



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 10, October 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

Longtime member Mickey Iannoe passed away in August. A moment of silence was held in his honor.

As you are going through your stamps getting ready for the WILKPEX Phlea Market, please put aside stamps to contribute to PITTPEX's raffle bowls – their show is November 8th & 9th in Bridgeville. Please bring these stamps to the October meetings. These can be US or World-wide. Please continue to set aside stamps for our raffle jar at WILKPEX in April!



It's time to get an exhibit (or 2) ready on your favorite topic! If you have any questions please ask a member who's done exhibits.

Treasurer's Report – Danielle reported that at the end of August the Club had \$9791.91 in the bank.

We have received the entire set of 2026 Scott Catalogs, so we will be auctioning off the 2023 set at our regular meeting on November 23rd. If anyone is interested please bring your checkbook to the meeting or send your bid in via email to Maureen and Danielle. If not bidding in person, please put your max offer in the email.

**The Club is looking into obtaining permanent magnetic-style name tags to be used at WILKPEX as well as at meetings, so Maureen can remember everyone's name. {It's not just me – we're all at that point plus we're getting new members from time to time.} If you have any ideas on where we obtain reasonably-priced name tags please bring it to a meeting! More info to follow!

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.



Please feel free to write at the address below, especially if you don't usually make it to meetings. Your letters are read aloud at our meetings.

We will be having our Christmas Party in December (final date TBD). Food will be served at **12 noon** regardless of the date!

Philatelic News

Stay tuned for surprise stamp issues through the year!

- October US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
 - Jimmy Carter (Oct 1) – Honoring the 39th President of the US on what would have been his 101st birthday. Jimmy Carter died at the end of 2024.



As of now there are no more new issues scheduled for 2025. Stay tuned for information on 2026!

The USPS has announced that they will NOT be raising the price of first-class mail past 78 cents in January!

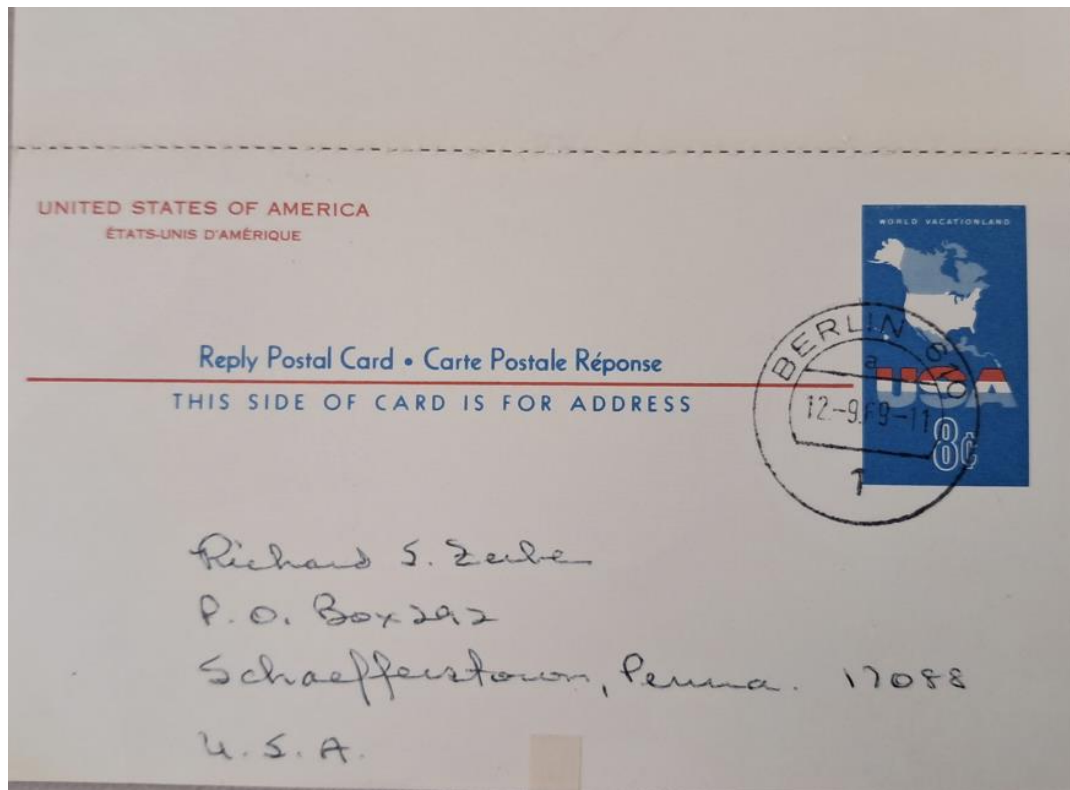
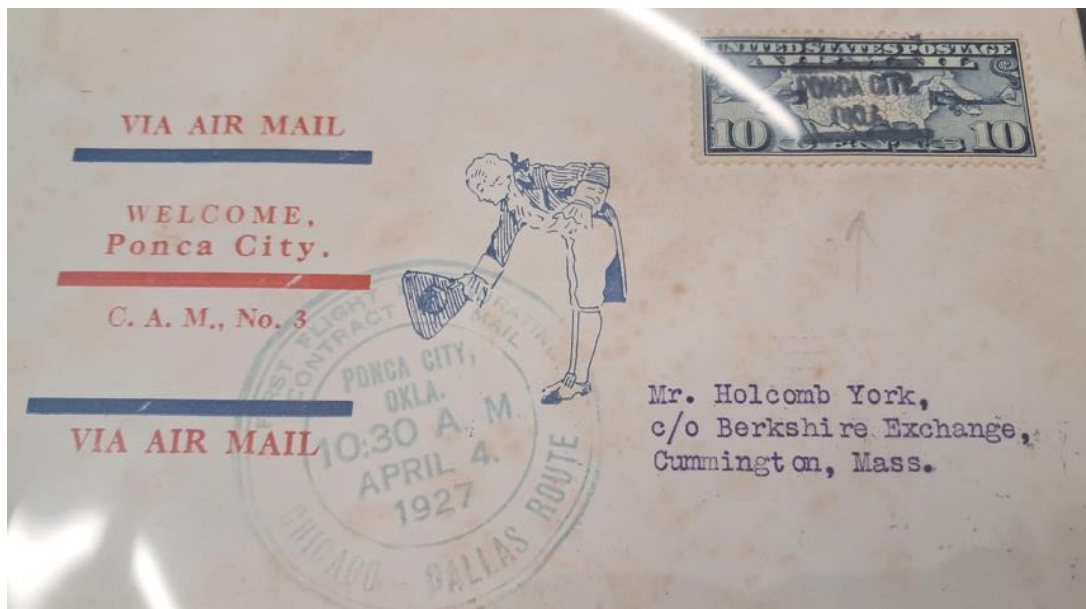
There are many changes happening in the US Government right now. The USPS has not been left out. Stay tuned for more news.

