

# CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB – HISTORY

## Introduction

There are very few stamp clubs that start writing their history when they first form. However, when the vision in the club reaches the point to see the value of knowing their history, then much of the earlier knowledge may be lost or misplaced and difficult to obtain. Since this is the case for our club, the current attempt will have to be updated as more information is found. Thus it will be just like an ongoing collection or exhibit.

It should be noted that we do not know if this is first time our club has attempted a history. While the vision may or may not have been present sometime in the past, we do know that the vision has existed since about 2006.

In considering how to approach this project, it is easy to see how writing a history of the club mirrors the stamp collecting experience. Stamp enthusiasts come in three basic levels. On one level, the accumulator gathers material, but does not attempt to make order from it. This can be from procrastination or because the material is too incomplete to show its history. The current project has been affected in this way, unfortunately because of both causes.

On the collecting level, the stamp collector gathers the material and orders it in some manner. The collector is probably aware of the general history of the subjects of the stamps, but history associated with the specific material may or may not be considered. It is from this level that we need to consider what to collect for a history of the club. We can collect 1) recollections from current and past members who are still living, 2) minutes, membership lists, and other documents the club has produced, 3) references in other publications about the club, 4) correspondence between members and between members and the club, and 5) artifacts (covers, cachets, etc.) the club has created.

The words “philately” and “stamp collecting” are often used synonymously. While the philatelist also gathers and orders material, it is the work to learn and publish or exhibit the specific history associated with the collected material that makes one a true philatelist. Perhaps it is from true philatelists that the vision for a club history comes.

It is a bit ironic that collectors of history fail to keep a history of their club. But to be fair to the people who initiate a stamp club, the club is at its simplest at the beginning – a group of people getting together out of a common interest in stamp collecting.

The philatelist’s vision is needed to produce a meaningful history for the club. The main areas of concern are to discern the growth of the club, the changes in its vision and direction, and its successes and failures in fostering and promoting various interests. It is this high level we hope to attain in this history.