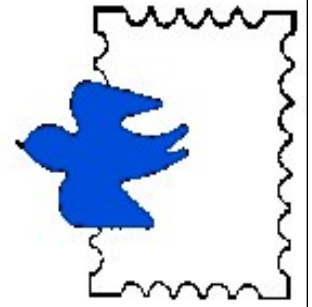


# ROCKFORD STAMP NOTES

## ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

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



**February 2025**

**Volume 29 - Number 2**

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

### Wednesday, February 5

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

### Tuesday, February 18

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

**Wednesday, Jan 8th:** there were 15 members at the meeting. Newer members **Gary & Jan Barrett** returned from the UP of Michigan.

We received one nomination for the “**Rockford Stamp Club Achievement Award**” after the meeting. February 5 will be your last chance to nominate any other member. Must be in writing with proposed name and reason (s) for merit. The award will be given at the show banquet.

**Welcome Desk at the show** - we passed around a sign up sheet for coverage at the front table at the show. Jeff **Rieken** is coordinating Saturday and **Tammy Copus** is coordinating Sunday. There are still slots to be filled. See one of them at the meeting. If you want to volunteer but won't be at one of the meetings before the show, email Tim at [t.wait@comcast.net](mailto:t.wait@comcast.net).

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

1. **Terry Kurzinski** - a) showed some color change-lings on US stamps caused by harsh lighting or oxidation b) and an illegal Colorado overprint on stamps.
2. **Stanley Campbell** - passed around a book on POW Mail from WWII - Vietnam.
3. **Jeff Hall** - proof material from article in past issue.
4. **Tim Wait** - showed a Priority Mail envelope from 1991 with a beautiful eagle stamp.

Mystery box was won by **Tammy Copus**.

### **Member Health and Welfare**

**Matt Mace** had a health issue that will keep him home-bound for a while as he recovers. He won't be at a meeting for a while and will miss the show. Take care Matt!

**Gerry Van Alstyne** went home January 7th. Still doing therapy on his long road back to health & mobility.

Keep both of them in your thoughts & prayers.

### **DUES NOTICE**

Your 2025 dues need to be paid NOW. \$15 for a printed newsletter and \$8 for the electronic version.

**If your dues are unpaid, use the enclosed dues notice to pay NOW.** Please fill this out and bring to a meeting with your payment or mail it to the address on the form.

**Anyone NOT paid by the Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo on March 8-9 will be dropped from membership and will not receive future Rockford Stamp Notes.**

**If you no longer wish to be a member, please let us know with the notice or email to [t.wait@comcast.net](mailto:t.wait@comcast.net).**



### **Upcoming Stamp Shows**

#### **Sat Feb 8 Janesville Stamp Show**

Janesville, WI. Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington PL. Hours 9:30-4. Exhibits and bourse. Nine dealers. Silent auction. Free admission.

#### **Sat-Sun Feb 22-23 STAMPFEST '25**

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

#### **Sat-Sun Mar 1-2 MSDA Appleton Show**

Appleton, WI. Double Tree by Hilton, 150 Nicolet Rd. Hours Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3. Bourse only. Free admission.

#### **Sat-Sun Mar 8-9 Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo**

Rockford, IL. Hoffman House Conference Center, 7550 E. State St. Attached to Holiday Inn. Hours Fri 10-5 Sat 10-4. Exhibits, bourse silent auction. Free admission.

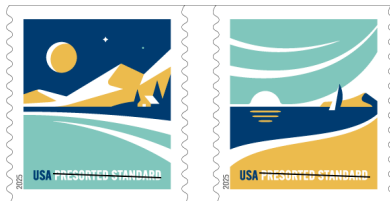
**Ask other members if you are interested in going to a show. Ride sharing can be a big savings and fun!**

### American Vistas

Non-denominated Pre-sort (10¢)

Coils of 3,000 and 10,000

Jan 17 – San Diego, CA



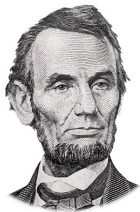
These two stamps depicting stylized, minimalist scenes of mountains and a beach are for use on business mail. Mail with stamps affixed is thought to more likely be opened than mail with printed indicia. In similar fashion, the goal is to create designs that will not offend mail recipients; thus the “minimalist” designs. The stamps feature screen prints by DKNJ Studios made from vector illustrations, and were designed by Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS.



