



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



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**Tama, Iowa show report**

The 18th Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet had quite a different look this. Held on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the swap meet was held indoors for the first time rather than under the roof of a shelter house at a local park. This year the swap meet was at the Tama Civic Center located at 305 Siegel Street in downtown Tama, Iowa.

The facility had a lot going for it. First, it was near a railroad track so you could watch trains go by several times during the day. Second, one wall (which happened to face the tracks) was filled with large windows allowing the room to be well lighted with natural light. Third, there was ample parking. Fourth, there was only a short ledge to navigate in getting carts into the building although if a little ramp were built for next year, it would have kept Dennis Weber from spilling boxes from his cart when he tried to lift his cart over the ledge and ended up pulling the handle off his cart causing the cart to spill. Fifth, the facility was the perfect size for the number of dealers who attended. If more dealers came, a couple more tables could be squeezed into the room but the swap meet felt roomy yet filled the whole time.

As always, there was a delicious and filling meal prepared by various members of the Missouri Valley Insulator Club and offered to everyone at the show, not just dealers. I would normally call the sandwiches Sloppy Joes but I think the term in Iowa is “loose meat” sandwich. There was also a pasta salad, another salad that I ate too fast to figure out what it was, baked beans, chips, cookies, and other deserts. This wasn't the only food that many of the attendees enjoyed. In the morning, there were some delicious doughnuts available. I had one that was star shaped.

The night before, as has become a tradition, about 14 collectors and family members traveled to the local casino and enjoyed the buffet there. Fridays are seafood nights so many of the group enjoyed eating crab legs, frog legs, shrimp, crab cakes, and more. I remember seeing Dave Shaw, Tom & Chris Murphy, Riley Armstrong, Dennis & Jeannie Weber, Boone & Sylvia Jeffers, Darryl Wagner, Bill Snell, Gene Hawkins, and Bear Spitler.

At the show, quite a few more people showed up. I saw Russell Lyon, Dennis Seltrecht, Wayne Alexander, and a bunch of people I only knew on a first name basis: Gordy, Chuck, Chris, Mave, and Mike.

Starting at about 11:05 a.m., an auction was held. Sellers were charged 10% of their proceeds with the commission going to Dave Shaw, the show host, to pay for the expenses of the show. A few sellers donated all of their proceedings to the cause. The 50 lots generated a total of \$86 which covered the cost of the show hall (\$50) and helped provide funds to manage future shows. Donations totaled \$24 of this total and commissions constituted the remaining \$62. In total, \$642 of insulators and insulator-related items were sold. Several hundred insulators exchanged hands through the auction (my estimate is 500).

The top single item in the auction was a Muncie. It was lot #32, the first item after the

lunch break but did not initially sell. At the end of the auction, however, there was an offer to buy it for the \$80 reserve.

Lot 19 saw some of the most spirited bidding. It was for a large box lot of colorful beehives. The bidding finally ended at \$72.

Some sleepers were missed by a number of the bidders so good deals made the winning bidders very happy. A CD 155 [020] Kerr with a flat top was in the auction and sold for \$11. Although the piece had a huge crack arcing across the skirt, these are listed for \$150-175 in the price guide. Perhaps this is a good metric for the amount of discounting that should be applied to a highly damaged but scarce piece.

Another sleeper was a box of 4 mint LSV private issue insulators that mock the shape of a CD 262 Columbia. Don Briel lists these with the designation of SI 262-4.000. These are listed in the price guide at a minimum of \$20-30 but Russ Frank managed to score the lot #10 of these for only \$24. The various colors should look good on his table.

Auctions provide another reason collectors should get to shows. For the sellers, they allow a large quantity of insulators to be moved quickly, even if they are somewhat common insulators. For buyers, it is a chance to buy some insulators at a bargain price. For everyone, it is an inexpensive way that can be used by a show to keep costs down. Listed below are the results.

