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The One-Eighty Teen Center Stamp Club, John Hunt

STAMPS Collections, albums, loose stamps, stamps on paper, First Day Covers. We will have a spinning wheel where people of all ages can win prizes. Special hands on activities specific to STEAM topics within stamp collecting. Strive to promote the hobby and introduce the stamp club at the teen center as a way to further interest.

Stamp collector John Hunt begins club for teens

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By Pam Bauserman
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

John Hunt enjoyed stamp collecting when he was a child. Later, as an adult, he dug it all out and started collecting again. People just started giving stamps to him, he said.

Since stamp collecting is one of the merit badges for Boy Scouts, he decided to start the Lodi Jr. Stamp Club. Geared toward children ages 12 to 18, Hunt said the club is something they can do for fun. He hopes the club helps some teens find their niche.

"Everyone has a gift to do something. I think stamps are a good fit," he said.

Q: What is rewarding about stamp collecting?

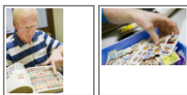
A: I really enjoy antiques. You can find a 130-year-old stamp for a few cents. You never quite know what you are going to find. It's nice to know you can fill a spot. That's a thrill. Everyone has their little wish list of what they are trying to find.

Q: When did you start the club?



Dan Evans/News-Sentinel

John Hunt leads a stamp collecting club that meets at the One-Eighty Teen Center on the second and fourth Wednesday each month.



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Lodi Jr. Stamp Club at a glance

When: Second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Where: One-Eighty Teen Center.

Who: Children ages 12 to 18.

Why: To learn the hobby, get free stamps on collecting tips and for Boy Scouts to work on merit badge.

— Source: John Hunt



A: We've been going for most of the year. I help out about four young collectors.

Q: What is the oldest stamp you have?

A: I have a number nine, which is from probably 1851.

Q: What is your most unique stamp?

A: I'd say my most unique is the white plain issue. It's kind of cool because there weren't a lot of them printed. It's a souvenir sheet. The single stamps are more common but the single sheet is more rare.

Q: Are there any stamps you are currently looking for?

A: I'm always looking for stamps. I like going to stamp shows. I'm always looking for duck stamps. I have a complete collection up through the 1960s.

Q: What supplies are needed for stamp collecting?

A: They pretty much need a good magnifying glass, a pair of tongs, a perforation gauge. You need a book to press stamps in. You need a stock book to put them in. They are mounted by stamp hinges or you can put them loosely

in a stock book. The kids who come to the club don't need to bring anything, just themselves.

Q: What are the different collections you have?

A: I have an accumulation. I have a personal collection and then I collect and sell off the extra stuff. I have one collection that is in about 14 albums.

Q: Where do you find stamps?

A: I'd say most kind of find me. When people find out that collect, they kind of send them my way. I also find them on eBay and Craigslist, but you have to know what you are looking for. Sometimes I'll go to shows.

Q: What are some important things to remember about collecting stamps?

A: That a lot of people might have an illusion that this is an investment. You need to do it for the enjoyment. And not to let a hobby be an obsession. Have fun with it and enjoy it.

Q: How can kids get involved in the club?

A: Just come on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the One-Eighty Teen Center. It's for ages 12 to 18. They don't have to buy anything and it doesn't cost anything. I don't talk or lecture. I have two tubs so they can pick out what they want and I teach them how to soak them off (the envelopes). Then I tell them what it's worth and show them how to use the tools.

Q: What has been the reaction of those who have attended so far?

A: It's been really positive. One kid has his merit badge. He has really taken to it. He's into Olympic stamps. There's something for everyone.