

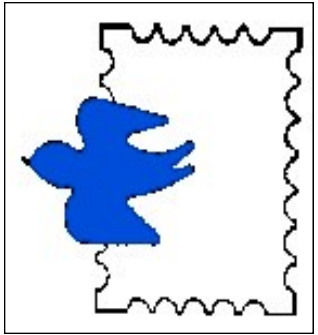
# ROCKFORD STAMP NOTES

## ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 21, 1930 - APS CHAPTER #735  
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February 2020

Volume 24 - Number 2



Monthly meetings/auction at Ken-Rock Community Center, 3200 11th St., Rockford, IL

### Wednesday, February 5, 2020

6:00 pm - Buy, sell and trade  
View auction lots  
7:00 pm - Meeting & auction

### Tuesday, February 18, 2020

9:30 am - Buy, Sell and trade  
View auction lots  
10:00 am - Auction

Wednesday, January 8th: 24 members came to celebrate Elvis's 85th birthday!

Short business meeting with talk of the Show the highlight. See page five for more show info.

The building we currently meet in has been sold. Ken-Rock is moving to a new location. January meetings will continue at the present location. Stay tuned for further developments.

#### Show & Tell.....

1. **Hank Fox** - SF 49ers vs MN Vikings—Celebrate the Century Scott #3190c.
2. **Jeff Hall** - Railroad postcard, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy RR. Camp Grant "New" CB&Q RR Depot 1917. Postcard printed in Rockford too.
3. **Tim Wait** - 1959 Duck Stamp, Jeff Rieken's favorite stamp on licenses from many states.
4. **Frank Schmitt** - 1997 Mendota RR Dedication covers with Wax Seals add on a trip in 2018.
5. **Steve Capone** - A cover for the 1927 1st US Catapult attempted and failed flight. This was to speed the mail from the ship to shore.

**Good & Welfare:** Butch Colombi had hip surgery in Arizona. Richard Mayo is battling cancer but doing better. Gerry Van Alstyne is having surgery in late January. Best wishes to all for a speedy recovery.

No Mystery Raffle, have to come to the Tuesday meeting!

#### Dues R Due!

2020 Dues are due. \$10 for a mail and \$6 for an email version. Please pay Treasurer Hank Fox promptly!

#### Wednesday Night Activity

**Ted Gifford** will be bringing his Certified copy of UXC1a, the first Airmail Postcard "red" color error. If you have one it will be a good chance to compare.

Tuesday, January 21st: 17 members came out for a nice auction and to talk stamps. Come see what you can sell or find a goodie at the Tuesday auction and enjoy the company of your fellow philatelists!

#### Loves Park Panthers Stamp Club

Tammy Copus is again leading the club of 10-12 kids this year. They are working on their exhibits for the March show and are seeking the following material.

Please bring donations to a meeting ASAP!

Transportation — Lizards — Soccer

Australia, Canada, Greece

Great Britain, Poland



#### Upcoming Area Stamp Shows

##### Sat Feb 8 Janesville Stamp Show

Janesville, WI. Holiday In Express, 3100 Wellington Place. Hours: 9:30-4. Exhibits, 10 dealers, free admission.

##### Sat-Sun Feb 29-Mar 1 Stampfest '20

Milwaukee, WI. St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1441 So. 92nd St. Milwaukee Philatelic Society. Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3. 15 dealers, free admission.

##### Sat-Sun Mar 21-2 Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo

Rockford, IL. Forest Hills Lodge 1601 W. Lane Rd. Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. 13 dealers, exhibits, HUGE silent auction, free admission.

Join the fun, free rides to stamp shows available!



**Star**  
Presorted First Class Rate  
Coil rolls of 3,000 & 10,000  
Feb 3—Kansas City, MO

The Presorted Star stamp is a First Class Forever rate stamp designed to meet the needs of business mailers, and is sold in self-adhesive coils of 3,000 and 10,000. According to the USPS, “this new stamp celebrates the beloved American Stars and Stripes by focusing on its vital components. The asymmetrical design includes one large white star, two white and three red stripes, and a brilliant blue background, as well as lettering and three small stars in gold.” Though not mentioned in that description, it does give the positive impression of the speeding along of mail. Greg Breeding was the art director and Matthew Pamer the designer for the stamp.

Let’s Celebrate! is the latest USPS stamp that can add fun to celebratory greeting cards, invitations and gift-bearing envelopes and packages. No matter the occasion, birthday, anniversary, holiday, engagement, new job, retirement, Let’s Celebrate! helps send cheer along with well wishes. The stamp features an array of colorful circles in varying sizes arranged in a random pattern. The letters in the word “celebrate,” cast in a dark green hue, appear inside several brightly colored circles on a white background. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp.

