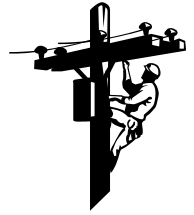


Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.nia.org>

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ A Note from the Editor ... *Arthur McConnachie*
- ◆ From the President ... *Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ 1st Past President ... *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ Western Region VP ... *Mike Green*
- ◆ Central Region VP ... *Ross Baird*
- ◆ Eastern Region VP ... *Doug Williams*
- ◆ Membership Director ... *Donald Briel*
- ◆ Executive Secretary ... *Jacque Linscott-Barnes*
- ◆ Memorial to Pete Bishop ... *Tom Katonak*
- ◆ Authentication & Classification ... *Paul Greaves*
- ◆ Award & Recognition ... *Lou Hall*
- ◆ Exhibit and Judging Rules
- ◆ Historian's Report ... *Rick Soller*
- ◆ Nominations ... *Kay Bryant*
- ◆ Promotions ... *Bob Merzoian*
- ◆ Financial Statement ... *Jack Roach*
- ◆ NIA Contact List
- ◆ Product Marketing ... *Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ NIA Membership Renewal Form
- ◆ Winter 2007 Product Order Form

Available via e-mail

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



After every issue of *Drip Points*, I typically receive half a dozen emails, most of them positive. Please keep them coming! However, some feedback is negative. One email in particular, whose author will remain anonymous

(although he was polite and made useful suggestions), was disappointed in the content of *Drip Points*. I understand his frustration. Before I was a member of the board, I didn't get much joy out of reading *Drip Points*, although I typically read it from beginning to end to stay informed about my favorite hobby. Now I would like to respond to this complaint, as well as a few others that I've heard over the past decade about the NIA.

Drip Points doesn't cover what I want to read.

As stated on the nia.org website, the NIA:

is a non-profit educational and scientific organization; its aim is to encourage insulator collecting and to protect the interests of its members and collectors, and has established standards and ethics by which its members may fairly deal with each other.

How does the NIA encourage insulator collecting? Basically, the NIA has put insulator collectors under one roof. By bringing collectors into contact with one another, collaboration occurs. The price guides and research books of our hobby are the direct result of input

from dozens of serious collectors. Without the NIA, it would be difficult to find individuals who share the same unique interest. Although the Internet has given collaboration an even greater boost in recent years, the NIA got the hobby off the ground and gave it a common language.

The NIA also protects its members against fakes and fraud. Everyone who reads Drip Points is aware of how the NIA has informed its members of altered insulators, fakes, and the questionable behavior of certain members. There is no reason to elaborate on what you already know. The NIA encourages its members to act ethically toward one another. This protects our hobby, our friendships, and our investments.

Thus, the focus of Drip Points is primarily not to print articles on the history of a specific insulator such as can often be found in Crown Jewels magazine. However, we do have three committees which encompass such intellectual pursuits. They are Authentication & Classification, History, and Research & Education. If you have an interest in contributing in any of these areas, please contact the respective committee chairperson.

The NIA is a 'Good Old Boys' Club.

I am not sure what people think that NIA board (and committee) members do, but whenever we are criticized, I want to blurt out, "we're volunteers!" Seriously, we have quiet board members and outspoken ones, forgiving members and those who wish to hold people accountable. It's a chore to find harmony among 10 people, have resolutions pass by a 2-person majority and then have everyone support a board deci-

sion even if they voted against it. There is no social club atmosphere. So it shouldn't surprise anyone that we don't have several candidates vying for the elected positions – everything we do is bound to offend someone and it takes up a significant amount of one's after-work hours. Every time we have a difference of opinion, we end up emailing or calling each other to make sure that we're all still good friends in this wonderful hobby. And we still are.

Money has ruined the hobby.

This one I get from people who would like to collect (for example) colorful Hemi signals that used to go for \$60, but now book for \$600. They feel that wealthier individuals have bid the price out of reach of the average collector. I have a different take on this. To understand any subject, be it politics, business or whatever, the key is to understand how the money flows. At this year's Enchantment Show, an out-of-state dealer showed up with quite an array of expensive, colorful glass. His prices ranged from an affordable \$40 for some Denver pieces to several thousand dollars that far fewer people could afford. A friend of mine purchased one of the more expensive pieces off of this dealer's table for over \$2000. Now I ask you, what enabled this dealer to take a day off work, drive an entire day to reach Albuquerque, haul (and risk) well over \$10,000 worth of glass, and pay for two nights in a hotel and \$150 of gas? It was my friend's purchase, not someone (like myself) buying a purple toll.

