

# WE EXPRESSIONS

## (WOMEN EXHIBITORS)

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**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** *To provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.*

**Next Meeting:** *AmeriStamp Expo*, Jan. 11-13, Charlotte, NC, time TBD; *Interacting with Judges*, Pat Stilwell-Walker.

**Next Workshop:** *AmeriStamp Expo*, time TBD; Beginning Exhibitor's Workshop, Ruth Caswell, Janet Klug.

**Satellite Mtgs:** *PENPEX*, Redwood City, CA, Sunday, Dec. 2, 12 noon; Vesma Grinfelds.  
*Sarasota Natl. Stamp Exhibition*, Feb. 1-3, 2008, Sarasota, FL, Ann Triggles & Liz Hisey.  
*SOPEX*, April 5-6, 2008, Central Point, OR, Nancy Swan.  
*COALPEX*, June 14-15, 2008, Walnut Creek, CA, Sat., June 14, 2 pm; Vesma Grinfelds. (Critique at 3 pm, followed by meeting at frames.)

### **Keeper's Korner:**

Welcome new members. Let us know what you want from WE. Thanks go to the satellite meeting leaders who play a significant role in bringing news and issues about exhibiting to all WE members and in recruiting new members. The attendance at the satellite meetings may be small, but these meetings are a great chance to interact with other women interested in exhibiting.

Plan now to attend the WE meeting and Beginning Exhibitors Workshop for Women at AmeriStamp Expo in January at Charlotte. Janet Klug will join me in leading the Workshop. Patricia Stilwell-Walker will lead the forum on *Interacting with Judges*, which is the program for our meeting. Pat will talk about judging logistics, followed by a panel presentation. Time has been reserved for Q & A with the judges. Date and time will be posted in the newsletter and on the web site ([www.aape.org](http://www.aape.org) then click on women exhibitors) as soon as times are confirmed.

Set your goals. Everyone wants to celebrate next August. Make your goals achievable, and ones that will advance your intent to exhibit. Over the miles, WE members will have a celebration for everyone who has met their goal(s).

In the last newsletter, Barb started listing women exhibitors at local, regional, and national shows. If you have exhibited and your name is not on the list, please e-mail Barb, so she can add your name and the respective show.

**Ruth**

## \*\*\*\*\*UPCOMING SHOWS\*\*\*\*\*

**INVITATION FROM SOPEX:** Through Nancy Swan's efforts WE has been invited to hold a satellite meeting at SOPEX 2008 (Southern Oregon Philatelic Society's show and bourse), being held again at the Padgham Pavillion at EXPO in Central Point, OR. Dates are April 5 & 6, 10-5:30 and 10-4. It's an open show with prospectus available late this fall. They will be showing in 12 page frames. There will be 12-14 dealers. Nick Follansbee, show chair, is happy to welcome a WE satellite meeting, which will probably be around noon on April 6.

**INVITATION FROM COALPEX:** Through Vesma Grinfeld's efforts comes this info: COALPEX 2008, which will be held June 14 and 15 in Walnut Creek, California, is proud to host WE (Women Exhibitors), a growing group of philatelists with the goal of encouraging more women collectors to take up or improve their philatelic exhibiting. The exhibition will be restricted to women exhibitors who need not belong to WE. There are 50 frames available. In consideration of others who may wish to participate, it is suggested that exhibits be limited to 5 frames or less. Special awards are available for novice exhibitors and "brand new" exhibits. Previous WSP Gold Medal exhibits will be judged head-to-head in a "best of the best" competition; all others will compete for the usual five medal levels and other awards. APS accredited judges will provide written feedback to all who exhibit. For additional information, email David McNamee, COALPEX Show Chairman at [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com). ***NO ENTRY FEES.***

**THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:** What are your biggest problems in preparing an exhibit? Have you been able to overcome these problems? If not, WHY not? If you HAVE, HOW did you do it? Any advice to offer to others who may have the same problem(s)???

