



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



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“Beat the Winter Blahs” Show Report (Continued)

As always, the auction was a popular even. Over \$1100 in insulators and related items were sold in the auction. With donations and a 10% commission charged sellers, about \$160 was returned to the club treasurer to support local shows. Thanks for Greg Delia and Jennifer Alley-Fisher for their generous donations.

Usually Rick Soller has the most lots in the auction but perhaps he has exhausted his supply because Greg Delia was responsible for 66 of the 136 lots. Rick’s 11 lots weren’t even the second most lots sold by a seller. Mike McLaughlin topped that with 17 lots, Dale Glendenning had 14 lots, and Josh Dordorf equaled that number with 11. Altogether, 10 different people put lots in the auction including Dave Ramp (2), Mike Davis (1), Kirk Miller (6), Riley Armstrong (6), and Chris Hernandez (1). It seems that auctions at local events have become a standard activity.

Several people helped run the auction. Russ Frank did an excellent job recording all the winning bids. Mike McLaughlin helped display the insulators. To help ensure that buyers knew which lot was theirs, I put the winning bidder’s name and amount bid in each box after they won a lot. There were so many lots, I ran out of paper.



Mike, Rick, and Russ Frank running the auction. Left of Mike is Riley Armstrong. Right of Mike is Cole King.

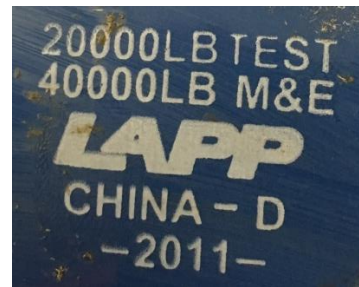
One sad note about the auction is that a radio strain disappeared out of one of the auction lots. The box had lots of stuff in it but I spotted the strain as one I did not have so I planned on bidding on the lot. After looking through other boxes, I went back to look at the strain again and it was gone. I asked the seller if it had been sold separate from the auction and he said, “no” so I suspect someone pocketed it. I took a lot of pictures of the boxes but didn’t get one of the strain before it vanished.



The start of the auction showing tables filled with lots from Rick Soller & Mike McLaughlin



One popular item brought for the auction was a beautiful blue insulator marked 20000LB TEST / 40000LB M&E / LAPP / CHINA-D / -2011-. Greg Delia brought several of these. Rick Soller and Riley Armstrong each went home with one. I didn’t know Lapp was making these in China plus I’ve never seen this color before. Each one sold for \$14.



Several dealers reported excellent sales which meant that collectors took home a lot of nice additions for their shelves. After a disappointing turnout at the prior week's winter-cursed show in Strongsville, Ohio, Dale Glendenning said it was the best show he's had in a long time. Rick Soller, for example, got a 1910-era Ohio Brass promotional piece in the shape of a bushing from Dale and Greg Delia took home a rare CD 106 Hemingray advertising piece from the table of Rick, partly paid for by the "junque" he sold in the auction to about half the people at the show. I think there was probably a lot of money being shuffled around the show.

A good variety of merchandise was for sale. Lightning rod balls filled the table of Ross Berndt. Tom Nugent had telephones and telephone go-withs. Josh Dondorf had bottles for sale. Mike Davis offered some fruit jars. Both Chris Hernandez and Rick Soller offered a variety of foreign insulators. Kim Borgman had Hemingray water bottles, syrups, lamps, bird dishes and insulators. Russ Frank had commemoratives and some brackets. He and Marge also sold a large collection of glass top hats.

The food was delicious, as always. There was pasta and chile, and a variety of beverages. I wolfed my lunch down when I finally found time to eat. Thanks to Tina Rienstra and Marge Frank for feeding us all.

