

# Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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http://www.nia.org

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VOLUME 28 \* NUMBER 1 \* FALL 2000

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## FROM THE EDITOR

June was a very exciting month for me as our local club (GLASS) co-hosted its first show with the help of John Hovanec and the Western Reserve Insulator Club. We had a great time with approximately 80 people in attendance. This was a good learning experience, and we have some

ideas about what we should and shouldn't do in the future. We really appreciate the "big names" in the hobby who made the effort to be there and show their support for our local club.

July found my wife; our two eldest children, Sam and Seth; and myself heading out West to attend the National show in Bloomington. We

took a shortcut to get to Minnesota from Pennsylvania by traveling though Montana and South Dakota. Since, by coincidence, we have friends along this shortcut route, we decided to stop and see them as well. We traveled in 10 states total and spent time visiting Mount Rushmore, Wall Drug (of course!), and the Badlands. I must admit I

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per award). I am asking Sandy Ellison (our Awards and Recognition Chairperson) to work with Kevin in developing that list which should include the current addresses, the number (i.e. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual), and dates of the event.

2. With respect to the NIA website, I have proposed that we look into aggressively promoting it. This might include listing it with a search engine. Bob Berry, our Promotion and Education Committee Chairman, will head this effort up. He will also be adding links to local clubs (whether it is to the club's web page or the individual e-mail address of the club president).

3. We are going to have a membership drive. Our goal is to have 200 new NIA members by the end of the year. I am going to work together with Bill Meier, the ICON webmaster, to do our best to promote the benefits of NIA membership. There is so much more to the NIA besides early admission at the National. We set show standards, sponsor research and authentication projects, arbitrate disputes between collectors and dealers, offer insurance to show hosts for a nominal fee, subsidize advertising, publish a newsletter full of valuable information, circulate educational displays, provide awards for displays, etc. It's time that we

open up the doors, promote ourselves, and invite everyone in! To help further this goal, our new Executive Secretary, Bob Stahr, will be placing advertisements in *Crown Jewels*, *ICON*, and local club newsletters promoting NIA membership benefits and soliciting new members. You can do your part as well. The NIA will gladly ship you brochures and applications that can be placed at museums, circulated at insulator and bottle shows, etc.

4. We are going to implement on-line membership renewals and sign-up. We will start off with Pay Pal and hopefully move on to Visa/MasterCard

Our goal is to have 200 new members ...

or Discover acceptance. Bob Berry will add this to the NIA website. When someone renews or joins the NIA for the first time, the money will be automatically deposited into the NIA bank account, and Joe Beres (our Membership Director) will be sent an e-mail notifying him of the renewal or new sign-up. Joe will then process the membership card in the usual fashion.

5. Dick Bowman, the Chairman of our Exploratory Museum Committee, will be reporting to the Board periodically during the upcoming year and may have some recommendations for next year's Board and General Member-

ship Meetings. Dick, as well as I, would welcome constructive feedback with respect to this project. Don't be shy; everyone has an opinion, and we certainly do not have all of the answers on this difficult task.

6. We are going to check into the feasibility of making *Drip Points* available on-line! The mechanics need to be worked out, but Bob Berry and I have discussed encrypted passwords (perhaps something easy like your NIA number but tied to your e-mail address for verification) so that members could access *Drip Points* over the internet through the NIA webpage. This would significantly cut down on printing and postage costs and of course would get *Drip Points* to members faster.

7. Speaking of *Drip Points*, I've spoken with Lee Brewer (our Information Director), and both he and Tammy are ready to take advantage of our reduced postage rates once we receive our non-profit status certificate back from the IRS. They are also going to pull a couple of older *Drip Points* issues and have them posted on our NIA website so that prospective members can see what *Drip Points* is all about.

8. Bill Rhode will be taking over my previous position as By-Laws Chairman. Last fall I completely re-wrote the NIA Handbook. Some final tweaking will be done over

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tweaking will be done over the next month or so, and then Bill and I will coordinate on printing copies of the new manual. At least a several hundred copies will be provided to Joe Beres so that he can provide them to new members when they sign-up. Current members will be able to obtain copies of the new book either by viewing it at [www.nia.org](http://www.nia.org) or by contacting Bill Rhode to obtain a hard copy.

9. This year marks the first year where Regional Vice

Presidents are charged with the responsibility of obtaining bids for the major shows in their regions, whether they be for a National or a Regional. I personally would like to see at least two, if not three bids for each major show presented to the Board for review. In 2001, the National will be held in Atlanta. I am sure that you are going to read in other areas of this issue some of the great activities that Dudley and Sandy Ellis and the members of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club have planned for next year. This promises to be a great show! In 2002, the National will be held in the Western Region. Tom Katonak, our Western Region Vice President, has already started to work on soliciting bids for that event. Tom is also working on obtaining a solid bid for the 2001 Western Regional. Our new Central Region Vice

President is Ed Peters. Ed is working on obtaining bids for the 2001 and 2002 Central Regionals. Finally, Ken Willick, our Eastern Region Vice President, will be working on obtaining a bid for the 2002 Eastern Regional.

