

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

http://www.nia.org

VOLUME 27 * NUMBER 3 * SPRING 2000

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

2000... it is still hard to get used to! Just 7 days after the turn of the century, an insulator related event occurred that I feel will never go down in the history books, but was important to me. GLASS, our newly formed local club, held its second meeting on the 7th of January and we had an informal 'bring your pieces to swap' night. I bought a semi-snowy CD162.1 Brookfield, the first insulator to be bought that night. Upon reflection, I figure I may now own the first insulator bought at the first 'show' of the century (hey, it is a 'lowly'

CD162.1; it has to have some claim to fame)!

Seriously, I also a great time attending the January 22nd show sponsored by the Western Reserve Insulator Club (great job, John!). Realizing the club is less than a year old, I was surprised at the amount of nice pieces presented there. One of the highlights, to me, was seeing 3 sapphire blue CD145 HGCO PETTICOAT insulators there (I took pictures!). Another important part of the show was the decision that WRIC would join GLASS in our June

24th show. Therefore, we now have a joint effort planned for this date.

By the time most of you get this, I will probably have attended the March 4th Maryland State Line show. I have only been back in the hobby long enough to have attended this show one time previously. Last time it was great, and I am sure it will be just as good this time.

An ironic thing to me is that for quite a few years before re-entering this hobby, I spent

... I may now own the first insulator bought at the first 'show' of the century.

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down the road from where this show has been held. If only I had known!

This winter the shows have been the largest portion of the hobby for me as I have only been out in the wilds hunting for insulators once. For some reason, living in the Great Lakes snow belt normally deters my outdoor excursions! The one time I did get to venture out was in Maryland with my friend Dave. That day was fruitful for obtaining some square cut date nails (which I had never personally pulled an example of one before), and a light green Lynchburg CD154. As the warm weather approaches (April for me!) I am looking forward to more opportunities to pursue more gems in their native habitat.

I would like to thank John Beck and Bobby Youngers for taking

time to write. John expressed several concerns some of which are addressed in other articles in this issue. Like many collectors he is concerned about the escalating prices. Also, he expressed his desire to see more shows that would be comparable in size to a regional but held in a variety of locations so that more people can attend without spending a fortune just to get there. This is where you local clubs can help. The NIA can only do so much about the locations of the two regionals and the national each year. Considering the size of each region, it would be impossible for a regional or national to be convenient for everyone in that particular region. However, if local clubs begin putting together better and larger shows (like the former London, Ohio show), then more people will be able to attend and enjoy these functions. I am sure that there are

many others who feel the same way as John about getting to these events so I hope all of you will accept the challenge as you plan your future shows.

Bobby whose hobbies include insulator collecting and drawing enclosed a beautiful piece of art work that we have reproduced here for all of you to appreciate.

I hope the next few months brings you many hours of enjoyment in the hobby. One way to ensure this is to attend club meetings, shows, and swap meets -- you will be glad you did!

Happy Collecting!

**Lee Brewer, NIA #6695
Information Director**



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Also I have digitized into Microsoft Word, Mike Guthrie's *Comprehensive Planning Handbook for Show Hosts*. This is one of

the best step-by-step books I have seen for planning a show of any size. If you would like a copy, drop me a line.

The next show I will be at, is the

Deland, FL show. See you there.

Thanks and good collecting,

**Ed Peters, NIA #6300
Executive Director**

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

As many of you know, I have elected not to seek another term for Central Region Vice President. As I understand it, there are two candidates. I would like to see a good response to the ballots this yea, as both candidates are well qualified. Please take a moment and read their resumes and platforms.

I am currently working with Ed Peters on solicitation of bids for the Central Regional Show for 2001. If anyone is interested in hosting a show, please contact either of us. On the show front, do not forget about the upcoming National in Bloomington, MN. Ed and the gang from the Northwestern

Region Insulator Club have some fun activities planned including another hunt like at Scottsdale last year. In addition to the National, these upcoming shows and swap meets should be on your list to attend:

- March 31 & April 1** Collector's Jubilee, Wheaton, IL
- April 15** Metroplex Show Bedford, TX
- May 6** Swap Meet Robertsville, MO
- May 7** CIC Swap Meet Geneseo, IL
- July 28-30** **National Show**, Bloomington, MN

...The Central Region has seen continued growth in membership.

General information about these meets and shows can be found at www.insulators.com or Crown Jewels.

