



GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER



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Club Newsletter Goes National

At the NIA Board meeting before the National show, the club offered to have periodical issues of its newsletter sent to members of the NIA who receive their Drip Points electronically. The club would get additional publicity for their newsletter, NIA members would get something extra for getting the Drip Points electronically, and the NIA would save money by encouraging more people to take the newsletter electronically. This is the first issue being sent out that way.

Hog Roast Show Report

Alan Stastny continues to put on a spectacular gathering every summer with his hog roast swap meet.

The weather was beautiful. Although there had been quite a bit of rain in the weeks before, it cleared up about Wednesday and was clear for the weekend.

Entertainment on Friday evening consisted of an excellent accordion player enjoyed by approximately 80 people. The crowd enjoyed two hours of playing during the meal.

Alan Hohnhorst said he had a good time. Steve Blair set up at the swap meet. Robert Nobbe didn't make it this year, however.

Club Elections Coming Up

If interested in running for a club office, let one of the current officers know. Elections will be at the end of the year.

National Show Report

Lots of club members made it to the national year since it was only about 500 miles away. For most club members, they could get drive on the Interstate highway for 99% of those miles.

Bob Stahr arrived at the show before anyone else, pulling into New Kensington, PA on Sunday before the show so he could do research at local libraries. He spent the next several days reading microfilm that he could not get through interlibrary loan. Lots of interesting information was found on numerous companies including Hemingray, Brookfield, and King City Glass Works (K.C.G.W.) in Glass and Commoner. We look forward to future articles on his finds.

The club brought the stanchions for the displays along with the Surge insulators and rope to provide security for the displays. In exchange, the show hosts gave the club a full page ad in the show directory which included an application to join the GCIC.

The club had a strong representation in both exhibits and sales tables. Dealers from the club included **Mark & Elaine Corriero, Jim & Joan Crandall, Sandia Harrison, Andy Polivka, Bill & Jill Meier, Ed & Connie Peters, Rick Soller, Bob Stahr, Alan Stastny & Joan Chapman, and Jason Townsend & Daniella Flynn.**

Jason Townsend's display of rare colorful porcelain took the NIA award for the best porcelain display. Many people thought the large grouping of porcelain Harloes was the most impressive part of the

display, however, at least one person (Michelle Kotlarsky) thought the pink spool was the best piece in the display.

The club award for best use of power insulators went to **Alan Hohnhorst** for his display of porcelain multipart. The display included an awesome lime green multipart as well as some interesting pins. Several original crossarms were bolted together with large wooden pins in the center one. There were also pole tops with holes in the top and a pin coming out of the hole.

Bob Stahr did an educational display in the specialty category on insulators and bottles in a color he calls Covington Hemingray Blue. This was a color produced from approximately 1852 to 1880 and is different with the regular Hemingray blue common in pieces made in the 1920 to 1929 time frame.

Rick Soller put together a humorous display in the general category on hazards faced by collectors hunting in the wild (e.g., skunks, bees, spiders, and scorpions). Noteworthy in the display was an aqua Hemingray-42 with a nail and a white milk CD 154 Hemingray. Rick was entered in the general category.

Alan Stastny's display of Railroad Insulators along with stock certificates from railroad companies won the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club (CBIC) award for best use of railroad insulators. The display handout provided a nice list of both porcelain and glass insulators with railroad markings and the meaning of the abbreviations on them. Also included in the display was a steel insulator with the steel pin used by the Dayton (OH) City Railway. Alan was entered in the specialty category.

Bill & Jill Meier did a display of colorful glass insulators made by Hemingray in designs not typically thought of as colorful (i.e., insulators other than CD 145's, 151's, and 162's). They were entered in the color category.

A new fashion emerged at the national. Without any pre-show conferring, several attendees sported a goatee. Of course, club president **Bob Stahr** already had one but club newsletter editor **Rick Soller** grew his right before the national to see how many people thought he was Bob.