10. Like it or not, internet auctions are here to stay. And while many people in our hobby have different opinions and even strong feelings with

respect to shows versus auctions, one thing that everyone can agree on is that as an NIA member, we

subscribe to a code of higher ethical conduct. It stands to follow then that none of us would like to see people, especially uneducated novice collectors, ripped off. One need only glance at some of the auctions on e-Bay to see two extremes. First, there are people out there selling items who have absolutely no idea as to what they are worth. Second, there are people out there selling items who know exactly what they are worth. Each presents its own set of unique problems. Sometimes people in the first category are receptive to an honest communication along the lines of "You probably don't know this, but the item that you have posted is a fake. You might want to add that to your description. I would be happy to talk with you about it." Other times they are not open to suggestions and tell you to mind

your own business. People in the second category are especially difficult to deal with if they are taking an otherwise common insulator and "puffing it up" to look like something rare. Without exception, those individuals are not only not interested in your opinion, but know exactly what they are doing . . . trying to rip someone off.

The NIA does not have the resources to police every item that goes up for auction, nor should it. America is still a free country and the governing rule is clearly "Caveat Emptor," or "Buyer Beware." But the NIA does have the prestige of being a strong voice for ethical and fair dealing within the hobby. I have asked Elton Gish, our Ethics Chairman, to contact as many internet auction sites as he can. Elton is going to provide each site with information about the NIA. The goal here is to provide the internet auction sites with a resource. If someone has a complaint, and the auction site or the injured party would like assistance in resolving it, they have a place to go.

11. Probably one of the most controversial challenges that I have presented to the Board and Committee Chairpersons is a review of the CD, M, and U numbering systems. In my opinion, they can be quite confusing to a novice collector. In fact, I myself do not understand why, for example, there are all sorts of signal

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... 2001 National  
will be held in  
Atlanta,

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shapes (like HGCo., California, WGM, etc.), that all have been assigned CD#162, and yet there is the 162.1 and 162.3? Why isn't each shape then given its own point whatever? I'm not saying that the system is wrong (although it could be); I'm saying that I don't understand it, and I want to!

Yes, we as a hobby have adopted these systems. And yes, there is something to be said for the old adage "If it's not broke, don't fix it." So what am I concerned about? Well, new discoveries still occur. Prices are dramatically affected if something is assigned a new CD number. And what about the future? Twenty or thirty years from now, who should be assigning the CD, M and U numbers? Individuals or an organization? I'm willing to bet that the men and women that have dedicated untold hours of their lives to designing these systems want to see their work continue and to be enjoyed by thousands of enthusiastic collectors for years and years to come. Therefore, I am placing an enormous burden on John McDougald, our Research and Authentication Committee Chairman. I have asked John to start a dialogue with the designers of these systems and with people that he would consider to be experts in glass, foreign and porcelain. I am also calling on the NIA's Second Past President, Rick Baldwin. Rick will be so-

liciting your comments. This is your hobby. What would you like to see done? In the end, I am hoping that both men will be able to report back to the Board at our next annual meeting in July with some recommendations.

12. Dudley Ellis is our Treasurer. Dudley's task is the simplest to explain but perhaps one of the more difficult ones to execute. Dudley has been asked to balance our budget.

13. One of the most fascinating aspects to our hobby is the history. Rick Soller, our Historian, has been organizing the materials handed down through the ages. The Board is presenting Rick with a new task: Scan documents of significant interest to the hobby and place them on the NIA website. And, at the same time, interface with our Exploratory Museum Committee to give them an idea as to the volume and depth of the historical material that the NIA currently possesses.

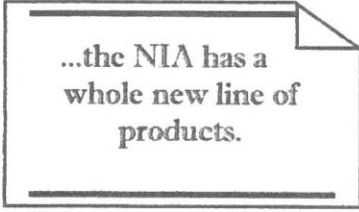
14. In case you haven't checked it out lately, the NIA has a whole new line of products. Gone are the 70's style colors and materials. Carolyn Berry (our Products and Marketing Chairperson) has done a wonderful job of updating our product line and bringing in items that you'd be proud to wear outside of

insulator shows. So my challenge to Carolyn is to get the word out. I've asked her to contact each and every local club and ask the editors of the club newsletters if they would include a one-page advertisement from the NIA.

15. Speaking of modernizing, I'm hoping that by next spring we will have a mechanism in place where you can vote online for NIA officials. Jack Roach is our new Nominations Chairman. I've asked Jack to get together with Bob Berry to create a ballot that is accessible over the NIA website. As Nominations Chairman, Jack not only has to go out and find people to fill upcoming vacancies, but he is in charge of running our elections. Armed with a list of current NIA members, Jack can receive e-mailed ballots and check them against the list to make sure that the member is permitted to vote (i.e. in the case of electing the Eastern Region Vice President, only members residing in states located in the eastern region are permitted to vote). This hopefully will encourage more people to vote, and they won't have to tear up their *Drip Points* or spend money

on a stamp.

16. Communication is of course a key aspect to any organization. Starting now, I have asked each of the Re-



...the NIA has a whole new line of products.

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**FROM THE EASTERN REGION**

**G**reetings All!

I hope you've all had a great summer so far. It's hard to believe that it's almost over.