Some of the other club members I saw besides the ones already mentioned include Steve McCollum, Kim & Joni Borgman, Robert Fisher (with already mentioned Jennifer Alley-Fisher), Gene Hawkins, Josephine Ramp (doing the heavy lifting for Dave), Mark Gilmore, Dick Schroeder, Cole King, Tom Nugent & grandson, and Les Christensen. I also saw a lot of new faces. There was a gun show at the fairgrounds that day but I don't think any of the new faces were actually looking for that event.

I always appreciate that someone takes pictures and posts them to insulators.info. I never seem to have time and often forget events at the show until I see pictures. Thanks to Arlen Rienstra and Chris Hernandez for all the pictures.

2019 Price Guide Deal

The new insulator price guide will be published soon. I plan on buying enough to get a quantity discount and plan on passing some of the savings on. I don't know the price of these yet but if you are interested, please let me (Rick Soller) know at com574@clcollinois.edu so I know how many to get. Letting me know doesn't commit you to buying one. Thanks.

I hoped that I would have these at the Wheaton show but Don Briel informed me that it would be unlikely to get them by the show so I'll mail them to those interested or I will have them at the next area show which would be May 3-4 at Columbia City. Normally these are sold for \$49 each but I'll be selling them for \$45. No charge for postage if I mail it.

Antiquing in Southeast Wisconsin

In order to promote the Wheaton show, several club members have been visiting antique stores and leaving postcards with information on the show. Arlen Rienstra covered stores centered around Crown Point, Indiana. Bob Stahr covered stores west of Chicago. Russ Frank tackled stores in south central Wisconsin and I covered stores in southeast Wisconsin all the way up to Milwaukee.

I visited approximately 25 antique stores (more than I thought were still in business). Naturally I also searched for insulators while at the stores so it took two full days to get through them all. Some places turned out to be more of a craft store, selling merchandise like candles, potpourri, and handmade jewelry. Others sold primarily furniture and not much else. The others

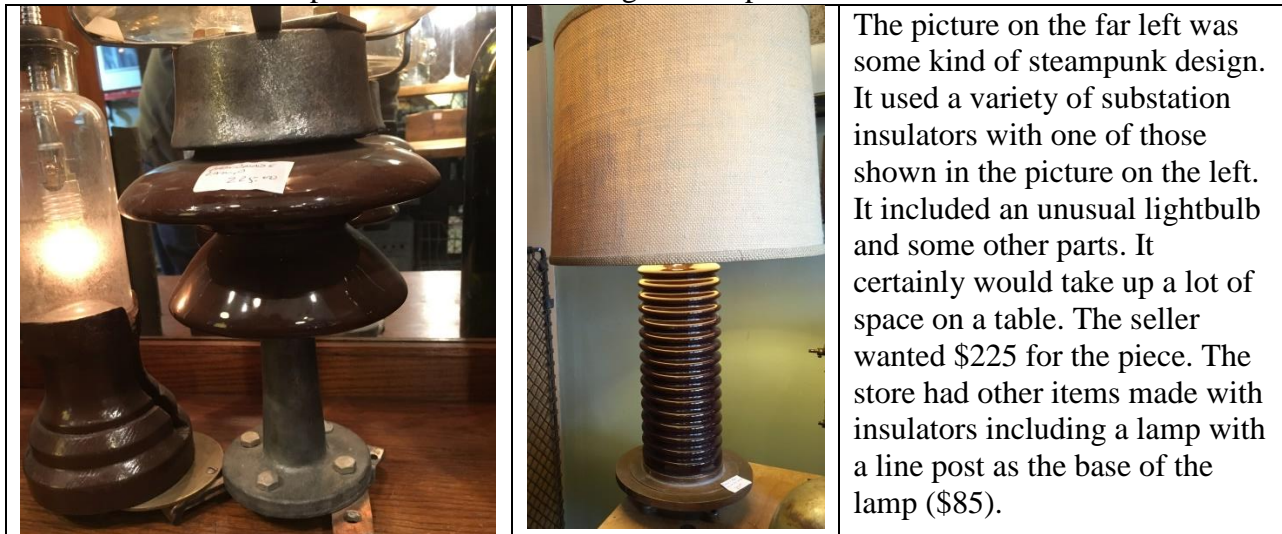
seemed like true antique stores and, depending on the size and estimated amount of traffic, I left 10 to 25 postcards, distributing several hundred in total.