### Appalachian Trail Year of the Snake First Class Forever (73¢) Pane of 15 designs Feb 28 - Dawson, GA

Covering almost 2,200 miles of footpath along one of Earth’s most ancient mountain ranges, the century-old Appalachian National Scenic Trail is within easy reach of large metropolitan areas of the East Coast. The Appalachian Trail is maintained by a network of volunteer clubs, led by the nonprofit Appalachian Trail Conservancy. This pane of 15 stamps includes a photographic view from each of the 14 states along the Maine-to-Georgia trail with an additional stamp showing stretches of trail through dense forest. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps with images from various photographers.





## President's Corner - Frank Schmitt

Greetings fellow Rockford Stamp Club members:



Hopefully everyone is faring well this winter with the roller coaster weather and temperatures we have been experiencing. It was truly unfortunate that the coldest day of the season fell on the date of our Tuesday morning auction causing the cancellation of said auction. Hopefully no one braved the -30-degree windchill and drove to Ken-Rock to find the facility closed. With luck, there will be no further cancellations this year.

Our **Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo** is fast approaching, so it is time to assemble your auction lots for the silent auction, finalize your exhibit if you have one, work up your want list/s and volunteer an hour or two helping make our show a huge success. We will have sign-up sheets at the meetings so please take advantage of this opportunity to help the club. We could really use help with the set-up and tear down of the exhibits and frames which does require some physical strength and dexterity. Don't let that scare you though, there are many low to no impact opportunities as well. We are also accepting donations to make up two large mystery boxes to raffle off at the show, it doesn't have to be anything real pretty, but it shouldn't belong in the dumpster either. Thanks for any consideration you may offer.

If you haven't yet, be sure to participate in the club's entry for **Linn's 2024 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll**, see Tim Wait for the forms and pictures of the stamps. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can go on-line and complete the poll and submit it as an individual. It's unofficial of course but interesting to see what people think. Personally speaking, many of the U.S. new issues are lame compared to other countries. The new 2025 Love stamp, see last month's newsletter – new issues, has me scratching my head, but then I guess I may be a little more traditional.

Don't forget, our friends to the north, Janesville Stamp Club is having their show on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Express from 10-4. Support their show if you can. Be sure and share any want lists with the dealers that will also be doing the Rockford 2-3-4 Expo so they can fill it and deliver them to you at our show.

Please attend our meeting and share the hobby with the club members. Bring a show and tell, auction lots, a friend and your ideas to "spice up" our meetings. We are not a club without **YOU!**

Smokey Bear turns 80 this year, (which is off to a very bad start for the old Boy), bring something Smokey Bear related to the meeting and share.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and happy collecting.

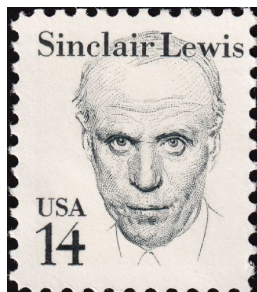
## Linn's 2024 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll

As in year's past, we will vote together at the January and February meetings for our selections in the 2024 poll. I will have ballots at the meetings and pictures of all the stamp issues. I'll tabulate the votes before I send them in and we'll see how closely our selections match the total results.

## 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.



**Harry Sinclair Lewis (February 7, 1885 – January 10, 1951)** was an American novelist, short-story writer, and playwright. In 1930, he became the first author from the United States to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, which was awarded "for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humor, new types of characters." Lewis wrote six popular novels: *Main Street* (1920), *Babbitt* (1922), *Arrowsmith* (1925), *Elmer Gantry* (1927), *Dodsworth* (1929), and *It Can't Happen Here* (1935).