I've had the privilege to attend a couple of excellent swap meets these past few months. Claude and Arlene Wambold hosted their annual get-together the second weekend in June in Perkiomenville, PA. Although attendance was down from past years, many pieces changed hands, and a good time was had by all.

I also drove down to Wattsburg, PA (near Erie) for the first summer swap meet co-hosted by the Western Reserve Insulator Club (WRIC) and the Great Lakes Insulator Association (GLASS) on June 24th. It was held at the home of the Steve Gorniak family, and you couldn't ask for a more picturesque place for a get together. A beautifully landscaped yard, LARGE pond, and a grove of mature trees made for a truly relaxing and enjoyable get-

together. Collectors from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Canada brought a variety of colorful glass and porcelain. A plentiful assortment of snacks, hot dogs, and beverages kept everybody fueled for the day.

Last but not least, I loaded up the family and the van for the two-day trek to the NIA convention in Bloomington, Minnesota. The excitement of the show was surpassed only by the traffic in driving past Chicago!

Seriously though, the show was well-attended, and there was a very good variety of all types of insulators and related items. Threadless, color, classic porcelain, lighting rod balls and LRI's, telephone signs, books and periodicals, the list goes on and on. I especially enjoyed meeting and chatting with collectors from across the country. I added several new pieces to my collection, including a monster M-4348 Fred Locke (thanks to Bill Rhode!)

Hats off to Ed and Connie

Peters and the rest of the North West Region Insulator Club for all their hard work and effort in putting on the show!

By the time you read this, I will have (hopefully) attended the Capital Region Antique Bottle and Insulator Club swap meet in North Blenheim, NY. If you've never attended, it's well worth the trip! I'm also

going to try to make the Yankee Polecats "On Golden Pond" swap meet at the home of Larry and Mary Jo Emmons in East Hampton, Connecticut. Hope to see some of you later this year, and don't forget the upcoming Eastern Regional show in Corning, New York. This is the first time a show has been held at the Corning Museum of Glass, and we're hoping this can build a good working relationship with the museum in the future. So, if you haven't made plans yet, please consider making the drive and attend the show!

Good Collecting!  
**Ken Willick, NIA # 3709**  
**Eastern Region Vice President**

... don't forget the ... show in Corning, New York.

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**FROM THE CENTRAL REGION**

**H**ello fellow insulator collectors,

I would like to start by saying thank you to the NIA mem-

bers in the Central Region for voting me in as the new Central Vice President. This is my first time as an elected official in the NIA, and I will do my best to further our hobby. I would like to hear from the Central Region

members, especially things that you would like to see the NIA do for the hobby.

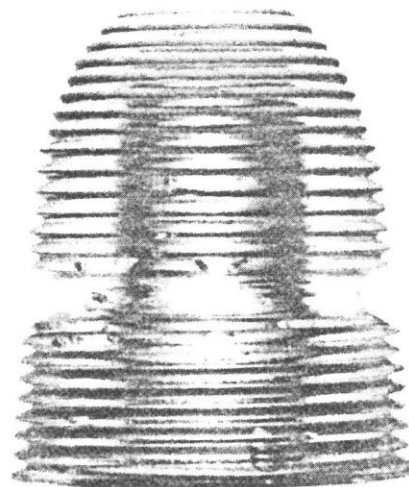
Serving as the Executive Director for the last year, and

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with the experience of hosting a National, I have a lot more insight than just a year ago. As the Executive Director one of my responsibilities was to help the VP's line up the National and Regional shows. I'm afraid to say that it is getting very difficult finding volunteers to host these events. One of the reasons is that the shows require a lot of time and effort, especially Nationals. Because of this I am working on a report to make recommendations to the Board on how the shows could be changed -- for example shortening the length of the shows or a number of other things. This is where I need your help. I would like to hear from you, I

want to hear your ideas. Give me a call; send me an e-mail let me know what you think. Another thing that I suspect inhibits people from volunteering to sponsor shows, is the complaining about some shows. Nobody wants to be a failure, so why take a chance. I can tell you this; nobody will ever be 100% happy 100% of the time. That's just human nature, so don't let it stop you or your club from sponsoring a show. Let's not forget what shows are about. I hope to hear from you soon. See you at the Washington Courthouse show.

**Ed Peters, NIA # 6300  
Central Region Vice President**



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**FROM THE WESTERN REGION**

**W**ell, as I start my second year as your representative on the NIA Board of Directors, I want to comment on how pleased I am with how things are going in the West! There have been lots of first-rate shows and gatherings this past year, and the ones I've been able to attend have been just great! I'm hopeful that this next year will equal or surpass the mark set last year. Further, I've met lots of new folks from the western region this past year and I'm impressed with their enthusiasm for the hobby. I still need input from you: What would you like me to do for you? What are the issues you'd like to see me take on? What

are the topics I need to bring before the Board? What are your ideas to make this fine hobby even better? Send your thoughts by letter, email – or you could even call me on the phone!

