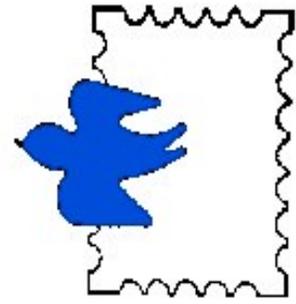


ROCKFORD STAMP NOTES

ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 21, 1930 - APS CHAPTER #735
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October 2025

Volume 29 - Number 9

Monthly meeting/auction at Ken-Rock Community Center, 625 Adams St., Rockford, IL

Wednesday, October 1

5:30 pm - Buy, sell and trade
View auction lots
7:00 pm - Meeting & auction

Tuesday, October 21

9:00 am - Buy, Sell and trade
View auction lots
10:00 am - Auction

Wednesday, September 3rd: 11 members were present.

We had many show & tell items most related to finds by members who attended GASS.

Show & Tell.....

1. **Steve Capone** - showed high inflation billions of marks stamps used on covers during hyper inflation in Germany.
2. **Jeff Hall** - a) Free cover with 1941 cancels from Arizona b) Sep 2 VJ Day cover from Cruiser Detroit.
3. **Ruth Young** - Cuban cover with stamps and postmark from Cuba.
4. **Jim Young** - could not believe how big and busy show was. Hard to find A-Z stamps, his favorite. Got some good stamps.
5. **Jeff Rieken** - a) BOB items b) 110th Anniversary of Airmail Service. Cachet similar as painting he has.
6. **Bill Lothary** - a) 1911 Germany stamps on postcard advertising show dachshund b) Japanese fake stamps but interesting. Joined Japanese Postal Society to learn more. Attended Rattlesnake Island meeting and ceremony.
7. **Amy Devine** - showed post cards and greeting cards of vegetables with topical stamps and first day or unofficial first day with designer HH initials in stamps.
8. **Frank Schmitt** - a) assortment of FDS, including hand painted - 250th anniversary of the Army b) covers with appliqued fabric cachets c) a Latte stamp FDS crafted from a Starbucks coffee bag. General experiences about attending GASS.

There were 82 auction lots to bid on with some interesting items.

Be sure to bring some lots to the next meeting to join in on the fun!

Member Health and Welfare

Gerry Van Alstyne had an appointment with another heart surgeon Thursday for possible open heart surgery. He still has a long road to go to get all his problems addressed. Keep him in your prayers.



Upcoming Stamp Shows

Sat Oct 4 Monroe Stamp & Postcard Show

Monroe, WI. Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club. Monroe Moose Lodge, 639 3rd Ave. Hours 9-3. Bourse only. Free admission.

Sat-Sun Oct 10-11 MSDA WI-IL Stateline Show

Kenosha, WI. First Christian Church, 13022 Wilmot Rd (Hwy C). Hours Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3. Bourse only. MSDAstamp.com for more info.

Sat Oct 18 CENWISPEX 2025

Stevens Point, WI. Central Wisconsin Stamp Club. The Elk's Club, 1132 Clark St. Hours Sat 10-4. Bourse only.

Fri-Sun Nov 21-23 CHICAGOPEX

Itasca, IL. Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd. Chicago Philatelic Society. Hours Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4. 75+ dealers, 275+ exhibit frames, seminars **National World Series of Philately show**. Free admission & parking. Chicagopex.org for more info.

Ask other members if you are interested in going to a show. Ride sharing can be a big savings and fun!

Jimmy Carter
First Class Forever (78¢)
 Pane of 20
 Oct 1 - Atlanta GA

See September issue for write up.



This is the **ONLY** new issue that the USPS has announced for the rest of 2025. Usually, there are Holiday stamps issued in October. This year they were issued in September, Holiday Cheer, and no other religious stamps are being issued.

In years past there was a religious stamp (Mother & Child), and a block of four "Holiday" themed stamps. In the late 1990's stamps were issued for EID, Kwanza and more thematic stamps. After Forever stamps came out, these stamps are issued every two or three years as demand necessitates.

