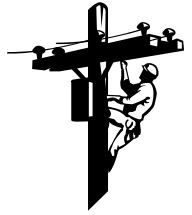


Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.nia.org>

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ A Note from the Editor ... *Arthur McConnachie*
- ◆ From the President ... *Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ 1st Past President ... *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ 2nd Past President ... *Tom Katonak*
- ◆ Western Region VP ... *Mike Green*
- ◆ Central Region VP ... *Ross Baird*
- ◆ Eastern Region VP ... *Doug Williams*
- ◆ Membership Director ... *Donald Briel*
- ◆ Authentication & Classification ... *Paul Greaves*
- ◆ Award & Recognition ... *Lou Hall*
- ◆ Nominations ... *Kay Bryant*
- ◆ Lou Hall Biography
- ◆ Promotions ... *Bob Merzoian*
- ◆ Memorial to Phoebe Lewin Adams ... *Tom Katonak*
- ◆ Financial Statement ... *Jack Roach*
- ◆ NIA Contact List
- ◆ NIA Membership Renewal Form
- ◆ Spring 2008 Product Order Form

Available via e-mail

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



As I write this, the National is just over a month away. I trust that you have made your preparations. This will be my fifth. Each and every time I learn something new about our great hobby and meet some wonderful people.

I was talking to a fellow collector the other day and mentioned that if no one else hunted for insulators, I'd still be out there, but the reason I go to shows is the people, not the glass. I certainly hope that you can make it. If you can't, please consider attending the Central Regional Show. Details and contact information can be found on page 4.

In this issue, I would like to point out two articles in particular. First, be sure to read Paul Greaves' research on EC&M molds, complete with mold comparison photos.

Second, take a moment to acquaint yourself with Lou Hall via his biography. Lou will be the new

Vice President from the Western region. Lou has put a tremendous amount of effort into his current position as the Awards and Recognition Chair. I am certain that he will continue to contribute to our hobby with the same passion and energy.

Hope to see you in Portland,

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934
Information Director

Note: If you would like to see the photographs in this issue in color, consider switching your subscription to the electronic version.

1st PAST PRESIDENT



The 39th Annual National Insulator Association's Show and Convention in Portland, Oregon, on July 4, 5, and 6th is quickly approaching. The Convention not only brings collectors together from around the country and world to share the hobby and friendships that we cherish so much but it also represents a time of assessment and renewal for the Association.

The NIA Board has its annual Board meeting to discuss issues of the past year, resolve new issues and propose a direction for the Association for the next year that will hopefully encourage collector ethics and a continued

growth of our great hobby. The General Membership Meeting is held each year for the Board and Committee Chairs to share with the membership what they have accomplished the previous year. Most importantly, the General Meeting provides time for membership input. Another key part of this time of renewal is the changing of the guard in some of the Board positions and Committee Chairs. This renewal is very important because it brings new and fresh ideas to the management team of your Association. Without this continued renewal we would bog down with the same old goals and ideas and become a stagnant organization with no growth.

The bottom line is that each one of you needs to be part of this annual renewal. If you attend the National Convention this year please make time to attend the General Membership Meeting to provide your input. Another way to participate in the annual renewal is to volunteer to serve on a committee. If you have leadership abilities, how about volunteering to chair one of the NIA's committees, or even run for an NIA office? The NIA needs you and your

refreshing new ideas. You can make a difference in our hobby. Contact one of your Board members or Committee Chairs and let them know that you want to be part of the Team.

If you are going to the National, please don't forget to take some purple insulators to donate to Howard Banks for the Insulators for Kids Program. This is a very important program to our hobby because it encourages new young collectors. Remember that the youth are the future of our hobby.

Don't forget to encourage your children and even their friends to collect by taking them on a hunt or to an insulator event. Be sure to bring a youngster with you to the National.

Have a great summer!

