



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 7, July 2025

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293

www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

Meeting Schedule: 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

WILKPEX 2026 – Friday and Saturday April 10 & 11 (10 AM-4 PM; 10 AM-3 PM), 2026 – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

Christmas in July!!!

WSC is having a Christmas in July Party! It will be on July 27th (the 4th Sunday of July) at the Churchill Municipal Building. The cost will be \$10 per person (members and guests). Please tell Danielle ASAP if you will be attending and how many in your party.

We will be finalizing the menu at our next meeting (July 13) – so far it looks like this: Persian and Linguine salads; Stuffed chicken breast; Glazed carrot balls and Manhatten Veggie mix; Baby bakers tatoes; Penna in Marinara Sauce. We have to decide on a second meat course – the top choices are Roast Beef & Baked Cod. All of us liked the food from Jadens – please check out their web site (<https://jadenscatering.com>) to see if something else looks like a choice. Danielle is also going to make sure we cater to dietary needs.



(2025 Winter Cheer Stamps!)

Treasurer's Report – As of the end of May 2025 we have \$9565.17 in the bank. Danielle will produce a detailed report each month with income and expenses.

We have cleaned out the downstairs space and the closet. Most of the books will be taken to APS for their library. We also weeded the old souvenir sheets so we will have a reasonable amount for future sales.

The first 3 volumes (6 books) of the 2026 Scott Catalog have arrived. The rest should come over the next few months. We will decide how we will dispose of the old set later (Christmas prize anyone?).

Davidson's Stamp Service (where Danielle had long gotten her odd-shaped stamps) is retiring so another mail-order dealer was recommended. It is Bombay Philatelic Inc, PO Box 301, Wake Forest NC 27588, email sales@bombaystamps.com or call 561-499-7990.

Danielle, Wylie, Dave D, John and Joyce had a fun trip to APS in May. Stay tuned for the next trip! All APS members are invited to go to Bellefonte.

We have 4 new members!

4/18/25 – Kevin Brockett and Dr. Alice Morgan – Alice makes philatelic jewelry and was at WILKPEX 2025. They reside in Houghton Michigan and their collecting interests are New Zealand lighthouses, dragons and birds.

5/25/25 – Jay Gamze – Jay lives in Penn Hills and his collecting interests are beautiful and historical stamps.

6/10/25 – Barbara Campsie – Barb lives in the Blackridge area of Wilkinsburg (not far from where we meet) and she describes herself as an "amateur" collector.

Welcome to all our new members!



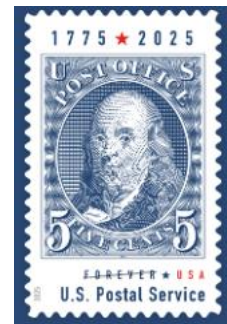
We received a nice card from member Janet Gillis. Please feel free to write at the address below, especially if you don't usually make it to meetings. Your letters are read to all.

Philatelic News

Prices for Forever Stamps going up on July 13th! 73 cents to 78 cents! Buy now!!!!!!

Stay tuned for surprise stamp issues through the year!

- July US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
 - Schooner Pre-printed postcard (July 18) – Pre-printed USPS postcard featuring a classic sailing schooner
 - 250 Years of Delivering (July 23) – 20 interconnected stamps showing a typical postal worker on her route through a small time. There is an accompanying brochure.
 - Ben Franklin (July 23) – Celebrating 250 years of postal service with a reproduction of an early Ben Franklin stamp.



There are many changes happening in the US Government right now. The USPS has not been left out. Stay tuned for more news.

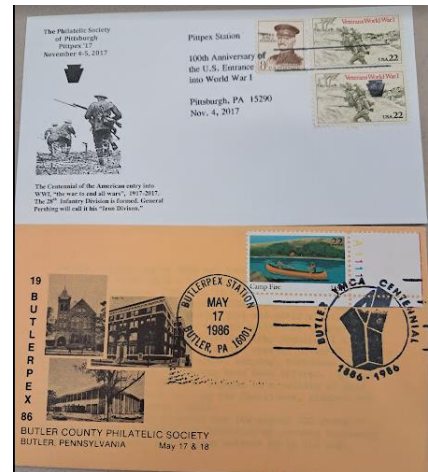
Collector's Corner

Show and Tell is at the second meeting of each month. Please bring an item to show and talk about. It can be about a topic other than stamps. Sharing the story is the important part.

From the June Meeting:

- a. Maureen brought some movie money that had been found at Clean Up Day. These \$100 bills looked very realistic from afar but up close it was clear they were not real cash.
- b. Dave D had stamps he purchased in the Azores. He said he looked while they were in the islands but he only found some when at the airport. He had a strip of International mailing stamps and 2 souvenir booklets.

