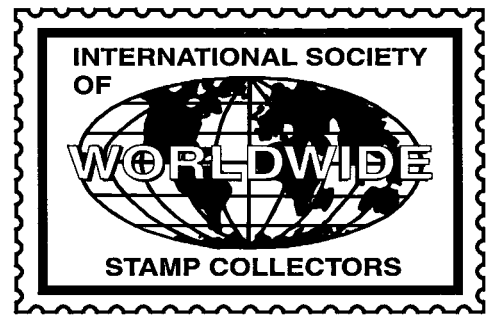


The Circuit

January/February 2004 • Volume 22 No. 1



Affiliate of: APS (#153) & ATA (#89)

www.iswsc.org

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

As ISWSC president, I occasionally receive correspondence from new ISWSC members. One of the more common themes in this correspondence is, "Ok, now that I've joined, who can I trade with??" Here are a few of the many ISWSC options available to all ISWSC members:

Member Roster Issue

Approximately every other year, the March-April ISWSC newsletter gives way to the roster issue. This issue, strictly for ISWSC member use only, provides an alphabetical listing of ISWSC members and their interest codes (e.g. collecting interests, types of stamps collected, worldwide collecting experience (in terms of years), age, topicals collected, and other interests). Listings by membership number, geographical location, and by popular collecting interests are also provided.

Between roster issues, the membership data is updated in our newsletter. An up-to-date hard copy or electronic version of the data is also available for a fee from our Executive Director, Tony Zollo (#856). Pick a member with interest codes similar to yours, and you may have a trading partner!

Write to the member prior to sending any material to be traded and be sure to include a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) or IRCs (International Reply Coupons).

Swap Circuit Program

If one-on-one trades with members aren't for you, try the Swap Circuit program! A complete description of this stamp-for-stamp trading program

is found in another article in this newsletter.

OMNI Stamp Exchange

This program allows members to exchange their duplicates for those of other members on a catalog value basis. Unfortunately, this program is only available for USA and Canadian members (due to limitations on insuring stamp shipments), but it does provide the majority of the ISWSC membership with an affordable way of disposing of duplicates and filling in some spaces in your album.

Sales Circuit Program

If trading on a per-stamp or on a catalog value basis isn't for you, then the Sales Circuit program is for you! As a seller, you mount stamps in a circuit book and price each entry. Books are then sent to the program manager who records them and sends them on to other ISWSC members who are interested in buying the material. Like the OMNI program, this program is also limited to the USA and Canada.

(If anyone can figure out an affordable way of insuring shipments overseas, please contact me!!)

Auction Program

Another program available to all members is our auctions. Periodically auctions are held of material submitted by other ISWSC members. You can either sell unwanted material or purchase something for your collection. Some members graciously donate lots to be auctioned to help keep dues low and to provide the society with extra funds to bring you're the best in programs and services!

Regional Representatives

The ISWSC just about has the world covered with

By taking even one of these suggestions, I'm sure you'll be well on your way to adding more stamps to your collection!

Continued on page 3

OFFICERS, MANAGERS & SERVICE CONTACTS

President: Randy Smith (#1111)
P.O. Box 21115
Eagan, MN 55121-0115 – USA
rasmarty4@earthlink.net

Executive Director & Immediate Past President (Board Member):
Anthony Zollo, MD (#856)
P.O. Box 150407
Lufkin, TX 75915-0407 – USA
zolloam@lcc.net

Secretary: Joanne Berkowitz (#98)
125 43rd Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-2101 – USA
joannebe@pacbell.net

Vice President for Charitable Services:
Mike Crump (#2126)
4708 Palm Aire Circle
Sarasota, FL 34243-4938 – USA
StampGuy47@aol.com

Vice President for Public Relations:
Tom Fortunato (#379)
42 Maynard St.
Rochester, NY 14615-2022 – USA
stampmtmf@frontiernet.net

ISWSC Board:
Joan Roderick (#669)
12 Red Oak Road
Asheville, NC 28804 – USA
rdjnrod@aol.com

ISWSC Board: Ken Costilow (#142)
Virginia Beach, VA – USA
kcos32@cox.net

Immediate Past Secretary (Board Member): Dalene Thomas (#101)
8612 W. Warren Lane
Lakewood, CO 80227-2352 – USA
dalene1@wideopenwest.com

AUCTION

Manager: Everett King (#1389)
P.O. Box 130
Whitethorn, CA 95589 – USA
Ph: 707-986-7230
stamps@whitethorn.com

