



Happy St. Patrick's Day

POWAY STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S BEST STAMP COLLECTING CLUB

APS #1 12097

March 11th 2026

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Club's Mission Statement

To promote a closer social relationship among stamp collectors of Poway, San Diego, and vicinity, and to assist in spreading the knowledge of stamps and the pleasures derived from stamp collecting to those interested in philately.

Contact Us

Poway Stamp Club
12675 Danielson Court #413
Poway, CA 92064

Club E-mail

PSCphilately@gmail.com

CLUB MEETINGS

General Meetings

March 11th

**Haitian Air Mails
Ron Couchot**

In July 1915 President W. Wilson dispatched the USMC to restore order in Haiti after the assassination of the Haitian President. The occupation lasted until 1934 (19 years). During this period the Marines established, amongst other departments, a postal system. My talk will focus on the establishment of the Air Mail portion of this system during this period.

March 25th

Presentation

Member Voice Sale

The presentation will be a comprehensive overview of precancelled stamps with many examples to illustrate the main areas collected.

Please remember to bring your badge or bring \$1

2025 Club Board Members

President David Waller
Vice President David Klauber
Treasurer Bill Kolb
Secretary Trice Klauber
Member at Large Jim Grundy
Member at Large Neal Lyles
Past President Art Berg
Program Director Bill Gallagher

2026 Club Volunteers

Club Registrar Trice Klauber
Auctioneer Jim Grundy
Club Librarian Jo Ashley
Newsletter Editor David Waller
Guild Contributors Jon Schrag
 Bob McArthur
 Manual Marti
 Jim Grundy
 David Klauber
 David Waller
Library Rep. Neil Schneider
Opp. Drawing Scott Boyd
Webmaster David Klauber

Chair Positions

Acquisitions Trice Klauber
Comm. Outreach TJ Ducat
SD Stamp Show David Kaluber
SD County Fair Art Berg

2025 Club Representatives

Federated Rep. Bill O'Connor
S.D. Phil. Council Nick Soroka
Rep. (Alternate) Art Berg
APS Ambassador Trice Klauber

PSC Website

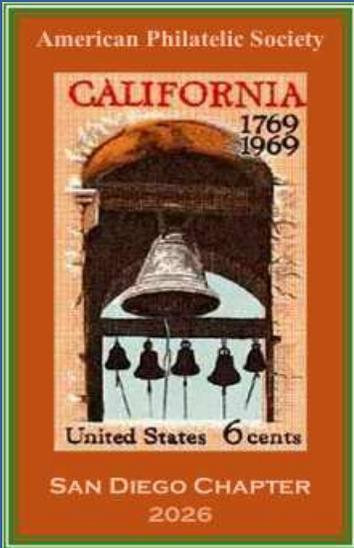
Powaystampclub.com



CLUB EVENTS

Below is the meeting schedule for 2026; all events are proposed and subject to change as necessary to accommodate other events such as auctions.

March	11	Ron Couchot Haitian Air Mail
	25	Member's Voice Sale
April	8	Stephen Gill Fun with Stamps
	22	TBD – Presentation
May	13	Arden Simoni Hawaiian Stamps
	27	TBD – Presentation
June	10	TBD – Presentation
	24	TBD – Presentation
July	8	TBD – Presentation
	22	TBD – Presentation
August	12	TBD – Presentation
	26	Member's Voice Sale
September	9	TBD – Presentation
	23	Large Voice Sale
October	14	Ugly Stamp Contest Nominations for BOD
	28	TBD – Presentation
November	12	Elections for BOD TBD – Presentation
	19	No Meeting
December	9	Holiday Party
	23	No Meeting



Meetings

Club meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of each month except November & December at:

Philatelic Library

12675 Danielson Court #413
Poway, CA 92064

APS

The Poway Stamp Club and many of its members are members of the American Philatelic Society (APS). If 33% of our members are also members of the APS, then the Club receives a free year's membership to the APS.

Please join the APS!

Participation

All Club members are encouraged to provide input for the Club's monthly newsletter. Your knowledge and expertise is important and should be shared. Submit your article to:

dwall@dbwipmq.com

Please contribute!

Club Website

PowayStampClub.com

Visit our Club's website to find a schedule of activities, resource links, and contact information as well as our newsletter.

Take a look!

CLUB NOTES

Club Meetings

The Poway Stamp Club meets twice a month, except in November and December, on the second and fourth Wednesday at 12675 Danielson Court, #413 in Poway. The meetings begin at 6:30pm.

Membership

It is time to inspire others to collect stamps. Enroll a new member today. Give a gift that could last a lifetime. Annual memberships to the Poway Stamp Club are \$20. For those individuals who are already philatelic collectors (and have been a member of the Club in good standing for two years), a lifetime membership in our club could be the perfect gift. Lifetime memberships are \$200.

Next Bid Board

Our next Bid Board will be held, April 4 through April 18th and submissions will have to be into Trice by March 28th, 3:00pm. Make sure that you visit the website and place your bids. For more information and Bid Board rules visit the Club's website at PowayStampClub.com.

Club Newsletter

We Need You!



All Club members are encouraged to provide articles for the monthly newsletter. Join our Internationally recognized Writers Guild and submit your items to the Club's Editor today.

E-mail:

dwall@dbwipmq.com



Member Spotlight!

By David Klauber



The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members in each issue. Since our last newsletter, 6 new members have joined. Today's spotlight is on our newest members.

Jeff Sugar
Jill Sugar
Dave Cobb
Richard Levy
Casey Cook
Bruce Glover

#632 & #633 Jeff and Jill Sugar of La Jolla, California. Was presented for and accepted for membership by our Secretary, Trice Klauber. They are new to the hobby and eager to learn. We appreciate their volunteering at the San Diego Stamp Show. Welcome to the Club!

#634 Dave Cobb of Newport Harbor Stamps. Dave joined our club while attending the San Diego Stamp Show and donating to our group. We look forward to seeing him at future shows. Welcome!

#635 Richard Levy of Slingerlands New York and Carlsbad California met us at the San Diego Stamp Show. He attended the following meeting and applied for membership. Rich collects Plate blocks, WW and the Interim period. His membership was unanimously approved by the members present. Welcome!

#636 Casey Cook of Escondido, California, met us at the San Diego Stamp Show. Our President Dave Waller presented him for membership. Casey collects US stamps to 1935, as well as California and San Diego Postal History. His membership was unanimously approved by members present. Welcome!

