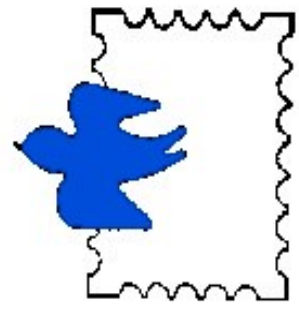


# ROCKFORD STAMP NOTES

## ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 21, 1930 - APS CHAPTER #735  
EDITOR: TIMOTHY G. WAIT EMAIL: T.WAIT@COMCAST.NET



January 2023

Volume 27 - Number 1

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

### Wednesday, January 4

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

### Tuesday, January 17

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

**Wednesday, December 7th:** 17 members and one guest driver! This month we held our annual charity auction for Ken-Rock Kids. Thank you to all who donated lots and had fun bidding. We also enjoyed many tasty treats including pizza, sausage & cheese trays and of course lots of sweets!

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

1. **Jeff Rieken** - Showed postcards from Expos, Burpee Museum and Christmas.
2. **Tim Wait** - asked for help on a 1968 Illinois Sesqui-centennial FDC with an unknown autograph. See page three and let him know what you think!
3. **Ruth Young** - showed a 1976 Declaration of Independence FDC showing all the signers on the four stamp issue.

**Tuesday mornings** continue to be a fun time and great auction! They are always MANY lots to bid on to add to your collection. YOU should bring some lots to sell off your duplicate or unneeded material (nothing is unwanted!) and acquire some great new items.

This is a good opportunity for any of our members who don't want to or are unable to drive at night. But of course, all members are welcome to attend.

In December the gang enjoyed treats and sweets too!

Happy New Year!



#### Member Health and Welfare

Gerry Van Alstyn recently had more surgery. We hope you are doing better Gerry. Get well soon!



#### Upcoming Stamp Shows

##### **Sat-Sun Jan 7-8 MSDA Milwaukee**

Waukesha, WI. Waukesha Expo Center, Forum Building, 100 Northview Rd. Hours Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3. Bourse only. Free admission.

##### **Sat-Sun Jan 14-15 MSDA Chicagoland West**

Glen Ellyn, IL. College of DuPage, Student Resource Center, 425 Fawell Blvd. Hours Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3. Bourse only. Free admission.

##### **Sat Feb 11 Janesville Stamp Show**

Janesville, WI. Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Pl. Hours Sat 9:30-4. Bourse and exhibits. Free admission.

##### **Sat-Sun Feb 25-26 Stampfest '23**

St. Francis, WI. Milwaukee philatelic Society. St. Francis Lions Community Center, 3476 E. Howard Ave. Hours Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3. Bourse only. Free admission.

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


**Red Fox**
**60c Bulk Mail or Make Up**

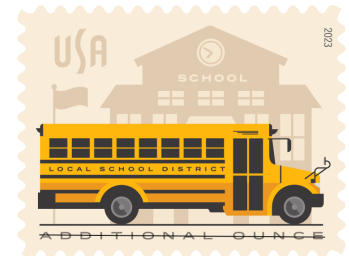
 Pane of 20, Coils of 3,000 and 10,000  
 Jan 5 - Red Fox, AR

This 40-cent stamp is intended for use by bulk mailers for items such as circulars, newsletters, and catalogs. It can also be used by customers who enjoy placing a variety of stamps on their envelopes and packages. The stamp art features a pencil-and-watercolor illustration of the face of a red fox from preexisting artwork by wildlife illustrator Dugald Stermer (1936–2011). The Red Fox is the largest of the true foxes and one of the most widely distributed, throughout the entire Northern Hemisphere. Due to its presence in Australia, it is included on the list of the world's 100 worst invasive species.

Despite that status, the Red Fox is a popular subject for U.S. stamps, having been featured previously on a \$1 1998 stamp, and one of the eight stamps in the 1975 CAPEX souvenir sheet.

This stamp celebrates the iconic yellow school bus and its role in ensuring that millions of children get to school and home again every day. The stamp features a stylized illustration of a 21st century yellow school bus, in profile in front of a silhouetted schoolhouse that is intended to be evocative of an earlier era. The first day site, High Point, NC, is the home of Thomas Built Buses, Inc. One of the leading bus manufacturers in the USA, the firm on its website proudly tells us, "Today, one in every three children in North America who rides a bus to school or an activity rides a Thomas Built bus."

