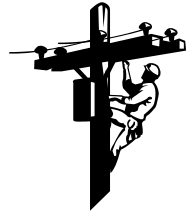


Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.nia.org>

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Available via e-mail

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



After having put out four newsletters, it is time to discuss some mailing issues. This fall we are making *Drip Points* available for download through an emailed link

as opposed to emailing it to our electronic subscribers as an attachment. This will hopefully solve many headaches experienced by electronic subscribers with a slow dial-up connection.

If you have put off signing up for the electronic version, now is the chance to switch your subscription. Not only will this save the NIA money, but you will get a full-color version with bonus features. For example, in this issue Tom Katonak has provided 15 photos of a tour with his wife Lynda of Insulatorland. His article contains four black and white photos in the paper version. Electronic sub-

scribers receive a supplement of 11 more - all 15 of them in color.

If anyone switches to the electronic version prior to the next issue, we will gladly make the electronic version of this issue available to you.

It was wonderful to see so many good friends in Orlando. Thanks to Jacque, Graham and Clay for all their efforts!

Good hunting!

**Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934
Information Director**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello everyone,

The 38th NIA National show in Orlando has now come and gone. The show was a great success and our show hosts Clay Bledsoe, Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, and Grahm Barnes, all did a spectacular job. I wish to thank them all for the hard work they put into the show. I don't think most folks realize how much effort must be put into hosting a show. It takes a special person to do this and we all benefit from it. My wife Cheryl and I really enjoyed the show and had a great time seeing many of you again. For those of you who couldn't make it, we missed you, maybe you can make it in 2008.

Speaking of 2008 and National shows, next years national location has been announced. The NIA announces this every year at the general membership meeting held at that year's National show. The general membership meeting this past National was held on Friday June 22nd, 4:15 pm in the Citrus Ballroom at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Next year's National show (The 39th NIA National) will be at the Lloyd Center Double Tree Inn, in Portland, Oregon. The show hosts are Howard & Linda Banks of

Crown Jewels magazine, and Steve Watkins who hosted the 1990 National Show in Portland, OR. The hosts have secured luxurious, double sized, hotel rooms (almost 400 square feet) that will be available July 2nd through July 8th 2008 for just \$89 per night (plus tax). (Just so you know what a deal that is, if you were to rent one of those rooms today, you'd pay \$210 per night.) The show promises to be another great National and it's not too early to start your planning now. For more information, see the NIA website at: <http://www.nia.org/shows/national/>

Two of the things that happens at every National is the NIA board of directors meeting and the NIA general membership meeting. The board meeting happens in the background for most of you. You never see the preparation, planning, or work that goes into the meeting. This years board meeting saw several issues and proposals actually voted on and resolved. Some of these items date back to previous years and are the culmination of work from past presidents, board members, and committee members.

It is difficult to get all NIA board work done throughout the year due to the physical distance that separates us from one another. Certainly a lot can be done via e-mail and the phone, but it just isn't the same. A board vote via e-mail can take a week or more, especially during the summer when

folks are on vacation or in the case where the board is not unanimous on a topic up for vote. To folks not involved in internal NIA matters, the process can look like bureaucracy or just plain inaction. This is not really the case. There was certainly a lot of action this past year.

A few things that took place at this years board meeting:

1. The NIA now accepts Credit Card Payments for memberships and renewals. You do this at the NIA web site: <http://www.nia.org/> by following the link, or directly at <http://nia.org/membership/>

2. The National Show plaque is coming back. In the past, the NIA has had a large plaque that contained a brass tag with the names of every National show host for the year that they hosted. The hosts retained possession of the plaque for a year and presented it to the following years hosts. This plaque became full at the 2005 National. Subsequently, the plaque was retired. A decision was made to hand out individual plaques to the show hosts that they would keep and this practice was started in 2006 at the Austin National. A suggestion was received from NIA member Bill Meier (the winner of his second outstanding service award this year) that the large plaque was historic and should be continued and be displayed at the National

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Shows. The board considered this proposal and we agree. A new plaque will be created and the 2006 National show hosts name will appear on this plaque along with subsequent years hosts. This new plaque and the previous plaque will be displayed at each National show in the future.

3. Many changes to awards and recognition also took place that will improve the entire judging process. There were too many changes to document in detail here, and it is Lou Hall's job to let you know about these anyway. Briefly, there will be more awards, and at the same time, shorter awards banquets. There will also be more exhibitor participation on the show floor. More from Lou on this later.

4. Doug Williams is the new Eastern Region VP as of the National. Doug takes over for Larry Novak who was previously the Eastern Region VP. I would like to thank Doug for stepping up to help out and thank Larry for all his hard work these past 3 years.

5. Rick Soller is once again the NIA Historian. Rick takes over for Glenn Drummond. Thanks Rick for helping out and thanks Glenn for all your hard work.

6. We are currently looking into what it would take to get Tax Exempt status for the NIA. We are already a non-profit corporation, and in some cases it is possible to get tax exempt status. I am a member of another club that is a non-profit Arizona corporation AND a tax exempt club. They are an amateur radio club, but they operate in much the same way as the NIA and the insulator hobby does.

Getting tax exempt status would allow members to make tax de-

ductible donations of insulators, collections, or cash. These donations could then be used to fund research within the NIA, possible museum displays, and a host of other things not possible today. We have had members pledge money in the past for a possible insulator museum or display at a museum. While a lot of work went into research for possible locations and a very substantial amount of money was pledged, the amount did not support buying or leasing a building. Perhaps with additional tax exempt status, donations would be significant enough to allow this.

I also have a reminder and request. The NIA has been approached a few times this past year regarding manufacturing and approval on commemoratives and imitations. I would like to remind everyone that as NIA members, our code of ethics states among other things that:

NIA members shall not make or manufacture any commemorative or imitation insulator, or related item without first clearing the design with the NIA to make certain that the item produced will not be objectionable to the best interests of the hobby.

