

**May 6, 2023 Business Meeting
Gulf Coast Stamp Club**

Called to order at 1:30 pm by President Rob O'Dell Members attending 12 with 0 guests. Quorum requirement met and is Official. Meeting held at St. Martin Library (See Attachment 1 – Sign in Sheet)

Approval of March 2023 minutes

March Minutes approved. Note: No minutes for April because of GULFPEX instead of meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Kayes

Treasurer's Report from March/April approved as read. (See Attachment 2 – Treasurer's Report)

Financial Report on GULFPEX 2023 – Overall we made \$195 on the show.

Standard Agenda Items

Website Update– Felix Perez

No major updates. A major update is planned for this summer. Felix needs a group picture of members to put on the website. The plan is to take a group photo at our June meeting. It will be posted on our website, please wear your Club shirts.

Circuit Update– Bob Marousky

March we sold 159 items for \$395.40.

There was no April Circuit because of GULFPEX 2023.

Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs Update– Felix Perez

Our Club information on their site is current. Dates for GULFPEX 2024 will be posted as soon as they are available.

Old Business:

1 Sale of Club Library – Eric White

3 more books sold for over \$200. Eric will bring a check to the next meeting.

2 Magnetic Name Badges for Members – Tom Adams & Felix Perez

The local business cannot get the correct color for the Mississippi Magnolia stamp. Felix is checking with a different vendor to see if they can reproduce the stamp with the correct color or if we need to use a different stamp. The magnetic name badges may be a little more expensive than the local vendor.

New Business:

1 Need to order more Club hats? Last hat given out at GULFPEX 2023

Tom Adams will check to see if the same hats are available then the Club will place a box lot order. Two members requested Club Shirts size 2X. Tom will check on the shirts in stock and explore ordering additional shirts

2 Dates for GULFPEX 2024

After discussion, a motion was made and passed to have the show on either the first or third Thursday, Friday and Saturday in April. Rob O'Dell will check with the Community Center to see which dates are available. Since we have already paid the fee for the cancelled Fall show, that money will be applied to the April date.

New Business: (Cont.)

3 Rescheduling of June Meeting

There are at least 6 Club members (4 of them Board members) who plan to attend Huntspex on the first weekend in June. Therefore it was voted to change the June meeting to June 10 at Mercy Housing in Gulfport.

4 Buy, Sell and Trade meeting (no business, just stamps).

After discussion, members were in favor of having such a meeting. Also discussed was the possibility of having an auction in maybe September or October since we are not having the Fall show. The auction would most likely take place at Mercy Housing to avoid the time constraints here at St. Martin's Library. Tentative plan is to have a Swap Meet on June 24 at the St. Martin Library.

5 October Challenge – Bob Marousky

Bob challenges members to put a stamp display into their library during the Month of October (stamp collecting month). He has reserved the display case at St. Martin's Library. If anyone needs help with doing a display Bob and Cathy are willing to assist them.

Several members volunteered to check their local libraries. More information forthcoming.

GULFPEX 2023 Critique

Financial Report – Mike Kayes

Income, Output, and did the show have a profit or loss

Financial Report on GULFPEX 2023 – Overall we made \$195 on the show. (See attachment 3 – Financial Report for show)

Dealers – Rob O'Dell

Comments from Dealers. Any report on how well the dealers did.

There were only 2 complains from dealers. One dealer complained about his location which was at the northwest corner of the room. However, this dealer has been in the same location before and did very well. Another dealer complained about having the southwest exit doors open for access to the food truck. After that only the dealers were allowed to access the food truck through these doors. All others had to go out the main door and around the building.

Need for dealer with supplies (possibly the New Orleans Supply Dealer William Athens)– John Wright, Les Osborne & Bob Marousky

Mr. Athens did not want to attend the show because he would lose business in his shop. A solution to this might be to have him come only on Friday (and the Club would advertise the fact). The other solution would be to find a dealer who sells supplies. At one time we had a dealer with supplies but he has not been able to attend the show recently.

