



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 16, October 2022

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293

www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

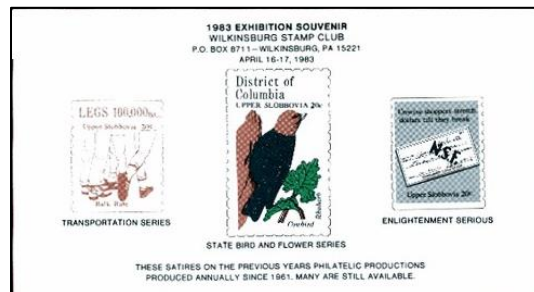
Meeting Schedule: 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

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

WILKPEX 2023 – Friday and Saturday April 14 (10 AM – 5 PM) & 15 (10 AM – 4 PM), 2023 – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

- Stevan will make a Zoom Meeting presentation on Wednesday February 22nd about our World Famous Souvenir Sheets! This is for the Lancaster Stamp club. All are invited to attend and view!

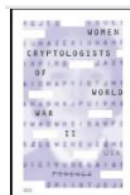


- If you want to **get** the newsletter via email ONLY or **not** in the mail (since it is viewable on the website by the 1st of each month in living color), please notify Dave Pressler (Membership Officer) at the email address at the end of the newsletter. You can also tell him at a meeting. We are hoping to have the email newsletter list firmed up by December.
- John Hotchner had a nice article about our World Famous Souvenir Sheets in the August 29th edition of Linn's Stamp News. It included pictures of the 2021 & 2022 sheets and information on how to order them via mail. According to Gene we have sold a bunch!

- WILKPEX 2023 – We already have 4 dealers confirmed for next year’s show. If you have any ideas for the Souvenir sheet please give them to John Harding. Please work on your Phlea Market items – please try to restrict yourself to 20 items so all have a chance to sell items.
- We are planning for the December Holiday Party to take place on Sunday Dec. 11th at Pugliano’s in Plum, not far from the site of WILKPEX. Everyone who attended last year had a great time, so please plan on attending!
- Dave Duggins has archived past newsletters on the website going back to 2014. If you have any old newsletters you can give them to Dave for possible archiving.
- Circuits – Moving forward, instead of going through circuit books at our meetings, Danielle will bring circuits to the meeting and any member can take a whole circuit home to go through and buy. You then bring the circuit back to the next meeting along with your payment. Please contact Danielle if you want to get circuits outside of meetings.
- Just a reminder – dues for the next year (2023, Jan - Dec) will be due in November!

Philatelic News

- October US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
 - Snowy Beauty (Oct. 11th) - 10 stamps depicting flowers in the snow (including one of my faves, Ranunculus!).
 - Kwanzaa (Oct. 13th) – Celebrating the African-American holiday honoring African culture, which takes place during the week between Christmas & New Year’s.
 - Women Cryptologists of WW II (Oct. 18th) – Honoring the work done by women during WWII to crack the codes of the Axis Powers.
 - Hanukkah (Oct. 20th) – Celebrating the Jewish Festival of lights (Dec. 18th – 26th this year)



There are currently no more scheduled US stamp issues for 2022. Stay tuned for the 2023 list!

- The USPS has outlined plans to decrease the number of mail-processing centers in major metro areas and get the mail to the delivery units as quickly as possible. One of the first on the list is the New Castle Processing and Distribution Facility in New Castle PA, up the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh. The Postmaster says this should improve efficiencies in delivering mail and save the USPS money. This does not affect any USPS Retail Units (formerly known as "Post Offices") including PO Boxes. (Bill McAllister, Linn's Sept. 19, 2022)
- According to Cleveland.com, a shortage of delivery employees in the U.S. Postal Service has led to slow or no delivery in communities throughout Greater Cleveland, elsewhere in Ohio and across the nation. It's a problem that was triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and continues to linger, as the postal service tries to fill open jobs – a task made even more complicated as aging workers retire. The scenario in Greater Cleveland, where workers are stretched thin to cover for unfilled positions, is also playing out across the state, including in the Columbus and Cincinnati metro areas. In Cincinnati in August there were more than 200 city carrier positions open. That month the postal service also announced Columbus needed to fill 160 open jobs. Cleveland was looking to fill more than 300 jobs in various positions when it held a job fair in July, including mail handlers, clerks, tractor trailer operators and city carrier assistants -- the entry level position for new carriers. City letter carriers, for example, lug a bag as they walk their routes in the chill of fall and ice and snow of winter. In the spring, delivery goes on through the rain. And in the heat of summer, workers must beware of dehydration from the heat. The starting wage for a full-time city carrier is just over \$21 an hour – a bit less than \$44,000 a year. Reports of delivery issues have cropped up in communities throughout Greater Cleveland during the pandemic. Various media reports early this year cited complaints from residents in Bedford, Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Parma, University Heights and elsewhere about mail not arriving. Those delays were attributed principally to staffing shortages. But they haven't cleared up yet. In one Cleveland Heights neighborhood, for example, mail was delayed regularly after a long-time carrier moved to another route. Some days there was no delivery. On other days mail would arrive well into the evening. Delivery seemed to stabilize over the summer, but recently a resident posted a question on a neighborhood Facebook page: "Are we back to getting no mail delivered?" Several others responded they hadn't seen mail in a few days. On Carroll Avenue this summer in Cleveland's

