

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@insulators.com

<http://www.nia.org>

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In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ Editors' Notes... *Tom Katonak and Lee Brewer*
- ◆ From the President... *Kevin Lawless*
- ◆ Note from the Executive Director... *Ed Peters*
- ◆ Regional Reports... *Bob Stahr, Tom Katonak*
- ◆ Historian Note... *Rick Soller*
- ◆ Report from the Nominations Chair... *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ From the By-Laws Chair... *Steve Marks*
- ◆ Show Standards... *Sandy Ellison*
- ◆ Financial Report... *Mike Guthrie*
- ◆ Membership Stats... *Joe Beres*

A NOTE FROM THE PAST EDITOR

This is the issue I turn over the reins to your new *Drip Points* Editor, Lee Brewer of Union City, PA. We're working this issue together, and

he dives in head-first for the Winter Issue in December. Lee will be assisted by his talented spouse Tammy (a crucial position, by-the-way)! (Lee's first post comes next) I know you will all enjoy his contagious enthusiasm

and dry wit!

I want to tell you all that I have thoroughly enjoyed my six-year stint as Information Director and *Drip Points* Editor. I've been able to meet and know many of you as a result of holding this position and that has been a great satisfaction to me.

As most of you know, leaving this post doesn't mean I'm going away, I've been reincarnated as the Western Region Vice President and I look forward to serving that part of the hobby closest to home!

Thanks for all your support the past few years and I'll see you all at the next big show!

Sincerely,

Tom Katonak

...I turn over the
reins...

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

August, 1999:

Wow! As I sit at this IBM, it is hard for me to believe I am composing this article for its intended purpose. One and a half years ago I accessed the World Wide Web for the first time. I was excited at having the 'world at my fingertips'. I first started by typing things like "www.coin.com," "www.hunting.com" (who ever heard of a search engine?) and following the links provided on those web pages. After a few very long sessions, I ran out of "www.XXXX.com's" to type in! So, for fresh ideas, I started reflecting on my earlier years...

Pre 1980:

As a teen I had collected insulators when introduced to the hobby by my former pastor. To me it seemed there were few hobbies so fascinating (although back then I was so sheltered from the hobby that I thought insulators only came in about 4 or 5 colors). I happily roamed the tracks around my Pennsylvania home gathering as many different jewels as I could find. When I progressed into college life (since I had never met any collectors in my area), I thought the hobby was dead so I left my glass at home, seldom thinking of it, and left to spend six years in South Carolina.

June 1986:

Upon graduating from Bob Jones University, I made a short trip back to Erie, PA to collect my belongings, as I was to start a job in Maryland serving as a high school teacher in a Christian school. The couple hundred jewels had been laboriously wrapped in newspaper and packed into boxes to make the long trip. For the next four years,

few were the times (though they did occur) when I thought of the glass trinkets sitting in the shed behind my home. One or two times I pondered selling them (a few hundred) at a local flea market to try to make (hopefully!) \$100.00.

September 1990:

I moved to Albion, PA, lugging the boxes of glass with me while again wondering if I should go to all the bother of keeping them. I stashed them in a friend's garage until I could get a more permanent dwelling.

November 1992:

I moved to Union City, PA and once again wondered if I should bother to take all of my glass with me. Considering (1) the boxes had remained unopened since around 1986, (2) I had never encountered another collector, (3) no one had ever approached me about the subject, and (4) the few I bought at garage sales were always priced at \$1.00 or less, why should I care about them anyway?!

February, 1998:

The brief reflection on this aspect of my personal history brought me to the thought of typing in "www.insulators.com":

"What? 'Glass Insulator Home Page', you mean there are people still collecting these things! Price guide?! Insulator shows?! For Sale list?! Free Issue of *Crown Jewels of the Wire*?!" Needless to say, my old enthusiasm came back in an instant! I spent the next few days rummaging through the yellow-paper-shrouded insulators in the attic. I learned how to clean them from the web page, did so, and started lining them up on the windowsills. After a few more trips

to the Insulator Home Page, I stumbled onto pictures resembling an insulator I had collected those many years ago. I was surprised to see the \$50.00 price tag assigned to this beehive. I thought I had hit a gold mine, as I had never found anything of any value before. It was not long before I collected two more (and half of another one) of this same style and color from a pile of crossarms located in a local field. I decided to take them to a show where someone could verify they were indeed the \$50.00 pieces.

I met Bob Stahr at the very first show I attended. I asked him if he could help me identify the pieces I had brought with me. One of my most memorable experiences was the expression on his face when looking at the beehive I handed him. Better yet was the look of surprise when, after he told me he thought this at least a \$1000.00 insulator, I told him, "I have two more just like it!" The show was a small one, and as I unwrapped the gems, the show literally halted while everyone gathered around to see.