I still believe that one of the "great forces" in this hobby is the network of local clubs. These are the grass roots of the organization because they bring together people with like interests. This year I've seen plenty of activity from the many clubs in the West and this is gratifying. Remember, it's the clubs that sponsor the shows, and it's at the shows where you meet the people that are really behind insulator collecting, and it's at the shows where you find the really great insulator deals! (There's just nothing

like picking the pieces up and looking at them before you buy them!) So, the fact that we have doubled the number of local clubs in the last 15 years really does mean that the hobby is alive and well – and growing! While we didn't have an astounding growth rate for the NIA itself this past year, we have had a large influx of people into the hobby; for example, the large increase of folks on ICON has been dramatic. This year, along with the other board members, I'm going to try to convince many of these people why it's important to join the NIA.

Another thing that has impressed me is the increase I see of young people. I met some kids at the National last

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month that were positively pumped about collecting insulators! We need more young people: these are the folks who will carry the organization on into the future. So, it is incumbent on all of you to help spread the word to the young folks. Take the kids with you to the shows, on your insulator hunting excursions and to your local meetings. For you teachers out there, integrate the "insulator story" into your lesson plans. History lessons and science classes are ideal opportunities.

While on the topic of education...many of you have in-depth knowledge about some aspect of insulators. You've done considerable research over the years about a particular specialty. Share this knowledge. Publish it. Write a book (like some of you have already done), or at least write it up and submit it to the *Crown Jewels* or one of the insulator websites for publication. You could even send an article to *Drip Points*! When I think of all I have learned just from talking to some of you "old heads", I continue to be amazed. Share your wealth! By example, one of our Canadian westerners, Mark Lauckner, recently wrote a wonderful article for the *Crown Jewels* about how weird insulators are formed – bubbles, swirls, snow, "leaners" and more. This was just great! Did you all catch that? Thanks Mark!

I'm not going to talk about the just-past National Show in Bloomington, MN since you'll hear lots about it in other parts of this issue (and the next *Crown Jewels* as well), but I do want to mention that I had the opportunity to talk to many of you westerners in attendance, and I really enjoyed this. I think I learned something from everyone I spoke with!

Lynda and I always use the "National trip" to take advantage of a new area – often one we're not familiar with – and we visit people and places that are not usually on "the route". This was the case again in July. We visited old friends, many relatives, attended weddings, visited several collectors, and in general had a sterling time. The high point (besides the show!) was a seven-day canoe trip along the

... start thinking about your club hosting... the 2002 National...

Minnesota-Canada boundary in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area. This was just magnificent! Saw a huge amount of wildlife and caught some fine fish for our dinners. The downside was that I saw absolutely zero insulators! (Oh – and there were mosquitoes, too!) While driving from Hither to Yon, we also checked out a few miles of populated line here and there. We even penetrated Lee Brewer's territory over in northwest Pennsylvania and liberated a few jewels while he

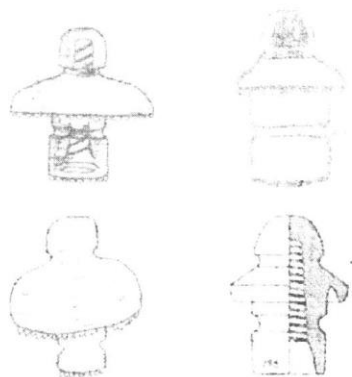
was away traveling! Now I see why you easterners don't go insulator hunting in the summertime! Wow, I have never seen such a jungle of poison ivy, ticks, chiggers, snakes, wasps and mosquitoes – not to mention that it was incredibly hot and humid! I think I like it better here... where you can see the poles – and actually get to the bases of them!

Let me turn my attention back to the upcoming western shows for a moment. First, we are in the process of approving a bid for the 2001 Western Regional! We didn't have all the details ironed out when the board met during the National, but I'm hopeful that by the time you read this, we'll have a first-class regional lined up for you. More details in the next issue.

In the meantime, we have some nearer term events on the calendar. Time to start planning for them. September has three shows on the agenda. On Saturday, Sept. 9th, you can attend the Third Annual Central Washington "End of the Road" Insulator and Bottle Swap Meet & potluck at Dan and Jan Spanton's place in Yakima, WA. Call Dan Spanton, (509) 965-9301 (evenings) for details. On the weekend of Sep. 16-17, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Antiques and Collectibles, Insulators and Bottles Sale and Swap will take place at the Chute Lake Resort in Naramata, B.C. For information, write to Gary Reed, 797 Alexander Ave., Pentic-



Lane's Insulators that are Worth Collecting (1968), and the last from the McDougald's price guide (1999). It makes you wonder if they were looking at the same insulator.



Current day collectors would probably be stunned by the prices. Marcy lists green

E.C.& M.'s at \$15 while Lane lists aqua ones in the \$5-10 range. 800 Insulators, listed green Mickey Mouse CD 257s for 50 cents to a dollar. On the other hand, a chocolate porcelain Findlay 182 was listed as rare by Lane, an aqua California CD 102 was priced at \$25-30 by 800 Insulators, and the Maydwell #20 CD 164 in milk glass was listed at \$25 by Marcy.

Of course some information is incorrect, and the "experts" are still trying to correct it in the minds of many non-collectors and new collectors. For example, Lane writes about getting offers of \$35 for red insulators while the

book 800 Insulators describes what seem to be San Francisco wood insulators as being made of White Oak and White Cedar.

The hobby has come a long way since the late 1960's. Thanks to all those who donated material to the archives so that we could see just how far we've come. Most recently, Jimmy Burns' donation of Ed Lane's publication provided the inspiration for this report.

