



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 48 No. 8 December 2020



Hong Kong Skyline at Night [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong\\_Kong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong)

## Rich and Exotic: The Postal History of Hong Kong

By Doug Files

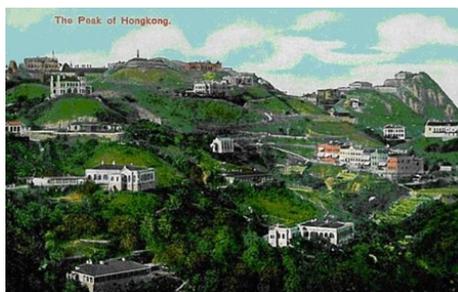
Hong Kong has appeared in the news frequently this past year. I have never visited the city but its exotic nature appeals to me. The stamps of the People’s Republic of China have spooked me ever since I belonged to the Junior Philatelists of America in the 1970s. I could not read the words on Chinese issues so I felt like I did not understand them. But Hong Kong postage stamps are Asian but are printed in English.

Three years ago I bought a used album and a small lot of Hong Kong stamps from Dennis Hillen, the dealer member of our club who lives in Louisville, KY. I later bought more from dealer Sean Xu of Indianapolis. Since that time I have been gradually accumulating Hong Kong stamps a few at a time. Three used albums in my bookcase now cover most of the years up to 2012 – though annoyingly, not every year. I work sporadically with these issues – from old Queen Victoria definitives to colorful modern commemoratives.

### Background

Hong Kong is a wealthy port city with 7.4 million people packed into 426 square miles. As such, it is one of the most densely populated places on earth. Because land is so scarce, developers have built upwards; more skyscrapers exist in Hong Kong than in any other area of the globe.

Portuguese traders first arrived in coastal southeast China in the early 1500s. They bartered for silks, tea and porcelain, but eventually opium became the major commodity traded. When many of his subjects became addicts the Chinese emperor tried to prohibit the opium trade but the British fought to maintain it for financial reasons.



Early Hong Kong Picture Post Card Photo from <http://www.hongkongstudycircle.com/>

- continued page 3

### Meetings and Activities Meetings begin at 7:30 pm

Dec 7—**ZOOM** 7:00 pm— Board Meeting—All are welcome

**Dec 7 ZOOM 7:30 pm Member Participation—Holiday item from your collection—Send to Susan K in advance.**

**Dec 21—ZOOM 7:30 pm Club Meeting—Holiday Extravaganza—Milk, Cookies & Adult beverages on your own. Chats of Holiday plans**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
WELCOME 2021**

Jan 4—**ZOOM** 7:00 am Board Meeting—All are welcome

**Jan 4 — ZOOM 7:30 pm DSC meeting and program**

**Jan 18 — HOLIDAY Martin Luther Kings, Jr. NO DSC MEETING**

**Jan 22-24 — Sarasota National Stamp Exposition, will be held virtually The Sarasota Philatelic Club has decided to hold its annual exposition online due to concerns about COVID-19**

Feb 1—**ZOOM** 7:00 pm Board Meeting—All are welcome

**Feb 1—ZOOM 7:30 pm DSC meeting and program**

**Feb 15 — HOLIDAY—Presidents’ Day—NO DSC MEETING**

Mar 1—**ZOOM** 7:00 pm Board Meeting—All are welcome

**Mar 1—ZOOM 7:30 pm DSC meeting and program**

DSC NEWSLETTER

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CLUB OFFICERS 2020

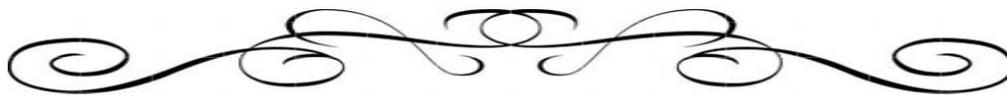


#82

President -----	Mike Komiensky
First Vice President -----	Frank Miller
Second Vice President -----	Clay Goffinet
Secretary -----	Doug Files
Treasurer -----	Dennis Rose
Chairman, Board of Directors -----	Susan Diamond



#80083



Paul M. Wagner (1935—2020) passed away this September. Paul was an active Dayton Stamp Club member for many years. He enjoyed activities and was very proud of his wife, Julith and two sons and their children and grandchildren.

