

Take A Look At

You already belong to the oldest and biggest matchcover collecting club in the world, but if that's *all* you belong to in the hobby, or if you only belong to RMS and your own local regional club, you're missing out on some valuable sources and services.

A survey I did some years ago showed that the 'average' collector belonged to no less than *six* clubs within the hobby, but I don't think that's true anymore. [*I still belong to six, though*] If you were to spread out various rosters and compare members, you'd see that where there was duplication it's basically the same relatively small group of 'die-hard' collectors, bless their hearts! But, you'd also see that every club has a very significant percentage of members that are to be seen nowhere else in the hobby. If that's *you*, take a look at what those other clubs have to offer that could be of benefit to your collecting efforts.

Bulletins

Frequency per year:

Sierra-Diablo (12 electronic/10 hard copy)
 Long Beach (10 issues)
 Badger (6 issues)
 Denver Strikers (6 issues)
 Great Lakes (6 issues)
 New England (6 issues)
 PNMCC (6 issues)
 Rocky Mountain (6 issues)
 Southeastern (6 issues)
 Tri-State (6 issues)
 Windy City (6 issues)
 Empire (5 issues)
 Liberty Bell (5 issues)
 Angelus (4 issues)
 Berks County (4 issues)
 Connecticut (4 issues)
 Forest City (4 issues)
 Garden State (4 issues)
 MARVA (4 issues)
 Phillu-Quebec (4 issues; bilingual)
 San Diego (4 issues)
 Penn-Ohio (4 issues)?
 Keystone-Lehigh (4 issues)
 Trans Canada (4 issues)

Number of pages per issue:

Angelus (15 pp)
 Phillu-Quebec (12 pp)
 Trans Canada (12 pp)
 Great Lakes (10 pp)
 Connecticut (8 pp)
 Forest City (8 pages)
 Liberty Bell (8 pp)
 Long Beach (8 pp)
 MARVA (8 pp)
 PNMCC (8 pp)
 San Diego (8 pp)
 Sierra-Diablo (8 pp)
 Tri-State (8 pp)
 Empire (6 pages)
 Garden State (6 pp)?
 Rocky Mountain (6pp)
 Badger (4 pp)?
 Berks County (4 pp)?
 Denver Strikers (4 pp)?
 Keystone-Lehigh (4 pp)?
 New England (4 pp)
 Southeastern (4 pp)
 Windy City (2 pp)
 Penn-Ohio (2 pp)?

Color?*

Liberty Bell
 Lone Star (electronic)
 Phillu-Quebec (partial)
 Sierra-Diablo (electronic)
 Southeastern (electronic)
 Trans Canada
 Tri-State Card. (electronic)
*[*Occasional color inserts not counted]*

Optional Electronic?

Lone Star
 Sierra-Diablo
 Southeastern
 Trans Canada
 Tri-State Cardinal

Dues:

Trans Canada (\$19)	Denver Strikers (\$6)	Empire (\$5)	Keystone-Lehigh (\$3)
Phillu-Quebec (\$12 CAN)	Forest City (\$6)	Garden State (\$5)	Penn-Ohio ?
Liberty Bell (\$10)	Rocky Mountain (\$6)	Long Beach (\$5)	Windy City ?
Sierra-Diablo (\$10)	Angelus (\$5)	MARVA (\$5)	Southern Ontario (\$0)
Great Lakes (\$8)	Badger (\$5)	New England (\$5)	
PNMCC (\$7)	Berks County (\$5)	San Diego (\$5)	
Tri-State (\$7)	Connecticut (\$5)	Southeastern (\$5)	

Those Regional Clubs

Auctions:

Angelus
Forest City (@ 2 years)
Garden State
Great Lakes
Liberty Bell
Long Beach
MARVA
Phillu-Quebec
PNMCC
Sierra-Diablo
Trans Canada

Swapfests:

Connecticut (@ 5 years)
Forest City (@ 2 years)
Keystone-Lehigh
Long Beach
Phillu-Quebec
Sierra-Diablo
Southeastern
Trans Canada/S. Ontario

Raffles/Drawings:

Angelus
Long Beach
PNMCC
San Diego
Sierra-Diablo

Club Meetings:

Great Lakes (12)
San Diego (11)
Forest City (11)
Angelus (7)
Tri-State(7)
Long Beach (6)
Rocky Mountain (6)
Southeastern (6)
Southern Ontario (6)
Windy City (6)
Empire (5)
Liberty Bell (5)
New England (5)
Berks County (4)
Connecticut (4)
MARVA (4)
Badger (3)
Denver Strikers (2)
Garden State?
Penn-Ohio?
Keystone-Lehigh (1)
Trans Canada (1)
PNMCC (0)
Sierra-Diablo (0)

and declining memberships. The frequency of club meetings has certainly gone down, as officers knock themselves out trying to attract attendees while fewer and fewer collectors actually attend. Notice, two clubs actually have no meetings at all.

Web Site:

Liberty Bell
Lone Star
PNMCC
Sierra-Diablo
Trans Canada

Note that I have listed the clubs in descending order of whatever the topic was.

As you can see, there's quite a range of services and offerings to be had among the various regional clubs. Quick summary:

Bulletin frequency = 12-4 issues
Bulletin pages = 15-2 pages
Color Bulletins = 7 clubs
Electronic Bulletins = 5 clubs
Dues = \$19-free
Auctions = 11 clubs
Swapfests = 8 clubs
Raffles/Drawings = 5 clubs
Club meetings = 12-0
Web site = 5 clubs

For anyone who's been in the hobby for a couple of decades, you can see quite a bit of change has occurred. The number of bulletins per year have gone down, as well as the average number of pages—both a response to rising costs

and declining memberships. The frequency of club meetings has certainly gone down, as officers knock themselves out trying to attract attendees while fewer and fewer collectors actually attend. Notice, two clubs actually have no meetings at all.

With reference to the latter, it may be that more and more collectors want the advantages of belonging to a club *without* the demands of going to meetings...and/or, these days...the ever increasing travel costs. Also, it used to be that club meetings offered the only practical way for collectors to be in touch with one another, but, today, the internet ties most of us together. Still, I always enjoyed the club meetings I went to...as long as more than a handful of people showed up.

What's really interesting about all of the above information, though, is the variety of options that a collector has when looking for clubs to join—the variety of costs, the format and content of the bulletins, the special activities a club may offer, web site access, and so forth. There's something for every collector: whether the collector is 'semi-serious' or fanatical, whether the collector is more into the social activities or just wants to focus on the covers, whether he or she is looking to participate and volunteer or just be on the receiving end—all those needs and more can be met by one or more clubs within the hobby.

So, once again, I urge all collectors to belong to multiple clubs and reap even more benefits!