



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

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Western Reserve Insulator Club (WRIC) Zoom Show

Usually the Western Reserve Insulator Club has a show in Richfield, Ohio which is south of Cleveland. The show is their Oktoberfest event. This year, however, the show was cancelled due to coronavirus concerns, but the club had a meeting/swap meet via Zoom on September 26 instead that went from 9 a.m. until noon (Eastern time). Since I am a member of the WRIC too, I learned about the event, got a link to it, and logged on promptly at 8 a.m. Chicago time with a few insulators ready to sell hoards of collectors with limited options to buy insulators.

The set-up of Zoom is conducive to events like this. A person can join from the comforts of their home and can do so with a desk-top computer, a laptop, a smart phone, or other mobile devices such as an iPad. John Hovanek, the host of the meeting, indicated in setting up the meeting, that dealers and nondealers could be switched to private breakout meeting rooms to chat or negotiate for insulators for sale.

Unfortunately, the attendance was sparse and the willingness to buy anything was nearly non-existent. Only four people logged on initially. Eventually, attendees included me (Rick Soller), John Hovanek, Sharon Foster, Curtis Erickson, Steve Bobb, Bernie & Rick Baldwin, someone named Ryan, and one other person. I didn't sell anything and neither did John. I was the only one who bought anything from the only other dealer, Steve Bobb and that only include a pole nail, a porcelain lightning rod insulator with bracket, and a metallic light tan Pittsburg beehive.

There was interesting conversation, however. The highlight for me was hearing about Rick Baldwin's collection of glass turtles. I wondered how he could be confident in knowing what company made some of them. He said it was mostly guessing based on where the turtle was found or the color. For one of his turtles, however, there was no question about what company made it. It was partially made in the mold for a Hemingray-107 CD 1070 spool. I also asked about the price range for these and learned that he has bought them for anywhere from \$20 to hundreds. I can't image how much the one made in the Hemingray-107 mold would go for in an insulator auction!

During lulls in the conversation, John Hovanek showed pictures of past shows and several attendees chimed in with memories of the show. I saw pictures of a swap meet at the former home of Curtis Erickson, the show in Washington, Pennsylvania near the Ohio border, and shows in West Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

I assumed that most of the people logged into the meeting would attend the Mid-Ohio show but was surprised to learn that was not the case. Ryan, John Hovanek & Sharon Foster, and Rick and Bernie Baldwin stated that were not going. Tables are sold out for the show, but I wonder if the walk-through crowd will be smaller than some people (e.g., Jason Townsend) think. It will be interesting to see.

Ottawa, IL Swap Meet Report

Up until the day before, I didn't think the GCIC swap meet in Ottawa, Illinois would happen due to the coronavirus. Nevertheless, lots of dealers attended, lots of insulator-related items were sold in the auction, and a good time was enjoyed. Tom had tables well-spaced, so social distancing was easy plus the service of food was conducted to minimize any spread of the virus. Throughout the show, I never saw anyone without a face mask. Kudos to everyone.

It seemed like there were a record number of lots in the auction. The sheets with the auction results stretched to nine pages and about 112 lots were recorded as being sold. Thirty-one bidders signed up for bidder numbers with commissions on the auction and donations netting \$125 which was turned over to Tom Nugent to help pay for food and advertising expenses.

A new system was used to run the auction. Bidders were asked to sit in chairs spaced far apart or stand apart from each other. Lot numbers were assigned to each item or group of items and bidders were admonished not to move things from one box to another. Gene Hawkins was recruited to handle record-keeping. Mike McLaughlin and one other person helped display items up for bid and deliver them to the winning bidder.

I thought Tom Nugent had sold everything he wanted to get rid of in last year's auction, but he managed to put together about 30 lots for this auction and earn a nice amount from his efforts. 13 other people had items in the auction.

Results of the auction are shown below. Because lot numbers were used, some lots were sold out of order, and some lots didn't have a lot number so letters were used. There might be errors in the information below since bidder numbers were converted to bidder names and I had to figure out Gene's abbreviations and handwriting in one or two cases 😊. If this method is used again, there will be some refinements.

#	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Tom Nugent	5 Princess phones and briefcase	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
2	Tom Nugent	Box of radio strains	\$6	Steve McCollum
3	Tom Nugent	Box of pins, brackets, hardware	\$5	Greg Delia
4	Tom Nugent	Box of lead bottom cable	\$2	Arlen Rienstra
5	Tom Nugent	Box with tester, little wooden phones	\$1	Gene Hawkins
6	Tom Nugent	Box with phone, shirt, cup	\$1	Rick Soller
7	Tom Nugent	Small red Bell System Fire extinguisher	\$1	Dave Bader
8	Tom Nugent	Plastic buried cable sign	\$8	Dave Bader
9	Tom Nugent	Plastic buried cable sign	\$8	Dave Bader
35	Dave Ramp	Box of insulators	\$6	April Cook
38	Dave Ramp	Box of insulators	\$1	Dan Fester
?	Riley Armstrong	Box of insulators wrapped in paper	\$1	Gene Hawkins
62	Riley Armstrong	Box of insulators wrapped in paper	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
88	Riley Armstrong	Clear Kimbles on pin, 5 x \$6 each	30	April Cook
82	Riley Armstrong	Box of insulators wrapped in paper	\$3	Dan Fester
31	Tom Nugent	Box of books	\$4	Dave Bader
43	Tom Nugent	Phone cord extender box	\$3	Riley Armstrong
34	Tom Nugent	Princess phone handsets (5)	\$2	Greg Delia
46	Tom Nugent	Box of pole brackets and splice	\$4	Rick Soller
40	Tom Nugent	Box spools, rack	\$6	Kathy Daggett