## Let’s Celebrate!

First Class Forever Rate  
Pane of 20  
Feb 14—Mesa, AZ



## Wild Orchids

First Class Forever Rate  
Booklet of 20  
Coils of 3,000 & 10,000  
Feb 21—Coral Gables, FL

Flowers in general are among the most popular stamps in the U.S. and around the world. A set of four Orchids stamps was issued by the USPS in 1984, and they have appeared within other U.S. flower issues. The 2020 stamps, to be issued in booklets of 20 and coils of 3,000 and 10,000, feature photographs of one of nine species that grow wild in the United States: *Cypripedium californicum*, *Hexalectris spicata*, *Cypripedium reginae*, *Spiranthes odorata*, *Triphora trianthophoros*, *Platanthera grandiflora*, *Cyrtopodium polyphyllum*, *Calopogon tuberosus* and *Platanthera leucophaea*. Orchids also have common names, with some plants having several different names in popular use. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with existing photographs by Jim Fowler.



Orchids were also on stamps in 1984 on Scott #2076-79



And on Scott #2670 as part of Wild Flowers.

## President's Corner - Frank Schmitt

Greetings fellow Rockford Stamp Club members:

Wow! Where did January go? Unfortunately for me, I spent more time shoveling snow than sorting stamps. Also, due to weather and health conditions I was unable to attend the MSDA Winter Shows (both lived up to their name) in Milwaukee and Wheeling so no reports on either of them.

As noted in the last newsletter, and reported at the last meeting and auction, there is a great probability that we will have to change our meeting location in the not too distant future. If zoning is approved for the new location of Ken-Rock Community Center the current building will be vacant since the school no longer occupies the building and it is up for sale as well. Ken-Rock is interested in our club moving to their new location for our meetings. That may possibly be our only viable (and best) option if we are unable to find another suitable location if we feel the new Ken-Rock location won't work. Hank has been keeping abreast of the situation and keeping us informed. Thanks for that (and all your other hard work) Hank!

Our Rockford 2-3-4 Expo is approaching even faster and there are still opportunities to volunteer, so sign up if you haven't. The Board of Directors and Show Chairman will be meeting soon to finalize the Expo, banquet and tie-up any loose ends. It appears we are getting some dealers to replace those we have lost, and we will not be required to have insurance this year so that will be a small savings. Hopefully the weather will be favorable for a good attendance at the Expo.

Don't forget about the Janesville Show coming up on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Express. Make the trip up to show your support of their club and show. Save most of your money to spend at our show though to support our dealers. Also, remember that North Suburban Library has the complete set of 2020 Scott Catalogues so stop in and use them, or check a volume out, so they see they are being used and will continue to update them.

Thanks to all for participating in the show and tell at the meetings, keep them coming. Remember to submit that "My Favorite Stamp" and/or "Topical Corner" article to Tim for inclusion in the newsletter. Remember, it is "your" newsletter, not Tim Wait's newsletter, he is gracious enough to edit and publish it for us and shouldn't have to write it in its entirety. Thanks for the great job Tim!

Keep your stamp tongs handy!

## A Visit to the 1836 Country Store in Wilmington, VT By Frank Schmitt

I thought it may be of interest to some of you if I shared the story of our Thanksgiving holiday travels. Our preferred form of travel is driving on secondary roads, however, in the interest of time the interstate system often rules. On this trip, after the boredom of two days of interstate driving, we opted for the secondary roads to complete our trip to Portland, ME. The secondary roads would take us from Albany, NY through Vermont, New Hampshire and into Maine.

I of course have an interest in stamp collecting and my wife has an interest in sewing and quilting. That being said, we are always keeping a keen eye out for stamp shops/shows and quilt shops. While passing through Vermont on Highway 9 we came upon the small town of Wilmington (population 1800+). Out of the corner of my eye I noticed a quilt shop as we passed by and made a U-turn to see if it was open and if my wife would like to "check it out" (it was also time to stretch our legs). I accompanied her into the quilt shop but noticed across a small courtyard area the "1836 Country Store" so I ambled over there. It was full of a myriad of tourist type "treasures" along with a large selection of cheeses, Vermont maple syrup and home-made fudge.

Surprisingly, I noticed a couple of "browse boxes" of stamps, stamp packets, first day covers, postcards, etc. and found this to be quite an interesting find in a general store. I returned to the quilt shop and suggested to my wife that she come to the general store and browse around at the huge selection of merchandise.

