



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

Rick Soller, Interim Managing Editor

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21st Annual WRIC “Winterfest” Swap Meet Report

Heavy snow kept me from driving the 6 hours to Strongsville, Ohio last year. This year, despite the predictions of heavy snow, I drove to the Cleveland-area show anyway. All but the first and last two miles of the trip were on interstate and I was leaving ahead of the snow and returning six hours after the snow was supposed to stop so I thought I could make it safely. I did with little trouble.

The Spyglass Hill Recreation Center where the show is held is not a large facility, as anyone who has attended knows but it seems to be just large enough for the crowd that attends. In fact, I’ve been to swap meets that were held in smaller spaces. In descending order of size, they were Randy Wesner’s garage and tent setup, Russ Frank’s garage, Craig Harder’s garage, Arlen Rienstra’s garage, and half of Ed Peter’s after I shoveled 2 feet of snow from his driveway to get to it.

At the time, I was the only member of the Greater Chicago Insulator Club in attendance (Dale Glendenning has since joined our club). Nevertheless, I knew most of the collectors there. WRIC members (at least I think they are all club members) included Rick Soller, Linda & Jeff Maxwell, club president John Hovanek and Sharon Foster, club treasurer Ron Barth, Dale Glendenning and his mom Claire Reindl, Greg Glendenning and his daughter, Mary Ann & Todd Pike, Jim Frustieri, Andy Wadysz, Robert Federto, Rick & Bernie Baldwin, Tom & Sue Nelson, Cheryl Krol, Ron Taylor, Charles Brown, Ken Richardson, and Larry Carson. There were probably a few more besides these 24.

Despite the small number, sales were good. I picked up an electric blue CD 257 Mickey Mouse and a CD 680 straw colored t-bar from Jim Frustieri. Jeff Maxwell did a good job of getting rid of the porcelain from a recently purchased collection. He doesn’t collect porcelain so had it priced low and accepted offers to get rid of what he had. The table of Mary Ann and Todd Pike had what looked like pieces from a recently purchased collection. Of note were several CD 320 carnival Pyrex insulators. They were pricing things on the spot for the crowd around their table. Lots of variety could be found on the tables of Dale Glendenning, Andy Wadysz, and of others.

Lunch was served beginning around 11:30. The center of the recreation center was set up with tables for all the lunchers. Served was salad; pizza; chili; mini deli sandwiches including roast beef, Italian (ham & salami), turkey, and chicken salad; roasted potatoes; macaroni and cheese; green bean almandine; pea and peanut salad; potato chips; brownies; and soft drinks. It was the best swap meet lunch of the year.

At about 12:30 p.m., swap meet activities were called to a halt and a short club meeting was held. John Hovanek was re-elected as president of the club, Rick Baldwin was re-elected as vice president, and Ron Barth as treasurer. Jeff Maxwell agreed to continue on as the club historian, especially after all the accolades about his recent articles on the CD 284 Floy insulator and Ohio Insulator Companies.

Upcoming shows were announced. The 20th annual West Leechburg, PA show was promoted. This show is always on the same weekend as the Wheaton, IL show so I was interested in learning more about it. The show is 2.5 hours east of Cleveland so is distant (8+ hours) from the Wheaton locale. It typically has 25 sales tables so is dwarfed in size by the 75-100 tables typical of Wheaton. The lighting was recently upgraded to LEDs and sales are generally strong so it sounds like an event I would like to attend if it didn't conflict with Wheaton. The Mohican show is planned for July 25 at an indoor facility. Russ Frank and I attended the first one held by Tom and Sue Nelson and enjoyed our trip but are happy it will not be in the 90-degree heat again. A \$5 donation is requested for those setting up a sales table – very reasonable. On September 19, the club's Oktoberfest show is scheduled in Richfield, OH

12th Annual GCIC “Beat the Winter Blahs” Show Report

I received a nice email about the January 25, 2020 GCIC swap meet held in Crown Point, Indiana. It was from Douglas Marshall and read as follows:

Rick: I wanted to thank you for bringing me some good LRI's to the Crown Point show. If not for that, I probably wouldn't bother to make the 200 mile trek. While there, I bought other stuff from six different dealers, and picked up a bunch of insulators in the auction to keep me occupied over the winter. Also got a chance to meet and talk to some of the people whose names I see on ICON and Facebook. Keep me in mind if you find any duplicates, or do any downsizing.