37	Tom Nugent	Bell system first aid stuff	\$2	Kathy Daggett
A	Tom Nugent	Box of wooden cobs	\$5	Greg Delia
49	Tom Nugent	Box of fuse sockets, Avon bottle	\$10	Dan Fester
52	Tom Nugent	Box with test set	\$4	Gene Hawkins
55	Tom Nugent	Large red Bell System fire extinguisher	\$11	Dave Bader
53	Tom Nugent	Box of pins, cobs, strains	\$5	Steve McCollum
57	Tom Nugent	Box of spools, strains, wireholders	\$1	Dan Fester
58	Tom Nugent	Picture frame front wood phone	\$22	Richard Case
54	Tom Nugent	Marble and brass table with phone	\$50	Richard Case
32	Tom Nugent	Bell System stainless fire extinguisher	\$5	Dave Bader
51	Tom Nugent	Bell System stainless fire extinguisher	\$5	Dave Bader
96	Greg Delia	Box of glass insulators and wires	\$6	Richard Case
85	Riley Armstrong	2 guy strains	\$1	Steve McCollum
119	Greg Delia	Terminal Can	\$5	Riley Armstrong
117	Greg Delia	Metal stand with braces	\$35	Riley Armstrong
59	Richard Case	Cable cutter	\$4	Jason Townsend
60	Richard Case	Cable cutter	\$5	Jason Townsend
56	Richard Case	Cable cutter	\$5	Steve McCollum
11	Richard Case	Pruning saw	\$47	Dan Fester
25	Richard Case	Blue cylinder	\$1	Riley Armstrong
12	Richard Case	Blue cylinder	\$1	Riley Armstrong
13	Richard Case	Blue cylinder	\$1	Riley Armstrong
15	Richard Case	Blue cylinder	\$1	Riley Armstrong
22	Richard Case	Blue cylinder (3?) (lots 22,9,19)	\$2	Dave Bader
72	Richard Case	Blue cooler	\$10	Jason Townsend
69	Richard Case	Cooler	\$4	Steve McCollum
16	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles and jars	\$15	Rich Feeham
19	Josh Dondorf	Globe jars	\$6	Gene Hawkins
17	Josh Dondorf	Illinois box of bottles, blue + others	\$6	Kathy Daggett
18	Josh Dondorf	Box of beer bottles, milk bottles, dirty	\$1	Jackie Nugent
20	Richard Case	Porcelain unipart	\$1	Dan Fester
28	Josh Dondorf	Ball fruit jars	\$3	Gene Hawkins
23	Josh Dondorf	Box of fruit jars – milk	\$13	Mike McLaughlin
21	Josh Dondorf	Milk crate	\$1	Gene Hawkins
24	Josh Dondorf	Box of ball jars	\$2	April Cook
27	Josh Dondorf	Box of dirty bottles	\$1	Riley Armstrong
26	Josh Dondorf	Box of mixed bottles	\$1	Dick Schroeder
29	Josh Dondorf	Milk crate of bottles, Coke bottles	\$5	Jackie Nugent
30	Josh Dondorf	Milk crate of bottles	\$1	Gene Hawkins
E	Mark Gilmore	String of 6 suspensions	\$20	Robert Schultz
79	Russ Frank	4 pieces of glass shelving	\$6	Mark Gilmore
73	Russ Frank	3 pieces of glass shelving	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
61	Russ Frank	Porcelain insulator box	\$7	Dan Fester
70	Russ Frank	Sample box of porcelain spools	\$1	Dan Fester
67	Russ Frank	Box Mickey and G	\$8	Jason Townsend

