

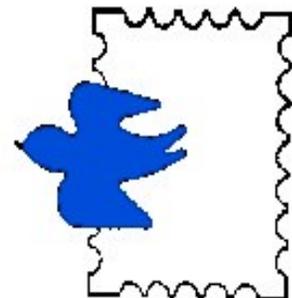
ROCKFORD STAMP NOTES

ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 21, 1930 - APS CHAPTER #735
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January 2026

Volume 30 - Number 1



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

Wednesday, January 7

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

Tuesday, January 20

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

Wednesday, December 3rd: Donation Auction a success! With donated lots and spirited bidding (from only nine members in attendance), combined with some generous cash donations, we were able to give Ken-Rock Kids \$275 for their Christmas party. At the Tuesday meeting we saw two tables loaded with toys and presents for them! We all had plenty of Christmas treats too!

The Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo will be March 7-8, 2026. We discussed progress and the need for volunteers for set up, take down and staffing the welcome desk.

Exhibits are open for the 2-3-4 competition and also a one frame (16 pages) or 4 page exhibit. See Tim if you are interested in showing off a favorite collection.

Everyone in attendance paid their dues. How about you?

Show & Tell.....

1. **Steve Capone** - a) Jewish Happy New Year Card Sep 15, 1909. Chicago to Rockford b) Post card depicting Harlem Park Rockford c) Real Picture Post Card (PPPC) of the Chicago Museum of History, 1931 d) Stott's Stamp Monthly cartoon from 1980.
2. **Jeff Hall** - Dec 28, 1918 WWI Soldier cover thanking the sender for a Red Cross Bag.
3. **Tim Wait** - a) 1980 Jimmy Carter Christmas Card b) Santa "stamp" used on cover!
4. **Frank Schmitt** - Hungarian Christmas stamp/cover.
5. **Stanley Campbell** - Five different Swiss post cards.

Everyone left with their goodies a good hart and a full stomach!

Member Health and Welfare

Gerry Van Alstyne continues having tests and appointments. He still has a long road to go to get all his problems addressed. Keep him in your prayers.

DUES NOTICE

2025 is done! That means your 2026 dues need to be paid soon. **\$15 for a printed newsletter and \$8 for the electronic version.**

This is a bargain for all the philatelic fun you have at the meetings, **that many of you are missing out on!**

See the **dues notice from December.** We also have three questions asking your opinion about how we can get more member participation at the meetings. Please fill this out and bring to a meeting with your payment or mail it in to the address on the form.



Upcoming Stamp Shows

Fri-Sat Jan 9-10 - MSDA Stateline Show

Kenosha, WI. First Christian Church, 13022 Wilmot Rd. Hours: Fri 10-5, Sat 10-3. Bourse only. Free admission and parking.

Sat Feb 14 - Janesville Stamp Show

Janesville, WI. Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Place. Bourse and exhibits. Hours: 10-4. Free admission and parking.

Sat Feb 28 - Stampfest '26

St. Francis, WI. St. Francis Community Center, 3476 East Howard Ave. Bourse and exhibits. Hours: 10-5. Free admission and parking.

Sat-Sun Mar 7-8 - Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo

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


**Angels Trumpet's
Definitive (4¢)**

Pane of 20 and Coil Roll 10,000

Jan 9 - Kenosha, WI

Ever since the Transportation Series of the 1980s and 1990s the Postal People have struggled to find a popular theme for its low value definitives. As if they don't have enough floral issues each year, this 4-cent stamp follows the 2024 release of other low-denomination flower stamps: the 1-cent Fringed Tulip, 2-cent Daffodils, 3-cent Peonies, 5-cent Red Tulips and 10-cent Poppies and Coneflowers. To create these images, photographer Harold Davis backlit the flowers on a lightbox and combined multiple photographic exposures, resulting in a luminous, transparent look. Note that the number of flowers always matches the denomination! Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed these stamps.

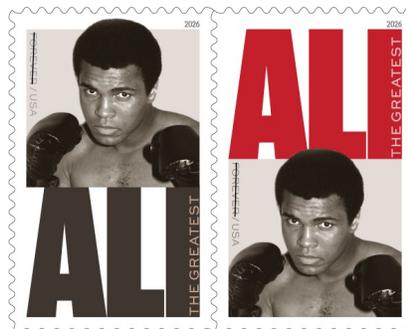

Love Birds
First Class Forever (78¢)

Pane of 20

Jan 13 - Kansas City, MO

Inspired by both mid-century American design and Japanese children's book illustrations, James Yang created the art for this year's Love stamps. His illustrations show pairs of stylized birds in a colorful world in which hearts appear, like love itself, in sweet and surprising ways. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps.

