

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

<http://www.nia.org>

VOLUME 28 * NUMBER 3 * SPRING 2001

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A quarter of a year sure goes by fast! I hope that all of you have been able to realize an exciting time in adding to your collection over the last few months.

One of the highlights for me this winter was our visit with Mike Csorbay and Debbie Kinloch near Hamilton, Ontario. This was our first time to visit collectors outside

of the USA, and we had a wonderful time of "show and tell." We were also pleased to come home with their NIA membership application filled out. (They had asked us to bring one along.)

I was surprised at how many of you thought the Swap Shop idea was a good one, yet I received relatively few items to be included on the page. I am willing to give it one more try. This time I will open

the submissions to email. However, I ask you strictly follow the guidelines found in "The Swap Shop."

There is one other item I would like to address. There are a lot of people out there concerned about the rising prices that collectors are willing to pay for pieces (hence price increases). I have discovered an effective way to combat

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Quite an exciting time as well as a never ending stream of well wishing relatives the month after! Dad is also coming to grips with the long term effects of sleep deprivation (he's an unwilling participant of a cruel experiment that his son is intent on carrying out). Kevin Lawless tells me that in the 32 year history of the NIA, that this is the first baby born to an officer of the NIA while he/she was in office! And, yes, I will confirm the rumors that under my hospital scrubs, in the delivery room, I was wearing my NIA sweatshirt! I have the picture the anesthesiologist took to prove it!

Over the past two months I have been in contact with each of the Board Members and Committee Chairpersons and am pleased to report that we are making significant progress toward achieving each of the goals that were set last summer. Here's a brief summary of my more significant discussions:

1. I have been working with By-Laws Chairman Bill Rohde on an effort to finalize and print up a new

batch of NIA Handbooks. We are hoping to complete this project within the next month.

2. I have been in contact with the Regional VPs (Tom Katonak, Ed Peters and Ken Willick) on the topic of providing better communication between the NIA Board and the Regional and National Show Hosts.

3. Membership Director Joe Beres and I had a discussion regarding the status of membership renewals which was subsequently brought to the Board's attention.

4. Past President Kevin Lawless and Awards and Recognition Chairperson Sandy Ellison and I have had a discussion regarding the development of awards for past hosts of NIA National Shows.

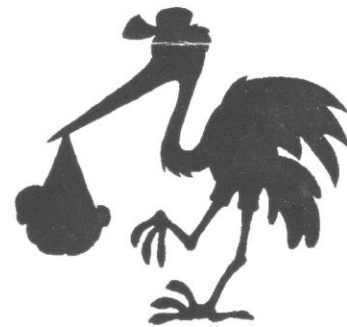
5. At my request Bob Stahr, our Executive Secretary, has commenced the process for evaluating bids for the 2002 National.

6. Nominations Chairperson Jack Roach and Promotion and Education Chairperson Bob Berry have been working toward the creation

of on-line voting in NIA elections. Bob has also made some great changes to our website. We are also hoping to implement a process for on-line membership renewals.

Melanie, Samuel and I have made our reservations for the National in Atlanta, and I would encourage you to do the same immediately if you have not done so already. This is going to be a fantastic show that you won't want to miss! The same goes for the two Regionals which are also shaping-up to be impressive this year. Best of luck to you on your Spring insulator hunts!

Steve Marks, NIA# 4951
NIA President



Congratulations to Steve and Melanie!!!

Welcome Samuel Marks -- the youngest member of the NIA!!!

Executive Secretary Report

It's time for the shows to start up again. In fact, just yesterday I attended our club swap meet at John & Carol McDougald's house. The calendar looks pretty busy this year. But before we get too far along, the NIA Board has to look ahead to next year already. We currently have a solid bid for the National with anticipation of another bid by the time the Board votes in April. As for the 2002 Re-

gionals, we are still soliciting bids for the Eastern & Central. Please contact your Regional VP if you are interested in submitting a bid.

The NIA Board does not have any pending legislation or Bylaws changes since the last report I submitted. We are currently looking at reprinting the revised NIA Handbook, so if you have any issues you would like to see changed, let us know before printing.

I should be showing up at a number of shows this year including the Collectors Jubilee at Wheaton, IL; the NIA National in Atlanta, GA; the Huron Valley show in Ann Arbor, MI; the NIA Central Regional in Sandusky, OH; and the Mid Ohio show in Washington Courthouse, OH, as well as a few bottle shows & swap meets. I'll see you soon!