**School Bus**
**Forever Additional  
Ounce (24c)**

 Pane of 20, Coil of 100  
 Jan 5 - High Point, NC


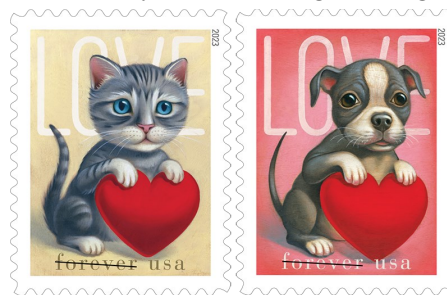
The first commemorative to be released in the Gregorian calendar new year will be the Year of the Rabbit stamp—for the Lunar Year that runs from January 22, 2023 until February 9, 2024. San Francisco was chosen for the First Day of Issue because it has a large Asian population that will be celebrating the Lunar New Year. Calling to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in the dragon or lion dances often performed in Lunar New Year parades, this 3-dimensional mask depicting a rabbit is a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk-art crafts created during this auspicious time of year.

This is the fourth of 12 stamps in the latest USPS Lunar New Year series, as well as in the Chinese Zodiac. The 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac are, in order, the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

**Year of the Rabbit**
**First Class Forever (63c)**

Pane of 20

Jan 12 - San Francisco, CA


**Love**
**First Class Forever (63c)**

Pane of 20

Jan 19 - Austin, TX

Celebrate 50 years since the first Love stamp was issued with two new Love stamps, one featuring a kitten and the other a puppy with their front paws resting atop a big heart. The word "LOVE" is featured in all caps behind each animal. The stamp designs were painted with oils on wood panel, then scanned and edited digitally.

**Sailboats**
**Post Card Forever (48c)**

Pane of 20 Coils of 100

Jan 22 - Lahaina, HI

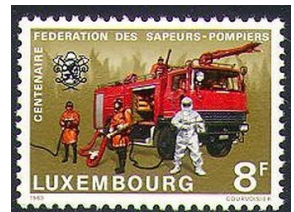


Sailboats stamps celebrate a favorite American outdoor activity with two colorful new postcard stamps. They feature abstract illustrations that are intended to capture the joyful sensation of being on the water on a beautiful day. The graphic art was designed and created by artist Libby VanderPloeg, who also created the lettering for the word "postcard," free-hand on a digital tablet.

**More on page four.**



# President's Corner - Frank Schmitt



Greetings fellow Rockford Stamp Club members:

Happy New Year 2023! Here we are with a nice fresh slate and a fistful of new resolutions to be a better stamp collector and to better organize our collections and sort through all of those "accumulations" or piles of, "I will get to those next". If you are anything like me these resolutions seem to easily carry over from year to year. The beauty of stamp collecting is there is always something within arm's length to capture our attention and keep our minds busy and out of mischief.

I want to thank everyone for their generosity in participating in the charity auction for the Ken-Rock Kids. The Rockford Stamp Club donated \$245.00 to the Center and this money is generally used to provide the kids with a Christmas party (the soul funding source). If nothing else, we are a generous lot. We also enjoyed some good friendship and fellowship and a lot of good treats, also a big thanks to all that shared.

**Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo** is quickly approaching, and we must get busy preparing. I will try to have Silent Auction sheets available starting with the January meeting. There will be volunteer sign-up sheets at the meeting for various needs during the show. Set-up and tear-down are critical needs and if you have a child or grandchild that could help it would be much appreciated. It would also be nice if you could put together a one row exhibit for the show as well. We are what makes the show a success. Thank you for your help.

Many new stamp issues are forthcoming throughout the new year and effective January 22, 2023, **first-class postage will increase to \$0.63**. The first Forever stamp, featuring the Liberty Bell, issued April 12, 2007, was \$0.41. If you stocked up at the time you are receiving a fair return on your investment. Many people complain about the cost of postage but in my book, it is still a good deal for how far that little stamp will carry a piece of mail. Most people (general public) have resorted to electronic bill payments because of cost and poor service. It sure makes finding postally used new issues more difficult, but the hunt is part of the game.

Hoping to see you at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and weather and health are on our side.

Happy collecting and stay safe!

## Illinois Sesquicentennial Autographs - by Tim Wait

I collect the 1968 Illinois Sesquicentennial stamp, Scott 1339, issued February 12, 1968. One of the aspects for FDC collecting is autographs. At First Day events you can often get an autograph from famous people in attendance and people that were included in the program. You can also send a canceled FDC to someone like the stamp designer to get an autograph. Here are two examples.

