

DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 1 FALL 1987

NEW NIA "GO-WITHS" AVAILABLE!

It is with great excitement that several new N.I.A. "go-withs" are announced for sale. With the recently redesigned NIA logo it was necessary to also order new decals and embroidered patches both of which have been delivered and are of outstanding quality. Not only are these items designed for proud wearing/display by members to identify their participation in the insulator collecting hobby, they also provide some much needed revenue to help the NIA provide financial support for promotion of the hobby. The patches sell for \$ 3.50 ea. and the Decals are \$1.00 ea. In addition, very classy looking NIA name tags are available for prices ranging from \$10-12.

Jackie Linscott* has been appointed to coordinate the marketing of these products. If you did not receive a new decal with your 1987-88 membership renewal, send Jackie a S.A.S.E. with a request for one. To order either patches or additional decals, send the correct amount with a S.A.S.E. to Jackie. To order the name tags, write to Kevin Lawless for an order form which also shows the design.

Support your NIA and show-off these fine new items to promote the hobby.....order yours today!

*3557 Nicklaus Dr., Titusville, FL 32780

"MESSAGES"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow NIA Members,

It's once again time to reflect on the happenings in the hobby. The Pearland Central Regional and Fresno National Show are history (by the time you read this, so will the Kulpsville Eastern Regional). Nothing has changed my opinion that OUR HOBBY is more popular and stronger than it ever has been. There are more new collectors, reinvigorated former collectors, and firmly entrenched veteran collectors than EVER before. The prices of pieces sold, especially high quality and high-priced ones, are climbing higher and higher—because demand FAR outweighs supply AND because the handful of regular insulator sellers (we call them dealers) in the field KNOW that they are irreplaceable at former prices!

This jump in pricing CAN be both healthy and hazardous to the hobby, but I don't foresee a drop in interest like the hobby saw in the late 1970's—for two reasons. First, the hobby was heavily dependent on free insulators in its early history (picked by linemen and dug by "prospectors".) When Milholland's "Most About Glass Insulators" final revision (1976) was released, it contained probably 95% of TODAY's known glass insulators from America—only some new colors or embossing variants are popping up once in awhile, now, with few new CD's and almost no new manufacturers, etc. When "glass on the pole" disappeared, so did many of the early linemen/collectors, and the hobby took a dip. Second, show hosts were a lot more dependant on collectors traveling great distances to attend their major shows, especially Nationals and Regionals, and, when fuel prices shot up, the family trip across the country to attend the insulator show disappeared too.

It seems like the shows are taking on a much more regional appearance than in past years. The Pearland and Fresno shows were very well attended and sales for many "dealers" were excellent. What I couldn't help noticing is that many collectors with longer trips to make did NOT attend these shows, for whatever reason, and, while we missed them it did NOT make the show a failure. Rather, it points out that ANY show can be a good show if it is promoted correctly in the hobby (and antique circles) and in the local media. There are more and more good insulator (and bottle) shows to choose from, so you DON'T have to travel to Texas or California or New York to find some neat new pieces for your collection or to enjoy the company of some other interesting collectors. If you are from Ohio or Kansas or Washington, there are shows to attend in those states, too!

I guess my point is this—we are all collecting insulators, but for a variety of reasons. Some for historical, some for the joy of collecting, some to share friends, some for profit alone and many are probably a combination of the above. Whatever you can put INTO your hobby—AND the N.I.A., THAT is what you can receive from it. If you are a collecting hermit, the odds are that you won't remain collecting for very long. If you can get to some shows, get along with people and enjoy trading ideas and information, there really isn't much more to it than that, is there? Enjoy what you have and look forward to the next nice addition, but don't mortgage the house to buy it and don't stomp your feet and cause a scene if you miss out on the next one, because you NEVER KNOW what the one after that will be!

The only other comments I will make are: welcome to our new Western Vice-president, Shirley Patocka, and to our new Director of Product Marketing, Jackie Linscott. Jackie will be doing all of the coordinating of the N.I.A.'s new marketing materials, like the new patches, decals, name badges, and all of the other things we'll be considering in the near future (funding permitting!)