Bob Stahr, NIA# 4186
NIA Executive Secretary

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#5. A History of the Electrical Porcelain Industry in the United States by Jack Tod. Jack was very thorough in his research and this is the best illustration of that. There were hundreds of companies making electrical porcelain and when I come across some unusual piece with any kind of marking, this is the book I read to find out something about what I have.

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958
Historian

From the Nominations Chair

Greetings from the warm Texas Hill Country. The February 1 date for indicating the desire to run for the Eastern Region Vice President has come and gone with only one applicant. Therefore, we will not be able to test out all those punched card election machines that we picked up in Florida out of a trash heap. Well maybe next year.

Seriously, thanks to Bob Berry, we do have on line voting ready for the next election. This function will reside on the NIA Home Page.

Jack Roach, NIA# 4156
Nominations Chairman

The Swap Shop

W: CD 104 1871 PAT.
T: Olive Hem. No. 19 SDP
C: Jack Snyder, NIA# 241

W:CD121 A007/Calif., smoke
W:CD121 A007/Calif., steel blue
T: CD121 WGM Co royal purple
T: CD121 Canada - royal purple
C: Colin Jung, NIA# 7055

T-CD 128 Opal
T-CD251 NEG
W-CD 190/191 <> Royal Purple
W-CD 190/191 <> Lt Purple
C: Larry Rogers, NIA# 7177

W: Sixth National Convention,
San Diego, July 11-13, 1975,
Red Amberina-Carnival
C: Clinton Arsenault, NIA#6313

W: Third National Meet, Kansas City, MO, July 1-2, 1972 "Gibson" on dome, Cobalt blue carnival
C: Shelli Arsenault, NIA# 6319

W:CD143G.N.W.any purple
T: All sorts of possibilities
C: Karry Lavendoski, NIA#1431

W: 162.1 Brookfield, olive amber
C: Lee Brewer, NIA# 6695

"W:" means 'wanted'
"T:" means an insulator you have up for trade - not necessarily for your wanted piece - this is just an extra piece you have to offer anyone who wants to trade.
"C:" stands for "Contact" and is to be the name and NIA number of the person who submitted this entry.

Please note the following stipulations:

1. The definition of "entry" is when you mail me a list of either 0, 1, or 2 items for the W: category and/or 0, 1, or 2 items in the T: category.
2. Anyone wishing to participate must be an NIA member in good standing.
3. No money is to be mentioned! If the trading partners wish to have a monetary business dealing, then they can do this personally with anyone who contacts them privately.
4. Entrants realize *Drip Points* is just the medium for making a contact and therefore assume full responsibility for the outcome of any/all exchanges they participate in. The NIA can in no way be held responsible for adverse situations which might arise from the use of the NIA SWAPSHOP
5. Entries are to be in on the 10th of the month before the next scheduled Drip Points is to be mailed (February 10, May 10, August 10, November 10).
6. One entry (see #1) per issue please.
7. Entries may be sent via e-mail or snail mail.

CENTRAL REGION SHOW UPDATE

The Western Reserve Insulator Club cordially Invites you to The National Insulator Association 2001 Central Regional Show and Sale in Sandusky, Ohio September 8 & 9, 2001

We have negotiated a block of

rooms at the Holiday Inn of Sandusky, and special rates are available to all those that make reservations for the show. Best of all, the special rates are in place from the Tuesday prior to the show through Sunday, September 9. The special NIA Show rate is \$89.00 plus tax per room per night for single, double, triple, or quad occupancy. Please call the Holi-

day Inn of Sandusky: (419)626-6671, or 1(800)HOLIDAY to reserve with a major credit card. To receive the special group rate make your reservations prior to August 14 and specify that you are calling to reserve your rooms for the NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION 2001 CENTRAL REGIONAL.

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The award banquet will feature a 'buffet style' dinner. Cost is \$24 per person in advance, and \$10 for children between 3 and 6 years of age.

Show Hours: Saturday, 9:00AM to 4:00 PM with banquet at 7:00 PM
Sunday, 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Make sure to check out the June issue of Drip Points for more details especially concerning other places to visit near Sandusky.

The show is being sponsored by the Western Reserve Insulator Club with your show hosts being the officers of the club: John Hovanec, Scott Stacek, and Ron Barth. Information pertaining to

Dealer Table, Exhibitor Table, and Banquet Reservations are found in the Show Packet. To request a Show Packet, please contact me.