It is true that insulator prices have increased, in some cases dramatically. However, that is true of all antiques and collectibles. For the most part, price changes follow a similar pattern. If you have a \$5, a

\$200, and a \$2000 insulator, in 10 years that \$5 insulator will still be worth \$5. The \$200 insulator will have increased to \$250, and the \$2000 insulator will now run you \$3000+. The lesson here is, buy the best you can afford and don't fill up on the bargains if you view your collection as an investment. On a more personal note, I just purchased my most expensive insulator to date – a McLaughlin 152. With shipping and insurance, it set me back \$240. Last year I had a conversation with Howard Banks about these hard-to-find pieces. He informed me that he found three of them back in the late sixties. At the time, he sold them for \$40 each. A price increase of \$40 to \$240 over 40 years yields a compounded rate of return of 4.6% - fairly modest by anyone's standards.

Why didn't the NIA pay tribute to (insert name here)?

Several times a year we hear about someone in the hobby who has passed away. Often this person was involved in the hobby back in its infancy. However, they have been inactive for years and no board or committee member knows who this person is. Inquiries to the local club in the state where this person resides turn up nothing. Basically, the reason we don't pay tribute to these people is that you didn't take time to write an article. If you know of someone who has recently passed away and has made some significant contribution to our beloved hobby, please let us know! Be sure to mention how they started collecting, what they collected, and how they influenced our hobby for the better. Include a digital photograph. We would be glad to print it.

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

NIA NIA

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello everyone, I have several topics this issue, please read on.

Mid-Ohio Show

I have just returned from the 37th Mid-Ohio show and I believe it was the largest and best attended yet. I have only been going for the past 7 years, but this year's show was better attended than the others. There were times when the isles in the show hall were hard to traverse due to the number of folks there.

I want to take an opportunity to thank Steve & Lois Blair, Glenn Drummond, and all the other folks who lend a hand with the Mid-Ohio show. It truly is a major contribution to the hobby and a tremendous effort.

2008 NIA Central Regional

Thanks to a very recent bid, there is going to be a 2008 Central Regional. The 2008 Central Regional Show will be July 19 & 20 2008 at the Quality Inn & Suites - Richfield, Ohio. The show is being sponsored by the Western Reserve Insulator Club with the show hosts being John Hovanec, Sharon Foster, Ken Orchard, and Ron Barth. More Information will be posted shortly at the NIA web-

site www.nia.org and at www.insulators.com. I would like to thank the Western Reserve Insulator Club and the show hosts for stepping up and submitting a bid package for what will no doubt be a great regional show.

Crown Jewels

Many of you may not be aware, but the color printing in the *Crown Jewels* magazine has been financed strictly by some very generous donations from a member of our collecting community. Between 2003 and 2006 the CJ received two grants for \$10,000 each ... an average of \$5,000 per year. This year, in addition to the grant ending, postage and printing expenses have gone up.

Howard and Linda are not going to

The 2008 Central Regional Show will be July 19 & 20, 2008 at the Quality Inn & Suites - Richfield, Ohio.

be able to keep up the color printing indefinitely without help from you. In an effort to keep the CJ in as many hands as possible, the subscription price has not been raised to pay for color printing or the increases in postage and general printing costs. Please take a moment to consider helping these folks continue the Hobby's only magazine with a donation. This could be a cash donation or you could participate in the *Crown Jewels* Benefit Auction.

Mark & Elaine Corriero have de-

ecided to conduct a *Crown Jewels* Benefit Auction specifically for the sake of the *Crown Jewels*.

The auction will be held during the last half of January, 2008. Insulators featured in the auction will be published in the January issue of *Crown Jewels*. The auction will also be on-line at:

<http://www.woodeninsulators.com/auction>

Mark & Elaine are looking for donations of interesting and collectible insulators for the auction, but not necessarily rare and valuable pieces. All pieces in the auction are going to have an opening bid of \$5 regardless of value. Everyone will be able to participate. If you have items to donate, you can ship them to Mark & Elaine.

Thank you Mark & Elaine.

