



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



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So long, Dan Ling.

By Rick Soller

It was quite a shock to learn that GCIC and WRIC club member Dan Ling died on Friday, November 25, 2016 when the ATV he was riding fell on top of him. He was only 48 and had only been married to Natalie since 2012.

Dan was a trained lineman electrician who worked on high power transmission and distribution lines for IBEW Local 126. As an avid Pittsburg Steelers NFL football, Pittsburg Pirates MLB baseball, and Pittsburg Penguins Hockey fan, he would often sell insulators on insulators.info that simultaneously promoted one of these teams.

Many of us saw and talked to Dan a few weeks earlier at the Mid-Ohio Insulator Show in Springfield, Ohio. He often called me for my opinion on porcelain, composition, or book values and we often joked back and forth on the phone, via email, and at shows. At the last Springfield show, I brought a drip point with me and slipped it into my cherry pie. I then showed it to Dan and speculated that Terry Drollinger must be dumping broken insulators around the trees on his cherry tree farm and the drip must have got in with the cherries. I then showed Terry who quickly realized the joke so I told him that Dan was responsible for it.

In an email, he once told me this story: The strangest damn thing happened to me yesterday. I went to this 88 year old guy's house north of me a couple clicks near the N.Y. border. He had some carnivals and some 102 Brookfields and some 9s. Typical stuff for that area. On the back wall of the garage he had some "oh that's just porcelain" stuff. All boring brown commons complete with an inch of dust. Then I spotted, mainly because of the extended skirt, a U-639 Locke. A little spit and my left shirt cuff revealed what looks to be a #1-2 marking. - AND THEN IT HAPPENED !!! I thought I heard something! Low and faint. - I turned that sucker on her side and slammed that extended skirt right upahgent (that's a word round he-ah) my right ear and listened. That old coot looked at me like I had something growin' outta my head. -THEN I HEARD IT !! Real low at first. Then it got louder. Almost like a moan. This voice was sayin' Rrrriicckkkk..., Rrrriicckkk ..., bbbuuuyyyy me Rrrriicckkk..... Bbbuuuyyyy meeeee Rrrriicckkk..... Buy meeeeeee !!!!

Here is a typical ad that Dan would post on insulators.info:

Wacky suspension collector !!!; posted by Daniel Ling

Description: Yes, you too can now coon the bells, stand on the conductor and wax on/wax off !!!! Here's your chance to own your very own gallon of Insulator Cleaner just like the big boys use !!!! Can is rusty but no holes and in great shape. Best of all it's full of cleanie cleanie !! \$20.00 . No shippy shippy !!! Can deliver to Shrewsbury this weekend.

I'll miss the fun we had.



Dan Ling at the 2016 Mid-Ohio Show in Springfield

Big Upcoming Auction

Robert Winkler called me recently and let me know that a large portion of Jim Crandall's insulators are going to be sold at an auction on Sunday, February 12, 2017. The auction will be held at 1255 N. Pioneer Road, LaPorte, Indiana at a storage facility starting at 10 a.m. As of this writing, Auctions by Moldenhauer has not posted any pictures nor included much in the way of a detailed listing but, the listing indicates "this auction will have a very large amount of railroad insulators with many rare insulators as well as another ring of antiques, collectibles, primitives, in the rough furniture, and much, much more."

Mid-Ohio Show Report

By Rick Soller

The November 2016 Mid-Ohio show in Springfield, Ohio was incredible as always. The show had everything including dealer sales tables, after-hours auction, community display of Mexican insulators, individual collector displays, and a banquet.

I saw a lot of club members at the show. Members included Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Bob Stahr, Richard Case, Steve McCollum, Russ & Marge Frank, Roger Lucas, Dan Ling, Kim Borgman, Gene Hawkins, Mark Gilmore, Steve Jones, and probably a couple more I forgot.

Club members put together four displays for the show. Arlen Rienstra displayed King

City Glass Works (K.C.G.W.) insulators and received an award for it. Richard Case had the front window display for his crossarms filled with power insulators. Steve Jones set up his hefty display of early power in Connecticut: 1893-1918. Rick Soller showed his collection of Fornasetti decorated insulators.

Friday night, the after-show auction featured over a hundred insulator lots. The star of the show was a mint condition CD 124.5 winged Chambers that sold for \$4,000 and went home with Dick Bowman. I ended up winning 20 lots that included a large number of radio strains, several commemoratives, a couple transpositions, several colored signals, and a few CD 143s.

I was looking forward to the food truck this year. It seems each year they serve something I haven't eaten in years like a slice of blackberry pie or a pulled pork sandwich. I was disappointed at first when I learned there wasn't a food truck on Saturday but that we would have to go next door to the gun show and get food at the cafeteria there. As it turned out, the cafeteria served just what I was looking for. I walked out with a bologna sandwich and a slice of cherry pie. As noted on page 1, the cherry pie provided an opportunity to play a practical joke on a couple people.

Antique Hunting Stories

By Rick Soller

After Christmas, I decided to make a trip from Gurnee to Marysville, Ohio to visit my father and various siblings. I planned the trip so that I would have time to do some antiquing.

My first, stop, however, was to visit Robert Winkler. Normally we get some lunch and have fun talking insulators but I promised my brother I would be at his house by dinner and Robert wasn't feeling well so we did some dealing and I was on my way.