**(From Barb Harrison)** One of my big problems is trying to figure out how much information to include. In my limited experience, I've found that judges vary all over the place about just WHAT info you need to put in your exhibit. While one panel of judges may tell you that you've included too much information and that it is redundant (so after a few times you take some of it out!), the next panel may then tell you that you need to include more information in order to "demonstrate your philatelic knowledge." It makes me crazy!! So much in exhibiting is very subjective, and I just wish there were some absolutes. As long as there is so much opinion involved, there will never be an answer to this problem. I've had an exhibit score in the 90's after removing some of the "redundant" philatelic info, then drop back to the 80's with the judge telling me that I need to include more philatelic info to "demonstrate knowledge." The only thing I can say, to myself and others, is keep on hanging in there and don't give up!!

**ANOTHER RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM LAST MONTH:** What software do you use in preparing your exhibits? Are you happy with it? What are the good points? Bad points?

**(From Pat Stilwell-Walker)** I use Microsoft Publisher. I've been exhibiting long enough that I started with an electric typewriter and graduated up through a couple of word processor programs. I changed to use Publisher about 10 years ago now! At the time the really tech heavy computer users were recommending the various desktop publishing programs like Aldus PageMaker, that were incredibly complicated – we wanted something fairly simple. Publisher filled the bill.

Yes, I'm very happy with it. The major benefit is that text (in boxes) can be moved and shaped at will any place on the page. I compose directly into the computer for the most part and my first draft invariably doesn't allow enough room for everything I want. I use a text box to represent my cover (you can size it exactly with a formatting tool) to show how much space is needed and then move (and split) my text to fit where it needs

to go. Just “drag and drop” or resize; go from a horizontal paragraph to a column by changing the shape/size of the text box.

Personally I have NEVER been able to move objects and text boxes at will in Word – the program insists on “anchoring” things where I don’t want them! I gave up trying to understand how to get around this when I moved to Publisher.

I use tables for lists (such as rate calculations) and they are easy too. The text and table formatting are identical to Word, so if you are familiar with that, Publisher is easy to learn. You have the standard bold, italic formatting, text centering and justification, font choices and sizes, etc, etc.

Publisher has a function for inserting “pictures” – from files that lets you import scans you want to include – no need to size them when scanning, you can do that in Publisher by sizing the frame of the object!!

It has a “style” function that lets you define how your headings look; which is easy to replicate on new pages. If you change your mind you can define a new “style” and impose it on existing pages! This is one of the minor drawbacks – to do this you have to “touch” each box you want to reformat – there is no way to select multiples across pages and convert them at a single operation. It’s a fast operation, though – about 5 years ago, I converted a 10 frame exhibit in a few hours; probably could do it faster today!

Publisher has a feature called “layout guides” which lets you make (on the computer screen only) your page look like a quadrille page – allowing you to design and place things in proportion. It also has alignment tools for centering, etc.

Your “work space” on the screen consists of a page in the center and space outside the page (your desk?); you can keep copies of objects and templates (frame lies for standard stamp sizes for example) sitting in this space and copy them onto your pages as needed. You can also replicate all the objects on a page when inserting a new page.

Typically I keep a chapter of my exhibit in a file so the exhibit consists of multiple files. It also helps me locate pages when I need to change them. I used to do it by date but I tended to lose various revisions.

The one drawback is that each box of text is a single “story” and spell checking is typically done one story at a time. You can spell check the entire document, by asking for “all stories”, but you cannot spell check just the text boxes on a single page. I’ve trained myself to spell check a box after I type it, but I don’t always remember....

I’ve taught several friends to use Publisher for their exhibits – as you can tell I’m a fan!

**QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: What are the characteristics of a good dealer? How do you help the dealers help YOU? What do YOU do that makes you a good customer?**

**Satellite Meeting Results:** Five women met at SESCOAL for an informal WE satellite meeting conducted by Dalene Thomas. Three of those attending, Jean Kasper, Lisbeth Caccese, and Dalene are WE members. The two guests were Angela Watson and Marie-Louis Swain. Most of the meeting was spent in giving suggestions to beginning exhibitors on how to proceed with their exhibits. One of the guests was not interested in exhibiting, but she was told that all women stamp collectors are welcome to become WE members.

The only suggestion on improving **WE** that came out of the meeting was the thought that the group could use more publicity. One of the guests had not heard of the group until seeing the meeting listed in the show program. All of us need to work on spreading the word, reports **Dalene**.

