



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



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Racine, Wisconsin Swap Meet

I guess a lot of people circled September 9 as the date for the end of summer GCIC swap meet hosted by Randy Wesner since there was a good crowd at the 17th consecutive swap meet hosted by Randy.

I counted 42 people in attendance although I didn't catch the name of 3 people. The crowd included Randy, Marna, Austin, Dave Wesner, Rick Soller, Russ & Marge Frank, Richard Case with his wife and grandson, Deb & Mike Fowler, Sean Pretzl, Dave Shaw, Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Riley Armstrong, Dennis Seltrext, Tom Nugent & his grandson Tim, Dieter Holz, Les & Judy Christensen, Mike McLaughlin, Bill & LaVonne Sharp, Larry Beauchamp, Ross Berndt, Justin Perault, Gene Hawkins, Bruce & Sharon Laughlin, Ethan Johnson, Wyatt Johnson, Andy Johnson, Jacob Metzger, Jim Hoffman, Blaine Maus, Ashley Vance (upstairs renter), Ginger the 15 year-old dog, and 3 people from Porcaro car dealership.

The auction had fewer lots than usual but generated more revenue (\$627!) for the club than ever before due to a sizeable donation from Rocky Florida. The insulators donated by Rocky were very nice quality, resulting in nice prices for several lots. Lot #11 especially saw active bidding as Shawn Pritzl and Rick Soller went back and fourth on the 40 CD 102s before Shawn Pritzl came out on top with a bid of \$175. Afterwards Shawn revealed that there was a CD 102 [180] with a solid raised diamond in the lot that, by itself, was valued at \$50-75. Rick said he would have bid over \$200 if he had caught that.

The tail end of the auction saw insulators purchased by Austin last year returned to the swap meet. I heard that Austin bid last year to either keep another bidder from winning the lot or to run the price up. After last year's auction, however, the insulators ended up sitting at Randy's house for quite a while until Randy hauled them to Austin's house only to see them return this year. Unfortunately for Austin, the collector interested in them last year was not in attendance this year and the lots only brought a total of \$8. The last lot, in particular, included 6 crates of porcelain insulators that went home with Richard Case for \$1. That, however, wasn't the best deal of the auction as Ethan Johnson was paid \$1 by Les Christensen to take one lot consisting of a milk crate filled with about 50 porcelain insulators.

With only 53 lots, the auction finished in record time. In the past, the auction was split into pre-lunch lots and post-lunch lots. This year, all lots were sold by noon.

In addition to income from the ever-popular auction, the club added a new junior member (the Wyatt Johnson family), and received renewals from Mike & Deb Fowler, Shawn Pretzl, and Riley Armstrong to add another \$35 to the treasury.

This will be the last time the swap meet will be in Racine hosted by Randy. Randy has decided to retire from hosting duties. I don't blame him after 17 years of putting the swap meet on. Thanks for all your work, Randy!

In future newsletters, more information about how he ran the swap meet will be printed so if you are interested in taking over, you'll have an idea of how to plan the even. Randy kept detailed records each year and they make an interesting historical record, e.g., only two collectors besides Randy have been to every one of the Racine swap meets (Russ Frank & Rick Soller). He compiled a precise time table on when different activities should be done, as well as receipts for things such as renting a tent in the event of rain, menu items, and number of people in attendance.



Above is a picture taken by Richard Case that shows some of the action at the auction. On the left in the back are Ethan Johnson, Wyatt Johnson, and Mike Fowler. In front of the table are Mike McLaughlin (ball cap), Rick Soller (OSU shirt), and Russ Frank keeping score. Riley Armstrong is at the front of the picture on the right. Behind him is Steve Mattson and Dave Shaw. Les Christensen's head is in the center, bottom of the photograph.