For more information:

Mark & Elaine Corriero
425 Dogwood St
Park Forest, IL 60466

Phone: 708-747-8827
Email: woodzman1@comcast.net

2008 NIA National Show

Next year's National show (The 39th NIA National) is coming right up and 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

1st PAST PRESIDENT

The fun trip from Stockbridge, Georgia to Springfield, Ohio traveling to the 37th Mid-Ohio Show was the beginning of one great weekend in Ohio. The Mike Green from Mableton, Georgia and I started the trip north at 5:00 a.m. Thursday. We made the Tennessee line just as day was breaking even though we had made a brief stop for a biscuit in Dalton, Georgia. The leaves in Tennessee were at their peak color, making for a spectacular ride over the mountains between Knoxville and Jellico. Our goal to reach Kentucky before lunch and begin our treasure hunt for insulators in small towns became a reality.

The leaves in Kentucky were abnormally beautiful for this time of year. In past years during this trip they were already on the ground. What a pleasure to drive the narrow back roads and see all the horse farms with their beautiful homes, spacious barns, endless fences and their rolling pastures of green grass and mature hardwoods. The old buildings in the small quaint towns were alluring. We searched many of them for side pins and insulators. We were amazed to find CD 164 Hem-

ingray and Whitall Tatum insulators still in place on some of the buildings where they have been for many years. There were still CD 235s in the air on some poles and even a pair of rich green aqua CD 280s glistened on another pole. Due to the locations we could not rescue any of these beautiful old pieces of glass but it was still a thrill to see them in the wild. Good company, beautiful day, gorgeous scenery, glass insulators in the air; it doesn't get any better than this. What an enjoyable day!

Again, kudos go to Steve and Lois Blair, Glenn Drummond and all those other collectors who worked in the background to make this year's Springfield show one of the best ever. Imagine a building about the size of a football field filled with eight foot display and sales tables and a crowd of collectors in every isle. This is the Springfield show.

The bottom line is that if you are not attending local shows or swaps in your area, you need to get away from that computer or television and spend some quality time with your friends or members of your family by traveling to and attending a local insulator event in your area. The trip to the show can be an event of its own. You can hunt old telegraph and telephone lines or visit some antique stores along the way. At the show you can share lies or swap valuable information with fellow collectors. You can fall in love with that special insulator for your collection and be able to hold, fondle and examine it before you make that important purchase with your

hard earned money. Most important, the show gives you a chance to share your time with a loved one, especially a son or daughter. You may even make a purchase for them that will be cherished for a life time.

Insulator purchases from hobby catalogues, eBay, Crown Jewels of the Wire and ICON are an integral part of our great hobby but they aren't substitutes for local shows and swaps. Plan to attend the next local show or swap near you and be sure to take a child.

I had the opportunity to talk to Howard Banks, editor of Crown Jewels of the Wire, at the Springfield show. He is really pleased at how well the "Insulators for Kids" program is working. The program is where insulators are given away to kids under 18 years old if they or their parents pay for the postage. He has mailed out 72 boxes of insulators to children since Labor Day. These recipients are beginning collectors and the future of our hobby. Howard said that he liked to put at least one purple insulator in each box of insulators that he sends out. Howard and Linda Banks, along with Steve Watkins, will be hosting the 2008 National in Portland, Oregon. If you will be attending the National. This will be a good time, if you can't do it before then, to donate a purple insulator to this most worthy project.

Hope to see you at a show soon!

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085
First Past President

2008 National Show Announced!
<http://www.nia.org/shows/national/>

WESTERN REGION VP

Greetings Fellow Collectors,

I would like to begin by wishing each of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. As we enter this time of year we are reminded of what is really important in life. Collecting can be a great deal of fun but it is our health, our families, and our friends that matter most. Take the time this holiday season to remember your friends in the hobby by giving them a call or sending them a letter. Let them know how important they are to you.

Getting together with friends is the best part of the hobby. I was very fortunate to see a number of friends recently at a Triple Ridge Insulator Club get together here in Denver. Over twenty collectors gathered at the home of Mike Miller to share stories and swap some nice insulators. We were lucky enough to have some folks from far away at the event including Denny Hackthorne, Ross Baird, and Jack Roach. Those guys really added some life to the party! Some very nice pieces changed hands including a peacock blue CD 134 and an orange amber Locke CD 287.1. The real

highlight however was getting the chance to see Mike Miller's amazing Denver collection. He has it beautifully laid out and it almost has the feel of a museum. If you are ever travelling in the Denver area you owe it to yourself to give Mike a call and see the best Denver collection in the hobby. Visiting collectors when you travel is a great way to meet new people and learn a great deal at the same time. I am always amazed at the things I learn when I visit a fellow collector.