Great Americans Issue of 1980-1999 - Getting to Know Them

This issue depicts some well-known persons as well as many who were lesser known. "The Great Americans stamps may be viewed as a kind of melting pot, although certain mini-topical collecting areas stand out, those mentioned (women, black Americans, native Americans) as well as others (scientists, politicians, doctors, writers, humanitarians)". Michael Schreiber writing in *Linn's Stamp News* on November 24, 1994.

This series of articles will focus on the stamps, beginning with those issued from 1980 to 1985, listed in Scott Specialized Catalogue as #1844-1869. They are shown in denomination order. Wikipedia: Source for bio info.



Apr 23, 1985
 #1863

John James Audubon (born Jean-Jacques Rabin, April 26, 1785 – January 27, 1851) was a French-American self-trained artist, naturalist, and ornithologist. His combined interests in art and ornithology turned into a plan to make a complete pictorial record of all the bird species of North America. He was notable for his extensive studies documenting all types of American birds and for his detailed illustrations, which depicted the birds in their natural habitats. His major work, a color-plate book titled *The Birds of America* (1827–1839), is considered one of the finest ornithological works ever completed. Audubon is also known for identifying 25 new species. He is the eponym of the National Audubon Society, and his name adorns a large number of towns, neighborhoods, and streets across the United States. Dozens of scientific names first published by Audubon are still in use by the scientific community. Audubon was accused during his life as well as posthumously of academic fraud, plagiarism, and scientific misconduct; and more recently criticized for involvement in slavery and his racist writings.



Sep 2, 1984
 #1864

Frank Charles Laubach (September 2, 1884 – June 11, 1970), from Benton, Pennsylvania was a Congregational Christian missionary educated at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, and a mystic known as "The Apostle to the Illiterates." In 1915 (see Laubach, *Thirty Years With the Silent Billion*), while working among Muslims at a remote location in the Philippines, he developed the "Each One Teach One" literacy program. It has been used to teach about 60 million people to read in their own language. He was deeply concerned about poverty, injustice and illiteracy, and considered them barriers to peace in the world.

In 1955, he founded Laubach Literacy, which helped introduce about 150,000 Americans to reading each year and had grown to embrace 34 developing countries. An estimated 2.7 million people worldwide were learning to read through Laubach-affiliated programs. In 2002, this group merged with Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. to form ProLiteracy Worldwide. During the latter years of his life, Laubach traveled all over the world speaking on the topics of literacy and world peace. He was the author of a number of devotional writings and works on literacy.

One of his most widely influential devotional works was a pamphlet entitled "The Game with Minutes." In it, Laubach urged Christians to attempt to keep God in mind for at least one second of every minute of the day. In this way, Christians can attempt the attitude of constant prayer spoken of in the First Epistle to the Thessalonians. The pamphlet extolled the virtues of a life lived with an unceasing focus on God. Laubach's insight came from his experiments in prayer detailed in a collection of his letters published under the title, *Letters by a Modern Mystic*. Laubach is the only American missionary to be honored on a US postage stamp



President's Corner - Frank Schmitt



Greetings fellow Rockford Stamp Club members:

Happy National Stamp Collecting Month (NSCM)! Did you ever stop to think about that? National Stamp Collecting **MONTH**. Most celebrated items get a day, Happy (fill in the blank) Day, but we get a whole month!

National Stamp Collecting Month was established by the United States Postal Service and the Council of Philatelic Organizations as a joint venture in 1981. The purpose is to promote the hobby of philately for all ages and provide an opportunity to learn about history, geography, and art through stamps. Participation is encouraged through events, educational resources and releases of new commemorative stamps by the USPS.

In honor of NSCM, the Rockford Stamp Club in cooperation with (and by request of) the Cherry Valley Library will have a display in the library. A big thanks to Tim Wait for coordinating, assembling and setting up the Rockford Stamp Club display. Be sure to stop in and look at the display. It also is an appropriate time for you to share your passion for the hobby with others.

