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## Filatelice Fiesta 2021

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### Club Website

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### Club Blog

[www.sjscblog.net](http://www.sjscblog.net)

### Filatelice Fiesta Website

[www.filatelicefiesta.com](http://www.filatelicefiesta.com)

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the San Jose Stamp  
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# San Jose Stamp Club Life Expectancy (Again?)

Reprint from February 2018 Newsletter. Food for thought given the Club's current status and the difficulty encountered while producing Filatelice Fiesta for 2021.

As of 2015, the World Health Organization has calculated the average life expectancy in America to be 79.3. (81.6 for females, 76.9 for males) I have calculated the average age for the active members of the San Jose Stamp Club to be 69.

The club has a problem. Generally speaking, much of the current membership will be gone in 10 years. For this club to maintain its current status, we have to add 2.5 members per year and these new members have to be young enough to be here in 10 years. While adding any new member is great, the club needs younger blood with the energy to participate in the various activities the club undertakes. I know how I feel after 3 days at Filatelice Fiesta. It takes a while to recover.

It can be argued that many will live past the 79.3 life expectancy age the World Health Organization has calculated. But it can also be argued that health issues and accidents will take members at any age and the 79.3 life expectancy age is valid. At any rate, the average age is too high for the club to survive long term. With age comes decreased energy and stamina. Long hours or carrying heavy boxes at the various events brings other problems. The events the club participates in are important for the club and philately in general, but some of the physical requirements belong to the young and hiring outside help is not always practical. Another problem is that our member-dealers are not available to help at the various shows the club works.

So, what is the solution? I think we need to really concentrate on our recruiting efforts and increase our membership, with an emphasis on younger people. It would be nice to have more members under 60. As I said before, I welcome any new member. Older members generally bring more experience and make great mentors. But for the health and longevity of the club, we must add more people who are not retirement age and older.

I do not intend to predict doom and gloom but I think it is prudent to recognize the problem and deal with it now. Any ideas or suggestions? If so, speak up at the meetings. The problem is not going away on its own.

## Table of Contents

### Page

3	2021 – A Year to Remember or Forget?
4	Stamp Collecting Merit Badge
5	Last Week Tonight Duck Stamp Auction
8	Filtelic Fiesta 2021
9	Three new Books for Your Wish List

## Club Blog & Website

**Blog Updates** No Activity

### Website Updates

November 2021 newsletter uploaded

## Remember the dates!

## President's Message

It is wonderful to report that Filatelic Fiesta was a success. Guests had a good time, societies had meetings, dealers did good business and Scouts completed their merit badge.

Attendance on Saturday morning was brisk but fell off as the day wore on. As is typical, attendance on Sunday was much smaller than Saturday. Most of the dealers reported doing good business. A few reported great results while a few also reported disappointing sales, so typical results.

Financially, the show was a very nice success. It isn't appropriate to revel the details publicly, so just ask for the numbers. The bourse revenue exceeded show expenses and we made over \$1k in club revenue from our sales table and auction.

A key to the success of this year's show was the support from the SJ Postcard Club, the Fremont Stamp Club, Pajaro Stamp Club and the Monterey Stamp Club. Their help was key to staffing all the key functions. It is a goal that we build on our relationships over time and continue support each other.

The show program has a great new look this year from the work of Margarete Miller. She did an amazing job giving it a whole new and creative design.

The two society meetings appeared to be a success. It is a goal that Fiesta can become a home for local society

chapters to meet. A wrap-up meeting was held for the Boy Scouts stamp collecting merit badge class. Only about half of the original class was able to attend, and they got a lot out of it including most getting their badge completed.

### The GOOD:

Saturday morning attendance was good, but it could be improved overall.

Give-a-way at the door of a Sipex souvenir sheet was very popular.

Philatelic themed door prizes were appreciated by the winners.

David O. created a wonderful show cover with pictorial cancel.

The lunch prepared by Napredak staff was tasty and a wonderful resource.

### The BAD:

Too few participated in the show planning which put too much work on a few.

We had some glitches with the club auction this year, so revenue was way down.

The company hired to provide day time security never showed up.

### The Ugly:

While Napredak Hall was a fine venue for this year, if we return next year, we lose our status as a "World Series of Philately" show. Exhibits are a valued part of the show, but they require a tremendous amount of work and expense.

There were hopes of us having a show banquet but there was insufficient support.

### How we can improve:

1. We need a lot more show committee members next year.
2. Plan the club auction much further in advance of the show.
3. Look for creative ways to boost attendance especially on Sunday.

The club can feel good about our show this year. However, we need to at least double the committee for next year.

Also, the venue and date of the show are also up for discussion. Renting a venue big enough to host the frames for WSP exhibits nearly doubles the cost of the room. They are a lot of work and effort that wasn't apparent this year.

Let's challenge ourselves to step-up to making exhibits happen.

*Brian*

## *2021 - A year to Remember or Forget?*

As this year comes to an end I can't decide if I want to remember or forget this year.