Publicity

Report from Felix on how people learned about the show.

130 people attended the show. Most of the attendance was on Friday. Most effective ways people learned about the show were the postcards and the "other" category that included such things as personal invites from Club members.

Additional Comments/Suggestions – Les Osborne Observations

Think a great job was done to promote the show, as evidenced by the crowds Friday. Puzzled by the poor attendance on Saturday..... Not sure if there was conflict for the schedule or a miscommunication as to the show being open Saturday also.

Publicity (Cont.)

Low attendance on Saturday seems to be a fact of life here on the Gulf Coast. Too many activities such as the beach, boating, fishing, youth league athletic games, etc.

Think good signage at the entrance denoting what was available during the show may have helped, along with posters, etc. of Disney and Marvel Characters about the room walls, etc.. If you just walked in, you wouldn't have known what the theme was..... Why have a theme if we don't have a cacheted show cover or a booklet that talks about the theme?? (Bob Marousky)

After discussion it was agreed that the signage could be better. Such things as a larger banner in front of the Community Center, more Burma shave type signs on the highway, large signs possibly using the wooden frames on the road outside the Community Center, a sign in front of the library inviting people to attend the show, etc. John Wright thought he may still have some large signs we can use stored at his home. It was also pointed out that the trees along the highway blocked the Marquee from being seen.

Food committee – Cathy Marousky & Felix Perez

Food truck results: Food truck bad location, considering not being able to use side door of building nearest to the food truck. No signs at door, etc. indicating that the food truck was part of the stamp show, or how to get to them.

The food truck seemed to be a success even with some of the difficulties getting to the truck. Concensus was to invite them back next show for Friday. The room set up might be changed to allow easier access to the food truck. Better signs and a place for people to sit while eating still need work.

Hospitality Costs - \$49.39 (donuts were donated by Felix Perez).

Next show the cost will be higher as we will need new supply of coffee, napkins, sugars, utensils and cups.

Donations received –Mike Kayes

We received \$36 in donations which helped offset cost of hospitality supplies.

Registration Table – Felix Perez

Felix Perez showed a graph of the attendance per day. Friday was the busiest day. Saturday had a lot of repeat visitors. Total for the two days was 130.

New members

3 new members were recruited and one renewed membership.

Hats sold or given away to new members (any shirts sold?)

All our hats have been given away to new members. Tom Adams investigating the purchase of more hats. Two members requested 2X Club shirts. Tom will have to inventory our stock and see if we need to order additional shirts.

Comments on ATA (American Topical Association)

St. Martin Head Librarian, Amber Shultz and Childrens Librarian Monique Stevenson visited with Felix to discuss how we can work with them. There were also three boy/girl scouts who attended and spent time with Felix and then visited the dealers and exhibits.

Need to train members to work at Registration Table.

A need was identified to get more Club members involved in working at the Registration Table and Club Sales Table.

Insurance – Tom Adams

The cost for this year was \$144 and purchase of the insurance was not a problem. What caused problems was the changes the Jackson County Board of Supervisors wanted in how the policy was written. Tom had to take the policy back for changes. Next year this will not be a problem. Tom also thinks he might have a source that will be more economical next year.

Silent Auction –Dr. John Barrett

Items sold

Dr. Barrett was not available to give a report.

Silent Auction –Dr. John Barrett (cont.)

Earnings for Club

The Club earned \$158 from the silent auction.

Other comments – Dr. John Barrett

Most of the material in the silent auction came from a donation by the Mid-Cities Club in Dallas. Only three of our Club members donated material to the auction.

Suggestions/Comments – Les Osborne

No signs at stairs explaining what was happening on the stage, and what to do...

Is the stage area a good location for the auction, considering average age of attendance? (no handrails, if I remember). Does this put us in violation of any handicap statutes?

Bid forms were not clear as what BIN “buy it now” option meant, at least not to me. Spell it out.

Don’t remember a deadline time for bid entries being posted or announcing the names of the winners.