I met several interesting people in the course of my visits. At “Against the Grain” on 5521 18th Ave. in Kenosha, I met a proprietor who collected insulators. Her father used to take her to bottle shows when she was little and give her a few dollars to buy something at the show. Insulators were cheap so that is what she bought. Her shop didn’t have any worth buying at the store and didn’t want to sell her collection but she did have some nice lighting rods in the shop.

At Roosevelt Road Antiques located at 3720 Roosevelt Road, Kenosha, Wisconsin, I met the owner who had one common insulator on a pin for sale. I bought an old Cracker Jack metal prize from the store and talked to him about insulators since he expressed an interest in learning. He eventually disclosed where he found the insulator and suggested I go hunt there myself since the area was abandoned. Maybe there could be a club hunt of the area?

At a store close to Waukesha, I saw numerous lightning rod balls throughout the store, especially at the front desk. The owner indicated that she used to collect LRBs. I invited her to the show but she didn’t seem too enthusiastic about going. I don’t know much about LRB prices and my price guide book is pretty old (although it is the most recent one) so I was cautious about buying anything unless I was sure it was a good deal. Unfortunately, I didn’t see any bargains so the only thing I left the store with was the neck of a guitar that I think I will try to attach to an insulator to make some weird piece of “art.”

I did see a few pieces I would have bought if the price was better.



The picture on the far left was some kind of steampunk design. It used a variety of substation insulators with one of those shown in the picture on the left. It included an unusual lightbulb and some other parts. It certainly would take up a lot of space on a table. The seller wanted \$225 for the piece. The store had other items made with insulators including a lamp with a line post as the base of the lamp (\$85).

There were only a few pieces I ended up buying. In Waterford I bought a 6” clear glass Pyrex insulator for \$10. At several shops I bought antique books that mentioned insulators. One was a carnival glass price guide that listed Corning Pyrex insulators in a marigold color. Other books made brief mention of insulators that I bought purely for historical reasons. I saw an interesting photograph of a street car crossing a three track bridge. The photograph was in a perfect wooden frame. I’ll probably have it for sale at the Wheaton show but won’t feel too bad if it doesn’t sell.

Chicago Area Insulators

Richard Case recently reported that a CD 103 embossed with “B” on the skirt was removed by him from a home in Rockford. This is a piece that I did not know was used in this area and one that should be added to the list of insulators used in the area.

What to Look for in Porcelain?

Recently club member Jennifer Alley-Fisher submitted a post to ICON indicating she is a new collector of both glass and porcelain and wondered if “there were any quick things to look for in porcelain pieces which would mean higher values.” The request seemed to be one that many collectors would be interested in so I thought I would give me answer to it.

Colors. There are some colors that are better than others. In Ohio Brass pieces, for example, turquoise pieces are desirable. Certain two-tone colors are highly sought. These usually involve brown or black radio treatments coupled with a green or blue base. Certain experimental glazes command high prices. A cherry red spool in my collection is one of my favorites. Odd experimental glazes were often marked with codes to identify the color. The marking would have been put on the insulator using a glaze resist method, i.e., mark it with a wax crayon to which glaze would not stick. Mottled glaze colors are often interesting enough to acquire. In general, in order from least desirable to most desirable, are the following: brown, sky grey with black radio treatment, white, cobalt blue, light blue, tan, yellow, green,

Markings. Unmarked insulators are the least valuable, other things equal. Common markings include Chance, I-T-E., Knox, M-E., Pinco, P.P. Inc., Thomas, and Westinghouse. Better markings are Findlay, Franlin, Gladco, G.P.Co., Hartford, Johns-Manville, and Square-D. Scarce to rare markings that you might come across include Fred M. Locke, Imperial, Harloe, Lima, Mershon, New Lexington, and Pittsburg.

