



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

Rick Soller, editor-in chief

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Ottawa, Illinois GCIC Swap Meet Update

About 15-20 people have already indicated they plan to attend the Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018 GCIC swap meet in Ottawa, Illinois at the home at Tom & Mary Nugent. On Friday evening, collectors are welcome to stop by for some casual conversation and help set-up tables and organize the club auction. Perhaps some pizza will be ordered for dinner ☺.

Although the address is listed as 1999 Columbus Street, attendees need to turn on Alexis Street to get to this address. You cannot see the house from Columbus Street and you have to travel to the end of Alexis Street to get to the address of the swap meet. Coming from I-80, Alexis Street is one mile south on Columbus Street/U.S. 30 and is the first right turn after Reynolds Manor Dr. You will be going west when you make the turn. Tom will have signs up to make it easier to find his domicile.

Those arriving the night before will be glad to hear that there are several motels within a mile of the Nugent home. A quick search found a Super 8 for \$59 per night, Surrey for \$58, Quality Inn for \$72, Comfort Inn for \$93, and Hampton Inn for \$103.

Greg North and I will be around on Friday night, setting up lots for the auction. I heard from Justin Perralt that he will probably not be able to attend.

Kansas City, Missouri National Show Report

Another memorable National is now a fond memory. The June 22-24, 2018 even offer a lot of activities, wonderful displays, good conversations with friends, delicious food, and plenty of insulators.

There were three major community displays which seemed like too many to me. One presented a range of CD 162s, one presented rare U.S. porcelain, and one included a variety of foreign porcelain. Brian Ricker organized the display of CD 162s with Chris Hedges taking the lead on the U.S. porcelain display, and Bob Berry managing the foreign porcelain display. Rick Soller brought about 50 pieces for the foreign display and a couple for the CD 162 display. He indicated that he would have liked to bring a bunch of pieces for the rare porcelain display but didn't have time after gathering up the foreign pieces, items for his display, and putting together his sales stock.

Several club members had displays. Arlen Rienstra displayed colorful CD 154s in the NIA Color category. This was a surprising display to see since Arlen is generally known for his extensive collection of K.C.G.W. insulators or Square-D insulators, both made in Indiana, not for a collection of CD 154s from a variety of manufacturers including Whitall-Tatum, Dominion, Lynchburg, McLaughlin, Gayner, Maydwell, and Hemingray. Dates during which these companies manufactured the CD 154 were provided. The display featured a light box framed with barn siding adorned with the names of the companies included in the display and a large, bold title. On either side of the display were short sections of crossarms holding two insulators on a pin. A nice range of aqua Whitall-Tatum insulators was included in the display as well as

two shades of purple. A good range of Lynchburg green and aqua CD 154s was included. Nine different colors of Dominions were included although ambers in the yellow and red spectrum and a cornflower blue were missing. Given the limited number of insulators that could be displayed, this was understandable. Arlen's display won the NIA Award for Color. Bob Stahr's photograph of Arlen's display is shown below.



Josh Dondorf displayed Hemingray glass products in the NIA Specialty category. Naturally insulators were included in the display but also included were kerosene lamps, water bottles, ashtrays, fruit jars, bird dishes, Crème de Menthe bottles, kerosene can, and syrup bottles. There was an interesting choice of 13 insulators in the display. Several appeared to be dump specimens and the CD 151 was heavily cracked. An aqua tinted piece of a glass bushing seemed to me to be the rarest piece. Three of the tall lamps especially stood out as they were amber, peacock, and depression green in color, respectively. A sign announcing the display as dealing with "Hemingray Glass Co." was positioned above the display table. I don't recall seeing a handout for the display and there weren't any placards indicating the type of products shown. The display was smartly arranged with a stepped plastic platform in the center allowing the lamps to rise up out of the table holding shorter pieces in front. The picture on the next page of the display by Josh was taken by Bob Stahr.

Three collectors displayed go-withs with Rick Soller offering his take on the category as one of the entrants. Insulator go-withs included in the display included playing cards, paperweights, matchbooks, employee pins, employee service pins, catalogs, ink blotters, postcards, calendars, an Ohio Brass doorknob, cuff links, a mirror, and pens. The small size of many of these made it difficult to get a good look at them. Pictures of service pins were photographed and enlarged but other items needed a close-up look. A handout provided additional detail on a few of the items and some black-and-white pictures but placards labeling the types of go-withs were missing. A tee-shirt emblazoned with "I GO WITH GO-WITHS" was presented on a foam board along with a 1997 Crown Jewels magazine cover showing a cartoon illustration of Rick wearing the shirt. A display photo, thanks to Bob Stahr, is on the next page.