#637 Bruce Glover of San Marcos has applied for membership and was accepted by our Secretary Trice Klauber. Bruce has volunteered and supports his wife in her collecting activities including set up at the San Diego Stamp Show. We look forward to his continued support. Welcome!

The total paid club membership is 158 members in March 2026.

President's Message



Dear Members,

The Board has made some significant changes that will affect how the Poway Stamp Club conducts business in 2026. They have established a more detailed description of the President's duties, established a Code of Ethics for its members, set new rules for the Club's raffles, and created a San Diego Stamp Show Committee (chaired by David Klauber); a San Diego County Fair Committee (chaired by Art Berg), an Acquisitions Committee (chaired by Trice Klauber) and a Community Outreach Committee (chaired by TJ Ducat). All of this has been implemented in hopes of achieving our goals for 2026. In addition, the Board is also considering changes to the bylaws to further clarify and streamline our governing documents. Once the Board has agreed on these changes, they will be sent to the membership for a vote.

So, what do we expect from these changes? With the establishment of these new committees, I anticipate that there will be an increased need for volunteers to assist in accomplishing the committee's goals. Hopefully this will inspire an increase in volunteer participation. To date, our Acquisitions Chair has already experienced a significant increase in the number of volunteers sorting, packaging, and labeling lots for future auctions. (Membership Participation, Goal 1)

In addition, one of our new members, TJ Ducat, has taken the position of Community Outreach Chair, with the primary goal of increasing the public's awareness of the Poway Stamp Club. As of today, TJ will have worked diligently on publicizing the San Diego Stamp Show while promoting the Poway Stamp Club as a significant contributor to that event. I expect that his efforts will have generated a significant amount of interest by show attendees in the Poway Stamp Club. (Financial Stability, Goal 2)

Since our last newsletter our Acquisitions Chair, Trice Klauber, has received several inquiries regarding donations to our Club and to date has accepted three collections for our Club. A fourth was forwarded to the San Diego Philatelic Library because the donor had requested a receipt for tax purposes. Since the Club is not a 501(c)(3) organization it cannot accept donations from donors requesting a receipt. These collections have significantly increased the number of stamps and other philatelic items that the Club needs for our auction and bid board sales. (Securing Donation, Goal 3).

I look forward to our continued success in achieving our goal for 2026. If you would like to help, then please let me know.

The development of perf gauges

Stamp perforation gauges are indispensable tools in philately, allowing collectors to measure the spacing of perforations on postage stamps. These instruments have played a crucial role in stamp identification, classification, and valuation. Before perforations were introduced, early postage stamps were imperforate and had to be cut from sheets with scissors or knives. This proved inconvenient and inefficient. In the late 1840s and early 1850s, inventors like Henry Archer pioneered the perforation of stamps, enabling easy separation.

As postal authorities adopted perforation, it soon became apparent that perforation standards were not uniform. Different machines, pins, and manufacturing processes produced variations in hole size and spacing, even within the same stamp issue. Collectors and dealers began to recognize that these differences could distinguish separate printings or varieties. Thus arose the need for a reliable method to measure perforations.

The earliest perforation gauges appeared in the latter half of the 19th century. These were typically simple printed scales, often included in stamp albums or dealer price lists. They consisted of rows of dots or lines labeled with numbers, representing the count of perforation holes (or spaces) within a standard distance, usually 20 millimeters.

One of the most significant milestones in the history of perforation gauges was the work of Edward B. Sterling in the late 19th century. Sterling popularized a standardized perforation gauge that measured perforations over a fixed 20 mm span. His gauge gained wide acceptance, particularly in the United States, and helped bring consistency to perforation measurement across the philatelic world.

By the mid-20th century, it became clear that traditional gauges were insufficient for certain stamps, particularly those with very close or irregular perforations. This led to the development of specialized gauges, including:

- **The Instanta Gauge:** Developed in the 1930s, this gauge used converging lines rather than dots, allowing for highly precise measurement by matching the perforation tips to the angle of the lines.
- **Dial and Sliding Gauges:** These mechanical devices provided alternative methods for measuring perforation spacing with increased precision.

Such tools were especially valuable for classic stamps, where minor perforation differences could mean significant differences in value.

Among specialized perforation gauges, the Instanta and the Kiusalas stand out for their precision and for departing from the traditional "row-of-dots" method. While both are designed to measure perforations more accurately than standard gauges, they differ significantly in concept, execution, and ideal use.

Instanta Gauge

- Uses converging angled lines printed on a card or plastic surface.
- The collector aligns the tips of the stamp's perforations with the angled lines.
- The correct perforation gauge is found where the perforation tips align consistently along one angle.

Kiusalas Gauge

- Uses very fine, closely spaced parallel or slightly angled lines, printed with extreme precision.
- Measurement is achieved by visually matching perforation tips across the lines to determine exact spacing.
- Designed to resolve very small differences, often down to fractions such as 0.05 or 0.1.

Comparison

Both gauges rely on visual alignment rather than counting dots, but the Instanta emphasizes speed and clarity, while the Kiusalas prioritizes extreme precision.

In recent decades, digital technology has influenced perforation measurement. Software applications and online tools now allow collectors to scan stamps and measure perforations electronically. Digital gauges can offer extreme precision and are particularly useful for research, plating studies, and expertization.



The Instanta and Kiusalas perf gauges.

