



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**
Rick Soller, editor
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San Jose, CA National Show Report

San Jose, California is pretty far away from Chicago but several club members still managed to attend the 42nd annual National Insulator Association Show, Sale, & Convention at the Doubletree Hotel. Gene Hawkins (pictured below on the right) arrived at the show first since he has relatives in the area. He was at the show the weekend before and enjoyed many local activities including attending the area flea market. I heard one local collector compliment Gene on the public relations he did at the flea market as he spent a lot of time talking about insulators and the show to everyone who would listen. Oddly enough, Gene managed to pick up several K.C.G.W. insulators at the show, one from club member Rick Soller who got the insulator at the show. I guess the California collectors don't know how great they are.

Gene was also kept busy at the show because he was in charge of judging of the displays. This meant, among other things, that he had to compile the results of the judges and prepare the trophies for the displays. Most display awards were announced at 1:30 on Saturday so Gene had to work fast.



Bob Stahr (above left) took a late Wednesday night plane to the show so he could spend as much time at home as possible with his almost 2-year-old son, Grant, and his cheerful wife, Stacy. But he had an 8:30 a.m. Board meeting on Thursday morning and, as the first past president, he managed to do that too. The Board meeting went to sometime past 3 p.m. (a record for the length of a Board meeting) and Bob still looked awake at the end. Bob bought some great

bargains at the show (purple ponies, cobalt signals) and sold some of them but will have some on his table at future shows. Bob also used slow time during the show to add more information to the Insulator Gazette. There are now more than 11,000 articles on insulators in the Gazette, a huge number due to the work of Bob.

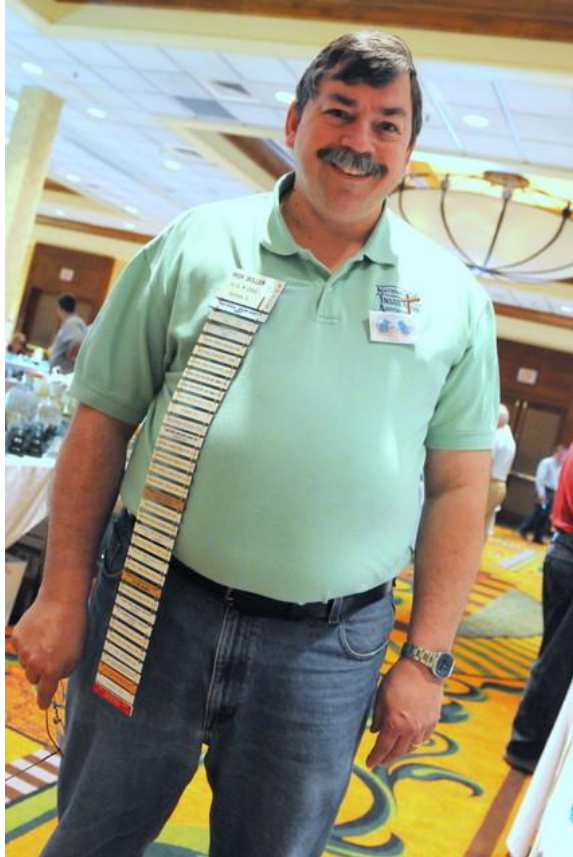
Bob left California early Sunday morning so missed the excitement surrounding the walk-in of two purple CD 701 “eggs.” One was essentially mint and the other VNM. When the eggs got to the show, Gene Hawkins was working the desk outside the show hall where free appraisals were given. Rick Soller was thanking Colin Jung, one of the show hosts, at the time so heard about the eggs as someone came in to tell Colin about them. He followed Colin out to the appraisal table and was about the third person to see them before word spread through the show hall and a large crowd gathered around them. Rick was also the underbidder on both pieces with the mint one sold to Terry Drollinger via Gil Hedges-Blanquez for \$2000 and the VNM one sold to Dwayne Anthony for \$1700.

Jason Townsend made a brief appearance on Friday and quickly sold a massive number of boxes with inserts to collectors. He has business in the area for the next several weeks so did not stay for the rest of the show.

Rick Soller left Chicago at about 10 a.m. and arrived in San Jose about 12:40 p.m. local time. The 2 hour time difference worked in his favor. He only took one insulator to the show to sell but it was a Bennington threadless that was purchased by Jack Riesselman for \$5500. He also brought a display consisting of a small salesman’s sample that he purchased at an antique store on the way back from last year’s national. During the show, he managed to purchase quite a few foreign porcelain pieces including a no-tie from England, a Japanese piece with Mickey Mouse ears, and a table of common white porcelain. Below is the insulator shown in Rick’s display (on right) and the display itself showing 2 ads from the company, a comparison of the insulator to a Fred Locke miniature, and other information.



At the banquet, Rick was honored with Lifetime Membership in the NIA. This award was based on his service to the NIA as Historian for 10 years and Executive Director for 2 years before that plus his service as editor of the GCIC Newsletter for 17 of the 19 years of the club, and the editor of the Northwest Insulator Club newsletter. He has also published articles in the CJ, displayed at numerous shows, and given insulator presentations to thousands of students at the college he teaches at.