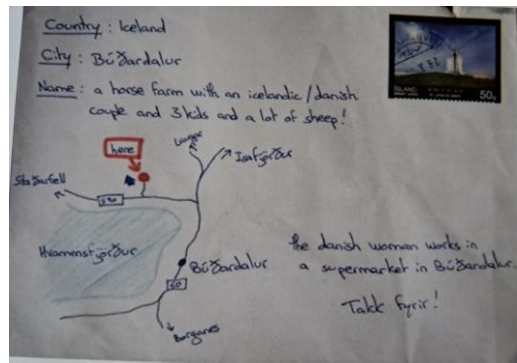
Collector's Corner

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.

1. Show and Tell:
 - a. Danielle brought in another album of odd shape/material stamps, countries "C" to "E".
 - b. John is currently working on first airmail covers from around the US, and he brought one from Ponca City OK with precancels on each stamp. He also had a US Postal Reply card that was still intact after going to Germany and back.
 - c. Ron brought a copy of Remind magazine, which is all about trivia – he had the Collectibles Issue. He also had a wedding invitation cover that his son received, with 6 different older stamps on it (like we send out the newsletters).
 - d. Maureen had things from the internet – a letter mailed in Iceland with no address, just a map and description of the house, that got delivered in 2020, and a funny meme featuring a British Christmas stamp.
 - e. Marti told a story about recently sending a card without the house number, just the street name and where it was on the street, and it got delivered.







Please take some time before the October 26th meeting and see if you have something fun to share from your collection!