The Central Region has seen con-

tinued growth in membership. This has an upside and a downside. With more people collecting, the prices of insulators will continue to escalate and fewer pieces will be available at shows. That is not so bad for those of us who already own these items, but it stifles the young collector or those without deep pockets. There is nothing we can really do other than not to give in to exorbitant prices that some sellers have demanded. Remember that the majority of us are interested in the history of these items as well as the friendships we have forged in this hobby. The monetary values are secondary.

I hope I have served you well as the Central Region VP and look forward to continuing my active role in this hobby.

**Bob Stahr, NIA #4186
Central Region Vice President**

See p. 9 for the article from the Eastern Regional Vice President

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Hello, fellow insulator enthusiasts! Well, my bride and I did make it home from the great trip "down under" on the first of December as forecast. Steve Marks tells me that these countries are officially part of the Western Region, so I chalked the trip up to NIA business and this gives me a legitimate excuse to write about it in *Drip Points!* For those of you that have never been

there, Australia and New Zealand are just fascinating places. The best part of the trip was meeting a good fraction of the insulator collectors down there. You would not believe the hospitality that these folks extended, and I was not prepared for what "insulator collecting" really means "down under". Would you believe that most of the collectors have museums – not insulator collections?! A typical collection would be one that had not only insulators, but anything that was ever connected to an insulator...phones, tele-

graphs, switchboards, power-control panels, etc.! Typically, the museum would involve a separate building (I only have one measly room!), but I actually met one fellow that had seven buildings full of museum quality displays! Typically, it was nigh impossible to go through all of a person's collections in a single day so we would be invited to stay until everything was properly viewed and demonstrated. This included outstanding local cuisine and fine

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lodging in numerous instances. Overall, I was impressed at how plentiful insulator artifacts are down there. There was not much colorful glass still in the air (the pervasive rumor down there was that a bloke by the name of Bernie Warren had come and methodically shipped it all to America!), but the place was a porcelain collector's dream! I thought it quite amazing to see 1870's telegraph insulators still in the air, and one can even acquire a collection of the old English telegraph poles without too much strain – though a good 4WD vehicle is a definite asset! (One of these days when I run low on things to do, I hope to put together an article on the Australian telegraph – I took a lot of notes and photos.)

Well, since we could not carry all the stuff that we picked up over the nine-week adventure, we shipped stuff back via boat. Man does that take a while! We have a couple packages still to arrive. I think they are full of "inchulators" (I don't know why they call them "inchulators"...but they do!) My mineral specimens from Tasmania already came, and so did my digeredoo from Alice Springs. So I am learning to play it – it's driving my dog nuts! And speaking of "Alice", would you believe that one of the major attractions in the town is the original telegraph station? It is in a beautiful park just north of town and the displays of the old equipment are quite impressive.

Well, enough about "the Far Western Region" – we need to talk a bit about things closer to home. First, the winter has been so mild down here in the desert southwest that it is quite pleasant to go out insulator hunting. There is no snow to speak of except for the higher mountain ranges (of course this

kind of makes the skiing less than ideal...but you can't have everything). By the time you are reading this, spring will be well on its way and the planning for the insulator outings in full swing. Here in the West, there are a number of great events on the docket.

March 11th in Salem, Oregon: 3rd Bi-annual Mid-Willamette Valley Big Barn Insulator Swap Meet at Nathan Lamkey's place. Call Nathan for more details; Day phone (503) 364-3226, evenings (503) 585-9904.

March 11-12 in Chico, California: Chico Bottle & Insulator Club show at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds. Call Randy Taylor, evenings, (530) 345-0519 if you need more info on this two-day event.



Lynda teaches Koala to retrieve insulators

April 28-29 in Cayucos, California: Central and Southern Counties Insulator Club 8th Annual Great Insulator Show and Barbecue at the Lions Veteran Hall. This show is a month earlier than in previous years, so don't be fooled. Paul Alleeson, (805) 527-1770, can give you more details if you need them.

May 6-7 is the Western Regional in Enumclaw, Washington. This premier event will be held at the

King County Fairground and Vi Brown is the show host and is the prime source of information for this event (425) 868-4249.

June 11th, again in Salem, Oregon: The OBCA Antique Bottle & Collectible Show and Sale at the Salem Fairgrounds. Shayne Bowker, (503) 695-2884, has the details.

By the way, did you know that the www.insulators.com website has an updated list of all the shows?

Congratulations are in order to Mike Bruner on getting his new book *The Definitive Guide to Colorful Insulators* out on the market. What a dazzling array of impressive color photos!