To me, this illustrates many of the benefits of getting to a club show or swap meet. First, you are more likely to find pieces that you need for your collection. Second, you can often get them at a price better than you would if you bought them online. Third, you can meet people who become friends and who help you build your collection.



If the list of bidders in the club auction or the number of collectors who joined the club is any indication, there were a lot of people who may have felt the same way. Thirty-one different bidders registered for the auction, four new collectors joined the club, and 11 members renewed at the show. I saw a number of young collectors bidding at the auction and making purchases at dealer tables. The picture above shows the activity at the show.

Another large auction was held with the first bids occurring at 10 a.m. and the last lot selling at 11:15 a.m. The 106 lots exchanged hands for a total of \$1198. Although 31 people were registered to bid, only 23 had successful winning bids although 4 people who did not win a lot had lots in the auction for sale leaving only 4 people who neither bought nor sold in the auction (although they may have bid). As is usual, 10% of the proceeds or \$120 went to the club to pay for food, advertising, and absorb some of the costs of renting the show hall. Money from the club treasury, donations for lunch, and dealer table fees made up the rest of the expenses associated with the show.



A crowd gathers around the auction tables at the start of the auction. From left to right, unknown, Jennifer Alley-Fisher, Gene Hawkins, Justin Perault, Dylan, unknown person in maroon jacket, someone's head, Richard case, Mike McLaughlin, Rick Soller, Russ Frank recording bids, Kate Delia, Greg Delia, Steve McCollum, unknown.

Although many of the insulators bought in the auction will be added to the collection of the bidders, some purchases are for resale. Given the large number and variety of bidders, it should not be a surprise that there are a number of ways the bidders resell some of the insulators. For me, I use three methods of resale. First, I list insulators on eBay. In one lot I bought, there were several green Hemingray-42s so one or two will be sold there. Second, I'll clean some pieces up and sell them at insulator shows. A couple of the green Hemingray-42s and the blue JDs will go into my sales stock for shows. Third, I list things in the "for sale" section of the picture poster on insulators.info. I already sold the 2 volume McDougald books this way for twice what I paid for them. Kate Delia takes a different approach. She buys lots of insulators inexpensively (\$1-\$3 per lot) and sends them to a consignment shop. Since she only paid a few pennies for each insulator she can make an enormous return on her investment. Roger Lucas and a few others travel the antique store route. They buy pieces that they know they can sell in a booth to the general public.

If bidders can make money reselling insulators bought in the auction, why do sellers put insulators in the auction rather than selling them through these alternative methods? One reason is that sellers don't have the time to sell insulators in these alternative ways and do not have much invested in the insulators they are selling so are willing to let them go cheaply. When purchasing a collection, they may not have put any value on pieces valued at under \$10 and may not want to fill their sales table with low-priced insulators because they don't sell well. Second, the sellers may lack space for lots of insulators. I have accumulated thousands of insulators over the years because I didn't have an outlet for common pieces so bring lots of boxes of insulators to shows and swap meets just to make space. Finally, some sellers may lack expertise in a certain area. For example, many collectors know little about porcelain pintypes, suspension insulators, multipart insulators, knobs & tubes, spools, or radio strains so will let the auction determine a price. If there aren't many knowledgeable collectors of such oddities, some bargains can be had.

Upcoming Shows

Wheaton, Illinois

Saturday, April 4, 2020

The Dupage Collectors Expo will be held Saturday, April 4th, at the Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois, Hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. 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.

Columbia City, Indiana

Friday & Saturday, May 1-2, 2020

Free Admission, free appraisals, and 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, IN on May 1 & 2nd. Plenty of parking, RVs welcome (no hookups). Friday dealer setup Noon to 3:00 PM, Public 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Pizza 5:00 PM, BRING SOMETHING FOR THE SHOW & TELL at 5:30 PM, Saturday Dealer setup 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM, Public 8:00 AM until the last dealer leaves. First dealer table \$28, 2/\$48, 3/\$60, 4/\$75, 5/\$80, 6/\$85. For discounts on local hotels or for more info email Gene Hawkins at: gene.hawkins@mchsi.com or call (574) 377-0171.