Known as "The Greatest," Muhammad Ali (1942-2016) was a three-time world heavyweight boxing champion. He challenged the best fighters in the world—and the world itself. As a boxer, activist and humanitarian, he defied expectations to become a globally celebrated cultural icon. The stamps feature a 1974 Associated Press photo. The name "ALI," alternating top to bottom, suggests aspects of his career: promotional posters, his legendary movement in the ring, and the chants that greeted him when he traveled the world.


Muhammad Ali
First Class Forever (78¢)

Pane of 20

Jan 15 - Louisville, KY


Colorado Statehood
First Class Forever (78¢)

Pane of 20

Jan 24 - Denver, CO

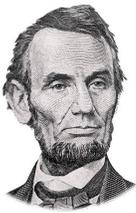
In 2026, Colorado will be honored with a stamp for its 150th anniversary. Renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and the awe-inspiring beauty of the Rocky Mountains, our 38th state joined the Union in 1876. The stamp features a photograph of Jagged Mountain, located in the Weminuche Wilderness area of the San Juan National Forest. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp with a photograph by Colorado nature photographer John Fielder (1950-2023).


Phillis Wheatley
First Class Forever (78¢)

Pane of 20

Jan 29 - Boston, MA

The 49th Black Heritage stamp commemorates Phillis Wheatley (circa 1753-1784), the first author of African descent in the American Colonies to publish a book. As an enslaved woman with an education and prominent social connections, Wheatley occupied a unique and remarkable place in Colonial Boston, and is often called "the mother of African American literature." Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp with a portrait of Wheatley by internationally acclaimed artist Kerry James Marshall.



President's Corner - Frank Schmitt



Greetings fellow Rockford Stamp Club members:

Happy New Year! 2026 gives us the opportunity to start fresh, or at least refresh. Many of us have been collecting for not only years, but decades. During that time, we have yet to finish a collection we started so long ago, some being impossible because scarcity of stamps or covers, or it would consume our net worth to do so. On the other hand, some of us have been stuck in a "rut" so to speak and have never taken the opportunity to expand our horizons and start a new collection, maybe one that is just plain fun such as a topical collection. Other avenues we could explore are exhibiting, writing an article for publication, doing a presentation at our, or, a neighboring stamp club or show, joining a society or study group, and the list goes on into infinity. It's a new year so let's take the leap even though it is not a leap year.

A big, big, thank you to the members of the Rockford Stamp Club that participated in our December charity auction to benefit Ken-Rock Community Center, which is our home base. Through your generosity, of not only the auction proceeds, but the many additional monetary donations of our members we were able to present a check in the amount \$275.00. This money has historically been used to fund a Christmas party for the children served by Ken-Rock and is often the sole source of funding to do so. It is very heartwarming to experience the generosity of you, our members.

Stamp shows are beginning to open again so please attend and support as many of them as possible. In person interactions with dealers is still the best in my opinion. It gives you the opportunity to view the stamp or cover you are seeking, and often view a selection, and glean advice and knowledge from the dealer's expertise and experience. It also develops a relationship and potentially an outlet to sell or consign your stamps for sale when and if you decide to do so. If you purchased a good portion of your collection from him, he is already familiar with the quality and content which makes things much easier, both buying or selling.

Quick quiz. What is the significance of March 7-8, 2026? I hope you answered 2-3-4 Rockford Stamp Expo! It is fast approaching, and we are in dire need of your participation and volunteerism to make the show a success. We will have sign-up sheets for various duties and opportunities for you to make **OUR** show a success. Silent auction lots are also needed along with competitive and non-competitive exhibits. There are not many clubs sponsoring shows around the area anymore, let's show them what Rockford Stamp Club can do and make this show one of the best.

With this new year we hope to see many more of our members in attendance at our meetings. Let us know what we can do to make that happen and what we can do to improve or enhance your meeting experience.

Stay safe, stay well, and happy collecting.

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.



Lillian Evelyn Gilbreth (née Moller; May 24, 1878 – January 2, 1972) was an American psychologist, industrial engineer, consultant, and educator who was an early pioneer in applying psychology to time-and-motion studies. She was described in the 1940s as "a genius in the art of living."

Gilbreth, one of the first female engineers to earn a Ph.D., is considered to be the first industrial/organizational psychologist. She and her husband, Frank Bunker Gilbreth, were efficiency experts who contributed to the study of industrial engineering, especially in the areas of motion study and human factors.