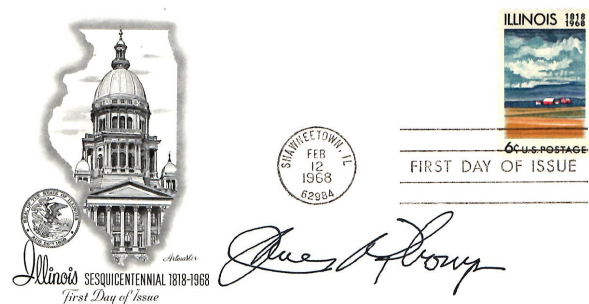


This one is pretty obvious as the cachet gives you a strong hint.

State of Illinois  
Office of the Governor

The cachet lists the three Capitols of Illinois.

Kaskaskia 1818 - 1819  
Vandalia 1819 - 1837  
Springfield 1837 - Present  
**Otto Kerner, Gov 1961-1968**



This one is a stumper. I have not been able to decipher the autograph. What do you think it is? Any help would be appreciated.

Tim Wait 815-670-5869 t.wait@comcast.net





**Ernest J. Gaines**  
**First Class Forever (63c)**  
 Pane of 20  
 Jan 23 - Lafayette, LA

The 46th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Ernest J. Gaines (1933-2019). Best known for such novels as "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "A Lesson Before Dying," Gaines drew from his childhood as the son of sharecroppers on a Louisiana plantation to explore the untold stories of rural African Americans, adding a vital voice to American literature. The stamp features an oil painting of Gaines, based on a 2001 photograph. Mike Ryan designed the stamp with art by Robert Peterson. Greg Breeding served as art director.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is home to the Ernest J. Gaines Center, which offers scholars valuable archival resources to conduct their research, as well as educational tools that provide historical resources about Gaines that in a digital archive that allows research of Gaines' work possible from around the globe.



**Florida Everglades**  
**Priority Mail \$9.65**  
 Pane of 4  
 Jan 22 - Homestead, FL

Spanning some 2 million acres in Southern Florida, from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, the Everglades is one of the largest wetlands in the world and the most significant breeding ground for tropical wading birds in north America. When the first European explorers came to Florida they named the area EVER from the word forever & GLADES which is an old English word that means grassy open place. The stamp art captures the look and feel of this interesting area. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dan Cosgrove.



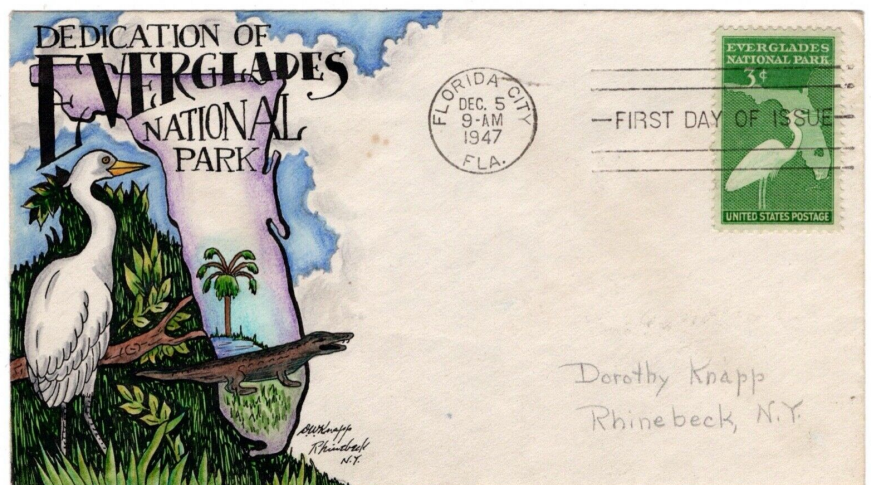
**Great Smoky Mountains**  
**Priority Mail Express \$28.75**  
 Pane of 4  
 Jan 22 - Gatlinburg, TN

Home to the most visited national park in the United States, the Great Smoky Mountains boast extensive national forests and a vast array of native plants and animals. Equally rich in history, folkways and culture, they are an American treasure, which the Postal Service celebrates with this new Priority Mail Express stamp. The stamp art captures an iconic mountain scene located near Newfound Gap between Gatlinburg, TN, and Cherokee, NC. In the foreground, a red-tailed hawk flies over the landscape. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dan Cosgrove.

A previous US stamp was issued at the Dedication of Everglades National Park December 5, 1947. Scott 952.

This beautiful hand painted cacheted First Day Cover is by Dorothy Knapp, one of the most famous cachet artists in American history.

