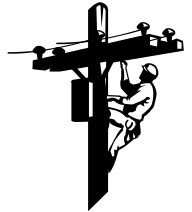




Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.nia.org>

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ A Note from the Editor *Arthur McConnachie*
- ◆ From the President *Bob Stahr*
- ◆ 1st Past President *Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ 2nd Past President *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ Eastern Region *Doug Williams*
- ◆ Matt Grayson's Biography
- ◆ Western Region VP *Lou Hall*
- ◆ Lou Hall's Biography
- ◆ Central Region VP *Bill Snell*
- ◆ Membership Director *Donald Briel*
- ◆ Financial Statement *Jack Roach*
- ◆ Marilyn Albers Tribute *Mike Guthrie*
- ◆ Ethics *David Wiecek*
- ◆ Awards & Recognition *Gene Hawkins*
- ◆ Historian *Rick Soller*
- ◆ Promotions *Jim White*
- ◆ Colin Jung's Biography
- ◆ Philanthropy *Rick Jones*
- ◆ NIA Contact List
- ◆ NIA Membership Renewal Form
- ◆ Product Marketing *Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ Spring 2010 Product Order Form

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Highlights in this issue ...

- NIA electoral candidate list on p. 5.
- Matt Grayson's biography on p. 6.
- Lou Hall's biography on p. 9.
- Mike Guthrie's tribute to Marilyn Albers on p. 12.
- Colin Jung's biography on p. 16.

If you are planning to attend the 2010 National in Boxborough, Massachusetts, now is the time to

make your flight and hotel reservations.

Be sure to check out the latest product promotions by Carolyn Berry on p. 18.

Good collecting,

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934
Information Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I don't know about you, but I am ready for winter to be over. For some reason this year's winter seems extremely long up here in Chicago. This is called the "Spring" issue of Drip Points but it sure doesn't look like spring. Anyway, it will be here before we know it, and along with spring comes hunting for insulators, whether it be in the wild, antique shops, swap meets or the organized shows. I know I am looking forward to them!

Last year the membership approved the NIA's amended bylaws so that we could pursue the charitable organization status as defined by the IRS 501c3 tax code. We subsequently submitted this to the IRS in late summer 2009. In December 2009, we received correspondence from the IRS agent assigned to our application for some additional information. We have submitted our response to the agent and again await approval which we fully expect to receive. We just need to wait out

our government system.

Along with the amended articles came changes to our election process. These are outlined in Article 11, but to summarize, in the Fall issue of Drip Points we solicited nominations for director positions that are due for election. These include Eastern region VP and President. The nominations are then reviewed by the Nominations Committee (consisting of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the three Vice Presidents) and the Committee then presents to the General Membership a slate of candidates to vote on. Since this is the spring issue, you will see the slate of officers listed elsewhere in this issue.

Following the 2009 NIA National, the NIA Board received a bid for the 2010 NIA Central Regional show. After review and voting, the Board accepted the bid. The 2010 NIA Central Regional show will be in Columbia City, IN, on May 14th & 15th, 2010. The show will be hosted by Gene Hawkins and Chuck Dittmar. Additional information is available at www.nia.org, www.insulators.info, and Crown Jewels magazine.

For the last 40, years the NIA National show commemorative insulator as been produced to commemorate the show. Although this was a private enterprise, the NIA name has been embossed on the base rim of the insulator along

with the show information for the year. I was approached by the McDougald's, who after producing these for several years, wanted to divest themselves of the business. Wanting to keep the mold from potentially being abused by other individuals and using the NIA name without paying royalties for the use; the NIA was very interested in acquiring the business. I am proud to announce that the McDougald's have graciously donated the mold along with all of the financial pro forma details needed to make this a profitable endeavor for the NIA. These monies will help the NIA solidify its financial future and allow us to implement other research, investigational, and educational projects. This year the project is being headed up by Carolyn Berry's product marketing group. Further information for ordering these commemoratives will be available at:

www.nia.org
www.insulators.info
 as well as Crown Jewels.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming shows. I'll be at the Yorkville, IL, show, the NIA Central Regional and the NIA National, which will be here before you know it. Good Collecting!

**Bob Stahr, NIA #4186
 President**

**The National Insulator Association's
 41st Annual Show & Convention
 Boxborough, MA**

July 16-18th, 2010

<http://www.nia.org/shows/national/index.htm>

1st PAST PRESIDENT



Hello everyone, I am sitting here writing my article for the spring issue of the *Drip Points* in the final hours before the submission deadline. Unfortunately, the past 6-8 months for me has been mostly fighting the most intense fire at the moment and letting the rest burn. So far the new year is no exception. Most of my tasks are work related (I own a small business) and I suppose that is a good thing given the alternative.