The club has survived and in some ways grown stronger but at the same time we have lost several members and had to forego many traditional activities we do every year.

We lost Stan Flowerdew and Richard Stadnisky. We had to forego the club summer picnic. There was no Scout-O-Rama or Sunnyvale antique faire. No Christmas dinner or Christmas Craft Faire at the end of 2020. No in-person club meetings for most of the 2021. All of this and more because of COVID.

Having to forego the social gatherings such as the picnic and Christmas dinner and especially the in-person club meetings hurt the most. These types of activities are essential for the health of the club which by definition is a social organization. We all share a common link to Philately but the friendships and contacts we acquire by being a member of the club suffer when you can't meet in-person. The newsletter helps by keeping people informed and motivated but it cannot replace personal contact. Presentations and show-and-tell are very difficult in a zoom environment and are an attraction to members which increases meeting attendance and retention of club members.

On the plus side we have added several new members which I am glad to say do not qualify for AARP. Donations in 2021 were strong and we have added greatly to our inventory of stamps. We also made progress in organizing our inventory of stamps. We also managed to produce a successful Filatelic Fiesta for 2021 after no Fiesta in 2020. While Fiesta was scaled down, (no exhibits or video's this year), it was still great to have a real stamp show with dealers and guests. We also improved our contacts with other stamp clubs at Fiesta this year with participation from Fremont Stamp club, Pajaro Valley Stamp Club, Monterey Stamp Club and the San Jose Post Card club. We had a very good Merit Badge program this year with a good number of scouts signing up.

While we survived 2021, there are some major challenges ahead. We still do not know when the library will reopen for meetings. While meeting at Denny's is good it is not ideal. We have many un-resolved questions moving forward with regards to Filatelic Fiesta, concerning exhibits and an appropriate venue along with a possible change in the time of the year we hold fiesta. The fall is crowded with stamp shows while the spring is wide open. There is a possibility to regain some dealers we lost by moving the show to the spring as well as less competition from other shows. There is still a pressing need to increase membership as can be seen from this year's Fiesta efforts. Too much work on too few people.

I'm sure I've forgotten a lot since 2021 for me is pretty much a blur, but I think 2021 is more gloom than doom. We had a lot of challenges that we dealt with and are stronger for it and we have more to deal with but overall things are moving in a positive direction. We will adapt and succeed, I have no doubt. The club will be stronger and better as long as we all work together. So I think 2021 is a year to remember the positive and draw strength from the fact we survived by working together. Let's move forward with that same spirit and continue to grow and prosper. In closing I say to everyone, Stay safe and Happy Holidays.



## Stamp Collecting Merit Badge



A Scouting stamp collecting merit badge class was held on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup>. Thirty young people attended this year with 29 young men and 1 young woman (yes, Scouting accepts women). From the comments on their way out, they had a great time and genially enjoyed learning about stamps.

During the program, the basics of what a stamp is, why there were created and the many ways they are used. The different types of stamps are covered along with the tools of the hobby. Scouts are provided a starter kit which is a 3-ring binder stocked with tongs, manila stock sheets, Vario stock sheets, hinges, perf gauge, and a packet of different types of stamps. The goal is that these kits enable these young people equipped to continue to collect after completion of the merit badge.



What and how to collect is discussed at some length. Families are always pleased to hear how collecting the stamps of a country are a great way to keep connecting with their heritage wherever in the world their family is from. Topic collecting is always very popular with young people with various types of animals and transportation (cars, trains, planes) are the most popular.

SJSC members can be proud of the work they've contributed to turning our many donations into an amazingly deep inventory of stamps for the young people to pick from. The club members also helped assemble the kits. Some merit badge programs just give the kids a glassine with pre-selected stamps for them to make their collection. No choice? Yuk!

Most attendees also came to Filatelic Fiesta to get their collection signed off and get a tour of the show (which meets a badge requirement). Their observations are an interesting perspective in that they have no idea on the breadth of the hobby. Many are awed by the value of some stamps on display for sale.

Good news: when a fun and engaging program is offered, young people are excited about signing up for stamp collecting. If we just sit back and wait for them to wake up and decide to do it, it is a very long wait.



Bad news: Stamp collecting is consistently the 2<sup>nd</sup> least merit badge of the 130 available. Only bugling has fewer earns than stamps. This is primarily due to the lack of pro-active programs offering the badge. The philatelic community needs to step-up and offer many more opportunities for our Scouts or see this badge discontinued. It is a very possibility that stamps could be rolled into the "Collecting" merit badge. I challenge the hobby to step-up to the challenge of making this merit badge more widely available.

*Brian Jones*



## Last Week Tonight Duck Stamp Auction

The Fish and Wildlife Service issues and markets the annual migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp known as the federal duck stamp. Hundreds of artists paint beautiful pieces of art to earn being chosen to be on the annual stamp.