You can see why with the wonderful images and painting.



# Welcome to the Rockford Illinois Stamp Club Website

[www.rockfordstampclub.com](http://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 tell us your comments.**  
Tim (t.wait@comcast.net) & Frank (prevent1@comcast.net) - webmasters.

## Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo \*\*\* March 11-12, 2023

Show details and important information.

**Where:** Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 West Lane Rd (Hwy 173), Loves Park.

**Hours:** Saturday 10-5 (Set up starting at 8am)  
Sunday 10-4 (Take down exhibits 3pm)

**Volunteer:** We can always use volunteers to set up exhibit frames and put in the exhibits. Last show we really needed more help with takedown so please consider staying to help. **We also need help welcoming guests at the front desk. Sign up sheets at meetings before show.**

**Banquet:** Last show we were very disappointed with Stockholm Inn. They have put in a minimum count of 25 which we didn't reach and the club had to pay for the under count. We started at 6pm and were informed shortly thereafter that they were closing at 7pm! We are actively looking for a new location. **We need a location to seat up to 25-30 and a private or semi secluded room so we can present awards. If you know of any place, especially closer to the show, please let Tammy Copus or Tim Wait know.**

**Dealers:** We will be slightly raising table fees this year. Last show we only had 10 paid dealers. We really need 12-13 to cover our increasing costs in 2024.

**Auction:** Start setting aside your more costly items for the show auction now! Usually there is a lot more bidding than at meetings. **Minimum starting price is \$5.**

**Exhibiting:** We will be having THREE opportunities to exhibit at the 2023 show!

A) 2-3-4 frame exhibits that will be professionally judged and compete for the "Coveted" Rockford Sock Monkey award.

B) single frame (16 pages) club frames that will be awarded first, second and third awards.

C) **NEW - 4 PAGE member showcase. This is meant to be a fun way to show a mini-exhibit. This can be an easy way to get started in exhibiting. No judging, no pressure, just show off something special.** See Tim with any questions.

### Dues Notice

Due to continued increases in ink, paper and postage over the last year, it was approved by the membership to raise dues to \$15 for a mailed newsletter and \$8 for an emailed newsletter. This is the first increase we have had in a long time and it was necessary to cover just the cost of the newsletter.

We hope you can come to a meeting and pay in person, but since attendance has been so much lower we are giving you notice here and you can send your checks to:

Rockford Stamp Club \*\* PO Box 242 \*\* Belvidere, IL 61008-0242

### ROCKFORD 2-3-4 2023 Dealers

The below dealers should all be attending the 2023 show. We continue to look for new dealers. Make sure to let them know if you are looking for something specific so they can be sure to bring it to the show! **Remember to support our dealers throughout the year for all your philatelic needs.**

Terry Kurzinski  
Cherry Valley, IL  
815-262-9117

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

WYstamps.com  
Wayne Youngblood  
Prairie Du Sac, WI  
608-370-9098

Steve Capone  
Rockford, IL  
815-394-0537

Bardo Stamps  
Jim Bardo  
Buffalo Grove, IL  
847-634-2676

W. H. Burdick  
Mtn. Home, AR  
870-425-7799

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

Larry's Stamps  
Plover, WI  
715-341-6767

J Freedom Stamps  
Jack Freedom  
LaGrange, IL  
773-370-9659

Double J Stamps  
Jeff  
Arlington Heights, IL  
847-843-8700

Riverbank Treasurers  
Jerry Wessler  
New Lisbon, WI  
608-515-6150

Buy the Stamp  
Rick Hyams  
Arlington Heights, IL  
847-414-5408

# 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.

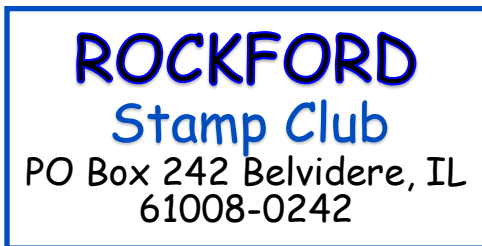
## The 2022-2023 Club Officers

President.....Frank Schmitt  
815-226-4391  
Vice-President.....Ward Miller  
Secretary.....Tammy Copus  
Treasurer.....Hank Fox  
Director.....Tim Copus  
Director.....Steve Capone  
Director.....Ted Gifford  
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



**We've been missing many of you!**  
**Wednesday, January 4 at 5:30/7pm**  
**Tuesday, January 17 at 9/10am**  
**Our NEW location is 625 Adams St.**