

VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Meets annually

Glenn A. Estus,
PO Box 451, Westport, NY 12993-0451
gestus@vermontps.org, 518-962-4558



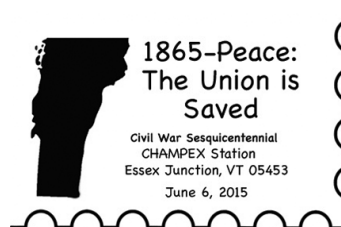
CHAMPEX SHOW MOVED TO JUNE

For the first time since the Chittenden County Stamp Club began its annual *CHAMPEX* (Champlain Exhibition) shows in 1981, the show will be held in the late spring. It will be on June 6 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Previously the show was in late October / early November. A number of factors began to play against those months. The later in the fall the show was held, the greater threat it would be snowed out. In the past few years, the show has attracted more postcard dealers and postcard shows in southern New England on the same dates and began to draw those dealers away.

Another reason is the venue is on the “end of the pipeline.” It is a couple of hundred miles from the major metropolitan areas and many dealers are not willing to spend four to five hours driving time to get to the Burlington area. Since 2001, the number of Canadians attending the show has dwindled. Another big factor is that the average collector is advancing in age and is not willing to spend the time driving either. Finally, it is becoming more difficult to find club members willing to help out with the planning of the show. Therefore, the club decided to make the switch in the hope that better weather will help the attendance.

There is an unexpected benefit. Since 2011 the club has been sponsoring a pictorial postmark commemorating Vermont’s participation in the Civil War. The club felt it was important to honor the return of peace to the nation in 1865 rather than a battle after four years of conflict. If the show had remained in late fall, the commemoration would make less sense than in the late spring soon after the April date of the surrender at Appomatox Courthouse.



Furthermore, the June show will be the only show in Vermont this summer. The next show will be in Quechee on the first Saturday of October. ■

At the Crossroads

The Upper Valley Stamp Club’s Crossroads Stamp Show in Quechee, Vermont, on April 4 drew a steady crowd seeking stamps and postcards.

George McCowan photo