Several of his notable works were critical of American capitalism and materialism during the interwar period. Lewis is respected for his strong characterizations of modern working women. H. L. Mencken wrote of him, "[If] there was ever a novelist among us with an authentic call to the trade ... it is this red-haired tornado from the Minnesota wilds."

Mar 21, 1985  
#1856

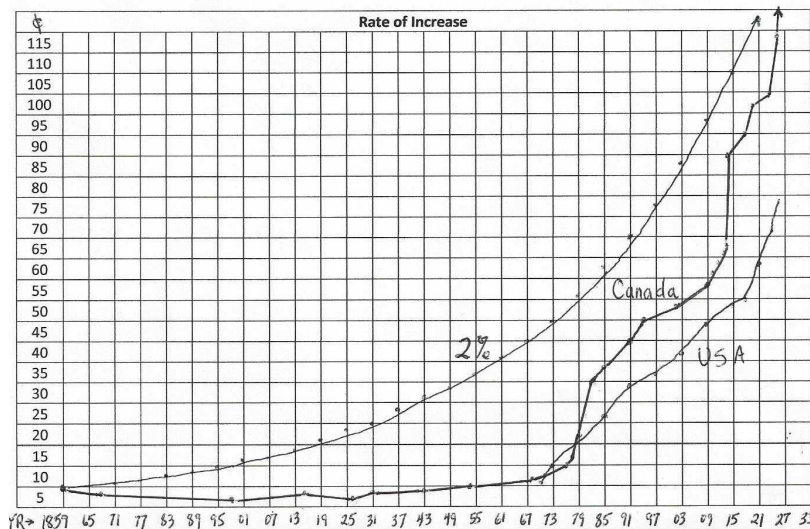
# The Trend of Increasing Postal Rates in Canada - Gary Barrett

When Canadian postal workers went on strike last fall, and remained on strike until the government forced them back to work around Christmas, I suspected that a hike in prices might be in the works. Late last week (Jan. 5 – 11), Canada Post sprang it on the public; on Monday, Jan. 13, the new rates went into effect. **And wow, a 25% increase!**

What happened this time was in stark contrast to the interesting practice the last time this happened. In late 2013, Canada Post announced, 3.5 months in advance, a 35% rate hike. To prevent a run on *permanent (forever)* stamps, all such stamps were withdrawn from sale. The definitive *permanent* stamps, current at the time, were reissued with the pre-hike denomination of 63 cents. The waiting period over, *permanent* stamps became available again and a special 22-cent stamp was issued to be used with any remaining 63-cent ones. Kind of inconvenient! This year, no such nonsense.

With the cost of mailing a normal letter now at \$1.24, it made me wonder how we got here. My scan through *Unitrade* (Canadian Specialized Catalogue) produced the table to the right showing every Canadian rate hike since the start of decimal currency.

It's obvious that recent rate hikes significantly outstrip inflation. But postal rates were so stable for a long time! When did things change? To illustrate that, I graphed the hikes and came up with the following.



Looks like it was around 1970 that prices started to move dramatically. For comparison, I added a line for the US postal rates and another showing a 2% compounded growth. The vertical scale is in cents regardless of country. So adjusting for exchange rates, the US curve would be closer to the Canadian one but still below it. Stretched over 165 years, 2% annual growth doesn't sound too bad. But since 1970, the real growth has been 5.5%... 7% over the last 10 years. Extrapolate that!