Shape. Common shapes include ponies, beehives, signals, truncates, and modern power pieces. Odd shapes are sought by collectors like the U-395 Mickey Mouse, the U-407 Jumbo, no-tie designs, transpositions, Ethridge designs, spiral grooves, and threadless pieces. These are shown below, courtesy of the NIA.org website.

 <p>U-184 Harloe</p>	 <p>U-186 Purkey</p>	 <p>U-202A No name [Pittsburg]</p>	 <p>U-376 A Ethridge design</p>
 <p>U-395 No name [Pittsburg] “Mickey Mouse”</p>	 <p>U-407 Locke “Jumbo”</p>	 <p>U-799 Westinghouse with radio treatment</p>	 <p>U-820</p>

Upcoming Shows

Wheaton, Illinois

Saturday, April 6, 2019

The Dupage Collectors Expo will be held Saturday, April 6th, at the Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois, Hours are 9:00 to 3:00. Items for sale & trade include: Insulators, Lightning Rod items & Weathervanes, Telephone & Telegraph items, Bottles, Jars, etc. Info: BOB STAHR: bob@hemingray.com (630) 793-5345 and RICK SOLLER: com574@clcillinois.edu (847) 782-8602.

Already there are about 85 tables sold for the show. Rick Soller plans to have an entire table filled with Crown Jewels, insulator auction catalogs, and hobby books so check to see what you are missing in your library. He says he'll have another table with various high voltage signs.

There will also be an auction for dealers only on Friday night. Items already consigned to the auction include 5 lightning rods, lightning rod connectors, lightning rod literature, two different blue J-D multiparts, and lots of glass and porcelain insulators.

Columbia City, Indiana

Friday & Saturday, May 3-4, 2019.

Free Admission, Free appraisals, Free air too! at the annual Columbia City, Indiana Insulator, Fruit Jar, Bottle & Collectibles show to be held at the Whitley County 4H Center, 581 Squawbuck Road, Columbia City, Indiana on May 3 & 4th. Plenty of parking, RVs welcome (no hookups). Friday dealer setup is from noon -3 PM, Public 3-5 PM, Pizza 5PM, BRING SOMETHING FOR THE SHOW & TELL at 5:30 PM, Saturday Dealer setup 6AM - 8AM, Public 8 AM until the last dealer leaves. There will be an auction at the show starting at 10:30 a.m. so if you have something you want to sell for sure, you can add it to the sale at the show. First dealer table \$28, 2/\$48, 3/\$60, 4/\$75, 5/\$80, 6/\$85. For discounts on local hotels or for more information, email Gene Hawkins at gene.hawkins@mchsi.com or call 574-377-0171.

Tama, Iowa

Saturday, June 1, 2019

The 22nd Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet is scheduled for Saturday, June 1st at the Tama Civic Center from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. The Civic Center is located at 305 Siegel St. in downtown Tama, Iowa. Those attending can plan on setting up at 7:00 AM. There is no cost to set up at this event and lunch will be provided for those attending. This annual event tends to draw dealers from Iowa and surrounding states and is a very relaxed atmosphere enjoyed by all. We are again looking forward to hosting you and provide some good Midwest hospitality in the Hawkeye State. For additional information and table reservation, please contact DAVE SHAW at (641) 484-5463 or e-mail at dashaw@mchsi.com

Orlando, Florida

Friday – Sunday, June 14-16, 2019

The National Insulator Association's 50th Annual Show and Convention will be held June 14-16, 2019 in the Convention Center at the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at Sea World, 10100 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821. In June 2018, show information is available on the NIA web site. Plan to be a part of "Celebrating 50 Years of Meets/Shows". The show hosts are CLAY BLEDSOE, GRAHAM BARNES, and JACQUELINE LINSOTT-BARNES. For more info call 321-480-1800 or email: bluebellwt@aol.com.