Finally, I just received the news of another insulator club forming here in the Western Region. It is called the Columbia Basin Insulators – CBICO for short. This just became official in January. This is really great news as it adds another spoke in the wheel of insulator collecting out here in the West. CBICO takes in the Washington, Idaho and northern Oregon region. The logo for the club is based on the green CD151 since a number of them were found in this area of the Pacific Northwest. If you would like to know more, or maybe join up, give Bill Winters of Kennewick, WA a call at (509) 582-2284; or you can also reach him via email at cbico@insulators.com.

Well, that is it for the spring report. I am looking forward to seeing you at the shows. Give me a call if you have any thought, ideas or concerns regarding happenings in the Western Region.

Regards,

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567
Western Region Vice President

VOTE *VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE *VOTE

To the members of the NIA living in the Central Region

I, Jimmy Burns place my name for consideration for Central Region Vice President. I am a collector of colored porcelain insulators and have collected since 1968. I live in Conroe, Texas with my wife, Vickey, and my sons, James (10) and Christopher (7), both of whom actively collect insulators. I work as a teacher of English and Theater Arts in the Splendora Independent School District where I have been employed for the last

nineteen years. I also am an Adjunct Instructor of Freshman English at Kingwood College where I teach night classes. I have been very active in the Lone Star Insulator Club (LSIC) during the last twelve years serving as both President and Vice President twice. Along with John Hall, I have hosted the LSIC annual show since its beginning. I have been co-host of both an NIA Regional and a National Show. My proudest accomplishment has been the development of the N. R. Woodward Award for Insulator Research and Literature. I also wrote several articles for the "Rainbow

Rider's Trading Post."

If elected it will be my goal to do what is in the best interest of the hobby. I am especially interested in making the NIA inclusive of all insulator collectors both in membership and leadership. I am also interested in getting young people more involved in the hobby.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy Burns, NIA #4032

VOTE *VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE *VOTE

Hello, Fellow NIA Members,

My name is Ed Peters, and I am running for the NIA Central Region Vice Presidents position. Since I got back into this hobby five years ago, I have had the opportunity to meet most of you at various shows and club meetings. I think the best thing in this hobby is the people. People built the hobby, and they are the driving force that keeps it going. I see the NIA as the glue that holds insulator collectors together. The NIA does this by establishing things like the NIA Code of Ethics and Exhibit & Judging Rules as well as by sanctioning shows.

In the past few years we have seen the advent of the Internet, with ICON, E-bay, etc. Before the Internet it was the *Crown Jewels*.

These have all been a boon to the hobby and have helped to increase its awareness. However, the fact remains; it is the people behind the hobby that make it enjoyable. I go to as many Central Region shows as I can because it is a great time. The night before a show is like the day before Christmas to a kid (and I am 44).

I started collecting insulators with my dad in northern Indiana in the late 60's. I did not know there were organized shows until 1981 when I attended the Wheaton show. I went into a nine-year lull until 5 years ago. In the last four years we started the North-Western Insulator Club and have hosted three very successful club shows. I am currently serving as the NWIC president. This year we are hosting the Y2K National in

Bloomington, MN. A year ago I was appointed as the Executive Director to the NIA and have been working towards getting show bids lined up for next year. As the Executive Director, I have just completed updating Mike Guthrie's *Comprehensive Planning Handbook for Show Hosts* guide. It is also now available in Microsoft Word format.

I am a very firm believer in shows, swap meets, and clubs. Since I believe in clubs so strongly, I will do my best to support the existing Central Region clubs and help form new ones. I will also support the Central Region shows by attending as many as possible.

Thank you for your time,

Ed Peters

VOTE *VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE* VOTE *VOTE

FROM THE BY-LAWS CHAIR

It has been a busy fall and holiday season for the Marks' household. You would have thought that after the National we would have taken the rest of the year off. . . . but nooooooooooooo. . . "Off" consisted of a week's vacation in San Diego to go to Sea World and Coronado Island. A nice time to be sure, but that is about it. Shortly thereafter I undertook the massive task of re-writing the entire NIA Handbook -- in effect, creating an all new manual for 2000. This was necessary, not just because the prior manual was getting "stale," but because we needed a manual that would reflect the NIA's status as a corporation. This project took until the end of the year to complete. A copy is available for review on the NIA's website.