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085
First Past President**

**39th National Insulator Association
Annual Show & Convention
Portland, Oregon, July 4-6, 2008**

Wednesday, July 2nd
Outrageous Jet Boat Adventure
Heart of the Gorge Cruise
8 am - 5:00 pm

Thursday, July 3rd
10:00 am - 4 pm - NIA Board Meeting
11:30 am - 2:30 pm - Portland Spirit Lunch Cruise
5:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Dealer Unload/Exhibitor Setup

Friday, July 4th
7:30 am - 9:00 am - Dealer and Display Setup
9:00 am - 4 pm - NIA Members Only Show Hours
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm - General Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 5th
7:30 am - 9:00 am - Display Judging; Dealer Setup
9:00 am - 4 pm - General Admission
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Reception/Cash Bar
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Awards Dinner Banquet

Sunday, July 6th
7:30 am - 9:00 am - Dealer Setup
9:00 am - 1:30 pm - General Admission
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Dealer/Exhibitor Take-down

2nd PAST PRESIDENT



Hard to believe that summer's almost here again. Here in the desert southwest we already have the hot dry weather (well under an inch of rain so far this year here in the Albuquerque area) and we're already experiencing devastating fires all around the state. One lesson to take away from the fire problem out here is to be careful with fire when you're out hunting the lines. Let's not be part of the fire problem.

Speaking of hunting the lines, several of us here in New Mexico have been able to get out and look for glass. We've looked at

more of the early telegraph lines and have made some good finds – and increased our knowledge of where and when various types of insulators were used.

I've also hunted some more lines down in Mexico this past month on another of my joint insulator/mineral expeditions. Boy there's some great stuff down there! The nice thing about hunting trips out here in Mexico and New Mexico is you don't have the heavy undergrowth – full of the ticks, snakes and mosquitoes that bless the eastern, central and southern parts of our country. You can see the scorpions and the spiders, and you can hear the rattlesnakes ... and the mosquitoes only come out at night, so it's pretty nice!

On the latest Mexican venture, I ran across lots of really interesting power porcelain stuff associated with some of the old silver mines. This trip took us to the depths of Barranca Del Cobre – the famous Copper Canyon – perhaps the most well known silver mining area in Mexico. We managed to come up with over a hundred specimens of silver, much of it in the native metallic form. Not being a "mud guy," I left the porcelain for the real mud aficionados exploring

this out-back area in the future. (Take at least two spare tires if you get serious about going there!)

And when we got home, we held another of our spring garage sales: I set out more of my one dollar common pieces – just like last year - and again I was amazed at how many people just had to have a couple of these things sitting on their window sills! I think I only sold around 50 this year, but that's one more box out of my garage!

With summer, also comes the "show season" – and we have a number of gala events on the docket out here. The big event in the West, of course, is the 39th NIA Convention and Show in Portland, Oregon, on 4, 5, and 6 July. This is really shaping up to be a super event! You can find any planning info you need on the show website:

www.ecandm.com/events.html

Regards and great collecting,

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

**National Insulator Association's
2008 Central Regional Show & Sale
July 19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday) in Richfield, Ohio**

For information or show packets contact:

JOHN HOVANEK 440-237-2242
jhovanec@ameritech.net

KEN ORCHARD 330-659-3786

RON BARTH 724-845-8439
rktbarth@windstream.net

WESTERN REGION VP

Greetings Fellow Collectors,

Please let me start by saying "Thank you" for a wonderful three years as Western Region Vice President. As I pass the torch I am reminded of all the wonderful friendships that I have in the hobby. Some of those friendships go back 30 years now. I don't see some of those friends very often but when I do it is always so wonderful to catch up and share old memories.

There are many different aspects to our hobby but it is the friendships we form that matter the most. Take the time to cherish your closest friends in the hobby and never let something ruin those bonds. I have seen too many friendships hurt by a deal gone bad or some type of miscommunication. Try to think first and always place great value on the friendships you've made.

Many things have occurred in the hobby during my term as Western Region Vice President. We have had ethics issues, show issues, fake and altered issues, and reproduction issues just to name a

handful. I am proud to say that the NIA took these issues head on and has dealt with them all in a positive way.

Many people don't realize how much thought and discussion goes on behind the scenes as the NIA tries to find an answer that is fair and makes sense. It is not easy to just come out and say that something is fake or that something is wrong. It takes proof and careful analysis to pass that kind of judgment. Rest assured that the NIA works hard for you and that when a decision is made that careful thought and research went into it. I have seen this many times and am proud to have been a part of it.

