



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**
Rick Soller, editor



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40th National Insulator Show, Sale, & Convention Report

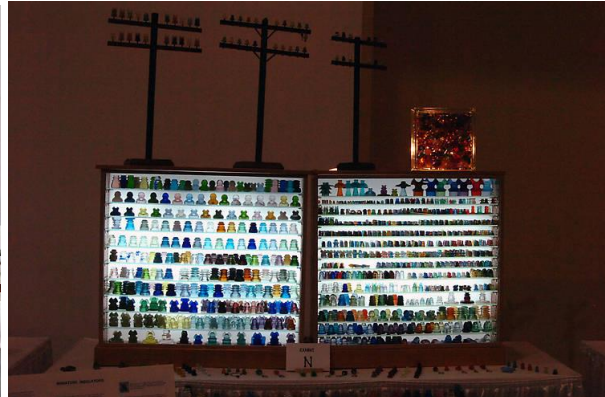


Club members rocked at the July 10-12, 2009 NIA National show held in Coralville, Iowa. Not only did the club have the largest number of displayers from a club but we also received a number of awards. Jay & Josh Dondorf won the award for top first-time displayers at a National show with their display of insulators with irregularities such as underpours, milk, graphite, and junk. Russ Frank took first place in the go-with category with his two display cases of miniature insulators. We also think Russ set the unofficial record of having the most insulators in his display with approximately 1000-plus insulators that took hours to set up. The top displayer in the specialty category was Arlen Rienstra with his presentation of different types of kegs. Arlen's success was especially impressive since this category had numerous other competitors. A fourth club member displaying was Jason Townsend with an impressive selection of seldom seen porcelain insulators. Alan Stastny was the fifth club member displaying with his collection of Mickey Mouse insulators. The final club member with a display was Rick Soller who showed off his red insulators. Rick also contributed 8 items to the noncompetitive display. These items were insulators that had trees grown around them.



(Above left) Arlen's display. (Above right) Jay & Josh Dondorf's display.

At the banquet, Rick Soller received the L.L. Linscott award for outstanding contributions to the hobby. The award was awarded by Jacqueline Linscott Barnes and Clay Bledsoe. Len Linscott was Jackie's husband and Clay's grandfather. Rick was also recognized as one of five finalists for the N.R. Woodward Literary Award for his article on Foreign Battery Rests that was published in the Crown Jewels. Ray Klingensmith won the award from the Lone Star Insulator club for his article on a hunt for insulators. Other finalists were Matt Gray (2 articles) and Roger Lucas.



(Above left) Rick Soller's display. (Above right) Russ Frank's display.

A number of other awards were given. Ray Klingensmith won the NIA Best of Show Award as well as the NIA Milholland Educational Award. Jim Frustieri won the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club's Jim Overstreet Memorial Award for the best exhibit using threaded CDs. Buff Chance received the Jack Tod Memorial Award for the Best Exhibit Using Porcelain Insulators and he also received the GCIC award for Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators. Mike Miller took home the Jefferson State Insulator Club award for the Club's Choice Award. Bill Snell received the Lon C. Holy Memorial Award for Outstanding Enthusiasm & Support of the Hobby. Bob Stahr presented the NIA National Show Host Award to Pat & Larry Whitlock, Jeanne & Dennis Weber, and Linda & Bill Connell.

Displayers who are not members of the GCIC were Ken Orchard (Ohio) with a noncompetitive display of two insulators which had an off-centered top, Colin Jung (California)

with the third piece of a gutter-top insulator, Mike Miller (Denver) for a display of Denver insulators with milk, Ray Klingensmith (Ohio) with a display of insulators recovered from digs, Dory Whitlock (Iowa) for a display of go-withs, Jim Frustieri (Pennsylvania) for a display of CD 145 CREBs, Buff Chance (Missouri) for his extensive display of A.B. Chance products, Alan Hohnhorst for a display of "Fireplugs," Roger Lucas (Indiana) for insulators with particular Hemingray patent dates, Jim Woods (Illinois) with a display of railroad insulators, Miles McLall (Utah) with a display of insulators found on the way to the show

Buff Chance received the GCIC award for best display using power insulators. His display included a variety of guy wire anchors, composition suspensions including a mold for one, advertising material from the A.B. Chance company, a miniature pole that seemed to be a salesman's sample, catalogs and photographs from the company, and of course, insulators. The award consisted of original artwork.

Club members who were dealers at the show included Dave Shaw, Tom Murphy, Bob & Stacey Stahr, Russ & Marge Frank, Rick Soller, Jim & Joan Crandall, Tim & Steve Haraf, Alan Stastny & Joan, Mark Gilmore, Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Tom & Mary Nugent, Jason Townsend, Richard Case & son, and Gene Hawkins. I also saw Andy & Sandia Polivka and Dennis Seltrecht.



(Above) Rick Soller with an insulator he brought for the Noncompetitive display of trees that had grown around insulators. Rick got this CD 147 wedged in the fork of a tree from club member Don Archer a few years ago.

Jason Townsend had one of the most expensive insulators for sale at the show. He purchased a collection in Kentucky before the show and brought it. Included in the collection was an unlisted, light purple, unmarked, very near mint, CD 134. He priced it at \$9,000.



(Above) Jason with his rare insulator.