- c. David A had a book from the "Gathering of Eagles" at graduation for the Air Force Air Command & Staff College. Each year they'd invite prominent people in the air community to come and talk, and a book including a cool painting of all of the Eagles' vehicles was made. David also got many autographs from the Eagles over the years.
- d. Ron brought 2 cachets purchased at WILKPEX – one from the 1986 Butler Show and one from 2017 PITTPEX. Local shows are a great way to build up a cachet collection.



Please take some time before the August 24th meeting and see if you have something fun to share from your collection!

More Pony Express Facts from Phil Bronner:

Quick Facts – Pony Express:

- Riders – between 80 and 100 total
- Salary - \$100 per month
- Qualifications – Aged 11 – mid 40s. Had to weigh less than 125 lbs.
- Earliest Riders – Johnny Fry (St Josephs), James Randall (San Francisco), Billy Hamilton (Sacramento)
- Youngest Rider – Legend says Bronco Charlie Miller was 11 years old
- Riders Changed – Every 75 – 100 miles at Home Stations
- Horses Changed – Every 10 – 15 miles at Relay Stations
- Speed of Rider – Average 10 miles per hour
- Horses Used – Mustangs, Morgans, Pintos and Thoroughbreds

- Stations – Estimated between 120 & 190 stations, located every 5 – 20 miles.
- Mochila – Saddlebag designed especially for the Pony Express to carry the mail. On the eastern end they were made by saddle maker Israel Landis.
- Route – 1966 miles from St Joseph MO to Sacramento CA. Through Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California. The riders crossed the Missouri River by ferry boat, located at the foot of Francis Street.
- Time – The route typically took 10 days.
- Quickest Run – Carrying President Lincoln's Inaugural Address, the riders took 7 days 17 hours.
- Total Miles – Approximately 650,000 miles traveled.
- Longest Ride – Pony Bob Haslam rode 370 miles from Station Friday to Smith Creek and back again.
- Cost of Mail - \$5.00 per ½ ounce at first. Later the price was lowered to \$1.00 per ½ ounce when a new, light weight paper was used.
- Founders – Russell, Majors and Waddell. Their company was the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express (COC&PP). The Pony Express was a subsidiary of the freight and stage company. Some said that COC&PP really stood for "Clean Out of Cash & Poor Pay!"
- Dates – The Pony Express lasted from April 3, 1860, until October 24, 1861.
- Telegraph – The telegraph line along that route was completed on October 24, 1861.
- Success – The Pony Express proved that the Central Route could be traveled all year round. The government moved the Overland Mail Company, which had the mail contract, from the Southern/Butterfield Route to the Central Route in 1861. Keeping the lines of communication open and the flow of mail going influenced California remaining in the Union.
- Failure – Financially, the Pony Express was a failure. The owners invested \$700,000 and left with a \$200,000 deficit. The company failed to secure the government mail contract. The company was sold at auction to Ben Holliday in March 1862. Four years later, he sold out to Wells Fargo for \$2,000,000.

Titanic passenger's postcard fetches £20,000

Story by Brian Farmer - BBC News, Norfolk and Steve Silk - BBC News, Norfolk

11/17/24

An "extremely rare" postcard written by a Titanic passenger who died after the liner hit an iceberg on 14 April 1912 has fetched £20,000 at auction.

First-class passenger Richard William Smith wrote to a friend in Norwich when the liner was at Queenstown - near Cork - in Munster, Ireland, on 11 April 1912.