**Rick Soller, NIA# 2958  
Historian**

**FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR**

The annual NIA meeting held in Bloomington, Minnesota was a wonderful event. At the business meeting, Dudley Ellis, NIA Nominations Chairman, announced the outcome of the election for NIA Central Region Vice President for the 2000-2003 term. The result of the balloting was as follows:

Ed Peters - 35 votes for

56.5% of the return  
Jimmy Burns - 27 votes for  
43.5% of the return

NIA Central Region Vice President Ballots mailed -198  
NIA Central Region Vice President Ballots Returned = 62 for a 31% return

Congratulations to Ed!

In the upcoming elections, it is planned that voting will also be available at the NIA Home Page in lieu of the traditional ballots for those who

might choose to cast their ballot electronically. Maybe we will call this method "eballoting". More details to follow in future issues of Drip Points.

I know everyone, myself included, wish to thank Dudley for his past efforts as the Nominations Chairman and for his continued service as Treasurer of NIA.

**Jack Roach, NIA #4156  
Nominations Chairman**

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**BUYER BEWARE**

With more and more people buying insulators on eBay and other internet auction sites, it may be time to revisit a few suggestions presented in *Drip Points* over a year

ago. Many people are selling insulators on eBay so here are a few tips that I am familiar with specific to eBay. This is not a recommendation of eBay. I simply offer these suggestions to help you avoid a rare, yet possible, bad experience.

1) Do you know the seller? Are they known in the insulator hobby? Check the seller's "feedback" rating and view the seller's "feedback" that was left by people who have

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dealt with the seller in the recent past. If the seller has no "feedback" or he has one or more negative feedback comments, check with knowledgeable collectors or send a message to the ICON mailing list asking if anyone knows this person. You may also wish to send email to people who left the seller "feedback" to check further.

2) Is the insulator described well? Do they adequately state the color and the details on the embossing, condition, etc. so you know exactly what you are about to bid on? If not, ask the seller for clarification BEFORE you bid! He should respond quickly and answer all your questions to your satisfaction.

3) Is a picture available? Does it look realistic? Colors can get very distorted from digital cameras and from computer monitors. Don't always believe what you see in the photo as the real color. Ask the seller if you have any doubt! Sometimes the seller will have other photographs, or he will be willing to take another one for you. If the seller did not post a picture, ask him to send you one. If he did not post a picture in the auction and/or cannot send you a photograph, it may be a good idea to avoid the auction.

4) Remember that offering an item for sale on eBay is a binding legal action to sell and that being the high bidder on an item is a binding legal action for you to carry through

with your purchase. See the eBay rules and terms for more details.

5) If you do not know the seller, cannot find others who know him, and/or he doesn't have adequate favorable "feedback" comments, you may want to avoid sending him a large sum of money. Consider using eBay's Safe-Harbor Escrow Services. Information about Escrow Services can be found at: <http://pages.ebay.com/help/community/escrow.html>. This service will ensure the safety of your money and the honesty of the transaction (guarantees the seller has the item). Frequent sellers and buyers on eBay will use a payment service such as PayPal or BillPoint which accepts credit card payments.

6) If you have entered into a transaction where the buyer or seller doesn't "follow up" as expected, make several attempts to contact them via email. If your attempts fail, it is possible the person is out of town or may have severe problems with his computer. I have seen this a couple of times, and it has even happened to me. You can also obtain the seller's address and phone number at Registered User Information Request Form: <http://cgi3.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?UserInformationRequest>.

7) Finally, if you have a dispute with a seller or buyer, eBay offers a Dispute Resolution service at:

<http://pages.ebay.com/services/buyandsell/disputeres.html>. It's free to file a complaint. SquareTrade will contact and encourage the other party to respond to your case. You can then try and settle your dispute through SquareTrade's free Web-based process and patent-pending technology. A significant number of complaints are directly resolved in this way. If necessary, a third party mediator will help resolve the dispute for a fee of \$15.

Another important tip -- if someone contacts you **first** and offers to sell or trade an insulator, you are not obligated to send payment without first seeing the insulator he is offering. This is especially true if you do not know the person. In this case, you should expect the seller to send you the insulator first. It is always best, too, in these cases to ask other collectors if they know this person. The best advice when purchasing insulators from someone you do not know is "Buyer Beware". Our hobby of insulator collectors is small and many people know each other from trading or face-to-face meetings at various shows. Ask your collecting buddy about the person you do not know. If he doesn't know them, he will have a circle of collector friends he can ask. Know who you are dealing with!

Happy Collecting!!  
Elton Gish, NIA# 41  
Ethics Chairman



lator hobby. We are not ruling out any alternatives at this time, but the consensus of the group (and others) is that the more judicious approach would be to consider a joint venture(or ventures) with an existing museum(s) featuring telephone, telegraph, power, communications (or some combination of these themes) rather than building (or buying) a stand alone unit. This approach also guarantees far more visitors than we could ever get on our own.

Some of us have also put together trial balloons of what we might want/need in situations of both a shared facility or (a couple of different sized) independent units. From these trial balloons, all devised from a different approach, a composite was made and a couple of sample layouts have been developed. Do we think that the final result will look like our prototypes? Not really, but we felt we needed something in hard copy that we could tweak and throw stones at that would stimulate us a bit.

