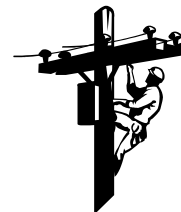




Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

http://www.nia.org

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

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- ◆ Central Region ... *Ross Baird*
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- ◆ Nominations Chair ... *Kay Bryant*
- ◆ Membership Director *Donald Briel*
- ◆ Promotions ... *Bob Merzoian*
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Available via e-mail

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Season's Greetings!

First of all, let me thank all of my fellow collectors who contacted me after my first issue of *Drip Points* to express their thanks and encouragement, especially Wayne Junop who sent a letter all the way

from Ontario. It's perhaps the first personal letter I've received in years thanks to email. I would also like to thank Kevin Jacobson for such a smooth transition and Don Briel for helping me sort out so many mailing issues.

Although every article is worth reading, I would like to call your attention to Tom Katonak's tall fish tale from Alaska, which includes visits to Bernie Warren and Jim Wright. Another must-read is Mike Green's advice on how to put on an insulator show—indispensable for any future show host.

Also worth checking out are the NIA Promotional Items and the Winter 2006-2007 Product Order

Form. There are many gift ideas to keep your junior collectors warm this winter.

May God's blessings be upon you all this holiday season. Stay warm and safe and share your love of insulators with someone new.

From sunny Albuquerque (where it snowed last week),

**Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934
Information Director**

(a friend of a friend) by the name of Fred Ward up in the foothills of the Chugach Mountains east of the city. I really wanted to talk to Fred about his mineral collecting trips down to Kennecott in years past. During the evening, I learned that Fred had been a surveyor for the BLM back in the 30's and 40's and he told me about flying in to a remote camp near Tanana on the Yukon River and retrieving old telegraph insulators. This had to be the original "Billy Mitchell telegraph line" constructed in 1901 and '02 to connect Nome with central and southern Alaska – and to connect Alaska to the United States. This amazing feat was accomplished by then Air Force Lieutenant Billy Mitchell because he had the reputation of being

bulge where the pin went into the two-holed cross-arm. (Later, when I told Lou "Pinman" Hall about this, he said he had only seen a couple of these and he speculated that the bulge in the pin might have been for extra strength in places where there would be a large snow-load.) In a trade for some nice mineral specimens I had brought from New Mexico, I became the proud owner of one of these fine telegraph history artifacts!

Late in August, we flew to Kodiak and spent a couple weeks with our kids and grandkids in one of the more idyllic places in Alaska. Here we got a few days of Halibut (pictured) and Salmon fishing in – caught enough to fill our freezer

for getting to Katmai (the country's second largest National Park) is to fly in on a floatplane. So we hitched up with ace bush pilot S. Willy Fulton, who turned out to be the same guy who flew Timothy Treadwell over to Katmai – before he was devoured by the grizzlies. So Willy is the guy you see on all the documentaries about Treadwell and the Katmai bears. This flight had to be the single-most exciting flight of my life. It was supposed to take 90 minutes, but by the time we had checked out all the wildlife at treetop level along the way, and get a lesson on the geology of the region, the flight turned into a five-hour tour! Highlights included watching whales coming up out of the water in the Shelikof Strait; setting down on the south coast of Katmai and watching bears...up close...ten to fifteen feet kind of close; and flying down into the craters of Mt. Katmai and Novarupta while marveling at the huge glaciers clinging to the crater walls. Novarupta, by the way, was the site of the largest eruption of the 20th Century, an event in 1912 that dramatically changed the world climate for several years.

Well, finally Lynda had had it. "Enough", she said. "Don't you realize that it's fall and we have the harvest in front of us?" So, never being one to argue or offer more appealing alternatives, I gathered up my gear, and my box of insulators, and we headed back for sunny New Mexico.

That's my story...and I'm stickin to it!

