



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

## Volume 23, Issue 4, April 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. **NO meeting 4/13**

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

---

**WILKPEX 2025** –Saturday and Sunday April 12 & 13 (10 AM-4 PM; 10 AM-3 PM), 2025 – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

---

## Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

WILKPEX is coming up fast! Below is the final information!

- **SET UP TIMES** – Saturday be there at 8 AM if you can. There will be donuts. Sunday will be between 9 and 10 AM, then all hands are welcome to help take-down. If you have an exhibit please be sure to arrive before 10 AM so we can get those up!
- On Saturday at 7:30 AM Toby will be at the Churchill Borough Building to load up the frames and signs. Wylie, David and Dave D. have volunteered to assist.
- We have a full bourse! There should be a lot to choose from, so bring your money (many dealers only take or prefer cash or checks.) Still unsure about the USPS...
- One of the dealers, Alice Morgan, makes customized jewelry from stamps. Bring your favorite stamps to get one-of-a kind jewelry!
- We got our special cancel stamp, so we will have 4 cachets available – two envelopes each day. Because we never got the one from USPS, we are able to offer this cancel for a longer period. Pass the word along!
- We have a full exhibit show! We have 11 exhibits, totalling 20 frames, from 7 of our members.
- Bring your **labeled** unwanted philatelic material to the Phlea Market! The money goes to you!

- Bring in extra stamps for our collection jar! We will fill a jar with stamps to raffle off at our Welcome Table. We can use more stamps!
- David A has volunteered to stay overnight Saturday to be security for the materials at the show.

Here are the cancels:



John Harding finished the 2025 Souvenir Sheet and he will be creating buttons of some of our favorite satirical stamps for sale at WILKPEX! The theme is to satirize the Pinback Button issue of 2024. (Sorry no image but here are the stamps they satirize):



Amos Media (Linn's, Scott) appears to be having some financial difficulties. The Club voted to have Scott S. place a preorder for the 2026 Scott Catalog set to be sure we have a current catalog.

Danielle is planning a trip to APS in Bellefonte in May. Please let her know if you are interested in going with her.

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.

Please think about what you want to do for a picnic and for Christmas. We will discuss these after WILKPEX.

## Philatelic News

Stay tuned for surprise stamp issues through the year!

- April US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
  - Battlefields of the American Revolution (April 16) – 10 stamps showing scenes of famous battles along with photos of the battlefields.
  - Powwows (April 25) – 4 stamps honoring the annual meetings of various US tribes.
  - Dahlias (April 26) – Again, a series of 10 images of Dahlia flowers close-up. It doesn't help – they're still flowers.



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

## The Post Office helped free America from England

**Opinion by Petula Dvorak / The Washington Post 3/2/25**

The latest government agency that President Donald Trump wants to disrupt is older than America itself. Created amid danger and subterfuge, the Post Office was a necessary part of our nation's fight for independence. It wasn't always profitable. And for generations, our leaders were okay with that.

Benjamin Franklin became head of the British post office, the Parliamentary Post, in 1753, which allowed him free distribution of his own newspaper. And he obsessed over making the service efficient and profitable. Franklin used an odometer on postal

carriage wheels to streamline delivery routes and created round-the-clock service to get mail delivered at astonishing speeds, overnight even, according to the Benjamin Franklin Historical Society.

It became wildly profitable, which delighted the Crown. While it was “inevitably at first expensive” to make all of those improvements, Franklin wrote, “it soon after began to repay us; and ... we brought in to yield three times as much clear revenue to the crown as the postoffice of Ireland.”

## **Replacing the Crown**

But it was the Crown. By this time, it was the enemy. The British were opening and reading the mail, making it impossible for revolutionaries to share plans and strategies in private. And the high postage rates were just another form of taxation (without representation).

William Goddard capitalized on the colonists’ discontent and formed the Constitutional Post. A secure way to communicate, it was the 1774 version of encrypted mail. It became instantly popular.

By that time, Franklin had his own scandal. He was living in London, running the Parliamentary Post remotely. But it all blew up when an anonymous source dropped him a bundle of letters written by Thomas Hutchinson, the loyalist governor of Massachusetts, outlining his plans to suppress the revolutionaries. Franklin leaked them, according to the U.S. Postal Museum. That got him fired by the British but lionized back home.

When he returned, the Second Continental Congress took over Goddard’s Constitutional Post and appointed Franklin to run it. After the Declaration of Independence was signed, it was renamed the Post Office of the United States. By signing the 1792 Postal Service Act, President George Washington not only established an impressive network of postal roads from Maine to Georgia, he established a vital tool in our democracy.

The Postal Service did more than keep businesses and families connected, it became an instrument of free speech. The act guaranteed that newspapers would be spread across the nation at affordable rates — 1 cent if the paper traveled less than 100 miles and 1.5 cents if it had to be carried more than 100 miles.

