

The PHILATELIC REVIEW

The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California
And Federation Reporter

February 2000

SESCAL 2000 opens Oct. 6

Federation will meet Saturday

SESCAL 2000, the 56th annual exhibition of the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, will be Friday-Sunday, Oct. 6-8, at the Wyndham Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday.

Discount tickets (\$1 for a three-day pass) are available at the SESCAL Web site <www.sescal.org> and have been distributed to member clubs and many dealers. One is also printed in this issue of the Reporter.

The Federation's quarterly meeting will be at 3 p.m. Saturday.

For those not familiar with the area, the SESCAL Web site has a map to the site, along with information about hotel rates and the prospectus, although all exhibiting space should be filled by now.

SESCAL is an APS World Series of Philately exhibition. The 2000 Grand Award winner is eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions exhibition at Stampshow 2001 in Chicago, Ill.

SESCAL will also include the 23rd Annual Exhibit of Philatelic Literature, including handbooks, catalogs and periodicals in paper or electronic format.

This year's theme is the California Sesquicentennial, and a special pictorial cancel will be available. SESCAL will not prepare a cachet, but the Web site shows a number of stamps related to California that collectors might want to use to prepare their own covers.

A limited number of SESCAL 99 cachets honoring the 30th anniversary of the Start of the Internet will be available, however.

This year's SESCAL will be host to the fall conventions of the American Air Mail Society, United Postal Stationery Society and the China Stamp Society.

The following groups have scheduled regional meetings during the show: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Eire Philatelic Association, Scandinavian Collectors Club and Philatelic Library, COPAPHIL: Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group, Canal Zone Study Group, Society of Israel Philatelists, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors,

Philatelic Computing Study Group, International Society for Japanese Philately, Korea Stamp Society, American First Day Cover Society and Plate Number Coil Collectors Club.

The United States Postal Service and the United Nations Post Office will be present during the show.

Awards include the Federation Grand Award, the George Bennett Memorial Reserve Grand Award and five levels of SESCAL medals.

Special awards include American Philatelic Society Medals of Excellence, APS Research Medal, SESCAL Chairman's Merit Award, WESTPEX Merit Award, American Air Mail Society Awards, UPSS Marcus White Medal, China Stamp Society Awards, Director General Chinese Post Award, Michael Rogers Best Asia Award, India Study Circle Medal, United States Classics Society Medal, Bureau Issues Association Medal, Lynne Warm-Griffiths Memorial Award, Germany Philatelic Society Medals, International Philippines Philatelic Society Medal, Rossica Society Award, AAPE Awards of Honor, AAPE Creativity Medal, AAPE One-Frame Award, American Revenue Association Awards, SESCAL Back-of-the-Book Award, American Topical Association Medals, ATA One-Frame Award, Junior Philatelists of America Awards, ATA Youth Award, AAPE Youth Grand.

The availability of some awards depends on entries received or award level given

The Palmares dinner will be at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 7. Tickets are \$35 each and may be purchased in advance by mail from Mrs. Waltraud Helms, 11925 Ringwood Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650, or at the show, but they will not be available at the dinner itself.

New at this year's SESCAL will be the first appearance of the four Geo Safari Games the Federation bought earlier this year. They're available to member clubs that want to pick them up or pay the shipping charges and may be ordered through Treasurer Waltraud Helms. Check them out in the Stamps for Kids area.

The schedule

As of the Review deadline, here's the schedule for this

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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:

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More about SESCAL

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year's SESCAL:

Friday

10 a.m.

Exhibition opens, Ballroom level
Michael Rogers Auction viewing (all day), Mikado Room

6 p.m.

Exhibition closes

Saturday

10 a.m.

Exhibition opens, Ballroom level
Michael Rogers Auction viewing (all day), Mikado Room

U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Essex Room B

Stamps for Kids (to 6 p.m.), Essex Room C

China Stamp Society Directors meeting, Bombay Room B

United Postal Stationery Society Directors meeting, Essex Room A

11 a.m.

American Air Mail Society meeting, Bombay Room A

United Postal Stationery Society general meeting, Essex Room A

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors meeting, Essex Room B

12 p.m.

Philatelic Judging critique, Bombay Room A

Canal Zone and COPAPHIL Colombia/Panama, Bombay Room B

Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, Essex Room B

1 p.m.

China Stamp Society Annual meeting, Bombay Room B

German North Atlantic Catapult Flights,

Essex Room A

Philatelic Computing Study Group, Essex Room C

2 p.m.

Movie: "Around the World via Graf Zeppelin" (1929), Bombay Room A

Korean and Japanese Collectors joint meeting, Bombay Room B

Western Cover Society, Essex Room B

3 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting, Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, Essex Room A

6 p.m.

Exhibition closes

7:30 p.m.

Awards Banquet (advance ticket sales only), Penthouse

Sunday

10 a.m.

Exhibition Opens, Ballroom level

Philatelic Literature Critique, Essex Room B

11 a.m.

APS Judging Seminar, Essex Room A

Iran Philatelic Society of America, Essex Room B

12 p.m.