**Liz Hisey** reports having had a good satellite meeting at **NEWMEXPEX**, resulting in three new members. Five ladies attended, including **Jenny Morton**, who was already a member. **Liz** reports a good discussion on exhibiting, and she also showed them her new workshop on *The Fun of Exhibiting*. As they were all either non-exhibitors or had only exhibited locally once or twice, the comments were very favorable on the presentation. All four guests signed up to be **WE** members: Beverly Rowe, Mary Kirchner, Lois Herrman, and Denna Serrano.

## **WE ARE ON THE MOVE:** **WHO IS EXHIBITING WHERE????**

**WE need YOU to send us YOUR information on where you have been/are exhibiting. Please e-mail the editor with the show name, location, date, and your name. If you send it in when you enter your exhibit, members will be able to see ahead of time who else may possibly be at the show, or at least who else is entered. For another few issues, we'll do some "catching up." So – send in the shows you've entered, starting with May, and WE'll see what kind of a presence WE've had at various shows. WE are making an impact – people, including dealers, are beginning to notice the presence of women at the shows!**

<b><u>Show</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Member</u></b>
NOJEX	Secaucus, NJ	May '07	Barb Harrison
RMSS	Denver, Colorado	May '07	Dalene Thomas
StampShow '07	Portland, OR	Aug. '07	Janice L. Brookes Ruth Caswell Inge Fisher Anne Harris Barb Harrison Liz Hisey Joan Lenz Norma Nielson Sheryll Ruecker Donna Trathen
MERPEX	Cherry Hill, NJ	Sept.1,2, '07	Barb Harrison
PNSE	Phila./Valley Forge, PA	Sept.7-9, '07	Barb Harrison
Apple Harvest	Spokane, WA	Sept.21-23, '07	Liz Hisey
APEX	Aurora, CO	Sept. 29-30, '07	Dalene Thomas
Cuy-Lor	Ohio	Oct. 6-7, '07	Liz Hisey Dalene Thomas
SESCAL	Los Angeles, CA	Oct. 12-14, '07	Dalene Thomas

Royal Phil. Soc. of Canada	Toronto	Oct. 12-14, '07	Norma Nielson Jane Sodero
Aerophilately	Bellefonte, PA	Oct. 20-21, '07	Maureen Lynch
OKPEX	Oklahoma City, OK	Nov. 1-3, '07	Barb Harrison Dalene Thomas
AmeriStamp '08	Charlotte, NC	Jan. 11-13, '08	Marian Bowman Ruth Caswell Judy Essig Vesma Grinfelds Anne Harris Barb Harrison Liz Hisey Janet Klug Ann Triggle Pat Stilwell-Walker
Sarasota Natl. Stamp Exhib.	Sarasota, FL	Feb. 1-3, '08	Ruth Caswell Barb Harrison Liz Hisey

**REPORT FROM MAUREEN LYNCH:** Just had to share my triumph at Aerophilately - my 7 frame exhibit on 200 years of air post seen through balloon mail took a Vermeil award! First time our material has gotten higher than silver; quite an accomplishment, considering the rest of the exhibits (and their caliber) at the show, and the fact that balloon mail (except for siege material) tends to be regarded in lower esteem than other types of air mail.

I noted I was the only woman exhibitor at this event, so was glad I participated. Spouse Chris was to come, but we were unable to secure child care for our 2 kids in our absence, so he stayed home and told me to go "do my thing!" The judges were all very helpful, and everyone there was supportive. Happily, the American Air Mail Society has always been very encouraging and supportive of me and other new members (I suspect because they need younger and new members!). I've never encountered anything I could perceive as intimidation. I do know my subject, and buy/sell this material on the side, so that likely makes a difference. But, I was delighted with our showing at Bellefonte, and encourage anyone with any interest in airmail to take a look at it -- there's a lot of fun to be had here!

As time and budget allows, I plan to rework the exhibit a bit, and pursue the concept that this category of air mail is structured differently from other types -- here, the technology and application (use) of the balloon determine the collecting genres within balloon post, rather than destination (rates and routes). Thus, modified criteria might be in order when judging. But this is an idea which has a long way to go to be developed.

And yes, I wore my **WE** button while down there!

