March Club Meeting Will Be Virtual.

Since the nation is still trying to cope with the coronavirus pandemic and the usual meeting facility is still not available for our use, it was decided to hold the March 1st meeting using Zoom technology, like we did for the January and February meetings. Until the current crisis ends and the club is able to resume meetings at Lawrence Park, anyone who wants to participate in the monthly meetings of the Indiana Stamp Club can attend by using the Internet links below.

The Zoom Room will open at 7:00 pm and close at 9:00 pm EST. It is expected that there will be a short business session at about 7:30 p.m.

How to Link to the Zoom Room.

Here is information about linking to the recurring Zoom meeting the first Monday of each month for the Indiana Stamp Club. We can use this link until it’s safe to be back together in person.

**Link:** https://zoom.us/j/93575801674
**Meeting ID:** 935 7580 1674

This same link will work for each monthly meeting session. Some members may need to copy and paste the link or re-type it into their address bar to gain access. And yes, the link is set to mute people upon entry!

A Zoom Room Alternative.

Anyone who doesn’t want to use Zoom, and gets The Mule mailed and doesn’t have a computer, or doesn’t have a microphone on their computer, or for whatever reason doesn’t want to use their computer microphone, can call: 301-715-8592. It will ask for the meeting ID and your participant ID. You can just hit “#” on the phone for the participant ID to get past it if you don’t have one. (This is one of the numbers Zoom will give you if you don’t want to or can’t use computer audio.)

March Program.

Show and Tell, or Bring and Ask.

Find something interesting and have it ready to share. Scanning the item ahead of time and having it up on your screen projects a much better image out to everyone attending the Zoom meeting.

Next Meeting:
March 1st.

To All Members:

It’s 2021 and we do need members to keep their dues current. There are a number who last paid their dues in 2019!

**DON’T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE!**

All current members are encouraged to continue enjoying the benefits of club membership, which includes receiving The Kicking Mule newsletter, by being a member in good standing. It is a great way to stay informed about what’s happening in philately in Indiana!

The schedule of club membership dues for 2020 are:

- **Regular or Associate Member:** $12.00.
- **Spouse:** $1.00.
- **Junior Member:** $2.50.

The following donations or contributions would also be welcome:

- **Sustaining Member contribution:** any amount.
- **Web site contribution:** any amount.
- **Other donation:** any amount.

Payment should be remitted by check payable to: “Indiana Stamp Club” and mailed to:

- **Bob Boynton**
- c/o Indiana Stamp Club, Inc.
- P.O. Box 20005
- Indianapolis, IN 46220-0005.

You may also use your Indy Bucks to pay your club dues!
Spring Stamp Fair Set For May 15-16, 2021.

A casualty of the worldwide pandemic was the 2020 Annual Spring Stamp Fair. In anticipation that conditions will be much improved in the next couple months, it has been decided that a Spring Stamp Fair be organized for May 15-16, 2021.

The plan is for this grand philatelic event to be held at the Lawrence Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin Road, Lawrence, Indiana. Most people know the site is the facility our club uses for its monthly meetings during normal times.

Of course, this taking place is dependent on the building being open for our use. It is recommended that everyone keep an eye on your monthly club newsletter and/or the Indiana Stamp Club’s web site for updated information about the Stamp Fair.

At the present there is a full complement of dealers lined up for the show. They are a diverse group, and everyone should be able to find something to take home for their collections.

Be sure to mark your calendar and make attendance a priority!

INDIANA STAMP CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION:
Mailing Address:
Indiana Stamp Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 20005
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220-0005
Website: www.indianastampclub.org
Newsletter: Jlawler@minister.com
Email for General Information: info@indianastampclub.org.

March 19th National Poultry Day.

On this day there will be no fowl moods or ruffled feathers. However, there may be some quackers and gobbling going on!
Johnny Appleseed Day.
March 11th and/or September 26th.
Why two dates? . . . Read on.

Johnny Appleseed Day honors one of America’s great legends. Unlike many legends, however, Johnny Appleseed was a real person.

Born John Chapman, he was among the American settlers who were captivated by the movement west across the continent. As Johnny Appleseed travelled west, he sold apple trees and seeds to settlers, and planted many apple trees himself along the way. Johnny Appleseed continued planting and selling apple trees for over forty years. With every apple tree that was planted, the legend grew.

A Little About the Legend:
- John Chapman (aka Johnny Appleseed) was born on September 26, 1774.
- He was a nurseryman who started out planting trees in western New York and Pennsylvania.
- During the life of John Chapman, the “West” consisted of places like Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois.
- John Chapman was a deeply religious person who was known to preach during his travels.
- According to legend, Johnny Appleseed led a simple life and wanted little. He rarely accepted money and often donated any money he received.
- It is believed that he died on March 11, 1845, from what was referred to as the “winter plague”. The actual date of his death has been disputed.
- Indiana has a state park in Fort Wayne that claims to be the place of his burial.
- There is a lot of “legend” in stories written about Johnny Appleseed. By its definition, over the years, legends grow bigger than life. It also appears that there is some link between Johnny Appleseed and very early Arbor Day celebrations.