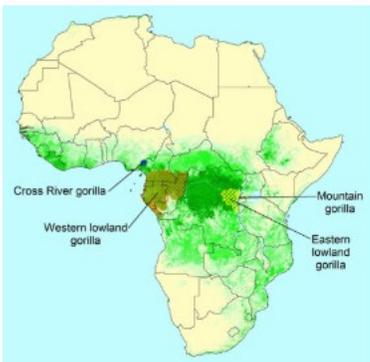
In honor of NSCM and the upcoming celebration of Halloween both will be the subject for show and tell for the Wednesday night meeting this month. Bring in anything philatelic, topical or thematic, related to either subject or both; FDC's, special cachets, advertising covers, related corner cards, related city cancellations, whatever you can find as you dig down in your caldrons. Costumes are optional!

Unfortunately, I will not be in attendance for the October meeting. I will be in Portland, ME and Boston, MA. I will be spreading some of the riches I gathered at GASS amongst my grandchildren, putting smiles on their faces (I hope) and mine, while expanding their collecting interests. I will be attending my military reunion with my Army buddies in Boston. I am seizing the moment and will be sharing with them some FDC's of the Army stamp celebrating the 250th anniversary and spreading the word about NSCM.

Have a great meeting. Remember your show and tell, your neighbor or friend, auction lots, buy, sell, trade material and anything thing else you care to share. As always, remember to be respectful and mind your manners.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and happy collecting!

Gorillas on Stamps - Tim Wait



Gorillas natural habitat is in the central African rainforest region. The top 10 countries are: Rwanda, Uganda, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria.

Interestingly, many of these countries are notorious and prolific issuers of stamps for collectors. Since they actual have wild gorillas living there,, are these issues more collectible? That's your call but they do make for some beautiful issues!



Say What? - Frank Schmitt

It is not uncommon for many collectors to keep an eye open for something that may be of interest to another collector, family member, or friend, (even if the latter are not stamp or cover collectors) and acquire that item for them.



My son, beginning at a very early age has showed an interest in maps and on occasion I come across something that I think he may find interesting, and I purchase it and give it to him. At a recent stamp show while browsing through some covers that Michael Mules had with him, I found this cover which I found to be quite attractive and interesting, so I bought it for my son.

When I presented it to my son, he thought it was really “neat and interesting”. What he said next is what really surprised (or even shocked) me! He is a professor at the University of Southern Maine. He has been recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Osher Map Library which is housed within the campus of USM. The library is home to over 500,000 cartographic items, some dating back to the 1400’s. His comment about the cover was, “I am going to place this in the library collection”.

I have since acquired 2 more covers by the same cachet maker that I will be sending him which I also think are quite interesting.



I had the distinct pleasure of meeting the cachet maker on Sunday, August 17th at GASS. His name is Larry Gassen and he lives in Downers Grove, IL. He is a retired coach and teacher. The covers are hand drawn and hand colored. He did a black line drawing and lettering and colored in the states and borders. He is no longer doing cachets because of health conditions. We had a very pleasant conversation and discussed the possibility of purchasing some additional covers from his very limited inventory. Many of his covers are 1 of 1.

You just never know where a philatelic item may find a permanent home and will now be available for so many to share.

Why Was That An Airmail Stamp? - Tim Wait



In the 1980’s USPS decided that these two subjects, Junipero Serra in the 1700’s and the Settling of New Sweden in 1638 should be commemorated. Both deserving subjects but what did these events have to do with airmail?



Issue Date: August 22, 1985
First City: San Diego, California
Quantity Issued: 45,700,000

This stamp commemorates Junipero Serra, who was born on the Spanish island of Mallorca in 1713. Traveling with a group of Franciscan friars, he worked among the Indians and traveled on an expedition along the California coast. He founded a mission at what is now San Diego. Under his guidance, eight more missions were founded. These missions formed a base for the settlement of California. Today, over 60% of the state’s population lives in the areas surrounding the old Spanish missions.

Issue Date: March 29, 1988
First City: Wilmington, Delaware
Quantity Issued: 22,975,000

This stamp honors the 350th anniversary of the settlement of New Sweden by Swedish and Finnish colonists. It was the first three-nation joint issue in which the U.S. had participated, and it became postally obsolete more quickly than any previous U.S. stamp – in only five days!