Comment – Bob Marousky

Were dealers ever approached about donating to the silent auction? Maybe even in a letter before the show so they can find items to donate (assuring a name/business card to recognize their donation)

Silent Auction Discussion:

From the comments above and discussion it seems that even though our silent auction has been successful (thanks to Dr. John Barrett) some adjustments could improve the auction. One major concern was having the auction on the stage because access is not ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant. This issue needs to be explored further.

Exhibition and Judge – Tom Adams

Cost for Judge

Judge Ray Pietruszka from the Huntsville Club was our judge again this year. He accepted a stipend of \$200 plus cost of dinner one night. Total cost being \$240.

Comments on Judge

He judges the exhibit using APS and ATA standards. This is very helpful to members who want to improve their exhibits.

Should we ask him back next year?

It was decided that if he was willing to come back at the same price we should invite him back. He is the only APS accredited judge in LA, MS, AL and Florida panhandle. To get a judge from south Florida or any other place would cost us over a \$1,000 plus travel expenses. Ray is a bargaining and positive aspect of our show.

Exhibition and Judge – Tom Adams (Cont.)

Because we have an APS accredited judge we have been getting some exciting exhibits from members of other clubs. Tom said Ray is willing and excited to come back next year if invited.

Exhibits – Tom Adams

Number of Exhibits

There were 20 frames of exhibits. The quality of exhibits has improved.

Handing out of judge's exhibit critiques.

Critiques were handed out at the meeting. Critiques for mailed in exhibits were sent with the return of the exhibit.

Handing out of Award Certificates

Award Certificates were handed out at this meeting. Award Certificates for mailed in exhibits were sent when the exhibit was returned.

Comments on picking up, setting up and returning frames

This year with additional help and experience from prior years, the frames set up went smoothly.

Other comments on exhibits – Les Osborne

Consider putting the displays along the kitchen wall, freeing up the south wall for prime dealer spaces. The displays can't go in the middle, etc. since they would block the field of view, such as it is with the dealer stacks and signs.

Discussion was held on possible different set ups for the room. More work is needed on this issue.

A sign saying "show theme display" on the end of the exhibits denoting the theme.

Discussion was held on this issue. The issue is more complicated than just having a sign saying show theme. Issues such as what if we have a show theme but no exhibits related to that theme. How important is it to have a show theme. Additional discussion on this issue is needed.

Club Sales Table – Karl Schoeck

How were sales?

There were about 30 sales most were theme related (Disney) and on Friday.

What type of items sold best?

Theme related items (Disney) sold best. A nickel per stamp box also did well.

Other items for show

Club Table - Comment – Les Osborne

Could the club information table be set up in the hall? This would focus attention on the people coming in, as well as free up prime space for another dealer inside. Easily moved back into the room at the end of the day.. Might create a choke point though, that would have to be looked at that. Put it along the south wall so that club members can see into the room as well. Next option would be inside along south wall where that round table was...

Placing any table in the lobby would be considered a fire hazard along with blocking access to entrance, water fountains and restrooms. However more discussion is needed on alternate ways to arrange the room.

Comments on tables with free stuff – Les Osborne

Other items for show (Cont.)

Bad location for the free stuff provided by the club. Some of the dealers were even looking through the stuff. It should have been near the entrance door where club members were, so they could help “move” the stuff to the kids, etc.

It was agreed that the free table location was in a poor place. It’s placement needs to be included in discussions on alternate ways to set up the room.

Did anyone ask the dealers if they had stuff for donation? Not sure of tax status for the club but if it were charitable, they might donate something. Kind of touchy, especially since they are trying to sell it...and, we don’t want junk to deal with after the show.

This issue will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Comment on Food/drinks for club members and dealers Who knew of this? Today’s the first time I learned of that option. (Older members know about this but we need a way to inform members who have just joined or joined recently) – Les Osborne

This is an issue we need to keep in mind when we have new members at the show. One dealer also complained that he did not know about food/drinks available. However, the other individual working at his table visited the “kitchen” several times each day.