March 17th
St. Patrick’s Day - “When Everyone is Irish.”

Though of English descent, Benjamin Franklin did visit Ireland! Of course, St. Patrick was not of Irish descent either. Both Benjamin Franklin and St. Patrick’s ancestors were English.

An early stamp featuring a portrait of Benjamin Franklin that was postmarked on March 17th, St. Patrick’s Day.

March 1st
NATIONAL PIG DAY.

National Pig Day recognizes and gives thanks to domesticated pigs. For some unknown reason, big, pot-bellied pigs seen in zoos are often the symbol of the day. Pigs are clever and intelligent animals. But, most people are unaware of this high level of intelligence. They can be taught to do tricks. Some people even keep them as pets. Today is a day to give pigs the respect that they deserve.
March 15.
National Buzzard’s Day.

Bizarre as it may seem, today we celebrate buzzards. It’s not like buzzards are cute or cuddly, or any other pleasant adjective for that matter. So, before we continue, let’s make certain we know what we’re celebrating. A buzzard is also known as a Turkey Vulture, or simply called a Vulture. Buzzards are scavengers. They eat road kill or carrion. By definition, they eat the dead and putrefying meat of animals... yuck! Now, aren’t you glad to know that we’re celebrating buzzards today?

How on earth did we ever get to the point of having Buzzard’s Day? Walter Nawalaniec, a Cleveland, Ohio patrolman and bird watcher, tracked the spring migration of returning turkey vultures to the Cleveland area each year. He told local reporter Robert Bordner and historian Eunice Morton that he had observed the buzzards had returned to the area exactly on March 15 for the past six years. History has since proven that Buzzards return to the Cleveland, Ohio area on March 15 most years.

Watching the buzzards return each year became an annual event in the Cleveland area. Along the way, serving and eating pancakes and sausage became part of the tradition for this day.

Did You Know? The Migratory Bird Act of 1918 protects buzzards. Turkey vultures perform an important role in the eco-system, cleaning the environment of dead animals.

I suppose if people call you an “old buzzard”, then this day is for you, too!

March 6.
“Remember the Alamo!”

On March 6, 1836, one of our nation’s most famous military engagements was fought at a makeshift fortress named the Alamo. Located at San Antonio de Bexar, Texas, about 180 defenders engaged a Mexican Army numbering nearly 4000.

Three months earlier another Mexican Army was forced to surrender the Alamo to Texans who were pressing for the independence of Texas from Mexico. San Antonio de Bexar was strategically important because of its general proximity to the Rio Grande River, which the Texans claimed to be the border between Mexico and Texas Territory.

The president of Mexico, General Santa Anna, responded to the Texian action by leading a well-equipped and disciplined army across the Rio Grande to recapture the Alamo and then move to take Gonzales and end the independence movement. The Mexican Army arrived at San Antonio de Bexar on February 24 and began an eleven-day siege of the Alamo’s defenders.

The Texians and friendly Mexican Tejanos who occupied the fortress numbered about 100 men and some civilians. Among the defenders were two famous Americans named Davey Crockett and Jim Bowie. The defenders would eventually be reinforced by about 80 volunteers who forced their way through the Mexican Army to join the freedom fighters. Besides a good number of captured cannons for defense of the mission compound, each defender was equipped with six or seven rifles or captured military muskets at their positions on the parapets.

After ten days of preparation, Santa Anna decided to launch a grand assault on the fort. His officers were opposed to an attack because the Mexican Army received daily intelligence about the food available to the defenders, and they knew the rations were close to depletion. They argued it was likely they would surrender in just a few more days and the loss of life could be avoided. Santa Anna wanted the glory of a military victory and instead gave his generals their assignments for the battle the next morning.

Mexican Army formations deployed in the early morning hours before sunlight. After the first two assaults were repulsed easily by the defenders, concentrated artillery fire was able to blast an opening in the north wall. This breach was exploited by attacking infantry during the third attack. Defense became problematic because of the larger number of Mexican soldiers, and the weapons of the Texans were muzzle-loading single-shot rifles and muskets that required too much time to reload. The weapons thus became clubs as the defenders were overwhelmed.

All the freedom fighters were killed and the Mexican suffered about 600 casualties. Civilians hiding in the Alamo chapel were released to tell the world about what happened that day. Santa Anna believed the independence movement would die and Texas would remain a part of Mexico.

He was so wrong! The Alamo defense energized the Texians and Tejanos who flocked to recruiting stations. Texas General Sam Houston organized an army that soundly defeated Santa Anna’s at the Battle of San Jacinto a few weeks later, on April 21, in spite of being substantially outnumbered by the Mexicans.

Above the sounds of fighting, the battle cry shouted by the freedom fighters “Remember the Alamo” could be heard.

The defenders of the Alamo did not know that on March 2, four days before their defeat, the Texian government declared the creation of the Republic of Texas. The republic eventually joined the United States, in 1845.