**Tom Katonak, NIA #3567
Second Past President**

Note: Electronic subscribers can view additional photos on page 17.



able to drive "impossible tasks" to completion. So I asked Fred if I could see some of these insulators; he proceeded to pull out a large box with several aqua Brookfield beehives complete with the strangest wooden pins I had ever seen. These pins were about an inch and a half in diameter, and the top of the pin had a huge

back home, and thereby survive another winter without starving. We used Kodiak as our home base for hiking, climbing and fishing trips, including an incredible trip up to Katmai at the head of the Alaska Peninsula. Katmai is renowned for three things: Huge bears, spectacular volcanoes, and outstanding fishing. The only option



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

**2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
FIRST QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2006**

Beginning Balances July 1, 2006

General Fund	\$ 11,698
Museum Exploratory Committee	\$ 972
Authentication/Ethics Account	\$ 2,297

Revenues

Donations		
Membership Dues	\$ 780	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 150	
Product Sales	\$ 1,440	
Total Revenues		\$ 2,370

General Fund Expenses

Advertising		
Bank Charges, Taxes, Fees		
Marketing Products	\$ 740	
Misc. Postage	\$ 45	
Misc. Printing	\$ 923	
Misc. Supplies	\$ 83	
Misc. Professional Services		
Crown Jewels Rebates		
Drip Points Printing	\$ 893	
Drip Points Postage		
Show Advertising Subsidy		
Show Awards		
Stationery Supplies		
Telephone		
Special Projects		
Educational Disp Postage		
Total Expenses		\$ 2,684

Closing Balance, General Fund	\$ 11,385
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures	
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance	\$ 972
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures	
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance	\$ 2,297
Total Balance on Hand September 30, 2006	\$ 14,654

2006 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 NIA President
 1102 West Aster Dr Phoenix, AZ 85029-2808
 602-564-0815
 kwjacob@icsaero.com

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 First Past President
 131 Plantation Way Stockbridge, GA 30281
 770-957-9928
 pony102@bellsouth.net

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 Second Past President
 1024 Camino de Lucia Corrales, NM 87048
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 nsulator@aol.com

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 321-480-1800
 bluebellwt@aol.com

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 512-847-7302
 jackroach@email.msn.com

Donald Briel, NIA #7218 Membership Director
 P.O. Box 188, Providence, UT 84332
 435-753-5786
 Don.Briel@comcast.net

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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 363 West Stuart Ave Fresno, CA. 93704-1544
 559-435-1740
 louhall@pacbell.net

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 pat.eighteenseventyone@verizon.net

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 bob@heminggray.com

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Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education
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 512-255-2006
 pyrex553@aol.com

Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions
 1080 N. Scenic Dr
 Porterville, CA 93257-1637
 559-781-6319
 bobmerzoian@mac.com

NIA PROMOTIONAL ITEMS



Holiday Gifts for 2006

Not sure what gift to give? All NEW stock of screen-printed t-shirts now in!!

➤ **Sizes:** Small - 2X

➤ **Colors:** Lt. Steel, Stonewash Blue, Stonewash Green, Pebble (tan)

➤ **Prices:** Small to XL = \$18.00; 2X = \$20.00

These are a quality Hanes Heavyweight. Taped neck, double-needle stitched hem / sleeves.
Full cut. NIA Logo on front and back.

Take a look at some other ideas:

- Embroidered Polo/Golf Shirts
- Embroidered Denim Long & Short Sleeved Shirts
- NEW!! Embroidered Button Front Cotton Blend Shirts
 - Embroidered T-shirts; some with pockets
 - Embroidered Sweatshirts
 - Embroidered Baseball Style Caps
 - 13 oz. Glass Mugs or Coffee Mugs
 - Embroidered Patches
 - Foam Drink Koozies
 - Enameled Hat/Lapel Pins
 - Car Decals
- NIA Engraved Badges and Local Insulator Club Bars

We have an assortment of "new" items that debuted at the 2006 Austin National. We now have embroidered Cardinal Red, Lt. Steel t-shirts and pullover sweatshirts. In addition, we have light steel gray sweatshirts with ribbed cuff, zippered front, muff pocket & drawstring hood! A variety of polo / button-front shirts for men and women are in stock.

Please visit WWW.NIA.ORG/products for color photos & an order form, or the last page of this Drip Points issue.



Please give me a call to discuss your order @ 512-255-2006.



Carolyn Berry
Product Marketing Committee
NIA #4336

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!

2007 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

Submit: **(In U.S.funds)** To:
 (Payable to the NIA)

Donald R. Briel
NIA Membership Director
P.O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
E-MAIL: don.briel@comcast.net

Note New Dues Schedule!