Perhaps the most troublesome issue that the NIA faces is the fake, altered, and questionable reproduction insulators that have plagued the hobby. I can't tell you how much time is spent trying to determine the best course of action when an insulator is suspect. The NIA has even had expensive tests done in many cases trying to determine the authenticity of a piece.

Unfortunately no matter what the NIA does it is sometimes hard to find the truth. Even if the NIA is pretty convinced a particular insulator is not authentic we can't label it that way unless we are 100% sure.

What it really come down to for everyone in the hobby is "buyer beware." If you feel an insulator might be tampered with or fake, DON'T buy it! Do some research.

If the NIA says it is questionable, move on and spend your money elsewhere. I have a fairly large list of pieces I wouldn't touch with a ten foot pole and you should have the same. In the meantime the NIA will keep working to keep the hobby safe from this sort of thievery.

On a much more positive note the NIA continues to sponsor the best insulator shows around and most notably the National Shows. It is an amazing experience to attend a National and I hope everyone in the hobby gets the chance to attend at least one during their collecting journey.

I know the upcoming Portland show will be terrific and my hat is off to Howard and Linda Banks, and Steve Watkins for all the time and effort they have put in. It's going to be a great show and I wish them much success.

Once again my sincere thanks for a great three years as Western VP. I am pleased to say that the hobby is strong and that the Western Region has a lot of collecting activity to be proud of.

Congratulations to Lou Hall who is my successor and I would like to wish Lou the best of luck. I hope you and your loved ones are well and that you are having a great year.

Good Luck Collecting,

**Mike Green, NIA #3175
WESTERN REGION VP**

**39th National Insulator Association Annual Show & Convention
Portland, Oregon
July 4-6 2008
<http://www.ecandm.com/>**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



What happened to 'Global Warming' in Utah this year? It's been cold and snowy all spring. As I write this article on May 1st there is about 3" of new snow outside. Anyway, spring should be just around the corner and I'm already starting to think about Portland in July.

I hope many of you have had a chance to read my recent article "Early Communication Technology in Utah" published in the April Crown Jewels of the Wire. It focused on the Deseret Telegraph Company established in Utah in 1867. In late April Jeanne and I had the opportunity drive down to St. George, Utah, on a business trip. While there we took an extra day and visited the Pipe Springs National Monument near Fredonia, Arizona (straight south of Kanab, Utah). Pipe Springs was an early fortified outpost in the middle of nowhere. The Deseret Telegraph was extended there in 1871 and there are quite a few of the original components (or well chosen replicas) on display just as they were installed at the time.

This article includes several pictures of the area with the poles and insulators used there. Once

again, I was able to confirm the use of BROOKFIELD CD 133 [230] insulators on the original line. Also of interest, and you'll note in the pole picture, lightning was probably quite a hazard with the old telegraph. The pole has a ground wire that is connected to the conductor and then protrudes into the air. This was obviously a recent addition to protect the building against lightning, but stirs the thought of what the dangers were when the conductor was in use and couldn't be grounded.

At this time last year the NIA Membership count passed 2006's total of 1500 members. This year



we are already past 1550 members which is well ahead of 2007 at this time of year. Renewals, new membership applications, and advance dues payments continue to flow in. Keep up the good work of letting fellow collectors know about the NIA and its many benefits. There are still NIA brochures available for anyone that

would like some to distribute. Just send me an email request at Don.Briel@comcast.net or drop me a note in the mail. Membership applications are available online at www.NIA.org along with a host of other valuable information.

The NIA has also provided Howard Banks with copies of the "What Are Insulators" booklets to enclose with his free boxes of insulators. These are sent to young collectors for just the cost of shipping. What a wonderful program to get the next generation of collectors interested and started collecting.

If you had this 'Drip Points' sent to you, your NIA dues are paid for 2008. By the time you read this article, it will probably be too late for others that are not paid up to send their NIA dues in advance to get into the National on NIA day (Friday, July 4th). NEVER FEAR - its not too late for them to get in. If you know anyone that is not yet

**New mailing or email address? Update your information online at:
<http://www.nia.org/membership/update.htm>**

paid for 2008, just have them bring their dues to the show. It may take them a few minutes longer to get in, but the show will be well worth it. Any mailed in

dues payments that are not received by me prior to June 25 will not be processed until after the July NIA National in Portland.

