



**GREATER CHICAGO  
INSULATOR CLUB  
NEWSLETTER**  
Rick Soller, editor  
Volume 20, #2 - July 2012



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**What's been going on**

By Rick Soller

It has been hard for me to write a newsletter for the club in the last three months, which is too bad since there have been a number of shows in the area over that time including the Yorkville, IL show, the Columbia City, IN show, the Toledo/Tama, IA show and the national show in Kansas City, MO. So while I'm sitting in the middle of a five-hour-long class, I'm going to try to catch everyone up.

Personally, I started a doctoral program at Northern Illinois University in May. The program was supposed to start a while ago but all the details didn't get worked out right away and, as a result, the course I should have taken last semester got added to the course I needed to take this summer. Both courses started at the same time, and, since I didn't anticipate either one starting due to continual delays, I also signed up to teach this summer. The combined workload has left me with little free time. There are three books and about 1000 pages of journal articles to read for the course. On top of this, there are several papers to write, and presentations to make. Today is the last day of the last class I'm taking and in two weeks, I'll be finished with the class I'm taking. In the future, the classes will be spaced out much more.

Catching up on the show reports will be more difficult. If you receive the Crown Jewels, you should have seen the show report for the Yorkville show that I wrote so I don't want to repeat that material. Because of my classes, I wasn't able to attend the Columbia City show, the Toledo/Tama show nor the national show. For all of these, then, I'm relying on second-hand reports, postings on [insulators.info](http://insulators.info), or ICON postings.

**Yorkville, IL Show Report**

Once again, the Yorkville, Illinois show was huge with over 100 tables and more displays than in the previous year but not as many as we've had in the past. Held on April 14, 2012, the show had some great insulators show up and collectors from pretty far away.

Ken Roberts came all the way from Alabama. Matt Grayson came from New York. Chris Hedges came from Kansas City.

Club members included show host Jason Townsend who brought several members of his family. Bob Stahr also brought family members giving some hope for the future of the hobby. Russ & Marge Frank were set up in the middle of the hall. Arlen & Tina Rienstra had a table of insulators as well as a table of NIA merchandise. Rick Soller had a table as did Dave Shaw, Jim Crandall, Tom Nugent, and a lot of other club members that I can't recall at the moment.

After most people had packed up and headed home, Andy & Sandia Polivka came by to make some deals with a few people. They purchased quite a bit from Ken Roberts and picked up a few things from Rick Soller who had already bought over a hundred insulators from Ken, leaving Ken with much less weight in his vehicle and a big smile on his face as he drove home.

**Upcoming Newsletters:**

Look forward to future newsletters which will include a club directory and more show reports.

**Publication Information:**

The newsletter is edited by Rick Soller, 4086 Blackstone Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031. (847) 782-8602 or [Com574@clcillinois.edu](mailto:Com574@clcillinois.edu). Send articles, news, change of address, or for sale information to him. Membership in the club is \$10 per year (\$5 if 16 or under). Send dues to Bob Stahr, 515 Main St, Unit 403, West Chicago, IL 60185. [Bob@hemingray.com](mailto:Bob@hemingray.com) or (630) 231-4171.

**National Show Report**

The June 22-24, 2012 National show in Kansas City, Missouri is in the books now. It sounds like everyone had a great time. I heard a lot of good things about the fireworks display and several club members got to see the enormous collection of Charles Brandon.

The club was well-represented amongst the displayers at the show. We should be proud that so many of the displays were put on by the club since the show was quite a distance away and putting together a display requires a great deal of effort.

Each year the club sponsors an award for the best use of power insulators used in a display. The award includes original art work professionally matted and framed. This year the award was won by Ron Yuhas for his display of colorful power insulators. Below on the left is a picture of the award.



Richard Case had three displays at the show. He recreated the Insulbug for the show using a “submarine” insulator, a hogs liver porcelain insulator and a few other pieces. A picture of the insulbug is shown above on the right. Richard’s second display was on the amber Hemingray D-518 spools that were used on a pole at the end of his driveway that finally came down in a storm. His third display was on the Scott C. Cutter insulator. Some of you may have seen this display at the Yorkville, Illinois show.

Jason Townsend put together a noncompetitive display of porcelain Mickey Mouse insulators. Included in the display were several rare blue porcelain insulators and the rarest white insulator. Club members contributing to the display included Richard Case, Rick Soller, and Tim Haraf. Elton Gish, Matt Grayson, and Stanley Klein also contributed.

Roger Lucas did a display of glass from the Hemingray factory dump. The display was titled “Anomalies of Glass and Why They Exist.”

Arlen Rienstra’s display titled “Hemingray Blue & Ball Blue Too, It’s All in the Sand!” won several awards at the show. It received the NIA award for Best of Color and it also received the NIA Milholland Educational Award.

Russ Frank put together an extensive display of reproduction insulators. I believe the display included 29 different kinds of reproductions including those made by Mark Lauckner, William McLaughlin, the Telephone Pioneers of America, Bill Scandarioto, Eric Johnson, and many others.