Paul graduated from UD and worked at WPAFB for 38 years. Memorial Mass was held at Incarnation Church, Centerville in October. His body will be donated to the Wright State School of Medicine.



Paul Wagner cachet 1995; Cleaning up

Paul was a First Day of Issue cachet maker. He designed,



Milton Berle aka Mr. Television or Uncle Miltie



printed and painted several cachets for select U.S. issued that he liked. He would trade with other collectors across the country. Paul enjoyed his stamp collection and enjoyed talking about it with club members. His conversations and smile will be missed.



**Dayton Stamp Club News**

**HOLIDAY DINNER CANCELLED**

DSC planned holiday dinner for December is cancelled due to safety and health of members. Join members on ZOOM Dec. 7 & 21 at 7:30 pm.

**IDEAS FOR DSC PROGRAMS**

Member participation club programs are popular. If you have ideas or suggestions for upcoming club programs, please email to our new Program Chair, Steve Solomon, [steven.h.solomon@gmail.com](mailto:steven.h.solomon@gmail.com)

**Carol Costa New DSC Board Member**

Costa at the November was elected as the newest Board Member. Club President Mike Komiensky thanked Howard Smith, the out-going Board Member for his service to the club and Board over the many years.

**Write an Article for DSC Newsletter**

We need you to share your enthusiasm about stamps and your collection. A short article shares with others new countries and ways to explore the world of philately.

— Hong Knog continued from page 1

China reluctantly ceded Hong Kong island to Great Britain after the First Opium War in 1842. Britain's territory later expanded onto the Kowloon peninsula and another area on the mainland which was leased to the British for 99 years in 1898. Hong Kong grew into a prosperous colony of Great Britain, before it reverted back to China in 1997. It is now considered a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic of China. Part of the deal was that Hong Kong would be allowed to keep many of its traditions for 50 years after the transfer. The Chinese refer to this policy as "one country, two systems".

Hong Kong postage system

Sources consulted for this article all state that mail delivery began with British administration in the 1800s. This seems unlikely. The Chinese maintained an advanced civilization long before the Europeans and they must have had some system of mail delivery. One struggles to find evidence of it in English language publications, however.

The modern Hong Kong postage system was developed by the Royal Mail during the First Opium War. The first post office was apparently called 書信館 but I don't know what that is. As stated above I can't read Cantonese. In any case the original British post office opened near St. John's cathedral in November 1841. Initially it used two devices to cancel stamps – (1) a 36mm circular "Post Office" handstamp that bore the year at the bottom and (2) an oval containing the royal arms of Great Britain. The first one was used in 1841 and 1842 and the second for the two years after that. Both of these cancels are quite rare on cover.



Early Hong Kong Cancels -- Photos from Bib Blue 1840-1940, bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.se, Stamp Community.org, [https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=65021](https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=65021) and Stampboards website, <https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=10&t=77589>

Some other cancels that were more common are shown in the figure. The photos depict a Hong Kong cancel with a clear date stamp, a "B62" cancel and several others. I could not find out why the red violet lines existed on the stamps. A private corporation may have used this to cancel their stamps.

The Hong Kong colony issued its own stamps for the first time on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1862. Prior to that time British soldiers used British stamps, though regular colonists and locals were not allowed this privilege. Several military cancellations were used in Hong Kong and these remain quite rare.



The Earliest Hong Kong Commemorative Stamp 1891 - Photo from BC Stamp website, <https://www.bcstamps.co.uk/item-62350-Hong-Kong-1891-QV-50th-Jubilee-Opt-2c-Unused-No-Gum-SG51>

The first British military cancel read in cursive script "Military Post Office, China". It was used only from January to April 1842. The follow-on cancellation read "Hong Kong Military Post Office and showed miniature roses between the words. For many decades mail for British military personnel serving in Hong Kong was marked "British Forces Post Office 1" (BFPO 1).

British Hong Kong issued only definitive stamps showing the head of the sovereign for several decades. The first commemoratives came out in the 1930s and those were part of larger programs that British colonies issued jointly. That is, each colony issued stamps patterned off the same master design.

The one early exception to the definitive rule was a Queen Victoria stamp overprinted in 1891 for the 50th anniversary of her reign. Though technically a commemorative, these still look a lot like definitives. As late as 1965 nearly all Hong Kong stamps were definitives or joint issues with other Commonwealth nations. For these joint issues the Hong Kong sets carry catalog values higher than those of almost other colony.

