



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**
Rick Soller, editor



Volume 23, Number 4
July 2015

National show report

The 46th annual National Insulator Show, Sale, and Convention is in the history books now. The Sandwich, Illinois show hosted by Bob Stahr and Jason Townsend with assistance from the Greater Chicago Insulator Club ended on Sunday, July 5, 2015 without any major hitches after the three day show and a fourth day before the show filled with a Board meeting.

The show hosts and members of the Greater Chicago Insulator Club put a lot of effort into making the show a success. Club members staffed the admissions table, provided security, wrote copy for the show directory, edited the banquet program, passed out awards, put together displays, taking down tables at the end of the show, and much more. All of this help was on top of staffing their own sales table and enjoying the show. Thanks goes to the following club members for their help: Dan Ling, Russ & Marge Frank, Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Tom Nugent, Richard Case, Rick Soller, Kim Borgman, and many others.

Displayers from the club included Arlen Rienstra, Richard Case (2 displays), Rick Soller, Grant Stahr, Kim Borgman (2 displays), Tom Nugent, Russ Frank, Jason Townsend, and Roger Lucas.

Richard Case spent the greatest amount of time setting up his display titled “The Power Insulator in America.” The display recycled materials from one created by Richard over 40 years earlier. The cost of the massive beams he used would probably discourage collectors from using the same material today. The display included both porcelain and glass insulators including a porcelain & glass Fred M. Locke gutter top, several blue J-D uniparts used in the Chicago area, numerous sizes of Pyrex uniparts, and several porcelain multiparts. The exhibit earned the coveted award from the Greater Chicago Insulator Club for Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators.

Richard also exhibited the “Insulbug” made from a radio tuning coil insulator (sometimes called a submarine insulator), a hogs liver suspension, a saddle groove porcelain insulator, and numerous spools for the tail.



Russ Frank must have spent nearly as much time as Richard Case in setting up his display. It included numerous advertisements, go-withs, and insulators related to the Surge insulator. Although the exhibit was entered as a noncompetitive display, it came in second to an enormous display by Lis Berman in voting for the People's Choice Award.



Tom Nugent displayed my top favorite example of an insulator in a tree. He brought a CD 1038 aqua Cutter insulator that has a tree partly growing around it. He also had a mint porcelain cutter next to the section of tree.

Tom was also one of the co-displayers with Jason Townsend of an exhibit on the Sandwich Electric Company. Numerous old phones in oak cases, one with a battery jar were shown. A telephone book from years ago was also included in the display.

Arlen Rienstra won the NIA award for the Best Specialty Display for his light box filled with Lowex insulators. Although all the insulators seemed to be common looking clear or amber insulators plus they were all manufactured after about 1939, he also won the Jim Overstreet Memorial Award presented by the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club for the Best Exhibit Using Threaded CDs. Setting up his display nearly caused a catastrophe as the table he was using was unstable. Eventually some 2 x 4s and other supports were added to the table, providing a firmer base.

Grant Stahr's display consisted of his toy construction toys digging up miniature insulators from his collection. At five-years-old, I wonder if he may be the youngest collector to ever display at a National show. At the banquet, Grant received the Lon C. Holly Memorial Award given to a collector who shows outstanding enthusiasm for the hobby. The award consists of some insulators donated in memory of Lon.

Kim Borgman had a couple displays. One showed Hemingray sewing lamps. An old sewing machine, sewing box, thread spools, pin cushion and small quilt pieces provided nice accents to the display. His other display consisted of colorful pony insulators and won the Missouri Valley Insulator Club's award for Best Use of Midwest Glass and the Central Florida Insulator Club's award for Best First Time Displayer.

Roger Lucas showed American advertising, television, and entertainment icons with miniature insulators. The icons included the Pillsbury Dough Boy, Gumbi, Mr. Potato Head, Uncle Sam, the Kool-Aid pitcher, Big Boy, Garfield the cat, Sprout (the little Green Giant), Ronald McDonald, the Statue of Liberty, a smurf, and few others. It was interesting to read the CJ write-up about his display. The picture showed Roger, the Pillsbury Dough Boy, and Mr. Potato Head and made us guess who is who. I guessed wrong twice.