Tama, Iowa

Saturday, May 30, 2020

The 23rd Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet will be held on Saturday, May 30th at the Tama Civic Center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Tama Civic Center is located at 305 Siegel Street in beautiful downtown Tama, Iowa. Those dealers planning on setting up can do so starting at 7 a.m. There will be no cost to those who plan on attending and there will be a lunch provided around noon. This annual event is well attended by collectors from the Hawkeye state as well as our friends from neighboring states. The relaxed atmosphere is enjoyed by all. There will also be an auction scheduled with part of the proceeds going to support this show. Donations towards this event are welcome. We are again looking forward to hosting you and provide some Hawkeye hospitality here in the Midwest. For any additional information and table reservation, please contact DAVE SHAW at (641) 484-5463 or e-mail at dashaw@mchsi.com. Please note the show is scheduled a week earlier than usually as a courtesy to those attending the national.

Berkley, Michigan

Saturday, June 6, 2020

The 3rd annual swap meet is on again but with a new location and the same day as the St. John Woods neighborhood garage sale. A 1 hour drive north of the Ohio border on I-75. Set up is free, please bring your own tables. Some food will be provided, not necessary but if you like, bring a dish to pass. Show location: 3518 Cumberland Road, Berkley MI, 48072, show time 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact information: Curtis Erickson (248) 515-4612 or crerickson1@gmail.com

Logan, Utah

Friday to Sunday, June 12-14, 2020

The National Insulator Association's 51st Annual Show and Convention will be held at the Cache County Fairgrounds in Logan, Utah. The fairgrounds is located at 450 South 500 West, Logan, UT 84321. There will be plenty of dealer space and exhibit space plus a multitude of things to do in the area. Show Hosts are: DON & JEANNE BRIEL, (435) 753-5786, Don.Briel@comcast.net and ARNOLD & LINDA SMITH, (801) 829-3383, smithlrh@hotmail.com. www.nia.org/shows/2020_national

Tecumseh, Michigan

Saturday, June 27, 2020

The first ever official All Insulators - Crown Jewels of the Wire Insulator Show! Held in Tecumseh, MI at the AJ Smith Recreation Center, 810 N. Evans St., Tecumseh, MI 49286. Only 45 minutes from the Michigan/Ohio border and 1-1/2 hours from the Michigan/ Indiana border. The show welcomes all types of insulators and closely related go-withs. Eight foot tables are available for \$30 each. Electricity available in a limited basis for an additional \$10. Dealer setup will be at 9 a.m. Dealer information is available at: <https://allinsulators.com/hobby/show/dealer/>

Loudenville, Ohio

Saturday, July 25, 2020

2nd Mohican Country Insulator Swap Meet.

Springfield, Ohio

Friday to Sunday, November 6-8, 2020

Renew Your Membership.

You can now pay via PayPal. Send PayPal payments to Bob@Hemingray.com using the Friends & Family option. To sign up for PayPal, go to <http://www.paypal.com> and follow the directions. Dues are \$10 per year or \$5 per year for those under 18. If you would prefer to mail your dues, please make a check or money order out to Bob Stahr and send it to 360 S. Kenilworth Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Email vs. Print Newsletters

The emailed version of this newsletter has extra content which includes the results of the auction for this issue. If you would like the email version, let Bob Stahr know.

How to Date Hemingray Insulators

By Bill Meier

All Hemingray insulators since 1933 have had mold and date codes on them. In the Price Guide, these are generally referred to as [Numbers and dots] and [Number]. There are several different patterns, and some special cases as well.

1933	An "O" was added under the HEMINGRAY on the front. This is actually the letter "O" (for Owens-Illinois) and not the digit "0". However, most people will refer to it as a "zero". No mold number was generally present.
1934-1938	After the "O" was added a 4 or 8, like O-4 or O-8. The last digit (plus 1930) is the year the insulator mold was made. Thus O-4 means the mold was made in 1934, O-8 means 1938. There is a mold number generally under the "MADE IN U.S.A." on the rear skirt.
1939-1940 to end of production	Hemingray realized that having a one digit year wasn't going to work anymore, after the 1930's (sort of like our Y2K problem!!) At this time, they switched to a standard format generally under the "MADE IN U.S.A." on the rear skirt. This format was "MM-YY" such as 23-42. The first number (MM) is the mold number, and the second number (YY) is the year (plus 1900) when the mold was made. Thus, "23-42" is mold 23, which was made in 1942. In some transition cases, the number 9 was used to represent 1939 and 0 to represent 1940.

