



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**
Rick Soller, editor



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Yorkville, IL Show Report

The big news about the Yorkville, Illinois show held on April 7-8, 2017 was the posting on the Lightning Rod Collectors Facebook page after the show. Show host Jason Townsend posted a message titled “IT IS TIME ITS BEEN GREAT THANKS GUYS”:

I have enjoyed doing the show over the years never really about making money it's more about seeing people having fun and seeing old collectors that you see from time to time but ever since I've taken over the show I've never ever made a dime on the show I move the show from Wheaton to Yorkville il to try to make at least a dollar just to rent the building is \$2500 and we know that's not including seven dollars a table and two dollars per chair so that's why I moved it to Yorkville il the building rent is \$1050 I own all the tables and all the chairs I take two days off work we advertise in the crown jewels and we have website and all over face book so this year will be my last year Thank you everyone.

In response to this news, Bob Stahr and Rick Soller decided to plan a show on the date and move the show back to the DuPage County Fairgrounds (more on this later in the newsletter).

This year's Yorkville show saw a large number of lightning rod dealers and a smattering of dealers selling insulators. Richard Case took a number of photographs and posted them on insulators.info and a two in particular are shown on the next page. In the picture on the left, Greg is shown with a Fred Locke gutter top consisting of a porcelain top and glass bottom. The picture on the right shows a couple pole tops with side pins and a variety of insulators affixed to the pins. Jason had these for sale as well as over a hundred “fire plugs” and a number of porcelain high voltage signs. John Brabender of Madison, Wisconsin had a nice greenish Chambers on his table that Richard bought. Tom Nugent had a variety of insulators and Bell Telephone items including Princess phones in various colors and a large Bell sign. Dave Show had a light box filled with interesting glass insulators and a table full of a variety of colors.

I wasn't able to attend the show since I'm in the middle of writing a dissertation and was finishing up a term as Faculty Senate Chair and Chair of my department but wished I could make it. From the pictures, I recognized a few of the other collectors in attendance. Jack Riesselman was there from Montana. Russ Frank showed up in one picture. Terry Kornberg telephoned me from the show so I know he was there. Bob Stahr popped in briefly. I also identified Rob Krupka, the lightning rod ball book author.

Thanks to Jason for hosting the show for so many years after Jim Crandall decided he didn't want to run it anymore. I know he put a lot of time and money into the show so I hope he knows collectors will have many good memories of the show.



2018 DuPage Collectables Expo

Since the April 2017 Yorkville show was Jason's last, Bob Stahr and Rick Soller have decided to take on the challenge of hosting a spring show. They decided to name the show the DuPage Collectables Expo (DCE) since they plan to feature insulators, lighting rod collectables, and bottles at the show in order to expand the number of tables that can sold. The show date will be April 7, 2018 and will be returning to the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, Illinois. This is the same facility that the show used to be held at years ago. April 1 is Easter, and the Kane County Flea Market is scheduled for April 8, the day after the show. A model railroad show is also supposed to take place on Sunday after our show at the Wheaton location.

Table prices will be \$40 for the first table and \$35 for each one after that. Electricity is \$10 more per dealer who wants it, regardless of the number of tables the dealer buys. Tables for exhibits will be free.

More details will be provided closer to the show, including information on where to get a contract, and pictures of the facility for those who have never seen it or forget what it looks like.

LaPorte Auction Report

[I intended to send out a March edition of the newsletter with this story in it but got very busy at work so am including it in this issue.]

The last newsletter included a notice that there would be an auction of some of the last of the Jim Crandall collection of insulators. The auction took place on Sunday, Feb. 12 in LaPorte, Indiana and consisted of mostly low end insulators in the \$5-\$20 range.

There were lots of colored porcelain pin-type insulators but also plenty of glass as well as a few oddities. The website of for the auction showed over 75 images of the various lots. Oddities included a G.E. fuse cutout, blue J-D suspensions, and a sky gray station post. Some of the class included CD 202s and CD 162s that were frequently found in the Chicago area. Unique mushroom top, sky grey porcelain pieces manufactured from about 1974-1985 were also available. Chicago was one of the few places where these were used.

Collectors bidding in the auction included Mike McLaughlin, Dave Ramp, and Gene Hawkins. Robert Winkler was also in attendance and indicated that the auction grossed about \$1700 in sales.