John Hovanec, NIA# 6552
Western Reserve Insulator Club,
P.O. 33661, North Roylston, OH
44133. (440) 237-2242
Email: dj4fun@now-online.com or
wric@clubs.insulators.com

NIA NIA

WESTERN REGION SHOW UPDATE

In October 1999, the Jefferson State Insulator Club was formed in Medford, Oregon. It's hard to believe that just one year later JSIC would find itself hosting the western regional show! In that same year, club membership blossomed from 10 charter members to 37 enthusiastic collectors. Shortly after JSIC's inception, we were saddened to learn that Vi Brown would retire after many years of hosting the annual insulator show in Enumclaw, Washington. The Enumclaw show was the premier insulator event in the northwest. Collectors looked forward to it all year. While lamenting this loss at Howard Bank's 1999 southern Oregon summer swap, we did the unthinkable...we decided to submit a bid to host the NIA 2001 Western Regional, and fill the void left after Vi's well deserved and praiseworthy retirement.

Since that fateful day, a core group of JSIC club members have conspired to put together a Western Regional to be proud of. After carefully scouting the area, JSIC chose the Medford National Guard Armory for the event. This facility is tailor made for an insulator show. The huge auditorium will easily house 100 sales tables,

plus many displays. A sunny, west-facing window spans an entire wall of the building. The interior is all white...and the glass will shine! There is ample RV parking, restaurants, and two top-notch hotels all within a few hundred feet of the sales floor.

There are few finer landscapes than Southern Oregon in June. Crater Lake National Park, the California Redwoods, the Oregon coast, high desert, Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains are all within a few hours from the show. Medford is easily accessible by car via Interstate 5. Major airlines also serve the Medford International Airport, only five miles from the show. Suffice to say that we are proud and honored to host our first major show in such a beautiful part of the world.

Extensive preparation is going into this show. In the tradition of Enumclaw, insulator go-withs, antique bottles, railroadiana, antique telephones, and other table-top collectibles will be welcome. We hope to make this a successful show that may become an annual event with broad appeal. We will be advertising locally, encouraging the local natives to drag insulators out of their sheds, barns, and garages for appraisal a la "Antiques Road Show." Dealers will have an opportunity to buy any "sleeper

glass" that walks in the door. We also plan a fine raffle that will include two "instant collections" of California and McLaughlin insulators, an EC&M insulator, books, and more! Who knows what additional items we'll come up with between now and June?

Much credit is due to Bill Ostrander, the JSIC webmaster. To ensure that the 2001 Western Regional is a success, Bill has crafted a cutting edge website. Folks can download a customized show packet, plan a southern Oregon vacation, make hotel reservations (dealer discounts have been arranged), and even pick out a specific sales table from our online sales floor map!

For those who are not online, we have a toll-free number to call for a show packet. The Jefferson State Insulator Club is proud to host the 2001 Western Regional. We hope to see you there!

Official JSIC 2001 Western Regional Website: <http://www.insulators.com/clubs/jsic/wr/>

Toll-free number to request a show packet: 1-800-652-8475 access code "zero-zero"
... or write for a show packet:
Howard Banks, 1560 Hugo Rd.,
Merlin OR 97532

**Dudley and Sandy Ellis and the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club
Host for your 32nd NIA Convention Show and Sale**

We are moving right along with the planning of your NIA Convention for 2001, scheduled for July 5-8, 2001, at the Renaissance Concourse Hotel at the Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport. Teams have been formed to plan the various activities of the show to provide you a well-organized event.

We have sold 104 sales tables. Doug Williams reports that he has contracts on 13 displays with more promised.

Glenn Drummond has developed a seminar on the Hemingray Dump using several speakers, videos, and slides.

Jacque Linscott has started developing the Show Directory.

Business card ads are \$10, half-page ads are \$30, full page \$50, and two pages for \$80.

Get your ads and money in today.

Scott Pahl is busy collecting raffle items. If you would like to donate your club's annual membership, a patch, a book, insulators, or other related items to the raffle, **please contact Scott at 910-842-9194.** We need your support. One of the top prizes will be a 40"x 40" insulator wall quilt.

The Hotel advises that we have a little over 100 room nights sold for the Convention so far. **Don't delay!** Reservations can be made by calling the hotel's national number 1-888-391-8724 or the local number at 1-404-209-9999. Remember that they have free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. Also see www.renaissancehotels.com on the Net.