Editor's Corner

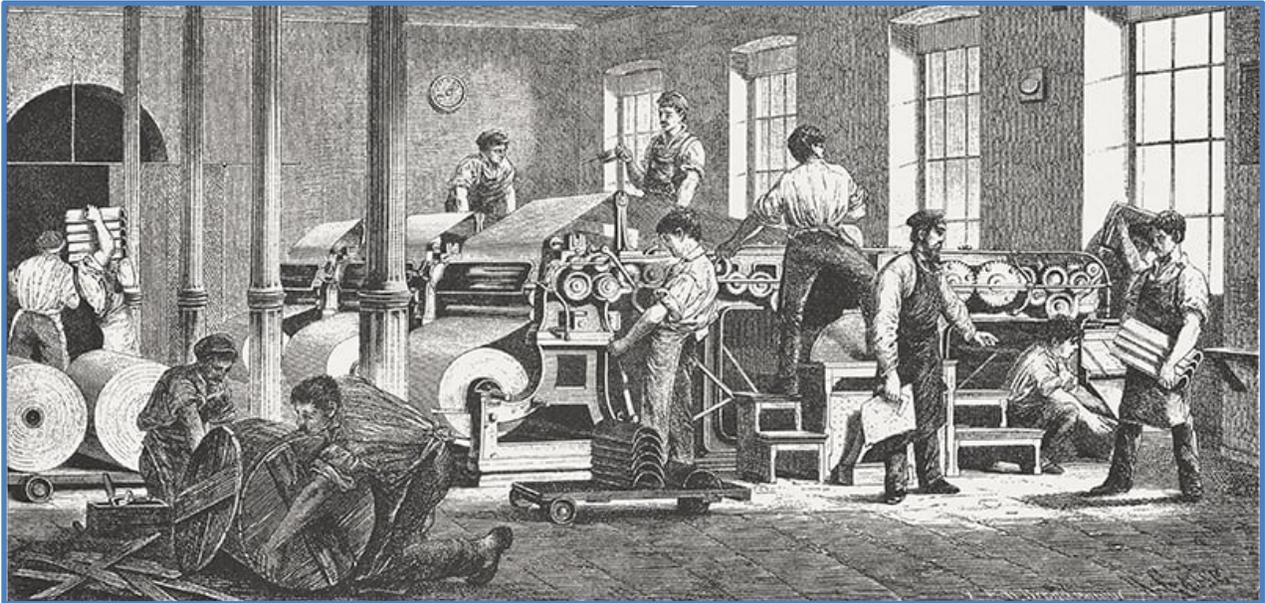


Image obtained from <https://blog.thelabelprinters.com/brief-history-of-printing-presses-part-3-the-industrial-revolution>.

To Our Readers,

I am continuing my search for a volunteer to become an apprentice and learn the process of preparing the Poway Stamp Club Newsletter in the hopes of taking the position of Editor-in-Chief sometime in the future.

When I first accepted the position from David Klauber I was concerned about many things, would I be able to create the artwork that David so skillfully prepared?, would I be able to use the template provided easily to create the newsletter without issue?, would there be a sufficient number of articles per issue from our editorial team?, would I be able to meet the deadlines for publications?, and the list goes on. My thoughts were "Well, you never know unless you try!" So, I did! I am so surprised how much I enjoy creating the artwork, editing and organizing the articles, looking up information on events to include in the Newsletter and because of this I have had no problems meeting publishing deadlines. Now, David was there for support, but I was not an apprentice learning from David to make the transition seamless. However, as things would have it, this was not needed. That being said, I want to make this fun and easy for the next Editor-in-Chief by providing guidance in advance of taking on the position. After only a few issues, I found the position of Editor-in-Chief to be fun, sometimes entertaining and relatively easy. I think that you will find it to be the same if you are that adventurous volunteer.

If you are interested, then please contact me at dwall@dbwipmg.com.

David Waller,
Editor-in-Chief

Member's Articles

Every Cover Tells a Story

by Jim Grundy



Figure 1: picture postcard of the Motordrome near Playa del Rey California circa 1910.

This month, I'm writing about a postcard postmarked in 1910, with a picture on the back showing an object that resembles a white sugar-coated doughnut. The doughnut is placed in an uninhabited area that has a river and mountains nearby. A closer look reveals that the doughnut is surrounded by a fence. There are buildings and people both inside and outside the structure. There are two sets of railroad tracks to the lower left of the structure. In small print in the lower left-hand corner of the card are the words "The Motordrome near Playa del Rey, California", Figure 1. Playa del Rey is a region on the west side of Los Angeles near Santa Monica Bay, and a motordrome is a steeply banked wooden track used for automobile and motorcycle racing. Let's investigate how this Motordrome came to be.

The years before 1910 saw many innovations that changed how people traveled. For example, primitive forms of bicycles appeared in the mid 1800's. These designs evolved into a high-wheel style, with a large front wheel and a smaller rear wheel. They were popular but very dangerous to ride. Around 1890, the safety bicycle was invented. This style of bicycle was safer and easier to learn to ride, making it a popular form of transportation for men, women, and even children. The invention of the gasoline engine in 1876 enabled Karl Benz to patent the first gasoline-powered automobile in 1886. It was a logical progression to put a gasoline engine on a bicycle to make a motorcycle. This would not be a simple task to make a small, lightweight engine. However, early motorcycle manufacturers such as Indian and Harley-Davidson did just that. Automobile

technology was slowly improving. Their engines were heavy and not too powerful, which limited their top speed. For example, the engine used in the Wright Brothers' biplane weighed 180 pounds and produced just twelve horsepower.

By 1910, bicycles, motorcycles, and automobiles were the rage. It is just human nature that two people with similar vehicles would race to see which was better. Bicycle, motorcycle, and automobile manufacturers found that regularly organized races were a great way to get potential customers interested in their products. The competition between manufacturers led to innovations that improved their products. Most people could not afford to own one of these vehicles, but they could afford to pay and watch them race in person.

Bicycle races were the first to become popular. They could be held indoors on a small oval track, with customers seated to watch the races. The racetracks were modified to be angled to enable riders to go faster and made the race more exciting. This same design would carry over to motor racing tracks. When Fredrick Moskovics decides to build a one-mile racetrack in Playa del Rey, He hired Jack Prince, who was famous for building bicycle tracks, to build the Motordrome.



Figure 2: Construction of the Motordrome wood track.

Prince started construction of the Motordrome on January 31, 1910, and it was completed in 25 days, Figure 2. The one-mile circular track was constructed from over two million square feet of 2-inch-by-4-inch pine boards. The track was 75 feet wide with an 18-degree incline. Because of the banking, it was twenty-five feet from the lowest to the highest point of the track. The local sports writers called The Motordrome “the pie pan” because of its banked track design. The heavily banked track made it impossible for people outside the track to see the races taking place inside. The Motordrome had seating for 40,000 spectators, 12,000 were in a covered bleacher section. The cost of constructing the track was \$75,000, plus another \$10,000 for arc lights for night racing. The Motordrome opened to the public on April 8, 1910. Imagine watching the races in 1910 and seeing automobiles traveling over sixty miles per hour and motorcycles going nearly one hundred miles per hour, or a speeding racecar that appears to be stuck on its side against a wall, Figure 3.