It has been brought to our attention that while some members do bring these to the NIA for approval, other members have not, and continue to not abide by this rule of conduct. For the sake of equal application of the rules to all, these folks really need to come to us for approval on their items as well. This includes (for example) items that commemorate non NIA shows, but are manufactured and sold by NIA members. I cannot personally

think of a single item that we would have said no to, but we really do need to look at these before they are made to prevent possible future problems.

I will be contacting a few folks in the near future about this and I would ask that if you might be planning something along these lines, that you please contact us first.

The board is pretty easy to get along with and we are all in this hobby for the very same reasons you are, to enjoy collecting and the making of friends.

One last note, My term as NIA president is up at the General Membership meeting at the Portland National in 2008. Kay Bryant is looking for potential candidates and nominations. If you know someone who you think would make a good NIA president and that is able to attend the National shows, please pass the information along to Kay. It would be very nice to actually have an election. In past years, we have had a lack of candidates and several positions filled by the only candidate running, myself included. So please step up or let Kay or any of the NIA folks know of someone you think might be interested in running for office and helping out.

All NIA Board members and Chairs can be contacted on the NIA contacts page. See <http://www.nia.org/contacts/> for names and e-mail addresses.

Best of luck,

Kevin

**Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720
NIA President**

I have a pretty good collection of Denvers, but I was impressed! Even more impressive was that Mike was looking a lot better from a health standpoint than I've seen him for several years and it gave me a good feeling to see him back on the road to recovery.

A half-day further north took us to Casper Wyoming where we visited with old-time collector Bill Ashcraft. Many of you remember Bill as the chef at many of the early Enchantment Insulator Club shows in and around Albuquerque. In fact, Bill was one of the charter members of the EIC and remains a member today. He's an electrician now in Casper and works with several non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity as well. It has been the better part of a year since we've seen him so it was good get together with him again. Besides, Casper is kind of a pretty place to visit (in the summer time!)

- finally arriving in Livingston for a 4th of July visit with Lynda's niece. We had a great time hiking in the Absaroka Mountains, going to the Rodeo, fishing on the Yel-

cross arms as a major part of the landscaping. When we came back later to see this remarkable place, we made the acquaintance of James and Bonnie Warnek. They



Ron Yuhas In One Of His Vintage Trucks – Helena, Montana

We continued on northward through the wide-open spaces of

lowstone and checking out old insulator lines. One morning when

had hundreds of insulators and other artifacts they had collected over the years and I was able to talk James out of a couple of his duplicates. Interestingly, I ran into another lady in Livingston who had a beautiful sapphire blue Cristalerias CD 128 sitting on her bookshelf. When I commented on the piece she said, "Oh, you like it? Here, you take it...I don't really collect these things"!



Jim and Barb Sinsley Serve Another Fine Meal in Spirit Lake, ID

northern Wyoming and southern Montana – Antelope everywhere!

I was out running, I came across a place that had insulator-laden

From Livingston up to Helena was a pretty short haul and it wasn't long before we were at the home of Ron and Peggy Yuhas. Now, if you ever want to see real power insulators, you must visit these guys! Besides, they are wonderful hosts. They took us out into the nearby countryside and we were able to view Muncies and Coolie-hats in the air first-hand ... really impressive.

The country grew more remote as we pressed north and west



Bill Reid and Tom Katonak in Sandpoint, Idaho

every single piece that Bill had up on display – it took seven hours! Wow! What a remarkable collection! Perhaps the best assortment of “junk-in-glass” I have ever seen. In addition, I noted at least two pieces in the collection that didn’t have a CD number assigned – perhaps “one-of-a-kind” pieces.

Finally, we started our long southward trek toward home. After a short stay with old friends west of Boise, we pressed on for Utah. On the way out of Meridian, ID, we made a quick stop at the Northwest Lineman College. It was a Sunday morning and no one was around but the place was really impressive – even without someone to show us around. The campus consisted of a main “classroom building” and

was a pile of broken Mershon triple ridge insulators that were part of a research project ongoing at the college.

In a few more days (via the back roads), we were at the home of Don and Jeanne Briel in Providence Utah. Most of you know Don as the NIA Membership Director. As you might guess, he also collects insulators! He’s basically a CD collector so there is great variety to his collection. But in addition, Don also collects “stuff”! You know...like insulator pins, old mine cars, fish, frog statues...(Lynda says he’s a classic case of someone who has the “defective collector gene”!) As you might expect in a little Utah town that looks like an oasis, the Briels have a wonderful garden and orchard. (This served to remind Lynda that our garden back home

through Missoula and up into the northern panhandle of Idaho. Beautiful lakes interspersed between the mountains – just a beautiful place. Eventually we arrived at the rural home of Jim and Barb Sinsley in Spirit Lake. What a beautiful place they have – again beautifully landscaped with insulators of all sorts! Jim, better known in the hobby as “Spiral Groove” Sinsley, showed us his fantastic collection of all the variants of the spiral groove CDs and gave us a rundown on their history and use.

The second day at the Sinsley’s, Lynda took off sightseeing with Barb while Jim and I went up to Bill Reid’s place in Sandpoint, ID. I hadn’t seen Bill for several years and I had never seen his fantastic collection. Most of you probably know that Bill is a retired lineman and back in the 50’s and 60’s he amassed one of the best collections of Hemingray signals and beehives in the hobby. I looked at



Host Don Briel, at Home in Providence, Utah

several areas of practice climbing poles of all descriptions. In the front of the main building, there

was probably in severe need of rehabilitation by now!)

One of the days we were at the Briels, Don took us to Promontory Utah – the place where the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads met to complete the trans-continental rail link and the trans-continental telegraph line as well. The Golden Spike National Historic Site now commemorates this event in 1869 with a museum and visitors center. We walked on part of the old grade and marveled at the accomplishments of nearly a century and a half past.

It would have been wonderful to enjoy the Briel's hospitality for the rest of the summer, but we still had many miles to cover. After a fantastic scenic drive up Logan Canyon and down into the Flaming Gorge – and a night camping up on the rim of the gorge – we finally got down into central Colo-

rado. Finally – the temperatures dropped from the low 100s down into the 60s!

