



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 3, March 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 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

We are deep into planning for WILKPEX 2025! See below for more information.

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.

If you are unsure if you have to yet pay dues for 2025 please contact Danielle to check.



John Harding is finalizing 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.



Philatelic News

Stay tuned for surprise stamp issues through the year!

- March US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
 - Freshwater Fishing Lures (March 13) – 5 stamps showing some of the favorite, colorful lures used for freshwater fishing
 - Vibrant Leaves (March 14) – 5 different postcard stamps showing pretty fall leaves from US trees. First Day Ceremony at the Garfield Perry March Party.
 - Betty White (March 27) – A Forever stamp honoring one of the most beloved and long-lived American actress.



There are many changes happening in the US Government right now. The USPS has not been left out. Please follow the news to stay on top of what's happening with the mail. Here's a recent story:

USPS Announces Changes To First-Class Mail, Other Services

Story by Aliss Higham Newsweek 2/27/25

What To Know

Starting April 1, service standard adjustments will be made for first-class mail, periodicals, marketing mail, and package services, according to the USPS.

USPS will deliver 75 percent of first-class mail at the same standard. Fourteen percent will be upgraded to a faster standard, while 11 percent will have a slower standard. All first-class mail will still be delivered within the current one to five business day range.

As part of the changes, postal workers will now use a five-digit regional add-on after the ZIP code to enhance delivery accuracy, replacing the current three-digit add-on.

Postal workers will also be permitted to leave facilities earlier and travel greater distances for deliveries, enhancing reliability and revenue, particularly for customers in rural areas.

Mail tracking will be broken into three phases so customers have a clearer understanding of how the mail process works.

"The changes will maintain service at existing levels for most volume and upgrade standards for more market-dominant volume than is downgraded," the USPS said.

"The changes will enhance service reliability nationwide while maintaining the existing five-day service standard day range for first-class mail, whereas the day ranges for end-to-end marketing mail, periodicals and package services will be shortened."

The amendments are projected to save \$36 billion over the next 10 years "from transportation, mail processing, and real estate cost reductions."

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.

February's Show and Tell:

- a. Maureen had some large font cancels from Wilmington and Johnstown.
- b. Danielle had her Topical Album of stamps with hands.
- c. Jeff had a small empty envelope that had 5 free collectable postage stamps that came with a candy bar back in the 1950s or 60s.
- d. David had some more UN covers – these were available for sale in Tiffanies with a special First Day cancel. He bought them for 25 cents each but then found the value (then) was \$105 each because not too many were made.

Please take some time before the March 23rd meeting and see if you have something fun to share from your collection!



- WILKPEX is coming up fast! Everyone is encouraged to do the following to help make the show fantastic!
 - We currently have commitments from 6 dealers and Scott is looking to finalixe the rest.
 - Gather extra or unwanted philatelic materials (including stamps, covers, postcards, and albums, etc.) to put in the Phlea Market. You get rid of stuff and can buy more! The money goes to you! Ask Maureen, Dave D and Wylie for more information.
 - Bring in extra stamps for our collection jar! We will fill a jar with stamps to raffle off at our Welcome Table.
 - Put your favorite stamp or topic into the show as an exhibit! Currently we have 7 exhibits and have 7 frames available (up to 16 pages per frame).We have some examples in the closet if you have never seen one. Ask Maureen for more information.

Early Pittsburgh Aviation Event Covers – a continuing series for a few months

The 1929 Pittsburgh Aircraft Show at Motor Square Garden By John Harding

First, a postscript to last month’s article on the inauguration of the Pittsburgh-Cleveland airmail route at Bettis Field: I found the wording of Kaufman’s department store letter as published in a local newspaper and an advertisement celebrating the new airmail service.

A copy of a letter sent by Kaufmann's Stores to several thousand of their Pittsburgh district friends via Chicago and the first air mail trip to Pittsburgh follows:

Kaufmann's Stores, Inc.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Office of the President.

April 19, 1927.

Dear Sir—This letter, which left Chicago at 8 this morning by air mail, is sent you to commemorate an interesting event in Pittsburgh's progress—the initial trip of the new United States Air Mail Service to Pittsburgh.

We are at the beginning of a great age, the conquest of the air, and Pittsburgh must overlook no opportunity to utilize this element and encourage the development of its use within our area.

The cancellation stamp on the envelope in which this letter is sent was authorized by the government for use this day only, for mail carried on the inaugural flight. It is possible that in years to come it will have an historical value that will justify its careful preservation.

Sincerely yours,
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN.

KAUFMANN'S

FIFTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH ATLANTIC 1000



TODAY adds another important date to the long chronology of Pittsburgh's historic events—the *Inaugural Flight of the United States Air Mail Service to Pittsburgh*. The first direct air delivery will arrive from Cleveland at the McKeesport Air Field at 1:45 P. M. to-day.

Included in this mail will be several thousand Kaufmann letters which left Chicago at 6:30 this morning, marking a new era in rapid mail delivery to Pittsburgh.