Rick Soller's display included 23 Hickock lightning rod insulators along with a handout

explaining how an analysis of the insulators pointed out the low consistency in production techniques. For example, some LRIs were half the weight of others while more modern insulators would only be tenths of an ounce different from others. Also the examination argued that the tab was in the front of the mold, not in the back where the hinge was located and that the wide part of the LRI was at the bottom of the mold since it was always complete whereas often the opposite side was much shorter due to an underpour of glass.

Pre-Show Auction

Thursday, July 2, an auction of Jay Dondorf's insulator collection was held in a nearby town by a professional auctioneer. The collection was immense which explains why no dealer stepped up to buy it before the show. I'm guessing it would have also cost quite a bit of money to buy it. As it was, it took over 25 insulator collectors to disperse the collection at auction.

The event was widely advertised. As advertisement in the Crown Jewels showed up before the show and ads could be found on Craigs List as well as a web site that announced auctions. I personally had several people email or call me to ask about the collection.

There was certainly something for everyone since Jay collected glass pintypes, porcelain pintypes, radio strains, lightning rod insulators, hardware, catalogs, and go-withs. Chris Hedges, for example, was happy to place the winning bid for a resin-impregnated fibrous belt-like guy strain. Rick Soller picked up a number of classic multipart and a few unusual glass pieces. Other collectors on hand included Les Christianson and his wife, Dennis Seltrecht, Al & Carol Fix, Bob Alexander, Dave Ramp, Mike McLaughlin, Tom Nugent, Curtis & Ann Erickson, and Jack Roach. I know I am forgetting many others.

The auction started late morning and went to about 5 p.m. It was interesting to see how people were going to haul their winnings home such as Curtis Erickson who bought a display case or Mike McLaughlin who bought one of the larger lots. Luckily, everyone seemed to get the insulators carted away and many were for sale at the show.

Hog Roast Show Report

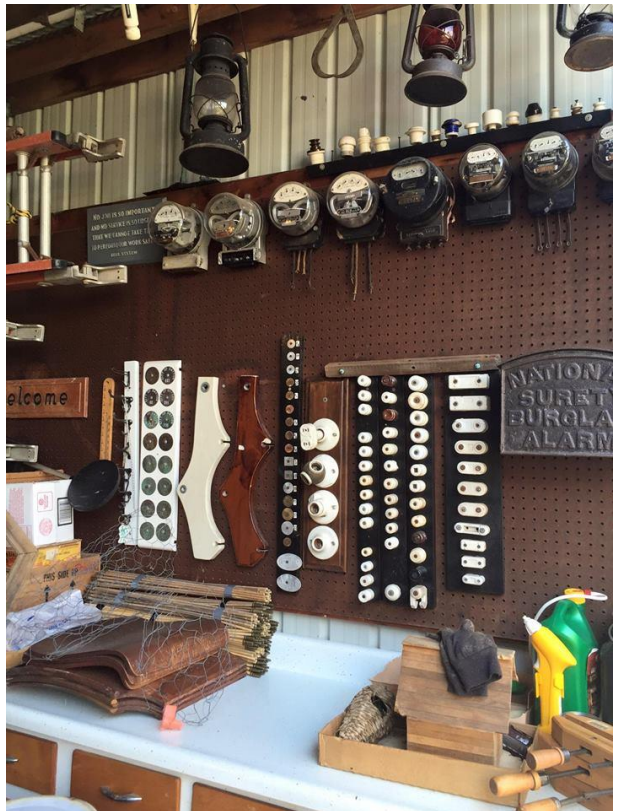
On Friday, July 23, 2015, Alan Stastny held his 21st annual Hog Roast at his home in Arcanam, Ohio followed by a swap meet on Saturday, July 24. Russ and Marge Frank attended both days and reported that at least 75 people were on hand on Friday. The weather was clear and the food delicious so it is no wonder so many people showed up.

The Saturday insulator swap meet was much lighter in attendance but filled with familiar faces. Scott Sweetland traveled from Columbus, Ohio with his wife and son while Roger Lucas made the trip from the opposite direction and a different Columbus (Columbus, Indiana). Gene Hawkins made it to the swap meet around 11 a.m. or noon and traded several pieces with Roger for a couple H.G. Co. signals (one in purple and one in electric blue). Gary Horstman made it to the show as did Marilyn Turner. Lois Blair came with Ken Pollard. Alan Stastny and his grandson were also part of the insulator crowd.