Where are we going next?

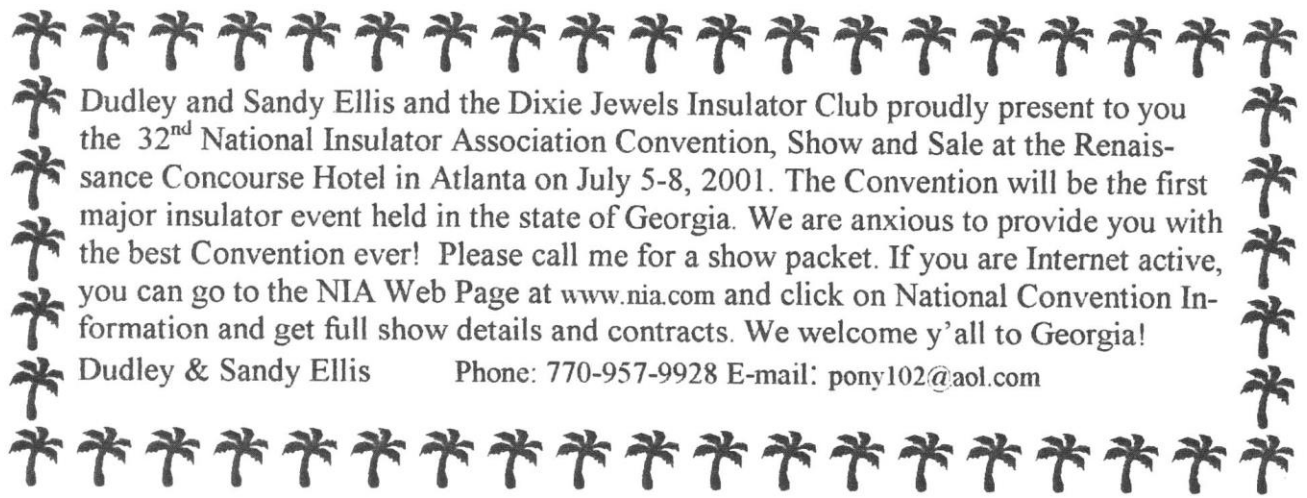
First, we need to refine our definition of what our museum's displays would include and what our activities should/could be. Next we need to get into more detail on finances, i.e. what do we think we might need for start up expenses, annual operating expenses, and, of course, where the money will come from. With more work in these two areas we will be better positioned to respond to opportunities we uncover or opportunities which may fall into our laps. We also have some major museums we would like to approach in earnest when we are ready and see what comes of it.

Do we see the light at the end of the tunnel? I'm not sure we know where the tunnel is yet, but I do believe we will know it when we see it. It is important to understand that the concept of a museum is not a 'done deal' by any means. We must prove that it is both doable and sustainable. As a group we are determined to avoid a failure and, therefore, are proceeding at a very cautious rate.

What do we need from you as NIA members? Right now we really would appreciate suggestions on related existing museums that we should be investigating. They may be on our list already, but we really have no way of knowing if they aren't! So please feel free to contact myself or any committee member in this regard.

Last, but not least, just to dispel the misunderstanding that emerged after my last *Drip Points* article: We have spent ZERO NIA money so far in our activities. The cost of all activities has gladly been absorbed by the members of the committee and others we have asked to look at some museums for us. We are also taking the approach that funding, stocking, and operation of the museum would essentially be independent of NIA funds. We welcome any help you might give us and want to hear any constructive suggestions or thoughts you may have. We may not do it, but we'll listen!!

**Dick Bowman, NIA# 597  
Museum Exploratory  
Committee Chairman**


 Dudley and Sandy Ellis and the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club proudly present to you the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Insulator Association Convention, Show and Sale at the Renaissance Concourse Hotel in Atlanta on July 5-8, 2001. The Convention will be the first major insulator event held in the state of Georgia. We are anxious to provide you with the best Convention ever! Please call me for a show packet. If you are Internet active, you can go to the NIA Web Page at [www.nia.com](http://www.nia.com) and click on National Convention Information and get full show details and contracts. We welcome y'all to Georgia!  
 Dudley & Sandy Ellis      Phone: 770-957-9928 E-mail: [pony102@aol.com](mailto:pony102@aol.com)

**PRODUCT MARKETING**

The NIA logo'd products sold EXCEPTIONALLY well at the Minnesota National. Our newest items are proving to be quite popular. Our most recent addition to the product line is the two-toned khaki/ navy embroidered, low-rise cotton cap with adjustable self-fabric band. This debuted at the National and was well received.

I would like to encourage any NIA member without a badge to order one before your next attended show. Badges are an excellent way to connect with other collectors! Get your wish-list or order form pre-filled out for the holidays..... family members are always looking for ideas!! I will need all orders by December 10<sup>th</sup> to ensure Christmas

receipt. Clothing sizes not represented on the order form are available; just give me a call or send an email.

New product line ideas are always welcome!! Thanks for supporting the NIA through your purchases.....