Welcome to the Rockford Illinois Stamp Club Website

www.rockfordstampclub.com

WEB SITE UPDATE - Please take a moment to go to our webpage listed above. We need to do some updates but what else would you like to see? Please let us know your comments.

Tim (t.wait@comcast.net) & Frank (prevent1@comcast.net) - webmasters.

The 5¢ Washington of 1862 - Tim Wait



Jan 13, 1967 - Mass. to Aldershot, Hants, England

Surface postage to England was 11¢. Sender used just a 5¢ domestic rate stamp so 6¢ was due.

In the US the cover marked "POSTAGE DUE CENTS" and then marked with a "T" and 12/11" boxed marking. This means that 11 was the surface letter rate and 12 is twice the short paid amount.

Upon receipt in England they used this fraction, times their international letter rate to determine the 10d due and applied the "INSUFFICIENTLY PAID 10d TO PAY" MARKING".

6d and 4d Postage Due stamps affixed after payment by recipient and postmarked in Hants



May 23, 1964 - OH to London, England

Airmail postage to England was 15¢ per ½ ounce. Letter weighed between ½ and 1 ounce, so 30¢ was required.

Interestingly, cover marked "T 90 centimes". Did this cover go to France? Why was it not treated the same as the left cover?

In England the indistinct green boxed marking showing "MORE TO PAY" shows 1 S / 4½ D due, which equaled 16d.

Two 6d and one 4d Postage Due stamps affixed after finally paid by recipient in London.

ROCKFORD 2-3-4 ~ 2025 Dealers

We held another successful Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo. The dealers are listed below so you can contact them for follow up or getting those items you were thinking about at the show! Please support our show dealers throughout the year for all your philatelic needs.

David Alex, Sat. Only

Glenview, IL
847-291-7826

Bardo Stamps

Jim Bardo
Buffalo Grove, IL
jfb7437@aol.com
847-634-2676

L & J Stamps

Larry Gautsche
Goshen, IN
lgautsche7@gmail.com
574-370-9631

Terry Kurzinski

Cherry Valley, IL
tkurzinski2002@yahoo.com
815-262-9117

Tiger Collectibles

Scott Couch
Stoutsville, MO
tigercollect@sbcglobal.net
816-405-3633

Cal's & Friends Michael Duehr

Genesse Depot, WI
mduehr@wi.rr.com
262-392-9432

Fox River Stamps

Michael Mules
Salem, WI
foxriverstamps@gmail.com
414-234-9867

Larry's Stamps

Plover, WI
lglenzer249@gmail.com
715-341-6767

Steve Capone

Rockford, IL

Double J Stamps

Jeff
Arlington Heights, IL
Double_j_stamps@yahoo.com
847-843-8700

Riverbank Treasurers

Jerry Wessler
New Lisbon, WI
riverbanktreasurers@gmail.com
608-515-6150

WYstamps.com

Wayne Youngblood
Prairie Du Sac, WI
608-370-9098

ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

We invite all area collectors to join us at a future meeting of the Rockford Stamp Club. Meeting and an auction are held the first Wednesday beginning at 6:00pm, every month except July. An auction takes place the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 9:00am. Both are held at the Ken-Rock Community Center, 625 Adams St., Rockford, Illinois. We start with a buy/sell/trade session followed by a lively, unreserved stamp auction. Come discover the fun of stamp collecting. All ages and collecting levels from beginner to advanced are welcome.

The 2025-2026 Club Officers

President.....Frank Schmitt
815-226-4391
Vice-President.....Matt Mace
Secretary.....Tammy Copus
Treasurer.....Tim Wait
Director(2).....Tim Copus
Director(4).....Steve Johnson
Director(6).....Terry Kurzinski
Show Chairman.....Tim Wait
815-670-5869 / t.wait@comcast.net

NEW - Rockford Stamp Club Achievement Award

In 2025 we inaugurated this new award for deserving members who have served the club by volunteering, provided outreach programs, served as an officer or made a difference in our club.

2025 Terry Kurzinski



See you for some Philatelic Phun!
Wednesday, October 1 at 5:30/7pm
Tuesday, October 21 at 9/10am
Remember we're at 625 Adams St.