The paintings below are original oil on paper paintings, commissioned by HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver". He commissioned these paintings to mock the rule passed during the 45<sup>th</sup> President's administration that duck hunting stamps include a "hunting element. However, before this rule was withdrawn before it could go into effect due to the Biden Administration eliminated the hunting requirement.

"This final rule removes the 'celebrating our waterfowl hunting heritage' theme and the mandatory inclusion of an appropriate hunting element beginning with the 2022 Federal Duck Stamp Contest; changes the judging requirements to consider that the entries reflect this theme; and revises the qualifications for selection as a judge," the Fish and Wildlife Service said.

These paintings were entered in the 2021 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. Sadly, these paintings were rejected from the competition for a variety of rule violations. Therefore, they were put up for auction on eBay. All proceeds benefit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Duck Stamp Program to protect wetland habitat in our National Wildlife Refuge System.



Duck Judges  
Sold for \$25,250

# San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

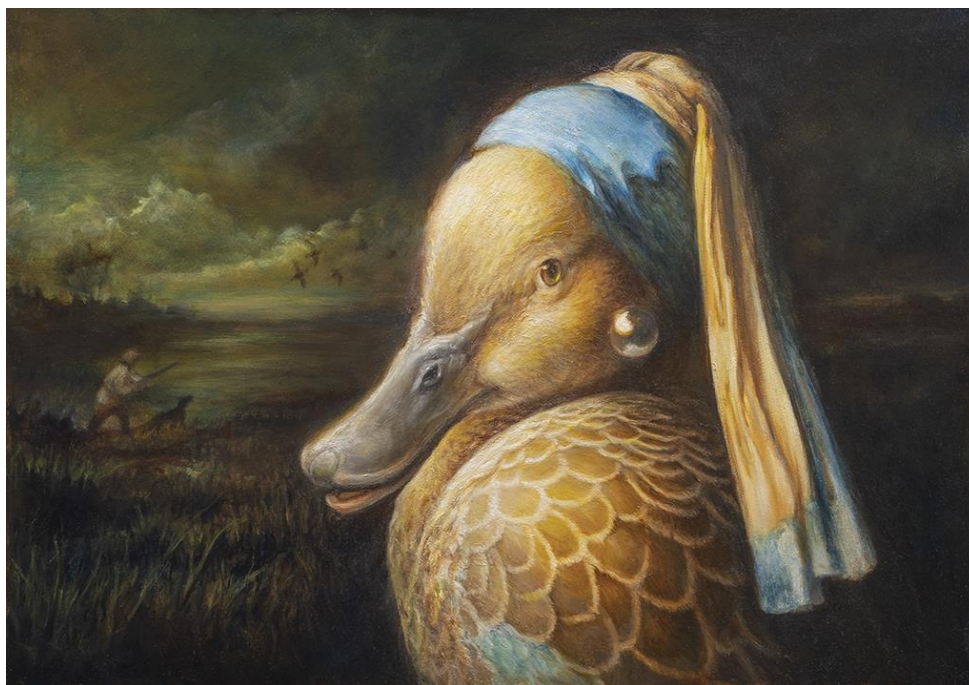
Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

December 2021

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Duck Hunting Hunters  
Sold for \$16,100



Duck with a Pearl Earring  
Sold for \$16,185



# San Jose Stamp Club

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Duck Hunt  
Sold for \$32,200

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**From your newsletter editor:**

**To everyone:**

**Have a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

**The club needs all of you back next year Healthy!**

# San Jose Stamp Club

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## Filatellic Fiesta 2021





## *Three New Books to Add to your Holiday Wish List*

APS publishes a number of philatelic books and distributes select volumes from other publishers. The [selection](#) ranges from entertaining childrens books to publications of ground-breaking philatelic research. Many publications are offered to members at discounted prices.

**Three new books to add to your holiday wish list:** with your membership renewal, you recieved a condensed listing of some of the books offered through APS (*many at a discount to members*). We recently added three new titles:

### [U.S. Zeppelin and Airship Mail Flights by Cheryl R. Ganz](#)

Embracing a lifetime of research, Cheryl has chronicled mail flown by American zeppelins, navy and army airships, and commercial blimps over a century of flights within the U.S.

### [Pan American's Final Flight by Jon E. Krupnick](#)

This is a soft cover coil bound book presenting the entire 80 page award winning exhibit of historic Pan Am Flight Covers from 1933 - 1941. The book includes 40 pages of supporting articles in addition to the exhibit. With a Foreword by Jimmy Buffett and Letters from Warren Buffett.

### [The Art of Stamps: Messengers of History and the Character of Nations by George Theotocatos](#)

A panoramic view of stamp collecting as an art form, hobby and investment commodity, interspersing poignant stories from his extensive travels and pieces from his collection.

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**+++ Dues Time +++**

It's that time of year again for your annual club dues. Please pay them in a timely manner so the treasurer doesn't have to harass you for months on end for you to pay them. Thanks

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# San Jose Stamp Club

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