In the small scenic mining town of Silverton, Colorado – we visited the Brown family, old insulator and mineral hunting friends who really live in Silver City New Mexico but were on vacation in Colorado for mineral hunting and insulator collecting. The Brown boys, Powell and Forest, are some of our favorite kids. If the names sound familiar it's because they are often featured in Crown Jewels for their articles and drawings. This time, we were able to check out some of the high mountain mines with these guys and managed to recover some unusual old high-voltage line hardware as well as some fine mineral specimens. The stay with these fine folks was

way too short, but we crammed in some more great activities before heading out on the final leg toward home.

And, after 24 days on the road, we actually did arrive back home – along with our acquired treasures and many more wonderful memories. And here it is, two weeks later, and we're still trying to catch up with all the things that are overdue and undone. But in the final analysis, to be able to spend this much time with some of the people that make up this fine hobby made it all worthwhile.

And now, it's your turn to come and visit us!

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567
Second Past President

Enchantment Insulator Club's 20th Annual Insulator, Bottle, Barbwire & Collectibles Show

in conjunction with the New Mexico Historical Bottle Society

September 28-29 2007 in Albuquerque

Flower Arts Building, New Mexico State Fairgrounds



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WESTERN REGION VP



Greetings Fellow Collectors,

I hope that all of you have had a good summer and that a few new pieces have found their way onto your insulator shelf. It has been a good year thus far with a lot of enthusiasm and interest in the hobby. We recently reached a six year high of over 1600 NIA members which is a great sign for the hobby.

Our membership chairman Don Briel has done a terrific job and deserves a lot of credit for this. To help Don out it would be great if everyone tried to get one or two new collectors to join the NIA. Or perhaps you know someone who has not renewed their membership and just needs a little push. With just a little effort we could easily reach an all time high for membership.

From all accounts, the National in Orlando was a terrific show and everyone in attendance had a great time. Jacque and Graham Barnes, and Clay Bledsoe deserve a big pat on the back for a job well done. It is a tremendous amount of work putting on a big show and we are lucky in the insulator hobby to have people with the talent and desire to do it.

I had hoped to put on the National next year but when I saw the tremendous job of planning that had taken place for the Portland bid it seemed best to wait a few years. If anyone can put on a great National in 2008 it is surely Howard and Linda Banks. Their dedication to the hobby is second to none and I look forward to a trip to Oregon next year.

Recent events involving an insulator sold on eBay that was never shipped but was later resold at the National really saddened me. This event has been well publicized in the hobby and I do not need to mention any names. What I would like to talk about is why things like this happen and what we can do as collectors to minimize such events. Unfortunately, by its very nature, collecting sometimes taps into negative human emotions such as greed and jealousy. We should always do our best to keep these types of emotions out of the picture because when they creep in bad things can happen. Collecting should be about making friends and having fun but sometimes it's not. Sometimes it becomes too much about the collectible and money and not enough about the people and doing the right thing.

What recently happened was a simple case of not getting the desired price for a piece and allowing greed to influence the decision making process. In this case that decision increased the sale price by a couple hundred bucks but ended up causing terrible embarrassment for the individual. Obviously the person who did this would say it was not worth it and wishes he could do it all over. The question is how would he feel if he

had never been caught? At the very least I sincerely hope that a sense of guilt would have never allowed him to do something like this again. This is something we can never know for sure but this event certainly seemed out of character for the individual.

What it really boils down to is that honesty and reputation have to be of primary importance to anyone who collects or he/she risks crossing the line into the dark side of human emotion. Those who have been involved with fake or altered insulators have crossed that line. Those who have lied or stolen to get an insulator have crossed that line. Those who have hated another collector because he or she has something they want have crossed the line. The examples go on and on.

We must all remind ourselves that these things we collect are inanimate objects without feeling or emotion. The people that we meet in the hobby are not. You cannot hurt an insulator but you can hurt another human being. You can look over at your insulators and be proud of them but they can't give you a phone call when you're down. They can't give you a hug when you need one. If we can all enjoy collecting while keeping the negative emotions in check then this will be a better hobby for everyone. Luckily this is the way that the vast majority of the people in the hobby feel which makes me very proud to be a part of it.

Have a wonderful end of summer and good luck collecting,

**Mike Green, NIA #3175
Western Region VP**

CENTRAL REGION VP



Wow! What a fantastic job Jacqueline, Graham and Clay did putting on the 2007 National Insulator Show and Sale in Orlando, Florida. The show ran without a hitch and everyone had a great time. There was plenty of glass to look at, new and old friends to meet and a sushi bar just down the street. A couple of West Coast collectors got carried away with the slingshot across from the ho-

tel, but being thrown into the air after a big meal did not sound too enticing to me. Before the show started my son and I met up with Dave Justice to enjoy some Snook and Tarpon fishing in South Florida and boy did we have a blast!

I want to welcome Doug Williams to the position of Eastern Region Vice President. Most collectors already know Doug and I look forward to working with him and hearing his opinion about our hobby in the future. Doug brings with him a long history of involvement in the hobby and many years of experience in digging for insulators.

The board has made some revisions to the awards program that will help improve judging displays more fairly, how awards are presented and shorten the presenta-

tion of the awards during the banquet which will be covered in another article. Don Briel has done an excellent job signing up new members and has implemented an on-line sign up and payment program for new and existing members, see www.nia.org

Next year I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2008 National in Portland, Oregon. I am already checking into fishing for Sturgeons in the Columbia River. I am sure with Howard, Linda and Steve working hard for you, this will be one of the best shows ever. I hope to see you there!

Good collecting,

**Ross Baird, NIA #1983
Central Region VP**

NIA NIA

EASTERN REGION VP



Hey everyone!