The banquet will feature a southern hickory smoked pork loin with salad and vegetables, capped off with southern pecan pie. Yum! Yum! **Please go ahead and get your money into me for the banquet.** The cost is \$26 for adults and \$13 for children 10 years old and younger. Special dietary needs will be met.

Delta will be the show airline. I will post the information on the NIA Web page and in the *Crown Jewels of the Wire* as soon as it is available. I am working with Avis for special rates also.

The Atlanta Braves will be in town on Thursday night, July 5, 2001. Decent seats cost close to \$31. I am trying to get up a group of insulator folks to go to the game. **Let me know quickly if you want me to get you tickets with the group.**

The Advertising Team is busy putting together advertisement packets to send to the antique newspapers. They also are developing a special campaign to get insulators out of the farmer's barns and to the show.

For more information or a show packet contact Dudley Ellis by mail at 131 Plantation Way, Stockbridge, Georgia 30281; by phone at 770-957-9928; or by e-mail at pony102@aol.com.

Y'all come join the fun in Atlanta!!

ICON

Insulator Collectors on the Net

It has been awhile since I have written here about ICON, so I decided it was time for an update! But, I felt a history lesson would be interesting too...

What is ICON?

ICON stands for Insulator Collectors On the Net, and is a registry of over 1100 member families that have an interest in insulators and have Internet access. Nearly 1000 of these people also get the daily "ICON email" – a newsletter of sorts. ICON is also associated with the web site www.insulators.com.

What ICON is NOT:

ICON is not associated with the NIA or Crown Jewels of the Wire. It is an independent entity run and privately financed by Bill and Jill Meier with contributions from ICON members.

The History of ICON:

ICON first evolved from a few collectors who had email access in the 1994 time frame. Past *Drip Points* editor Tom Katonak reported in late 1993 and early 1994 that he had received some email submissions of DP articles. In early 1994 Keith Roloson began maintaining a central list of email addresses of collectors. Near the end of 1994, Keith reported his list had 14 members. By March 1995, the list had 40 names and managing it by hand was getting to be a chore.

In March 1995, Don Lundell, another collector with computer access, offered to take over the mailing list and put it on an automated mailing list server. This was a big breakthrough because it meant

collectors could send to one address insulators@resilience.com and have their message broadcast to all other collectors on the list. By November 1995, the list contained 100 members.

We never had a good name for the mailing list; it was just referred to as the "insulators mailing list." So in September 1995, we had a "name the list" contest, and after some furious brainstorming, the name ICON (Insulator Collectors On the Net) was chosen. Bob Stahr submitted the winning name.

In August 1996, the mailing list address was changed to insulators@lists.best.com, and the number of subscribers grew rapidly.

In February 2000, it was recognized that some people wanted to be registered on ICON, but not be on the mailing list so this was made an option. However, over 90% of the members still stayed on the mailing list.

Finally, in March 2000, the address of the mailing list became icon@insulators.com, truly reflecting the nature of the mailing list!

In May 2000, an historic milestone was reached. The ICON mailing list topped 1000 member families, significantly exceeding the number of NIA member families. ICON was here to stay and to become a significant force in the insulator hobby!

The Insulators Web Site:

Another technology that was evolving as more collectors had Internet email access was the infamous "World Wide Web" (WWW). The WWW allowed placement of text and photographs on various

computers around the world and allowed for anyone with a Web Browser to access this information.

In April 1995, Don Lundell started a basic web page about insulators at www.resilience.com/insulators -- this was the "birth" of the insulators web site. At this time, I got very excited about this new technology and took over as "Webmaster" in May 1995.

Interest in this web site was building so I knew it was appropriate that the web site have its own domain name. In January 1996, the domain insulators.com was born, and the insulators web site was permanently moved to www.insulators.com.

To this day, www.insulators.com remains the largest, most complete web site about glass and porcelain insulators on the Web. Dozens of smaller sites highlighting other people's personal collections and insulator experiences have also sprung up.