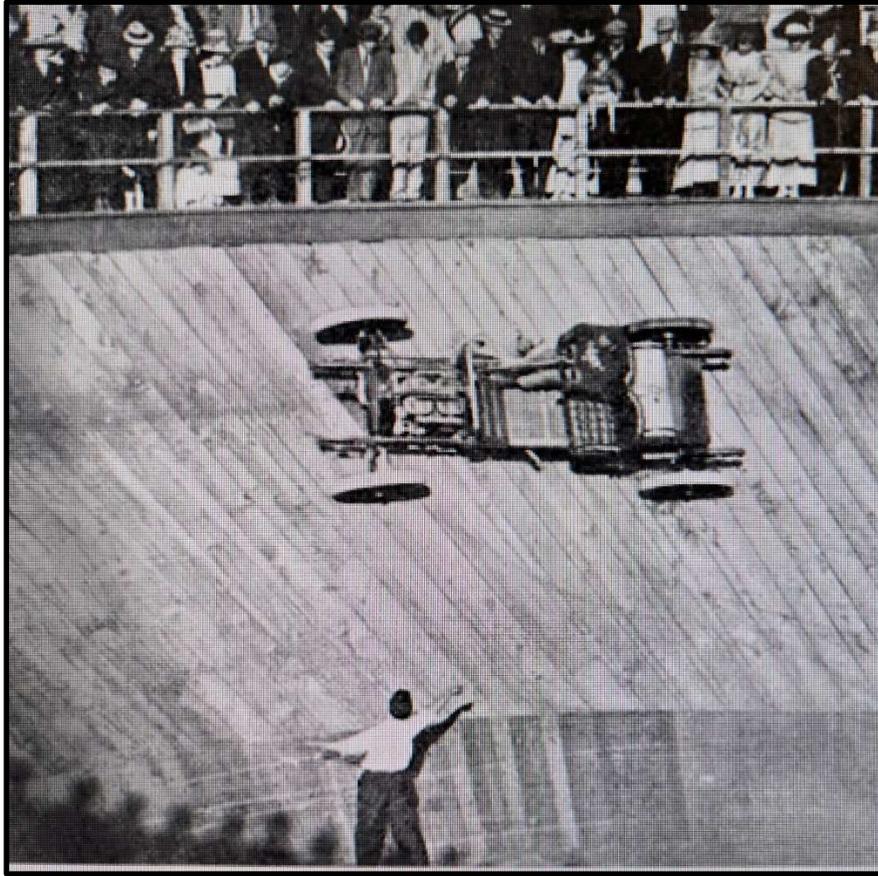


Figure 3: Racecar navigating the track appearing to be stuck on its side along the wall.

Racing on this wooden track was not for the faint of heart. The weather would dry out the wood in the track, causing it to warp. The car's tires would wear the surface, making it smooth. This, along with oil from the racecars, would make the track extremely slippery. The wood would fracture under the pounding of the cars, splinter, and send wood shrapnel flying, injuring the drivers and damaging the cars. There were no modern safety devices in these cars; no windshields, seatbelts, crash helmets, or roll bars. Narrow natural rubber tires were used that would suddenly fail, causing accidents. Driver fatalities were high. Spectators were also at risk from flying wood pieces, dislodged car parts, and out-of-control cars. Track racing popularity grew rapidly, and many racetracks like The Motordrome were built across the United States.

A fire in January of 1913 damaged The Motordrome. It would not be rebuilt, and the site was abandoned. Wooden track racing's popularity declined over the next ten years as safer, better-designed racetracks were built. As the first racetrack of its kind, The Motordrome provided a spectator outlet for racing enthusiasts that is still available to them today. Bicycle racing has been an Olympic sport. The Tour de France is an annual marathon bicycle race. Formula One, NASCAR, and the 24-hour auto race at Le Mans draw millions of spectators. MotoGP and dirt bike races are popular with motorcycle race fans.