During the colonial period stamps read "Hong Kong" and often carried symbols of the reigning king or queen of Great Britain. After the transfer of sovereignty back to China in 1997 separate postage stamps continued to be issued by Hong Kong but they specified that they were from "Hong Kong, China". All British Hong Kong postage was immediately invalidated at the time of the transfer.



Hong Kong Stamps from Before and After the Chinese Transition in 1997 - By British Government for the Hong Kong Post Officescan by Anizotropia - Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6250478>

— End of PART 1 Continued in Jan. 2021 DSC Newsletter

## Austria new stamp issue theme of 2020 COVID postage stamps on toilet paper

If 2020 could take the form of an object, what better one to represent this crappy year than toilet paper?

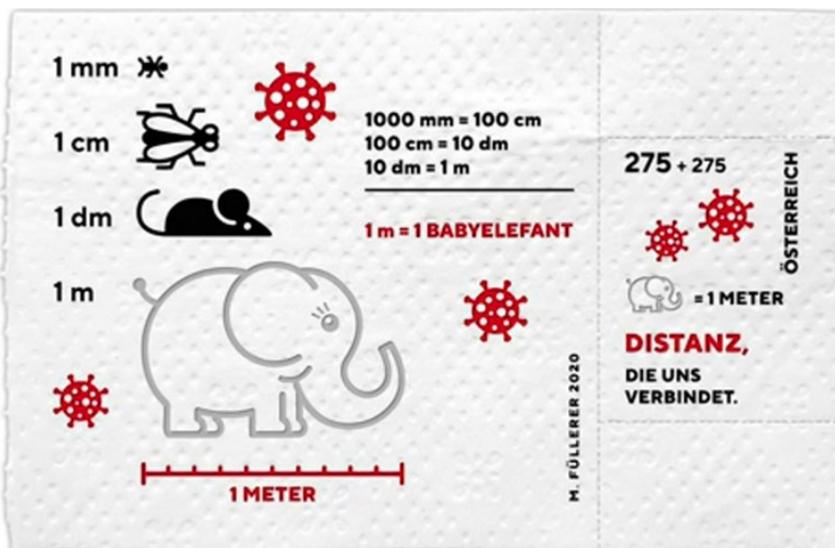
Austria's postal service announced it is issuing a postage stamp made from toilet paper on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The country's postal service said they wanted to commemorate one of 2020's stranger phenomenon of people hoarding the practical product.

The Austria Post said each stamp will be the size and shape of a standard sheet of toilet paper. The COVID stamps

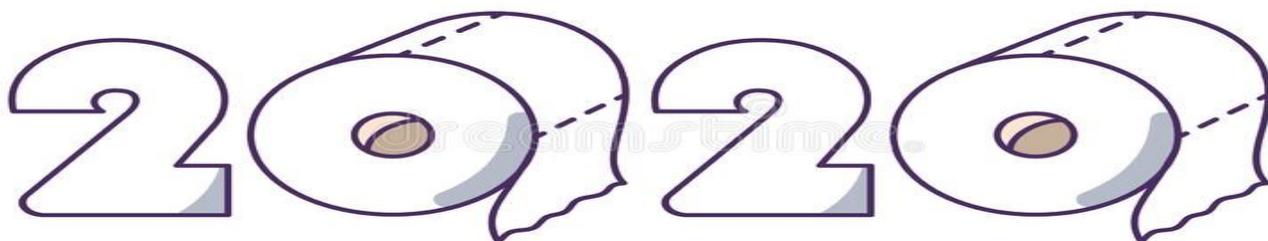
are illustrated with a baby elephant, a national reminder of the recommended one-meter distance. They can be torn off the stamp block along a perforated line just like toilet paper, and they come with a self-adhesive

foil and retail at €2.75 (around \$3.25).

The postal service will be releasing 300,000 stamps on October 30, and for each block sold, donation will be given to charity, Austria Post said in a statement.



"With the Corona stamp, we not only want to issue an original stamp block to remember this year, but also to support those who have been particularly affected by this crisis," Austria Post CEO Georg Pölzl said in a statement.