WHATZIT? COORDINATOR

Manager:
John D. Pruitt (#121)
1151 George Road
Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1109 – USA
Fax: 215-947-7305
jdpruitt@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jennifer Arnold
1035 4th Avenue SE
Albany, OR 97321 – USA
Ph: 541-967-7043
Fax: 541-967-9515
pizzazz@cmug.com

SALES CIRCUIT

Manager (U.S.): James M. Gaul (#1853)
1920 Fawn Lane
Hellertown, PA 18055 – USA
terrynjim@enter.net

OMNI CIRCUIT

Manager: Jim Millette (#1314)
8901 Marcel Cadieux (#207)
Montreal, PQ H2M 2L9
CANADA
jmillett@globetrotter.net

Co-Manager: David Paul (#59)
2 Heritage Drive
Belchertown, MA 01007 – USA

Co-Manager: Thomas Pomaski (#410)
8195 National Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940
stamper10@earthlink.net

Co-Manager: Dale E. Harris, MD
212 Schofield,
Reedsport, OR 97467-1366,
harrisda@ohsu.edu

SWAP CIRCUIT

Coordinator: Randy Smith (#1111)
P.O. Box 21115
Eagan, MN 55121-0115 – USA
rasmarty4@earthlink.net

CHANGES IN SWAP CIRCUIT MANAGERS

SWAP CIRCUIT MANAGERS

Regular Circuit:
Scott Sadger (#882)
2140 Miller Road
Buchanan, MI 49107 – USA

John Seidl (#1646)
4324 Granby way
Marietta, GA 30062-8150
jseidl@mindspring.com

John McArthur (#768)
422 S. Lattimer Dr.
Pueblo, CO 81007-3521
jmmcarthur@earthlink.net

Super Circuit:
William Silvester (#1058)
378C Cotlow Road
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA
wsilvester-iswsc@home.com

CTO Circuit:
William Silvester (#1058)
378C Cotlow Road
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA
wsilvester-iswsc@home.com

Small (Definitives) Circuit:
Kenneth Wills (#2150)
5308 Shadow Glen Drive
Grapevine, TX 76051 – USA
wills@airmail.net

U.S. Circuit:
Andrew Titley (#2366)
3334 Long Beach Rd. #149
Oceanside, NY 11572-5049
info@albionstamps.com

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

*Represent the ISWSC, distribute stamps to
youth programs in their region.*

Australasia: Noel Routley (#1610)
C/- Post Office
Redesdale, 3444 – AUSTRALIA
routley@netcon.net.au

British Isles: Karen Rose (#584)
47 Heron Road — Oldbury
West Midlands B68 8AG
GREAT BRITAIN – U.K.

Canada: William Silvester (#1058)
378C Cotlow Road
Victoria, BC V9C 2G1 – CANADA
wgsilvester@shaw.ca

Cuba: Cleto Sánchez (#1311)
P.O. Box 2222, CP-10200
Havana – CUBA

Eastern Europe: Jan Szpyrka (#539)
ul.Srebrna 29
PL-44121 Gliwice – POLAND
szpyrka@zeus.polsl.gliwice.pl

Scandinavia/Baltics:
Martti Vihanto (#830)
P.O. Box 34
FIN-20521, Turku – FINLAND

Western Europe:
LTC (ret) Alan Horwedel (#796)
Unit 30612, Box R-160
APO, AE 09154 – USA
ahorwedel@hotmail.com

*Phone or send your questions to
the appropriate volunteer. Please
include a self-addressed stamped
envelope or IRC for a reply.*

*Please remember that the Editor does not mail
out The Circuit. If you have any questions
about your Circuit mail service, please contact
Randy Smith, Tom Fortunato or Tony Zollo.
Thank you!*

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE:
JANUARY 20, 2004**

Club Member

by Noel Routley (#1610)

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content that
your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the flock,
Or chose to stay at home
and critise and knock?
Do you take a active part
to help the club along,
Or are you satisfied
to just belong?
Do you push things along
and really make things tick,
Or leave the work to just a few
and talk about the clique?
Think this over brother
you know right from wrong.
Are you an active member
or just belong?



President's Column

Continued from page 1

our regional representatives. While their primary role is to promote the ISWSC in their region, I'm sure most wouldn't mind receiving a letter of inquiry if their region matches up with your area of collecting. They just might have someone in their area that would love to trade with you!

"The Circuit" Newsletter

Still not finding a suitable avenue for trading? Look through the newsletter articles – perhaps someone has written an article about an area of collecting that also interests you. Or write a short article describing your area of interest and why you like to collect it. Then invite people of similar interests to contact you to share knowledge, exchange stamps, etc.

If writing an article isn't for you, pen a short advertisement that you can place in the newsletter!