Besides trading insulator stories and swapping insulators, attendees also had the opportunity to tour the barn with Alan's collection both inside and outside the building. Inside, one could view his extensive collection of Mickey Mouse insulators. Around the outside, an array of spools, lightning arrestors, and substation stackers could be found.

Alan is already preparing for next year. He has a flyer put together and that will be run in future issues of the newsletter.

Marge Frank posted numerous pictures of the event and two are printed below.



Upcoming Shows

August 29, 2015 (Saturday)

**Annual North Western Insulator Club swap meet
Nisswa, Minnesota**

Join us on Saturday, August 29, at the home of Colin & Karen Yennie to swap, buy, sell, learn about, admire and trade stories about insulators and any related treasures. Hours are 10 to 4 and Colin will be grilling lunch-rain or shine. Address is 1126 Ebert Drive, Nisswa MN. For information, contact Colin Yennie at 507-289-1095 or Karen at 507-271-3457 or cryennie@hotmail.com. Bring stock for an auction and we'll see you there.

September 12, 2015 (Saturday)

**15th Annual Greater Chicago Insulator Club "End of Summer" Picnic and Swap Meet
Racine, Wisconsin**

15th Annual GCIC "End of Summer" picnic and swap meet. Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Please let me know if you plan to attend so enough food can be prepared. Brats, hot dogs, and various other picnic-type food is on the menu this year. Rick Soller will be holding his famous auction again. He has hundreds of insulators ready to put on the block. If you want to include something in the auction, by all means bring it with. The event will go on rain or shine. It will be held at the home of RANDY WESNER, 434 Blaine Ave., Racine, WI 53405 (262) 633-0756 Email: randysdodge@gmail.com Call or email if you need directions. Hope to see you there.

October 3, 2015 (Saturday)

**North Western Insulator Club Fall Swap Meet
River Falls, Wisconsin**

North Western Insulator Club Fall Swap Meet. Come join us for our fall swap meet in beautiful River Falls, Wisconsin on Saturday, October 3, hosted by Mike Braun. The show will be held in the Moose Lodge at 620 Clark St., River Falls. There are tables available and plenty of room for all. We'll be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and plan for the usual awesome auction mid-day. Lunch will be available. For info, contact Mike Braun at mbraun61@yahoo.com or 715-426-0887. Please RSVP by September 25 so we may plan for adequate tables and food. See you in Wisconsin!

November 6-8, 2015 (Friday to Sunday)

**45th Annual Mid-Ohio Show & Sale
Springfield, Ohio**

The 45th Annual Mid-Ohio Show & Sale will be held November 6-8 at the Clark County Fairgrounds (Exit 59 off I-70), Springfield, Ohio. Friday hours are 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 9:00 to ????. The Community Display for 2015 will feature "Lynchburg Glass." Information is available at: www.insulators.info/shows/springfield/ Contact: LOIS BLAIR 740-852-3148 or CURT BOSTER 614-301-5125; email: cboster530@att.net

**July 28-31, 2016 (Thursday to Sunday)|
47th National Insulator Association Convention, Show, & Sale
Muncie, Indiana**

The National Insulator Association's 47th Annual Convention and Show will be held July 28-31, 2015 at the Horizon Convention Center, 601 S. High St., Muncie, IN 47305. Muncie was the home of the Hemingray company from 1888 to 1972 and special activities are planned related to this. Show information can be found at <http://www.nia.org/national> or you can contact show hosts Bob Stahr or Rick Soller. Bob can be reached at 630-793-5345 or at Bob@hemingray.com and Rick can be reached at (847) 782-8602 or at Com574@clcollinois.edu.



(Above) Grant Stahr receiving his Jumbo insulator from Rick Soller at the National Show banquet. He received it as testimony to his enthusiasm for the hobby. The award is given out in memory of Lon C. Holly. Normally the show host (i.e., Bob Stahr) gives the award out but to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest, Rick was asked to present the award. Most of the rest of the banquet, I believe Grant was flinging angry birds through the sky on a game device.

(Below) Three French postcards showing insulators.