We are at the beginning of a great age—the Age of the Air—and Pittsburgh should overlook no opportunity to utilize this new medium of communication and transportation, and to encourage its development within our areas.

The next cover is from the first annual aircraft show in Pittsburgh, held March 9 to 16, 1929.

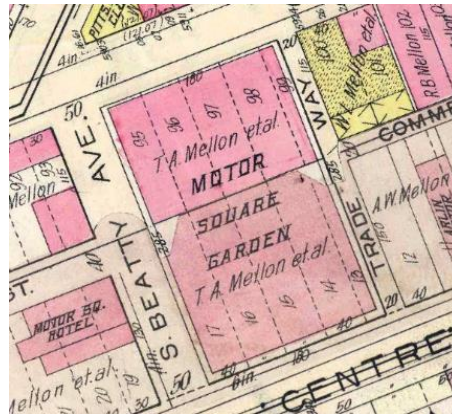


The cover was machine-canceled at the East Liberty station post office on March 14, with 1 cent Franklin and 4 cent Martha Washington stamps of the Fourth Bureau Issue paying the 5 cent airmail rate. The purple rubber-stamped cachet identifies the location of the trade show as "Motor Square Garden," which led me down a rabbit-hole of further research.

Motor Square Garden was originally the East Liberty Market Building, one of the many large market buildings in Pittsburgh in the late 1800s and early 1900s which provided enclosed spaces for a variety of retail businesses – precursors to shopping malls, supermarkets and department stores. Pittsburgh had over 20 such market buildings, but only two survive today: the South Side Market Building at 12th and Bingham Street in Southside and Motor Square Garden in East Liberty. (Currently an office of the American Automobile Association, at 5900 Baum Boulevard – see below picture.)



In 1913, the Pittsburgh Automobile Dealers Association leased the East Liberty Market Building for an auto show, and ended up buying the building. They held a contest to rename the building, and Paul H. Shanahan, inspired by New York City's Madison Square Garden, won the \$25 prize with the winning suggestion, "Motor Square Garden." Like the New York building, Motor Square Garden hosted a multitude of events in the 1910s and 20s – annual car shows, fundraising benefit dinners for war relief and suffragettes, boxing matches, home games for the University of Pittsburgh basketball team, poultry show, and food shows (with beautiful baby contests!)



(1923 Motor Square Garden on Sanborn fire insurance map)

The 1929 aircraft show featured over 30 airplanes. One of the doors had to be widened to get one of the planes into the building!

Schedule of daily themes for the week long show:

- first Saturday: Noted Pilots' Day
- Sunday: Army and Navy Night
- Monday: Chamber of Commerce Day and Civic Organizations' Night
- Tuesday: Women's Day
- Wednesday: Engineers' Day and College Night
- Thursday: Fraternal Day and Pennsylvania Aircraft Operators' Night
- Friday: Pennsylvania Day and Society Night
- closing Saturday: Industrial Day and Air Mail Night

An early appearance by not-yet-famous singer Kate Smith was featured on a live radio broadcast over Gimbel's radio station, WCAE. The Flying Orchestra was not airborne; the musicians were all pilots who flew in to participate at the show.

<p>WCAE OFFERS DAVIS JUBILEE</p> <p>"Flying Orchestra" To Broadcast Tonight.</p> <p>WCAE will broadcast a 40-minute program from the Pittsburgh Aircraft show at Motor Square Garden at 7 o'clock tonight. Included in this program is the address of Raymond M. Marlier, chairman of the Aeronautics League of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, in his presentation of prizes in connection with the model airplane contest sponsored by the "Post-Gazette." Nelson Maples' "Flying Orchestra" of 11 pieces will offer a number of popular dance selections. Nan Halperin tops the list of artists who will take part in the Davis-Warner Brothers jubilee at 11 o'clock over WCAE. Others in this program are Kenneth Harlan, film star, Kate Smith, blues singer, and Freda and Palace, guitarists.</p> <p>Roxy and his Gang will present a</p>	<p><i>In Davis Program</i></p>  <p>KATE SMITH. Blues singer, who will take part in the Davis-Warner Brothers jubilee over WCAE at 11 o'clock tonight.</p>
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(1929-03-11 Kate Smith and Flying Orchestra radio broadcast story)

Upcoming Events Nearby

- March 9, 2025 – K2 Show – Churchill PA
- March 14-16, 2025 – Garfield-Perry March Party – Strongsville OH
- March 22-23, 2025 – BUFPEX – Cheektoaga NY
- March 29-30, 2025 – MSDA Columbus OH Stamp Show – Columbus OH
- April 12 – 13, 2025 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 9 – 10, 2025 – Butlerpex, Lyndora PA (tentative)
- June 6 – 8, 2025 – NAPEX, Tyson's Corner VA
- July 14 – 18, 2025 – Volunteer Work Week at APS
- August 14 – 17, 2025 – Great American Stamp Show – Schaumburg IL

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.

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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

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)

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

Treasurer: Lois Gregg (mooneymanor@yahoo.com)

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.



(I love me some ship stamps!)