| Lot | Seller | Description | Buyer | Price |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1 | Russ Frank | Tolls #12 | Riley Armstrong | \$4 |
| 2 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Beehives, porcelain | Justin Peralt | \$1 |
| 3 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 143, 102, 104 | Bill Sharp | \$32 |
| 4 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 133, 162, 160, 154 | Dieter Holz | \$18 |
| 5 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 100, 106, 116, clears | Richard Case | \$7 |
| 6 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | California plum, 116 | Dave Shaw | \$18 |
| 7 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 116 Mc, 102, 121, 160 | Dennis Seltrecht | \$26 |
| 8 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 145s, green olive PRR | Dieter Holz | \$10 |
| 9 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 109 spool, 42s | Les Christensen | \$9 |
| 10 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Purple Whitall-Tatums | Arlen Rienstra | \$95 |
| 11 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 40 ponies | Shawn Pritzl | \$175 |
| 12 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 145s, 151 | Wyatt Johnson | \$1 |
| 13 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Whitall-Tatum CD 122 Olives | Russ Frank | \$20 |

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 14 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Brookfields, CD 160s | Mike Fowler | \$23 |
| 15 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Battery rests, English, Russian, Australian | Riley Armstrong | \$25 |
| 16 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | 154s | Wyatt Johnson | \$1 |
| 17 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Clears-ice, transposition, 168 | Dave Shaw | \$4 |
| 18 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Hemi-23, 169, W/T 216 | Riley Armstrong | \$9 |
| 19 | Rocky Flarida - Donation | Maydwells | Rick Soller | \$40 |
| 20 | Donation | Large porcelain JD blue | Justin Peralt | \$21 |
| 21 | Donation | Large porcelain lt yellow brown | Rick Soller | \$16 |
| 22 | Donation | Large porcelain | Wyatt Johnson | \$2 |
| 23 | Riley Armstrong | Russian suspension | Shawn Pritzl | \$20 |
| 24 | Riley Armstrong | 6 small OB suspensions | Shawn Pritzl | \$1 |
| 25 | Riley Armstrong | 3 green suspensions | Bruce Laughlin | \$18 |
| 26 | Riley Armstrong | 4 brown porcelain insulators | Justin Perault | \$1 |
| 27 | Riley Armstrong | Chance multipart | Ross | \$1 |
| 28 | Riley Armstrong | Milk crate of 50+ porcelain | Ethan | -\$1 |
| 29 | Rick Soller | Aqua glass, 133 | Richard Case | \$13 |
| 30 | Rick Soller | B spool, green star | Les Christensen | \$10 |
| 31 | Rick Soller | Commemoratives and Repro 102 | Shawn Pritzl | \$25 |
| 32 | Rick Soller | Canadian aqua + lt. green ponies | Steve Mattson | \$17 |
| 33 | Rick Soller | 162 amber, green 133, AmTelTel | Mike Fowler | \$26 |
| 34 | Rick Soller | Brown Multis 8@\$2 | Justin Perault | \$16 |
| 35 | Gene Hawkins-Donation | 162, 112 on board | Les Christensen | \$6 |
| 36 | Mike McLaughlin | Wall tube, American, Lynchburg | Richard Case | \$4 |
| 37 | Mike McLaughlin | Brookfield, 154, pumpkin Lapp | Bill Sharp | \$5 |
| 38 | Mike McLaughlin | Brown porcelain, hog liver 5@\$3 | Riley Armstrong | \$15 |
| 39 | Mike McLaughlin | Brown porcelain | Rick Soller | \$2 |
| 40 | Mike McLaughlin | GTW Elec catalog | Rick Soller | \$30 |
| 41 | Mike McLaughlin | Farm/Dairy catalog | Arlen Rienstra | \$10 |
| 42 | Mike McLaughlin | Box of miscellaneous | Riley Armstrong | \$9 |
| 43 | Mike McLaughlin | Box misc PP + Knox HG signals | Rick Soller | \$1 |
| 44 | Mike McLaughlin | 106 – 7 ups 3 | Bill Sharp | \$12 |
| 45 | Mike McLaughlin | Amber 162 | Bill Sharp | \$25 |
| 46 | Donation | 154, 106, 145, 154 | Rick Soller | \$1 |
| 47 | Les Christensen-Donation | Misc. 102, 154, Rubber, 145 | Steve Mattson | \$12 |
| 48 | Les Christensen-Donation | NGK, BBC, McGraw, pins | Riley Armstrong | \$17 |
| 49 | Les Christensen-Donation | Clear lamp | Riley Armstrong | \$15 |
| 50 | Mike McLaughlin | Copper clad wire | Tom Nugent | \$1 |
| 51 | Austin | Crate of porcelain | Les Christensen | \$4 |
| 52 | Austin | Crate of clear glass | Russ Frank | \$3 |
| 53 | Austin | 6 crates of insulators | Richard Case | \$1 |
| | | Total sales | | \$878 |
| | | Total donations out of sales | | \$604 |

The Best Wife

by Mr. Kim Borgman

I have decided I have the best wife in ICON land. We just got the living room redone. During the talk with contractor, SHE said, "oh, we can put shelf all across living room here for your lamps -- 25 feet long mind you! AND she paid for it. So now I have all my clear lamps out on display to enjoy.