The highlight of the banquet was the awarding of the NIA's Lifetime Achievement Award to Bob and Stacy Stahr. Bob has served as President of the NIA, hosted National, Regional, and local shows, written articles for the Crown Jewels, and inputted the text of insulator articles into a freely available database found on insulators.info.

As the NIA Awards coordinator for the last 9 years, Gene Hawkins received one of the six president's award. I am sure he deserved the recognition given how displayers are frequently unhappy about how their display was judged when they don't win an award.

After the banquet, Bob Stahr and Rick Soller had some fun resulting from finding the N.R. “Woody” Woodward award under one of the banquet tables. Bob Berry apparently forgot about it when the recipient wasn’t at the banquet. Much like Flat Stanley might be treated, the award was taken on a tour of the hotel including visits to the vending machine, the exercise room, and Bob & Stacy Stahr’s hotel room. Pictures at each stop were uploaded to the NIA website and eventually Bob Berry was contacted about his absent-mindedness and the award was returned to him in the hotel bar.

Two old friends of the club made it to the show: John and Carol McDougald. The clubs first gathering was at their St. Charles, Illinois home and one of the first club adventures (free insulators left over from their purchase the collection of Marion Oshmann in Evansville, IN) was courtesy of their generosity. They asked about many of the club members when they had a little time in between busy activity at their table. If you are ever in Sedona, Arizona, you might look them up. They keep pretty busy so you may have a tough time catching them.

Upcoming Shows

Ottawa, Illinois

Saturday, September 8, 2018

The Greater Chicago Insulator Club's annual fall swap meet will be at a new location this year. Tom and Mary Nugent are hosting the show on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at their home located at 1999 N. Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350. Bring a table if you can. Free lunch. Club auction with Rick Soller taking bids. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tom at (815) 434-5157 or tnugent@ivnet.com.

After many years of hosting the fall swap meet, Randy Wesner decided to “retire” from the position and several people were contacted to determine their interest in taking over the time slot with Tom eventually taking over the reins. Tom’s location is much closer to those coming from Iowa and Indiana plus allows travelers to avoid the traffic around the city. In addition, Tom has a fantastic collection so this is a wonderful opportunity to see that. The club has had swap meets at the Nugent home before but I’m sure Tom has added to his collection since then.

Tom has already sent out postcards informing area collectors about the date and I have already heard from one seldom seen collector (Greg North) that he plans to attend.

Richfield, Ohio

Saturday, September 22, 2018

The Western Reserve Insulator Club’s 8th Annual ‘Oktoberfest’ Insulator Show at the Masonic Hall, 3750 Grant Street, Richfield, Ohio 44286 (near the southeast corner of Routes 303 & 176), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free Admission. 8-foot dealer tables are \$20. Dealer Setup is from 9-10 a.m., Bratwurst and root beer available for lunch. Contact JOHN HOVANEK 216-392-3622, email jrhovanec@ymail.com or visit www.InsulatorCollectorsOfAmerica.com for more details.

River Falls, Wisconsin

Saturday, September 22, 2018

The North Western Insulator Club invites you to join us for the Annual Fall Swap Meet at the Moose Lodge, 620 Clark St in beautiful River Falls. Hours are 9 to 3 and the host is Mike Braun. Tables are free, admission is free and shopping will be great. Bring a dish to pass for lunch. For info, contact Mike at 715-426-0887 or mbraun61@yahoo.com

Chelsea, Michigan

Sunday, October 7, 2018

The 42nd Annual Antique Bottle and Insulator Show sponsored by the Huron Valley Bottle and Insulator Club will be held on Sunday October 7th at the Comfort Inn Conference Center, 1645 Commerce Park Drive, Chelsea, Michigan. It is located just north of I-94 at exit 159 (M-52). Doors open at 9 am to the public and show closes at 3 pm. Admission is \$3.00, with children under 16 free. Dealer set-up begins at 7 am. Food available on premises. Items for sale include: insulators, bottles, jars, lightning rod balls and weathervanes, and other related collectibles. Contact ROD KRUPKA, phone 248-627-6351 or e-mail rod.krupka@yahoo.com; or MIKE BRUNER e-mail abbott4girl@sbcglobal.net.

