



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 6, June 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!!!

The Club wanted to have a summer get-together and we will be having a Christmas in July Party! It will be on July 27th (the 4th Sunday of July) at the Churchill Municipal Building. We will select food from Jaden's catering menu and all club members are invited with their family members. There will be fun activities! (and yes, we will still have a celebration in December!)

If you are interested please sign up at the next meetings or contact Danielle Weaver (email address at the end) to RSVP so we know how much food to order. ASAP please!



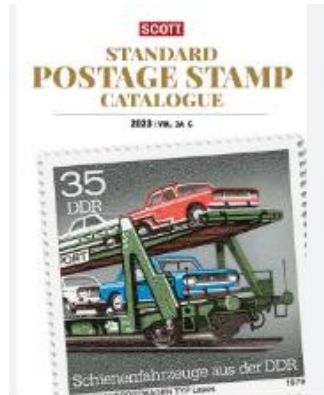
(2025 Winter Landscape stamps – 1 more at the end!)

We will be cleaning out our basement space and neatening what we have in the closet at the end of June. The Club can help "redd up" at the 2nd June Meeting (June 22).

Scott placed a preorder for the 2026 Scott Catalog set to be sure we have a current catalog. Amos Media (the publisher) has been having financial issues so this may be the last one available.

A collector has offered to sell our membership a set of Zeppelins with Pittsburgh cancels. If interested please let Maureen know – she will send you the email.

We are missing Volume 3-A of our current Scott catalogs (white covers) that someone likely took home and never returned. Please look and return if you have it. We will make a sign-out system for future borrowing!



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.

We have 4 new members! More information will be in the next newsletter!

Philatelic News

Stay tuned for surprise stamp issues through the year!

- June US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
 - US Flag (June 7) – 1 Design with 3 versions of the latest US Flag Forever stamp (Pane, booklet and coil)
 - Barbara Bush (June 10) – Honoring the former First Lady
 - Spectacled Eiders (June 27) – The latest Duck Stamp which raises money for Federal conservation of water environments.



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

Wylie found this article from long-time columnist Cal Thomas about the USPS:

Cal Thomas: Time to stamp out the post office

CAL THOMAS | Friday, April 18, 2025 2:00 p.m.

Better buy your “Forever” stamps now, because the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has announced another price increase. On July 13, the cost of a first-class stamp is scheduled to rise from 73 cents to 78 cents. The plan is to raise prices four more times by 2027. Meanwhile, it appears for many people that service is declining.

As a kid I couldn’t wait for the “mailman” to arrive, always at the same time and the same person each day. At Christmas, there were deliveries in the morning and afternoon. For a while I collected stamps, especially those from overseas. Before the internet, mail was how people kept in touch. In 1985, the price of a first-class stamp was 22 cents. My grandparents sent “penny postcards.” Domestic postcards will now cost 62 cents, more if you mail them to another country.

I recently sent a book from one major East Coast city to another. It was by media mail, the cheapest rate. Normally it takes four to five days to arrive. This time it took 11 days. The postal service webpage said the book sat in the originating post office for a week before moving.

A reader wrote to me about his own frustration with the once-reliable post office: “My latest attempt to send a more expensive, yet more reliable, letter was by Priority Mail. Mailed on April 7, it was supposed to have arrived on April 10, then the 11th, in High Falls, NY! The correct address and ZIP codes were verified. After it left S/W Kansas, it got to Pennsylvania, on the 10th, before it evidently went to Richmond, VA. Then was forwarded, again in error, to Chesapeake, VA, where a supposed delivery attempt was made, before they found their error. Marked it in red for final delivery yesterday. However, Chesapeake sent it back to Richmond, via Norfolk, where it sat a while longer, before Richmond sent it back to Chesapeake for delivery again!

“This time, Chesapeake finally noted the error and allegedly marked it for redelivery to High Falls! It (went again to) Richmond and supposedly left for its destination. Presumably, High Falls, NY! But who knows how long that will take, or IF they send it to the wrong post office once again!

“A previous Priority Mail letter with the same destination, took eleven (11) days. Yet, previous letters took only the original four days to arrive.”

I am beginning to experience and hear more of these stories. My local post office is usually understaffed, even when there are long lines. Those who apply for passports take up large amounts of time and keep the rest of us waiting to mail a single item.

