Welcome to the Rhode Island Philatelic Society

The Rhode Island Philatelic Society was established in 1885 in Providence, Rhode Island. Throughout its 112+ year history the society has provided a key focus for philatelic interests of all kinds for its members and the community. Our society continues to have the strong support of over 100 members, many of whom attend regular monthly meetings. We are proud to share some of the history of our society with others.

Providence Postmaster Provisional Stamps

We invite you to join the oldest philatelic society in the United States. The club comprises members young and old and from beginner to advanced in all collecting areas. Becoming a member of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society couldn't be easier! Simply fill out the membership application section of this brochure and mail it to the address provide, or if you like, why not stop by and visit one of our meetings.

Benefits and Annual Activities:

Guest Speakers
A regular program of member and guest speakers present their collecting interests and specialties to the group in slide show and computer presentations. Other club meetings include show+tell nights, clothesline exhibits, and more!

Member and Club Auctions
Member auctions are an exciting and fun way to expand your collection (at great prices!) and auction off your excess stamps, covers, and philatelic items for others to add to their collections. These are held several times a year, generally on a non-meeting Saturday afternoon. Members are notified in advance.

Society Newsletter
The society puts out an award winning newsletter each quarter dedicated to the activities of the society, collecting hints, and in-depth philatelic articles.

Annual Stamp Show and Exhibit
The highlight of the club’s activities is the annual stamp show. Many stamp dealers are set up to offer a wide range of stamps in all price ranges. Stamp collections and exhibits are on display, from beginning collector to the experts. Have ton’s of fun searching for that missing part of your collection as well as exchanging new ideas and interests at this great event!

Rhode Island Philatelic Society
P.O Box 40665
Providence, Rhode Island
02940-0665

Established 1885, Providence, RI
A Fun, Safe Family Activity
In today’s fast pace environment, more and more families are finding stamp collecting as a way to spend time together away from the television set, video games, and internet chat rooms. Young children are especially keen to learn about geography, history, and the world around them. It’s a great way to introduce children to the many different world cultures outside of the classroom or TV evening news. Once you start a collection together, you’ll have years of building and sharing in common as you seek out new items to add together. You’ll also find that there are lots of ways to start a fine stamp collection without spending too much money! You’ll never be stuck with obsolete game systems or overpriced game cartridges again. And don’t forget homework! You’ll find there are stamps that compliment any book report, science, geography, math or social studies project!!

Meeting Locations—Anyone can attend. All are Welcome!
The Society meets on the first Saturday of each month, except January and July.
The Society meets at:
Pilgrim Lutheran Church,
1817 Warwick Ave, Warwick, RI.
Meeting start at 2:30pm. Come early and swap/trade.

Beginnings of the Society
The Rhode Island Philatelic Society, formally organized in 1885, saw it’s beginnings in Providence, emerging in 1882 when a postal employee and a bank employee realized that they had a common interest. From this knowledge evolved a gathering of ten people who agreed to form a philatelic society.

A letter to that effect was mailed to the original ten charter members for a meeting held on January 20, 1885 at the home of Edward B. Hanes on Broadway Street in the city of Providence. At the gathering, the charter members affixed their names to an agreement which established the official status of the informal group, which had met informally since 1882, as a philatelic society. The first regularly scheduled meeting of the new organization was held on Monday, February 2, 1885 at the residence of Mr. Hanes.

For the first quarter century, the group met once a month on Mondays in private homes. When the group grew too large to be accommodated in private quarters, the society shifted it’s meetings to the Providence Chess Club in the old Industrial Trust Building, then to the Narragansett Hotel, followed by moves to the Old Stone Bank on South Main Street, the College of Pharmacy on Benefit Street, the Odd Fellows Home, 100 Elmwood Avenue, and the All Saints Memorial Church Hall, 674 Westminster Street, all in Providence; Meshanticut Park Baptist Church Hall, and it’s present quarters in Warwick, RI. Today, the society numbers in excess of 100 members and continues to meet each month to exchange stamps, share philatelic expertise, and enjoy the hobby of kings.

Application for Membership
I hereby apply for membership in the Rhode Island Philatelic Society and remit dues for the current fiscal year. Membership dues are $15 per year for individuals membership.

Name: ___________________________________
Address: ___________________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip Code: ____________
Phone: __________________ Email: __________________

How did you hear about the Society:

Collecting Interests:

Other Philatelic Memberships:

Signature of Applicant: ____________________________

Make Checks Payable to:
Rhode Island Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 40665
Providence, R.I. 02940-0665

For Official Use Only:
RIPS Membership Chair
Date of First Reading: ____________________________
Date Elected to Membership: _______________________
Executive Committee:
RIPS Membership No.: ____________________________