



# GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER



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## **Park Forest Swap Meet Report**

On Saturday, February 19, 2005, Mark and Elaine Corriero hosted a swap meet in Park Forest, Illinois at the Cedarwood Center off of Western Avenue.

A good crowd of collectors and dealers arrived early, stayed active throughout the event but it turns out that some left too early.

It turns out that late in the afternoon, a couple came in and talked about an insulator they had purchased at the Kane County flea market. After some discussion, they identified the piece in a price guide as a CD 181 Pluto. Jeannette Hoste was the lucky collector to get a shot at it as the couple learned what it was worth and then went home to fetch it. When the couple returned, they set a very reasonable price of about \$1,000 plus some pieces in trade for the piece. It took some pooling of assets among collectors to help Jeannette come up with the cash but, in the end, she went home to Michigan with the piece.

There was quite a discussion of ethics on the internet after this as all the details of the transaction were not known and some wondered if the price was fair. The piece books for \$4500-5000 in very near mint condition and, although this piece had some damage, it would still be worth much more than what was paid. My guesstimate would be that the piece was easily worth \$3000.

Jeannette laid these concerns to rest, however, with the full story of how the seller was shown in the price guide what the piece was worth and then let the seller set the price. Since the seller only paid about \$8 for the piece, they were pretty happy.

For me, the show was a blur because I could only stay for 2-1/2 hours and had to leave at 11:30 a.m. to attend a 1 p.m. meeting in Grayslake. I spent the time buying hundreds of aqua insulators that people brought to the show for me, running a sale on half my table and getting around the floor once. I know I missed a lot. What I saw during that time or later learned is reported below.

Mike Polivka set up a display consisting of CD 102 pony insulators. He had them underlit, making a great exhibit.

There was an entire tiered table of Mark and Elaine's wooden insulators. These were made out of a variety of woods such as Osage Orange, maple, cherry, walnut, and exotic species. Some of the shapes include a Muncie, a stacker, a Fluid Insulator, and more common CDs.

Other attendees included Andy and Sandia Polivka, Rick Soller (1/2 the show), Marge & Russ Frank, Jim Crandall, Paul Terek, Jason Townsend, Paul and Mackenzie Young, Mark Bauer (these last three are known as the Brookfield Boys), Ray Heim, Bob Stahr, Richard Case, Arlen and Tina Rienstra and many others I know I've forgotten.

## Wheaton Show Report

The Wheaton, Illinois insulator and lightning rod show held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 9, 2005 ran smoothly and strongly under its new host, Jason Townsend.

110 tables were sold for the show. This is a great increase over last year's 80 tables.

A great turnout of 12 displays was at the show. **Marge Frank** won the people's choice award with her display of extremes in her collection. The extremes included the largest and smallest insulator, tallest and smallest, the biggest bubble, and other fun comparisons. Unfortunately, the death of one of her parents kept her from making it to the show.



**Russ Frank** won one of the other awards at the show—the NIA trophy. His display showed Macomb and Illinois Electric Porcelain insulators, Illinois power signs, and Illinois catalogs.



Also receiving an award was **Arlen Rienstra** who received the Crown Jewels trophy. Arlen's display contained insulators, photographs, and go-withs related to the Square-D factory in Peru, Indiana.



**Rick Soller** displayed plastic CEECO, REN, and CTC insulators in "The Colors of the Rainbow." Colors of these CD 154 style insulators included black, brown, purple, blue, green, swirled green, red, pink, yellow, gold, and white.



**Gene Hawkins** brought his keg collection. **Bob Stahr** displayed Hemingray insulators used in Chicago. **Eileen Kelley** and **Rod Krupka** had a very education of fake and reproduction lighting rod balls. **Alan Statsny** had a unique display of hardhats used in the electrical industry. I'm sure some used to adorn his head. He also had a display of CD 160 baby signals. **Alan Hohnhorst** displayed his extensive collection of Fireplug insulators and had an informative handout on them. **Steve Konan** showed Hemingray-made bird dishes in wonderful colors like clambroth, milk, blue jade and pink.

Bob Stahr's display.



Jason held a silent auction to raise money for **Jimmy Burns**, a fellow collector from Conroe, TX. Jimmy had a stroke on his way to the St. Joe, Missouri show a few weeks back and the money raised at the show was sent to the family to help with expenses. \$747.25 was raised at the show.

**Russ Frank** helped Jason put the fund raiser together. **Alan Stastny** donated a shirt to the auction. **Mark and Elaine Corriero** donated a custom made wood insulator. **Brian and Melissa Riecker** donated a beautiful CD 162 in honey amber. **Tom Nugent** contributed a ComEd toy digger truck. **Larry and Mary Beth Veneziano** donated two red Jumbo commemoratives and \$100 cash for the fund. A two piece tramp and a blue signal were also donated.

A good group of people also helped set up the tables and chairs for the show. **Jason** was helped by **Rick Soller, Bob Stahr, Mark & Elaine Corriero** and a bunch of other people. As people showed up to bring in their insulators, they helped set up tables and the work was done in no time.

I had a nice chat with **Dieter Holz** at the show. I can't remember the last time I saw him.

It was good to see club member **Fred Kirchner** at the show. Fred had a stroke on January 30. In February, **Elaine Kirchner** wrote that "The local hospital did very little for him so we went to the University of Chicago. They were great and within 30 minutes knew exactly what caused his stroke. Fred was really very lucky because the stroke affected only one small section of his brain. He is able to carry on a conversation even though he speaks a little slower. It is difficult for him to follow a

conversation in a group but that will come. Right now he goes to therapy three times a week, three hours each time. I hope to get him to the next insulator event. He just loves my driving!"

**Sarah Ayers** was another collector that made it this year. Some health issues slowed her down in the past but she was enjoying this year's show

**Tom DuBordieu** was missing from the show. Last year he had a sales table but this year he did not have a way to get to the show since he got into trouble with the police while looking for insulators and his brother took away his driving privileges for a while.

What happened to **Lois and Willard Nelson**? I always enjoy seeing Lois with her price guide out checking to see if they own a piece. Roy Parker, who also didn't make it, says he saw them recently but didn't get to ask them about Wheaton. I'll look forward to seeing them next year. It turns out they had a wedding to attend but are looking forward to seeing people at the next gathering.

**Steve McCollum** reluctantly missed the show so that he would not spread his flu throughout the club ranks. Thanks Steve but we missed you!

Jason was quite worried at the show about the possibility of his wife going into labor but she graciously held off until Friday, April 15 at 9:20 a.m. when, after 24 hours of labor, Rachel Townsend was born. Both mother and daughter are fine.

For the first time, an insulator was made for the show. Mickey Mouse insulators in a variety of colors were offered for sale at the show. Colors included pink, blue, yellow, and red. These were made in a plaster mold in which slip was poured until the hollowed out insulator was created. The insulators were fired and hand painted.



Below: Gene Hawkins' display.



Below: Brian Riecker's display.



Below: One of Alan Statsny's displays.



The People's Choice Trophy.



Alan Hohnhorst's display.



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