A major contributor to the rising prices of stamps is the postal service's obligation to its retirees. As Axios reports: "The (USPS) faces substantial pension obligations, with unfunded liabilities totaling \$409 billion against just \$290 billion in assets. This is largely due to a system where USPS is responsible for its own retirement funding, unlike other federal agencies which receive annual appropriations. The USPS is required to pre-fund retiree health benefits, and this mandate, along with other factors, contributes to the significant unfunded liabilities."

As prices go up, usage declines. It's similar to states run by Democrats. As they raise taxes, more people leave. Even more leave after taxes are raised again to make up for lost revenue. Bills can now be paid through online banks. Free digital holiday cards can be emailed, saving money on stamps and the cards.

President Trump has proposed shutting down the postal service and rolling it into the Department of Commerce. Since 1792, the post office has had exclusive rights to deliver letters. Lifting that restriction would open things up to competition and presumably lower prices.

What we have now is too expensive and inefficient. It's time to stamp it out.

We have an article about the Pony Express from member Phil Bronner – this is Part One:

Pony Express Letter – Phil Bronner

I was intrigued with the article about the history of the USPS, especially the Pony Express. On a 2015 vacation, we visited many battlefields, natural wonders and historical points from Oregon to Massachusetts and back. (MA is my home state). We took 6 weeks, to travel almost 9,000 miles through 23 states.

The photos enclosed are the Ehmen Park in Gothenburg, Nebraska. There are two Pony Express stations here, one on a ranch just outside of town, the other that's been moved to this park. The park itself is unique as it's also an arboretum, with over 55 species of trees, each with a marker in front of it. The 1st photo is our Jeep and camper at the park (wife trying to hide behind the Jeep) and the 2nd is of the Pony Express "Home Station".

I included a "Quick Facts" sheet about the Pony Express for your interested club members.

Also, a trivia question for the club members: What was the first US postage stamp to honor the Pony Express?

It was Scott 113, the 2-cent brown of the 1869 issue depicting a Pony Express rider.

There are several Pony Express structures still saved, from St. Joe MO to Sacramento CA.

I look forward to adding another "Souvenir Sheet" to my Upper Slobbovia Albums!



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 April Meeting:

- a. Maureen talked about the Art Cover Exchange – she had found some cool one-of-a-kind covers and researched to find that ACE was originally founded in 1935 to allow people to share original art and greetings. It had dwindled until the granddaughter of the founder started ACE2 in 1985. They have a website and newsletter and are another cool branch of philately.

- b. Danielle brought an album that belonged to Dave Kidney that has ALL of the souvenir sheets from before there was WILKPEX. It included stories of their creations.
- c. Gene brought a freak sheet of the Christmas Elf stamps of 2022 – the top perf is about where the red line is in the picture below. It was sent to him by member Michael Mitchica (sp?) from California. He offered to sell them to us for \$30 so Danielle called him and asked him to send us some. If anyone wants one the Club has them for \$30
- d. Mike brought a German Steel WWII helmet that his and Sam's father had brought back from his war service. It was very heavy and you could barely see where a swastika had been painted on the side.



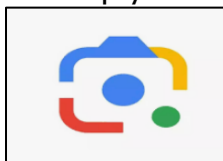
From the May Meeting:

- a. Maureen brought her Betty White First Day Covers from the USPS Fulfillment Center. She also had a Field Notes with the stamp and postmark on the cover. These small, pocket notebooks are offered for sale as part of the FDC Packages for most new issues (and they are made in the USA!).
- b. Maureen also let everyone know that the past week was National Mailbox Awareness Week, where everyone was urged to inspect and maintain their mailbox to help with the efficient delivery of mail.
- c. Dawn Richards sent a sheet talking about traffic signals in the US, including a photo she took in Cleveland, where the first electric traffic signal came into use.



Please take some time before the June 22nd meeting and see if you have something fun to share from your collection!

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

- June 6 – 8, 2025 – NAPEX, Tyson's Corner VA
- June 21 – 22, 2025 – SCOPEX 2025, Bellefonte PA
- July 14 – 18, 2025 – Volunteer Work Week at APS
- August 14 – 17, 2025 – Great American Stamp Show – Schaumburg IL
- Sept 7, 2025 – K2 Show – Churchill PA
- November 2025 – PITTPLEX, 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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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.



(Oh no! Watch out for the ice caves!)