Feb 24 1984
#1868

Rockford Blue Bird - PA-B 17 - Tim Wait

The Rockford, Ill. post office carved two famous "Blue Bird" duplex fancy cancel postmarks in 1867 and again in 1869. They were all stamped in blue ink, hence the name. A duplex canceller was a hand stamp used to cancel postage stamps and imprint a dated postmark applied simultaneously with one device. The device had a steel die, generally circular, which printed the location of the cancel, together with the time and date of cancel. This die was held in place by a handle with an obliteration marker off to the right side that was applied over the postage stamp to prevent its reuse. The first PA-B 18 (Skinner Eno) has been recorded from October 30 - December 27, 1867. An early example from November 2 cropped from the cover is showing at right. Notice the Blue Bird is flying to the left.



In 1869, someone at the Rockford post office decided to carve another bird cancel. Since they were still using blue ink, it is also called a Rockford "Blue Bird" fancy cancel. PA-B 17 (Skinner Eno). This second postmark is much scarcer than the first version. I recently acquired my second example (APR 5) on cover.



APR 1 (1869)

Rockford to Mrs. Sibyl Brown, care J Howell, Brooksgrove, Livingston Co., NY.

The scan didn't pick up the Rockford town postmark on the postal stationery envelope, but it is clearly APR 1. The beautiful carving of the bird, now flying to the right is excellent.



APR 5 (1869)

Rockford to Miss Kate N. Lilly, Hartland Wisconsin.

The scan clearly shows APR 5, just four days later. The carving of the bird now shows significant deterioration!



Take a close look at the enlarged cancels. On the APR 1 example, you can see a beak and the distinctive lower wing. On the APR 5 example, the beak is gone and the head appears to have been smushed back.

My hypothesis is that the cancel was made of poor cork material that didn't hold up under heavy use at the Rockford post office. That is why they are so much scarcer than the 1867 cancel which lasted almost two months.

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.

USPS Postmark Process Changes - Submitted by Bruce Marquardt

QUAD CITIES IL 612
2 DEC 2025 AM 2 L



HARRISBURG PA 171
27 DEC 2025 PM 4 L



The U.S. Postal Service is making new changes in 2026, including adjustments to the postmark process, which could result in late fees and penalties for anyone mailing time-sensitive documents such as tax returns or bill payments. For decades, the postmark – an official mark that shows where and when mail was accepted by the Postal Service – has been used in law as proof that an individual met a deadline, such as submitting a ballot by Election Day. A USPS postmark used to indicate the date when mail was dropped in a mailbox or submitted at the post office counter.

Now, USPS is clarifying in a new rule that the postmark will reflect the date an envelope is first processed by an automated USPS sorting machine, potentially days after it was dropped off – not the actual drop-off date. Changes to USPS are part of its Delivering For America initiative that includes consolidation of mail processing and modernizing infrastructure to fit a time when the volume of paper letters is dropping and the number of packages is increasing.

How does the new postmark rule affect your mail? For a long time, Americans have assumed that mail will be postmarked the day it is mailed and may not be prepared to account for the extra days. Tax payments, charitable contributions, legal filings, rent payments and other bills or items that rely on postmark dates for deadlines can be impacted by later postmarks and risk late fees, penalties, or delinquency. Many states also accept ballots that are postmarked by Election Day. Time-sensitive mail should be mailed several days before the deadline. **People can also go inside their local post office and ask for a hand-stamped "manual postmark" on the date, or use certified mail.**

ROCKFORD 2-3-4 ~ 2026 Dealers (Confirmed)

Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo 2026 is only a couple months away, March 7-8, 2026. The dealers listed below from last year and this year (in Red). Contact them with your want list or what you might be interested in. Please support our show dealers throughout the year for all your philatelic needs.

David Alex

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

WYstamps.com

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

Tiger Collectibles

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

Cal's & Friends

Michael Duehr
Genesee Depot, WI
calsfriends@wi.rr.com
262-392-9432

Fox River Stamps

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

Larry's Stamps

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

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

Steve Capone

Steve
Rockford, IL
815-394-0537

New for 2026

Leen & Linda Intveld

Leen & Linda
Eldridge, IA
lrintveld@yahoo.com
603-554-4060

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.

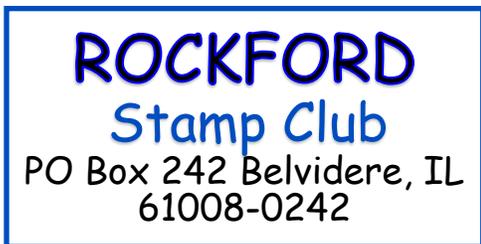
The 2025-2026 Club Officers

President.....Frank Schmitt
815-226-4391
Vice-President.....Matt Mace
Secretary.....Tammy Copus
Treasurer.....Tim Wait
Director(2).....Tim Copus
Director(4).....Open
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
2026 ???



We're having a Program!

Wednesday, January 7 at 5:30/7pm

Tuesday, January 20 at 9/10am

Remember we're at 625 Adams St.