Lot	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Rick Soller	Crossarm pole with 16 side pins	\$20	Russell Lyon
2	Rick Soller	2 boxes of ponies + blue and white	\$25	Gene Hawkins
3	Rick Soller	Brown strains	\$1	Chris
4	Rick Soller	Brown ponies	\$1	Mave
5	Rick Soller	Brown porcelain	\$1	Riley Armstrong
6	Rick Soller	Colored porcelain choice of box	\$25	Bear Spitzler
7	Rick Soller	Colored porcelain choice of box	\$15	Chris
8	Rick Soller	Colored porcelain choice of box	\$11	Riley Armstrong
9	Rick Soller	2 Mickeys + power pieces (Knowles)	\$10	Chris
10	Rick Soller	4 LSV private issue insulators	\$24	Russ Frank
11	Rick Soller	2 threadless – 1 stained, 1 crashed	\$34	Dennis Seltrecht
12	Rick Soller	2 compositions – 1 beehive, 1 pony	\$7	Riley Armstrong
13	Rick Soller	Box of junk	-.25	Paid to Mave to take it all
14	Rick Soller	CD 155 Kerr flat top with skirt crack	\$11	Chris
15	Rick Soller	Hemingray Columbia with fracture	\$23	Darryl
16	Dennis Seltrecht	Relisted McMicking crashed	\$7	Derick
17	Rick Soller	Cobalt signal – thumb sized missing piece in dome	\$25	Dick
18	Rick Soller	Yellow amber signal – thumb sized missing piece in dome	\$26	Dick
19	Rick Soller	Large flat of beehives: Star, NEGM, Jade H.G. Co., GNW, straw Canadian	\$72	Bob
20	Rick Soller	Transpositions	\$44	Derrick
21	Rick Soller	Spools (3)	\$6	Mave
22	Rick Soller	Box of colored glass	\$17	Darryl
23	Rick Soller	Jade, KCGW, milk, opalescent, 7up	\$32	Gordy

24	Dennis Seltrecht	Porcelain	\$14	Tom Murphy
25	Dennis Seltrecht	Crate – porcelain	\$6	Mave
26	Dennis Seltrecht	White hi top, yellow U-182 haystack	\$21	Riley Armstrong
27	Rick Soller	Signals – Blue, clear, Brookfield	\$10	Chris
28	Rick Soller	Wood crate – Hubbard	\$1	Tom Murphy
29	Rick Soller	Armstrong Cardboard box	--	Tom Murphy
30	Pat Miller	Donation – Climbers	\$7	Tom Murphy
31	Pat Miller	Donation – Box of porcelain + glass	\$1	Tom Murphy
		Lunch Break @11:30 a.m.		
32	Russell Lyon	Muncie - \$80 reserve	n.s.	
33	Russell Lyon	Plastic tray of insulators	\$4	Chuck
34	Russell Lyon	Plastic tray of insulators	\$10	Riley Armstrong
35	Russell Lyon	Cauvet Patent	\$14	Dick
36	Wayne Alexander	Sign – Donation	\$10	Chuck
37	Steve	Box of beehive	\$4	Dick
38	Steve	Box of Ponies, Brookfield, 151s, kegs	\$3	John
39	Steve	Box of Aqua 121s	\$3	Riley Armstrong
40	Steve	Box of 145 Beehives	\$6	Mave
41	Steve	Box of CD 151s	\$1	Mike
42	Steve	Box of CD 154s and beehives	\$1	Mike
43	Steve	Box of 24 ponies – Sterling, Star, Brookfield	\$6	Mike
44	Steve	Box of insulators	\$2	Russ Frank
45	Steve	Box of aqua insulators	\$1	Mike
46	Steve	Box of aqua insulators	\$12	Chuck
47	Steve	Box of CD 145s, stars	\$3	Gordy
48	Steve	Box of Hemi 9s and 12s	\$1	Mike
49	Steve	Box of misc. aqua	\$6	Gordy
50	Russell Lyon	Muncie - \$80 reserve	\$80	

### **Antique Store, Junk Shops, and Garage Sales Finds**

by Rick Soller

Russ Frank and I left Illinois on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 to start traveling to Tama, Iowa to attend the show. Along the way, we got to experience a variety of weather, not much in scenery, two calls to 911, and some good finds in a variety of places.