Have a great summer and I hope to see many of you in Portland!

**Donald Briel, NIA #7218
Membership Director**



Original Pipe Springs Fortified Building



**CD133 [230] Used on the
Original Deseret Telegraph Line**



**Old Pole Replica with Grounding of
the Conductor to Arrest Lightning**



Vertical Pole Corral Fence

AUTHENTICATION & CLASSIFICATION



The subject of EC&Ms seems to have risen into the collective consciousness of our hobby again! Much discussion has transpired on ICON in the last few months. I expect that I will be writing up some sort of extensive report on the subject in the future ... and I have been doing extensive research in preparation. In the meantime, any input from the membership is encouraged ... please contact me if you have any information about EC&Ms that you think might be useful.

Meanwhile, as a preliminary report, I have noticed something very interesting that I don't recall ever seeing documented before. In the past, EC&Ms have been classified into mold types, referred to by letters. The letter designations do not necessarily indicate different physical mold types, for example it is generally accepted that Mold "E" (the upside down embossed one) was re-worked into type "F" by covering the mistake with a "slug plate" and re-embossing the opposite side. The base was extended as well. Later the mold was re-machined to be more cylindrical (the E and F molds are more flared toward the base), leading to the "G" mold. As the mold wore out, a defect appeared in the wire groove, leading to what is referred to as the "H" mold. Of course, this is not really

a
a



A-Mold Scratch

different mold and a gradual transition of specimens can be found with varying degrees of this defect (it appears as a rough glob of glass in the wire groove). In fact, this whole E-F-G-H sequence is really the same mold (with the E mold types being found on the

earliest lines built by the company).

Another commonly accepted sequence concerns the A, C, and D molds. The A molds are the ones with a flared skirt and no dot, while the C & D molds have a



C-Mold Scratch

PROMOTIONS CHAIR



Finally, spring is making its way into summer and some of the best shows are upon us. Of course, the National should be a "knock-out."

If I can convince my sweet wife, yet again, to postpone our wedding anniversary celebration on July 5th (17 years swiftly about to pass), I will be attending ... otherwise, have fun y'all.

Around our parts in California we have the Cayucos beach show the end of May, the Merzoian Tailgater in August, Placerville in September, and the Tulare Insulator and Bottle show in November. We always enjoy seeing "newbies" who walk in with wide eyes and curious looks.

I know most of us hobbyists are there, beyond making a sale, to inform and educate and perhaps entice the "lookers" to go past the quizzical to the interested stage. I usually pass out an insulator to most of the questioners and always offer one to kids. Some seem bewildered with a look of, "What do I do with this thing?" and others stop and pursue that sudden spark of interest in what makes us insulator folk tick. It's a perfect opportunity to encourage our hobby to grow and renew itself. We must never take for granted the uninitiated. They are

more than potential revenue sources, but a way to revitalize this fragile hobby.

I continue to pass out glass and information to new acquaintances and sometimes strangers. More than a few have become intrigued enough to attend a show or tailgater and several have become collectors in recent years. And by now you are aware that I am my school's "Pied Piper." I have given our hundreds of glass and mud pieces and will continue to do so. We must also look beyond our own needs and use our creativity to enhance and foster our hobby's expansion. It's tough to put aside our personal pursuits, but it is essential that we unite in spirit and in deeds. Long live our beloved avocation!

**Bob Merzoian, NIA #3941
Promotions Chair**

Insulator Hobby Timeline

- 1995 Don Lundell takes over the mailing list maintained by Keith Roloson, and puts it on an automated mailing list server allowing collectors to one address insulators@resilience.com, and have their message broadcast to all other collectors on the list.
- 1995 Don Lundell starts a basic web page about insulators, at www.resilience.com/insulators -- this was the "birth" of the insulators web site.
- 1995 Bill Meier takes over as webmaster of the insulator web site at resilience.com
- 1995 Bob Stahr submits the winning name for the list server: Insulator Collectors on the Net (ICON)
- 1996 On January 21, 1996, the domain insulators.info was born, and the insulators web site was permanently moved to www.insulators.info from www.resilience.com/insulators.
- 1998 The NIA gets it's own domain www.nia.org
- 1999 Prairie Signals Insulator Club is formed.
- 1999 Jefferson State Insulator Club formed for collectors in Oregon and California.