I was making better time than I expected so by the time I got near Plymouth, Indiana, I figured I had about 30 minutes that I could devote to a quick search of the antique store on Highway-30. Previous experience told me that a booth in the back usually had insulators so I headed back there first. Perched over the insulators in the booth was club member Dave Ramp.

Dave was not interested in the porcelain pieces there so he helped me carry three J-Ds to the front counter. One was a metal topped, brown J-D Unipart and the other two were large brown J-Ds posing as multipart but made in a single piece.

What did catch Dave's interest (and, before that, his wife's) was a two foot tall glass substation piece that looked like it was made with multiple small suspension insulators stacked one on top of the other. The glass was light aqua and marked Sediver. Both Dave and I felt too old to lug the piece to the front so a cart was secured and somehow wrestled into his vehicle. If you see him at an upcoming show, check his vehicle to see if he was able to get the insulator out.

On my return trip, I scheduled my departure so that antique stores would still be open. In the past, when I stopped in Mt. Victory, Ohio, most shops were already closed and I was only able to search one or two. This time I checked out three that I had not been in before. The first only resulted in a purchase of a turkey feather to tease my cats with. The second resulted in another large brown J-D for my collection and a referral to a shop down one of the alleys in town. At the last shop, I picked up a couple common beehives, a Brookfield CD 113, a CD 127, and a lightning rod ball for bargain prices. All of them needed cleaning so I had a hard time driving as I frequently held the pieces up to the light to determine if there were any hidden delights inside the glass.

Don't forget to renew your GCIC membership! Renewal Form enclosed.

Upcoming Shows

Strongsville, Ohio

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Western Reserve Insulator Club's 18th Annual Winterfest / Swap Meet & Club Meeting at the Spyglass Hill Recreation Center, 13201 Compass Point Drive, Strongsville, OH 44136. Dealer Setup: 9:00am; Show Hours: 10:00am-3:00pm. Club Meeting and Lunch: 12-1:30pm. There are no admission or table charges, but space is limited, so please contact us ahead of time if you plan to set up! Info/RSVP to JOHN HOVANEC 216-392-3622, email: jrhovanec@ymail.com

Merrillville, Indiana

Saturday, January 28, 2017

9th annual "Beat the Winter Blahs" Swap Meet, Saturday, January 28. Doors open 8am - 2pm. Hosted as usual by Arlen and Tina Rienstra and the Greater Chicago Insulator Club. This is the second year at Living Hope Church, 9000 Taft St., Merrillville, IN 46410. Meeting in the Fireside Room which is spacious, well lighted and warm. Tables supplied at \$10 each, lunch provided. Experience Hoosier Hospitality, plenty of space, GCIC auction, business meeting and a warming fireplace. Even better than before, located easily from I-80/94 and I-65. RSVP to Arlen Rienstra, ariens@att.net or call (219)226-4975

Columbus, Ohio

Sunday, February 12, 2017

The 47th Annual Columbus Bottle Show, sponsored by the Central Ohio Bottle Club, will be held Sunday, February 12 from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Doubletree Inn, 175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. Early admission from 7:00 to 9:00 is \$20. General admission from 9:00 on is \$3. Info: ROJER MOODY 740-703-4913 or rtmoody@juno.com or CLARK WIDEMAN 614-439-8005 or clarkwideman@aol.com

Yorkville, Illinois

Friday & Saturday, April 7-8, 2017

Dearborn, Michigan

Saturday, June 3, 2017

2nd annual swap meet held at the home of Curtis Erickson from 9am to 3pm. The swap meet is the same day and area as the famous Edison Street Sale (large city garage sale). Set up is free, please bring your own table. Walking distance from the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. Only a 45 minute drive north of the Michigan/Ohio border. Contact: CURTIS ERICKSON (248) 515-4612 crerickson1@gmail.com Show location, 22101 Olmstead St Dearborn, MI 48124

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Saturday, March 25, 2017

The North Western Insulator Club invites you all to the first ever "North Suburban Insulator Show" at the Coon Rapids VFW Post 9625, 1919 Coon Rapids Boulevard in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Hours are 9-3 and admission is free! Contact Daryl Lawrence at 763-300-4071 or at (dlaw116@msn.com) or klyennie@hotmail.com for more info. Bring some food if you like (optional), the kitchen should be open. Also bring your auction items, there will be an auction at noon. This will be the first show in Coon Rapids so come one come all and let's make this show a good, no-a GREAT show.

Join the Greater Chicago Insulator Club!

You are invited to join the Greater Chicago Insulator Club (GCIC) or renew your current membership. Membership runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 and costs \$10. If you are 16 or younger, dues are \$5. Checks should be made out to the Greater Chicago Insulator Club and sent to Bob Stahr, 360 S. Kenilworth Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Your dues entitle you to a variety of benefits:

- Newsletter 6-8 times a year
- Free food at swap meets
- Club directory of members and their specialty
- Club hunts
- A network of club members looking for insulators to sell or trade to you
- Free ads in the newsletter
- Notification of insulators free for the taking
- Discounts on the prestigious club patch
- Collectible membership card
- Input into the hobby
- Opportunities to serve in positions of leadership
- Promotion of the hobby so you can share your collection with others
- A chance to practice your public speaking skills

Join or renew today by completing the following form. Check the box before any line if you **don't** want that information printed in the club directory.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Do you want to receive the newsletter via email _____ or in printed form sent in the mail _____?

Interests/wants/specialties: _____

(Mail to Bob Stahr, 360 S. Kenilworth Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137)