Regular Membership----- \$ 12.00
 Family Membership----- \$ 12.00
 Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00
 Club or Organization----- \$ 12.00

(Check appropriate Class) Regular _____ Family _____ Junior _____ Club/Org. _____

(Check Years of Payment) Single year _____ Multi-year _____

Please Print

Name _____

NIA # (If Renewal) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ (+4) _____

Country (If Non U.S.) _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my Telephone Number **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my E-Mail Address **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Note: I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format. **Paper** _____ **Electronic** _____
 (Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic)

Additional Family Members

Name _____ **Nia# (If Renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

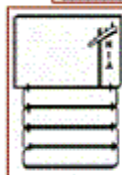
Signed _____

Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Winter 2006-2007

www.nia.org/products



Men's Size Chart:

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

*** Ladies Size Chart:**

S (28-30) M (32-34)
L (36-38) XL (40-42)

Men's Golf / Polo Shirts or Button-front Sport Shirt

NEW! Colors: Ecru, White, Taupe, Tan, Yellow, Maroon, Bright Green, Mint, Emerald Green - \$32 - \$41

Please call or email me for details! embroidered logo, with or without pockets

Ladies' Polo/Golf style shirts - NEW colors! Lt. Pink, Lavender, Butter Yellow, Mint Green, Bright Green

Please call or email me for details; embroidered logo (no pockets) \$32 - \$38

Denim Shirt - (*ladies order comparable men's size, see below)

Heavy-wt., pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue or **NEW! natural ecru** -- left-side pocket

Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$32.00

*S/Sleeve ___ *L/Sleeve ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ \$35.00

NEW!! T-Shirts - Hanes Heavyweight - NEW COLORS! - Stonewash Green or Blue, Pebble (tan), Lt. Steel Gray

Screen-printed logo (front & back) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$18)

2X ___ (\$20)

*Hanes BEEFY T' - Stonewash Green: embroidered logo - L ___ (\$20) 2X ___ (\$22)

***NEW COLORS !!** Gold, Ecru, Gray, Red, White, Royal Blue, Burgundy or Lt. Steel, embroidered

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$22)

(**NOTE: limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details)

Crewneck Sweatshirts - Heavy weight - Ash gray - screen-printed logo (front/back)

NEW PRICE!! S ___ M ___ (\$8.00) GREAT FOR KIDS!!

NEW COLOR !! Burgundy or Lt. Steel Gray -- Embroidered logo -

M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$30)

Hooded Sweatshirt w/ full front zipper/muff pocket/drawstring hood - Embroidered logo - Lt. Steel Gray

M/ L / XL (\$35) ___ 2X / 3X (\$40) ___

Embroidered Cap - Stone/ Navy or Khaki / Green, low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16)

Embroidered Denim Cap - blue denim, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00

13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etched NIA Logo \$4.00

Ceramic Mug - 10 oz. - white ceramic coffee mug w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00

Patch -- embroidered logo / red embroidered edge \$4.00

Koozie™ - The original beverage Koozie™ fits any standard beer / soda can / 12 oz. water bottle !!

Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$2.00

NIA Hat/Lapel Pin - enamel tack pin with NIA logo \$4.00

NIA Decal - logo- red border; for inside car window \$1.00

NIA Name Badge - white badge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed logo epoxy pin back, beveled edges (**fill in form below**) \$12.00

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

Subtotal _____

U.S. Postage _____

Total Enclosed _____

****U.S. Postage: \$5.50** for the first item & **\$1.50** for each additional item ordered. Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/Bars are **\$0.60** per item. ****for non-US postage, AK & HI and Koozies, please contact me for an exact postage quote !!**

Thanks for your support!

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to: National Insulator Association or NIA

All sizes/colors of shirts are orderable

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

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

Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____

Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____

Club Bar: _____ Club Bar: _____

Use the back of this order form for add'l badge/bar orders (Rev.12/06)

Contact Information: Carolyn Berry - 1010 Wren Ct, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com

Electronic subscribers receive these additional color photos from Tom Katonak's Alaskan adventure.



Up Close and Personal in Katmai



Off the Billy Mitchell
Telegraph Line



The Mountains of Katmai



Jim Wright's YoYo's



Bernie Warren with one
of his Favorites