Still wound up from the National. Wow, what a great show! Sales at the national were very good, with many rare insulators bought and sold like a golden honey amber American beehive, a national road egg, two 731 molds, a Montreal Telegraph threadless, some really nice 1871's, and a couple of nice HG cobalt Nat. Co's plus many,

many others.

The displays are always great to see. All were spectacular. Jacques along with Clay and Graham have once again done a fantastic job! We did notice that Jackie has hosted a national show every 15 years, so I thought its only fair that Graham should do one every 30 years, so maybe it will be his turn in 2010!!! So what do you say, Graham? New York state sound good to us.

But seriously now, if you or your club wants to host a national or regional show, now is the time to start looking & planning. Finding a facility is the hardest part! I would also like to take this time to compliment Howard and Linda Banks. I really love what they are doing with CJ's showing all the candid shots of the collectors attending shows and swaps.

My schedule is a little busy now. I'll be doing a show on August 11th and meeting with some old collectors. After that I'll be heading up north to do some insulator hunting and see some friends and family, and then over to PA to check in on Jeff Katchko. As some of you noticed, Jeff was not at the National. Jeff's mom passed away suddenly and he was not up to going to the National. Ma Katchko will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

"THINK OHIO!" - see ya'll there!

Good collecting,

**Doug (Dug) Williams, NIA #1221
Eastern Region VP**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

WOW, summer is already nearing its end. The NIA National in Orlando is now just a memory. What a great show it was. It was nice to meet so many collectors for the first time and renew acquaintances with others. There was a lot of nice glass to be found and the exhibits were spectacular. I felt like a kid in a candy shop with the number of options to choose from to improve my collection. Many thanks go out to Jacque, Graham, and Clay for their endless effort to make that show a success, which it definitely was. For those of you who were unable to attend, I look forward to seeing you next year in Portland.

The NIA picked up many new members in Orlando. Additionally, with the introduction of an electronic payment option just after the National, we picked up additional new members. (Many thanks go out to Kevin Jacobsen and Bob Berry for implementing the electronic payment option.) This year's membership has now

passed the six year high of 1605 members and is not far below the all-time high of 1648 members in 2001.

With autumn coming, its almost time to start renewing memberships for 2008. On or about October 1 new membership cards will be sent to lifetime members and those members that are already paid through 2008 or beyond. Renewal reminders will go out to all others that have been active members within the past two years. If you are able to renew your membership in early to mid September, it is a savings to the NIA by not having to send a reminder letter.

This year's membership has now passed the six year high of 1605 members

When currently active members renew, the renewal is for one or more years beyond their current paid up status (i.e. 2008 or later). Currently inactive members that renew prior to October 1 will have their dues payment credited to 2007. Currently inactive members that renew after October 1 will have their dues payment credited to 2008 unless they specifically

request that their dues be credited to 2007. Also, remember you may pay multiple years of dues if that's more convenient.

We'll soon be merging the 'Crown Jewels of the Wire', NIA, and ICON databases in preparation for the annual directory. If you are signed up with one or more of these three entities you may be included in the directory. However, in this day and age there are many abuses of personal information. Consequently, if you are signed up with more than one of these entities make sure that the information you authorize to be listed is the same in each. When the databases are merged the least amount of information authorized for release in any one is the amount that will appear in the directory. (For example if the NIA database says don't list my phone number, but the ICON database says list it, it will NOT be listed.) Also, only NIA members that are active members for 2007 and have authorized being listed are submitted to the merge process by the NIA. Only current members will have their NIA number included in the directory.

I hope to see some of you in Albuquerque in September!

Have a great autumn!

**Donald Briel, NIA #7218
Membership Director**

Check out what's new!

<http://www.nia.org/whatsnew/index.htm>

General Membership Meeting Minutes
of the
National Insulator Association's
38th Annual Convention, Show and Sale

Holiday Inn International Drive Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
June 22, 2007

The NIA General Membership meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. on Friday, June 22, 2007 by President Kevin Jacobson. He welcomed all members and introduced the show hosts for the 38th NIA convention: Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA# 1380; Graham Barnes, NIA# 115; and Clay Bledsoe, NIA# 5581. Clay was not present as he was in Europe as a People-to-People Student Ambassador for the U.S.A.

President Jacobson called for any Old Business:

Copies of the Minutes of the 2006 Austin, Texas National General Membership Meeting had been passed out to members as they entered the meeting. He called for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Rick Soller and seconded by Steve Watkins.

The Treasurer's report was called for and Jack Roach reported on the FY 2007 budget.

President Jacobson thanked Don Briel for his hard work as Membership Chairperson.

There being no further Old Business, President Jacobson called for New Business:

Jack Roach, Treasurer, presented the board approved budget for the FY 2008.

All Board and Committee Chairs were thanked for their outstanding work.

Outgoing Eastern Region Vice-President Larry Novak was thanked for his contributions on the Board.

Kay Bryant, Nominations Chairperson, was introduced and reported on the past election of the Eastern Region Vice-President, Doug Williams.

President Jacobson gave a short report on the highlights of the Board of Directors' Meeting, which had taken place on Thursday. He was pleased with the work that had been done: making some minor changes in the categories for exhibitors; online payment of NIA dues and contributions to the NIA; continuation of the large cumulative show hosts' plaques (there will be two plaques as the first one has been filled) which will be displayed at the Nationals. He also said there were no major issues at that time and thanked the membership for an easy year.

Board members and Chairpersons who had not yet spoken were called upon for comments:

First Past President, Dudley Ellis, said he had seen several young collectors at the show and encouraged each member to really encourage and get the youth involved in the hobby. He also encouraged members to get involved and serve on committees.

Outgoing Eastern Region Vice-President Larry Novak thanked the 2007 show hosts, other board members, and encouraged everyone to get involved.

Central Region Vice-President Ross Baird thanked the membership and said he was working on some special projects for the NIA.

Information Director *Arthur McConnachie* thanked everyone for their patience in receiving *Drip Points*. He is encouraging members to send him the correct address information so they can receive the electronic version of *Drip Points*. This would save the NIA postage dollars.