64	Russ Frank	Box of 8 little spools	\$1	Dan Fester
F	Richard Case	Cobalt blue Unipart porcelain	\$14	Robert Schultz
41	Rick Soller	Small box of insulators	\$4	Bob Stahr
44	Rick Soller	Box of insulators	\$1	Riley Armstrong
39	Rick Soller	Box of insulators, Green star	\$11	Bob Reams
47	Rick Soller	Box of transpositions, etc. insulators	\$18	Dieter Holz
36	Rick Soller	Box of mixed insulators	\$1	Steve McConell
50	Rick Soller	Mexican Fencepost, Chicago commem.	\$12	April Cook
48	Rick Soller	Box of 3 porcelain insulators	\$26	Jackie Nugent
45	Rick Soller	Box of 7 glass insulators	\$16	Arlen Rienstra
42	Rick Soller	Box of 6 glass insulators, 151, 145, 155	\$12	Dieter Holz
33	Rick Soller	Cobalt blue porcelain suspension	\$11	Dick Schroeder
77	Rick Soller	Multipart, mottled	\$4	Robert Schultz
63	Rick Soller	Multipart	\$4	Robert Schultz
74	Rick Soller	Multipart	\$1	Dan Fester
71	Rick Soller	Carnival sombrero, glass, Pyrex	\$18	Dick Schroeder
68	Rick Soller	Green suspension	\$21	Jackie Nugent
66	Mike Davis	Box of insulators	\$50	Dan Fester
G	Rick Soller	Kerr box	\$6	Rick Feeham
80	Greg Delia	Battery light	\$4	Riley Armstrong
83	Greg Delia	Insulators on wire	\$5	Riley Armstrong
86	Greg Delia	Insulators on wire	\$16	Richard Case
89	Greg Delia	Insulators on wire	\$12	Mark Gilmore
90	Greg Delia	Johnny ball on wire	\$1	Steve McConell
87	Greg Delia	Johnny ball on wire	\$1	Steve McConell
92	Greg Delia	Johnny ball on wire	\$1	Steve McConell
93	Greg Delia	Johnny ball on wire	\$1	Steve McConell
76	Greg Delia	Klein clock	\$9	Dave Bader
94	Greg Delia	Porcelain and tie wire	\$1	Riley Armstrong
91	Greg Delia	Iron bracket (2 spot)	\$14	Riley Armstrong
95	Greg Delia	2 iron/plastic metal pole things	\$56	Rick Soller
75	Greg Delia	Thompson of Tampa glass ashtray	\$3	Steve McCollum
78	Greg Delia	Box of mixed insulators, green porcelain	\$7	Josh Dondorf
84	Greg Delia	Box with meter and insulators	\$4	Josh Dondorf
81	Greg Delia	Box glass insulators, 133s #7	\$20	Richard Case
101	Greg Delia	RR crossing sign, double sided	\$90	Josh Dondorf
104	Greg Delia	Chair with #9 insulators on leg	\$19	Steve McCollum
114	Greg Delia	Red and white sign	\$5	Dick Schroeder
115	Greg Delia	Red and white sign	\$5	Dick Schroeder
116	Greg Delia	Red and white sign	\$5	Dick Schroeder
102	Greg Delia	Test device in case	\$26	Jason Townsend
103	Greg Delia	Test device in case	\$26	Jason Townsend
111	Greg Delia	Box of catalogs and code books	\$50	Jason Townsend
110	Greg Delia	Box of electrical code books	\$1	Jason Townsend
V8	Greg Delia	Box of books	\$3	Jackie Nugent

109	Greg Delia	Box of books, Lapp license plate	\$50	Jason Townsend
108	Greg Delia	Box of books, directory, and manuals	\$12	Jason Townsend
H	Rick Soller	Tote of CJs and porcelain books	\$11	Greg Delia
100	Greg Delia	Box of electrical books and metal seals	\$24	Jason Townsend
107	Greg Delia	Box of electrical books and manuals	\$10	Jason Townsend
99	Greg Delia	Wooden Del Monte box, radio strains	\$8	Arlen Rienstra
105	Ben Nicholas	Metal box-Weston RR supply	\$45	Greg Delia
106	Ben Nicholas	Box of Westinghouse porcelain	\$1	Riley Armstrong
118	Ben Nicholas	Santa Ana (\$160 reserve)	\$160	Riley Armstrong
120	Ben Nicholas	102 Amber Brookfield	\$12	Rick Soller
97	Greg Delia	Wooden box, flashlight and pack	\$17	Kathy Daggett
D	Curtis Erickson	2 water bottles, insulator	\$13	Gene Hawkins
B	Curtis Erickson	Insulator box	\$27	Ben Nicholas
C	Curtis Erickson	Agee and 2 more insulators	\$7	Ben Nicholas
112	Arlen Rienstra	Box of mixed insulators	\$6	Steve McCollum
113	Arlen Rienstra	Transposition bracket box	\$14	Steve McConell



(On the left) Some of the items in the auction. (On the right) Several of the sales tables of Josh Dondorf and friend. Thanks to Richard Case for the photographs.



Tom Nugent's wagon filled with bargain buys. Thanks to Richard Case for the photograph.

Upcoming Shows

Friday to Sunday, November 6-8, 2020 Springfield, Ohio

The 50th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show will be held November 6-8 at the Clark County Fairgrounds, 4401 South Charleston Pike, Springfield, Ohio. Exit 59 off I-70. Show hours are Friday 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday from 9:00 AM to closing. Info: CURT BOSTER email: cboster530@att.net or (614) 301-5125 or LOIS BLAIR (740) 852-3148. Additional info at: www.insulators.info/shows/springfield

Saturday, April 20, 2021 Wheaton, Illinois

The DuPage Collectors Expo will be held Saturday, April 4th at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Items for sale & trade include insulators, lightning rod items & weathervanes, telephone & telegraph items, bottles, jars, etc. For information, contact Bob Stahr at bob@hemingray.com (630) 793-5345 or Rick Soller at com574@clcollinois.edu (847) 782-8602.