In Support of our Hobby,  
I **Carolyn Berry, NIA# 4336**  
**Product Marketing**

### Awards and Recognition Committee Report

#### Awards Presented at the 31st Annual NIA Banquet

Dr. Frederick L. Griffin Memorial Award Best Use of Threadless  
DOUG MACGILLVARY - Porcelain Threadless Insulators

#### "Best" Category Awards

Color - BOB STAHR- Shades of Amber: Hemingray Jewels  
Foreign - MARILYN ALBERS- Insulators from Russia and the Ukraine  
General - RUSS FRANK - Cleaning Glass Insulators  
Go-Withs - DAVID DAHLE - Watthour Meters  
Porcelain - RICK SOLLER - How to Identify Pittsburgh Insulators  
Speciality - DAVE FRENCH - CD 152: The King of CDs and the CD of Kings  
Junior - CURTIS ERICKSON - Why I collect Insulators

Milholland Educational Award - DAVID DAHLE - Watthour Meters

Len Linscott Insulator Pioneer Award - MARILYN ALBERS

Bob & Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award - LARRY FURO

Crown Jewels of the Wire Award -MIKE GUTHRIE'S article  
*Fake and Altered Insulators, February 2000*

Best Exhibit Using Eastern Insulators -DOUG MACGILLARY  
Porcelain Threadless Insulators

Best First Time Display at a National - CURTIS ERICKSON  
Why I Collect Insulators

Best Exhibit Using Southern California Insulators - DEAN LOMMEN

Best Exhibit Using CDs - CURTIS ERICKSON - Why I Collect Insulators

Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators - RICK SOLLER  
How to Identify Pittsburgh Insulators

N.R. Woodward Literary Award for Author of Best Research Article  
*Lehigh Days Memories of a Railroad Lineman* by John H. Buckholz  
in *Crown Jewels*, February and April, 1999

Lon C. Holly Memorial Award - JOHN HOVANEC,  
President of the Western Reserve Insulator Club

Jack Tod Memorial Award - DOUG MACGILLVARY - Threadless Porcelain Insulators

Sterling Finch Memorial Award for Dedication to the Hobby

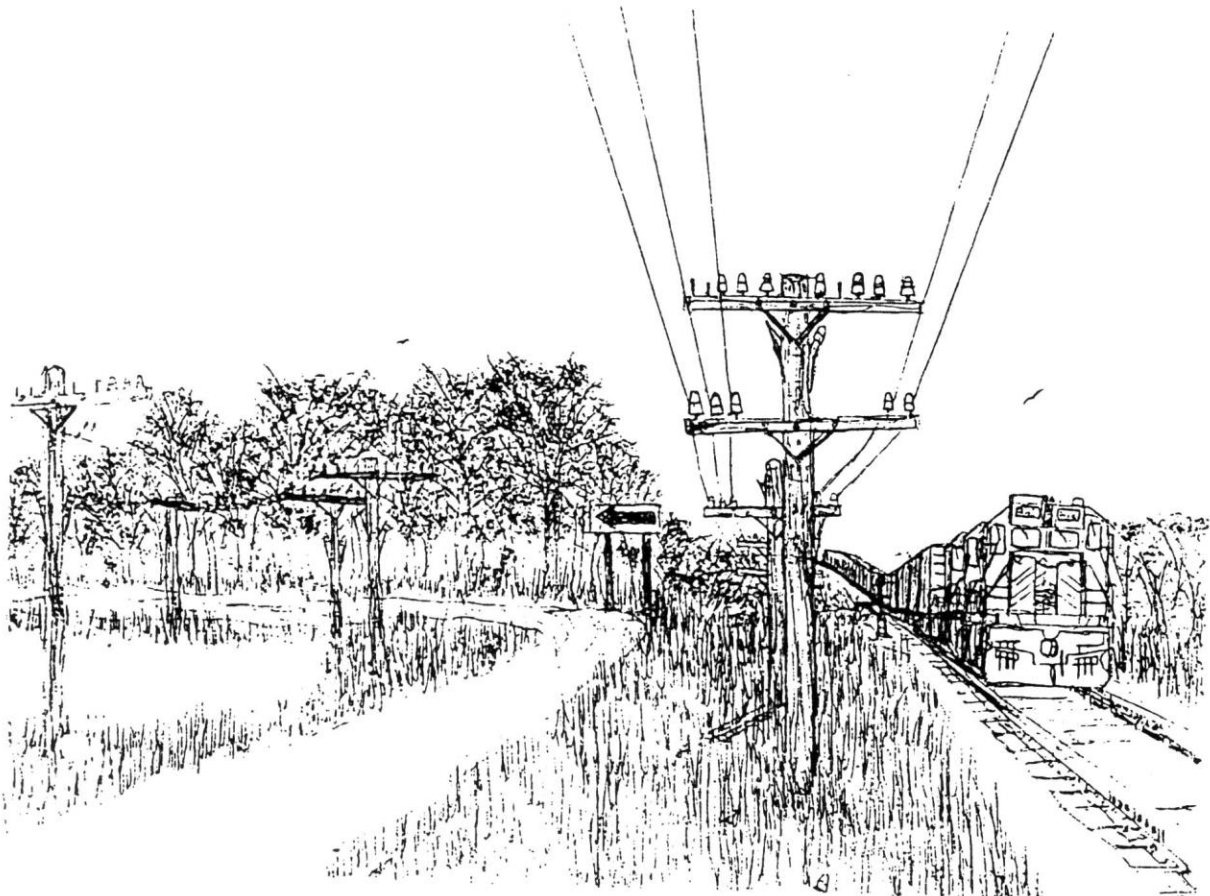
This award was first given in 1986 and it presents a set of the McDougald books, *INSULATORS: A HISTORY AND GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN GLASS PINTYPE INSULATORS* to the local public library in the name of the Show hosts. This year the Foxboro Branch of the Bloomington Public Library received the set of books and the certificate went to Ed and Connie Peters