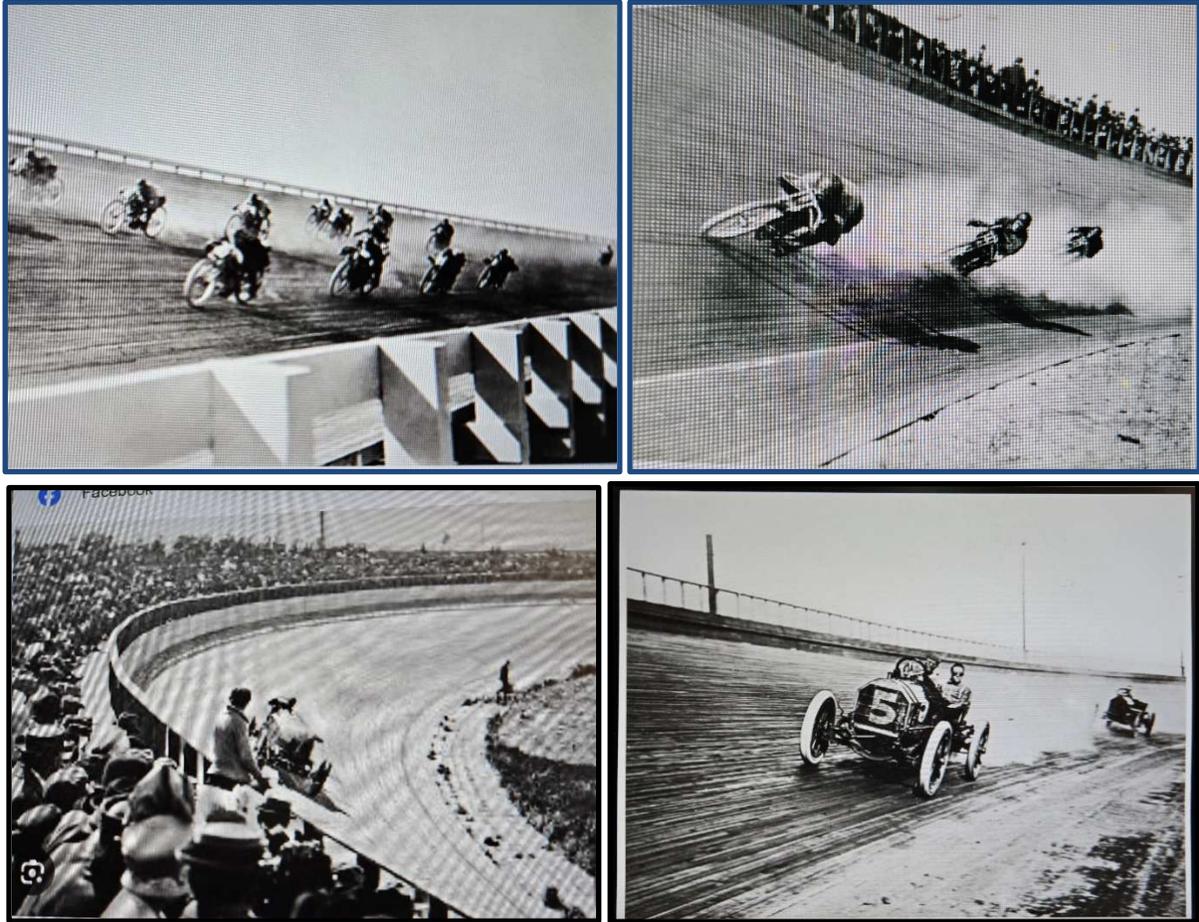


Figure 4: Images of motorcycle and car racing on the Motordrome.



The Imperative of Membership: Why Every Stamp Collector Should Join the American Philatelic Society

by D. Klauber

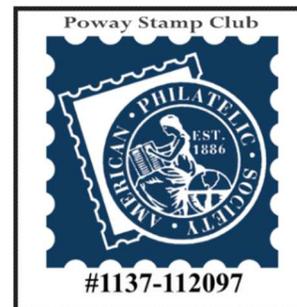


www.stamps.org

Learn More, Do More, Enjoy More
Join America's Stamp Club
American Philatelic Society

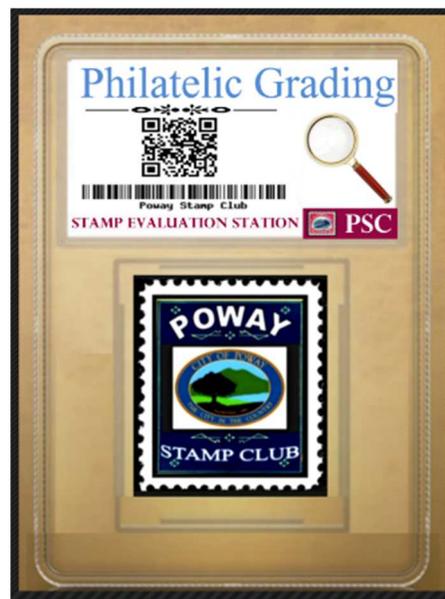
Introduction

Stamp collecting, also known as philately, is more than just a hobby; it serves as a window into history, culture, art, and international connections. From Victorian stamps to today's commemorative issues, each stamp conveys personal stories in a small format. However, exploring alone can limit the experience. The American Philatelic Society (APS), founded in 1886, is the largest stamp collecting organization worldwide, with over 20,000 members. Joining the APS transforms solitary collecting into a lively, enriching activity filled with resources, community, and new opportunities. This article discusses why every stamp enthusiast, whether beginner or expert, should consider becoming an APS member.



Educational Enrichment

Building Knowledge and Expertise. An essential benefit of APS membership is access to exceptional educational resources that enhance understanding and skill in philately. Central to this is a subscription to *The American Philatelist*, a 100-page monthly magazine sent to members. This magazine is more than a publication; it is a rich source of philatelic scholarship, including original research papers, practical articles on topics like mounting stamps or detecting forgeries, niche columns on areas such as airmail or topical collecting, and stories by notable writers. It offers collectors opportunities to discover new findings and detailed analyses, keeping them up to date in the field. Beyond the magazine, members gain access to an exclusive online portal serving as a digital learning center. This site features archived issues, webinars, tutorials, and interactive forums for specialized discussions. Educational activities include workshops, seminars, and certification



programs that help members develop their skills, whether authenticating stamps or creating award winning exhibits. For beginners, these resources clarify complex topics such as postal history and perforation varieties, while experienced collectors can use advanced research tools for scholarly work. Overall, APS membership provides the knowledge needed to appreciate collections fully and contribute actively to the philatelic community.

Community and Networking: Forging Lifelong Connections

Philately is about shared excitement, and the APS creates a welcoming community for members. As the top global society for stamp enthusiasts, it unites people through local chapters, online groups, and international events. With over 400 clubs worldwide, members can join or start

chapters hosting meetings, exhibitions, and swaps. These gatherings offer opportunities to exchange stamps, tell stories, and learn; transforming a quiet hobby into a social experience. The APS fosters lifelong friendships beyond borders. Members enjoy annual conventions such as the Great American Stamp Show, which features lectures, exhibits, and expert connections. Online forums and social media facilitate real-time discussions on topics like market trends and conservation. Affordable options keep the hobby thriving. Joining the APS means becoming part of a supportive community celebrating shared passions and friendship in a digital world.

Practical Resources: Buying, Selling, and Protecting Collections

APS membership offers practical tools for managing, buying, selling, insuring, and researching stamp collections, including access to the APS StampStore, circuit book sales, specialized insurance, discounts on library publications, authentication services, and support for clubs. These benefits streamline collecting and add value.

Recognition and Legacy: Contributing to Philately's Future

Joining the APS allows collectors to make a positive impact on the hobby. Society recognizes achievements with awards, halls of fame, and special honors for long-term members, like those reaching 25- and 50-year milestones. Participating in APS-sanctioned shows offers opportunities to display collections and earn accolades, fostering pride. APS also promotes philately more broadly, preserves postal history, and engages the public through outreach programs. Members contribute by volunteering, donating to the APRL, or supporting youth initiatives that inspire new collectors. In the digital age, APS keeps philately relevant by providing a platform for the continued evolution of the hobby.

Conclusion

Joining the American Philatelic Society offers stamp enthusiasts educational resources, a welcoming community, practical tools, and recognition opportunities. For an annual fee - \$45 for U.S. members (print + digital), \$35 for digital-only, \$55 for Canada, or \$65 for other countries - the benefits support growth, enjoyment, and passion for stamps. The APS helps cherish the lasting tradition of philately, inviting every stamp lover to explore this historic society.



Donations

by David B. Waller



Figure 1: Image of typical philatelic items often found in donations received by the Poway Stamp Club. Image obtained from Sean Whitlow’s Post April 17, 2025 on Stamp Collectors Facebook website.