The question this begs is one of sustainability. With alternatives more widely available, how long will customers continue to use the post office? I keep my Canadian stamp collection up to date. How much longer will I need to budget for that? **What happens if collectors are the only customers?**

Basic Postal Rates in Canada

| Year | Rate | %   | Year | Rate | %  |
|------|------|-----|------|------|----|
| 1859 | .05  |     | 1992 | .42  | 5  |
| 1868 | .03  | -40 | 1993 | .43  | 2  |
| 1899 | .02  | -33 | 1995 | .45  | 5  |
| 1915 | .03  | 50  | 1999 | .46  | 2  |
| 1926 | .02  | -33 | 2001 | .47  | 2  |
| 1931 | .03  | 50  | 2002 | .48  | 2  |
| 1943 | .04  | 33  | 2004 | .49  | 2  |
| 1954 | .05  | 25  | 2005 | .50  | 2  |
| 1968 | .06  | 20  | 2006 | .51  | 2  |
| 1971 | .07  | 17  | 2007 | .52  | 2  |
| 1972 | .08  | 14  | 2009 | .54  | 4  |
| 1976 | .10  | 25  | 2010 | .57  | 6  |
| 1977 | .12  | 20  | 2011 | .59  | 4  |
| 1978 | .14  | 17  | 2012 | .61  | 3  |
| 1979 | .17  | 7   | 2013 | .63  | 3  |
| 1982 | .30  | 76  | 2014 | .85  | 35 |
| 1983 | .32  | 3   | 2019 | .90  | 6  |
| 1985 | .34  | 6   | 2020 | .92  | 2  |
| 1987 | .36  | 6   | 2024 | .99  | 7  |
| 1988 | .37  | 3   | 2025 | 1.24 | 25 |
| 1989 | .38  | 3   |      |      |    |
| 1990 | .39  | 3   |      |      |    |
| 1991 | .40  | 3   |      |      |    |

At the current exchange rate as of preparing this article, \$1.24 CAD equals \$1.01 USD, a difference of 28¢ US (compared to 73¢ US).

# 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 let us know your comments.**

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

## Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo - March 8-9

NOW is the time to start thinking about your contribution to making this show the best ever!

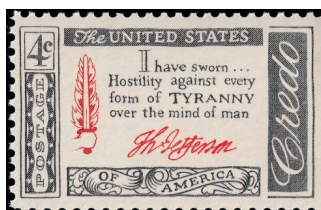
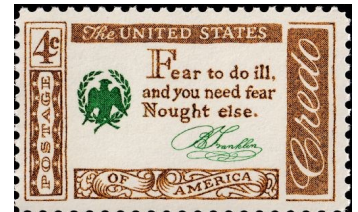
- Better **auction lots** \$5 minimum.
- **Four page exhibits** - contact Tim Wait. These can be a fun and easy way to start exhibiting and showing off your collection.
- **Want lists for the dealers.** Contact them ahead of time to make sure they bring what you are looking for. See below for contact info.
- **Time to help out at** - frame/exhibit set up, dealer setup, greeting our guests at the front desk, auction helpers, frame/exhibit take down.
- **Tell your friends and relatives.** The more we get the word out, the more attendance and activity we have at the show.

The Hoffman House Conference Center was a wonderful location last year. The room was spacious and nice. Plus the Scoreboard food was great! Our banquet will be held in a private room in 2025 for a better experience.

This is your show and we can all make it more successful and enjoyable every year **by participating in a variety of ways.**

## American Credo Issue

Issued in 1960-61 to re-emphasize the ideals upon which America was founded and to honor those great Americans who wrote or uttered the credos.



## ROCKFORD 2-3-4 ~ 2025 Dealers

Most of the dealers are returning from last year. Wayne Youngblood is coming back after missing last year.

**Get ready now to come find items you need for your collection. Contact them before the show to make sure they bring what YOU WANT! 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

## 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               |                       |

**ROCKFORD**  
**Stamp Club**

PO Box 242 Belvidere, IL  
61008-0242

**See you for some Philatelic Phun!**

**Wednesday, February 5 at 5:30/7pm**

**Tuesday, February 18 at 9/10am**

**Remember we're at 625 Adams St.**