That thing where the British opened the mail? Here’s how our founders dealt with it: If any employee opens or takes a letter or parcel, “he shall, on conviction, for any such offence, suffer death,” according to Section 17 of the Act.

The Postal Service's reach was breathtaking. It was "the great link between minds," wrote the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville on his tour of America in 1831, when the young and sprawling nation already had twice as many post offices as Britain and five times as many as France.

"There is an astonishing circulation of letters and newspapers among these savage woods," he wrote. "I do not think that in the most enlightened rural districts of France there is intellectual movement either so rapid or on such a scale as in this wilderness."

## **Westward expansion**

As the nation expanded westward, the Postal Service kept pace. An American frontier? Hello, Pony Express, a relay of riders on horseback who could get a letter across the nation in 10 days. An Alaskan tundra? Postal carrier Ed Biederman used a dog sled to deliver mail across a 160-mile route, according to the U.S. Postal Museum.

By the 1840s, as the cost of mailing climbed, capitalism threatened the U.S. Postal Service. Private carriers began offering cheaper rates.

It was time for the nation to decide what the Postal Service meant to America, to address "the argument that Congress never intended the Post Office to cover costs, but rather intended that it be used for great purposes of national welfare," wrote Jane Kennedy in a 1957 article on the structure of postal rates in the *Journal of Political Economy*.

So in 1845, Congress cut delivery prices and stomached the idea that the Postal Service wouldn't return to the profitability that Franklin had once coaxed out of the British Parliamentary Post.

The Civil War, a time when delivery was limited to Union states, gave the post office a chance to fatten its coffers and improve services. In those years, the Railway Mail Service was expanded and money orders were developed. The Postal Savings System began providing basic banking services to average citizens ignored by big financial institutions in 1911.

In 1913, it began a parcel service, removing the four-pound cap on package weight.

## **Mailing humans**

Absurdity ensued as Americans went from sending letters to mailing coffins, eggs, dogs — and even children. The first human package was believed to be the 10-pound infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beauge of Glen Este, Ohio, National Postal Museum

historian Nancy Pope told The Washington Post. The baby was delivered a mile away to Grandma's house for 15 cents, Pope said.

For one wild year, postal carriers were like Uber for kids, escorting them down the street or hundreds of miles away. The most famous child package was May Pierstorff, whose journey on an Idaho railcar, in a coat covered in stamps, became a children's book, Mailing May. By 1914, the postmaster general put a stop to human mailing.

During World War I, airmail was the wind beneath the aviation industry's wings as millions of packages and letters were sent to soldiers deployed to the front lines, according to the National Postal Museum.

The next big change came in 1970, when a postal workers' strike and budget struggles spurred Congress to pass the Postal Reorganization Act. That gave carriers a raise and turned the agency into an independent, corporation-government hybrid.

"There is no Republican way or Democratic way to deliver the mail," President Richard M. Nixon said when he signed the bill that August. "There's only the right way, and that's what this occasion is all about."

*Petula Dvorak is a columnist for The Washington Post's local team.*

## 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.

### March's Show and Tell:

- a. Ron brought a cool book on Pittsburgh Trolleys that he found at a church flea market.
- b. Stevan had old leather postcards that his granddaughter found at a flea market. They were stamped and mailed.
- c. Dawn Richardson (member from Tennessee) sent us a First Day Cover and info from the First Day Ceremony for the Appalachian Trail stamps, which was held in Dawsonville GA on February 28<sup>th</sup>. She said the ceremony was held outside on a beautiful, cool, windy day. The USPS brought 2000 stamp sheets and sold out.
- d. Maureen brought an envelope that her brother sent on 2/18/25 in the hopes that it would arrive in a few days for her birthday. The card arrived on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, approximately 9 business days later. She also had an envelope mailed to a Wilmington DE lockbox for a credit card payment, returned as "Attempted, not known" after 9 business days.





Please take some time before the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and see if you have something fun to share from your collection!

## Upcoming Events Nearby

- April 12 – 13, 2025 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 9 – 10, 2025 – Butlerpex, Lyndora PA (tentative)
- June 6 – 8, 2025 – NAPEX, Tyson’s Corner VA
- June 8, 2025 – K2 Show, Churchill PA
- 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 14, 2025 – K2 Show – Churchill 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!**

## Wilkesburg Stamp Club Information:

Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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! Wonderful snacks! Stamps! Fun for all!*

## WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

2025 – Saturday April 12 & Sunday April 13 (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) )

Treasurer: Lois Gregg ( [mooneymanor@yahoo.com](mailto:mooneymanor@yahoo.com) )

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.



(Rollin', rollin', over the bounding main!)