Simultaneously, Melanie and I were continuing to pursue our dream of owning and operating our own business. During December we purchased a "PostNet" franchise (mail box rentals, packaging supplies, Fed Ex & UPS shipping center, copiers, etc.), and are at this very minute negotiating a lease for a space in a soon-to-be-built shopping center. The location is right in the middle of one of the hottest growth sections in the valley (a wonderful master-planned community that is bigger than most townships). We are excited to say the least and with any luck will be open for business in October (special discounts for those shipping insulators, of course)!

In the fall *Drip Points* I mentioned that at the urging of the Nominations Chairman and several Board Members I was accepting the nomination for NIA President.

Our By-Laws state that nominees are to be afforded the opportunity to present a statement (i.e. resume, article, etc.), for publication in the spring issue of *Drip Points*. At the time of my writing this, I find myself running unopposed for the office. Still, I thought that I might put a little something together on my "insulator" background.

I joined the NIA in 1991. While living in New Jersey, I never missed a Chesapeake Bay Show, an Eastern Regional, or a Perkiomenville show. Melanie and I were married in 1995 and moved to Scottsdale in 1996. We no sooner moved into our new house (1997), than, at the urging of Carol McDougald, I helped to start the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club. I have been President of the Club since "day one" and am proud to say that with the assistance of the other club officers and members, we have grown to over 60 members. I also edit the club's quarterly newsletter.

In 1997, I was appointed to the position of NIA By-Laws Chairman (a position I still hold today). Around that same time I agreed to become a part of the Ethics Committee which Elton Gish chairs and have continued on that committee since then. Also at that same time, I joined the Research & Authentication Committee, which is chaired by John McDougald. Like the Ethics Committee, I have remained a member of the R&A Committee for close to three years now.

As soon as I was appointed to the NIA By-Laws Chairman slot I began working on a modification

to the NIA Code of Ethics. There were several issues in the hobby at that time that were becoming complex, and it was apparent that the code needed some refining and definitions for key terms. The work I had done was accepted by the Board and published in the March 1998 issue of *Drip Points*.

I undertook the massive task of re-writing the entire NIA Handbook.

After completing that task I turned my attention to modifying the NIA Grading Standards. Again this work proved to be a daunting task (I got far more opinions and ideas than I had bargained for), but the end results, which I think were a good all around compromise, were published in the June 1998 issue of "Drip Pints."

During the Spring of 1998 I re-wrote a portion of the NIA General Show Rules so that they would not conflict with the new NIA Grading Standards and Code of Ethics. Just after the Williamsburg show, with Melanie's assistance, we drafted Articles of Incorporation for the NIA and filed them. The result being that the NIA is a non-profit corporation. Shortly thereafter I obtained an insurance policy for the NIA. Show Hosts are able to take advantage of this policy by contacting the NIA Treasurer. Details appear in the March and June 1999 issues of "Drip Points."

In case I have not bored you enough yet, there were a few things that I did for the hobby in 1999 as well. Most of you may remember the 30th Annual NIA Show, Sale and Convention that took place in Scottsdale last year. Well, Melanie and I hosted that

Product marketing is doing very well again this year! A special thanks to: Bob Berry, Margaret Cox, Dudley Ellis, Mark Grimek, Kevin Lawless, Larry Novak, & Rick Soller, for assisting in product sales at their respective shows and beyond! No new products have been introduced to date, but we will be introducing an updated version of a current product at the 2K National!

Order your "NIA Badge" today..... in our new "Internet world" this is a great way to match names with faces!

Y2K Spring Clearance NIA Products On Sale!!

Due to overstock in some sizes...we are reducing current prices on some T-shirts and sweatshirts.

The following items are on sale:

Blue NIA Logo'd T-shirts – orig. price \$13 --- now **\$9.00** Sizes available: Adult S, M

Gray NIA Logo'd Sweatshirts – orig. price \$20.00 --- now **\$16.00** Sizes available: Adult S, M

Decals \$1 - Koozies \$3 - Patches \$4 - Mugs \$6.50 - Caps \$10

Engraved Badges - \$11.00 (only NIA members)

T-shirts - (Gray) \$14.00 (L, XL) T-shirts - (Gray) \$15.00 (2X, 3X) T-shirts - (Blue) \$10.00 (L, XL)

Sweatshirts – (Gray) - \$20.00 (L, XL) or \$22.00 (2X)

Golf Shirts - (white w/ embroidered logo) \$25.00 (M, L, XL) \$27.00 (2X & any w / pocket)

Denim Shirts - (blue w/ embroidered logo) \$30.00 (M, L, XL) \$32.00 (2X)

Additional sizes available on all shirts, custom orders take 4-6 wks. and price may be slightly more.