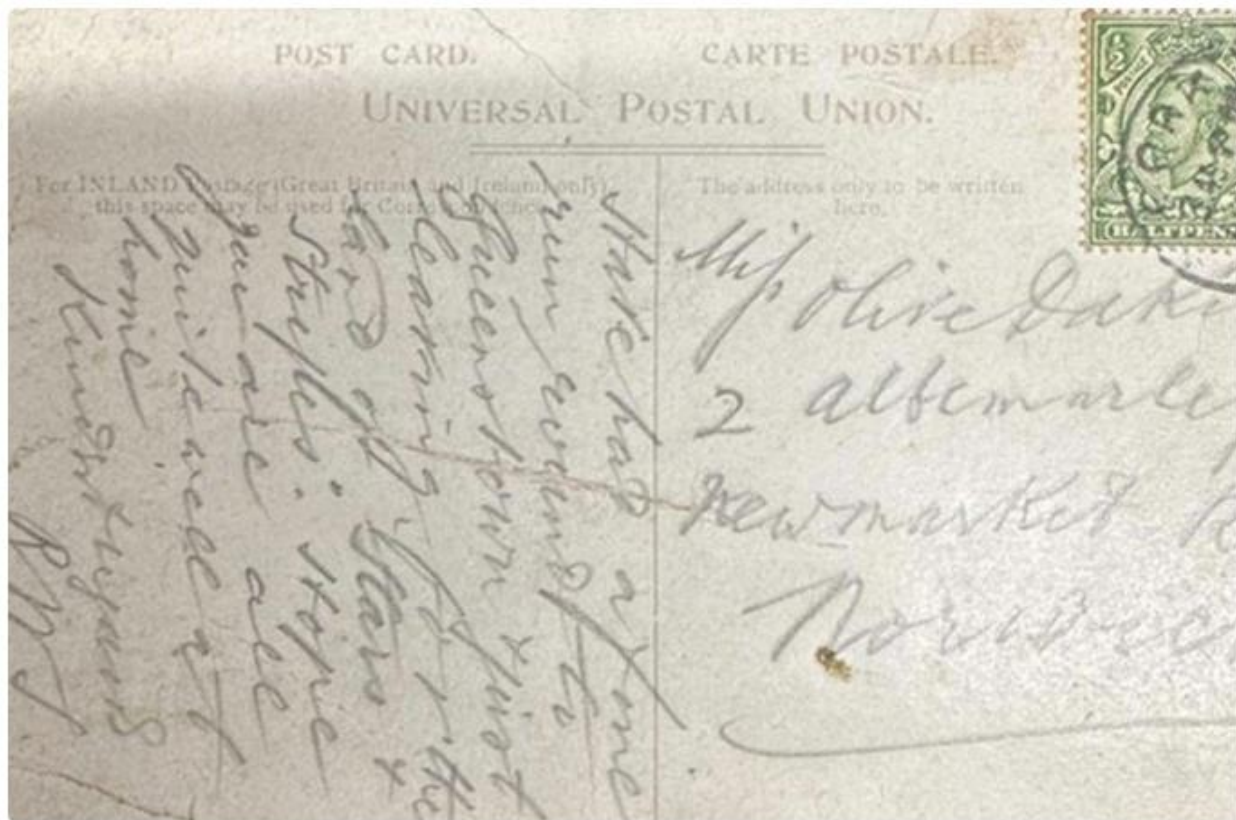
"It is an incredibly powerful and poignant message," said Mr Aldridge.

"He had no idea of what was coming over the horizon approximately 80 hours later."

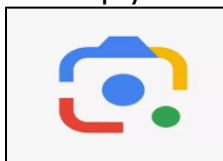
The postcard's lettering is in swirling ink and slightly unclear.

But the card appears to be addressed to Mrs Olive Dakin of 2 Albemarle Place, Newmarket Road, Norwich.

John Balls, chairman of The Norfolk Titanic Society and author of two books on the tragedy, said he remembered the postcard previously coming up for sale in the 1990s.



Did you know that your phone can help you ID stamps, without a special app?



The steps may vary depending on the type and age of your phone.

For an Android device, on the home page find the Google Lens image in the Google Search bar (see above). Point your camera at the stamp, steady your hand, and press the translate button. The picture will have the English translation superimposed on the stamp. This way you can know the country and text on the stamp. Search for how to do this on your phone!

Upcoming Events Nearby

- July 14 – 18, 2025 – Volunteer Work Week at APS
- July 19, 2025 – K2 Show – Mars PA
- July 20, 2025 – Canton Stamp Bourse – Canton OH
- July 26 – The Big Erie Stamp Show 2025 – Erie PA
- July 27, 2025 – Albany Summer Stamp and Postcard Show – Albany NY
- August 14 – 17, 2025 – Great American Stamp Show – Schaumburg IL
- Sept 7, 2025 – K2 Show – Churchill PA
- November 2025 – PITTPEX, Bridgeville PA (More to come)
- April 10 – 11, 2026 – WILKPEX, Plum PA

For more details google the stamp club or look at the latest issue of the American Philatelist Magazine or the calendar at APS - (<https://stamps.org/events/events-calendar>)



Boston 2026 World Stamp Show will be the 12th International Philatelic Exhibition hosted in the United States. The show will be held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center from May 23-30, 2026, to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary). There is no separate GASS in 2026.

Book your rooms NOW!

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Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

All are welcome! Free admission! Wonderful snacks! Stamps! Fun for all!

WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

2026 – Friday April 10 & Saturday April 11 (10 AM-4 PM; 10 AM-3 PM) – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

Officers:

President, Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Maureen McKeever
(maurmomck@gmail.com)

Vice President: John Harding (hardingeb@gmail.com)

Acting Treasurer: Danielle Weaver

Membership & Circuit Manager: Danielle Weaver (dmm742000@yahoo.com)

Web Tech: Dave Duggins (davidfduggins@gmail.com)

WSC c/o Danielle Weaver, 3710 Henley Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15235

Newsletter:

Original articles for the newsletter can be submitted from any member to Maureen at a meeting or emailed to her (see above) or via regular mail:

Maureen McKeever, 118 Larchwood Drive, Turtle Creek PA 15145.

Club members will be mailed a black and white copy of the newsletter each month. Anyone can request a color copy to be delivered at a meeting, but please let Scott Shaulis (scottshaulis@comcast.net) know ahead of time.



(Order now for Christmas!)