As you start out the new year, try to think of ways you can help to improve our hobby. It might be as simple as getting out and meeting some new people. You might consider hosting a get together for all the collectors in your area. Perhaps you can encourage some new collectors to join the NIA. Writing an article for Crown Jewels or ICON about an adventure or other insulator related subject can be a lot of fun. There are just so many different ways to make a difference. I think we should also reach out to all types of groups who would find the history and beauty of insulators interesting. There are so many aspects to the telecommunication history of our country. Insulators are just a small part of a much bigger picture. Contacting related groups and building relationships can bring greater awareness to our hobby and benefit others at the same time. One example of this is a telecommunications history group here in Denver that has done tremendous research and even has an insulator collection. I have been building a relationship with them and hope to do an article for

Crown Jewels in the near future. These types of relationships will help our hobby and help us to have a bright future. Try to look for these types of opportunities in your area. You just never know what good things might happen when you reach out and make kind gestures to groups and individuals who are related to our hobby. Sometimes offering an olive branch to someone in the hobby who needs it can be very rewarding as well. Having a closed mind rarely helps anything or anyone to grow. While trying to think of new ways to promote the hobby, a wonderful thing happened to me just recently. I had a display in storage that I had worked very hard on for the San Jose National. Ever since the show it had been gathering dust in the garage. I decided I would offer it to a local western history museum and see if they were interested. I was pleasantly surprised to find that they liked it and wanted to build a telegraph display around it complete with a working telegraph key. The finished display will sit beside a Pony Express exhibit which is the perfect tie in. I also donated a couple boxes of insulators that they can give away to kids. So you just never know what might happen. Think outside the box a little and look for ways you can help promote our hobby. The opportunities are probably limitless.

Good luck collecting and Happy Holidays!

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

2007 Orlando National Show Report!
<http://www.nia.org/nathist/2007.htm>

CENTRAL REGION VP



When I attend the Springfield, Ohio show it marks the end of my insulator shows for the year. As usual Glenn, Steve and Lois put on one of the best shows that rival any national. The show was a sellout this year and the walk through was the strongest that I have seen in the past five years!

With the high price of gasoline and lodging it is encouraging to see so many collectors that travel long distances to attend this show. We seem to be headed in the right direction and our membership is increasing, which is very exciting news for our hobby.

While at the Springfield show, I had a chance to see a beautiful CD 726 in purple that was recently dug by the Plunkett family on display at his table. Bill and his family have been very fortunate to find so many threadless over the years. They seem to have something new every year that they have dug up. Just goes to show you that they are still out there!

I commend Lou Hall and his com-

mittee for all of their hard work in finalizing the awards program that will help improve judging displays more fairly, how awards are presented and shorten the presentation of the awards during the banquet. You can read about the revisions in this issue of Drip Points.

Thanks to John Hovanec and Ron Barth we will have an NIA 2008 Central Regional, in Strongsville, Ohio in 2008. Remember to support your local shows and occasionally a long distance one as well.

I wish you a Happy Holiday and New Year!

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

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EASTERN REGION VP



Hey all,

Well, August found us in New York to get our youngest daughter from grandma's, so I was lucky enough to attend the Poughkeepsie, New York Bottle Show. Wow, what a show! Among all the very rare bottles was a Boston Bottle Works Barrel CD 158.2 for \$30.00 and RD CD 126 in jade for \$10.00. Dave Lewis from Monroe, NY was lucky enough to get both of these beauties. It was great to see some of my old bottle club friends.

My next venture, I found my way to Martinsburg, West Virginia to attend this show sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club. It had some real nice glass, and it was good to see Marshall (Dick) Bowman, Pete Abbott and Rick Snyder, Ken Willick, Mat Grayson, Jim Frustieri, Bobby Fuqua & Charles & Sandra Irons and just about every club member was there. One young collector was given a table full of glass & porcelain. Three thumbs up to Jeff Hollis & the active CBIC club members.

Now on to the Mid-Ohio show in Springfield, Ohio. This show and the National I look forward to them all year. This show is always a must, sales are good and would probably be great if I could stay at my table. The people I've known & the new ones I meet are what makes the show fun to be at. Steve and Glenn always make the show worth attending. The displays were exquisite. The glass blowing team of Fred Wilkerson &

son Fred. To mold mini insulators. The technique is cool to watch. If you missed the Ohio Show experience, you missed an excellent show! Try to put this show on your schedule next year.