A couple club members also won some other prizes. Marge Frank was one of the lucky raffle winners. She had raffle tickets in two different jars that both won. She took home a number of spools and bobbins as her prize. At the banquet, Tim Haraf and Rick Soller had the programs that designated the recipients of the centerpieces on each table. Rick, however, had switched programs with Tina so ended up giving her the piece of corn dressed like a man.



(Above left) Tina at the show with a corn souvenir purchased in Iowa. (Right) A close-up of the souvenir. Notice that both of them have the same hair color.

There were numerous opportunities to eat good food with friends at the show. On Friday, a group of club members went to the Outback Steak House. The group included Bob & Stacey Stahr, Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Rick Soller, Tom Murphy, Dave Shaw, and Tim & Steve Haraf. Noteworthy at the dinner is that Arlen had a blue wedgie and really liked it. At the banquet on Saturday, seated with the Stahrs, Rienstras, Harafs, Soller, and Roger Lucas, there was discussion of what to whether Bob & Stacey would sell the rights to name their upcoming baby and what the name should be (e.g., Shooting, Super, Souper, Trek, Hemingray, Drip Points, Muncie). Bidding reached 10 dollars but the reserve was not met.

Personally I had a very good show. I didn't think this would be the case on Friday, however. I sold about \$20 worth of insulators on Friday to NIA members and did not find anything stunning on the sales tables of other dealers for my collection. On Saturday, everything changed. Early that morning in the show hall, Steve Haraf told me about a radio station near the show hall and how we should go over there to solicit some P.R. for the show. I thought taking a radio strain over would be a good touch so I scoured the show hall looking for a cheep one. I found one but I also found a dealer that was not set up the day before. On his table was a rare Thomas U-940 that I immediately bought and felt like my show had been made.

On Sunday, I decided to do some trading. I had recently bought a collection with a number of amber CD 154s and figured I was not going to be able to sell them all very quickly but might be able to trade them to others around the country. I asked Tim Haraf if he wanted to help and he was eager so we first went over to the table of Ron Yuhas and traded for a nice Hmingray CD 303/310. At the table of Jim White, the trade resulted in a purple Hemingray 54 A&B. Bob Berry traded for a piece of foreign porcelain with a yellow top and another piece. In other trades, I got an ambered up Postal CD 210, a CD 106 PSSA, a yellow CD 128, and a yellow CD 145 Canadian piece. This was a lot of fun and I got some pieces that I would not have been otherwise able to get.

Next year the National will be July 16-18, 2010 in Boxboro, Massachusetts. The show hosts are Bill & Jill Meier and Dario Dimare.

Upcoming Racine Swap Meet

Don't forget to mark your calendar so you don't miss the Sept. 12, Saturday swap meet in Racine, Wisconsin. This year, Randy would like everyone to bring insulators that lean for a noncompetitive display.

As in the past, there will also be an auction at the show, starting about 1 p.m. At the end of the National, Dave Shaw sent several boxes of porcelain for the auction which include some harder-to-find pieces in white. Rick Soller has pledged a truckload of insulators too which include a mint CD 145 H.G. Co. in jade, some green CD 154 Hemingrays, several CD 160 Brookfields in a dark aqua color, and of course porcelain.

If you are in town on Friday night, a few collectors will be helping set-up tables, sweep the garage and creating lots for the auction so feel free to stop by and help or just talk.

Upcoming Shows

When: July 31 - 1 (Friday - Saturday)

Where: Arcanum, OH

Description: 15th Annual Hog Roast & Pool Party, Friday, July 31 at 5:00 PM. Bring a covered dish. Insulator swap meet with Lightning Rod Collectibles, Milk Bottles and other vintage collectibles Saturday, August 1 from 8:00 to 2:00. Location: 8784 Grubbs Rex Road, Arcanum, OH 45304. Contact: ALAN STASTNY 937-884-7379 or 937-546-4745.

When: August 23 (Sunday)

Where: Ross, OH

Description: Tri-State Glass & Porcelain Insulator Show (including lightning rod balls, bottles & go-withs) Sunday, August 23 from 8:00 to 4:00 at 1476 Hine Road, Ross, Ohio 45013 (near Cincinnati). No charge for table set up or admission. Bring your own table. Free food and drink. Info: ALAN HOHNHORST 513-892-3720 or 513-478-7086. Email: porcinscol33@yahoo.com

When: September 12 (Saturday)

Where: Racine, Wisconsin

Description: Greater Chicago Insulator Club Swap Meet. Saturday, Sept. 12 starting about 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Great food at noon including corn on the cob, brats, and more. At 1 p.m., Rick Soller will be calling an auction of items brought by club members. Ten percent seller's commission (no buyers' commission) goes to the club to defray swap meet expenses. Location: 434 Blaine Avenue, Racine, WI 53405. Contact: RANDY WESNER at 262-633-0756 or 74dodge@sbcglobalnet.

FOR SALE

Insulator Boxes. 50 dollars for 25 boxes or 2.50 each plus postage. 16 cell boxes. Contact Jason Townsend, 720 N. Dekalb St., Sandwich, IL 60548, (630) 667-3357, jtins76@gmail.com.

Publication Information:

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Membership in the club is \$10 per year (\$5 if 16 or under). Send dues to Bob Stahr, 515 Main St, Unit 403, West Chicago, IL 60185. Bob@hemingray.com or (630) 231-4171.