Please keep in mind that, while we hope to take the weight off dues as the only source of funds, it is still our chief source. WE NEED YOUR RENEWALS to help keep the N.I.A. stable. If you join every three years to attend your region's National, we will still accept your membership, but still remind you that the cost to run the organization is substantial and we DO need your annual support. That's all for now—thank you all for your support over the last year. Here's hoping the next one is even better!

Good collecting!



Kevin Lawless, NIA # 1679

FROM THE EASTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT:

Dear Collectors and Friends,

The hobby continues to be going strong this summer. Of course a lot of you already know this. Everyone who has been attending the various shows around the country have enjoyed the great times of seeing friends and adding insulators to their shelves. I am stating the obvious. Well it's not too late for the rest of you, especially in the east.

I will be telling you how the Eastern Regional Antique Insulator Show was in the next Drip Points. If you weren't there, be assured that we talked about you. Coming up on the agenda is the 16th annual show in Sellersville, PA on October 18th. They must be doing something right all of these years. A week later in Albany, N.Y. is the Annual Fall Show and Sale of the Capital District Insulator Club hosted by a relatively new collector, Jack Lambert. Albany has numerous highways going into it from several different directions. New York State residents pay a fortune in road taxes! We like to see our money put to use by millions of cars tearing up that concrete, so get in yours and get to this show. I dare you. Show your dedication to the hobby while seeing some great fall foliage in the northeast. Another annual get-together I know about in the east this year is the Central Florida Insulator Club Show in Titusville on Nov.13-15 hosted by Len and Jackie Linscott. So...no excuses now.

I would like to welcome Jackie Linscott as the coordinator of sales for NIA merchandise. Anyone who does not have an embroidered patch yet is sorely out of date and subject to whispered conversation. They are really well made, colorful, a great go-with, and a good price. Jackie and I both have order forms for personalized NIA name badges, all you have to do is write and ask.

While we are on the subject of correspondence it would be nice if I received some. Is the NIA doing what you want? Is the hobby doing right by you? Let us know. I continue to hear interesting collection and hunting stories at shows, especially now with more lines coming down. Please submit these stories for inclusion in Drip Points and share your experiences. My brother-in-law recently found two aqua "Cutter's" in a box of kitchenware at a flea market. Price: \$1.00, Wow.

Ellie Dutcher of Cortland, N.Y. shared her fabulous collection of Nappan dishes (dental toothpaste cups) with all those who attended the recent Middletown Show. A total of 65 glass cups in colors like clear, cobalt, yellow, amber, forest green, turquoise, peach, straw, plus more sure caught everyone's eye. These really aren't even in the insulator go-with category but I would like to see other glass collections on display at shows like this.

In closing, I would like to welcome Shirley Patocka to the NIA Board of Directors as Western Region Vice President.

Good collecting!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JEFF" in a stylized, cursive font.

Jeff McCurty

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT:

I recently attended two fine mid-America shows in June--the St. Charles, Ill. Collectors' Jubilee and the Pearland, Texas Central Regional. Tables at both shows were sold out early with waiting lists for available space. I've been to quite a number of fine shows in the Chicago area, and as usual this year's was no exception--the Chicago boys did a great job.


Three weeks later, Jeanne and I traveled to Pearland, TX with Paul and Carol Ickes for the Central Regional. It was our first trip to a show in the Houston area and we were certainly not disappointed. However, it did start out a little unusual. We stopped by to see Bill and Marilyn Albers, but when we pulled up and stopped, guess who was standing in the front door? No, it wasn't Marilyn. There stood Kevin Lawless with his patented grin. We drove to the Gulf for this?!-- must have made a wrong turn when we passed Kansas City.

Of course we had a good visit and got to see Marilyn's fine collection. You know, she even has some American insulators (in fact, she probably has more than me--and mine are all North American.) Later on, we got to visit with and see the collection of John Hall and Darrell Halik. You may see more of this fine collection in an upcoming issue of Crown Jewels. It just so happened that John and Carol McDougald were there with many rolls of film.