USA shipping for 1st item is \$3.20, add a \$1.10 for each additional item. Koozies ordered individually, shipping cost is \$1.00 each.

Patch, decal, and badge prices include postage. Foreign postage to be determined by individual order.

Make check or m/o, in US funds, payable to the NIA.

We offer a variety of Logo'd products and appreciate all that have made purchases to support our hobby!

Carolyn Berry NIA # 4336
1010 Wren Court
Round Rock, TX 78681-2741
(512) 255-2006 Email: pyrex553@aol.com

Please visit our website: WWW.NIA.ORG for color photos and descriptions of our logo'd products & an order form!

I may be contacted directly by phone, mail or email for orders or questions!

"Charter Member" embroidered patches available for \$1.00 each

For ordering details, see the enclosed order form in the back of any Drip Points issue or go to our website - www.nia.org

*In Support of Our Hobby,
Carolyn Berry*

Product Marketing Committee Chairman

**1999-2000 FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
SECOND QUARTER ENDING 12/31/99**

Beginning Balance-General Fund	10/1/99	7215.90
Education & Promotion Account		1103.92
Authentication/Ethics Account		1196.75

Revenues

Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	1328.00	
Miscellaneous Income (Open New Account)	6593.73	
Product Sales	140.90	
Total Revenues:		8062.63

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	195.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	0.00	
Marketing Products	122.05	
Misc. Postage	420.72	
Misc. Printing	1004.84	
Misc. Supplies	249.13	
Misc. Professional Services (Close Old Account)	6593.73	
Crown Jewels Rebates	44.00	
Drip Points Printing	2056.14	
Drip Points Postage	575.15	
Show Advertising Subsidy	229.22	
Show Awards	0.00	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	22.90	
Special Projects	22.00	
Total Expenses:		11534.88

Education & Promotion Fund Expenditure

77.83

Closing Balance, General Fund:	3743.65
Education & Promotion Fund Balance	1026.09
Authentication/Ethics Account	1196.75
Total Balance on Hand	5966.49

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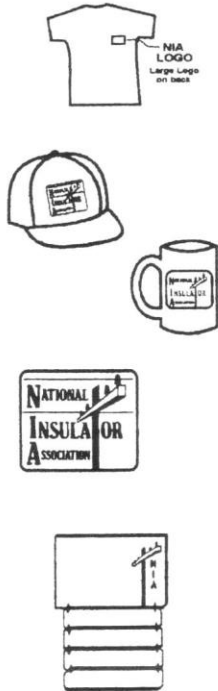
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**NIA LOGO
 Products
 ORDER FORM**



	Price	Total
Golf Shirt - Pique cotton - 3 button tab - white - embroidered logo M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25.00) 2X ___ (\$27.00) \$25 / \$27 * pocketed shirt (check here) ___ + \$1.00 (*special order) \$1.00		
Denim Shirt - Long-sleeved - Lt. blue - Left buttoned, flap pocket- embroidered logo, M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$30.00 pre-shrunk, heavy-weight cotton 2X ___ \$32.00		
T-Shirts - Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (Light Blue) \$10.00 L ___ XL ___ (Ash Gray) \$14.00 2X ___ 3X ___ (Ash Gray) \$15.00		
Sweatshirts - Ash Gray - Heavyweight - Screen-printed logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$20.00 2X ___ (Please note: \$2.00 extra) \$22.00		
Caps lt. gray w/ 5-color logo \$10.00		
Mugs white ceramic w/ 3-color logo \$ 6.50		
Patches light blue w/ 5-color logo \$4.00		
Koozies Beverage holder w/ NIA logo on 2 sides: royal blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$3.00		
Decals light blue w/ 3-color logo \$1.00		
Name Badges white badge w/ engraved blue letters, green and brown screen-printed logo \$11.00		
Bars white w/ engraved blue letters \$4.00		

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____

Shipping charge for Shirts, Caps & Mugs is \$3.20 for the first item & \$1.10 for each additional. Koozies are only \$1.00 each, if ordered individually. **No shipping** charge for Patches, Decals or Name Badges/Bars!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Total enclosed _____

*Please make check or money order in
 U.S. funds payable to:
 National Insulator Association or NIA*

* * * * *

Name Badge Customization Information (must be a current NIA member!)

Name _____ NIA # _____
 City _____ State _____

Use the back of this order form for any additional badges/bars.