Ohio City neighborhood residents called WEWS Channel 5 after several days without mail delivery. Since then, service has improved. (Robert Higgs, Cleveland.com, 9/20/22)

- A Reminder – If you are planning on sending packages for Christmas via USPS, be aware that they are planning to slow down package delivery and charge an additional surcharge starting 10/2/22 running through January.
- At least 30 countries have stepped forward to assist Ukraine during the invasion. Some are assisting the Ukrainian Postal Service (Ukrposhta) with funds to help with mobile and temporary post offices, others are helping to send humanitarian packages free to Ukraine, and others have been selling stamps supporting Ukraine, most as semipostals to raise funds. Ukrposhta has also raised money with their own stamps, such as the Snake Island soldier, a farmer towing a Russian tank, and the latest issued on Ukraine's Independence Day. (Linn's 9/12/22)

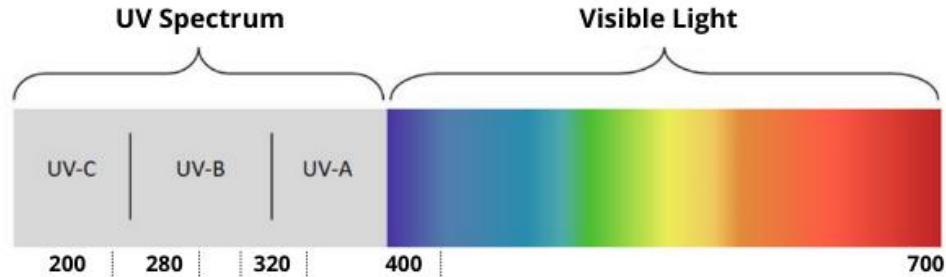


Collector's Corner

- Show and Tell is at the second meeting of each month, This is the time to share an item, and most importantly the story of that item and why it is important to you. It doesn't have to be stamp related – many of our members have other collections such as coins and trains that they like to share.



- Lights – We had a great demonstration last month from Rebecca of how you can use a UV-C light to see whether a stamp has been “tagged” as a genuine US stamp. The “tag” has the stamp kind of glowing a dull yellow where in regular light we see white, and the difference is very evident when viewing the stamps along with the selvage – the selvage doesn’t change color.



This is also an effective sanitizer, so your stamps won’t get sick! I have also been playing with a “black light” UV flashlight, which runs in the 385 – 309 nm wavelength (UV-A). This shows the “infrared” cancellations from the USPS, and on some other stamps you can see different tags. You can also use it to see if old green glass was made with uranium!

The UV-C lights are available on Amazon (or from Deb and Rebecca) for around \$10 and the UV-A flashlights are about \$5 - \$7 on Amazon or Harbor Freight.

- Wanted – If anyone has any cover marked “Dead Letter Office” or any First Day Covers for the 1948 3 cent Four Chaplains (Scott 956) stamp, please let me (Maureen) know. I am looking to purchase these for possible exhibits.

Upcoming Events Nearby

- October 15, 2022 – GETTYPEX, Gettysburg PA
- October 21 – 23, 2022 – AEROPHILATELY 2022 at the APS – Bellefonte PA
- November 2022 – PITTPEX – Bridgeville PA
- April 14 – 15, 2023 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 2023 – Butlerpex, Butler (Lyndora) PA



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Meetings – 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

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

WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

2023 – April 14 (10 AM – 5 PM) & 15 (10 AM – 4 PM) – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

Officers:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| President: | Andy Novotny | (novoand@hotmail.com) |
| Vice President: | Laura Kaczynski | (laurakac13@verizon.net) |
| Treasurer: | David Albert | (ddalbert@aol.com) |
| Secretary/Newsletter Editor: | Maureen McKeever | (maurmomck@gmail.com) |
| Membership: | Dave Pressler | (dave.pressler47@gmail.com) |
| Web Tech: | Dave Duggins | (davidfduggins@gmail.com) |

WSC, PO Box 10552, 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 Stevan or Chris (stevanw2020@gmail.com) know ahead of time.



(Buy early for Christmas so it gets on the ship!)