At the show, a fellow collector and friend walked up to show me a recent find. I recognized it to be a CD 150 and immediately noticed that it had large sharp drip points. This is something I had never seen before. As I held it and turned it around from the "PATENT OCT.8,1907" embossing to the front, there in large bold embossing was "BARKLAY". This is the first insulator I've seen with John C. Barklay's name embossed on it--a very rare jewel, picked from a pole on the way to the Central Regional Show.

We want to thank everyone in Pearland for their great Texas hospitality.

Happy Collecting,

Dennis Weber 

FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT:

The 1987 NIA Convention, Show & Sale in Fresno, Ca. July 24-26 was one of the very best Nationals ever held. If you were there, you know that to be a fact.

The most obvious reason for the success of the show was that our show host couple, Mike & Becky Guthrie, literally knocked themselves out in their efforts to make it so. For instance, on Friday evening of the show, they issued a blanket invitation to everyone (!) to visit their lovely home, eat hot dogs & trimmings and have a look-see at the GUTHRIE MUSEUM. Mike, we now dub you as the "Host with the Most." You're way out in front! I haven't been able to get my socks back on since I saw all those insulators you have!

Mike was also responsible for the tremendous news coverage both before and during the show. This brought out a lot of local folks who swelled the already heavy walk-in crowd of collectors both Saturday and Sunday.

Then, too, there is a definite upsurge of interest in insulator collecting. Call it a fever, even. People were all over the place buying everything! And did you feel the extra warm, friendly and positive attitude among all the collectors? I didn't see one beady-eyed look from anybody. Add perfect weather to all this (thanks, Mike) and you can see why it was such a super weekend.

But now, let's take this show to TEXAS! Bluebonnet Country! It is with the greatest pleasure that John Hall, Elton Gish, and I invite y'all to attend the 19th NIA convention in Houston, July 22-24, 1988. The Adam's Mark Hotel with its Texas size "in house" Exhibit Hall has been chosen as the show site, and a splendid facility it is! Air-conditioned? Yes, very.

It will be the first time for an NIA National Show to be held in Texas and a lot of you have never been here. Houston and the surrounding area is an exciting place to be and there are many attractions you won't want to miss. Your three Show Hosts have all sorts of surprises up their sleeves to make this another great National. Watch for regular announcements starting with the January, 1988 issue of CROWN JEWELS.

Marilyn Albers

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The Fresno National is well behind us and you will be reading plenty about this great show. The hosts of regional and national shows can never be thanked enough, as far as I am concerned, and so thank you again Mike and Becky.

The 1988 regional and national show details are listed in the minutes of the NIA's General Meeting. Let us all make a real effort to attend at least one of these shows in the coming year.

I am now looking for potential show hosts for the 1989 national and regional shows. The national is due to be held in the eastern region in 1989. While I do write many letters seeking show hosts, please write me a note and let me know if you're interested. Hosting an insulator show can be a rewarding and profitable undertaking. Please give it some serious thought. The NIA has numerous resources to provide you with the information needed in hosting a show.

Best regards,



Eric Halpin

FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Dear N.I.A. Members,

For those of you who did not attend the National in Fresno, Shirley Patocka was elected Western Region Vice-president. My thanks also to the other candidates, Grant Salzman and Eileen Bannister, for their interest in this position. Of the total number of ballots mailed, only 54% of them were returned to me. This was a fair turnout of voters, but in the future it would be nice to see a much higher percentage of active members voting.

With the future in mind, next year's election will be for: President and Central Region Vice President. Anyone interested in running for either of these positions, can contact me for further information.



Russ Hughes

FROM THE SHOW STANDARDS CHAIRMAN:

Hi Everybody,

Now that summer is officially over and the kids are back in school, we have time to return to a normal state of conscious chaos. But just wait for a few weeks and those charge account bills will arrive. First there will be back to school clothes, and then the inevitable vacation related charges. So what to do---? Well--just settle back in your favorite easy chair, light up that soothing cigar, and read ol' Charlie's column.