## HAPPY HOLIDAY AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!



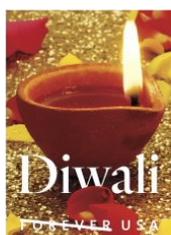
### Happy Holidays

As we finish the 2020 year, we reach out to friends and families. Our notes and cards capture the memories of the year about to be completed and challenge the imagination



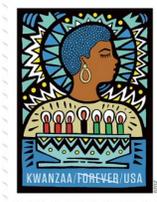
for the year to come.

As stamp collectors, please keep in mind there



are numerous holiday stamps to remind us of the seasons to rejoice. Using the stamps of the season support the hobby and the USPS.

These are some of the U.S. holiday postage stamps issued this year and in



previous years. Enjoy the holiday season!

**INVITE someone to the Dayton Stamp Club ZOOM meeting**  
**7:30 pm**  
**December 7 and 21**

**Dayton Stamp Club ZOOM meeting on Dec. 7—** Select an item from your collection on a Holiday or Winter Theme. Why is this item special to you at this season?  
**Dec, 21 ZOOM DSC Meeting** — join in a chat over cookies and your favorite beverage. Have a wonderful joyous season!

## Sharing a Community Story— A Creative Partnership with Dayton Stamp Club and Greenville Public Library

The Dayton Stamp Club was contacted in late September by Mr. Stacy Caldwell of the Greenville Public Library seeking guidance on how to share with the public a donation of philatelic and related materials of local significance. The donation is of materials related to the business of breeding and showing of Great Dane dogs which had a local, national and international impact. Mr. Caldwell has been joined in the project by Ms. Rachel Brock who is leading the acquisition, digitization and organization of the project at the library.

Virginia Keckler (1923-1985) was a well-know national breeder and judge of Great Danes. She was an Executive Board member of the American Kennel Club and active in national and international do show. She wrote reference books about Great Danes which are still used by breeders.

Keckler was active in the Greenville community and traveled in her later years. She donated her letters, papers, covers, written notes, journals and show programs to the Greenville library. After her death the material was passed to Dr. E. Westbrook Browne. After his death the material was stored with his daughter Alice Browne Eberhard. It was Ms. Eberhard who donated the materials to the Greenville Public Library.



Based on verbal and photographic information shared about the acquisition of the donation received by the Greenville Public Library, DSC members were invited to lend their talents to this project. This includes philatelic exhibiting, local history, cancellations and covers, United States, Worldwide and Topical stamp collecting. Assistance and cooperation will be provided to organize and display the materials to share with others the story of Keckler's adventures and work with Great Danes.

With the intent of the Greenville Public Library to display this collection to share with the public, Dayton Stamp Club has offered to donate aluminum frame exhibit display easels. DSC member Carol Costa is now the club liaison and information resource for this project. The library continues to updates the project, including pursuing grant money to assist with digitizing the donation to make the items accessible through the library website. there is correspondence in German that needs translation. If any club members are interested in assisting with either the project or translation, please send an email to [daytonstampclub@gmail.com](mailto:daytonstampclub@gmail.com)



## APS Stamp Chats — December 3 and December 10 starting at 6:30 pm

APS STAMP CHAT

"DRAWN TO ACTION: THE ARTISTIC & PHILATELIC WORK OF ARTHUR SZYK "

3 December 2020  
6:30PM to 7:30 PM EST



Gregg Philipson,  
Society of Israel  
Philatelists

APS STAMP CHAT

"AN OVERLOOKED GIANT OF PHILATELY"

10 December 2020  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM EST



Rick Barrett,  
Author,  
"Buffalo Cinderellas"



American Philatelic Society offers numerous online opportunities. No need to travel to attend classes or online chats. Registration is required for most of the programs. Generally, no fees are required. Share with other philatelists across the country.

APS STAMP CHAT

"THINK LIKE AN ARCHIVIST:  
PRESERVING POSTAL HISTORY  
COLLECTIONS AT HOME"

1 December 2020  
6:30PM to 7:30 PM EST



Jasmine Smith,  
Librarian,  
Postal Collectible  
Restorer

Tuesday, December 1st at 6:30-7:30 PM EST "Think Like an Archivist: Preserving Postal History Collections at Home" presented by Ms. Jasmine Smith

As an archivist and philatelic restorer, Jasmine Smith often receives questions about caring for collections. In this presentation, she will discuss storage and handling techniques that can help preserve your postal history collection. This presentation focuses on practical steps that any collector can implement, covering temperature and humidity to paperclips and boxes. The discussion will look closer at some specific details, including how climate may affect storage strategies in different regions and how to work with the quirks and age of your home.