I would also like to make a correction to my last Drip Points article. At the Orlando National, the 2 CD 731's were Modes threadless insulators with an M on the dome top - not molds. I have also been able to get permission and have been digging an entire block on the north side of Wilmington, North Carolina near the railroad yard. It's been mostly bottles and we found a few Western Union Standards CD 126, 126.3, 127 & a 131 Brookfield with extra glass - a real heavy mold in aqua.

Hope by the time you read this I am on the right track. Good luck in your hunts!

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

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Summer is over and we're well into autumn. What a wonderful summer it has been for us as a family and for the NIA. Let me start out by thanking the hundreds of you that have responded so quickly to the annual dues reminder, and a very special thank you to those that paid their annual dues before the reminder. 2007 was the 3rd highest membership year ever for the NIA and very close to a record year. 2008 is well on its way with over 1/2 of our members already paid up. For those of you that haven't renewed your membership yet, remember that by renewing before the start of the new year you will have uninterrupted delivery of 'Drip Points' and you will save the NIA the expense of sending another reminder at the end of January.

At the end of September, Jeanne and I traveled to Albuquerque for the EIC insulator show. It was our first time in New Mexico and was a wonderful trip. The scenery was all new and the trip went smoothly, although 11 hours on the road does get a bit old. The show was great. I added a few unique new pieces to my collec-

tion and it was a chance to meet many insulator collector friends once again and make a few new friends. After the show, we were honored to be the guests of Lynda and Tom Katonak for a couple of days. They are truly special people and their hospitality was wonderful. Tom's insulator collection just left me in awe. Every piece I saw was special in some way.

After returning home from Albuquerque we finished our front yard project of putting up an insulator display that included our name

before putting it in the ground. The cross arms and hardware were salvaged from the UPRR line that ran along I15 in Utah just north of Salt Lake City. The insulators came from a variety of sources and just represent some neat, but quite inexpensive, colors and styles.

I'm now looking forward to a wonderful holiday season and a new year packed with opportunity. I wish the best to each every one of you. I hope to see many of you in Portland next summer.



and house number. It sits in front of our old barn on the side of a private lane that services our home in Providence, Utah. The pole is the top half of a salvaged power pole that was taken out of service. Since we only used the top half, we had to treat the bottom several feet with preservative

Good collecting!

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

If your mailing or email address has changed, please contact Don Briel.

**You may also update your information online at:
<http://www.nia.org/membership/update.htm>**

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Dear NIA Members,

It's with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to announce that the bid for the **2008 Central Regional Show** and Sale has been

approved and awarded for **Richfield, OH** and is being hosted by **John Hovanec, Sharon Foster, Ron Barth and Ken Orchard and members of the Western Reserve Insulator Club.** I've talked via email with John almost daily for the past week and he and his peers have this show right on track (as you probably already know because I am writing this on Halloween and you are reading this in December) with show packets going to the Springfield show. The show dates are **July 19-20, 2008.**

Now, we need an NIA member/club members in the Central Re-

gion to step up and send me a bid for the **2009 National.** With all the previous show hosts in the Central Region, there is plenty of experience floating around to assist even the most inexperienced show hosts. Please, if you're interested in hosting a National, send an email to me and I'll send you a bid form. There is nothing to it.

Good collecting and see y'al at a show.

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes,
 NIA #1380
Executive Secretary

**39th National Insulator Association
 Annual Show & convention
 Portland, Oregon, July 4-6, 2008**

Wednesday, July 2nd

Outrageous Jet Boat Adventure
 Heart of the Gorge Cruise
 8 am - 5:00 pm

Thursday, July 3rd

10:00 am - 4 pm - NIA Board Meeting - Idaho Room
 11:30 am - 2:30 pm - Portland Spirit Lunch Cruise
 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Dealer Unload and Exhibitor Setup

Friday, July 4th

7:30 am - 9:00 am - Dealer and Display Setup
 9:00 am - 4 pm - NIA Members Only Show Hours
 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm - NIA General Membership Meeting. Alaska/Idaho Rooms

Saturday, July 5th

7:30 am - 9:00 am - Display Judging; Dealer Setup
 9:00 am - 4 pm - General Admission
 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Reception/Cash Bar
 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Awards Dinner Banquet, Pacific Northwest Ballroom

Sunday, July 6th

7:30 am - 9:00 am - Dealer Setup
 9:00 am - 1:30 pm - General Admission
 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Dealer and Exhibitor Take-down

EARLY NIA MEMBER PETE BISHOP PASSES ON



It is with great sadness that I report the loss of one of our dearest members.