It was upon our return upon further investigation that I discovered a full 8' display case and counter top and the wall behind it full of stamps, packets, album pages and a few supplies. This piqued my interest and I inquired about the "stamp counter" and this was when the clerk introduced me to the owner, Mr. Al Wurzberger, and the story and the backstory.

Mr. Wurzberger is 82 years old, of German descent, and has a very colorful and interesting past and current life with a wealth of stories and history to share. So much so, that I even called him to garner some information for this article which resulted in a near 45-minute conversation.

Continued on page 4.

# A Visit to the 1836 Country Store in Wilmington, VT

By Frank Schmitt

His stamp collecting story starts during World War II when Al was 7 years old. His father was a U.S. soldier fighting in Germany, even against relatives amongst the German forces. His father was on a patrol in a German town and they raided a post office acquiring a “large stack” of Hitler stamps. Al’s father sent these stamps, along with a Nazi helmet, dagger, flag and other “souvenirs” home. Thus, began Al’s interest in collecting stamps and his entrepreneurial interest in selling stamps. The first U.S. stamp acquired for his collection was Scott #905, Win the War, 3 cent.

Al was very fond of his Hitler stamps and did not have a full understanding of whom Hitler was and what he stood for, that is until his father returned from the war. Stamp collecting was very popular then and many friends wanted to trade for some of Al’s Hitler stamps, but he was only interested in selling them, “if you can’t afford a penny be on your way”.

Al attended military academy and served 10 years in the U.S. Army until he lost a leg jumping from an airplane as a paratrooper. It was after this accident and much wondering what to do that the store came to fruition in the 1970’s.

The inventory in the store consists mainly of packets and topical collections but I also noticed numerous plate blocks and full sheets. While it sounds like Al’s personnel collection has some depth to it, including civil war, amongst others, he tries to keep the store inventory simple. He “does not have the time” to search for the types and printings of individual stamps and “good stuff” that many collectors are searching for. He maintains his inventory through auction house purchases and remnants of dealer inventories that he is able to acquire.

Al has had his challenges in the business world, in August of 2011, Wilmington was flooded and devastated by Hurricane Irene. Al’s loss was in excess of a half million dollars. Al stated the stamps were the first things to be saved upon the threat of the hurricane. After having five feet of water in the store and a storage building being washed away, with the help of friends, neighbors and strangers the store was re-opened in six weeks and has been going strong since.

Al’s granddaughter designed postcard type bag stuffers of both the 1836 Country Store and Norton House Quilting with Cinderella indicia on the “message side” for advertising which I found quite unique. (Shown below). If you are ever in Wilmington, VT, stop in and say hello to Al and allow some time for some colorful stories from a colorful and most enjoyable man.

In this time of when there is a lot of wonder of the future of stamp collecting, is it as bad as we think? I am sure there are a lot more surprises out there like this. Even if it is primarily packets he is selling he may pique an interest in stamp collecting amongst some newcomers. I think there are a lot more casual collectors out there than we are aware of, many more sales outlets than we are aware of, and much less stamp collecting marketing than there should be.



Celebrating half a century and 4 generations, the 1836 Country Store was founded by Al & Sue Wurzbarger. Back in 1967 they followed their dream and turned an historic barn into a Country Store that features Vermont foods, handcrafted chocolates and fudge, children's toys, kitchen items, U.S. flags, and everything that says Vermont. The barn is also listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

1836 Country Store  
28 West Main Street, P.O. Box 578  
Wilmington, VT 05363  
802-464-5102  
orders@1836CountryStoreVT.com

Photo by © S Wurzbarger, 2016



Vermont Cheddar Cheese  
Off the Wheel

[www.1836CountryStoreVT.com](http://www.1836CountryStoreVT.com)



Quilting your Legacy Starts with Us!

Norton House Quilting has been in business for 53 years. My Grandmother Suzanne Wells Wurzbarger started the business and with her passing and blessing, we are continuing her legacy.

Our experience in retail sales and in the quilting world brings to you, our customer, the best fabrics, books, and notions available.

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites (circa 1760)

Norton House Quilting, A Quilter's Paradise  
30 West Main Street, P.O. Box 579  
Wilmington, VT 05363  
802-464-7213 - info@NortonHouseQuilting.com



Photo by © S Wurzbarger, 2016

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

# Welcome to the Rockford Illinois Stamp Club Website

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

**WEB SITE UPDATE** - The NEW website was unveiled January 2019! We have started adding content including past issues of *Rockford Stamp Notes* and pictures. **Please let us know your comments. Tim & Frank - webmasters.**

## Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo - March 21,22, 2020

The Show is fast approaching. Are you ready to support YOUR club and have a great stamping weekend?