John McDougald was also spotted with a goatee as well as former NIA president **Steve Marks**. In fact, most of the NIA board has some kind of facial hair (except for Carolyn Berry). Last year, moustaches seemed to be most popular.

One of the highlights of the show was getting to see several of the rare Twigg insulators that were recently discovered in an antique store.

I did not hear about too much parking lot dealing but was lucky enough to buy a collection of books from one collector who was getting out of the hobby and got more books and about 60 Kinble-830s from another collector. The Kinble-830s are going to end up as trophies given away at a speech tournament this December hosted by the College of Lake County.

Classified Ads

Insulator-related ashtrays wanted.

Rick Soller

4086 Blackstone Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031,
Com574@clcollinois.edu or (847) 782-8602.

Insulator Boxes for Sale. Contact:

Jason Townsend

PO Box 521
Newark, IL 60541.
(630) 667-3357.
Jtins76@aol.com

Insulator Boxes for Sale. Contact:

Andy Polivka & Sandia Harrison

165 Saddle Brook Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60523.
(630) 960-5036. Sandia@fpeinc.com.

Iowa Swap Meet Report

In June, **Tom Murphy, Dave Shaw, Wayne Alexander, and Skip Lowe** hosted their annual swap meet at the local park in the Toledo/Tama, Iowa area.

Once again, Russ Frank and I headed to show early to visit collectors and hunt for insulators along the way.

The best memory along the trip was driving through a small town in Iowa a little past 6 p.m. and Russ saying, "Look, an antique store open after 6 p.m." We immediately turned around and spent the next 4 hours in the town.

First we looked through the shop and picked out some low priced antiques. In the process, we talked to the shop owner about what we were doing and she started telling us about the local power plant built on the river a few blocks down the road.

She then took us to the local school where we met members of the historical society and saw their collection of insulators. Following this, we were introduced to the current owner of the property on which the power house sits. We inspected the outside where I found the top to a peacock CD 162 all broken up inside and saw the bushings embedded in cement where the power lines entered the building.

The current owner also gave us a tour of the inside of the building. Most of the turbines have been removed and the one remaining one was in a pit. I took as many pictures as I could. The current owner also had all the employment records for the place going back to about 1907 when the power plant was opened.

We then saw the collection of another town resident before heading back to the antique store to get our purchases. We met the proprietor of the antique store at her house across the street where she showed us other documents from the power house including orders for D.G.D.P. no. 19s in clear (Deep Groove, Double Petticoat,

Hemingray No. 19s.). I'll bet these turned purple on the line.

An NIA museum documentation trip is in the works for the future where collectors are encouraged to "descend" on the area and help ID the insulators and the power house.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 15, 2004, 9 a.m. - ??

Club swap meet sponsored by

Mark & Elaine Corriero

Cedarwood Center

2220 Western Avenue

Park Forest, IL 60466

Take I-57 South to US-30/Lincoln Highway and go east (left) for about 3.5 miles to Western Ave. Go right (south) on Western Ave. about 1.5 miles. On the left side (east side) is the Cedarwood Center.

Bring a table if you have one. For more information, e-mail Mark & Elaine at woodzman@earthlink.net.

Sunday, August 29, 2004

9th Annual Tristate Insulator Show

1476 Hine Road, Ross, OH 45013

Contact: **Alan Hohnhorst**

(513) 892-3720

Saturday, September 18, 2004

4th Annual Racine Club swap meet

Sponsored by **Randy Wesner**

434 Blaine Avenue, Racine, WI

11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Noon lunch

For more information, call

(262) 633-0756 or e-mail

74dodge@sbcglobal.net

Go North on I-94 to Highway 20. Exit at Hwy 20 and go east. Go about 7 miles to Blaine Ave. Go north 3 blocks where Blaine seems to end, turn left and then the next right back on to Blaine.

For pictures of past swap meets, go to: <http://www.insulators.com/clubs/gcic/>