Ray Klingensmith captured the feeling so many of us have for this great man in his recent report to ICON and the *Crown Jewels of the Wire* and I paraphrase below:

“The hobby recently lost one of its pioneer collectors with the passing of Myron ‘Pete’ Bishop. He passed away on September 7 in Pryor, Oklahoma at the age of 94. Pete resided most of his life in the Columbus, Ohio area and moved to Pryor in 2005 to live near his son Bruce.

Pete was well known as one of the

early day insulator collectors and was always present at the London, Ohio (pre-Springfield) shows in his classic jumpsuit attire. His sales table was consistently filled with sparkling clean glass, adorned with autumn decorations. He and his wife Lillian (who preceded him in death) were married 63 years.

He was a man easily loved. He was genuine and caring and lived life to its fullest. He and Lillian shared the most special of relationships and together served as a model that all should follow. He liked big band music, was a great dancer, a talented woodworker and most of all, a special friend. He is dearly missed by all who knew him.

Ray’s sentiments have been echoed by many others. I continue to read comments from his friends like; “he had a special way about him that came across as gentle and humble, yet very energetic and living life to its fullest”, “he was so active in so many different areas”, and “we should be grateful to have had the opportunity to know him and try to be more like him.”

Personally, I did not have the fortune to meet Pete until June of 2006 when he showed up at the Prairie Signals show in Grove Oklahoma. I knew all about him of course, but had never had the pleasure of meeting him. This quiet-spoken but energetic gentleman came up to me and said, “hello, I’m Pete Bishop and I’ve been wanting to meet you for a very long time!” He was “the hit of the show” and spent hours meeting and talking with all the folks at the show ... sharing old stories and his in-depth knowledge of the hobby.

This was Pete Bishop’s last show...

We will all miss you, Pete ... rest in peace.

Tom Katonak

Authentication & Classification



I am freshly back from the Springfield show, and can concur with everyone that has said what a great show it is. It's always a whirlwind of activity at a big show like this, with so much to see and so many people to visit with. I will mention a couple things of interest on the subject of authentication and classification.

First, I saw a very strange threadless on a dealer's table, similar to a tall CD 735. I have not seen this item before, nor anything similar



to it. It was dark green, and so full of bubbles it verged on glass foam. No embossing. The dealer was suspicious of its authenticity as am I, but without much additional information about it to be had, it must remain as an un-

known. I bring it up just to keep you all informed as to what's out there.

Secondly, there was a very interesting display of CD 731s put together by Rick Jones. There have been some CD 731s showing up that have caused some concern in the hobby, both a while back and

are very similar to variants long known in the hobby. Rick's display was a wonderful opportunity to examine several of these items and compare to other long known styles of CD 731s. If you look at a photo of his display, an example of the recently seen ones is displayed on the large poster size photo (on the left). As I write this,



Two CD 731s as shown on Rick Jones' display

again more recently. Most everyone is already aware of the controversy surrounding the "small O" (narrow dome) Tillotsons. Recently some unembossed examples of CD 731 have surfaced that have not been seen before, mostly in aqua to green shades, but a few very bubbly and at least one junky bubbly amber. No conclusive evidence or information seems to be available concerning these pieces, and unfortunately the original source (or sources) of them seems to be very difficult to track down. If anyone can direct me to someone who has actually found one of these in the wild, please let me know! Trying to describe them is a bit tricky, as they

there is a move to put a copy of the various display handouts up on the insulators.com web site, so keep an eye out for Rick's. Of course, no final conclusions can be made regarding these items as so little information is available. All the more reason to get to a large show like this if you can ... talk to others, get as many opinions as you can (I talked to people fully convinced in both extremes), and examine them for yourself.

The third interesting story is the recent discovery of the broken pieces to a radically new glass power piece! Unfortunately, very little of it has survived, but hopefully more will be found someday.