By taking even one of the above suggestions, I'm sure you'll be well on your way to adding more stamps to your collection! (See page 2 for complete contact information for each suggestion.)

Happy Stamping!



Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence): \$19.00*

*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US\$. Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the current expiration date.*

Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads. All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the Editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

Display Rates (Camera Ready*) per insertion:

Full page: \$75.00**

Half page: \$40.00**

Quarter page: \$20.00**

Per column inch: \$5.00

Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue.

*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra.

** Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p. 2) for special rates.

Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and ZIP code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1.

NOTE: *State abbreviations = one word; "P.O. Box 1234" = two words; ZIP code = one word.*

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor. All addresses can be found on page 2.

Expand Your Collection – Join the Swap Circuits!

by Randy Smith (#1111)

Now that winter has officially started in the upper-Midwest, it is time once again to get serious about stamp collecting. (Not that you can't be serious in the summer, too, but we only get so many weeks to be outside!) One popular way to add stamps to your collection is through the Swap Circuit program.

Here's how the program works. Participants are grouped into a 4 or 5 member circuit. The first member of the group is sent a routing sheet (containing the names and addresses of the other members of the circuit and the manager who creates the circuits) and a packet of all different off-paper stamps. The first member selects the stamps he/she wants, then replaces them with an equal number of quality all different off-paper stamps. The routing sheet and the stamp packet is then mailed to the next member of the circuit.

The process continues until the last member receives the packet and makes his/her swaps. Then the packet is mailed back to the manager of the circuit, along with mint postage for sending out the next circuit. The manager then changes the order of the members, creates a new packet of stamps, and sends it back out to the participants. Once all members of the circuit have been in each position on the circuit (from first to last), a new circuit is formed with a new grouping of participants.

There are currently four circuit types to select from: Regular, Small, CTO, and Super. The Regular circuits consist of 100 stamps that are considered "large" in size – more than 1" x 1" (approximately) in size. Because the Regular circuits are the most popular, participants are assigned to one or more manager based on the number of circuits the participant wishes to receive.

Small circuits, containing 100-150 stamps are just the opposite of the Regular circuits – those stamps smaller than 1" x 1" in size. The Small circuits also contain definitive stamps of any size.

CTO, or Cancelled To Order, circuits contain 100 stamps and are the only circuit where CTO stamps can be traded.

The last circuit type, the Super circuit, is the same as the Regular circuits, however each stamp packet contains 200 stamps instead of 100. Stamps in all circuits must be off paper, but they may be mint or used, hinged or unhinged.

In order for the program to operate, annual fees

are charged to Swap Circuit participants. (The term "fee" is used to distinguish them from the separate dues charged annually to be an ISWSC member. ISWSC membership is required to participate in any ISWSC program.) Except for the programs' annual fees, no cash is needed – for each stamp you select, you simply replace it with another stamp, without regard to the catalog value! In order to maintain the quality of the program, members are, however, encouraged to only swap desirable stamps – common and damaged stamps are not allowed.

If you want to start putting your duplicates to work for you, please join the Swap Circuit program! To join, complete the form accompanying this article and mail it with your fees to the address on the form. If you would like more information prior to joining the program, please contact Randy Smith (postal and e-mail addresses are listed on page 2).



Swap Circuit News

by Randy Smith (#1111)

Swap Circuit Coordinator

There are several items of interest to be passed along to participants of the Swap Circuit program:

Swap Circuit Manager(s) Found!

Thank you to the ISWSC members who expressed interest in the Regular Circuit Swap Manager position(s). As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, I have not made a final decision on the new managers, therefore I'm unable to introduce them at this time! I am excited, however, about the response I received and am confident that our new managers will be in place prior to your receiving this newsletter.

Once final arrangements with the new managers have been made, those members participating in the J-Z Regular Circuits will begin receiving circuits again, along with instructions as to who the new managers are. I look forward to completing this transition and getting the J-Z Regular Circuits back up and running smoothly! Many thanks to current participants for your patience as this transition is completed!

Continued on page 6

ISWSC SWAP CIRCUIT MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join the ISWSC Swap Circuit program, please complete this form and return it with your fees to:

Randy Smith PO Box 21115 Eagan, MN 55121 USA

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____ Member #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

If this is a new address, please check here.