Springfield, Ohio

Friday to Sunday, November 2-4, 2018

The 48th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show will be held November 2-4 at the Clark County Fairgrounds, 4401 South Charleston Pike, Springfield, Ohio. Exit 59 off I-70. Show hours are Friday 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 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

Club member Rick Soller will have a special role at this show involving organizing the community display of solid pour insulators. Russ Frank will be including an insulator from his collection in the display as will Bob Stahr and Rick. Hopefully, a few other club members who have a solid pour will contact Rick with other entries.

The show still has room for displays although all sales tables have been sold. In the past, the club has had a strong presence among displays at the show so I look forward to that record being upheld at the 48th version of the show.

Thanks to Russ Frank for updating the web page for the show. All the information you need for the show can be found there.

Classified Ads

Wanted: Fuse cutout made by Bryant or information on its existence. I have only seen this cutout in a catalog so don't know if it exists. I assume it would have the Bryant name on it. To the right is a picture of the catalog page. Contact Rick Soller, (847) 970-1686 or Com574@clcollinois.edu if you can help.



A Primer on Fuse Cutouts

By Rick Soller

Few people collect fuse cutouts. They are made of porcelain, typically come in a brown color, do not sit on shelves well unless they are missing the fuse stick, and they are larger than the typical insulator so take up a lot of space. I'm not one of those people. In fact, I might be able to lay claim to having the largest collection of them and am the only one that has displayed them at a National or Mid-Ohio show in the last 30 years.

Since few people collect these, there is little easily available information on them. As a result, I thought I would write a brief primer on the subject in case members of the club come across one and want to know if it is valuable.

I know of 17 company names that can be found on North American fuse cutouts and suspect there are others made by companies. The companies I know about include Allis Chalmers, Canadian G-E, Crocker-Wheeler, Duncan, Fort Wayne Electrical Works, G.E., Kearney Corp., Kuhlman, Moloney, Packard, Pass & Seymour, Peru, Pittsburg Transformer Co., Schweitzer & Herz, Square-D, Wagner, and Westinghouse. Cutouts that I suspect exist but have not seen include Bryant, G & W, Hi-Voltage Equipment Co., Johns Pratt, Line Material, and Matthews & Brother, Inc.,

Putting a price on these can be difficult except for the most abundant ones. The most common cutouts were made by G.E. and Westinghouse. When I first started collecting these, I paid about \$20 for these but I've seen so many since then that I would not value these at about \$10. I would consider Canadian G.E., Pass & Seymour, Pittsburg, and Square-D cutouts to be uncommon. I have seen several of each but infrequently and a price of \$20 would be fair. Kearney made some in a cobalt blue and some in a teal green color. The cobalt blue version has exchanged hands a couple times among collectors for around \$150. The teal green would be closer to \$200. In between the colorful Kearneys and the uncommon ones is where the others would fall to varying degrees. I managed to buy a dozen Packards from one source but have not seen anyone else with a supply. I picked up three or four S & H cutouts years ago and, again, have not seen anyone else sell them. A few years ago, I went on a serious search for a Fort Wayne cutout and finally made contact with a collector that resulted in a trade for the cutout equivalent to about a \$100 price tag.

Most cutouts are missing the fuse stick. I buy sticks for that reason and because the stick for one cutout may not work in another cutout. Some sticks are shoved straight into the body of the cutout while some require a twisting motion. The size of sticks varies too so a shove-in stick for one cutout may not fit another shove-in stick cutout. In my mind, the price of a cutout could be increased by 50% if you have the stick.

Some cutouts are glazed and some are unglazed. If I had a choice between a chocolate brown one and an unglazed one, I would take the unglazed one. Often you can see the dry process lines easily in an unglazed one that you can't see in the glazed ones. Otherwise, many cutouts were offered in both glazed and unglazed options although there seemed to be more glazed ones out there so I would put a small (10%) premium on unglazed ones.

I collect just about every type of odd insulator: wire nuts, wall tubes, nail knobs, aerial spacers, suspensions, bushings, spools, commemoratives, and radio strains. With my vast collecting experience and extensive collection, I plan in future issues to provide other primers on these little talked about, and rarely documented insulators that have no price guide to refer to.