Membership Director *Don Briel*, reported that the "paid and in good standing" membership number was at 1,566 and there had been 17 new members join on Friday, NIA Day. He also informed the membership that very soon collectors could renew/join electronically.

Product Marketing Chairperson *Carolyn Berry* reported that NIA logo products had been selling very well and that she has new shirt styles.

Research and Education Chairperson *Bob Berry*, who manages the NIA web site, reminded us to send pictures to him for the site, and also that the site is very informative and helps collectors to identify their insulators.

Awards and Recognition Chairperson *Lou Hall* explained the changes in the exhibitor categories and reminded members/club show hosts to request the NIA ribbons for their shows.

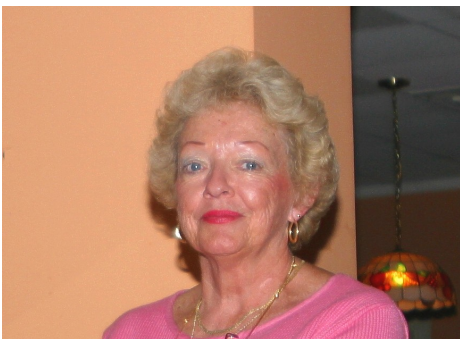
Executive Secretary *Jacqueline Linscott Barnes* announced the location of the 39th National and introduced the 2008 show hosts, Lin and Howard Banks and Steve Watkins, who in turn shared show information with those in attendance.

President Jacobson introduced Eastern Region Vice President Doug Williams who gave a short overview of his goals. He wants to get to more shows and would like to see the 2010 National in the northeast.

President Jacobson asked for any other new business. There being none he called for a motion to adjourn. Lou Hall made the motion and Rick Soller seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

NIA NIA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



As we look forward to the **39th "National" in Portland, OR in 2008**, your show hosts from the 38th wish to thank each and everyone who participated in the Florida show. We had a great time hosting y'all and are getting ready to make the trip west, "**Oregon or Bust**".

We know **Howard, Linda and Steve** are working very hard to host an even better show than the

ones before. Just get your plans made, reserve sales tables and hotel rooms and we'll see y'all there.

Graham, Jacque and Clay

**Jacqueline Linscott Barnes,
NIA #1380
Executive Secretary**

**The National Insulator Association's
39th Annual Show & Convention**

Portland, Oregon * July 4-6th, 2008

**Lloyd Center Double Tree Inn
1000 NE Multnomah
Portland, Oregon, 97232**

Memorial to ...

Arthur Kottman

July 22, 1933 - April 22, 2007

by Doug MacGillvary

The insulator world has lost another pioneer. Art Kottman of Blue Point, NY passed away April 20, 2007.

Baseball was Artie's first love. As an outstanding high school pitcher, he caught the eye of major league scouts. He had tryouts with the old Brooklyn Dodgers, the New York Giants and the Boston Braves. The dream of a major league baseball career came to an abrupt end when he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. With the service behind him, Artie took a job with the Long Island Lighting Co.

It was thirteen years as a lineman before he took notice of an insulator. An amber Dominion 42 at a flea market tripped the mechanism that launched his years of insulator collecting. Artie's collection grew through the 1970s and he was involved with the Long Island Antique Bottle Association and the Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club.

Artie's collection was featured in the "Time-Life Encyclopedia of Collectibles". This was a huge boost for the hobby. Just having insulators included in such a well read collectibles book helped elevate insulators to being a legitimate collectible.

Artie retired from LIL Co after thirty-seven of service. Although it had been many years since Art and his lovely wife, Gloria, had set up at a Pole Cat show, this "old timer" has many fond memories of an insulator pioneer.



Awards & Recognition Committee Report

by Lou Hall, Chairman



What a great National Convention and Show this past June in Orlando, Florida! The Show Hosts did an exceptional job of making everyone in attendance feel welcome.

Exhibitor awards, Show Host plaques, the Milholland Education Award and the NIA Outstanding Service Awards were prepared and delivered to the Awards Banquet for presentation.

Please take notice of this information and request ...

The Awards and Recognitions committee received only one nomination for the NIA Outstanding Service Award and no nominations for the NIA Lifetime Member Award. It is not too early to think of someone you know who is worthy of these awards

Contact me for a nomination form so you can begin developing the information requested.

As Chairman of the A and R Committee I presented to the Board members the proposals and recommendations prepared by the committee. The Board spent some time discussing the merits of the proposals. I am pleased to

announce a number of changes that were approved by the Board.

The Board voted to reinstate the perpetual plaque recognizing the show hosts for each National Show and Conference. The previous plaque is full so a new one will be created and the names of previous show hosts not yet recognized will be attached. The plaques will be on display during future National shows.

The Board approved the presenting of a "NIA Best of Show Award" at National and Regional Shows. The award will be presented to the exhibitor achieving the highest total cumulative score from the judges.

The Board approved the following changes to the Exhibit and Judging Rules:

1. There will no longer be a "Junior" competitive category. The Junior competition portion of the rules have been expanded such that a Junior Exhibitor can now enter his/her exhibit in one of the standard NIA exhibit categories. A revised set of judging criteria will be used for junior exhibits.
2. The rules for competitive exhibits were broadened to allow two or more people or a club to collaborate on a competitive exhibit.
3. Exhibitors will be permitted to include limited numbers of non-owned items in their display. Ownership of borrowed pieces must be acknowledged in the display.
4. A new NIA competitive category has been created to recognize the best use of pole line hardware and equipment. (Such items will no longer be included in the "Go-with" category and this reflects the heritage of telegraph, telephone and power lines as an important part of insulator history.)

5. The Board also addressed the situation where a substandard exhibit can be awarded "best of category" solely because of being a single entry. The Board authorized the establishment of a threshold numerical judging score that must be exceeded in order to qualify for the "best of category" award.