A few days after the auction, Colin Jung from California posted a notice on ICON about an estate sale in LaPorte, Indiana that included unsold lots from the auction or lots purchased by the auction company. The estate sale was taking place from Thursday, Feb. 16 to Sunday, Feb. 19. From the pictures of items in the estate sale, there were over 50 glass insulators (mostly CD 162s), at least one table of brown porcelain, a sky gray substation insulator, and a few white porcelain insulators. The auction company apparently thought they could make some money on insulators that collectors were not interested in.

Upcoming Columbia City Show

The Columbia City, Indiana show is a week earlier this year. Usually there is no hurry to reserve the facility but recently the Whitley County 4H Center allowed users to have alcohol in the facility so the usual date of May 12-13 was grabbed to host a wedding. As a result, the show was moved to May 5-6 (one week away from when this newsletter was sent out!).

There will be some new activities at the show this year as well as some of the traditional activities. On Friday night there will be an auction of insulators (maybe a few other things). I know I'll be bringing a table of insulators for the auction as well as getting a sales table. There will also be pizza on Friday evening at 5:00 p.m. and an opportunity to bring one or a lot of insulators for show and tell.

Mike McLaughlin and Gene Hawkins have put in a lot of work to make the show special including making a deal with the right managers at local hotels that are cheaper than you can get online. To get the deal, you must call the numbers below and mention the Insulator Show to get these great rates:

Quality Inn is newer, with a pool for \$55/double and \$65/single king. It is located at 701 West Connexion Way, Columbia City, IN 46725. Call them at (260) 248-4551. The manager's name is Star (I don't know if that is a first or last name but no relation to Bob Stahr). If you call in the evening, the front desk is not likely to know what the special rate is.

The Super 8 is just a little further east for \$45/double. It is located at 235 Frontage Road, Columbia City, IN 46725. Call them at (260) 244-5300. If you call in the evening, the front desk is not likely to know what the special rate is.

There is a Holiday Inn being built next to the Quality Inn, but it won't be ready for this years' show.

Upcoming Shows

Columbia City, Indiana

Friday & Saturday, May 5-6, 2017

This is a new date for the show since the facility was already booked on the traditional date. This year's show will have a Friday night auction. One of the bigger little shows! Columbia City Insulator and Collectibles Show, Whitley County 4H Center, 581 West Squawbuck Road, Columbia City, Indiana. Dealer setup Friday noon to 3:00; public from 3-5 PM. Pizza @5PM. Show & Tell 6:00 PM-Bring something awesome to share! Saturday dealer setup 6:00 to 8:00 AM and open to public from 8:00 to 3:00. First 8-foot table is \$28. Two tables for \$48; 3/\$60; 4/\$75; 5/\$80; 6/\$85. Info: GENE WAWKINS gene.hawkins@mchsi.com

Austin, Minnesota

Saturday, May 6 2017

The North Western Insulator Club will host a Spring Swap Meet at the American Legion, 809 12th St SW IN Austin, Minnesota. Hours are 9-3 and the kitchen will be open for breakfast, coffee and lunch. This is a roomy hall with lots of tables available for all and easy loading and unloading. There is space outside for display if the weather cooperates and we will plan to have an auction at noon. Gordy Cassidy is our host and if you would like more info, contact COLIN YENNIE at cryennie@hotmail.com or 507-289-1095.

Tama, Iowa

Saturday, June 3, 2017

The 20th Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet will be held at the Tama Civic Center on Saturday, June 3rd from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Dealers can set up starting at 7:00 AM. The Civic Center is located at 305 Siegel St. in downtown Tama, IA just two blocks off Highway 63. There will be no cost to set up and lunch will be provided to those in attendance. Over the past 19 years, many Midwest collectors and friends have joined us for this fun and relaxed annual event and this year should be no different. We look forward to hosting you again for a great time in the Hawkeye State and look forward to seeing you this June. For additional information you can contact show host DAVE SHAW at (641) 484-5463 or can e-mail me at dashaw@mchsi.com. Please contact show host for table reservation.

Dearborn, Michigan

Saturday, June 3, 2017

2nd annual swap meet held at the home of Curtis Erickson from 9am to 3pm. The swap meet is the same day and area as the famous Edison Street Sale (large city garage sale). Set up is free, please bring your own table. Walking distance from the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. Only a 45 minute drive north of the Michigan/Ohio border. Contact: CURTIS ERICKSON (248) 515-4612 crerickson1@gmail.com Show location, 22101 Olmstead St., Dearborn, MI 48124

Wheaton, Illinois

Saturday, April 7, 2018

DuPage Collectable Expo held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Tables are \$40 for the first and \$35 for the second and subsequent table. \$10 if you want electricity. Contact Bob Stahr at Bob@Hemingray.com or Rick Soller at Com574@clcillinois.edu.