

# CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB – HISTORY

## Beginnings

The Central Florida Stamp Club, with Francis Ferguson as President, A. Stephen Patrick as Vice President – Programs, Robert Dowrick as Vice President – Operations, Josh Furman as Secretary, and Jim Archbold as Treasurer, is 73 members strong at the beginning of 2010. But where did this club have its beginnings? Who were the people and when did it start?

Since accurate information is difficult to find, answering these questions becomes like trying to find the first use of a given postage stamp. For more recent stamps this may be an erroneous use earlier than the first day of issue. For earlier stamps it may actually be a date after the first day of issue. Either way, tracing down the beginning information about the club may take similar forms of deduction. As more information comes to light, the inception date can be moved earlier.

The American Philatelic Society (APS) has records of club memberships. A couple of calls got information that the club joined the APS in July, 1951 and were active until August, 1961. The club then rejoined in August, 1968 and has been an active chapter since that time. Additionally the club joined the Society of Philatelic Americans (SPA) in June, 1951 and maintained membership until December, 1983 when the SPA disbanded. This establishes that the club has been in continuous existence from at least 1951 to present.

The APS also furnished a copy of the club application for membership from June,

29160  
MAY 25 1951

To The American Philatelic Society

NAME AND NUMBER OF FIVE A. F. S. MEMBERS

20062 Mr. Ray Von Klippstein, 450 E. Main St., Orlando, Fla.  
21210 Mr. Alan A. Taylor, College Point, Winter Park, Fla.  
27987 Mr. Lawrence A. Kittinger, Box 281, Winter Park, Fla.  
20938 Mr. Samuell Smith, Winter Park, Fla.  
21664 Mr. Walter D. Patton, 220 S. 11th Ave., Mrs. Recy, Fla.

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Figure 1a

1951, Figures 1a & 1b, which also reveals that Ray Von Klippstein was the President and Lawrence A. Kittinger was the Secretary at that time. The club met in the lounge of the Florida

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APPLICATION

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Figure 1b

Power Corporation on Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida.

Another way to determine club existence is to find artifacts (covers, caches, and mailings) the club created. The late Herb McNeil supplied the cover in Figure 2, commemorating the centennial of the Orlando Post Office on May 30, 1950. This indicates that the club existed on or before May 30, 1950. At present, this is the earliest known artifact of the



Figure 2

Central Florida Stamp Club. As earlier artifacts

surface, the date can be pushed earlier.

The late Wade Beery Jr. indicated that he had heard of a stamp club in Orlando as early as 1933. Another source, monthly bulletins of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs (FFSC), sheds light on his recollection. "... a member of the old Orlando Philatelic Society... Oliver Joe Bailey... The Orlando Philatelic Society has long since been disbanded, but a few of its members now belong to local clubs..."<sup>1</sup>. Wade Beery Jr. most likely heard about this club, rather than the Central Florida Stamp Club. Thinking that the two clubs probably did not overlap and that the disbandment date for the Orlando Philatelic Society might give an earliest possible date for the formation of the Central Florida Stamp Club, APS records were again searched. No information on the Orlando Philatelic Society was found in APS or SPA records.

Having seen volumes 3 – 6 of the FFSC monthly bulletins (May, 1953 to April 1957), the bulletins appear to have been started in May, 1951. The FFSC was organized in 1949. Was the Central Florida Stamp Club a charter member of the FFSC? At present this is not known.

The FFSC bulletins also give us knowledge of one charter member of the Central Florida Stamp Club. "At our February 18<sup>th</sup> [1954] meeting, Dr. Frederick L. Lewton, a charter member of the Central Florida Stamp Club, gave us a talk on some U.S. patents granted for stamps and canceling devices."<sup>2</sup>

Francis Ferguson states that he has seen references to the Central Florida Stamp Club as having been in existence as early as 1944 or 1945 in the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs monthly bulletins. When this information is corroborated, it will be quoted and footnoted.