The Poway Stamp Club (PSC) is a “not-for-profit” corporation and therefore depends heavily on the dedication, expertise, and commitment of its members to perform the operations needed to maintain the health and wellbeing of the Club. That being said, the Club relies on incomes from memberships and donations to continue its mission statement on an annual basis. Currently the membership fees do not generate an income to offset annual expenses, and the Club relies heavily on donations to obtain additional income to fill this financial gap. Since the income and expense disparity has widened over the years, the donations of stamps and stamp collections has become critical (Figure 1).

The Club is often contacted by individuals that have collections they would like to donate. These collections are typically inherited by individuals that do not collect stamps or philatelic paraphernalia. Consequently, when researching organizations that might accept their donation, the PSC is often identified as an excellent local option. In addition, the Club’s website directs these potential donors to our Acquisitions Chair. When contacted, the Acquisitions Chair schedules a meeting with the donor to review the collection and answer questions they might have regarding

their donation. Since PSC **IS NOT** a 501(c)(3) organization (Figure 2) it cannot accept donations if the donor requests a receipt for tax purposes. When this occurs, we recommend that they discuss their proposed donation with their tax advisor and provide contact information of 501(c)(3) organizations that may accept their collection.



Figure 2: The main difference between 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(7) organizations lies in their purpose and funding: 501(c)(3)s are charitable, educational, or religious organizations serving the public and accepting tax-deductible donations. 501(c)(7)s are social or recreational clubs (*e.g.*, country clubs) existing for member's benefit, funded primarily by dues, with non-deductible contributions.

If they decide that a receipt is not needed and they would like to donate their stamps to PSC, then the Acquisitions Chair will usually accept the collection. The collection boxes are then sealed with packing tape, or if not received in boxes, are placed in boxes before sealing. These boxes remain unopened until the Acquisitions Chair schedules qualified volunteers (*i.e.*, members of the PSC) to sort the philatelic material into lots for auction. When more expensive stamps are identified in these collections they are separated out and slated for Bid-Board posting or Member Auctions.

During the sorting process, volunteers are not permitted to select items for purchase, nor will those items be sold to those volunteers outside an auction or Bid-Board. All philatelic material received by PSC is prepared for viewing by members of the Club before items are bid upon at auction.

There has been some discussion about how donating items to our organization could become blurry (Figure 3). Some clarification may be required for those who feel this way. When a member is approached by an individual who expresses an interest in donating their stamp collection to our Club or if the individual asks whether the Club would be interested in their collection and the donation is accepted, an agreement has been formed between the Club member now representing the Club and the donor. In conjunction with that discussion, a time is set when the donor will deliver the collection to the Acquisitions Chair usually at the San Diego Philatelic Library. If the Chair is unavailable or unable to personally accept the donation, then the library will seal the boxes and accept the donation for the Club. If the collection is given directly to the Club representative, then the box will be sealed and delivered to the Acquisitions Chair.



Figure 3: Image representing clarity from a blurry view of a city. Image obtained from <https://www.millenniumeyecenter.com/is-your-vision-blurry/>

In the situation when a member, after hearing of a potential donation, makes the statement that they are a member of the Poway Stamp Club, this could imply (*i.e.*, to the donor) that they have the authority to accept the donation for the Club. Under these circumstances and without further clarification, the member becomes a representative of the Poway Stamp Club regarding this donation. This also means that he/she may now be limited to what he/she can do in acquiring the collection for themselves or another organization and/or selecting items from the collection or otherwise sifting through the collection for items of interest to keep for themselves.

Under our legal system, donations are a transfer of ownership in property. Once it has been determined that the PSC will accept the donation, those items when delivered become the property of PSC whether received directly by the Acquisitions Chair or a representative of the Club. This means that the Club receives all the property rights the donor had at the time of the transfer as well as the ability to enforce those rights under law. Serious legal implications arise when items donated are removed without Club authorization. These include:

Charity fraud, which is defined as deceptive practices to solicit donations for fake or non-existent charitable causes with the intent to steal money or other property for personal gain (Figure 4).

Theft, which in this case, would be the misappropriation of organization property by members or volunteers of that organization for personal gain.

Embezzlement, which is defined as the misappropriation of assets, both cash and/or physical property by a person to whom it was entrusted, such as a member or fiduciary of the organization for personal gain.

These illegal acts could have serious consequences for those who think that the act of giving a

donation to a not-for-profit organization is “blurry”. If you accept a donation for our Club and go through the items donated, for whatever reason, whether items are removed or not and without approval of the Board or in the presence of the Acquisitions Chair is not appropriate. This also applies to acts committed during meetings, events, and other activities of the Club.



Figure 4: This is an image of the pillars of good business practices. The code of ethics plays an integral role in ensuring that the integrity of the other pillars are maintained. Image obtained from <https://www.esade.edu/beyond/en/business-ethics/>

Recently our Club established a Code of Ethics that mirrors the American Philatelic Society’s Code of Ethics (Figure 4). All members of the Club should read and understand these codes. If you have questions, please contact the Club President. These codes have been implemented for all members as of January 28, 2026.

The Poway Stamp Club is dedicated to making our club a fun and safe place for members to learn about philately, foster stamp collecting in our community, and help develop our member’s collections through auctions, bid boards, and opportunity boards (Figure 5). The funds that the Club receives through these activities are used to develop, promote, and realize our mission statement. Activities that compromise these goals are strongly discouraged.

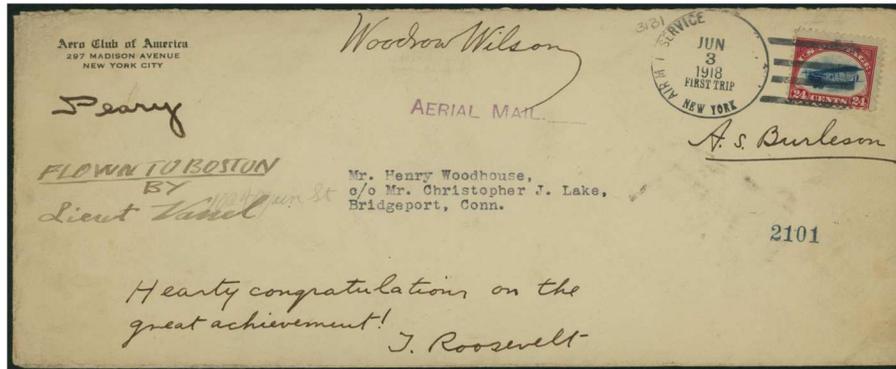


Figure 5: A friend of Stamp Cat, Mr. Von Diesel on his way to our next stamp auction. Image obtained from <https://tenor.com/view/safe-travels-have-a-fun-trip-cat-safe-travels-fun-cat-travels-traveling-gif-9460125920288611003>.