- ◆ Did you sign up for a one hour shift at the registration table? It's fun to greet our visitors and put them at ease.
- ◆ Did you get your auction packet from Frank? The highlight of the show for many, a great opportunity to buy and/or sell philatelic treasures.
- ◆ Is this the year you will finally enter a 16 page exhibit? See Tim for forms and assistance.
- ◆ Did you contact your favorite dealer, see page five, to make sure he brings what you want?
- ◆ Don't forget, set up is at 8am Saturday and we can always use more help to make it go smoothly.
- ◆ Take down of the exhibits is at 3pm Sunday. It's a lot easier than set up?
- ◆ We expect to see EVERYONE at the show having fun!



Kenya Uganda Tanganyika #48

### My Favorite Stamp Submitted by Lorne Laidlaw

My favorite stamp when I was a boy, and still many years later still is, is Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika Scott #48, issued May 1, 1935.

It has caught the attention of others too! I have seen it on the front of a packet of stamp hinges, taking up almost the full face of the packet. It was on the cover of a beginner's stamp album, almost filling the cover!

Scott has noticed too.

2009	Mint	0.30	Used	0.20
2020	Mint	\$7.50	Used	\$1.00

### This Spot Needs A Stamp

EVERY one of you can come up with a special or favorite stamp that you can share a little story about. We have had a few in the past and I would like to build on this tradition. **Let me know what your stamp is!**

## ROCKFORD 2-3-4 Stamp Expo 2020 Dealers

See below for the 2020 dealer lineup. We have one new dealer this year, Tiger Collectibles from Stoutsville, MO and two dealers returning after multi-year absences, James Newland from Peoria and Pfol's Stamps from Dubuque.

You'll note that some of our regular dealers are not attending this year due to a) the change of date b) MSDA show in Chicago the same weekend or c) health. Hopefully they will be back next year. **Please contact them now to be sure they know your collecting interests and wants and can come prepared to get you what you need!**

#### Rockford Coin & Stamp

Steve Jennings  
Rockford, IL  
815-282-4444

Terry Kurzinski  
Cherry Valley, IL  
815-262-9117

**Tiger Collectibles**  
**Scott Couch**  
Stoutsville, MO  
816-405-3633

#### Applebox Philatelic's

Richard Duda  
Mt. Prospect, IL  
847-439-7614

Fox River Stamps  
Michael Mules  
Salem, WI  
414-234-9867

David Alex (Sat. Only)  
Glenview, IL  
847-291-7826

#### Buy the Stamp

Rick Hyams  
Arlington Heights, IL  
847-414-5408

Steve Capone  
Rockford, IL  
815-394-0537

Pfol's Stamps  
John Phols  
Dubuque, IA  
563-582-6247

#### Riverbank Treasurers

Jerry Wessler  
New Lisbon, WI  
608-515-6150

Win Schaeffer  
Flossmoor, IL  
708-715-4321

James Newland  
Peoria, IL

# 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, 3200 11th 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.

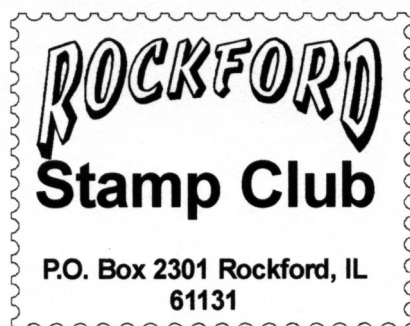
## The 2020-2021 Club Officers

President.....Frank Schmitt  
815-226-4391  
Vice-President.....Ward Miller  
Secretary.....Tammy Copus  
Treasurer.....Hank Fox  
815-397-0573  
Director.....Tim Copus  
Director.....Ted Gifford  
Director.....Steve Capone  
Show Chairman.....Tim Wait  
815-670-5869 / t.wait@comcast.net

## Perry Arnquist Award Recipients

1991 Perry Arnquist Emeritus	1999 Dwane Kaplenk*
1992 Evert Thelene *	2000 Thomas Johnston
1993 Donald Arnquist	2001 Mike Peters
1994 Otto Ehlers *	2002 Craig Edgington
1995 Dick Wibom *	2003 Earl Button
1996 Dan Hammell *	2004 Timothy Wait
1997 Robert Rosell *	2012 Tim Gallagher *
1998 Matt Mace	

\* Closed album



## February Meetings

Wednesday Feb 5 - Tuesday Feb 18

**Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo**  
March 21-22

Mark your Calendar now.  
Get ready to support YOUR show!