The majority of my time spent on the NIA has been spent working on the 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt status for the NIA. Yes, this is still in play and still going on. The initial submittal to the IRS did not occur until this past October due to our attorney switching offices and a misunderstanding regarding the submission. I thought it had been submitted and 6 weeks went by before a got a call from the attorney letting me know he was switching offices and that we were just about ready to submit to the IRS. All we needed was a few more signatures and a couple of tax returns. Oops.

Well, in January we got a request for more information about the NIA from the IRS. Apparently, the IRS agent went to the first link on the NIA web site that she found. This turned out to be link to a single web page giving the Coralville

show report. There were a couple of awards banquet photos there as well and the agent decided that we might be more of a social club than an educational organization. Unfortunately, she did not pursue any of the other 1400+ web pages at the sight, nor apparently bother to read our purpose in our stated bylaws. All of this caused the NIA and our attorney a great deal of additional work justifying our position and responding formally to the IRS. For what it's worth, the attorney and I both believe our

Book your reservations for the National if you haven't already. The 41st Annual National Insulator Association's Show & Convention, will be July 16th, 17th and 18th in Boxborough,

response will result in a favorable determination for the NIA getting 501(c)(3) status. In the mean time the saga continues ...

I really hope we have some good news on this soon. We will, of course, pass it along as soon as we can after hearing it.

2010 NIA Central Regional May 14 - 15 (Friday - Saturday) Columbia City, IN.

The National Insulator Association's 2010 Central Regional Show & Sale is in mid-May this year and coming right up. The Show will be at the Whitley County 4H Fairgrounds, just off of US 30 in Columbia City and one

mile South on Lincoln Way. Friday, May 14th: Set-up from 12-3 p.m., Show hours 3-7 p.m., Seminar 7-8 p.m.. Saturday, May 15th: Set-up from 6-9 a.m., Show hours 9 a.m. -3 p.m. Featuring Insulators, Telephone, Telegraph, Railroad, LRBs, Antiques & Collectables. First 8 ft. table is \$30, additional tables are \$23. Contact: CHUCK DITTMAR: at 260-485-7669 or GENE HAWKINS at : gene.hawkins@mchsi.com for a dealer application or additional information.

2010 NIA National Show July 16 - 18 (Friday - Sunday) Boxborough, MA

Book your reservations for the National if you haven't already. The 41st Annual National Insulator Association's Show & Convention, will be July 16th, 17th and 18th in Boxborough Massachusetts about 25 miles Northwest of downtown Boston. There will be plenty to do and see for the insulator collector and the non-collector alike.

The show will be at the Holiday Inn Boxborough, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough, MA 01719; Phone: (978) 263-8701. Rooms are \$95/night; use conference code NIA. Show hours: Friday 9am-4pm (NIA members only); Saturday 9am-4pm; Sunday 9am-2pm. For more information see www.nia.org/shows/national or contact BILL & JILL MEIER at (978) 369-0208 or national@insulators.info, or DARIO DIMARE at (508) 877-4444 or dario@dariodesigns.com .

Best of luck collecting,

**Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720
First Past President**



Dave Leforge, Roger Nagel, Mike Doyle, Dwayne Anthony, Lou Hall and Denny Hackthorn can be seen looking for treasure!



Denny Hackthorn and Jack Roach enjoying some of the nice Yuma sunshine. In ten years, the worst weather was wind.



James Doty of Simi Valle, Ca. holding some of his very wonderful Westinghouse No. 3 CD-102 collection that he brought for show and tell. Thanks James!



Lunch is served for a small fee to help cover the costs of the park and food.



Just a sampling of the available insulators. These tables were a combined sale from Tom & Lynda Katonak and John & Carol McDougald.

2nd PAST PRESIDENT



The winter's weather across the country has gone wild. I heard today that 49 of the 50 states had snow on the ground. I live 25 miles south of Atlanta and I woke up to 4 inches of snow in the yard. What's that all about? I think most of us are looking forward to spring and the insulator hunts, swaps and local shows that come along with it. I know I am!

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day. I hope each of you gets a special insulator surprise or that you treat yourself with one. I treated myself with a glowing yellow olive mustard American beehive and a real dark midnight blue, bar diamond, pony. You know I have to brag a

little bit about these hard to find pieces.

A big thank you is in order for the volunteers whose names appear on the slate of officers presented to us in this issue of *Drip Points* by the Nominating Committee. I appreciate each of the candidates volunteering to serve our membership and fellow collectors in these important positions. Volunteers to serve in various capacities in positions on the NIA Board or committees have increasingly been hard to find. My personal opinion is that it should be an honor to be asked and to serve your fellow members and hobbyist on the Board or on a committee. I have always thought that serving your fellow members in this capacity is just a part of us paying our dues to the hobby we all love. We pay our dues to our hobby in many ways. Some sponsor swaps, local shows, region shows, host Nationals, retrieve insulators from the wild, write insulator books or hobby related articles for the *Crown Jewels of the Wire*, or host an insulator web site. I'm sure you can think of many other ways you can pay

your dues to the hobby but serving our membership on the Board or in a committee is one of the most rewarding ways.

Please give some extra thought to volunteering your time to serve the membership on the NIA Board or a committee. It is good for our organization to have turnover on the Board and in the committees. New faces bring new ideas and, many times, a new and better direction for our hobby. Please give serious consideration to volunteering to serve the NIA. We need your ideas.

Please remember to take a child with you to the next insulator hunt or show. They are the future of our great hobby!

I am hoping that spring comes soon and that I'll see you at an insulator swap or show in the very near future.

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085
2nd Past President**

2010 NIA Electoral Candidates*

President: Lou Hall
 Treasurer: Jack Roach
 Secretary: Colin Jung
 Eastern VP: Matt Grayson

* Since there was a single candidate for each position, no election will be held.

EASTERN REGION VP



Well, here we are again. It's going to be a BIG YEAR here in the East. With the big show held in Boxborough, MA. In July. It's our 41st annual association convention. With this writing I am encouraging you & yours or buddies to make plans to attend. This will be a great show. New England is the "glass roots" area of the east. Lots of early collectors. The Pole Cat's club held some super shows in the past. So many glass factories. Both glass & porcelain. It's the hot

bed of collecting. Hope to see you. Have yourself a test run. Try Enfield, CT. Leave now! Hope to see you there.

By the time you are reading this the Maryland shows will most likely be over. The Chessies always have a good show. Or maybe you have time for the CRAB INC Swap in Brewerton, NY, at the end of March, or Natrona heights, PA, in April. Just pick one. Call a friend or fellow collector and go. January found dad & I in Maitland, FL, for the telephone/insulator show. A very well-attended show. Sales were super. It was sure good to see everyone, but where was Jackie? I can't imagine something more important than a show. You too, Chuck.

Anyhow, pretty quiet this winter here. Wet, wet, wet! No hunting and we're about done for the sea-

son here. But there's still finding good glass. How about a pair of dog ears or Plutos? Wow! A couple of nice threadless, some Chambers, some Paisley's. Some super rare pieces all found in the past month or so. This snow is really going to help pack down the leaves for us.

Our 501c3 has been delayed. Hey, someone from the government is really working? as of 2 / 14 / 10 our NIA nominations for candidates are: President: Lou Hall, Treasurer: "Lucky" Jack Roach, Secretary: Colin Jung, and for Eastern VP: Matt Grayson. Also thanks to John & Carol who donated the threadless hat commemorative mold to the NIA.

See you at a show. Happy hunts.

**Doug (Dug) Williams, NIA #1221
Eastern Region VP**

Matt Grayson's Biography



I began collecting insulators around 1973, with a Hemingray 42 and Hemingray 9 given to me by a family friend. Over the next couple of years I found a copy of a Frances Terrill guide, then Old Bottle Magazine, Crown Jewels and fellow collectors.

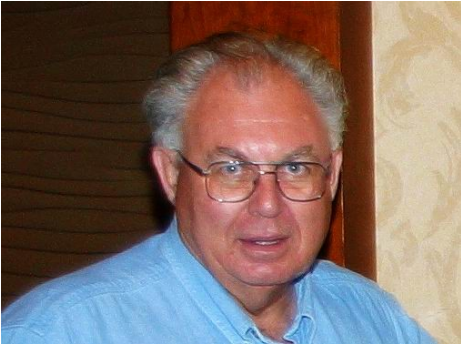
I recall when an SASE was a necessary tool for building my collection the way ICON and emails are today. I joined the NIA before I was able to drive. Why specifically, I do not recall, but it is certainly a decision I do not regret.

Around 1980, I traded most of my glass for porcelain, another decision, I do not regret. A couple of years later, as work and other activities took up more of my time, I stopped collecting and boxed my collection, and there it sat, in my parents basement, until they moved in the late 90's. After unpacking my collection, I was curious as to whether anyone still collected insulators. Via the internet, I was quickly able to discover the hobby was alive and well, and recognized many names of collectors from my experiences years earlier; Crown Jewels, fellow collectors, and the NIA, were only a click away.

I went back to building my porcelain collection over the next couple of years. Since 2004, when my work situation changed, and became more flexible, I have been attending as many shows as possible throughout the year.

It is encouraging to see increasing activity at the shows I have attended over the past year, and I believe this year's National in Massachusetts will be a memorable, well attended show. If you have never been in New England, here is your chance! I am a member of the Yankee Polecat Club and Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club.

WESTERN REGION VP



Here we are pushing our way into 2010. I find it hard to believe that I'm already sitting here putting together another article for Drip Points. I know it's cliché but time does fly by when you're having

fun. And speaking of fun, I got the year started off by attending the tailgater in Yuma.

The Yuma gathering is a great way to start off the year. The weather is usually warmer. There is some sunshine. It is always a new beginning after the winter months of rain, fog and cold. The ten hour trip was made more enjoyable this year due to my traveling companions. Bob McLaughlin rode shotgun and Mike Doyle was tail-gunner and in charge of programming the navigation device. We made a stop at the only antique store in Kramer's Corners. This is the junction of highways

395 and 58 in California. I came away with 6 little porcelain pieces. At first glance, they all looked the same, same U number, but closer inspection found each to individual characteristics that I found captivating so I had to take them all. Interesting side note: In talking with a collector who had come that way and stopped at the same antique store the day before I was informed they were unable to find anything. The store owners must have started putting out the good stuff when they realized that collectors were passing through!



Roger Nagel and the crew from Grand Canyon State Insulator Club did a great job once again. The weather was very cooperative. The day was a bit overcast (not hot or windy) and only a few drops of rain presented them-

selves near the mid afternoon. Collectors brought lots of porcelain and glass and it looked like a lot of pieces were changing hands. I even found some stuff to add to the pin and bracket collection.

We returned home Sunday by way of Quartzsite. We spent some time there checking out tools, rocks, and fossils. Mike had a vendor custom make him a couple of leather belts on the spot. We finally found the guy that everyone

in Yuma told us had insulators. Not only did he have some insulators but he also had McDougald's Price Guide in hand so we left without anything. However, just down the road we came across a really neat pole and cross arms. The person that put this and other art pieces together must have used up every old horse shoe in the southwest.

As we traveled northwest from Blythe we came across a power line with Pyrex insulators sparkling in the afternoon sun. I also found a nice piece of hardware still in place. Since I have that piece in my collection I left it for the next collector to gather.

I have checked out the coming events calendar listed in both Crown Jewels of the Wire and on www.insulators.info. There are many shows listed there. There has to be at least one or two in your area. I urge you to get several of these events on your calendar. Contact a fellow collector and invite them to carpool. Try to travel a bit as well. The country is beautiful and there is so much to discover. Check out what's happening April 10 in Fresno, CA. You don't want to miss this one!

All is well in the Western Region.

Lou Hall, NIA #7185
Western Region VP





Lou Hall's Biography

Lou is a native Californian, born in Fresno 69 years ago. He has been married to DeeDee for 32 years. He is a father and grandfather.

In his youth he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Lou has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management of Human Resources. He also holds a California general contractor's license (filed inactive) and has been a Vocational Sales and Customer Trainer. His early career includes assignments as kitchen and bath design consultant, general manager and director of sales for various design and construction firms.

Although he is attempting to retire, he is the owner of Residential Design Consultants, a firm specializing in distinctive residential (both new and re-construction) design with special exper-

tise in kitchen and bath design. He is a past member of the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), and the National Association of Sales Professionals (NASP). While a member of the NKBA he was certified as a Master Kitchen and Bath Designer (CMKBA). Lou has earned numerous awards in design competitions sponsored by the NKBA. His designs and articles have been featured in the industries leading magazines and journals. In 1992 the NKBA selected Lou as a national "Member of the Year." He also was included in the 1994-95 National Who's Who in Executives and Professionals.

Lou started collecting insulators in 1970 when he found a sack full of glass in a barn on a ranch his parents had purchased. After a hiatus of eighteen years he renewed his interest in the hobby. Lou and DeeDee have been members of the NIA since 1999. Their first NIA participation was in the 2001 Western Regional in Medford, Oregon. Here, fellow collectors saw his first exhibit of insulator mounting pins and brackets. His passion for collecting mounting pins and brackets has earned him the title "The Pin Man."

Lou and his wife are also Lifetime Members of the Golden State Insulator Club. Both were volunteers that assisted with the 2003 NIA Western Regional and 2005 National held in San Jose, California.

Lou is also a member of a research team working to rediscover the route of the Transcontinental Telegraph built in 1861. Annual treks over the past eight years into the Nevada desert and continuing research has generated a wealth of information about this historical event. This research, although a work in progress, has led to the development of a permanent display in the Churchill County Museum, Fallon, Nevada.

Lou has served the NIA as Chairman of the Awards and Recognitions Committee and is currently the NIA Western Region Vice President.

CENTRAL REGION VP



As I write this, it seems the snowstorms will never end. Here in Kansas City it's a brisk eleven degrees. I don't even want to listen to the weather reporter add, "But the wind chill is..." I'm hearing reports of record snowfall in other areas of the country. I certainly hope everyone is warm and safe.

Rest assured, though, spring is on its way, and the shows will get started soon! First out of the gate in these parts is the MVIC Show in St Joseph, Missouri, on March

13. We have the Yorkville, Illinois, show – formerly the Wheaton Show – coming up on April 3-4. And of course, we can't forget the NIA Central Regional in Columbia City, Indiana, on May 14-15; then we have the Hawkeye swap meet on June 6, in Toledo, Iowa. I hope you're able to get to an event.

It's not too early for potential show hosts to start thinking about the 2012 National to be held in the Central Region. Any experienced show host can tell you that planning is key, and it's best to get the show hall, parking, banquet facilities, and hotel taken care of as early as possible. The NIA will need your bid with all the show information by this time next year! Please feel free to contact me or any other board member if you have questions.

Some of you may have read on ICON about recent finds in the St. Louis area. It just goes to show that we should keep looking, since we never know when or where unusual insulators might turn up. It's up to us to get the word out.

Who knows how many historical treasures have ended up in the landfill or smashed for fun, simply because the owners didn't understand the significance of their items? Maybe you have an outlet to pursue: hang a show flyer at your grocery store, or volunteer to display at your local library. Libraries may also be interested in your giving a "show and tell" presentation. We have a program of "Lunch & Learn" presentations at many businesses in downtown Kansas City on topics of all types, from self-defense to nutrition to business; perhaps your community has a similar program for which you might volunteer. I encourage everyone to look around and see what they can do to educate their communities about the history that we collect. You'll probably come up with more ideas and I hope you share them with us.

**Bill Snell, NIA # 2624
Central Region VP**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Today as this article is being written I just returned from the Yuma tailgater. What a wonderful experience that was. Jeanne and I left 18" of snow, 10° weather, and drove for 2 days to get to Yuma. The weather there was overcast, but 70° and very pleasant. We

would have liked to have spent more than a day there. More importantly it was nice to meet up with old friends and make a few new ones. There was also a nice assortment of glass and some nice color was added to my collection. Then it was two days of travel back to winter. The trip was all too quick, but what a wonderful break.

It's a bit early, but we're already looking forward to the National in Boxborough. The reservations are made and we're eager to get going.

On the membership side of things, as of this writing we have passed 1400 paid up NIA mem-

bers for 2010 and I have a stack of renewals to process. Renewals from the second reminder notice in January are just now starting to pour in. Remember to invite a friend to become a member and keep up the good work of supporting the hobby!

I hope all is well with each and every NIA member. I look forward to seeing you in Boxborough. If you're ever in Northern Utah be sure to stop by and say hello. May your collecting be fun and successful!

**Donald Briel, NIA #7218
Membership Director**



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

**NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
2009-2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SIX MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009**

Beginning Balance – General Funds		\$15,839
Museum Exploratory Committee		972
Authentication/Ethics Account		2,297
Galen Howard Fund		125
Revenues		
Donations		
Membership Dues	\$7,049	
Miscellaneous Income	350	
Product Sales	3,605	
Galen Howard Donations	0	
Jerry Turner Donations	160	
Total Revenues		11,164
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising		
Taxes and Fees and Insurance		
Marketing Product	3,066	
Postage	960	
Printing	443	
Supplies	621	
Educational Expense	50	
Crown Jewels Rebate & Advertising	1,327	
Drip Points	2,371	
Show Advertising Rebate	500	
National Show Awards		
Galen Howard Memorial		
Special Projects		
Total Expenses		9,338
Closing Balance – General Fund		\$17,665
Museum Exploratory Committee		972
Authentication/Ethics Account		2,297
Galen Howard & Jerry Turner Fund		285
Total Balance on Hand Dec. 31, 2009		\$21,219

Hobby Mourns Loss of a Crown Jewel

by Mike Guthrie NIA #3297



Marilyn Albers, 1927-2010

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, the insulator hobby lost one of its finest jewels.

NIA Charter Member Marilyn Albers (#541) of Houston, Texas passed away peacefully at the age of 82.

While Marilyn had been inactive in the hobby due to illness the past several years, in the decades preceding her passing she was one of the most influential and prodigious contributors in the history of insulator collecting.

Her collection began in 1973, like for so many of us, with a stop at an antique

store. There was a window display of many colorful glass insulators and husband Bill gifted her three pieces for her birthday which was a week away. This first infection of the insulator bug consisted of SCA, amber, and carnival colored pieces. Bill probably came to wonder what type of monster he had unleashed, after such an innocuous beginning, as Marilyn's insulator collection would ultimately number in the thousands.

Starting with a general glass collection, Marilyn subsequently developed an affinity for foreign insulators of all types and became heavily involved in collecting, researching, and documenting all she could discover about them. She traveled throughout the world visiting collectors, acquiring specimens, and conducting research. The results of her efforts were reflected in her authorship of multiple editions of the books: *Glass Insulators From Outside North America* and *Worldwide Porcelain Insulators*, the first of which was published in 1981. Nearly 30 years later, these references remain the standard works on the subject of foreign insulators.

In addition to her books, Marilyn became the Foreign Insulators Editor for *Crown Jewels of the Wire* magazine in July of 1979. She continued to serve in this demanding role until December of 2002, a period of over 23 years. The depth of her commitment can best be realized by searching the *Crown Jewels* online archives where the name Marilyn Albers produces an astonishing

379 hits!

Marilyn served the hobby in many ways other than her research and writing. She was active in several local clubs as well as the NIA which she served as Show Standards Committee Chair and as President (1982-84.) She has been duly recognized for her contributions having received the NIA Outstanding Service Award in 1981 and the NIA's highest honor, Lifetime Membership, in 1987. She assisted with many local shows and was a co-host of the two NIA National Shows held in Houston, TX in 1988 and again in 1994. Marilyn was also a prolific exhibitor at dozens of shows where she consistently developed some of the most creative displays ever assembled.

On a personal level, Marilyn was a great friend and selfless mentor to countless collectors who sought her advice and assistance.

On top of this amazing resume over three decades of collecting, Marilyn found time to be the devoted wife of Bill, mother of six children, grandmother of 20 grandchildren, and great grandmother to five. She was an incredible hostess to all who visited and, in the finest Texas tradition, was one of the most gracious ladies you could ever know.

I consider it among my highest privileges to have known and worked with Marilyn Albers through our hobby. It is my sincere hope that with this snapshot of her hobby life those who may not have known her will gain an appreciation for the contributions and legacy of one of the great pioneers of insulator collecting. Collectors will forever tread on the foundations she laid.

Godspeed Marilyn ... thanks for all the memories!

HISTORIAN CHAIR



Promoting the Hobby

Getting insulators into the hands of people who have never handled one is one way to promote the hobby. Once people own an insulator, they begin to notice them all around them and, if they have the collecting gene, they may start collecting them.

Tel. & Tel. Co. insulator and created a dead-end tie. A plate with the displayer's name and show information hangs from the tie. A pen was glued to the back of the insulator and the insulator was glued to a wood base.

For the trophies made for the speech tournament, large insulators are used for the top trophies such as the team sweepstakes award while smaller ones are used for awards for individual events. Typically, six students reach the final round of the 12 events (there are 12 students in the Dramatic Due event) so 78 trophies are awarded for first through sixth place in each event. There are also 3 team awards and 3 awards for the top 3 contestants. The plates were ordered from the NIA. They are engraved

Students appreciate the unique insulators. Top contestants can take home a dozen or more trophies a year so winning something different is welcome. Most schools have glass cases in which trophies won during the year and team sweepstakes trophies are displayed to the public. I've heard from coaches that people often specifically ask about the insulator trophies.

Rather than relegating common insulators to backyard piles, unopened boxes in storage, or some other inglorious fate, we need to find ways to add value to them. Some creative souls have already put them to use as candle holders, sidewalk lights, planters, and as a medium to paint on but it seems there should be more uses that can be developed.



For the past five years, as a way to promote the hobby and decrease expenses, I've turned insulators into trophies for the College of Lake County (Illinois) Speech Tournament. The idea was inspired by the display awards presented at the 1995 Marlborough, Massachusetts National. The show hosts wrapped a copper wire twice around the wire groove of a CD 104 New England

with the event, the place, and the name of the tournament.

During the awards ceremony, the 84 trophies create an impressive presentation as they fill two tables. A brief background on insulators is presented at the start of the awards ceremony and a paper tag providing additional information about insulators is affixed to each insulator.

What are your ideas?

**Rick Soller, NIA #2958
Historian**

PHILANTHROPIC CHAIR



Happy Spring (soon, I hope!) to all NIA members, collectors, and dealers out there. When the thaw begins here in the Midwest, we get the itch to start the annual hunt for glass and clay. Whether you hunt in the wild, shops, flea markets, garage sales or shows, the excitement begins to build along with the warmer weather. Punxsutawney Phil says we can expect another six weeks of winter. Here in Ohio, the little rascal was correct. Maybe they should just let him sleep next year.

As Philanthropic Chair, I want to remind everyone that soon you'll

be able to receive a tax deduction for donations to the NIA. Once the NIA receives its 501(c)3 designation - and that should happen anytime now - your donation to the NIA in cash or goods will be deductible. Cash will be fully deductible as long as no goods or services are received in return, such as membership benefits. However, cash donated over and above the actual cash value of a membership will be deductible. For example, *and this is purely hypothetical at this point*, if you give \$100 to the NIA for a membership and you receive membership services (and/or goods like a shirt) in return and the NIA has established an actual value of those goods and services at \$60, you'll be able to deduct \$40 off your tax liability. This is just an example and I would urge you to check with your tax advisor once the NIA has its 501(c)3. On the other hand, if you make a \$100 donation to the NIA and no goods or services are returned to you, then you can deduct the full \$100.

The NIA will not be permitted to establish value on any item, other than cash, donated to it. The IRS frowns on this. So, if you donate a collection, for example, you would receive a letter from the NIA thanking you for your donation, but it will be up to you to provide

proof to the IRS on the fair market value of that donation. Again, always check with your tax advisor or IRS on exactly the right way to handle the transaction since tax laws are always changing. The donor of the collection may be asked by the IRS to provide documentation to support their claim of value such as a Price Guide, ICON sales, show sales, etc.

Most importantly, always keep the NIA in mind when you're considering giving. We all need to support ICON and Crown Jewels as well. We are a nation of caring folks demonstrated by our response to not only tragedies like Haiti, but to our own charities and organizations that make life worth living. The NIA should be no exception.

In my search for 731s, I hope to meet many of you folks in the future at shows. For now, my job keeps me from attending as many as I would like. In the meantime, good luck in your search and remember, as we learned recently from the Pluto find, there's plenty of good stuff still hiding out there.

**Rick Jones, NIA #201
Philanthropic Chair**

Drip Points



Archive of Past Issues:

<http://www.nia.org/drippoints/archive/index.htm>

2009 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 President

515 Main St., Unit 403
West Chicago, IL 60185
president@nia.org

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 First Past President

1102 West Aster Dr,
Phoenix, AZ 85029-2808
602-564-0815
1stpastpres@nia.org

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 Second Past President

131 Plantation Way,
Stockbridge, GA 30281
770-957-9928
2ndpastpres@nia.org

Lou Hall, NIA #7185 Western Region VP

363 W Stuart Ave
Fresno, CA 93711
westernvp@nia.org

Bill Snell, NIA #2624 Central Region VP

11427 E Scarritt Ave
Sugar Creek, MO 64054
816-769-7455
centralvp@nia.org

Doug Williams, NIA #1221 Eastern Region VP

131 Pine Lake Circle SW
Ocean Isle, NC 28469
easternvp@nia.org

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934

Information Director
30 Camino de Claudio
Corrales, NM 87048
publications@nia.org

Donald Briel, NIA #7218 Membership Director

P.O. Box 188,
Providence, UT 84332
435-753-5786
membership@nia.org

Colin Jung, NIA #7055 Secretary

1544 Norland Dr
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
secretary@nia.org

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

8 Tremont Trace,
Wimberly, TX 78676
512-847-7302
treasurer@nia.org

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Paul Greaves, NIA #2685

Authentication & Classification
8830 Benton Acre Rd
Granite Bay, CA 95746
authentication@nia.org

Gene Hawkins, NIA #421 Awards and Recognition

3847 North Prairie St
Warsaw, IN 46582
awards@nia.org

Rick Jones, NIA #201 Philanthropy

405 Oakwood Dr
Hamilton, OH 45013
donations@nia.org

David Wiecek, NIA #3225 Ethics

63 Reinman Rd
Warren, NJ 07059
ethics@nia.org

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian

4086 Blackstone Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031
historian@nia.org

Carolyn Berry, NIA #4336 Product Marketing

1010 Wren Court,
Round Rock, TX 78681
512-255-2006
niaproducts@nia.org

Jim White, NIA #1127 Promotions

7990 Windcombe Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46240
promotions@nia.org

Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education

1010 Wren Court,
Round Rock, TX 78681
512-255-2006
webmaster@nia.org

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Submit (Payable to the NIA in U.S. funds) To:

**Donald R. Briel
NIA Membership Director
P. O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
don.briel@comcast.net**

Dues Schedule:

Regular Membership \$ 12.00
Family Membership \$ 12.00
Junior Membership (under 18) \$ 5.00
Club or Organization \$ 12.00

Check appropriate class: Regular _____ Family _____ Junior _____ Club/Org. _____

Check years of payment: Single year _____ Multi-year _____

Please Print Legibly

Name _____

NIA # (if renewal) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ **(+4)** _____

Country (if non U.S.) _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my Telephone Number **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my E-Mail Address **Yes** _____ **No** _____

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following format **Paper** _____ **Electronic** _____
(Check only one choice) (An E-Mail address is required for electronic)

Additional Family Members Residing in the Same Household

Name _____ **NIA # (if renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Boxborough 2010



Make sure you don't miss the 2010 National...it is going to be a "GREAT" show!
Go to www.nia.org/shows/national for show information.

DON'T FORGET YOUR ENGRAVED NAME BADGE FOR THE NATIONAL!!

Show your local club affiliation, order a club bar too !!
ie. Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club (YPCIC)

Reduced prices until May 31st.....
Screen-printed or embroidered t-shirts in stock for
\$16.00*!!

(*size 2X and 3X are an additional \$3.00 / t-shirts with pockets are an additional \$3.00)

* Price does not include postage – * please call for size and color availability before ordering

I have enclosed an updated order form in the back of this issue of Drip Points
****Please note:** reduced prices will not be shown on the order form

The website www.nia.org/product.htm has been updated to reflect the NIA items currently being sold and also a printable order form!

As always, we appreciate your support of our hobby.
Membership in the NIA, supports many facets of the hobby.

See you in Boxborough, MA !



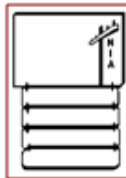
Carolyn Berry
Product Marketing Chairman
20+ Year member of the NIA
NIA # 4336
pyrex553@aol.com





Spring 2009

www.nia.org/products



NOTE:
All sizes, styles & colors of shirts are available by special order



Men's Golf / Polo Shirts or Button-front Sport Shirt Price Quantity Total

Color Choice: _____
 Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo; some with pockets
 (Size chart on back) (*note: pockets, 2X, 3X -\$3.00 extra) \$38.00 _____

Ladies' Polo/Golf style shirts -

Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo (no pockets)
 (Size chart on back) **Color choice:** _____ \$38.00 _____

Button Front Shirts - S/Sleeve only! S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$32.00 _____

Denim Shirt - (*ladies order comparable men's size, see chart)

Nicely weighted denim, pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue or natural; left-side pocket
 Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$35.00 _____
 *S/Sleeve ___ *L/Sleeve ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ \$38.00 _____

T-Shirts - Hanes Heavyweight - 6.1 oz. cotton - Pre-shrunk

Screen-printed logo (front & back) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) _____
 2X ___ (\$23) _____

Colors: Stonewash Green, Stonewash Med. Blue, Pebble (sand), Lt. Steel Gray

NEW! Henley style S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ (\$28) _____

Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details)
 S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) _____
 (*note: pockets, \$2.00 additional on all sizes) 2X ___ (\$23) _____

Colors: Sand, Golden Yellow, Ecru, Ash Gray, White, Royal, Red, Burgundy, Lt. Blue, Lt. Steel Gray, Stonewash Green (**Henley's currently only in Lt. Steel Gray and Black!**)

Crewneck Sweatshirts - Heavy weight - 100 % Cotton/polyester blend - Pre-shrunk

Colors: NEW! Hunter Green, Cardinal Red, Lt. Steel Gray, Steel Gray - **Embroidered logo**
 M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$30) _____

Hooded Sweatshirt w/ full front zipper/muff pocket/drawstring hood -embroidered logo-

Color: Lt. Steel Gray M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$35) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$40) _____

Embroidered Cap - low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)

Circle color choice: Stone/Navy bill, Khaki/ Green bill, or all Denim _____

13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etched NIA Logo (**ONLY 20 left!**) \$2.00 _____

Ceramic Mug - 10 oz. white mug with logo (**ONLY 12 left!**) \$7.00 _____

Patch - embroidered logo / red embroidered edge \$4.00 _____

Koozie™ - The original beverage Koozie™ fits any standard beer/ soda can/ 12 oz. water bottle !!

Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$1.50 _____

NIA Hat/Lapel Pin - enamel tack pin with NIA logo \$2.00 _____

NIA Decal - for inside car window \$0.50 _____

NIA Name Badge - engraved; beveled edges (**fill in form on page 2**) \$13.00 _____

NEW OPTION: Pin back (free) OR Magnetic back (add \$1.00) \$13.00 _____

Badge Bar - (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.00 _____

NEW "Big Thunder" Tote bag - sturdy tote w/ NIA logo \$15.00 _____

Subtotal _____

U.S. Postage (see back) _____

Total Enclosed _____

Adult/Men's Size Chart:

S (32-34) M (36-38) L (40-42)
XL (44-46) 2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

***Ladies Size Chart:**

S (28-30) M (32-34) L (36-38) XL (40-42)

***Ladies order comparable adult/men's size for most shirts, unless specifically noted as a ladies shirt**

****U.S. Postage: \$6.25 for the first item & \$1.50 for each additional item ordered.**

-- Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins, Bars are \$0.50 each.

-- Name Badges are \$0.85 each.

****for non-US postage, AK & HI, or , for an exact postage quote, please contact me.**

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:

National Insulator Association or NIA

Order / Shipping Information

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

Name Badge Engraving Information (current NIA member) *Circle back style (pins are free)!!*

Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet

Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____

Thanks for your support of the NIA !

Contact Information:

Carolyn Berry – 1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com