6. The presentation of all club and NIA category awards will be made on the show floor immediately after the judging. The top NIA awards (Lifetime Member, Outstanding Service, the Milholland Award and the Best of Show award) will be presented at the awards banquet. In addition, show host awards, People's Choice award and other miscellaneous awards would be presented during the banquet. Additionally, the winners of all category and club awards would be announced during the awards banquet.

The revised Exhibitor and Judging Rules will be prepared and published in the next *Drip Points* and also will be available on the NIA web site. These rule changes will be in effect for the 2008 National Show and Conference in Portland, Oregon.

You are encouraged to participate in NIA shows as an exhibitor. Exhibits provide a means of educating your fellow members and provide an opportunity to invite others to join the hobby. Developing and displaying an exhibit also helps to improve the knowledge of the exhibitor.

**Lou Hall, NIA #7185
Awards & Recognition Chair**

HISTORIAN'S REPORT:

Archiving Project at the Mid-Ohio Show



There are numerous photo albums in the NIA archives that need to be scanned but a lack of time has kept me from doing it so I'm asking for your help at the November Mid-Ohio show in Springfield this year.

The hosts of the show have graciously agreed to provide space to set up scanning facilities. I will bring a laptop computer and scanner and, between now and then, hope to find other people who can do the same.

There are a number of times the work could be done. I'll be at the show early on Friday and scanning could be done during set-up at the show. Glenn Drummond also offered that arrangements could be made with the guys who stay overnight in the building and an early start could be made on Sunday before the show starts at 9:00 a.m., perhaps from 7:00 until 9:00 a.m.

Besides scanning NIA materials, if you have personal photographs of insulators or shows, especially early shows, that you would be

willing to bring to the Mid-Ohio show, these can be scanned too. Ultimately, all the photographs will be posted on the NIA web site with identifying information. You could also get a copy of the computer files of the scans.

If you would prefer not to scan photographs, help will also be needed to identify people and places in the pictures.

Please contact me if you can contribute time, equipment, or photographs for this project.

If this project works well and all the scanning isn't completed at the show, arrangements at future shows will be made.

**Rick Soller, NIA #2958
Historian Chair**

2007 Orlando National Show Report

Visit: <http://www.nia.org/nathist/2007.htm>

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Now that the 38th Annual NIA convention has been completed

(and wasn't it great?), it is time to go to work on choosing a new President. 2008 is election year and we need enthusiastic, dedicated members who will volunteer to serve. I know you are out there, so get in touch!

I have several suggestions in the works at the moment but I need all your help to complete a slate of nominees that will be spectacular. Each of your board members has committed to me that they will each send me at least one name. 2008 is a national election year so let's make it the best election that the NIA has ever had! There are so many folks who are so talented

and capable and I am sure that each of you wants the best person to represent the NIA and you!

I challenge each region to send me their recommendations. Wouldn't you like to have the President in your region? Will the South rise again? Will it be the best in the West? How about those NE easterners? And let's not forget the core of our country, the Central region.

Who will have the honor of being home to our new President?

**Kay Bryant, NIA #4099
Nominations Chair**

FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR



Insulators are a real pain, especially when you have too many of them lying around taking up space, cluttering up shelves, and wasting away in piles behind the fence. What can we do with them!?! My pal Duane Davenport suggests renting a small dumpster and smashing them one-by-one into it. Dave Brown said he likes

to bury his surplus common stock. Another person said he has used them for target practice. Now I'm kind of a sentimental guy and would feel guilty practicing any of those interesting methods of disposal. I tend to give away as many as I can to "spread-the-word". I've even gone up to strangers and offered them one or three. I have left them at rest stops for the curious to take. I have put them in community theater yard sales, donated to thrift stores, and even given them to antique stores. But they just seem to keep on multiplying.

I have no really good solution as to relieving oneself of unwanted and unneeded insulators. I do know that offering them to non-collector kids and adults alike elicit questions, interest, and some mighty puzzled expressions (both verbally and facially). My point (not a new or original one) is that the economy doesn't seem to

be lending itself to prompting new collectors into our and other collectible hobbies.

We need to go into the community and speak up about our fascinating insulator world. How about arranging a visit to a classroom or two?

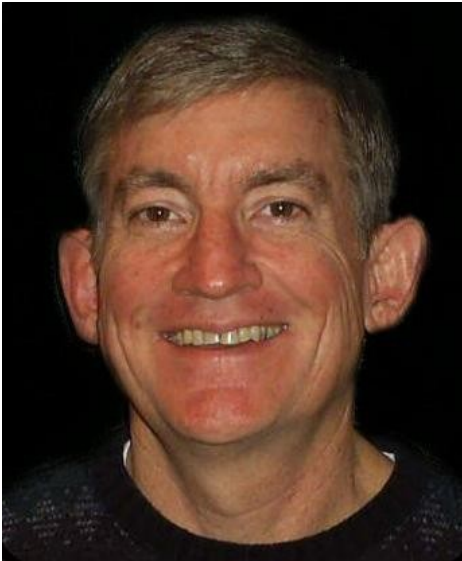
Have you ever given a talk at a service club function (they're always looking for guest speakers)? Take a bunch to a Boy or Girl Scout Troop meeting? Your local museum? See about getting on your local cable access channel or as a guest on a local radio talk show. If we use our imaginations, we can find a myriad of ways to introduce and enthuse people about glass and mud. Let's face it, we need new hobbyists amongst us. Let's "go-for-it!"

**Bob Merzoian, NIA #3941
Promotions Chair**

Insulator Hobby Timeline

- 1974 Joe Maurath takes over from Francis Terrill as the insulator by-lines editor for "*Old Bottle Magazine*."
- 1975 The last issue of *Cross Arms Magazine* (Volume 4, number 6) is published by James Garrity of Paxinos, Pennsylvania after starting on February 1972.
- 1985 With the publication of a single issue covering two months, Dora Harned ends her career as editor of *Insulators: Crown Jewels of the Wire* and turns the task over to Carol McDougald. Dora's last issue was volume 17, number 2-3.
- 1985 Carol McDougald takes over as editor of *Crown Jewels of the Wire*. Carol will outlast Dora Harned's long tenure by just a few issues before turning over the job to Howard and Linda Banks on January 2003.
- 1987 The Enchantment Insulator Club was started by Tom Katonak, Mike Gay and Duane Davenport.
- 1990 John & Carol McDougald publish a two volume set "*Insulators: A History and Guide To North American Pintype Insulators*" that invigorates the hobby.

