



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

## Volume 20, Issue 9, April 2022

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

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

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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

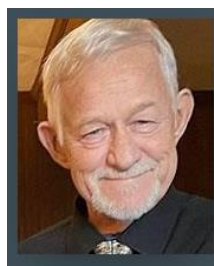
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**WILKPEX 2022** - Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 AM – 5 PM; Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 AM – 4 PM – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

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### Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

- Circuits – Please contact Danielle if you want to participate! We also have circuits available at our meetings!
- Picnic 2022 – We are planning on having our annual picnic this summer. We will discuss plans and dates in later this year.
- APS Visit – Danielle is hoping to take a road trip to APS on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> (date subject to change). If you are interested call or email her so she can confirm the date!
- It is with great sadness that we announce that John Niemiec died on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was very sudden – John had attended our February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and was planning to have dealer's tables at WILKPEX. He was very active with the club and was a great help to us newer members. He will be missed.



- Souvenir Sheet – Designed by John Harding:



- Postmark for Cachet for WILKPEX – Below are the postmarks, which have been approved. We are starting a series honoring Pittsburgh as the CITY OF CHAMPIONS of the 1970s, starting with Terry Bradshaw.



## Philatelic News

- April US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
  - Shel Silverstein (April 8<sup>th</sup>) – Celebrating renowned children’s author with a scene from “The Giving Tree”.
  - Flags on Barns (April 14<sup>th</sup>) – 4 different designs – Coil stamps picturing iconic US Barns with flags painted on the sides.
  - George Morrison (April 22<sup>nd</sup>) – 5 different designs – Honoring the Minnesota Ojibwe artist with 5 of his colorful abstract landscape paintings.



- An article in Linn's (3/7/22) says that as of the end of 2021 Sweden's post office, Postnord, is introducing every-second-day delivery of mail. This means that mail is delivered Monday, Wednesday and Friday one week and the next week it is delivered Tuesday and Thursday (mail hasn't been delivered on Saturdays in Sweden for awhile). They also closed all of their offices several years ago, having postal counters in supermarkets and similar stores. While much of Sweden is rural-type delivery, these changes apply to the cities as well. Many people in the country use digital delivery of bills, so they don't have to wait for physical delivery, it still delays other mail including daily newspapers. Changes in other parts of the world may show how our mail delivery in the US may be affected in the future.



- In response to the invasion of Ukraine, The USPS has temporarily suspended all mail service to Russia as of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Military and diplomatic service has not been affected. In addition, several countries including Georgia and Romania have announced free mail service to Ukraine. The Federation of European Philatelic Associations have recommended that Russia and Belarus not be allowed to participate in any upcoming philatelic events.
- The House and Senate have both passed legislation designed to relieve the USPS of obligations for paying retiree's health care well before people retire, which since 2006 have cost the USPS over \$50 billion dollars. Retirees will now be expected to sign up for Medicare. For more information check out the article in Linn's (3/28/22).
- APS New March Membership Special!  
March is here, and Spring isn't far behind! We're kicking off the month with a March Madness special! Join the APS in March for only \$31.75 for the remainder of 2022! Use coupon code madness5. Have a friend who is interested in joining? Refer them so they can get a good deal and you can receive a \$5 credit to use towards next year's dues or shopping for stamps. Click here to learn more about our membership program.

## Collector's Corner

- The process to create a US stamp is long and complicated (which is likely why we have not yet had a stamp commemorating the heroes of Covid-19). That's why I loved the article in Linn's (3/28/22) about Ukraine's stamp design contest. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, a week after the beginning of Russia's invasion, the Ukraine Post Office, Ukrposhta, announced plans to issue a stamp illustrating Ukrainians' determination to defend their homeland. They revived nearly 500 designs before the March 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. They posted the top 20 designs on their Facebook page and will pick one for issuance. The theme was "Telling a Russian warship go f--- yourself!" This phrase comes from the Ukrainian defenders of Snake Island, which was attacked by 2 Russian ships on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Supposedly one of those ships has since been destroyed. The submissions came from all over the world, including from children and professional artists.



The winner:



Yes, the soldier is holding up one finger. **Correct**, that one.

- Grilled Issues of the United States – From Mystic’s Website (mysticstamp.com) with thanks to Mike Raszewski.

In the late 1800s, officials were worried that people were “recycling” stamps by washing the cancels away and using them again. So they gambled on an experiment – a grilling machine invented by Charles F. Steel. From 1867-75, Steel’s machine used a roller pitted with either small depressions or small raised pyramids to break fibers in stamp paper. The rollers with depressions created a “points up” pattern while those with raised pyramids made a “points down” pattern.

These broken fibers allowed cancellation ink to thoroughly penetrate the paper. This meant even regular pen ink, which was used to cancel stamps at smaller post offices, would be impossible to remove completely. The experiment was short-lived, ending in 1875.

Early in the 20th century, William Stevenson categorized grills by size and shape, and sorted the stamps by “grill family.” Identifying grills is fun. There is a chart at the Mystic Website to help you with grills.



### Upcoming Events Nearby

- April 22 – 23, 2022 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 13 – 14, 2022 – Butlerpex, Butler (Lyndora) PA
- June 10 – 11, 2022 – Colopex, Columbus OH
- June 18 – 19, 2022 – SCOPEX – Regional stamp show at APS in Bellefonte, PA
- June 19 – 23, 2022 – APS Summer Seminar at APS, Bellefonte PA
- July 18 – 22, 2022 – Volunteer Work Week at APS – Bellefonte PA
- August 25 – 28, – Great American Stamp Show – Sacramento CA
- October 21 – 23, 2022 – AEROPHILATELY 2022 at the APC – Bellefonte PA
- November 2022 – PITTPEX – Bridgeville PA

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All are welcome! Free admission! Free snacks! Stamps! Circuits!

## WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 AM – 5 PM; Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 AM – 4 PM – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

### Officers:

President: Andy Novotny ([novoand@hotmail.com](mailto:novoand@hotmail.com))  
Vice President: Laura Kaczynski ([laurakac13@verizon.net](mailto:laurakac13@verizon.net))  
Treasurer: Danielle Weaver ([dmm742000@yahoo.com](mailto:dmm742000@yahoo.com))  
Mailings: Stevan & Chris Cady ([stevanw2020@gmail.com](mailto:stevanw2020@gmail.com))  
Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Maureen McKeever ([maurmomck@gmail.com](mailto:maurmomck@gmail.com))  
Web Tech: Deb Foltyn ([quest4moos@msn.com](mailto:quest4moos@msn.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 Steve or Chris know ahead of time.



(We brought tung oil from Brazil ...)