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

**2006-2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
NINE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2008**

Beginning Balance-General Funds		\$12,788
Museum Exploratory Committee		\$972
Authentication/Ethics Account		\$2,297

Revenues

Donations			
Membership Dues	10,127		
Miscellaneous Income	450		
Product Sales	2,040		
	Total Revenues		\$12,617

General Fund Expenses

Advertising			
Bank Charges, Taxes, Fees	750		
Marketing Products	2,058		
Misc. Postage	1,469		
Misc. Printing	887		
Misc. Supplies	182		
Misc. Professional Services			
Crown Jewels Rebates	495		
Drip Points Printing & Postage	3,820		
Show Advertising Subsidy	500		
Show Awards	26		
Stationery Supplies			
Telephone			
Special Projects			
Educational Disp Postage			
	Total Expenses		\$10,187

Closing Balance, General Fund **\$15,218**

Museum Exploratory Committee Balance **\$972**

Authentication/Ethics Account Balance **\$2,297**

TOTAL BALANCE MARCH 31, 2008 **\$18,487**

2008 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 1102 West Aster Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85029-2808
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 bobmerzoian@mac.com

Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education
 1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681
 512-255-2006
 pyrex553@aol.com

Membership Application/Renewal Form

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

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

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 Legibly

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** _____

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following format **Paper** _____ **Electronic** _____
 (Check only one choice) (An E-Mail address is required for electronic)

Additional Family Members Residing in the Same Household

Name _____ **NIA # (if renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Summer 2008
www.nia.org/products



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

NEW COLORS! Ocean Blue, Yellow, Yellow/navy!

Color Choice: _____

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

(Size chart on back)

\$32 - \$41



Ladies' Polo/Golf style shirts - Color choice: _____

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

(Size chart on back)

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

Heavy-weight; 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



T-Shirts - Hanes Heavyweight - 6.1 oz. cotton - Pre-shrunk

Screen-printed logo (front & back) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20)

2X ___ (\$22)



Colors: Stonewash Green, Stonewash Med. Blue, Pebble (sand), Lt. Steel Gray

Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details)

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20)

2X ___ (\$22)

Colors: Gold, Ecrú, Ash Gray, White, Royal Blue, Burgundy or Lt. Steel Gray



Crewneck Sweatshirts - Heavy weight - 100 % Cotton/polyester blend - Pre-shrunk

Color: Ash Gray - *Screen-printed* logo (large on back / small on front)

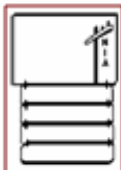
CLOSE OUT PRICES! 3 left => S ___ (\$8.00) -- 1 left => L ___ (\$10.00)

Colors: 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-

Color: Lt. Steel Gray M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$35) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$40)



Embroidered Cap - low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)

Colors: Stone/ Navy bill, Khaki/ Green bill, or all Denim

13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etched NIA Logo \$5.00

Ceramic Mug - 10 oz. white mug with 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 - for inside car window \$0.50

NIA Name Badge - engraved; epoxy pin back; beveled edges (fill in form on page 2)

\$12.00

Badge Bar - (ie. NIA position or Local Club)

\$4.00

Subtotal

U.S. Postage (see back)

NOTE:
All sizes,
styles &
colors of
shirts are
available by
special
order

Adult/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)

***Ladies order comparable adult/men's size for most shirts, unless specifically noted as a ladies shirt**

****U.S. Postage: \$6.00 for the first item & \$1.25 for each additional item ordered. Postage for Patches, Decals is \$0.41; Pins or Name Badges/Bars are \$0.80 per item. **for non-US postage, AK & HI and Koozies, or an exact postage quote, please contact me.**

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:

National Insulator Association or NIA

Order / Shipping Information

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 _____
Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____
Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____

Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____
Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____
Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____
Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____

Thanks for your support of the NIA !

Contact Information:

Carolyn Berry – 1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com