Related Web Sites:

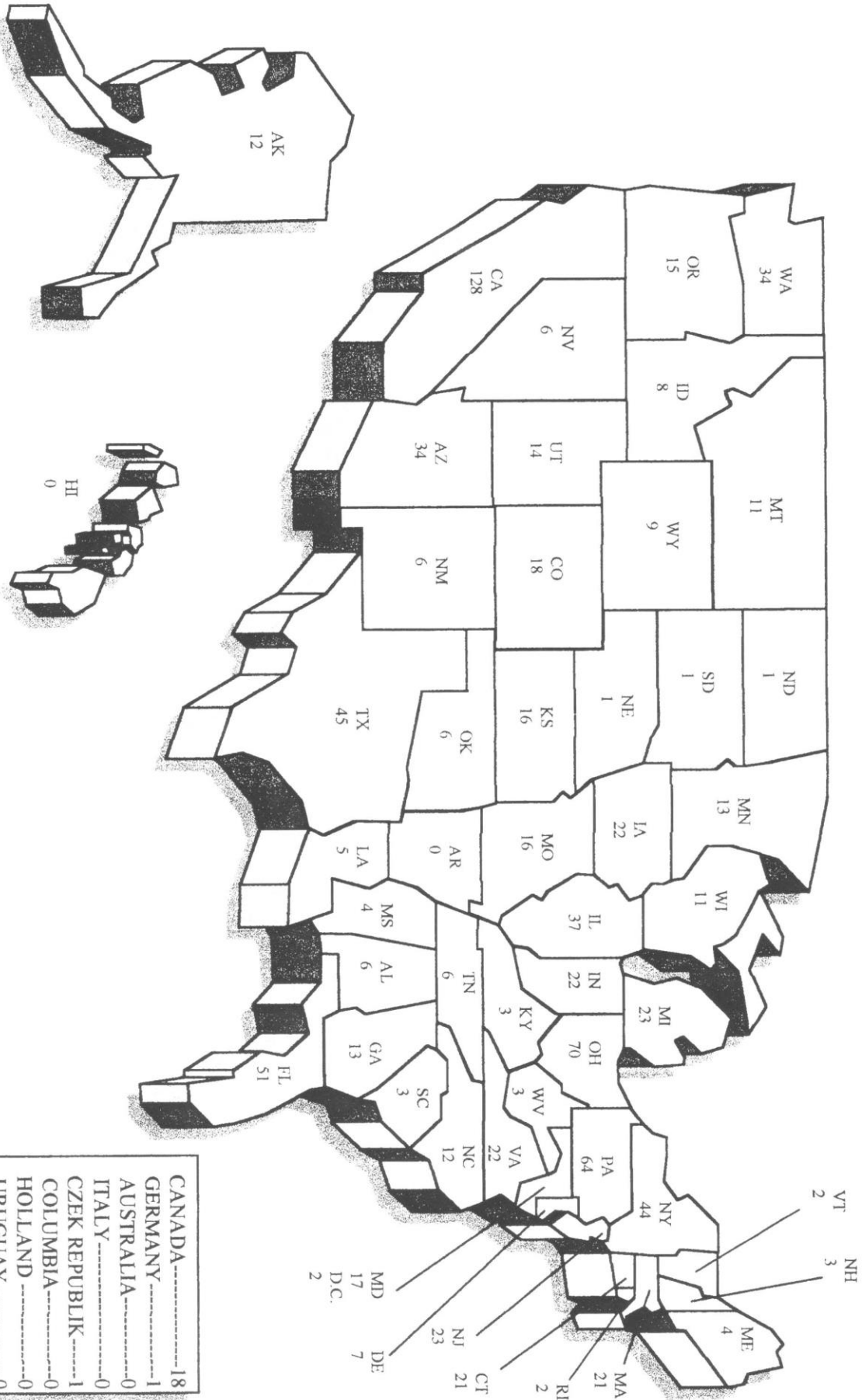
The insulators web site contained information about the NIA and Crown Jewels of the Wire from the very start. In early 1997, Carol McDougald started www.crownjewelsofthewire.com as a web site specifically for the magazine and other related material, such as book listings and the price guide. In October 1998, the NIA information was moved to www.nia.org, and Bob Berry, the NIA's Promotion & Education chairman, took over as Webmaster.

What is on www.insulators.com?

This is a hard question! There are

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2001 NIA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP BY STATE AND COUNTRY



MEMBERSHIP AS OF 2-21-2001

NIA PRODUCTS -- SPRING SPECIALS!

NIA PRODUCTS -- NEW ADDITIONS!