National Insulator Association

Exhibit and Judging Rules

One of the primary reasons for exhibiting is to promote the insulator "story" to the general public, by stressing education, history and information. One of the NIA's primary goals is to increase interest in insulator collecting thus attracting new collectors, which can be accomplished through quality displays. The NIA Board of Directors as a general guide for show hosts has adopted the following Exhibit and Judging Rules. They are meant to encourage more collectors to display, improve the quality of exhibits, and to provide some measure of uniformity and fairness in judging. These rules are in full effect for the NIA National and Regional shows. For NIA sanctioned local shows, adjustments may be made at the host's discretion to fit certain circumstances.

1. Displays or exhibits may be either a competitive entry or a non-competitive entry. There are ten competitive categories that have been established for displays.
 - a. Non-Competitive Entry (open to insulators and/or related items displayed by clubs, groups, displays shared by multiple owners and individuals who choose to not have their exhibit/display judged.)
 - b. Competitive Entry Categories
 - i. Threadless
 - ii. Threaded Glass
 - iii. Threaded Porcelain
 - iv. Specialty (i.e. one company, one style, patents, errors, etc.)
 - v. General (exhibits of mixed insulators, the total theme of which does not accurately fit any other single category listing.)
 - vi. Color (glass, porcelain or any combination)
 - vii. Foreign (glass, porcelain or any combination)
 - viii. Lightning Rod Equipment (insulators, balls, vanes, etc.)
 - ix. Pole Line Hardware and Equipment (insulator mounting pins, brackets, pole and cross-arm construction materials, lineman tools, tie wires, pole steps, and other hardware used in conjunction with insulators and line construction. The exhibit must include some use of insulators and must clearly identify the connection between insulators and those items being displayed.)
 - x. Go-withs (advertising pieces, post cards, insulator shipping boxes, insulators on postage stamps, business cards of collectors, metal signs or non-insulator products made by insulator manufacturing companies. The exhibit must include some use of insulators and must clearly identify the connection between insulators and those items being displayed.)
2. Exhibitor Rules:
 - a. At the NIA National Show only, exhibitors must be NIA members.
 - b. NIA Junior members will enter their exhibit in one of the standard NIA exhibit categories.
 - c. A Junior member is defined as under the age of 18. A Junior member must not attain their 18th birthday during the show they are exhibiting in.
 - d. The exhibitor must determine and declare the competitive category of their exhibit/display at the time of reserving exhibit space.
 - e. Two or more people or a club may collaborate on a competitive exhibit/display. Only one award will be presented to collaborative exhibits/displays.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Imitation or altered insulators and/or related items may be used in exhibits, but must be clearly identified as such in the exhibit. Restored items are acceptable in exhibits, and need not be identified as such.
 - h. Exhibits or portions thereof may not be marked "for sale," or their value indicated in any way.
 - i. Exhibitors are requested to display the awards(s) on their exhibit until it is taken down, and should wear any special name cards or badges provided by the show host.
 - j. Exhibits should not be dismantled until the end of the show unless prior arrangements are made with the show hosts.

3. Show Host Exhibit/Display Rules:

- a. Exhibit space at all shows shall be free and available on a first-come basis. Exhibitors may be expected to bring their own fixtures, extension cords, etc.
- b. At the NIA National and Regional shows, if exhibit space reserved for insulators and/or related items should still be available 60 days or less from the date of the show, the host may permit other non-competitive exhibits of suitable antique/collectable items, subject to the approval of the NIA Board of Directors.
- c. Show hosts will provide ribbons or some type of award for all exhibitors as recognition for exhibiting.

4. Awards and Presentations

- a. The NIA will provide trophies, plaques or awards for Junior and Adult 1st place winners of the various categories.
- b. The show host will provide ribbons or some type of award for all exhibitors as recognition for exhibiting.
- c. The NIA Board of Directors has the authority to honor esteemed contributors to the hobby and the NIA, by naming awards after such individuals. As such, the "Dr. Fredrick L. Griffin Memorial Award" (recipient selected by the show judging panel), is in recognition of the first NIA President, and will be given for the most outstanding threadless exhibit, in lieu of a standard first place award.
- d. The NIA will present 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.
- e. The NIA, at the National Show, may present three special awards:
 - i. The "Milholland Educational Award" (recipient selected by the show judging panel). This award is in recognition of Marion and Evelyn Milholland for their tireless work over many years to research and publish information on glass insulators, all of which contributed immeasurably to the growth and enjoyment of the hobby. The award is given for the one exhibit that most effectively achieves an educational theme. Insulators, props and historical explanations must be combined with good showmanship to capture the attention of all collectors and the viewing public. This award may be any exhibit regardless of the category entered.
 - ii. The "Outstanding Service Award" (recipient nominated and selected by the NIA Awards and Recognition Committee). Given to an NIA member who has performed outstanding service for the NIA and contributed substantially to the insulator hobby. The NIA President prepares, distributes and tabulates ballots for this award.
 - iii. An "NIA Lifetime Membership" may be presented to any NIA member for cumulative meritorious service to the NIA or the insulator-collecting hobby.
- f. The presentation of all NIA category awards and individual club awards will be made on the show floor immediately after the judging and tabulation of scores.
- g. The top NIA awards (Best of Show Award, Milholland Educational Award, Outstanding Service Award and Lifetime Membership Award) will be presented at the awards banquet. In addition, awards to show hosts, People's Choice award and other miscellaneous awards will be presented during the banquet. Additionally, the winners of all category and club awards would be announced during the awards banquet.

