



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

## Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2025

*Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293*

[www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com](http://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.

Note – **Only 1 Meeting in December** – December 7<sup>th</sup> for Holiday Party

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



Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Holiday/Christmas Party



**Sunday December 7, 2025** at the Churchill Borough Building Yagle Community Room - Family and Friends welcome!

Setup at 11 AM - Events start at 11:30 AM - Food served at 12 noon

There will be games and fun!

Jaden's Catering is again providing the feast. Menu: Tossed Salad, Homemade Linguini Salad, Rolls, Baby Baker's Roasted Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots (aka Carrot Balls!), Cauliflower and Cheese, Stuffed Chicken Breasts, Baked Cod w/Tomatoes & Thyme, Penne in Marinara Sauce, Various Desserts, Various drinks (you can bring your own non-alcoholic drinks), BYOB (wine only please).



Wintertime is the time to prepare for WILKPEX 2026!

- We are still collecting stamps for our Raffle Jar for WILKPEX! These can be US or World-wide. You can bring these to a meeting.



- 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.
- Cull your collection! If you have extra stuff, package them up for the Phlea Market and make a few bucks on your junk!
- If you have an idea for a WILKPEX cachet or for the souvenir sheet, please bring to an upcoming meeting or write in!
- We discussed placing paid ads in the Greensburg Trib this year to try to increase attendance at the show.
- There has been interest in some members having a dealer's table with all items less than \$1 – using the APS/GASS rules. This would be in addition to the Phlea Market where members can price items at any amount.

Treasurer's Report – Danielle reported that at the end of October the Club had \$10,599.44 in the bank.

We auctioned off the 2023 Scott Catalog set at our meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the winner was Dave D, with John buying the US Specialized Catalog. If you have Volume 5B please bring it for Dave.

The Club is looking at obtaining permanent magnetic-style name tags to be used at WILKPEX as well as at meetings. More details will follow.



If you have any photos from past Club events please send them to Dave Duggins for inclusion in our website gallery.

Winners of the door prizes for November were Ron, Maureen, and Stevan.

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.

## Philatelic News

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.

## Stamp collectors acquire the Scott catalog and Linn's Stamp News - From Scott Stamp Monthly November 2025:

Some key points from the first new edition:

- The process to separate the stamp-related materials from Amos Media has already begun and will take time, but it should not be visible to users.
- The size of stamp images in the catalogs will be restored to their previous larger sizes.
- Make the Weekly Linn's Stamp News site more reactive with breaking stories while retaining the week-end PDF version.
- Revitalizing the Scott Stamp Monthly magazine to include more international and vibrant topics to reach more collectors.
- Collaborating with groups such as APS to amplify education and outreach efforts.
- Many of these will be announced at the Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo, with the 2027 GASS in Albuquerque as the first show under the independent Scott Stamp LLC banner.

## Collector's Corner

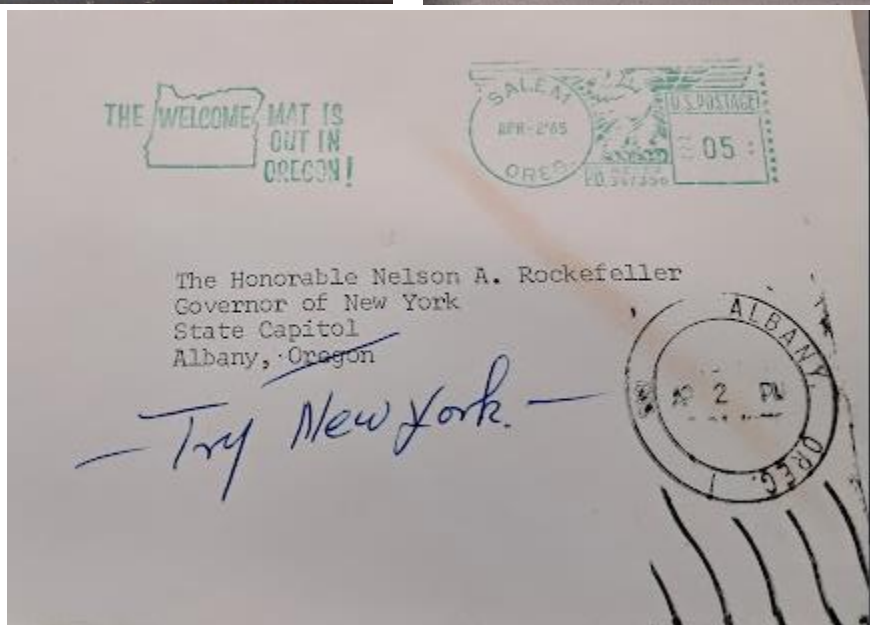
Show and Tell is at the second meeting of each month. Please bring an item to show and talk about. It can be about a topic other than stamps. Sharing the story is the important part.