The One That Got Away

by Arden Simoni



Nothing is more frustrating than having a prized philatelic item in your grasp, only to see it flutter away! I discovered this gem of a cover online at a Japanese Auction House (Stampedia), one of only two U.S. items in a sea of mostly Japanese offerings, with a starting price of 10,000 Japanese yen, equivalent to about \$65. Notice that this cover has the autograph of the sitting U.S. President, Woodrow Wilson, at the time of the postmark, June 3, 1918, the signature of a past U.S. President, Theodore Roosevelt along with his note, the signature of Albert Burleson, the Postmaster General of the time, and the signature of a pilot. This cover was to be flown on the second attempted airmail flight in the U.S., from New York to Boston, with the initial flight of May 15, 1918, being famously lost, landing in a Maryland field. This flight, piloted by French military aviator Lieutenant Gustave Vanel, awarded the Croix de guerre in World War I, faced significant challenges, including navigating via compass and landmarks in an open-cockpit Curtiss JN-4H "Jennie" due to the lack of modern navigation. Unfortunately for Lt. Vanel, his plane crashed on take-off and three days later Lt. T. H. Webb was credited with having flown the first U.S. air mail (and so ex-President Theodore Roosevelt's comment was a little premature).
Pilot Lieutenant Gustave Vanel



As to my disappointment, I duly registered on the German website Philasearch.com, which was to host the Stampedia auction live. Initially, the auction was listed at the StampAuctionNetwork, and at its closing prior to the Stampedia live auction only one other bidder upped the bid amount by a few dollars. Being present for the live auction required me to stay up all night, due to time differences, and then finally, around 7 AM California time, the cover was crawling its way across the screen to be open for live bidding. I positioned my fingers adroitly over my mouse, anxiously

intending to do serious bidding, if necessary, but then the cover suddenly disappeared from the screen! “Lot withdrawn” was the message that later appeared and so ended my quest to possess a truly remarkable cover.



Gems and Minerals

By Manual Marti



A gemstone is basically a mineral crystal that’s been cut and polished so it can be worn as jewelry or used for decoration. Not all gemstones are true minerals, though—some are rocks, and a few even come from organic sources. If it can be shaped, polished, and admired, collectors usually consider it a gemstone. (Below, images of Gems and uncut Minerals). Many different gemstones find their way into fine jewelry - even the most expensive pieces depending on the designer’s brand, current fashion trends, availability, and whether the stones have been treated or enhanced. Still, a few classics continue to stand above the rest. Diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and emeralds have long enjoyed a prestige and reputation that most other gemstones simply don’t match.



Group of precious and semiprecious stones—both uncut and faceted—including (clockwise from top left) diamond, uncut synthetic sapphire, ruby, uncut emerald, and amethyst crystal cluster.

Some gemstones are so rare in true gem quality that they’re barely known outside circles of serious collectors. These unusual stones, more familiar to connoisseurs than to jewelers include andalusite, axinite, cassiterite, clinohumite, painite, and red beryl. Finding any of these in cut, jewelry grade form is uncommon, and that rarity is a big part of their appeal. (in order, listed below).



Andalusite



Axinite



Cassiterite



Clinohumite



Painite



Red Beryl

How does this fit into our story? Gems and Minerals fall under the category of “Topical” collecting. Many countries have issued individual stamps as well as sets of stamps depicting minerals and gems (of which they are only found in their country). One example is Jadarite (Serbia), discovered in the Jadar Valley in 2004. This white, earthy *mineral* is famous for having a similar chemical composition to the fictional Kryptonite from *Superman*. Several rare gemstones are found exclusively within one country, making them highly prized for their geographic exclusivity. The most notable is Tanzanite, found only in Tanzania near Mount Kilimanjaro. Other examples include Larimar (Dominican Republic), Grandidierite (Madagascar), Charoite (Russia), and Benitoite (USA) pictured below.



Larimar



Jadarite



Charoite



Grandidierite



Benitoite

Most people would agree that minerals represent some of the most beautiful natural objects known to mankind, especially in the form of precious and semi-precious gemstones. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that they are often illustrated on stamps. Examples are the fine crystalline forms represented as colored etchings in the French 1986 stamp issue. While some of these Gems and Minerals do cost hundreds and even tens of thousands of dollars, you can own many of them for much, much less through stamps.



Figure 1: French 1986 issue of four stamps, depicting typical French minerals: marcasite, quartz, calcite, and fluorite.

Minerals become the subject of sets of stamps for many reasons. In many cases, it is part of an attempt by the particular national post office to depict the whole of the natural history of their country in stamp form. The 1986 French issue was an example of this, following sets of stamps that had already portrayed insects, flowers, trees and birds. We also find that certain countries have produced several sets of stamps to mark the importance to their economy of mining particular minerals.

Many African states depend upon minerals for much of their wealth and economic power, explaining why, for instance, Sierra Leone issued over 35 stamps on the subject of diamonds between 1965 and 1978 (e.g., Sierra Leone, 1970).



and why over 77% of mineral stamps come from countries with major mining interests. Countries with traditional links with the history of the study of geology and mining also produce mineral stamps. These are usually European countries with a long record of the study of the Earth, such as Germany and Switzerland. Curiously enough, though, despite its fine tradition of geological observation and research, the United Kingdom has never produced a stamp depicting rocks or minerals.



Figure 2: Selected stamps from the four issues of Swiss Pro Patria stamps issued between 1958 and 1961. 1958: pyrites, garnet, quartz. 1959: agate, verdelite tourmaline, amethyst. 1960: smoky quartz, orthoclase, azurite. 1961: fluorite/cuprite, lazurite.