Several months ago, she comes home from work and says there is nice top lighted 6' tall cabinet in a consignment shop. It would be great for your colored lamps. And it was great deal also. So now, I've got all of them on display, and top lit, they look great after dark. In the living room.

She will go antiquing with me any Saturday I want to. Or to an auction. We see good hemi item on Ebay, buy it she says, when will another one come along? Sometimes birthday/Christmas/father's day dollars will come along with that statement.

She encouraged me to attend the 2017 National so when I found way to get there and back, I did it.

We are getting a backlit display cabinet delivered before Springfield this year, again to be installed in living room with hemi 9's to go in.

Sitting in choir last night at church, I gaze at her and realize she has on the blue insulator shaped earrings, AND is wearing a pendant in aqua made from insulator shard.

Sigh.... And she spent a week of vacation with me in the boonies of Canada this year at a cabin. No electricity. No cell coverage. Remote. Boat in, portage, another boat to cabin. Just the loons, beavers, and fish. The group after us saw a bear 15 yards off from camp one day.

I'm gonna keep her for long time.

Upcoming Shows

Springfield, Ohio

Friday, November 3 to Sunday, November 5, 2017

The 47th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show will be held November 3-5 at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Springfield, Ohio. Show hours are Friday 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and Sunday from 9:00 AM to closing. Info: CURT BOSTER email: cboster530@att.net or 614-301-5125 or LOIS BLAIR 740-852-3148. Additional info at: www.insulators.info/shows/springfield

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 360 S. Kenilworth Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, (630) 793-5345, Bob@Hemingray.com or Rick Soller at 4086 Blackstone Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031, Com574@clcillinois.edu, (847) 782-8602.



The picture on the left was taken by Randy Wesner. Steve Mattson brought this for show. Randy writes that “If I remember the story right, at the time he was a new collector and found this in the bottom of a bucket of commons.”

The CD 181 has no embossing and is listed in the price guide for \$4,000-\$4,500 so it is a great find, even with the damage.

These have shown up before in the Chicago area. One appeared at a swap meet hosted by Mark & Elaine Correira in Park Forest, Illinois several years ago. They were used at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair in the underground tunnels. After the fair, they were reportedly shipped to Colorado as many were found there.



Randy showed artistic flair in taking this picture. He writes, “I thought this was really cool. It was labeled 3600, which means it had 3600 pairs of telephone wires. That’s 7200 wires. Tom Nugent had lots of other interesting chunks of cables too.”

Tom was an A.T. & T. employee so came across this kind of thing on a regular basis. That’s also why Tom is always looking for A.T. & T. Co. CD 121 insulators. He would also settle for a CD 121 Am. Tel. & Tel Co.

Randy reports that he saw many interesting insulators and go-withs at the show but was so busy, he didn’t get a chance to do as much wheeling and dealing as he would have liked. He said some of his best sales were after almost everyone else had gone home and he was able to sell some power pieces to the few people who hung around. He was also able to sell a piece the night before.



Porcelain collectors were not disappointed at the show. Besides inexpensive crates of porcelain and interesting multipart in the auction, there were porcelain pintypes sprinkled throughout the show. Here is one of the larger concentrations of them.



Ross Berndt brought lightning rod balls, pendants, and directional arrows. There usually aren't very many of these at the swap meets so he had a monopoly on sales of these.



The picture above shows the fantastic colors available at the show. From left to right, a royal purple CD 162.4 no embossing, two CD 151 N.A.T.CO.s in cobalt blue, an electric blue CD 162, three CD 162s in tangerine, dark amber, and honey amber. These came from a recent collection that was first brought to this swap meet. Several were sold in Racine, and the rest ended up on eBay. That's one reason to get to swap meets – to get first shot at choice insulators.