### 1. November Show and Tell:

- a. Danielle brought a tiny box of Atlantic City "postcards" from early 1900's which were in a box that could be mailed.
- b. Jim had an airmail cover sent 1/10/30 that took till June to be returned due to "Wrecked Mail Plane".
- c. John had one of his NY Governor Rockefeller covers – this one was from the State of Oregon and was addressed to Gov Rockefeller in "Albany OR" and got there, with a note assed "try New York"! He also had a Scott Minkus-sold cover

with wood block art depicting the Belgium refugee stamp, with the stamp attached, signed by the artist.

- d. Ron had a Christmas ornament depicting the 1972 8 cent Santa Stamp (along with an actual stamp). He also brought his copy of the new Scott Stamp Monthly magazine, with the new owner's.
- e. Stephan mentioned that no one seems to talk about the assassination of JFK anymore on the anniversary. Everyone agreed that this seemed to be true.
- f. Maureen brought some German City money from early 1921. It was from Löbejün, in south-east Germany, and was very well printed, including a picture of the broke man with his pockets turned out.







Please take some time before the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and see if you have something fun to share from your collection!

A story that could be about any of us and our stamp-collecting parent:

By Mariia Krystopchuk, translated from the Ukrainian by A.M.LaVey

The American Philatelist, September 2022

Dad was an avid philatelist before I was born. It all started in his youth. Born into a family of wealthy farmers from the Rivne region of Ukraine, they could barely make ends meet after dekulakization. Dad spent his childhood hungry. When he arrived at the Lviv Academy of Veterinary Medicine after serving in the Soviet army, he had nothing to his name.

He studied well and received a scholarship. It was during this time that he became interested in stamps. He had a lot of passion, but little money leftover from his scholarship. He worked part-time, on the night shift unloading coal trains. He was paid 40 rubles for each car unloaded, which he spent on philately.

He mostly collected thematic stamps featuring art, flora and fauna.



My dad made his first stamp album himself from loose pages, and he corresponded and exchanged stamps with Polish, Hungarian and Bulgarian philatelists.

Over more than 30 years, he developed quite the collection.

And then I was born.

His priorities changed; my parents worked hard and did their best to provide me with a good childhood and education. There was a time when Dad wanted to sell his collection – there were many interested buyers, but I begged him not to.

Sometimes I joke that I am the most expensive stamp in his collection, but he corrects me, saying “You are not a stamp, Mariika.”

Looking through his collection with him is always a joy. As a child, I always asked him to show me “the pretty ones with the kittens.” I never touched the album myself. I knew you should not touch stamps with your bare hands. Dad would take a magnifying glass and tongs, and we plunged into the world of these colorful scraps of paper.

In the 28 years since I was born, a single new stamp has appeared in my Dad’s collection. Although I have been living on my own for a long time, my father did not return to philately. He says he has lost interest. I know that this is not so. A light flashes in his eyes whenever you ask about his stamps.

“Look at these, they were published in the Ukrainian People’s Republic. Ours, Ukrainian. 1919. Do you see this one? It is valuable because it is an error. It was quickly withdrawn from circulation, but I managed to buy it,” he laughs. “Here are those precancels from Cuba. I loved to collect art. Here I have a little communist stamp. They seemed evil to me, but I was happy to exchange them for something better. Someone was collecting those as well.” From time to time, I thought about reviving my dad's passion. It seemed natural and effortless.

When Ukrposhta issued a stamp with the hero of Snake Island (shown above), I felt – this is it.

But it turned out, I was not fast enough – the stamps disappeared, quickly selling out as soon as they appeared. The excitement is wild, because the stamp is so inspiring.

I saw ads periodically for the stamp on a well-known online platform, where these legendary stamps were being sold for 10, 20, 30 (and sometimes more) times their original price, and weighed the arguments, but then a friend simply gave me the stamp.

But in fact, it is so much more than just a stamp.

A small piece of adhesive paper with a ship and a figure eloquently showing his middle finger created a real miracle.

My Dad turned into a little boy who had just been given a new toy. His eyes gleamed and he stared at the stamp through the thick lenses of his glasses with fascination and amazement. Dad spent a long time flipping through his albums looking for the right place to put it, and I secretly planned to find and buy a new one – it will definitely be needed.

The Russian ship stirred a faint smoldering fire and lit a new one. It started a new page.

There are so many more wonders in the whimsical world of these colorful postal miniatures. Now I will travel this world with my Dad. Together.



## Upcoming Events Nearby

- Dec 13, 2025 – Erie Stamp Club Stamping with Santa
- Feb 6 & 7 – McKinley Stamp Club Show – Canton OH
- March 13-15 – Garfield-Perry March Party – Strongsville 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! Nearby hotels may already be sold out!**

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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](mailto:maurmomck@gmail.com))

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

Acting Treasurer: Danielle Weaver

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

Web Tech: Dave Duggins ([davidfduggins@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:scottshaulis@comcast.net) ) know ahead of time.



(Taking all the stamps to Boston for the big show!)