FROM THE ETHICS CHAIR



NIA Member Suspended

On July 5, 2007 the NIA Ethics Committee received an email from an NIA member wherein the member described how he won an eBay auction on May 27, 2007 from NIA member Brian Riecker (NIA #6947) and that he did not receive the insulator purchased.

The buyer reported that he submitted payment to Riecker via money order which was cashed on June 11, 2007. The buyer did not receive the insulator and began a series of inquiries by phone and email commencing on June 17, 2007. Riecker did not respond to the inquiries until July 2, 2007 at which time he reported to the buyer by email that the insulator was mailed on June 15, 2007 uninsured and untraceable.

The buyer initiated some inquiries and determined that Riecker was seen at the NIA National Show in Orlando with an insulator similar to the one sold on eBay. The buyer was subsequently able to determine that the insulator in question was sold to another NIA member at the National and that the eBay item and the piece sold

at the National were one and the same.

The buyer subsequently contacted Riecker with this information at which time Riecker admitted to reselling the piece purchased by the buyer on eBay. It was determined that this was done because the price realized through the eBay auction was lower than what Riecker thought the piece was worth.

Over a period of two weeks, negotiations between Riecker and the first and second buyers produced a number of options to resolve the matter but all parties, to varying degrees, were unwilling to reach a settlement. Finally, Riecker posted email messages on ICON wherein he incrementally admitted his actions. A tentative agreement was reached on July 20, 2007 after these disclosures. As a result, the original buyer was to receive a refund. The refund was received, in an amount significantly greater than was initially agreed to, and the original buyer did not wish to pursue further remedies.

The NIA's investigation confirmed the above facts which were acknowledged by Riecker through conversations with a number of NIA members as well as through his ICON postings.

The conclusions of the NIA's investigation were that:

1. Riecker's actions probably constituted a criminal fraud;
2. Riecker violated eBay rules of conduct;
3. Riecker was dishonest and/or misleading in multiple communications not only with the buyer but with his posts on ICON as well.

By his actions, Riecker violated the following articles of the NIA Code of Ethics:

NIA Members:

6. shall carry out trade and sale transactions expeditiously and fairly to the satisfaction of all parties involved. The NIA recommends that transactions be completed to the satisfaction of all parties involved within 15 days. This allows collectors to pursue "second opinions" if they so desire, as to the authenticity of a piece, (i.e. original, restored or imitation). It also protects the seller by defining a time period of reasonable expectation for closure on a deal. However, buyers and sellers are free to structure their own approval terms and conditions to govern their transactions.
7. shall conduct their collecting activities in a lawful manner.

The results of the investigation were shared with the NIA Board of Directors. The conclusion of the Board was to initiate the following actions:

1. Riecker's NIA membership privileges are suspended for a period of one year. Riecker will not, however, be removed from the NIA and will continue to receive *Drip Points*;
2. Riecker was removed from his position with the Awards and Recognition Committee; and
3. As a result of his suspension, he will not be able to have a sales table at the 2008 National nor will he be able to attend NIA day.

Additionally, Riecker was admonished that any future dealings which violate the NIA Code of Ethics may result in a full revocation of his NIA membership.

The fact that Riecker had many positive and successful dealings over a period of years was considered in reaching the decisions about the actions taken. The deceptive and arguably criminal nature of the events, however, demanded a serious response from the NIA.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mike Guthrie, NIA #3297
Ethics Chair**



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

**2006-2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2007**

Beginning Balance-General Funds		\$11,385
Museum Exploratory Committee		\$972
Authentication/Ethics Account		\$2,297
Revenues		
Donations	65	
Membership Dues	9,714	
Miscellaneous Income	675	
Product Sales	1,927	
	Total Revenues	\$12,381
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising		
Bank Charges, Insurance, Taxes	940	
Marketing Products	2,213	
Misc. Postage	932	
Misc. Printing	1,096	
Misc. Supplies	51	
Misc. Professional Services	279	
Crown Jewels Rebates	508	
Drip Points Printing & Postage	3,786	
Show Advertising Subsidy	500	
Show Awards	673	
Stationery Supplies		
Telephone		
Special Projects		
Educational Disp Postage		
	Total Expenses	\$10,978
Closing Balance, General Fund		\$12,788
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures		
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance		\$972
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures		
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance		\$2,297
Total Balance on Hand December 31, 2006		\$16,057

2007 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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Product Marketing

Many thanks to Jacque, Graham and Clay for a hosting the 38th National in the “fun in the sun” city!



We will be traveling to the opposite corner of the USA next year for the 39th NIA National in Portland, Oregon!

Show hosts: Steve Watkins, Linda & Howard Banks.

Collectors are looking forward to a trip to the NW. There have only been 2 other Nationals in the NW, 1984 in Tacoma, WA and 1990 in Portland (Steve Watkins hosted this show too). It will be a first time trip to that beautiful part of the

SPECIAL DEAL!! 13 oz. Glass Mug

with the NIA logo is reduced to \$2.50 per mug. Why not order a set of 4 for the next time you have a collector over to see your collection?

Nothing like a NIA frosted mug for that cold beer or soda!

- **NEW screen-printed t-shirts** sold well at the Florida National. We have 4 colors available. Embroidered t-shirts are also available in several colors.
- For those chilly morning “insulator digs” or “garage sale searches” coming upon us soon ... we have crewneck style sweatshirts and zippered/hooded/pocketed sweatshirts.
- The denim shirts (long or short sleeve) in **NEW “natural”** (ecru) or traditional blue. These shirts are great as a regular shirt or as an over-shirt.