American First Day Cover Society,

Claude Ries Chapter — to 3 p.m., Essex Room C

1 p.m.

Michael Rogers Auction starts, Bombay Room A

4 p.m.

Exhibition closes

Mark your calendars now: SESCAL 2001 will be Oct. 5-7, 2001.

Much of this information is taken from the SESCAL Web site and is subject to change during the show. An updated list of all meet-

SESCAL corner

By Wallace M. Craig

General manager

SESCAL 2000 is now near. The committee is working hard to be sure SESCAL is one of the best for the end of the century and the Millennium. We are happy to have con-

ventions of the great societies of the American Airmail Society, China Society and the United Postal Stationery Society.

One thing one must remember this is the work of the committee. We have made some

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More SESCAL corner

Comings events of the Federation and its member clubs

(Send items for this column to editor John Weigle)

2000

Oct. 6-8: SESCAL 2000, Wyndham Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, the annual Federation-sponsored show.

2001

March 17-18: VENPEX, annual show of the Ventura County Philatelic Society, Gem & Mineral Building, Ventura County Fairgrounds (Seaside Park), Ventura

Oct. 5-7: SESCAL, Wyndham Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, the annual Federation-sponsored show.

No minutes

There are no minutes of the last Federation meeting because they were not received in time for this issue.

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changes in advertisements. This year we will mail approximately 4,700 pieces to announce the show to all stamp collectors in the Southern California area.

We will be honored with a one-hour movie concerning the 1929 flight of the Graf Zeppelin. This is a movie that was filmed for the L.A. Times. I am sure this will be considered a highlight by anyone who sees it.

The exhibits are coming in, and this will be another outstanding exhibit. I am sure all who see the exhibits will agree with me. It must be remembered the exhibits are where one can learn more about the stamps we collect.

As you all know this is my last year as

Former SESCAL chairman faces theft charges

Robert W. Thompson, former general manager of SESCAL, was arrested earlier this year on charges that he stole several thousand dollars from SESCAL in 1998.

Because of incorrect information from the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, it was incorrectly reported at the Federation meeting at World Stamp Expo that Thompson had missed his arraignment and that a bench warrant had been issued for his arrest. It turned out that at least two Robert Thompsons are involved in court cases in Ventura County, and that statement applied to a different Thompson. Thompson has not missed any court appearances. The Federation sincerely regrets the error.

The case is still working its way through the court system, and Thompson remains free.

SESCAL General Manager Wallace M. Craig said the investigation began when he received letters from several firms saying they had not been paid for services provided to SESCAL.

A review of the checks indicated that this appeared to be true and also turned up several checks that Thompson had allegedly written for personal bills.

The case was submitted to the Oxnard Police Department, which took it to the District Attorney after more investigation.

the general manager. I took over in 1992 and have enjoyed the effort required learn how the show must be run. The most fun of the job is working with the committee and volunteers. They are all great people and a lot of fun to work with.

I think I always wanted to have this position until the century was over and the millennium finished. I would like to thank all of those who have helped over these years. I will not stop working on SESCAL I will be assisting our new general chairman as he requires.

To all of you who have helped, THANK YOU.

Federation officials emphasized that the money in question is from only the SESCAL account, not other Federation funds. Treasurer Waltraud Helms said the accounts she handles have been audited every year.

For those not familiar with the Federation's bookkeeping, the money is kept in three accounts: Federation general fund, SESCAL account and the Permanent Exhibition Committee account.

The SESCAL books, for a variety of reasons, had not been audited for several years, Craig and others said.

Federation President William Estes and Craig said they have taken several steps to try to avoid such issues in the future. Among them are the following requirements:

— Checks drawn on the SESCAL account will require two signatures (formerly, they required only one).

— The SESCAL account will be audited annually.

— Documentation will be required for all expenses.

No matter what the outcome of the case against Thompson is, the changes should be for the better and are policies that Federation member clubs might want to consider for their own treasuries.

Treasurer's report

By Waltraud Helms

Treasurer

Jan. 1-June 30, 2000

BALANCE as of Jan. 1	\$672.10
INCOME:	
Dues for 2000	\$282.50
EXPENSES:	
Tax filing fees	\$ 30.00
3X Review Postage	\$122.24
Review Printing	\$ 22.28
4 Geo Safari Games \$	508.00
Total	\$682.62
BALANCE as of June 30, 2000	\$271.98

Trouble in show land

(This article is an expanded version of one that originally appeared in the August 2000 newsletter of the Ventura County Philatelic Society. — Editor)

World Stamp Expo 2000 had lots of dealers and postal administrations, outstanding philatelic exhibits, and displays of NASA and Star Trek material that should have attracted thousands of people — but didn't.

For whatever reasons, the attendance was so low that the Postal Service announced at a meeting of dealers near the end of the show that it wouldn't plan another such event in Anaheim.