How The Giant Concrete Arrows Across America Guided Airmail Pilots In The 1920s

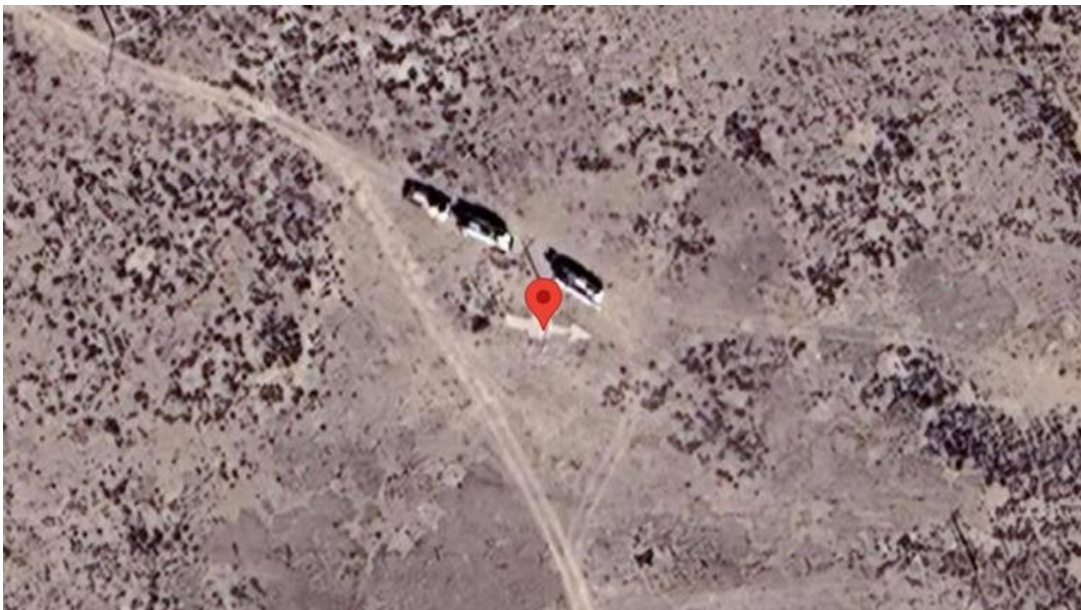
Story by Shane Schmid – SlashGear – 8/5/25



By the Fall of 1920, the U.S. Post Office had successfully completed its first transcontinental delivery from New York all the way to San Francisco. But while this was certainly much faster than ground transport, coast-to-coast airmail had its own challenges. At just a few decades into aircraft design, pilots didn't yet have the technology to safely navigate at night or in inclement weather. These planes were open cockpit, primarily made of wood and required a flight suit, helmet, and a bit of luck. GPS wasn't invented yet, but all the first airmail pilots did get Hamilton company pilot watches, which include specific features designed to help navigation, though reliably flying these mail routes still proved difficult.

To combat these challenges, postal officials arranged for acetylene gas beacons installed every three miles along airmail routes. These beacons could be seen for up to 10 miles, and were also used to identify areas for emergency landings. In fact, [how pilots see at night](#) today still involves ground lighting, and the use of modern navigation instruments.

The Department of Commerce would later install massive cement arrows as long as 70 feet at each one of the beacon towers. Each tower was identified by a number, and the giant arrows were made to point to the next number in sequence. Meaning, while flying one direction the identifying numbers went up, and traveling the opposite, the numbers counted down.



The beacon towers and ground lighting did prove very useful for early airmail pilots navigating in the dark. However, the arrows and their bright yellow color were invisible during the evening, making them only potentially beneficial during daylight hours. Unfortunately, depending on the altitude, sometimes the arrows couldn't be seen by pilots among the terrain far below.

So, while this massive concrete arrow project continued until 1931, many airmail pilots had already taken to utilizing larger markers, such as bodies of water, distinctive mountain peaks and other natural formations to identify their position, when available. In some regions, no standout visual features were present to help guide pilots, and the use of a compass was required, which was one of the [technologies that changed exploration forever](#).

However, many of these cement arrows can still be found (albeit in various forms of disrepair) throughout the country. And history buffs, eager to keep the stories of the past alive, have begun systematically cataloging these sites, and photographing them. This effort was kicked off by Brian and Charlotte Smith, who had traveled to 70 arrows by 2016. For those interested, you can see their current progress at [Dream Smith Photos](#), which offers images, arrow and beacon locations, and old airmail routes.

Upcoming Events Nearby

- Sept 7, 2025 – K2 Show – Churchill PA
- Sept 13, 2025 – TUSCOPEX, New Philadelphia PA
- Oct 4, 2025 – K2 Mars Bourse, Mars PA (Mars VFW)
- Oct 24 – 25, 2025 – Cuy-LorPex 2025, Rocky River OH
- November 8 – 9, 2025 – PITTPEX, Bridgeville PA
- Nov. 22, 2025 – Black River Stamp Club, Elyria OH
- Feb 6 & 7 – McKinley Stamp Club Show – Canton OH
- 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.



(The tariff ship is making another run!!)