

# Mayflower Minutes

West Suburban Stamp Club  
[www.thewssc.com](http://www.thewssc.com)

P.O. Box 700049  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
E-mail:  
[newsletter@thewssc.com](mailto:newsletter@thewssc.com)  
Meetings on the 1st and 3rd  
Fridays of each month at 7:30.  
(Doors open at 6:30)  
Held at:  
Plymouth Historical Museum  
155 South Main Street  
Plymouth, Michigan

## CLUB MEETING INFORMATION (New Start Time)

The January 16 Meeting (6:45 PM) will be LIVE at the Plymouth Historical Museum and via ZOOM. Doors open at 6:00 PM.

## WSSC MEMBERSHIP—DUES PAYMENT

Annual dues are \$15.

To check your membership status or ask any questions, feel free to contact Nick Fava at [westsuburbanstampclub@gmail.com](mailto:westsuburbanstampclub@gmail.com).

Dues can be paid by check to:

West Suburban Stamp Club  
P.O. Box 700049  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## MEETING DATES FOR 2026

Below is a list of meeting dates for 2026. If there are any changes, they will be published in the newsletter. (BA = Big Auction)

January 16	July 17
February 6 & 20	August 14
March 6 (BA) & 20	September 18 (BA)
April 17	October 2 & 16
May 15	November 6 & 20 (BA)
June 19 (BA)	December 11— Holiday Party



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- January 16—Mike papas, Tales of an UN Philatelic Representative
- February 6—TBD
- February 20—TBD

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Pg. 2 Club Officers & Info.
- Pg. 3— Article
- Pg.4- Article Cont.
- Pg. 5—Auction List



## WSSC Club Officers:

President: Sarah Beckman, Vice President: Ron Beier, Secretary: Nick Fava, Treasurer: Bill Chace.

Trustees through 2026: John Beeskow, Ray Gunther. Trustees through 2027: Doug Becker, John Beckmann.

Newsletter Editor: Doug Becker, E-mail: [newsletter@thewssc.com](mailto:newsletter@thewssc.com)

## WSSC FUN FILLED CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY

A thank you to the WSSC Board for setting up the fun filled evening and the delicious food and dessert. The white elephant gift exchange was fun for all except those that had their prized possessions taken in the second round. If you missed the event you should plan to attend next year, as you missed out on a fun evening.

## PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR 2026 MEETINGS

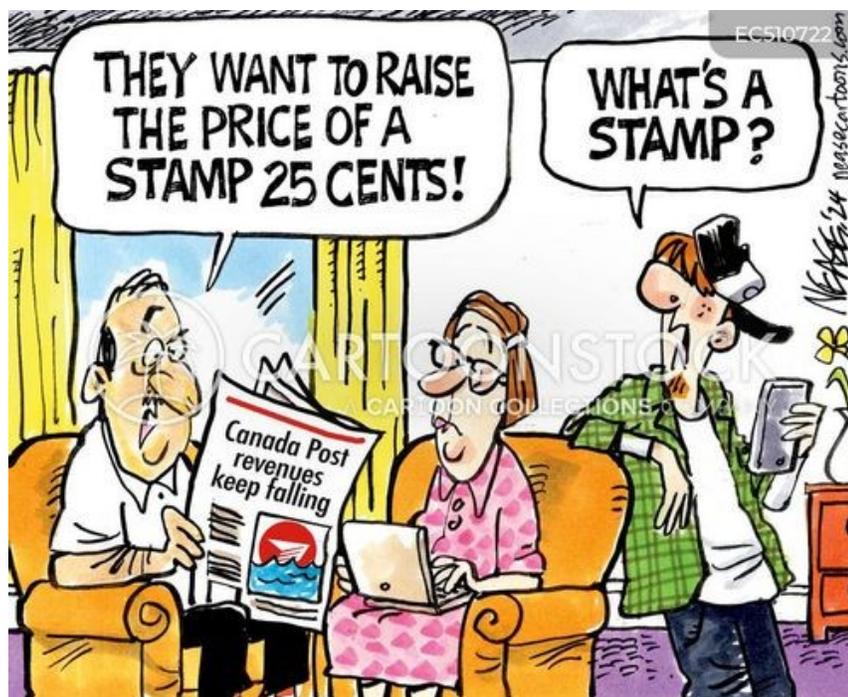
Looking for someone to present a topic for discussion at a 2026 meeting. If you would like to talk about something in your collection, see Charlie Wood. It can be as simple or complex as you want. Do whatever you feel comfortable with.