There are often dots present after the year code. A dot was added for each additional year of production after the mold was made. Generally, these were neatly aligned in two rows after the year code, looking like a row of colons. But, a colon is really two dots. In some cases the dots are around, above, and below the "-" dash. In any case, count ALL the dots, and add this to the mold year (see above). This gives the date the insulator was actually produced.

Mold codes:

The mode code is a one or two digit number, sometimes followed by a letter. In some cases, the letter designated the type of material the mold was made out of. Generally, the mold code is not significant, unless you really are a specialty collector.

Variations and Exceptions:

There are some variations, but they generally can be deduced from the above patterns. In all cases, counting the dots and adding them to the mold year code produces the date the insulator was actually produced.

Some variations include just a 38 or 39 on the front skirt (for 1938 or 1939). In other cases, just the single digit 9 (rather than the two digit 39) was used to represent the year of 1939 (a transition year) as well as just the single digit 0 to represent the year of 1940

January 2020 Crown Point, IN Auction Results

#	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Gene Hawkins	7 insulators	\$1	Kate Delia
2	Gene Hawkins	12 insulators	\$1	Kate Delia
3	Gene Hawkins	NIA can cozies, hat, NIA show nameplate	\$3	Rick Soller
4	Gene Hawkins	Water bottle, misc.	\$3	Rick Soller
5	Gene Hawkins	Bottle	\$1	Josh Dondorf
6	Gene Hawkins	Box	\$1	Richard Case
7	Riley Armstrong	Box of radio treated Chance insulators	\$1	Roger Lucas
8	Riley Armstrong	JD blue insulator	\$12	Rick Soller
9	Riley Armstrong	JD blue insulator	\$12	Rick Soller
10	Riley Armstrong	JD blue insulator	\$12	Rick Soller
11	Riley Armstrong	JD blue insulator	\$14	Rich Feehan
12	Riley Armstrong	Small marked blue JD	\$21	Rick Soller
13	Riley Armstrong	Small blue JD unmarked, chip	\$12	Josh Dondorf
14	Riley Armstrong	Large lighting arrestors	\$6	Riley Armstrong
15	Riley Armstrong	2 carnival suspensions	\$2	Sophia Lotkowski
16	Mark Gilmore	Green suspensions	\$9	Ephraim Podgorski
17	Mark Gilmore	Green suspension	\$6	Sophia Lotkowski
18	Mark Gilmore	2 green insulators	\$3	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
19	Justin Perault	Cigar boxes	(-.25)	Greg Delia
20	Russ Frank	Box of NIA stuff	\$1	Rick Soller
21	Russ Frank	Water bottle, acid bottles, insulators	\$3	Rick Soller
22	Russ Frank	Brown spools	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
23	Russ Frank	Rubber, porcelain spool, bottle	\$6	Rick Soller
24	Russ Frank	Spools, Walker Plate	\$4	Justin Perault
25	Russ Frank	Mason Jar, oil cans, glass block, insulators	\$4	Rich Feehan
26	Russ Frank	French jar, vinegar jar	\$16	Mario Pisterzi
27	Russ Frank	Coasters, D51?	\$1	Kate Delia
28	Russ Frank	Sign, pins	\$1	Greg Delia
29	Russ Frank	5 milk bottles, neon sign insulators	\$10	Riley Armstrong
30	Russ Frank	5 small milk bottles	\$9	Justin Perault
31	Mike McLaughlin	Flat of insulators	\$3	Kate Delia
32	Mike McLaughlin	Flat of insulators + pin	\$5	Doug Marshall
33	Mike McLaughlin	12s and 9s	\$1	Ephraim Podgorski
34	Mike McLaughlin	Jade CD 145, Bkfd ponies	\$4	Doug Marshall
35	Mike McLaughlin	Nine #9s	.50	Rich Feehan
36	Mike McLaughlin	Haystacks, CN, glass	\$1	Ephraim Podgorski