## ++++OTHER STUFF++++

**NEW AAPE PPC BROCHURE AVAILABLE:** If you hadn't heard, the APS Board, at their meeting at StampShow, approved PPCs as a separate class at APS shows. If you are interested in PPCs, you will want to get a copy of the new AAPE brochure, "Collecting & Exhibiting Picture Postcards (PPCs)." The "collecting" portion was written by Barb Harrison. The "exhibiting" portion was by Barb Harrison and Tim Bartshe. There will be a nominal charge (TBD), so contact Liz Hisey (AAPE Secy.) you can fill you in on details.

**AMERISTAMP EXPO:** Entries for the recently approved Picture Postcard class are needed for the show in Charlotte. Here's a great opportunity for you to show off your postcards and perhaps win a nice award!

**BUTTONS, BUTTONS:** WE buttons are being distributed to members at satellite meetings by the meeting leaders. If you are unable to attend meetings, you can e-mail Liz to request your button. **If at all possible**, please pick up your button at a meeting.

**AAPE:** If you are not already a member of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, we highly recommend you join (\$20/yr.). Benefits are: 4 very informative issues per/yr. of TPE (The Philatelic Exhibitor); critique service; mentoring. Contact AAPE Secy., our own Liz Hisey, for membership info.

**REMINDER:** Please do NOT forward the membership list to anyone. When a new member joins they will receive a dated copy of the most recent membership list, which is now being kept current and sent out to the membership by Ruth. Be sure to proofread your info on the list and let Ruth know if there are any errors. If there are changes during a given month, everyone will receive a new list, with the current date, around the same time as the newsletter is sent.

**POSSIBLE NEW MEMBERS:** Please refer them to Barb or to Liz (Liz will receive their \$5 start-up contribution). Either one can receive the membership information, and then Barb will send a welcome e-mail & the current newsletter; Ruth will then send the latest Membership List and Collecting Interests list.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

- Welcome to Jane Sodero, of Kentville, Nova Scotia, who has been a stamp collector since second grade. As a Junior she attended APS Stamp Camp in State College, PA. She collects postal history of Guysborough County, Nova Scotia, the engraved stamps of Czeslaw Slania, rugby on stamps and the unending accumulation of those darn Machin Heads. She has exhibited locally and nationally, and is a RPSC regional judge and RPSC national apprentice.
- Welcome to Beverly Rowe, of Albuquerque, NM.
- Welcome to Mary Kirchner, also of Albuquerque, who collects Germany and New Mexico Territorials.
- Welcome to Lois Herrman, of Santa Fe, NM, who collects birds and J.J. Audubon.
- Welcome to Denna Serrano, of Rio Rancho, NM, who collects U.S., British Commonwealth, and Nature.

**BACK MATERIAL FOR NEW MEMBERS:** When new members join, they receive a copy of the last newsletter, Membership List, and Collecting Interests List. If any new member wants to hold a satellite meeting, e-mail Barb to request the poster and handouts you can use.

## **IN CONCLUSION:**

**Our membership has risen by 5 this month, to a total of 78. Keep up the good work, everyone, of telling other women collectors and exhibitors about WE. And please, we are in need of comments, articles, suggestions, and answers to the monthly questions for inclusion in our newsletter. Without your input, we will have no newsletter! How about sending in your philatelic bio? The other WE members would enjoy reading about YOU! If you've had an interesting experience at a show, send in a paragraph describing what was good/bad about it. Please participate in the newsletter in some way in order to keep it helpful and interesting for all members.**

**For those who haven't seen it, there was a nice article on page 68 of the October issue of ASDA's *American Stamp Dealer & Collector* on the subject of Philately's Women. Highlighted was our own Janet Klug, "recently retired as the first woman president of the American Philatelic Society, (who) forged a bright, upbeat new milestone in our hobby from 2003-2007." Also mentioned were our own Liz Hisey (although they spelled her name wrong) as AAPE Secretary, and National Postal Museum Acting Curator Cheryl Ganz, as "giving philately not only a breath of fresh air, but new ideals, new scholarship, more medalists in philatelic exhibiting, and a role for themselves that has been long overdue for the hobby." Three cheers for Women Exhibitors!!!**

**Barb, Editor**