After a very successful Christmas season, I am selling all overstock in order to make room our "new" product to debut at the Atlanta National!! You may also note that our prices for shipping have gone up along with the new USPS rates that became effective in January. I have enclosed an updated order form in the back of this issue of Drip Points (please note, sale prices below will not be shown on the order form). The website www.nia.org/product.htm has been updated to reflect all "products" currently being sold by NIA Product Marketing and also contains a [printable order form!](#)

The following items will be at a reduced price, **March 1st through June 1st only**, so get your orders in as the sale is "while supplies last" or no later than the June deadline.

*Grey, twill cap w/screen-printed logo - \$1.00 off - sale price **\$9.00**

*Blue t-shirt – S, M - \$ 2.00 off - sale price **\$8.00**
L, XL - \$1.00 off - sale price **\$9.00**

*Sweatshirt - S, M - \$1.00 off - sale price **\$15.00**
L, XL - \$1.00 off - sale price **\$19.00**

*Koozie – foam beverage holder - \$.75 off - sale price **\$2.25**

* Price does not include postage – please see order form for details

Steal of a Deal !

I have some BLUE, Hanes beefy t-shirts in the small and medium sizes that have slight screen misalignment and will sell them at **\$6.00** (includes 1st class postage).

Additions!

Due to several requests by members of our hobby, we now have size "small" in the denim shirt (noted on order form).

I have a limited number of Ash Grey, Hanes Beefy-T, medium t-shirts, with embroidered logo only on the left-front side. Price: **\$18.00**. If you are interested, please email or call me.

As always, I appreciate your support of this terrific hobby. The membership in the NIA makes this a truly special organization in which to serve. I wish you all an "insulator-ful" year in 2001!

Carolyn Berry, NIA# 4336
Product Marketing Chairman



Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336
 Product Marketing Committee
 1010 Wren Court
 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) Price Qty Total
 *for custom pocketed shirt or special size add \$3.00 *\$3.00



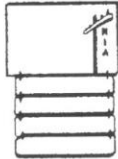
****NEW** Denim Shirt** -- Long-sleeve or short sleeve - Med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton
 Stonewash blue -- Left-side pocket
 Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$32.00
 S/S ___ L/S ___ 2X ___ \$35.00



T-Shirt -- Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo
 S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (blue) 2X ___ (\$12) \$10.00
 L ___ XL ___ (Ash Grey) \$15.00
 2X ___ 3X ___ (Ash Grey) \$16.00



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



****NEW** Cap** -- Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00
Cap -- lt. grey w/ screen-printed logo \$10.00
Mug -- white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00
Patch -- light blue w/ screen-printed logo/red embroidered edge \$4.00
Koozie -- Foam beverage holder w/ silver NIA logo :
 royal blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$2.25

Decal -- light blue w/ logo/red border, for inside car window \$1.00

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

Badge Bar -- white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position) \$4.00

Chest Size Chart

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

***Shipping charges** - Shirts, Caps & Mugs are \$3.95 for the first item & \$1.20 for each additional item. Koozies are only \$1.20 each, if ordered individually. No shipping charge for Patches, Decals or Name Badges/Bars! *new USPS rates

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____
Total _____

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 _____

Bar: _____

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

**2000-2001 FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
SECOND QUARTER ENDING 12/31/2000**

Beginning Balance-General Fund*	10/1/00	11679.33
Museum Exploratory Committee		1000.00
Authentication/Ethics Account		1196.75

Revenues

Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	1748.00	
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	
Product Sales	134.10	
	Total Revenues:	1882.10

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	213.80	
Bank Charges/Taxes	0.00	
Marketing Products	38.97	
Misc. Postage	371.71	
Misc. Printing	786.27	
Misc. Supplies	209.65	
Misc. Professional Services	0.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	25.00	
Drip Points Printing	1206.94	
Drip Points Postage	303.18	
Show Advertising Subsidy	0.00	
Show Awards	300.00	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	0.00	
Special Projects	2401.66	
	Total Expenses:	5857.18

Closing Balance, General Fund:	7704.25
Museum Exploratory Committee	1000.00
Authentication/Ethics Account	1196.75
Total Balance on Hand	9901.00

* Adjustments made to General Fund removing \$1000.00 for Museum Exploratory Committee and adding back \$476.03 absorbing the Education and Promotion Fund.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(405) 721-6578
EMAIL: diamonds4me@worldnet.att.net

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PO BOX 1317, BUNA, TX 77612
(409) 994-5662
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