Williamsburg, 1998:

I was awed as I stood inside the door of the showroom housing the largest number of insulators I had ever seen. The rainbow of colors was amazing. I proceeded to look

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for the 'experts' I had been

corresponding with concerning my beehives. For the first time I heard the term "pea soup green" and was speechless when a well-

(Continued on page 3)

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE 30TH ANNUAL NIA BANQUET

Scottsdale Arizona, June 26, 1999

Dr. Frederick L. Griffin Memorial Award; Best Use of Threadless - **Doug MacGillvary**

NIA Best Category Awards:

Best of Color - **Dwayne Anthony**
Foreign - **Marilyn Albers**
General - **Ron Yuhas**
Go-Withs - **Carl Rusk**
Porcelain - **Howard Banks**
Threaded - **Ross Baird**
Speciality - **Tom Katonak**



Milholland Educational Award - **Bill and Jill Meier**

Len Linscott Insulator Pioneer Award - **Bill and Jill Meier**

Bob & Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award - **Mike Bliss**

Crown Jewels of the Wire People's Choice Award - **John A. Buchholz** for "Lehigh Days - Memories of a Railroad Lineman 1922-1932" and to **Gary Kline** for "CD 162 H.G.CO. Embossing in Transition".

Capital District Insulator Club Award for Best Exhibit Using Eastern Insulators - **Kevin Lawless**

Central Florida Insulator Collectors Club Award for Best First Time Display at a National - **Roger Nagel**

Central/Southern Counties Insulator Club Award for Best Exhibit Using Southern California Insulators - **Jim Gruhl**

Dixie Jewels Insulator Club Award for Best Exhibit Using CDs - **Ron Yuhas**

Greater Chicago Insulator Club Award for Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators - **Ron Yuhas**

N.R. Woodward Literary Award for Author of Best Research Article - **Gary Kline** for "CD 162 H.G.CO. Embossing in Transition".

Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award for Best Exhibit Using Western Insulators - **Mike Guthrie**

Triple Ridge Insulator Club Award for Best Exhibit Using Denver Glass - **Tom Katonak**

Lon C. Holly Memorial Award - **Paul Gee**

Jack Tod Memorial Award for Porcelain Insulators - **Howard Banks**

Sterling Finch Memorial Award for Dedication to the Hobby - **Steve and Melanie Marks** - and the Scottsdale Central Public Library

National Show Hosts Plaque - **Steve and Melanie Marks**

Lifetime Membership Award - **Dick and Ev Bowman**

1999 Outstanding Service Award - **Joe Beres**

The August issue of CJ has fabulous COLOR pictures of the exhibits and a number of the award winners. If you have not seen or own a copy, you probably should get one now.

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154
Show Standards Chairman

1999 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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FINANCIAL REPORT GOES HERE

1999 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS

AS OF 8-31-1999

TOTAL NIA NUMBERS USED		7014
NIA NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED		21
NIA NUMBERS DOUBLE ISSUED		62
NEW MEMBERS FOR 1999		280
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE (not paid)

MEMBERS	1592	<u>Record High</u>	5198
CHARTER	122		702
LIFETIME	31		14 (DEC.)
CLUBS	6		4
NON U.S.MEMBERS	36		73
27 YEAR MEMBERS	34		0
26 YEAR MEMBERS	26		2
25 YEAR MEMBERS (SILVER)	14		1
24 YEAR MEMBERS	18		8
23 YEAR MEMBERS	18		0
22 YEAR MEMBERS	18		2
21 YEAR MEMBERS	16		3
20 YEAR MEMBERS	23		6
19 YEAR MEMBERS	16		10
18 YEAR MEMBERS	15		7
17 YEAR MEMBERS	29		16
16 YEAR MEMBERS	37		15
15 YEAR MEMBERS	31		13
14 YEAR MEMBERS	32		22
13 YEAR MEMBERS	27		25
12 YEAR MEMBERS	52		30
11 YEAR MEMBERS	43		42
10 YEAR MEMBERS	49		49
9 YEAR MEMBERS	55		72
8 YEAR MEMBERS	62		78
7 YEAR MEMBERS	67		131
6 YEAR MEMBERS	96		143
5 YEAR MEMBERS	107		243
4 YEAR MEMBERS	95		365
3 YEAR MEMBERS	137		542
2 YEAR MEMBERS	195		1015
1 YEAR MEMBERS	280		2358

MISC.

DECEASED MEMBERS (KNOWN)		137
DOGS (NIA NUMBER ISSUED, BUT NOT VALID)		4
MEMBERS ALREADY PAID FOR 2000+		133

NOTES:

NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE NOT ASSIGNED ARE DEAD NUMBERS.
(NEVER TO BE USED)
NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE DOUBLE ISSUED. THE MEMBER WAS GIVEN
THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER AND THE SECOND OR THIRD NUMBER BECAME
A DEAD NUMBER.