Personally, I felt like taking a couple extra days to make the trip because I have been working hard on graduate school classes for the last three years and finally made it through my last class. Over the course of these three years, I missed many shows such as the Kansas City national, the Franklin, Tennessee national, a Springfield show, and others so I was going to reward myself. Normally I also teach a three intensive class right before the show so am not able to leave for the show until Friday but this year I decided I would not teach that class so I could relax instead.

Russ took several days off from work to equally enjoy the travel. Normally he might travel with his wife (I believe her name is Marge) but Marge was literally on the other side of the world so he was free to travel with me.

I arrived at Russ' house at what I considered an early hour (9:30 a.m.) although I surmise that he had already been awake 3 or 4 hours to my 1.5. We quickly loaded up and departed, then returned after driving a block in order to lock the house up. We were both pretty excited to get going, I guess. It was too bad we had to leave behind a neighborhood garage sale event that Friday.

Russ knew of multiple antique stores along the way so we quickly reached one in Sheffield, Illinois after a couple hours of traveling. There, in one booth of an insulator collector, I found a beautiful green Russian insulator dated 1949 at a reasonable price and made my first purchase of the trip. At another antique store, this time in Iowa, I found an underpriced blue Bell paperweight. At a junk shop, I could believe the place was selling glass blocks at a ridiculously low price so I bought 48 of them. Driving along back roads, we stopped at a garage sale and managed to drive away with a CD 124 Hemingway with amber throughout.

For some reason I have yet to completely figure out how it happened, twice on the trip, I ended up calling 911 on my cell phone. My best guess is that when I would lean over, somehow my password locked phone would get pressed against my pants and dial the emergency number that can be called without a password. I thought for sure we would be hunted down by the police or sheriff for making false calls or that we might be charged for it but nothing like that happened. As a follow-up, while I was mowing the lawn a few days ago, I called 911 twice while in the yard and two police vehicles showed up to check to see if everything was okay. Has this happened to anyone else? I've owned this phone for a couple years so I'm surprised it is happening to me now and has not happened previously.







### **Upcoming Shows**

**July 3-5, 2015 (Friday to Sunday)**

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual National Insulator Association Show, Sale, & Convention, Sandwich, IL**

46th Annual National Insulator Association Show and Convention. This year it will be held at the Timber Creek Inn & Suites and Convention Center, 3300 Drew Ave., Sandwich, IL 60548 for hotel reservations call: 630.273.6000 and mention NIA for special rates. For more information visit: [www.2015niashow.com](http://www.2015niashow.com) Host: JASON TOWNSEND, call: 630-667-3357 or email: [jtins76@gmail.com](mailto:jtins76@gmail.com) or BOB STAHR 630-793-5345 or email: [bob@hemingray.com](mailto:bob@hemingray.com)

**September 2015 (Saturday)**

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Chicago Insulator Club "End of Summer" Picnic and Swap Meet  
Racine, Wisconsin**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual GCIC "End of Summer" picnic and swap meet. Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the home of RANDY WESNER, 434 Blaine Ave., Racine, WI 53405. Email [randysdodge@gmail.com](mailto:randysdodge@gmail.com) or call (262) 633-0756 if you need directions.

**November 6-8, 2015 (Friday to Sunday)**

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Ohio Show & Sale  
Springfield, Ohio**

The 45th Annual Mid-Ohio Show & Sale will be held November 6-8 at the Clark County Fairgrounds (Exit 59 off I-70), Springfield, Ohio. Friday hours are 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 9:00 to ???. The Community Display for 2015 will feature "Lynchburg Glass." Information is available at: [www.insulators.info/shows/springfield/](http://www.insulators.info/shows/springfield/) Contact: LOIS BLAIR 740-852-3148 or CURT BOSTER 614-301-5125; email: [cboster530@att.net](mailto:cboster530@att.net)

21ST ANNUAL



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*July 24th  
at 5pm*

**Contact: Alan Stastny**  
8784 Grubbs Rex Road  
Arcanum, OH. 45304  
Cell: 937-546-4745



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## **INSULATOR SWAP**

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Lightning Rod Collectibles  
Milk Bottles  
Other Vintage Collectibles  
*Saturday, July 25th, 8am - 2pm*