NIA product sales continue to do well. Exposure of our great hobby is the “key” to its success. Supporting the NIA through your purchases helps to spread the interest in this hobby.

Thanks for your continuing support!

(Please take notice of our updated products order form on the last page)



Make your plans early for Portland!

Carolyn Berry
NIA # 4336
Product Marketing Chairman

2007 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

Submit: **(In U.S.funds)** To:
(Payable to the NIA)

Donald R. Briel
NIA Membership Director
P.O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
E-MAIL: don.briel@comcast.net

Note New Dues Schedule!

Regular Membership----- \$ 12.00
Family Membership----- \$ 12.00
Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00
Club or Organization----- \$ 12.00

(Check appropriate Class) Regular____ Family____ Junior____ Club/Org.____

(Check Years of Payment) Single year____ Multi-year____

Please Print

Name _____

NIA # (If Renewal) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ (+4) _____

Country (If Non U.S.) _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory **Yes**____ **No**____

Please include my Telephone Number **Yes**____ **No**____

Please include my E-Mail Address **Yes**____ **No**____

Note: I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format. **Paper**____ **Electronic**____
(Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic)

Additional Family Members

Name _____ **Nia# (If Renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Signed _____

Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Fall 2007

www.nia.org/products



Men's Golf / Polo Shirts or Button-front Sport Shirt **Price Quantity Total**

NEW COLOR: Ocean Blue!, Ecru, White, Taupe, Tan, Yellow, Maroon, Mint Green,, Emerald Green

Please call or email me for details! embroidered logo; with or without pockets

(Size chart on back) \$32 - \$41 _____ _____



Ladies' Polo/Golf style shirts --NEW COLORS!

Jade Green, White, Lt. Pink, Lavender, Butter Yellow, Mint Green

Please call or email me for details! embroidered logo (no pockets) \$32 - \$38 _____ _____

(Size chart on back)

Denim Shirt -- (*ladies order comparable men's size, see chart below)

Heavy-weight, pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue or **NEW! NATURAL/ECRU**; left-side pocket

Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$32.00 _____ _____

*S/Sleeve ___ *L/Sleeve ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ \$35.00 _____ _____



NEW!! T-Shirts -- Hanes Cotton Heavyweight -- Pre-shrunk

Screen-printed logo (front & back) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) _____ _____

2X ___ (\$22) _____ _____



Colors: Stonewash Green, Stonewash Med. Blue, Pebble (sand), Lt. Steel Gray

Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details)

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) _____ _____

2X ___ (\$22) _____ _____

Colors: Gold, Ecru, Gray, Red, White, Royal Blue, Burgundy or Lt. Steel



Crewneck Sweatshirts -- Heavy weight -- 100 % Cotton/polyester blend -- Pre-shrunk

Color: Ash Gray -- Screen-printed logo (large on back / small on front)

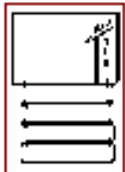
S ___ (\$8.00) L ___ (\$10.00) _____ _____

Colors: Burgundy or Lt. Steel Gray -- Embroidered logo

M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$30) _____ _____

Hooded Sweatshirt w/ full front zipper/muff pocket/drawstring hood -embroidered logo-

Color: Lt. Steel Gray M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$35) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$40) _____ _____



Embroidered Cap -- low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)

Colors: Stone/ Navy bill, Khaki / Green bill, or all Denim _____ _____

13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with white/etch NIA Logo **SALE** \$2.50 _____ _____

Ceramic Mug -- 10 oz. white mug w/ 4 color screen-printed logo \$5.00 _____ _____

Patch -- embroidered logo / red embroidered edge \$4.00 _____ _____

Koozie™ -- The original beverage Koozie™ fits any standard beer / soda can / 12 oz. water bottle !!

Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$2.00 _____ _____

NIA Hat/Lapel Pin -- enamel tack pin with NIA logo \$3.50 _____ _____

NIA Decal -- for inside car window \$0.50 _____ _____

NIA Name Badge -- engraved; epoxy pin back; beveled edges (fill in form on back side of page)

\$12.00 _____ _____

Badge Bar -- (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.00 _____ _____

Subtotal _____

U.S. Postage (see back) _____

Total Enclosed _____

NOTE:
All sizes, styles & colors of shirts are available by special order



Men's Size Chart:

S (32-34) M (36-38) L (40-42)
XL (44-46) 2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

Ladies Size Chart:

S (28-30) M (32-34) L (36-38) XL (40-42)

All shirts are in men sizes, unless noted

****U.S. Postage: \$4.75 for the first item & \$1.60 for each additional item ordered. Postage for Patches, Decals is \$0.41. Pins or Name Badges/Bars are \$0.60 per item. **for non-US postage, AK & HI and Koozies, or an exact postage quote, please contact me.**

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:

National Insulator Association or NIA

Order / Shipping Information

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email address _____

Name Badge Engraving Information *(must be a current NIA member!)*

Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____
Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____
Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____
Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____

Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____
Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____
Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____
Club Bar: _____ (# requested) _____

Thanks for your support of the NIA !

Contact Information:

Carolyn Berry – 1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com

Bonus Photos!



If You Want to See Antelope ... Go to Wyoming!



One of James Warnek's Outdoor Exhibits – Livingston, Montana



Bill Ashcraft – Your Friendly Tour Guide for Casper, Wyoming

A Spectacular Star Insulator in Mike Bliss's Collection





**Powell and Forest Brown
Get Ready for a Fieldtrip
in Silverton Colorado**

**Lynda Katonak
Hunting for Mineral
Specimens near
Silverton, Colorado**





Fine Examples of Denver Bottles in Mike Miller's Collection



Muncies Still in the Air Near Helena, Montana



**Northwest Lineman
College Campus
Meridian, Idaho**

**Working Replica
of the Union
Pacific Engine
Golden Spike Site,
Promontory, Utah**





Nifty Clock at Bill Reid's Place