### **Columbia City, Indiana Show Report**

The May 18-19, 2012 Columbia City, Indiana show had the most diverse list of events as any show I’ve heard about, including the National. The show was hosted by Gene Hawkins and Chuck Dittmar. Besides dealer tables, there was an auction, a seminar on privy digging, door prizes, an insulator display, insulators that were brought in by the public, NIA merchandise for sale, bottles for sale, and front page newspaper coverage.

Bob Nobbe was on the cover of the Post & Mail, the local newspaper. There was a very informative presentation on privy digging. A table full of insulators was auctioned off and the buyer then made his money back by selling individual pieces. The Crown Jewels donated some commemorative insulators that were given away as a door prize. Tina Rienstra was there selling NIA merchandise. Gene Hawkins displayed CD 145 Brookfields with various dome numbers.

Club members in attendance included Jim White who took the photo on the next page, Alan Stastny who also promoted his upcoming hog roast while at the show, Kim Borman, Arlen Rienstra, Andy Wadysz, Dave Shaw, Mike McLaughlin, and Mark Gilmore.



### The Toledo/Tama Insulator Swap Meet

The June swap meet in the Toledo/Tama, Iowa area enjoyed a successful 15<sup>th</sup> year this year. A good group of collectors made it to the show although some familiar faces were missing and at least one person had to work hard to make it.



Russ Frank learned not to over-rely on his GPS on his way to the event. His GPS directed him down a paved road toward an antique store. The road eventually turned to gravel after a sign indicating that it was no longer maintained after that point. With rain, the road was slippery and, at the bottom of a hill in the middle of nowhere, Russ' van went off the road. Luckily 9-1-1 could figure out where he was because Russ wasn't sure. It took a while, but Russ finally got extricated with some help from a tow truck and "assistance" from a law enforcement officer.

At the show, club members included Dave Show, Dennis Seltrecht, Riley Armstrong, and Andy Wadysz. I understand that Riley had to be forced to leave the swap meet "at gunpoint." Also attending the show were perennial attendees Dennis and Jeannie Weber. The Webers didn't know it but they were to receive a lifetime achievement award at the upcoming national. Also setting up at the show were Mark Grimek and Jim O'Connor. There were many others at the show but I didn't get any other names from my sources.

As almost always happens, the weather was great. As always happens, the food was delicious. A special 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake made the mid-day meal especially memorable.

## Upcoming Shows

**When:** July 27 – 28, 2012 (Friday - Sunday)

**Where:** Arcanum, OH

**Description:** The Annual Hog Roast hosted by Alan and Joan Stastny will be held on Friday, July 27, 2012 with an insulator swap meet on the following day (Saturday, July 28). Come hungry but you won't leave that way. For more information, contact Alan at 8784 Grubbs Rex Rd., Arcanum, OH 45304 or by phone at (937) 884-7379 or (937) 546-4745 (cell) or you can email him at FuzzyFace42@aol.com.

**When:** August 4 (Saturday)

**Where:** Nisswa, MN

**Description:** The NW Region Insulator Club will hold a swap meet at the home of KAREN & COLIN YENNIE, 1126 Ebert Drive, Nisswa MN 56468. Hours are from 10:00 to 4:00 and Colin will be grilling lunch-rain or shine. Nisswa is located in central Minnesota- please call for directions or more information. Bring your own tables if possible or spread out in the yard. Phone 507-271-3457 or e-mail [klyennie@hotmail.com](mailto:klyennie@hotmail.com) if questions. You may bring inventory for auction with a small percentage of the proceeds going to the club treasury to fund future activities.

**When:** September 8 (Saturday)

**Where:** Racine, WI

**Description:** 12th Annual Greater Chicago Insulator Club "End of Summer" Picnic and Swap Meet. 9:00 AM -- 3:00 PM. Lunch will be served at noon. Please let me know if you plan to attend so enough food can be prepared. Brats and hot dogs are on the menu this year. We will be having the Famous Rick Soller Auction again. He has hundreds of insulators ready to auction. If you want to put something in the auction, by all means bring it with. The event will go on rain or shine. It will be held at the home of RANDY WESNER, 434 Blaine Ave., Racine, WI 53405 (262) 633-0756 Email: [randysdodge@gmail.com](mailto:randysdodge@gmail.com) Call or email if you need directions. Looking forward to seeing YOU!!!

**When:** November 2 - 4 (Friday - Sunday)

**Where:** Springfield, OH

**Description:** 42ND Mid-Ohio Insulator Show, November 2-4, Clark County Fairgrounds, Springfield, Ohio. Location is off Exit 59 off I-70, 30 miles east of Dayton or 50 miles west of Columbus. Show hours are 3:00 to 6:00 on Friday, 8:00 to 4:00 Saturday, and 9:00 to ??? Sunday. Saturday evening dinner at the Quality Inn & Conference Center, located at Exit 54. The Quality Inn has a special room rate of \$68 plus tax for show attendees. For reservations: 937-323-8631. For more show info: [www.insulators.info/shows/springfield](http://www.insulators.info/shows/springfield). Show hosts: STEVE & LOIS BLAIR 740-852-3148 or [csb50@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csb50@sbcglobal.net) ; CURT BOSTER 614-301-5125 or [cbooster@wowway.com](mailto:cbooster@wowway.com)