This year's National Show was truly a success. Mike and Becky Guthrie were really organized and their planning certainly paid off. It was a consensus opinion that 1987 was a memorable show. The display competition brought out some very competitive entries, and the winners were as follows:

Threadless Category was won by Shirley Patocka for her display of CD 700 magnetic eggs, which included amber and purple specimens—Shirley, it was really fantastic!

Specialty category was won by Glenn Yows for his display of early California insulators. Glenn's display was outstanding and his specialty of E.C. & M. insulators has never looked better.

Threaded category was won by Dave Potts. This entry was entitled "Threaded Glass from the Telegraph Era." This display featured a beautiful cobalt CD 123, a very rare CD 145.6 Boston Bottle Works, and Olive-amber and jade milkglass CD 126's.

The Color category was won by Duane Davenport. This entry consisted mainly of Hemingray and H.G. Co. embossed insulators, arranged in such a manner as to give maximum effect for the color differences. Not only did this display have beautiful examples of yellow and peacock blue, but the two shades of true red appeared to glow from the opposite end of the convention center building.

Go-withs category won by Pat Patocka was entitled "Go Withs and Miniatures." Pat's display featured a Whitall Tatum miniature and other miniature odds and ends for go-withs. You say you want an example of a go-with? OK you asked for it: How about a purple E.C. & M.?!

The General category was won by Larrin Wanechek. This display featured a well rounded collection of western threaded and threadless shapes, colors, and designs topped off by an upside down embossed E.C. & M.

The Milholland Educational Award went to Duane Davenport for his outstanding emphasis on educational aspect connected to his color display.

The Outstanding Service Award was won by Clarice Gordon for her hundreds and hundreds of hours of tireless efforts contributing to the advancement and improvement of our hobby. Consensus of opinion was this award was well deserved, and long overdue.

The NIA Lifetime Membership Awards were presented to Marilyn and Bill Albers whose countless contributions to the hobby certainly merit this recognition.

Now, a special thank you to Walter Ruedrich who displayed a beautiful and fascinating collection of wood cables used in San Francisco. This display was really neat and everyone enjoyed it very much.

Another topic to be covered briefly is the new display ribbons and plaques. As I am sure you know, the N.I.A. logo has been re-designed and the display winners now receive a plaque instead of the heretofore awarded trophy. The new designs have been delivered and you will soon be seeing them at all future shows. The final result of these new designs are equally impressive and beautiful. A special thank you to Kevin Lawless who handled the negotiations and accompanying headaches in seeing this project through to completion.

Until next time, happy collecting and pay those summer bills with a smile.



Charlie Allmon

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

Due to changes in the distribution method of "Drip Points" the system used for mailing election ballots must be modified. The following amendment to ARTICLE V,SECTION 2 of the NIA By-Laws is intended to improve and clarify the old section:

"2.0 Nominees for any NIA office will be listed on ballots which will be mailed to current affected members 60 days prior to the National Convention. Two weeks prior to the National Convention all ballots cast shall be counted so that the election results can be announced at the annual membership meeting."

Pursuant to ARTICLE VII, PARAGRAPH 2, the proposed amendment will be automatically ratified if fewer than 5% of the active members mail a written objection to the NIA within 90 days of the mailing date of this change. Any member wishing to protest this change should respond, in writing, to the By-Laws Committee Chmn.:

**John McDougald
26812 John Road
Olmsted Township,OH 44138**

**MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR
ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
JULY 24, 1987**

The fifteenth General Meeting of the National Insulator Association was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Kevin Lawless, who greeted the more than 90 members in attendance.

The minutes of the fourteenth General Meeting, held in Saratoga Springs, New York, and published in Drip Points (Vol.14,No.1,Fall '86) were approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented and reviewed by the President. An explanation of the cash flow, primarily concerning the expenditures for the new NIA patches, was given. Year end balance as of June 30, 1987 was \$1578.06.

Information Director Mike Guthrie presented his annual report. The main highlight was the merging of the NIA's "Drip Points" with the "Crown Jewels" publication. Some concern was expressed regarding the lack of submissions to Drip Points, especially the 'Discoveries' section. It is felt by many that much knowledge and information will be forever lost to the hobby, unless members share their early insulator experiences with us.