Many reasons have been suggested for the lack of attendance at what should have been a major show, including:

- Lack of FIP sponsorship, which seems needed to have a truly international show.
- Limited advertising outside the philatelic press.
- Difficulty in getting to the Convention Center because of extensive work being done on both the freeway system and the surface streets.
- Difficulty in finding the show once people got to the convention center (during part of the show, people were directed to a back entrance, according to stories in the philatelic press).

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— Complaints that the U.S. space issues issued during the show cost too much.

— Complaints that the hobby in general is getting too expensive.

Two VCPS members had their own reasons for attending: One said he never goes to big shows, including SES-CAL, and another said he was afraid he'd spend too much money if he went.

Some other possibilities have not had much discussion in publications that have come the editor's way: Southern California doesn't have the collecting base to support a major show or it has the collectors, but they won't support organized philately.

Both possibilities raise serious questions about the future of the hobby in the area, and solving either of them would require a long-term effort. In San Francisco, Pacific 97, despite its financial troubles, seemed to have no trouble attracting both collectors and non-collectors, and this was apparently the result of a mass of local publicity, both paid and free.

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More about show troubles

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The other possibility, mentioned by some dealers at World Stamp Expo, is that the growing use of the Internet might kill off all but the smallest and the largest shows.

Their reasoning: Certain kinds of lots and material, such as collection remnants, large box lots and the like, won't sell on the Internet because they can't be easily pictured and described and shipping costs are too high. This kind of material needs the smaller weekend shows, which attract people looking for bargains.

The largest shows will continue, these same people say, because people who want to spend large sums on their collection want to see the material before they buy it and because the shows provide a social aspect to the hobby that doesn't come from anything else. Almost everyone likes to meet other people at his or her collecting level who collect the same material.

World Stamp Expo was sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service, the American Stamp Dealers Association and the American Philatelic Society.

What happens to all those former collectors?

By John Weigle

Editor

For the past several years, the Ventura County Philatelic Society has had a booth at the Ventura County Fair. The director of the fair's models and collections area wants to publicize hobby groups, and this year the local Astronomy Club, Genealogy Society, Model Railroad, Gem and Mineral clubs and the VCPS had free tables. The only cost to us is providing people to cover the table (no small task for a 12-day fair) and preparing packets of five U.S. and five foreign stamps to give to children. The table also gives us a chance to push our own stamp show, VENPEX, which, coincidentally, is held in the same building on the fairgrounds, and our annual Youth Stamp Fair in October.

We seem to pick up a visitor or two at our meetings and attendance at the Youth Stamp Fair, but we haven't kept track to know for sure what the effects have been. If we had to pay for the table and the volunteers, we'd probably be losing money, but the same can probably be said of paying the volunteers who run stamp shows, too.

I've done a couple of shifts at the fair for the last few years and am always intrigued by the number of adults who stop at the table and say they used to collect stamps. Most of them say they still have their collections in the attic, basement or a back closet.

Assuming this holds true for most of the country – and I believe it does – we could probably double the size of the hobby if we could just figure out how to draw all these people back into it. Consider what that would mean to all the Federation clubs: younger members, new blood, people who need stamps for their collections, increased activity in club auctions and trading sessions ... the benefits would be endless.

Many of you probably remember Jeff Weiss, who was active in VCPS and the Federation before he moved to Washington state. He suggested to me several times that we should spend more time trying to attract people who used to collect and less time trying to attract youths. I didn't fully

agree with him at the time, and I still don't, but I understand his point better than I used to.

I think it's essential to do both, especially because of the number of other attractions competing for children's time. If we can show youths that adults have fun with our little pieces of colored paper and if we help them with material and advice, we might make them the group that comes back in force after college or a few years of marriage.

The more I hear from people who haven't returned to the hobby, however, the more I think we are missing an important resource. The problem is, I have no idea how to reach all those people.

Do you?

If so, I'd love to hear what you and your clubs have in the way of outreach efforts and how you attract new members. Even if your ideas haven't worked as well as you might have hoped, how about sharing them with other Federation members. If every one of our member clubs doubled in size – probably an impossible dream – just think what it would mean to us. If every one of our member clubs added just one or two members a year – which should be far more possible – think what that would mean.

Obviously, just as important as getting new members is keeping them, and your older members. What efforts have you made that have worked? If you lose a member do you try to find out why? There's no doubt that we will lose members every year to death, moving and problems of age (inability to drive at night, leaving collecting because of vision problems and so on), but what about members who quit because of some slight (real or imagined), a lack of feeling welcome or a feeling that the club isn't doing what they think it should? Is there any way we could have kept those people or that we could bring them back?

Again, I don't know. The VCPS has the same growth and retention problems that other clubs do, and I consider us a fairly friendly club. But, then, I might have been a member so long that I understand and ignore the eccentricities

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More about former collectors

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that drive others away.

Your ideas are welcome, even if all you have is a list of things that have driven members away. At least we could all learn from other's mistakes. Send them to me at P.O. Box

6536, Ventura, CA 93006, or by e-mail to <jweigle@vcnet.com>. We'll publish any answers in the next issue.



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FIRST CLASS

TO: