

THE DIXIE JEWEL



February 2012, Issue #78

Newsletter of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club

President	Bill Haley	Historian	Michael Green
Treasurer	Cal Baker	Research Team Leader	Michael Green
Secretary	John Henderson	Editor	Bill Haley

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR DIXIE JEWELS INSULATOR CLUB DUES FOR 2012? Your 2012 dues are due! See page 5 for directions to renew, or attend the February swap and renew there. GET THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY! E-mail Bill Haley at WGH@tnaqua.org with your e-mail address to be put on our electronic mailing list. Save the Club the cost of postage, envelopes and paper!

Winter Dixie Jewels Swap Meet

**SAT., FEBRUARY 18, 2012, 9:00-3:00
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA**

Bring the family and take a winter break in Florida! The Dixie Jewels winter break show will be held at the Comfort Inn Oceanfront Hotel in Jacksonville Beach. This is the same hotel where we had a great swap meet 3 years ago. Paul Deriso, Skeeter Langford and Jeff Edgerton will be our hosts. Up to 26 six foot tables will be furnished in the show hall at no cost to the dealers. To make sure everyone gets a spot, there is a limit of two tables per person. Please call Paul Deriso - (904) 707-8199 or e-mail Derpaul@aol.com - to reserve sales tables. A block of 15 rooms is reserved for show attendees. You must call the hotel direct and mention you're with the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club for these special rates: \$89 facing north with ocean view, \$99 facing south with pool and ocean view, \$119 facing east with a view of the ocean, Morocco and North Africa. For room reservations call Comfort Inn Oceanfront, 1515 N. 1st Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250, Phone (904) 241-2311. If you have trouble, ask for Lorin Kelly, our contact, or call her direct (904) 685-3009 for assistance. She advises the motel WILL be full that weekend, so call soon before our block is gone! Reservation deadline is Feb. 8, 2012.

NOON MEAL: Eating arrangements will be a bit different for this swap. Contrary to our normal procedure, please do not bring a covered dish, drinks or dessert. Motel rules state we cannot bring our own food into the meeting room. There is a nice restaurant at the hotel where food can be purchased. Of course you are welcome to go out for lunch if you wish .

**For additional show info and table reservations, please contact:
Paul Deriso at (904) 707-8199 or e-mail Derpaul@aol.com**

DIRECTIONS TO THE COMFORT INN OCEANFRONT MOTEL
1515 North 1st Street, Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32250
If you get lost, please call Paul Deriso at (904) 707-8199

If coming from the east via the Atlantic Ocean :

- Proceed west until boat touches beach;
- Walk into motel.

If you are coming from the north via 1-95:

- Exit I-95 at exit # 362 onto Hwy. 9A;
- Proceed on 9A for approx. 12 1/2 miles;
- Exit 9A onto Atlantic Blvd. East (left). (*Atlantic Blvd. is also FL -10*);
- Proceed east (left) on Atlantic Blvd. for approx. 8 miles;
- Exit Atlantic Blvd. onto Hwy. A1A South (right). (*A1A is also 3rd St.*);
- Proceed on A1A South for 1 1/2 miles;
- Turn east (left) on 14th Ave. North;
- 2 blocks to Comfort Inn

If you are coming from the south via I-95:

- Exit I-95 at exit # 337 onto Hwy. 9A East;
- Proceed on 9A East for 7 miles;
- Exit Hwy. 9A onto Butler Blvd. East. (*Butler Blvd. is also FL - 202*);
- Proceed East on Butler Blvd. for 7 1/2 miles;
- Exit Butler Blvd. onto Hwy. A1A North. (*A1A is also 3rd St.*);
- Proceed north on A1A for 3 2/10 miles;
- Turn east (right) on 14th Ave. North;
- 2 blocks to Comfort Inn.

If you are coming from the west via I-10:

- Exit I-10 at exit # 356 onto Hwy. I-295 South (right);
- (At the split on the exit ramp **DQ** bear to the right, **DO NOT** bear to the north, (left) towards the airport);
- Proceed on I-295 for approx. 20 1/2 miles to the intersection of I-295 and I-95;
- Continue straight on I-295, which changes names to Hwy. 9A East at this point;
- Continue on Hwy. 9A East for 7 miles;
- Exit Hwy. 9A onto Butler Blvd. East. (*Butler Blvd. is also FL - 202*);
- Proceed east on Butler Blvd. for 7 1/2 miles;
- Exit Butler Blvd. onto Hwy. A1A North. (*A1A is also 3rd St.*);
- Proceed north on A1A for 3 2/10 miles;
- Turn East (right) on 14th Ave. North.
- 2 blocks to Comfort Inn.

There are 26 tables available in the meeting room, so please call Paul Deriso at (904) 707-8199 to reserve one. Waited too long and no tables available inside? Paul advises that adjacent to the meeting room there is a covered deck as large as our meeting room. Depending on weather, some sales tables could also be put out there, but you'll need to bring your own table.

Dixie Jewels Insulator Club Meeting Minutes, 4th quarter 2011 Dalton Freight Depot, Dalton, GA, November 19, 2011

Bill Haley welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending on behalf of himself and John Henderson, show co-hosts. He acknowledged the Dalton Convention and Visitors Bureau for their generous support of the Dixie Jewels swap meet, in providing the Freight Depot and also helping advertise our show. He urged those present to be sure to patronize area establishments before they left Dalton.

Bill and John furnished an assortment of sandwich fixings, including a meat and cheese tray, condiments, chips, a fruit bowl, etc. and many members supplied drinks and desserts. No one went away hungry. A donation basket was placed for those who wished to contribute to the meal expenses and didn't bring something.

Bill Haley, Ken Roberts and Steve Roberts discussed at length the merits and location of the DJIC hosting the 2013 NIA National Meeting. Those present were asked if they would support the meeting that will be held in July or August of 2013 and would they OK the use of DJIC treasury funds for needed up-front expenses if our bid should be accepted? This money likely could be paid back from funds raised at the National. A consensus show of hands expressed many members' support and the committee of Bill, Ken and Steve will formally submit a bid as soon as possible. Our club will not formally hear from the NIA until March, 2012 as to whether the bid is accepted. The treasurer, Cal Baker, reported that we had \$3809.00 in the bank.

The new price guides (7) were available for sale and a couple were purchased. The club added two new members and many current memberships were renewed for 2012. There was some discussion about life memberships - more to follow.

Our next meeting will be in Jacksonville Beach, Florida in February 2012 and will be hosted by Paul Deriso, Skeeter Langford and Jeff Edgerton. Paul Deriso offered a hand-out with reservation information for the February meeting. The May 2012 meeting will be in Mountain Home, NC and be hosted by Fred and Becky Pittman. No meeting venues yet in August and November 2012.

Show and Tell: Bill Haley showed a CD151 with no drips on the inner skirt that he bought at the Mid-Ohio show. A much more uncommon piece than the ones with drip points on both inner and outer skirts.

The following were in attendance:

Mike Green	Mableton, GA	John Henderson	Hixson, TN
Ken Roberts	Huntsville, AL	Bill Haley	Chattanooga, TN
Ray, Sara & R.J. Harris	Kennesaw, GA	Dudley Ellis	Stockbridge, GA
Roy Hale	Greenville, AL	Dave Kingston	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Jim Colburn	Greenacres, FL	Fred Pittman	Mountain Home, NC
Paul & Betty Deriso	Orange Park, FL	Dave & Dillon Justice	Lake Placid, FL
Dave & Geny Collins	Eatonton, GA	Ed Brown	Hayesville, NC
John & Shirley Lewis	Cantonment, FL	Ken May	Mableton, GA
Keith Roloson	Cumming, GA	Wendy Alligood	Social Circle, GA
David & Lisa Needham	Warner Robbins, GA	Gary & Elizabeth Tilson	Madisonville, TN
Kerry & Carolyn Lavendoski	Tammasee, SC	John & Ayako Gasko	Augusta, GA
Jeremy & Kimberly Piercey	San Antonio, FL	Jason Stevens	Nashville, TN
E.C. & Anita Strickland	Dalton, GA	Tay Ray Raybon	Pearl, MS
Billy & Michelle Ipock & kids (5)	Scott Co., TN	Dale Anderson	Dalton, GA
Steve & Jana Roberts	Madison, TN	Tim Baggett	Clarksville, TN
Doyal Swafford	Dalton, GA	Cal Baker	Hendersonville, NC
Trammell Wells	Dalton, GA	David Opalecky	Ball Ground, GA
Tommy McDowell	Ooltewah, TN	Debby Long & neices (4)	Dalton, GA
Leon & Starr Alexander	Chattanooga, TN	Jeff Hamilton	Dalton, GA

Respectfully submitted, John Henderson, secretary



Tales from the
Wild (Hemi) Blue Yonder

Bill and John's excellent adventure!

Into the Dragon's Lair, 2012: Is There a Perfect Dragon Drip Hemi-42 Out There?

by Bill Haley

Everyone knows that the CD154 Hemingray-42 is one of the most common insulators on the planet. Many collectors don't bother to give them a second look. Here is your assignment: Find a mint condition Hemingray-42, in Hemingray blue, with sharp drip points, (like the ones shown below.) Look close! No dings, pin pricks, sliced drips, wire groove rubs or skirt edge roughness allowed! It's not easy.

Were you successful? Now try to find one in mint condition with drip points like the one on the left....

Friday, January 6 dawned clear and sunny, with temperatures in the 40's. According to the weatherman, it would warm to the mid-60's later that day. It looked like John Henderson and I had chosen a wonderful day for our first insulator expedition of 2012. We love the thrill of finding glass in the wild. Rescuing even relatively common stuff can be exciting.

While planning our hunt, there was one major road block. Pole lines along southeastern railroads have disappeared at an alarming rate since the year 2000. A good number of our happy hunting grounds in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky have been dismantled in just the past three years, leaving bare, sterile, boring stretches of track behind. Current railway cleanup techniques remove everything. It is hard to find even a shard of glass remaining where telegraph poles full of insulators once stood. The pole, crossarms, insulators and everything still standing are cut and loaded onto a train car. Next stop - the dump.

In bygone days, insulators and crossarms were sometimes tossed to the ground, treasures awaiting future discovery. John and I have embraced that practice by spinning glass off the crossarms and leaving it on the ground near the pole. Hopefully future insulator hunters will stumble across some and thank us.

Where exactly do you find an intact pole line with insulators in the air in 2012? And perhaps more importantly, how far must you travel to get there?

At some point you must consider cost versus benefit. Free insulators in the wild? Ha! Ha! Think again!!! A gallon of gas is currently going for around \$3.25. If we went to Ohio or Virginia, it would require a 6-7 hour drive each way and an overnight stay, so factor in the cost of a motel room and meals too.

We opted for a day trip to Western Kentucky, about 180 miles from home. This would be our fourth expedition to these lines. We planned to stalk rare gems - Hemingray-42's with "dragon fang" drips.

If you've bought dragon drip Hemingray-42's from either John or me at DJIC swap meets, they came from this line. However, we've never succeeded in finding one in perfect mint condition. We knew that we'd covered a lot of this line in previous hunts and realized this might be our very last shot at finding that rare, perfect gem.

We were not sure such a beast exists in the wild. From the time they left the molding machine in the factory in 1922, when this insulator style (CD154) was first manufactured, the deck was stacked against these insulators with drip points three times as long as most 42's.

Having worked at a glass factory for 10 years, I think I have a pretty good idea of the process. I suspect many of the basics had not changed appreciably between 1922 the 53 years later when I came on the scene.

From the molding machine a metal conveyer belt carried the still very hot insulators to a 50-75 foot long annealing oven, called a lehr. A row of 20-30 insulators was spaced fairly closely together on a wide, moving metal wire-mesh belt. More rows of glass came right behind. The belt never stops as it goes through the lehr. If for some reason it stops, the glass gets too hot and slumps. If you find insulators with spots of extra glass, that indicates it "kissed" or touched another insulator while in the lehr. The lehr's purpose is to anneal, or strengthen, the glass. At the end of the lehr, the insulators went onto another metal conveyer belt and were dropped into a box. Back then they may have been hand-packed, but time was of the essence. Workers had to be quick. More insulators were emerging every minute. Having worked the "cold end" in the glass factory, stacking boxes of bottles on pallets, I can testify this was probably not a delicate procedure.

Factor in the amount of bumping and jostling they endured during shipment, then unloading and transport via truck overland to the job site. Once there, it is likely that several were casually thrown into a lineman's pouch for the trip up the pole. My bet is that most sustained some type of damage before they ever saw a wire.

(cont. next page, Dragon Hunt)

MEMBERSHIP IN THE DIXIE JEWELS INSULATOR CLUB

*A membership in the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are \$10 annually, and they are due on January 1st of each year. Please mail a check or money order made out to our Treasurer, **Cal Baker**. The mailing address is **Cal Baker, 230 Carriage Summit Way, Hendersonville, NC 28791**. If you are not sure whether you've paid your dues for 2012, you can e-mail him at **calb@bellsouth.net** or you may phone him at **(828) 697-9410** to find out.*

IMPORTANT: If your e-mail address, mailing address or phone number should change, please contact Treasurer Cal Baker and Bill Haley, the newsletter editor, to furnish the new information. Bill's e-mail is **WGH@tnaqua.org. You will **NOT** get a newsletter electronically if you have not furnished a current e-mail address.**

Dragon Hunt, cont.:

Many pole lines along railroads sport a bit of diversity in insulators. This line along the P & L (Paducah and Louisville Railroad) is composed of 95% CD154 Hemingray-42's in gorgeous Hemingray blue, a very under-appreciated color. When this line was built, it may have boasted 100% Hemi blue Hemingray-42's. It must have been a dazzling sight in the sunshine! There are two crossarms per pole. We haven't seen a single plain aqua 42 on these lines. Well over 50% have sharp drip points. Maybe 3-5% of those have a big 1 on the dome, which is an unusual feature. About 1-2% of all sharp drip 42's have extremely long dragon drips. After walking miles of this track, John and I figure that 98-100% of the dragon dripped units have some damage.

The other 5% of insulators on this line consist of aqua CD152 Hemingray No. 40, a very few CD145 Brookfields, clear and ice aqua Hemingray-42 and clear CD155 Hemingray-45. Interestingly, we found 2 clear CD106 Hemingray-9's on the ground under poles.

Thanks to John's habit of marking on his Kentucky Gazateer exactly where we'd searched after each hunt, we were able to find the exact point we left off last time. At the first pole we found a dragon drip. After we spun it down, it was too damaged to keep. (Note, future hunters...there are quite a few of these damaged units just waiting to be discovered on the ground where we left them.)

To make a long story a bit shorter, we probably walked about 3 miles of track that day. We spun down many Hemingray-42's. We brought back some with 1 on the dome, several with sharp drips, even a couple of fizzy ones with round drips in mint condition.

We enjoyed each other's company and a wonderful, sunny, warm day out in the field searching for treasure, and that experience in itself is priceless.

During the course of the day we ran across 15-20 of the long dragon dripped 42's. We succeeded in rescuing a handful with only minor damage. They came home with us and will eventually go into the hobby.

The one thing we failed to bring home was an absolutely mint specimen. Lord knows we tried!

Is one still out there? Maybe. We may never know. We have now exhausted places to look on this rail line and this hunt was likely our last to this area. It is a bittersweet moment to admit that we may never find the subject of our quest - a very rare, perfect, dragon fang dripped Hemingray-42.