Outgoing Western Region Vice-President Vi Brown gave a report on the Bakersfield show and Dee Willetts' speedy recovery from a recent illness. Vi further advised that the Milholland insulator collection is in storage at her (Mrs. Milholland's) daughter's home.

Central Region Vice-President Dennis Weber gave a report on attended shows in the region. Photos of these shows are available in an album at Dennis' table. A CD-150 with SDP's was seen this year.

Eastern Region Vice-President Jeff McCurty sent his regards via Kevin Lawless who then read Jeff's report. The highlights were the upcoming Kulpsville, Penn. show and the cancellation of the Vernon, Conn. show. At the Perkiomenville show this year, a Blackburn's patent insulator with ties attached showed up. Refer to the May '81 issue of Crown Jewels for further information.

Second Past President Marilyn Marilyn Albers presented her report. The recent Pearland show, which is a traditional bottle show, had heavy insulator attendance.

By-laws Chairman John McDougald has typed in loose leaf form all present NIA by-laws including revisions up to 1987. As the previous NIA handbook is now out of print, all new NIA members will receive this latest leaf manual. Future by-law changes will be published in "Drip Points" and any major revisions can be more easily revised with the loose leaf format. A proposal, previously approved by the Board,

was presented to the membership for acceptance as follows: re By-law Article V, Election, item 2.0 to read as; Nominees for any NIA office will be listed on ballots which will be mailed to current affected members sixty days prior to the National Convention. Two weeks prior to the National Convention, all ballots cast shall be counted so that the election results can be announced at the annual General Membership Meeting. This motion was passed.

Show Standards Chairman Charlie Allmon advised the membership that the new NIA plaques and awards were on display at the NIA table. These will be presented at the awards dinner.

Nominations Chairman Russ Hughes announced that Shirley Patocka is the new Western Region Vice-President. President Kevin Lawless thanked Vi Brown for all her efforts and work in support of the hobby.

The Executive Director Eric Halpin announced the following shows for 1988: NIA Eastern Regional Show will be held on March 26 & 27 in Nashville, Tennessee hosted by Sally and Cordell Smith, Jr. The NIA Western Regional Show will be held on April 30 and May 1 in Enumclaw, Washington hosted by Andy and Vi Brown. The NIA Central Region National Show will be held on July 22-24 in Houston, Texas hosted by Marilyn Albers, John Hall, and Elton Gish. The 1988 show hosts each spoke about their shows.

A brief discussion took place regarding the possibilities of holding the National in a central location each year. The majority of members present did not favor this proposal.

President Kevin Lawless thanked Mike and Becky Guthrie for putting on a successful show. Mike and Becky advised they were opening their home after the meeting to anyone interested in seeing the Guthrie insulator collection. Many people expressed their desire to attend.

Several upcoming insulator shows were announced including the Nor-Cal Club Show in Auburn, Ca; the Capitol District Club Show at Albany, N.Y.; and the Central Florida Club Show at Titusville, Fl.

The meeting was then adjourned, until July 22, 1988 at Houston, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Eric Halpin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

W. Eric Halpin, NIA * 2768
Executive Director

**1986/87 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT
 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
 BOB KRUPKA, TREASURER**

BEGINNING BALANCE: **\$ 1,889.46**

REVENUES:

MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 4,002.00
DONATIONS	20.00
PATCHES	63.50
DECALS	5.00
MISC.	247.38
TOTAL	4,337.88

EXPENDITURES:

DRIP POINTS	631.57
POSTAGE	116.87
TELEPHONE	156.36
STATIONARY/PRINTING/SUPPLIES	740.28
SHOW AWARDS	725.62
SHOW ADVERTISING	350.00
DECALS	800.00
PATCHES	454.75
CROWN JEWELS/DIRECTORY	600.00
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	37.80
MISC.	36.03
TOTAL	4,649.28

ENDING BALANCE **\$ 1,578.06**