The reissue of stamps following a country's name change or independence is not uncommon in philately. A good example occurred in 1978, when Rhodesia issued a set of five stamps depicting gemstones—morganite, amethyst, garnet, citrine, and blue topaz (Rhodesia, 1978) (Fig.3). Soon afterward, Rhodesia became independent from the United Kingdom and was renamed Zimbabwe. The gemstone stamp set was subsequently reissued using the same artwork, with only the country name changed and the denomination repositioned. The result was an improved overall design that retained the original illustrations while clearly reflecting the nation's new identity.



Figure 3: The five-value Rhodesia, 1978, and Zimbabwe, 1980, stamp issues, showing the changes brought about by independence. Both sets: morganite, amethyst, garnet, citrine, blue topaz
 In 1974, the USA came out with its own set of 4 values depicting amethyst, petrified wood, rhodocrosite, and tourmaline. Then in 1992 they came out with another set of 4 values depicting azurite, copper, variscite and wulfenite.



Figure 4: 10c Postage Stamps #1538-1541 * MINERALS * U.S. and 29c Stamp Set of 4 Singles Scott #2700-2703 US Minerals.

All of these stamps and many others like them are well within reach for most collectors. They are generally affordable and readily available. The same is true for gems and minerals: aside from the rare, museum-quality examples, many attractive specimens can be acquired without great expense, making this an accessible and rewarding collecting area.

Below is my largest mineral specimen. It is 15 inches high by 12 inches wide and quite heavy. I acquired it at a Gem and Mineral show in North County. On my way out the door, after spending my hard-earned money, they were having a raffle of the spechard-earned below. All I had on me was a \$5 bill and loose change. Tickets were \$1 each, I pulled out 4 quarters and purchased one ticket and exited the show. Later that day before the show closed, I received a call from the show chairperson that I had the winning ticket and to come by before the show closed, not being far I went and picked up my winning. That day I won the LOTTO.



Amethyst Cluster Marti Gem & Mineral collection

Acknowledgements:

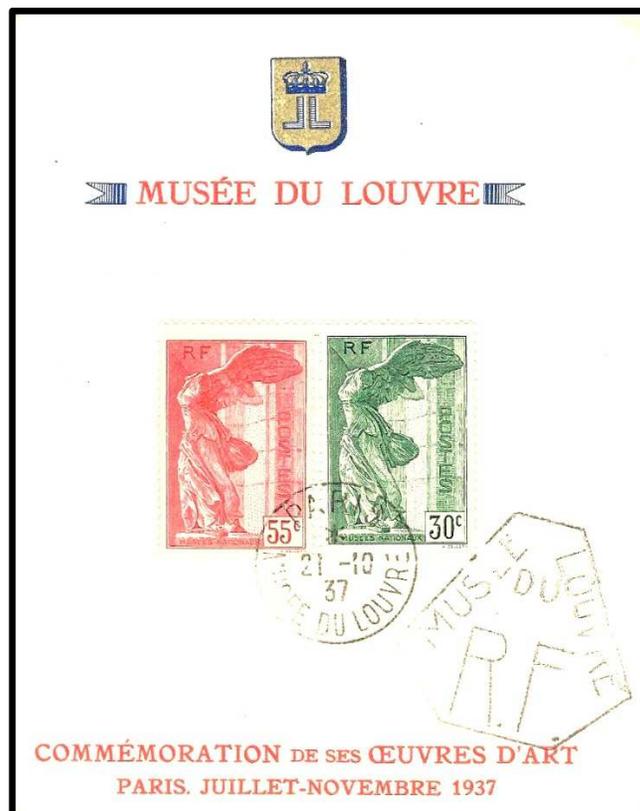
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San Diego County Philatelic Library Events

March 21st SDPL "First-of-the-Year" Yard Sale
Members: 9:00-10:00am. Open to public: 10:00am to 12:00pm.

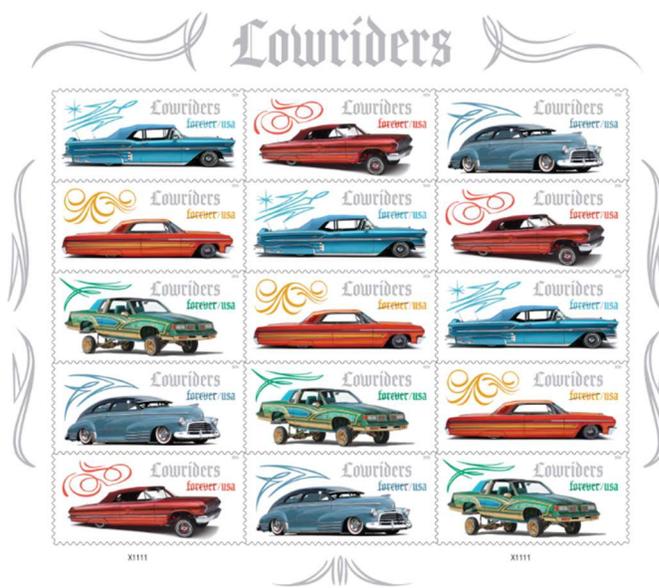
Stamp News 2026

New Stamp for 2026



The U.S. Postal Service celebrates a versatile native flower recognized for its beauty, nutritional benefits, economic significance, and ecological contributions. Prized by both gardeners and pollinators, the sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) takes its scientific name from the Greek word *helios*, meaning "sun," and *anthus*, meaning "flower." Aside from common sunflowers, more than 50 distinct species of annual and perennial sunflowers grow within North America. Similar to other heliotropic plants like the alpine buttercup and Arctic poppy, young sunflowers follow the sun's trajectory from east to west throughout the day. This sun-tracking behavior diminishes as the plant matures, and its stem becomes more stationary and rigid.

Designed by art director Greg Breeding, the *Sunflowers* stamp continues a long tradition of highlighting native flowers on USPS stamps. The *Sunflowers* stamp is being issued on March 14, 2026 in Strongsville, Ohio as a Forever® stamp.



The five car models represented are a blue 1958 Chevrolet Impala named "Eight Figures;" an orange 1964 Chevrolet Impala named "The Golden Rose;" a green 1987 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme named "Pocket Change;" a blue 1946 Chevrolet Fleetline named "Let the Good Times Roll/Soy Como Soy;" and a red 1963 Chevrolet Impala named "El Rey".

The official release will take place during an event in San Diego on March 13. These new stamps celebrate the lowrider culture that is rooted in 1940s-era working-class Mexican American/Chicano communities throughout the American Southwest. The Lowriders stamps will be issued in panes of 15 as Forever stamps.



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