While big number 1's seem to be fairly common on the domes of the smooth base Hemingray-42, it is an uncommon feature on those with sharp drip points. We found two different styles. The one above with a wide horizontal base and another style with a taller 1 but a fairly small base.

From Your President.....

I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season and a Merry Christmas. Thank you for the Christmas cards and e-mails I received. It was my pleasure once again to give a couple of surprise insulators for Christmas to a beginning collector, a young man named Colin Phillips, who attends my church.

It is almost time for the first Dixie Jewels swap meet of the year. Paul Deriso, Skeeter Langford and Jeff Edgerton will host in Jacksonville Beach, Florida at the Comfort Inn Oceanfront. We'll be in the same show room we had three years ago. I hope to see you there to share in the good times with other collectors.

If you have not booked a room, there might still be time. A block of rooms was reserved for our club, but most are now spoken for. Very few are left. Once those are gone, there are no guarantees. Call (904) 241-2311 and be sure to mention that you are with Dixie Jewels Insulator Club. If you should experience problems, ask for Lorin Kelly, the Sales Manager and our contact. Her direct number is (904) 685-3009.

Only a few free sales tables remain. To reserve a sales table, see the contact info for Paul Deriso on page one and two of this newsletter.

For those attending Jacksonville Beach, I will have four of the new insulator price guides for sale. They are \$50, with a percentage of each sale going to DJIC.

John Henderson and I would like to thank everyone who attended and made the November swap meet at the Dalton Freight Depot such a nice event. I think everyone enjoyed the historic depot, which was beautifully decorated for the holidays, the fine selection of insulators....and all the TRAINS in Dalton, GA.

In May we'll visit Mountain Home, North Carolina, with Fred and Becky Pittman as our hosts. In August, I'm pleased to announce new Dixie Jewels hosts, Larry and Jeffrey Kraemer. This should be very interesting. We will meet at the Oconee nuclear plant owned by Duke Power near Walhalla, South Carolina! I'm still looking for a place for our November 2012 swap meet. Please let me know if you might be willing to host. I hope you'll plan to attend one, or all, of our swap meets this year!

Bill Haley, DJIC President

ATTRACTIONS AND RESTAURANTS NEAR JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA

Approximately 20 miles south on Hwy. A1A is Marineland, one of the oldest marine facilities in the nation, with shows daily.

Downtown St. Augustine is 30 miles south, via Hwy. A1A.

Proceeding north on A1A is the fishing village of Mayport. This is the home of one of our largest naval bases. At this point A1A crosses the St. Johns River via an automobile ferry. Once across the river, and about a quarter mile north is the entrance to the Kingsley Plantation. The road to the plantation is through a beautiful wooded area. The plantation house has been restored and you can also see the remains of several buildings that once housed slaves.

Another half mile north on A1A is the entrance to Huguenot State Park. Here you can drive on the beach and see the jetties that form the entrance to the St. John's River. Several fishing, commercial and naval boats pass here daily.

Continuing north on A1A you can visit the town of Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island. This is one of the oldest towns in Florida and has many unique shops and restaurants as well as historic venues.

The Beaches Museum and History Center is located about a mile south of our motel on A1A and one block north of Beach Blvd. In addition to the museum, there is a restored steam engine on display that was once used in logging operations.

There are probably over 100 places to eat within 2-3 miles of the Comfort Inn. The hotel itself has a fine restaurant specializing in sandwiches, hamburgers, etc.

Two blocks west, on 3rd St. (A1A) is El Potro Mexican Restaurant, Phillie's Finest Cheese Steaks and Pizza and also Vilano's Italian Restaurant.

Proceeding north on A1A about 1.5 miles and then east on Atlantic Blvd. is Starbucks, EdgarAllen Pie Tavern, Al's Pizza, Sun Dog Diner, Rag Time Tavern Seafood Bar and Grill. Proceeding west on Atlantic Blvd. you'll find McDonalds, Popeyes, Beach Diner (great breakfast!), KFC, Dunkin Donuts, Whataburger and Papa Johns Pizza.