Announcements

HUNTSVILLE’s annual show **HUNTSPEX 2023** is scheduled for June 3-4. Please note this year’s show includes stamps, postcards, **and coins**. Understand they have 8 stamps dealers, 7 postcard dealers and coin dealers already committed.

HuntspeX call for Exhibits – Tom

HuntspeX is looking for exhibitors. Judge Ray Pietruszka from the Huntsville club has asked if any of our members would be interested in exhibiting at their show. Contact either Tom or Ray for details.

The dates for the Memphis Stamp show (MEMPHEX 2023) will be September 30 and October 1, 2023.

USPS filed a notice of a postal rate increase to take effect on July 9, 2023. A 1-ounce first-class letter will increase by 3¢, from 63¢ to 66¢. A domestic postcard will also increase by 3¢ from 48¢ to 51¢. An international postcard and a 1-ounce international letter will go from \$1.45 to \$1.50. The rate for additional ounces for domestic letters will remain at 24¢. Special services including Certified Mail, **Post Office Box rental fees**, money order fees, and insurance will also increase.

Income Tax for items sold online. – Bob and Cathy

Online transactions are being monitored by IRS. If you sell over a certain amount they will issue a tax form to include with your income tax. Some of the “profits” from transactions can be offset by identifying your costs that reduce (or make a loss) for the item sold.

Volunteer for Next Educational Program

Instead of a formal educational program next month, members will be asked to bring in one of their favorite philatelic items. Each member will be given 3 minutes to talk about their item.

Show and Tell by Members

Deferred to Educational Presentation time.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:23 pm.

Educational Presentation – Club Members

Les Osborne showed several folder of stamps from countries that he did not recognize.

They were:

Karjala”, an area called Karelia- a land between Finland and Russia (stamps were issued in 1941) that was at that time, part of Northwestern Soviet Russia. They rebelled and declared independence for a short period.

Katanga”, a part of the Belgian Congo (Belgian Congo crossed out on stamp) These were issued in 1961 when Katanga seceded from Congo in 1960. The Junta led country was never recognized and fell apart in September 1961. Absorbed back into Congo afterwards in total in 1963 when the last of the soldiers surrendered.

“Katakctati”, Misnamed- this is actually Kazakhstan. These stamps were issued in the new country after the breakup of the Soviet union in December of 1991

Not named on the folder but included were five stamps from Kyrgyzstan, another Soviet Union breakaway country formed after December 1991 (there were ten breakaways...). The stamps were issued after that.

Mike Kayes has some recent Ukraine stamps sent from Kiev. Postmarks on the package were clear and easy to read.

Eric White showed:

A Mr. Zip bubble head doll.

1953 postal manual showing all the active post offices in the United States at that time.

Covers from the New Orleans Jazz Festival autographed by artists such as the Neville Brothers.

Karl Schoeck showed:

Old Rail Road passes that allow the owner to travel on any train to anywhere.

Cathy Marousky showed:

Some Match and Medicine stamps.

Bob Marousky showed:

A USS Mississippi postcard from early 1900s. The battleship at that time was part of the “Great White Fleet” that President T. Roosevelt sent around the world to demonstrate American’s might – Speak softly and carry a big stick.

A 70th anniversary memorial cover for the Airship Shenandoah which crashed during a thunderstorm in Ohio. Very nice cachet but the stamp on the cover was never cancelled.

A 1931 German Zeppelin Polar Flight cover which he purchased for \$12. If it was real it would sell for over \$1,000 but it is a fake. Indication of it being a fake: the low cost and the incorrect dates for the flight.

Felix Perez showed:

A photo of the John’s family who attended the show with their three boy/girl scouts.

Robert T. Marousky (official copy signed)

Robert T. Marousky

Secretary, Gulf Coast Stamp Club

Attachment 1 – Sign in sheet

Attachment 2 – Treasurer’s Report

Attachment 3 – Financial Report for GULFPEX 2023