Above left – Rick Soller. Above right – Jason Townsend with a San Joaquin Power sign.

The club award was won by Justin & Wendy Martin, of Butte, MT. The award consisted of a line drawing of two old-time linemen standing on a crossarm atop a pole with two-piece Muncies adorning the pins. The Martin's display included a light box with 35 power insulators. Surrounding the box were two old, small transformers. The award was a good one for Justin and Wendy since the two part Muncies were used in Montana.

There were actually several displays in competition for the club award for Best Use of Power Insulators. John Contreres had a display with a 3 crossarm pole in the center filled with gutter top multiparts, medium voltage insulators, and transpositions on the bottoms. Conductors were tied to all the insulators and birds were perched on them. Sand was placed at the base of the pole and various other critters were added to the scene. Steve Marsh had a display of Hemingray power insulators showing an amazing line-up of the insulators. Paul Greaves and Mike Spadafora had insulators from the Locke dump showing odd glazes and deformities.

Next year the national will be in Kansas City, Kansas. Show hosts are Daryl Wagner and Charles Brandon.



Justin & Wendy Martin's Display.

Upcoming Shows and Events

When: July 29 – 30, 2011 (Friday - Saturday)

Where: Arcanum, OH

Description: 17th Annual Hog Roast and Pool Party Friday, July 29 at 5:00 PM. Bring a covered dish. Insulator swap (insulators, lightning rod collectibles, milk bottles, etc) Saturday, July 30 from 8:00 to 2:00. Location: 8784 Grubbs Rex Road, Arcanum, OH 45304. ALAN STASTNY 937-884-7379 or 937-546-4745.

When: August 13, 2011 (Saturday)

Where: Winsted, MN

Description: North Western Insulator Club Summer Swap meet, August 13, at home of GARY LENZ, 321 Southshore Dr, Winsted, MN 55395 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Please bring your own tables. Info: Phone 320-485-4310 or email: gary.lenz@gdc.com

When: September 4, 2011 (Sunday)

Where: Muncie, IN

Description: Hemingray Plaque Dedication. 1610 South Macedonia Avenue, Muncie, IN. 11 a.m. Eastern time. Info: Bob Stahr at 312-758-0281 or email: Bob@Hemingray.com

When: September 10, 2011 (Saturday)

Where: Racine, WI

Description: 11th Annual Greater Chicago Insulator Club Super “End of Summer” Swap Meet, Cookout, and Auction at the home of Randy Wesner, 434 Blaine Ave., Racine, WI 53405 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Club auction from 11-noon and 1 p.m. to ?. We will be having the Famous Rick Soller Auction again. For all you mud hounds, Rick will be auctioning off two porcelain insulator collections. He has some glass too. If you want to put something in the auction, by all means bring it with. Russ Frank also bought a collection recently and will have insulators from that collection in the auction. Lunch will be served at noon (Brats, hot dogs, roasted corn and more). Please RSVP if you are coming. Please bring your own tables if selling. Will go on rain or shine Info: 262-633-0756. Email: RandysDodge@gmail.com .

When: September 24, 2011 (Saturday)

Where: Nisswa, MN

Description: North Western Insulator Club's Fall Swap Meet, at home of COLIN & KAREN YENNIE, 1126 Ebert Dr, Nisswa, MN 56468 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Please bring your own tables. Info: 507-271-3457. Email: cryennie@hotmail.com

When: November 4 - 6 (Friday - Sunday)

Where: Springfield, OH

Description: 41st Mid-Ohio Insulator Show at the Clark County Fairgrounds, exit 59 off I-70. The "Springfield Experience" is more akin to the fur trappers' rendezvous of times past than just another insulator show and sell. Good times are had by all, acquaintances renewed, tales told, songs sung, and good food consumed before collectors begin denning up for the winter, and, above all else, a vast assortment of insulators (glass, porcelain, and other stuff) will be admired and exchanged. Dealer set-up begins at "high noon" on the 4th (collectors begin filling the hall at about 3:00 pm) and the "last man standing" will depart about 3 pm on the 6th. Entertainment may be enjoyed Friday evening and the Saturday evening dinner is always the "must do" highlight of the "Experience." Be sure to observe the Wilkersons make miniature glass insulators with equipment and methods similar to those used during the late 1800's. A special display and seminar about glass and porcelain insulators manufactured in Indiana (excepting Hemingray) will be presented for your amazement. Download dealer and displayer table reservations forms from the show website, www.insulators.info/shows/springfield, or call STEVE BLAIR, 740-852-3148 if your printer is on the fritz. If all else fails, call or e-mail GLENN DRUMMOND, 334-257-3100 (glenn@patent-1871.com).

For Sale: 2011 Insulator Price Guide. \$45 postpaid or pick one up at the next show (such as the Racine swap meet). Note: This is the pre-publication price. These are now priced at \$49 postpaid from the publisher so you can save some money if you don't have one or need another by getting it from Rick Soller, 4086 Blackstone Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031 (847) 782-8602 or COM574@clcollinois.edu.