



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

January 2026

Alfred Carroccia

Fuzzy9600@verizon.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Happy New Year to all Club members! Hope that everyone had an enjoyable Holiday and that many of you received a special philatelic gift under the Christmas tree!

The Club embarks on the second half of the Club calendar. BUFPEX is around the corner (March 7 & 8) and now is the time to begin working on or finishing up those exhibits. Once again, single and multi-page exhibits will be sought. If you do not have material or a theme to fit in one frame (16 pages), partial frames are acceptable. Any questions please ask.

The other major event is the Club Centennial Dinner Banquet to be held on Thursday, April 23rd at the Grapevine Banquet Center. All Club members and a guest are invited. If you are interested, stay tuned for more details and RSVP to save your spot, hope to see you there!

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thursday, January 15: Meeting/Auction

Thursday, February 12: Meeting/Auction

Thursday, February 26: Presentation

At The Knights Halls, 2735 Union Road just north of William St. in Cheektowaga

Auctions begin immediately following any business and announcements beginning at 7:00 PM.

Arrive early to submit and view lots; seller deadline to submit lots is 6:30 PM

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Alan Davis (ddavis504@roadrunner.com)

Vice President: Dan McNess (dmcness@mac.com)

Secretary: Al Carroccia (fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Tim Carey (careystea@gmail.com)

Membership Chairman: Bob Meegan
(meegan9697@roadrunner.com)

Auction Chairman: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Peter Stuhlmiller (pjstuhl@gmail.com)

Auction Assistant: Bennie Passantino

Auction Acctg: Paul Moore (paulkmoore29@gmail.com)

Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: Rick Franclemont
(rfranclemont@gmail.com)

Bourse Chairmen: Dan McNess (dmcness@mac.com)

Historical & Library: Al Carroccia & Casey Kielbasa

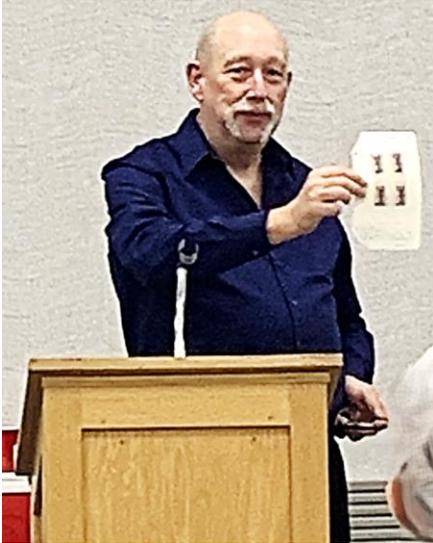
Web Page Editor: Deborah Grande (beemore23@yahoo.com)

Other Directors: Mike Donohue (donohuem54@hotmail.com)

Barb Kern (barb3706@aol.com)

JOHN LESZAK

The Club welcomed John Leszak back to the podium running the Club auction at the December 4th Auction and Holiday Social. John picked up where he left off interjecting his philatelic wisdom as he moved through the lots. Welcome back John!



The Club thanks President Alan Davis, Dan McNess and Sandy Zahar who filled in for John. The Club also thanks Paul Moore, Dan Sherwood, Benny Passentino, Tim Carey, and all who help with the lots and auctions.

AUCTION PROCEDURE

Auction Registrar Pete Stuhlmiller has circulated tips on streamlining auction procedures. He asks that club members call Pete at (716) 983-6344 or email him at pjstuhl@gmail.com to pre-register lots prior to our Thursday auctions. Pete will then assign lot numbers which will allow auction set up to flow easily and more time to view all the lots.

Pete asks that when you come to the auction, be sure your lots have the correct corresponding lot number, minimum bid and description of the lot. Thanks, Pete, for your efforts to improve the system.

BSC 100th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Club will celebrate its Centennial with a dinner banquet to be held at the Grapevine Banquet Center, 333 Dick Road, Depew, NY 14043, on **Thursday, April 23, 2026**, at 6 pm. Further details will be forthcoming.

Club members and a guest are invited! You are requested to RSVP to Al Carroccia at fuzzy9600@verizon.net as soon as possible. There will also be a signup sheet at the Auction on January 15th.

The Club is very excited about this event. We're working on entertainment & programming and hope to see everyone there.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL PICTURES



PLATE NUMBER COIL

Plate Number Coil (PNC) stamps are coil stamps with the printing plate number on the bottom of the stamp, either to the right, left or center. Most plate numbers are a single number while others may be a combination of letters and numbers with the letter identifying the stamp printer. The plate number is found on one stamp and is printed by a single revolution of the printing press. Early PNC's were collected in strips of three with the center stamp showing the plate number. Today, PNC's are collected in strips of five with the plate number on the third stamp.



Scott number 2902 flag over White House PNC with plate number 10. These stamps were printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



Scott No. 2913 flag over porch PNC with plate number 44444 issued in 1995. These stamps were printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



SPONGEBOB



If you purchased the SpongeBob pane of 16 stamps, look closely at the pane. The stamps are two different sizes. Because of this the selvages do not line up horizontally or vertically. This could pose a problem if you collect plate blocks. The joys of stamp collecting!

POSTMARKS VS. KILLERS

Prior to 1860, postmarks (which included date and location information) were struck directly on the stamp or cover. After 1860 postmasters were required to create a separate cancel for the stamp in addition to the official postmark date stamp to prevent stamp reuse.



Postmark dated 1830



Postmark and killer cancel

Stop Soaking!

By: Daniel Schwarz

Yes, take a step back and really look at the postal item that you are about to rip apart to soak in water or other methods to salvage the postage stamp(s). Does the envelope or post card have a clear and interesting postmark or other unique markings? If there are multiple stamps, or even just a single stamp, does it reflect the current postal rate for the item? Is it a business, personal, local or international correspondence item? Is it very common or not? These are just a few of the thoughts that a philatelist should think about before destroying the postal evidence and possible historical treasure. This does not even consider the benefits to family genealogists that may eventually benefit from the undestroyed full cover.

There still is an opportunity for collectors to soak and keep, but it should be done wisely. When we look at historical philatelic items, many are of the common postage of the day. For example, see the cover from Bavaria, Germany, postmarked August 30, 1910.



It was addressed to the Bürgermeister Amt (mayor's office) of Bad Durkheim, that is now in the present state of Rheinland-Palatinate.

Stop Soaking! (con't)

Political boundaries have changed over the years, and that also makes stamp collecting interesting. This cover was posted with a common 5pf stamp (Scott 62, Michel 61), however being insufficient postage. The efficient postal clerk added 3 postage due stamps totaling 25pf (Michel 11, and 12) to bring it up to the required postal rate. Did this annoy the Bürgermeister, when he had to pay the postage due? We will never know. Did it contain a friendly letter inside, or a complaint? This mystery makes the cover interesting, and perhaps the reason it was saved.

As experienced philatelists, we should remember that besides enjoying our hobby, we are stewards of our postal items, hopefully for future generations. When we look back at the path many of us took with this hobby, we are now perhaps able to preserve the next wave of historical covers of the modern age. Let's at least consider that possibility. Look at what archeologists have done in the former city of Pompeii, Italy. They have already excavated and studied almost 2/3's of the volcanic ash covered city; however, they have stopped digging and set aside the remaining for future archeologists to experience. This concept of saving history for future researchers or just for fun could be applied by our generation of philatelists. If we think about it, we should want to do it.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL PICTURE