## ARTICLES WANTED FOR NEWSLETTER

Would welcome any writeups or articles on stamp collecting related subjects. Keep your eyes open and submit any article you write or find.

## A NOTE FROM JIM NAPIORKOWSKI

Due to the large number of odds and ends I have gotten as donations I will have a tote with a quantity of MINT stamps, mostly singles with a couple of full sheets and also some mini souvenir sheets I expect to offer them for 60 to 75% of face. Bring your want list.



## PONY EXPRESS: ROMANCE VERSUS REALITY (Part One, Part 2 Coming in Feb.)

“A black speck appears against the sky, and it is plain that it moves. . . . Another instant . . . and man and horse burst past our excited faces and go winging away like the belated fragment of a storm.”

– Mark Twain, *Roughing It*, 1872

The legendary name of the Pony Express calls up thrilling images of horse and rider racing across treacherous terrain. Yet the actual Pony Express lasted for less than two years (April 1860 to October 1861) and was only one of a number of private express services that used riders to carry the mail. It owes its fame to the romanticizing of the Pony Express and the American West that began late in the 19th century, in Wild West shows and dime novels, and continues to the present. Pony Express riders live on today, still dodging varmints and villains in books and movies, evoking speed and thrills on countless commercial products.

### The Central Route

In 1860, a relay system of horses began to carry mail across the 1,966-mile-long “central route” between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California, (See map on page 4). This privately owned service would become known as the Pony Express. The Pony Express solved an urgent problem for the U.S. government. In the late 1850s political tensions had increased between North and South over slavery and other issues. The government feared losing control over mail along the Southern Route and contact with gold-rich California. To ensure Union control over cargo and mail carried between East and West, a route outside the Southern states was needed.

Length of entire route: 1,966 miles.

Stations along route: about 165.

Distance between stations: approximately 10 miles.

Each rider rode one segment of the route, 75–100 miles long.

At each station, a rider changed horses.

Every 75–100 miles, a new rider took over.

Average speed: 10 miles per hour.

A rider changed horses 8–10 times per ride (every 10 miles or so).

How long did it take to get from Missouri to California?

10 days in summer, 12–16 days in winter (mountain snows can slow you down). In

1860, that was speedy! A stagecoach took 24 days.

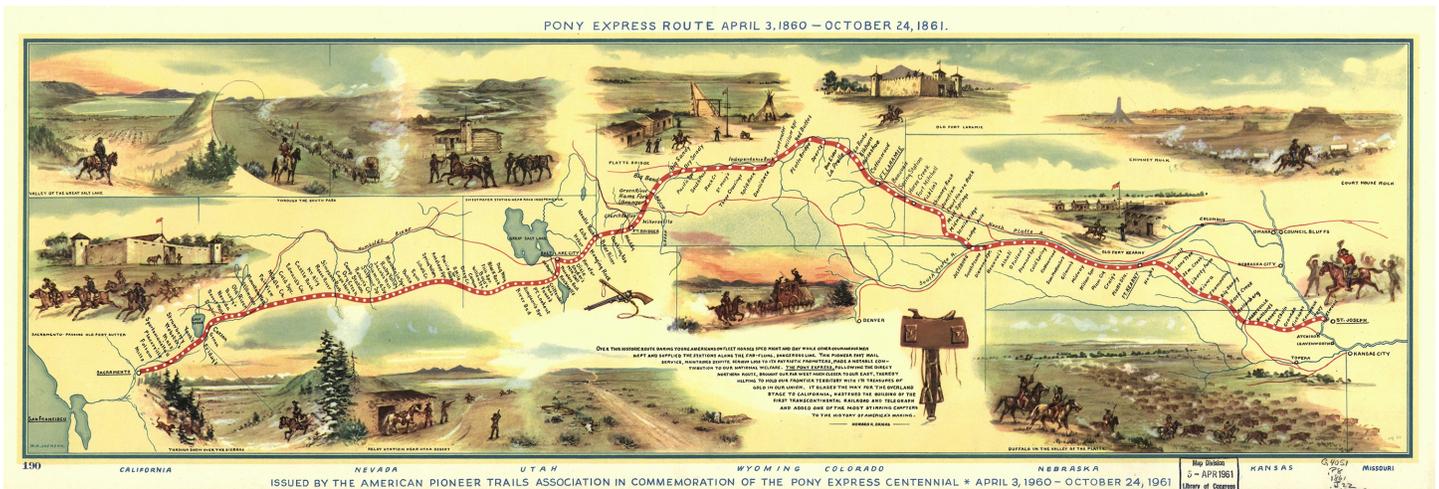
Whose idea was it?