37	Mike McLaughlin	Fletcher Brackets	\$21	Richard Case
38	Mike McLaughlin	Pins and cobs	\$5	Doug Marshall
39	Mike McLaughlin	Pins and brackets	\$18	Doug Marshall
40	Mike McLaughlin	Misc. flat of glass	\$3	Doug Marshall
41	Mike McLaughlin	Flat of glass, jade milk	\$14	Jacob Metzger
42	Mike McLaughlin	Volt meter with paper printout	\$26	Justin Perault
43	Mike McLaughlin	Box of pins	\$11	Mario Pisterzi
44	Mike McLaughlin	Box of pins	\$11	Mario Pisterzi
45	Josh Dondorf	Metal pins	\$21	Riley Armstrong
46	Josh Dondorf	Box of ponies	\$12	Jacob Metzger
47	Josh Dondorf	121's	\$24	Jacob Metzger
48	Josh Dondorf	Jar of marbles	\$14	Steve McCollum
49	Josh Dondorf	Jar of marbles	\$14	Steve McCollum
50	Josh Dondorf	Jar of marbles	\$14	Steve McCollum
51	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles	\$2	Tom Nugent
52	Josh Dondorf	Crate of insulators, green Hemi-42s	\$28	Rick Soller
53	Rick Soller	Flat of glass insulators	\$15	Jacob Metzger
54	Rick Soller	Flat of strains, LRIs	\$7	Riley Armstrong
55	Rick Soller	Knobs and spools	\$5	Ephraim Podgorski
56	Rick Soller	Mickey, carnival, etc. insulators	\$28	Doug Marshall
57	Rick Soller	Misc. glass	\$5	Sophia Lotkowski
58	Rick Soller	Romanian, Brookfield, cd 147	\$19	Dieter Holz
59	Rick Soller	Purple Cal, CGI	\$79	Doug Marshall
60	Rick Soller	Flat of glass	\$3	Ephraim Podgorski
61	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$7	Sophia Lotkowski
62	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$5	Riley Armstrong
63	Rick Soller	Ponies, kegs	\$4	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
64	Rick Soller	Box porcelain	\$5	Riley Armstrong
65	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$5	Kate Delia
66	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$1	Kate Delia
67	Rick Soller	Box porcelain	\$9	Sophia Lotkowski
68	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$3	Ephraim Podgorski
69	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$6	Doug Marshall
70	Rick Soller	Spools	\$1	Ephraim Podgorski
71	Rick Soller	Porcelain and glass	\$9	Richard Case
72	Rick Soller	3 flats of glass	\$8	Sophia Lotkowski
73	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$1	Ephraim Podgorski
74	Rick Soller	3 boxes of porcelain	\$8	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
75	Rick Soller	Mickey, strain, misc glass	\$10	Wyatt Lambersin
76	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$8	Ephraim Podgorski
77	Rick Soller	Box of glass insulators	\$6	Doug Marshall
78	Rick Soller	Beehives	\$11	Dick Schroeder
79	Rick Soller	White porcelain	\$1	Riley Armstrong

80	Rick Soller	Box of glass insulators	\$6	Doug Marshall
81	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$6	Kate Delia
82	Rick Soller	Hemingray #9s	\$12	Dieter Holz
83	Rick Soller	Hornet's nest with trash bag	\$4	Dick Schroeder
84	Dick Schroeder	Railroad paper	\$6	Arlen Rienstra
85	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$25	Sophia Lotkowski
86	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$4	Andy Puch
87	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$7	Doug Marshall
88	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$17	Richard Case
89	Dale Glendenning	12 Surge glass insulators	\$34	Roger Lucas
90	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass, ponies, Bkfd, Maydwell	\$19	Dieter Holz
91	Dale Glendenning	LRIs	\$60	Dick Schroeder
92	Dale Glendenning	Flat of glass	\$46	Dick Schroeder
93	Dale Glendenning	Frosted Hemingray-42	\$10	Kate Delia
94	Dale Glendenning	Clear glass	\$7	Ephraim Podgorski
95	Dale Glendenning	Flat of glass	\$19	Doug Marshall
96	Dale Glendenning	Flat of glass	\$13	Andy Puch
97	Dale Glendenning	Frogs, Dominion, Pyrex	\$7	Ephraim Podgorski
98	Dale Glendenning	Box broken glass insulators	\$15	Jennifer Alley- Fisher
99	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$6	Sophia Kowalczyk
100	Dale Glendenning	Books: McDougald + Milhollandl	\$16	Rick Soller
102	Dale Glendenning	Porcelain and Neon sign insulators	\$6	Kate Delia
103	Dale Glendenning	Tub of broken glass, threadless pieces	\$90	Roger Lucas
104	Greg Delia	Cable terminal + pole mount	\$4	Dieter Holz
105	Greg Delia	Spools + brackets	\$6	Jason Townsend
106	Greg Delia	Suspension – Lapp	\$10	Tom Nugent
	Total		1198.00	