South on A1A: Subway, Mellow Mushroom Pizza, Dairy Queen, Ichiban Japanese, Larry's Giant Subs, Burger King, Domino's Pizza, Pita Pit, 5 Guys Burgers, Carraba's Italian Restaurant, Beachside Seafood and many, many more!

Photos from the November Swap Meet in Dalton, Georgia



Photo by
Dudley Ellis

Action at Keith's Table: Keith Roloson, who is downsizing his collection, had a really nice diversity of beautiful glass on his table. And as you can see, he attracted a good number of collectors too.



Photo by Jim Colburn

Keith's "Bait": A small sampling of Keith's color selection. No wonder he drew a crowd!



Photo by
Dudley Ellis

Making a Deal? Dave Collins and John Henderson.



Photo by
Dudley Ellis

Cutie Pie! This was our youngest, and cutest, customer. What a smile! Give that girl an insulator.



Photo by
Dudley Ellis

Welcome Back! Bill Haley chats with Ayako Gasko. She has missed a number of swap meets while battling cancer. It was great to see her at the meeting!



Photo by
Jim Colburn

Crowd Shot at Jason's Table: This shot, taken early in the day, shows the action at Jason Stevens' table. Many insulators were offered for sale at Dalton and lots went to new homes.

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Shows:

Saturday, May 19, 2012
Mountain Home, North Carolina
9:00-3:00

The Dixie Jewels 2nd quarter swap meet, hosted by Fred and Becky Pittman, will be held at the Mountain Home Fire and Rescue on U.S. Hwy. 25 in Mountain Home, North Carolina. This is always a popular meeting spot, so don't miss it! There is no charge to set up a sales table so bring a table and any insulators you wish to show, trade or sell. Bring a friend or two! This will be a great chance to meet collectors from all over the southeastern U.S. There may be a few tables available, so check with Fred if you are unable to bring your own. Add to your collection and enjoy a day of fun surrounded by the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. There will be a noon covered dish meal and side dishes will be appreciated. Contact: Fred Pittman, (828) 692-9410, or you can e-mail him at trailat@bellsouth.net or scoutcomm@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, August 18, 2012
Duke Energy Oconee Nuclear Plant,
World of Energy
Near Walhalla, South Carolina
10:00-3:00

We've never held a swap at a nuclear power plant! Our summer DJIC swap meet will be a first. Larry and Jeffery Kraemer will be our hosts. Jeffrey says Duke Energy has an excellent energy museum with a good display about the early Duke Power Company. You'll see more about this swap meet in the May newsletter. This should be a very interesting venue, so mark that calendar. If you wish to learn more about the World of Energy museum, check out their website: duke-energy.com/visitor-centers/world-of-energy.asp



Photo by
Mike Green

Nothing like a good "insulator fix" every three months! Plan to attend as many Dixie Jewels Insulator Club swaps as possible in 2012.



Photo by
Mike Green

Got Porcelain? Jim Colburn certainly did! He brought a very nice assortment of colorful porcelain to Dalton from a collection he recently bought. Here Dudley Ellis tries to get a good photo.



Photo by
Gary Tilson

A Great Mix! Tables full of insulators, the Crescent City, a vintage rail car, active train lines and good fellowship, made Dalton, Georgia a memorable swap meet.

DIXIE JEWELS INSULATOR CLUB IS VERY VISIBLE IN THE INSULATOR & BOTTLE HOBBIES! Our club has had several swap meets featured in *Crown Jewels of the Wire* magazine the past 2-3 years. Thanks to Ray Harris, Mike Herron and Mike Green for keeping us in the insulator hobby spotlight.

After attending our Toccoa, GA swap, Bill Baab, who is an editor for the magazine *Bottles and Extras*, wrote a really nice article about that swap meet in their Nov.-Dec. 2011 issue. Bill asked me to write an article about the insulator hobby and my story "The Whens and Whys of Insulator Collecting" was published in their Jan.-Feb. 2012 issue. Another installment will be in the next issue. Now we will be better known in the bottle hobby too!

- Bill Haley