Three business partners, William Russell, Alexander Majors, and William Waddell, founded the Pony Express as a private company.

Source—Pony Express: Romance Versus Reality | National Postal Museum



Replica of a Pony Express mochila  
 "Mochila" is the Spanish term for knapsack, although the mochilas used by pony express riders did not resemble knapsacks.



MAP OF PONY EXPRESS ROUTE (Map courtesy of the Library of Congress)



PONY EXPRESS CENTENNIAL COVER

(Note address error of Kenosha, Illinois but mail did get to Kenosha, Wisconsin. No ZIP Code)



# Mini Auction January 16, 2026

1. Empty National Postage Album with slip cover and 16 reinforcements. 2 post style with some wear.
2. 2005 Scott Specialized Catalogue
3. US Mint 1965-1968 Prominent Americans with Coils 1966-1981 Mounted on Pages. Face \$10.91 Cat. \$25.00+
4. US Mint Voyages of Columbus. Complete set with mounts. Cat. \$18.00
5. Sheet Album VGC will hold up to 32 full sheets
6. US Mint Random singles from 1954-1966. Quantity 200+ stamps mounted
7. US Mint Airmails Qty 33 Stamps assorted from 1989 – current. Cat. \$74.00
8. US Mint Airmails 48 assorted from 1969. Cat. \$65.50
9. US Mint USPS Set Commemorating WWII in 5 mini Albums in a slip case. Cat. \$25.00
10. US Used Washington from 1914-1916 mounted on partial page. Cat. \$319.00+
11. US Mint Prexies full set including vertical coils mounted on pages. Cat. \$270.00+
12. US Used Washington 1915 Rotary Press Coil perf 10 Horizontally. Cat. \$301.00+
13. US Mint assorted Commemoratives 1927-1935 some hinge mounted on pages Cat. \$37.00+
14. US Mint Set of 1932 Washington Bicentennial + Misc. some hinged. Cat. \$30.00 +
15. US Mint Birds and Flowers book album w/ stamps 2 full sheets included. Estimated Cat. \$34.00
16. Portugal - #23 used, 100 reis, dark lilac, Imperf. Cat. \$180.00.
17. Great Britain – (80) used mostly different Machins from 1973 to 1981. Includes many varieties covering the many technical differences. You should have fun with these.
18. New Zealand – (16) mostly mint Life Insurance Stamps including #OY1 used and OY2 & OY3 used. All the rest are mint including #OY10, OY13, OY16, OY19, OY21, OY34a, OY50, and OY51-OY56. Total Cat. \$50.25.
19. San Marino – (78) mostly mint older stamps with values seen up to \$17.00.
20. North Ingermanland - #1-4 used and #8-12 mint and #13 used. Includes the 5 penna thru 80 penna and 1 & 5 markka issues. Total Cat. \$66.00. North Ingermanland is a territory in Northern Russia that in 1920 the residents revolted from Russian rule and set up a short-lived provisional government.
21. Denmark - #8 used, 8 skilling and #11 used, 2 skilling. Total Cat. \$117.50.
22. (120) mint & used older stamps mounted on both sides of a stock card from Spain, Spanish Sahara, Morocco, & Iceland.
23. Iceland – (32) older mint & used stamps with the best being #C3 mint with a Cat. Value of \$25.00. Total Cat \$68.50.
24. Fiume – (70) older mint & used stamps. Minimum Cat. per stamp is \$2.40. Total Cat. \$170.00+++.
25. Great Britain – Official Stamps including #O4, O55, O34, & O35, used. Total Cat. \$168.50.
26. (1,022) Foreign used stamps sorted roughly into glassines of 100. Stamps sorted from Germany, Italy, Malta, Poland, England, & Austria. Also includes (22) Triangle Stamps.
27. Christmas First Day Covers – (16) Christmas First Day Covers including a complete set of (12) from Great Britain of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, #821-826. Also includes a Souvenir Sheet from Christmas Islands, #86. All mounted in a very nice padded hard cover album.