



Das Rundschreiben

A Newsletter For the Members and Friends of Central Florida Chapter 23 - G.P.S.
MISSION STATEMENT: Chapter 23 of the Germany Philatelic Society will enhance members' enjoyment of philatelic activities, with emphasis on the collecting of Germany

April 2 and April 10, 2005

Now that spring is here, it is time to gather for our SPRING SOCIAL ON SATURDAY, APRIL 2, at the Branch Ranch restaurant in Plant City.

Driving directions are very easy: On I-4 take exit 17, Branch Forbes Road. Turn north. (Coming from Tampa, make a left; coming from Lakeland, turn right) Drive for ¾ mile to a stop sign and turn right. Restaurant is immediately on the right.

Arrive at 4:30 and we will eat at approximately 5:00. The idea is for all to start for home before darkness sets in. We will have a private dining room. You can order from the standard menu with individual checks. The bar area is available for early arrivers. The restaurant has an excellent reputation and has been in business since 1956. Our chapter held a party there some years ago. Advice: do not eat at all on the day of the meal – you will need the room.

There is plenty of space, and you do not need to make a reservation. Just come and bring your spouse, significant other, or as many friends as you wish. We are counting on a significant turnout.

George Kuhn and Priit Rebane will provide the entertainment – that is the down side of the day – but a very nice philatelic party favor has been produced by the German Post Office and by the stamp dealer's organization of Germany. Each club member will receive two different especially cancelled commemorative sheets issued by the German post office in 1999 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of our GPS. A special thank-you goes to our GPS president, Harold Peter for providing these special treats for us.

Our regular April meeting will take place as usual on SUNDAY, APRIL 10, AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LAKELAND.

We begin at 2:00 PM but come early to socialize. The program will be presented by all individuals present – namely it will be a GROSTAUSCHTAG. It will be a day of trading, buying, selling of any material you care to bring. Spread it out where you sit, and we will all have a good time. We will not have a general auction this time, but we encourage you to bring any silent auction pages for that purpose. APS circuit books will be available.

Minutes of the last meeting.

President George called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. on Sunday, March 13.

Jim Graue, the editor of the GPS German Postal Specialist was our special guest. Present were members Brunke, Wall, Sullivan, Rimi, Hayner, Hills, Rebane, Warren, Pullin, Kuhn, and Deusner. A special welcome was extended to two new members, Harold Meininger and Fred Meder. Also visiting was Fred's wife, Elaine, Jack Congrovie, and Jean Brunke.

Jots and Tittles

Here are some happenings and notices of interest for our chapter:

The nominating committee is appealing for a member to come forward and volunteer to take the office of secretary for our club for the 2005-6 activity year.

Please let Priit know.

Do you need a ride? Let Priit or George know. They can put you in contact with another person in your area.

The Branch Ranch restaurant is located on the original Branch farm, homesteaded in the mid-nineteenth century. It sits amid orange groves, pasture land and vegetable fields.

GPS member, John Neefus, reports that he has recently published a philatelic book, first in a series of five books, in English, on the Cancellations of the German Plebiscites. Volume one has been released already. Check out his web site at www.ThePlebiscitePublisher.com

The controversial 1945 SS-SA issue is still in the news. See the interesting "letter to the editor" in the March "Specialist."

While you are at reading the March issue, check out Priit's letter to the Editor.

GPS convention this year is in Baltimore, September 2 – 4. (No page 3 exists in this newsletter also)

Last meeting's minutes were approved with one correction. It was noted that John Hayner was present at the meeting and not asleep at home.

As usual, George had the circuit books available. The large jar of donated stamps (on and off paper) grew to over five pounds and will be auctioned at the May meeting. The proceed will go into our "Salon 07" fund. Bring more stamps!

Jim Pullin, chair of our audio-visual program development committee presented a progress report. With the help of Frank Hills, the "technical production" expert and Doug Warren's expert material on the flag cancels of the German Reich, the project is well under way. The goal is to have something ready for viewing at our October meeting along with a CD of dubbed voice narration.

Jim also gave a summary of activities at the recent APS sponsored mega show in Atlanta, Georgia. Jim, George, Frank, and Priit attended the show and participated at the meeting of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs of which our chapter 23 is a member. It was helpful for us to meet some of the Federation members and officers and to get to know them personally. All four participants shared some impressions and commented on the APS show's success.

It was announced that Priit Rebane has been appointed by the national Board of Directors of the Germany Philatelic Society to fill a vacancy created by a resignation on the Board. The appointment begins immediately. Priit will stand for election on his own right this fall. Jim Pullin will also run for re-election to the Board. Priit expressed appreciation for this opportunity to serve at the national level and expressed the hope that his election for a full term this fall would be successful.

Jim also commented on our chapter's ongoing preparations for hosting the German/American Salon in April of 2007 in Melbourne, Florida. As national chairman of the committee he is doing an excellent job of planning ahead. As a member of our host club, Chapter 23, he is recruiting workers and has prepared a time-line of work to be accomplished by our club to be prepared for the big event.

John Hayner reported about an opportunity for members and friends who wish to attend the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, May 27 through June 3, 2006, to stay in Washington DC for \$20 per night. That is a much better price than the \$160 charged at the better hotels. Luther Place Lutheran Church has a dormitory type of arrangement for overnight guests, and John would be happy to share details with you. But time is of the essence to take advantage of this opportunity.

There was discussion concerning the upcoming election of officers of the American Philatelic Society. It was voted to "second" the nomination of the following persons: Peter Martin, Roger Snell, David Straight, John Flannery, and Wade Saadi.

Priit gave a detailed report about his search for a suitable restaurant to host our spring social event. Of a number of possibilities, the unanimous choice was Branch Ranch in Plant City. The social will start at 4:30 on Saturday, April 2, 2005.

Frank Hills presented an excellent program illustrated by computer scans of stamps and other material entitled "Saxony's Erzgebirge." Translated it means "Ore Mountains." He talked about the charmingly beautiful part of Germany where his wife was born, Freiberg in the mountains of the Erzgebirge close to the Czech Republic. The talk was most informative and entertaining.

The nominating committee for officers for the coming year in our chapter will give a report at the April meeting.

Three door prizes were awarded to three lucky members, and the 50/50 drawing resulted in \$15.50 added to our "2007 Salon" fund.

A brief auction concluded the official meeting.