National Show Hosts Plaque - Ed and Connie Peters; David French;  
Terry Kornberg; Rick Soller

P.S.

You might have noticed the new name for the Shows Standards Committee. There was some confusion as to what "show standards" actually was. Awards and Recognition seemed like a better way to describe the functions of our committee. IF you are having a show the place to get those NIA Award Ribbons.....Just ask.

**Sandy Ellison, NIA# 6165**  
**Awards & Recognition Chairperson**







**FY 2000 FINANCIAL REPORT  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
6/30/00**

<b>Beginning Balance-General Fund</b>	<b>7/1/99</b>	<b>9180.34</b>
<b>Education &amp; Promotion Account Beginning Balance</b>		<b>1103.92</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Beginning Balance</b>		<b>1196.75</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Revenues</b>		
Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	8827.00	
Miscellaneous Income	959.00	
Product Sales	1299.60	
	<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>11085.60</b>
<hr/>		
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>		
Advertising	360.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	55.00	
Marketing Products	464.92	
Misc. Postage	1553.51	
Misc. Printing	1140.62	
Misc. Supplies	1143.22	
Misc. Professional Services	771.81	
Crown Jewels Rebates	189.00	
Drip Points Printing	2983.33	
Drip Points Postage	1140.26	
Show Advertising Subsidy	229.22	
Show Awards	145.13	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	22.90	
Special Projects	3355.41	
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>13554.33</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Closing Balance, General Fund:</b>		<b>6711.61</b>
<b>Education/Promotion Expenditures</b>	523.96	
<b>Education/Promotion Fund Final Balance</b>		<b>579.96</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures</b>	0	
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Balance</b>		<b>1196.75</b>
		<hr/>
<b>Total Balance on Hand</b>		<b>8488.32</b>

# 2000-2001 NIA Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[dickbow@aol.com](mailto:dickbow@aol.com)



Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336  
 Product Marketing Committee  
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 Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741  
 (512) 255-2006  
 pyrex553@aol.com

**NIA LOGO  
 Products  
 ORDER FORM**



**Golf Shirt** -- pique, white cotton - 3 button tab - embroidered logo  
 M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ ( \$27.00) 2X \_\_\_ (\$29.00)  
 \*for custom pocketed shirt or special size add \$3.00

Price	Qty	Total
\$27 / \$29	_____	_____
*\$3.00	_____	_____



**Denim Shirt** -- Long-sleeve- Med. wt. / pre-shrunk cotton.-  
 Lt.indigo blue - Left buttoned pocket  
 Embroidered logo M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_  
 2X \_\_\_

\$32.00	_____	_____
\$35.00	_____	_____



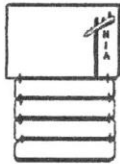
**T-Shirt** -- Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo  
 S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ (blue) 2X \_\_\_ (\$12)  
 L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ (Ash Gray) \$15.00  
 2X \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_ (Ash Gray) \$16.00

\$10.00	_____	_____
\$15.00	_____	_____
\$16.00	_____	_____



**Sweatshirt** -- Ash Gray - Heavyweight - Screen-printed logo  
 S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ (\$16.00) L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ (\$20.00) 2X \_\_\_ (\$22.00)

\$16.00	_____	_____
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**\*\*NEW\*\* Cap** -- Khaki/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00  
**Cap** -- Lt. gray w/ screen-printed logo \$10.00  
**Mug** -- white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00  
**Patch** -- light blue w/ screen-printed logo \$4.00

\$16.00	_____	_____
\$10.00	_____	_____
\$7.00	_____	_____
\$4.00	_____	_____

**Koozie** -- Foam beverage holder w/ silver NIA logo :  
 royal blue \_\_\_ red \_\_\_ green \_\_\_ \$3.00

\$3.00	_____	_____
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**Decal** -- light blue w/ logo \$1.00

\$1.00	_____	_____
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**Name Badge** -- white badge w/ engraved blue letters, green and brown screen-printed logo \$11.00

\$11.00	_____	_____
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**Badge Bar** -- white w/ engraved blue letters \$4.00

\$4.00	_____	_____
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Chest Size Chart.

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

Shipping charge for Shirts, Caps & Mugs is \$3.20 for the first item & \$1.10 for each additional. Koozies are only \$1.00 each, if ordered individually. No shipping charge for Patches, Decals or Name Badges/Bars!

**Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Shipping** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please make check or money order in  
 U.S. funds payable to:  
 National Insulator Association or NIA

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name Badge Customization Information (must be a current NIA member!)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Use the back of this order form for additional badge/bar orders