E-Mail: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

CIRCUITS REQUESTED¹: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

USA /CANADA MEMBERSHIP INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

STAMPS MONEY²

MONETARY FEE \$ _____

US \$2.00 (or equivalent in mint stamps)

STAMP FEE \$ _____

PLEASE SPECIFY QUANTITY OF CIRCUITS REQUESTED:

LARGE CIRCUITS

The fee for up to 4 Large Circuits is 100 large stamps or \$5.00. \$ _____

The fee for up to 9 Large Circuits is 200 large stamps or \$10.00. \$ _____

SMALL CIRCUITS

The fee for up to 4 Small Circuits is 100 small stamps or \$5.00. \$ _____

The fee for up to 9 Small Circuits is 200 small stamps or \$10.00. \$ _____

CANCELLED TO ORDER (CTO) CIRCUITS

The fee for up to 4 CTO Circuits is 100 CTO stamps or \$5.00. \$ _____

(4 circuit maximum.)

SUPER CIRCUITS

The fee for up to 4 Super Circuits is 200 large stamps or \$10.00. \$ _____

The fee for up to 9 Super Circuits is 400 large stamps or \$20.00. \$ _____

Totals: _____

¹ This is the number of circuits (per type) you want to be on at the same time. USA/Canada circuits take approximately 1 month to circulate, International circuits take approximately 1½ months to circulate.

² Checks must be in US funds and should be made payable to ISWSC. Cash is sent at your own risk.

Overpayment of fees, if any, should be (check one): Donated to ISWSC Returned

Questions? Write to the address above or send an e-mail to rasmay4@earthlink.net.

THANK YOU!!

Computer Fraud (Forgeries)

by Paul Jackson (#2339)

I know it is difficult for a computer person, who has used the internet to build his collection, communicate with fellows of like interest, found information to help build an exhibit, able to do business at the push of a button... But from such a person a warning; unplug the monster living off of promise and delivering complication after complication.

I'd like to add to the trickle of information about the forgeries on the Internet, with regard to stamps at least. There are a dozen "sellers" — who have changed their names often — who have sold illustrations from catalogs as genuine stamps. If you are lucky you are slow paying and they have fled before your money arrives.

Unfortunately, being an international group we aid and abet the forgery and fraud. We like every government, club, dealers association, members association — where these last two aren't the same thing, e.g. APS of the US — can't or will not do anything about bogus deals or scams. Even the UPU

has thrown in the towel on mail fraud between nations.

How about the guys who claim no two packages alike? This has proved both in covers and stamps as well as stamp packets to the barest shadow of truth. Their explanation for the lack of "fraud" usually comes out something like "it can never be 'exactly' alike, then the same stamps would have to be in two places at once."

One of the values of an auction has been that the article passes through the hands of an auctioneer. Whether expert or not he does provide the assurance that the item is a stamp, and after some time (that's why dealing with an established firm is so worth while) some degree of safety. But eBay, which calls itself an auctioneer or auction site, is misusing the term. The only thing they do that is auction-like is collect fees. A classified ad service, a flea market, a catch all of some kind yet to be named, but not an auction.

Continued on page 8

Swap Circuit News

Continued from page 4

Canadian Postage Rates to Increase

Bill Silvester (#1058), manager of the CTO circuits and the Super circuits, has informed me that Canadian postal rates will increase on January 1, 2004. For a one-ounce mailing (covering CTO circuits), rates from Canada to the USA will increase from the current \$0.65 rate to \$0.80. The same mailing going overseas will increase from the current \$1.25 rate to \$1.40. It is expected that rate increases will be similar for two-ounce mailings (covering the Super circuits).

Because of this postage increase, the last person on each CTO and Super circuit will now need to include more mint postage when returning circuits to Bill. If this increase poses a difficulty for you, please contact me. (Contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.)

Stamp Fee Monetary Equivalent Raised

Speaking of increases... For the past few years, participants of the Swap Program have had the option to either send stamps or a monetary equivalent in lieu of stamps when paying their

annual Swap Program fees. The money gathered from the fees is used to purchase additional stamps for the circuits as well as purchasing postage, reimbursing managers for their expenses, etc. Because prices for purchasing quality stamps have gone up, effective immediately I am increasing the monetary equivalent for stamps from \$4.00 per 100 stamps to \$5.00 per 100 stamps.

Renewal Forms to be Mailed

Current Swap Circuit participants will automatically receive 2004 renewal forms in mid-January. Current participants are encouraged to wait for this form to arrive prior to submitting their Swap Circuit fees for 2004 as several participants will receive credits for overpayment of 2003 fees, poor J-Z Regular Circuit service, etc. ISWSC members not currently participating in the Swap Circuit program are encouraged to join the program by completing and returning the form found elsewhere in this newsletter.

My thanks to current managers Scott Sadger (#882), Bill Silvester (#1058), and Ken Wills (#2150) for their hard work and for all ISWSC members who participant in this wonderful program!

