.html>. The answer key is also available. As attendees entered the meeting, they were assigned a number which was used for the door prize drawing. The winners then received their stamps in the mail.

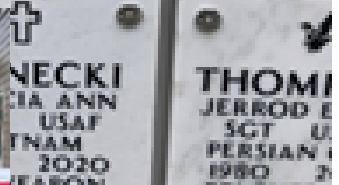
The July Zoom Meeting had seven attendees. Lisa Foster shared upcoming virtual philatelic events occurring nationwide, which will now be listed in "upcoming events" section of the club's newsletter. Attendees shared the collecting interests they have in addition to philately. There were discussions of the pros and cons of ordering online, condition of mail received, and delays/disruptions in mail service secondary to COVID19. Each attendee was asked to bring an item to Show & Tell. Items included recent acquisitions, stamp hinges, albums, philatelic puzzles completed and society magazines. We also reminisced about technology, computers, and contemplated the future of stamp shows.

At the August Zoom meeting attendees played, "U.S. Philatelic Trivia" which Larry Rausch created for the RPA in July 2018. It is available at <http://www.rpastamps.org/rpa-presentations.html>. In addition, each participant was asked to bring and show three to five stamps that represented themselves and share why they chose those stamps.

The Evergreen Stamp Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. We miss seeing our philatelic friends from the NWFSC and would love to have you join us. For an invitation to join the Zoom meeting, email Lisa Foster at fosteld@gmail.com.

Jack Congrove - Memorial Service

On August 8, 2020, a memorial service with military honors was held at Tahoma National Cemetery in honor of Jack Congrove. The service was conducted by the Army Military Honors Team and lasted 30 minutes. Only 25 people were allowed to be in attendance due to restrictions in place due to the pandemic. The majority of attendees were family, and friends from the military and Peace Corps. Following the service there was an outdoor memorial hosted by Jack's friends and neighbors in University Place WA. Jack's sister Rhonda, and his nephew Mark, were "overwhelmed with everyone's desire" to be at Jack's service, and were sorry that everyone who wanted to attend were unable to do so. They knew all of us were there in our hearts and stated that they appreciated all the support they received from the philatelic community.



Member Clubs NW Federation

Alaska

- Alaska Collectors' Club 66 members
contact: alaskaphilatellic.org
Anchorage Philatelic Society 73 members
contact: anchoragephilatellic.org
Gastineau Philatelic Society 9 members
contact: PO Box 20641, Juneau, AK 99802

Alberta

- Edmonton Stamp Club 215 members
contact: edmontonstampclub.com

British Columbia

- British Columbia Philatelic Society 40 members
contact: bcphilatellic.org
Fraser Valley Philatelic Club 90 members
contact: michaelanderson@shaw.ca
Lynn Valley Stamp Club no report
Okanagan Mainline Phil. Assoc. 46 members
contact: www.OkanaganStampClubs.com
Pacific Northwest Reg. - BNAPS 162 members
contact: pjacobi@shaw.ca
Peace Arch Stamp Club 59 members
contact: www.peacearchstampclub.com
Vancouver Island Philatelic Soc. 68 members
contact:

Idaho

- Eagle Stamp and Post Card Club 20 members
contact: paul4@cableone.net

Montana

- Garden City Stamp Club 25 members
contact: gardencitystampclub.com

Oregon

- Central Oregon Postal Collective 23 members
contact:
Greater Eugene Stamp Society 52 members
contact: greatereugenestampclub.weebly.com
Northwest Philatelic Library --
open Tuesdays 10-2 & 6:30-8:30 pm
Oregon Stamp Society 189 members
contact: www.oregonstamosociety.com
Pacific NW Postal History Society 111 members
contact: pnwphs.org
Salem Stamp Society 82 members
contact: www.salemstampsociety.com
Southern Oregon Philatelic Soc. 27 members
contact: www.stamps.org/SOPS
Umpqua Valley Stamp Club 12 members
contact:

Saskatchewan

- Regina Philatelic Club, Inc. 30 members
contact: <https://reginastampclub.ca>

Washington

- Collectors Club of Seattle no report
old: PO Box 2295, Kirkland WA 98083-2295
Evergreen Stamp Club 14 members
<https://classicstamps.org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club>
Greater Eastside Stamp Society 23 members
contact: www.facebook.com/GESS
Inland Empire Philatelic Society 64 members
contact: IEPS-stamps.com
Olympic Philatelic Society 12 members
contact:
Puget Sound Collectors Club no report
contact:
Sno-King Stamp Club 47 members
contact: sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com
Strait Stamp Society 35 members
contact: straitstamp.org
Tacoma Stamp Club 21 members
contact:
Tri-Cities Stamp Club 32 members
contact: www.tri-citiesstampclub.org
USS Puget Sound Chapter 24 9 members
contact:
Washington State Philatelic Soc. 10 members
contact: 3028 Western Ave #202, Seattle

Yukon

no active clubs - The Yukon is a part of the Federation and while there have been clubs in Whitehorse and Dawson City, there is not one at the present time.

Listed here is the information given on the 2019 annual report. Please send any corrections and additions. Officer contact information is on file with the Treasurer and Executive Secretary. Also see the website.

The PIPEX medal given to exhibitors for award-winning exhibits (gold, vermeil, silver, silver-bronze and bronze) is nine-sided to represent the nine areas of the Federation.