**Register: Think Like an Archivist: Preserving Postal History Collections at Home**



**The Collectors Club**  
2 Dec. 2020 at 5:30-7:30 PM EST

**"The U.S. 1789-2021  
Presidential Inauguration"**

Presented by Henry Scheuer, New York, NY.

This talk will present several Presidential Inauguration historic items from 1789 to 2021. Examples from the first two and last two in this four-century date range will be presented.

As each item is presented, and historic metrics will be mentioned, to better appreciate the growth of the United States over time.

Register: <https://www.collectorsclub.org/>

## Register Now!



**Celebrate the Season  
with Christmas Stamps**

**Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 (7:30 – 8:30 p.m.)**

**There is NO cost to attend this session – Happy Holidays from the APS Education Department!**

Presenter: Florence Wright

There is more to the holiday season than presents. Christmas stamps bring beauty and joy to our cards and letters. Spend an enjoyable time delving into this collecting specialty.

### What are Christmas Seals?

**Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 (7:30 – 8:30 p.m.)**

**There is NO cost to attend this session – Happy Holidays from the APS Education Department!**

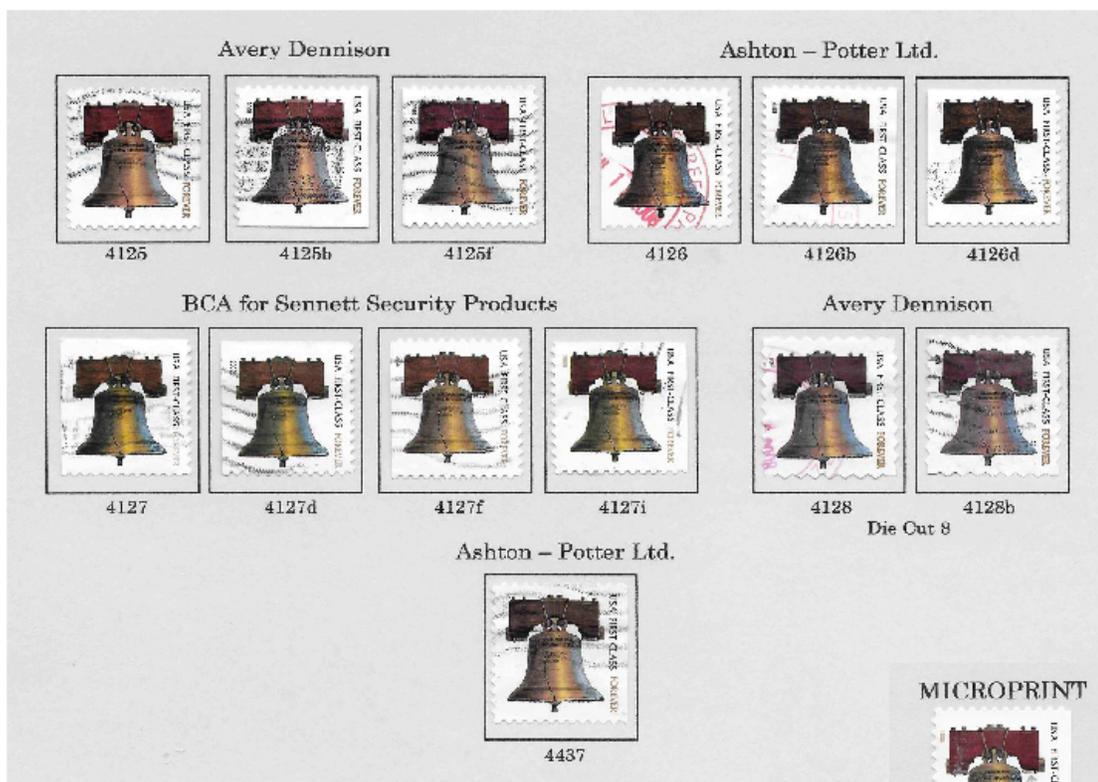
Presenter: Florence Wright

Christmas and Kwanzaa Seals are labels, not usable for postage. Seals first appeared in the United States in 1907 to raise money and awareness for tuberculosis. Boost your holiday spirit as you learn more about these highly collectable Cinderellas and the many ways that Seals can be collected

**Register for the sessions. You will be emailed a Zoom link a day before the session.**

**Need assistance? Email [education@stamps.org](mailto:education@stamps.org)**

## LIBERTY FOREVER!



After toying with the idea since 1975 the USPS issued its first "forever" stamps in 2007. Forever stamps differed from previous non-denominated stamps in that their usage value would always match any changes in the first-class letter rate, whereas for other non-denominated stamps (including the "A" to "H" letter rates) the values were fixed when issued.

