

Thames Stamp Club Newsletter

September 2023

Volume 44 No. 1

Whole Number 479

The Thames Stamp Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, Sept. through June, at 7:30 P.M. at the Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford, CT. All area philatelists are invited. Annual dues are \$10.00. The club's email is tbbee@aol.com. The club's address is PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333 and on the web at <http://www.ThamesStampClub.org>.

Summer Recap

Jul 12, Jul 26 One Zoom meeting and one in person. We are still struggling to get our Zoom equipment working correctly. Charlie reported that our insurance bill has been paid. Members noted that the APS GASS will be held in Hartford next summer. The CT stamp clubs are considering having a table at the show.

Aug 9, Aug 23 In person meetings. Brian has completed the Thamespex cover that is shown below. Obie reported that the show advertising is complete. Charlie requested lots for the Thamespex Show auction. Obie reserved the next round of club meetings at the library and the Waterford Community Center has been reserved for the show.

September Meetings

13 Sept – In person meeting at Waterford Public Library + Zoom for those who cannot make it.

27 Sept - In person meeting at Waterford Public Library + Zoom for those who cannot make it.

September Stamp Shows

23 Sept Chelmpex'23 @ Trinity Lutheran, 170 Old Westford Rd, Chelmsford MA

24 Sept 4th Sunday Show @ The Annex Y.M.A. in East Haven

Here and There

Thamespex will soon be here and we continue planning for the show. Brian has designed another spectacular cover honoring the USS Parche SSN 683, illustrated below. If you have not paid your 23 dues please consider doing so today. Dues are \$10/yr. Please mail \$10 to TSC, PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333. I am circulating the stamp-circuit boxes; if you want to check out the box in your home for a few days, let me know. Everyone please stay healthy and safe. The following link will take you to the APS Newsletter:

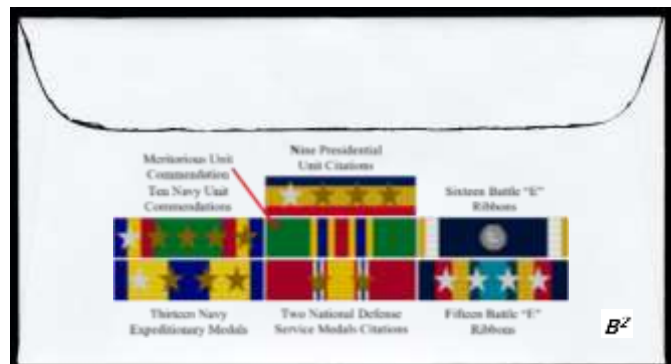
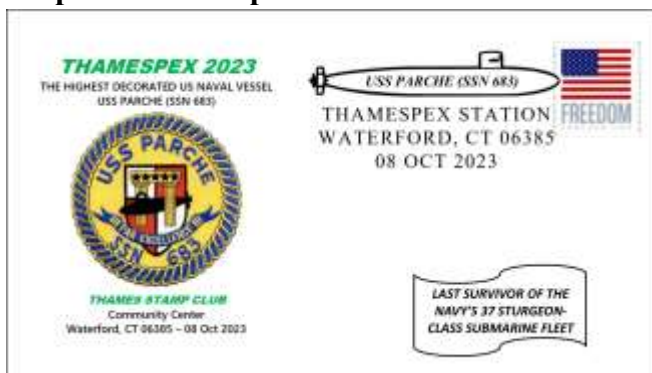
<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/p/1>

Philatelically yours,

Tony

Tony Bruno

Proposed Thamespex'23 cover





Sail Training Ship Horst Wessel (foreground) and Gorch Fock at pier in Bremen, Germany sometime after 1936. Horst Wessel was constructed by shipbuilders Blohm & Voss at Hamburg in 1936 and was commissioned in to the German Navy on 17 September 1936. She was constructed because German military leaders need more officers trained in seamanship skills. Both Horst Wessel and Gorch Fock trained naval cadets from 1936 to 1945. Who was Horst Wessel and why name a sailing ship after an obscure individual with no ties to military or sailing tradition? Horst Wessel was a Nazi party member and a youth leader in the paramilitary *Sturmabteilung* ("Storm Detachment" or SA) of the Nazi Party. In 1929, Wessel wrote the lyrics to "*Die Fahne hoch!*" ("Raise the Flag!"), which would later be known as the "Horst Wessel Song" and became the Nazi Party's anthem. In 1930, he was shot by Communist Party thugs in a dispute over apartment rents. Goebbels later made him a Party hero and named a ship named after him in 1936. In 1946 CDR Gordon McGowan of the US Coast Guard was ordered to Bremerhaven, Germany to take possession of the Horst Wessel, refurbish her, and bring her back to New London as USCG ship Eagle. Eagle arrived in New London on July 12, 1946, and has been homeported here since (77 years). I recently purchased the card above at NAPEX show earlier this year. Unfortunately it was not mailed.



Eagle ne Horst Wessel sitting on bottom in Bremerhaven where CDR McGowan found her in 1946.



Horst Wessel under sail