How to Determine the Perforation of a Stamp Using a Scanner, a PC and Photoshop™

By Dr. Darin P. Cherniwchan

Correctly determining the perforation of a postage stamp is a critical element in philately. However, determining a stamp's perforation has its challenges. Not everyone measures the perforation in exactly the same way, even amongst the most experienced collectors. Moreover, subtle but significant differences exist between the common perforation gauges currently available.

This article will help illustrate how to accurately determine the perforation of a stamp without the need of a handheld gauge.

For the purposes of this article, I have used an Epson™ Perfection V600 Photo Flatbed Scanner and Adobe™ Photoshop CC Version 19.1.5. Other types of photo software can be used but require a Ruler Tool feature to enable this method of digital perforation measurement.

Calculations

The perforation (P) of a stamp is the number of perforations or teeth (T) in 2 cm.

$$P = \frac{T}{2 \text{ cm}}$$

1 inch = 2.54000508 cm

Based on the resolution of the scan in dpi (dots per inch):

$$300 \text{ dpi} = \frac{300 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{300 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 118.11 \text{ dots per cm} = 236.22 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$600 \text{ dpi} = \frac{600 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{600 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 236.22 \text{ dots per cm} = 472.44 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$1200 \text{ dpi} = \frac{1200 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{1200 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 472.44 \text{ dots per cm} = 944.88 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$2400 \text{ dpi} = \frac{2400 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{2400 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 944.88 \text{ dots per cm} = 1889.76 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$4800 \text{ dpi} = \frac{4800 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{4800 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 1889.76 \text{ dots per cm} = 3779.52 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

Based on the above calculations, the following formula (Table 1) can be used to calculate the perforation of a stamp both precisely and accurately, virtually eliminating inter-user variation.

Calculated Perforation at 300 dpi = $\frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 236.22 \text{ dots}$
Calculated Perforation at 600 dpi = $\frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 472.44 \text{ dots}$
Calculated Perforation at 1200 dpi = $\frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 944.88 \text{ dots}$
Calculated Perforation at 2400 dpi = $\frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 1889.76 \text{ dots}$
Calculated Perforation at 4800 dpi = $\frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 3779.52 \text{ dots}$

Table 1 – Formula Used to Calculate Digital Perforations

Here is an example of how to determine a stamp’s perforation digitally:

You scan a stamp at 1200 dpi.

You open the image in Adobe™ Photoshop CC (Fig. 1).

You use the Ruler function to measure the number of pixels between two chosen teeth using the same part of each tooth (in this case Zone 3 as illustrated in Fig. 2) to measure from.

The number of measured dots is 643.23

The number of teeth counted is 8. Please note that the first tooth is measured as “Tooth Zero”.

The Digital Perforation Measurement is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Perforation at 1200 dpi} &= \frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 944.88 \text{ dots} \\ &= \frac{8}{643.23} \times 944.88 \text{ dots} \\ &= 11.75 \end{aligned}$$

The stamp’s top perforation is 11.75 (measured from Zone 3) and is accurate to the second decimal place. The Zone chosen will depend on the quality of the perforations. With a little practice, you will instinctively choose the Zone that best gets the job done for each side of the stamp.



Fig. 1 Screen Image of Adobe™ Photoshop CC

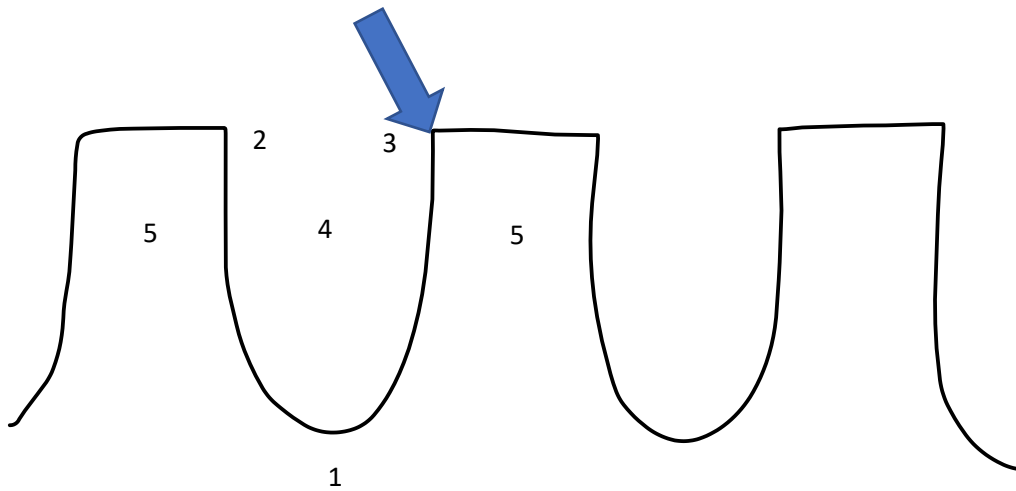


Fig. 2 - Perforation Zones (Zone 4 is at the centre of the perf hole)

With a little practice, you will be determining perforations quickly, confidently and with accuracy and precision.

Hopefully, this technique will catch on and become the gold standard in perforation measurement.

Feel free to email me at [**chickenchan@icloud.com**](mailto:chickenchan@icloud.com) with your ideas, comments and suggestions.

Happy Stamping!

Darin Cherniwchan

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