The Liberty Bell Forever's were issued only as booklet or ATM panes. They were all self-adhesive and all Serpentine Die Cut 11 ¼ by 10 ¾ except for two ATM panes which were Die Cut 8. The Scott Specialized Catalogue lists the stamps under 5 major and 8 minor numbers. Three manufacturers printed the stamps and their catalog numbers are easily determined by two or more characteristics. Get out your magnifier and follow this procedure!

- 1) Forget about the bell. Every Scott number can be identified without measuring the bell.
- 2) Check the microprint first. Large, medium, or small. With the exception of Scott #4437, the microprint will identify the manufacturer.
- 3) Next, check the year date to the upper left of the bell yoke. The date itself and its size and color will confirm the Scott Number.

These are all in booklet panes of 20 unless otherwise noted. The Scott Number identifying characteristics are as follows:

- 4125 – Large microprint, 2007 year date in black, *not* Die Cut 8
- 4125b – Large microprint, 2008 year date in black
- 4125f – Large microprint, 2009 year date in black, *not* Die Cut 8
- 4126 – Small microprint, 2007 year date in black
- 4126b – Small microprint, 2008 year date in black
- 4126d – Small microprint, 2009 year date in copper
- 4127 – Medium microprint, 2007 year date in black (also in vending booklets of 4 or 6)
- 4127d – Medium microprint, large 2008 year date in black
- 4127f – Medium microprint, small 2008 year date in black (only in vending booklets of 4 or 6) *4127f is very difficult to find used or on a commercial cover!*
- 4127i – Medium microprint, 2009 year date in copper. Microprint is on a white background.
- 4128 – Large microprint, 2007 year date in black, Die Cut 8 (ATM pane of 18) \*
- 4128b – Large microprint, 2009 year date in black, Die Cut 8 (ATM pane of 18) \*
- 4437 – Medium microprint, 2009 year date in copper. Microprint is on a dotted background (ATM pane of 18, Die Cut 11 ¼ X 10 ¾)\*

\*All the ATM panes were produced on very thin, translucent paper. When found on cover, "Place Stamp Here" can easily be seen right through the stamp!

Many ominous predictions were made in opposition to forever stamps before they were issued. None of them have come true. The Liberty Bell issues are a worthy tribute to a strategy that has proven itself now for thirteen years and will probably be with us "forever".

*Collection of Andy Burkman, Memphis Stamp Collectors*

## DAYTON STAMP CLUB 2021 MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE Club Meetings/Program begin at 7:30pm

*(subject to changes; updates may be made)*

***DUE TO COVID-19, ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.***

***For the Zoom invitation and link, please email [daytonstampclub@gmail.com](mailto:daytonstampclub@gmail.com).***

Jan 4	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
Jan 18-MLKing Day		Holiday / No Meeting
Feb 1	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
Feb 15-President's Day		Holiday / No Meeting
Mar 1	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
Mar 15	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
Apr 5	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
April 19	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
May 3	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
May 17	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
June 7	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
June 21	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
July 5	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
July 19	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
Aug 2	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
Aug 9	7:00 PM	Board Meeting with AIRPEX Review
Aug 16	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
<b>Aug 27-28 (Fri-Sat)</b>		<b>**AIRPEX @ IBEW Hall (F: 12-6pm; Sa: 10am-4pm)**</b>
Sept 6- Labor Day		No Meeting
Sept 13	7:00 PM	Board Meeting with AIRPEX Review
Sept 20	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
Oct 4	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
Oct 18	7:30 PM	Club Meeting and Program
Nov 1	7:00 PM/7:30 PM	Board Meeting / Club Meeting and Program
Nov 8	7:00 PM	Board Meeting (set 2021 calendar & budget review)
Nov 15	7:30 PM	Elections
Dec 6	6:30 PM	Club Holiday Dinner @ local restaurant
Dec 13	7:00 PM	Board Meeting
Dec 20		No Meeting – Enjoy the Holiday Season!