Smithsonian Connection

In March 2000, four NIA members, Larry Novak, Doug MacGillvary, Ken Willick, and Bob Berry, participated in a three-day marathon research venue at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. complimenting continuing research begun by Kevin Lawless, NIA President 1998-2000.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nia.org/smithsonian/index.htm>

5. Judging Rules

- a. Judges and exhibitors should remember that displays are for the general public as well as for other members of the hobby, so it is desirable to be creative and original, and avoid showing the same exhibit several times without substantial modification. Repetitive showings of the same exhibit should result in a reduced score.
- b. An exhibit/display must exceed a threshold numerical judging score in order to qualify for the “best of category” award. An Adult exhibitor must achieve a minimum score of 75 and a Junior exhibitor must achieve a minimum score of 65. Single exhibitors in any category must achieve the minimum score for their exhibit in order to receive an award.
- c. A tally sheet will be furnished to exhibitors after the judging, showing how the judges rated each exhibit as compared with other entrants in the same category. This will show exhibitors where improvement is needed. The judges will not be identified on these tally sheets.
- d. Judging decisions will be final. Ties will be re-judged.
- e. There will be a minimum of three judges for each category, and a given person may judge more than one category, if qualified. All judges at a National Show should have previous judging experience. The majority of judges at a Regional Show should have previous judging experience. At a National Show the judging panel should include at least one judge from each of the three NIA regions.
- f. A person may not judge any category in which that person or a family member has an entry.
- g. The Awards & Recognition Chairperson (or in his/her absence an Awards & Recognition Committee Member) will act as the Judging Chairperson at the NIA National Convention. The Judging Chairperson, with the cooperation of the Show Host, will determine who will be in attendance at the show, select the judges, supervise them, and tally the score sheets.
- h. Judges will be furnished standardized printed scoring sheets by the Judging Chairperson, and
 - i. Should consider each grading factor separately without regard to other factors, thus making a conscious effort to avoid a “halo” effect, or a tendency to give an exhibit high scores in “Showmanship” and/or “Education” because it is outstanding in “Rarity;” and
 - ii. In an effort to make scoring meaningful, judges should consider starting their scoring with a presumptive number of points. For example, start in the middle of the point range and then mentally adjust their ratings downward or upward as appropriate.
- i. Judging will be accomplished using the NIA’s standard 100- point system. The average of all judges for any given category will be the final score. The standard NIA 100-point system is as follows:

35 points – Showmanship (Eye-catching, Public appeal, Good use of go-withs, Display props, Lighting, Condition, Category adherence.) Five points possible for each element.

35 points – Education (History, Information, Explanation, Good use of titles, Labels, Handouts, Exhibitor biography.) Five points possible for each element.

15 points – Rarity

9 points – Variety

6 points – Originality (Independent and creative thought, Freshness of idea, New or unusual arrangement.) Two points possible for each element.

Seldom Seen Insulator Photographs!

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

PROMOTIONS CHAIR



Hello All,

Indian Summer is definitely engulfing us here in Central California ... we always enjoy it while we can.

I will share a brief story with you.

A retired Pacific Bell lineman I know stopped me for a chat at the bank recently. The topic came up in conversation, but unfortunately he still won't let go of his window collection (some pretty decent

stuff ... including a great looking green pleated skirt). He did, however, offer that he has included me in his will for those pieces ... I graciously thanked him and expressed how flattered I was, but to please not rush things. He chuckled and then said to come by sometime as he wanted to give me all the "blue ones" from his backyard. I said. "How about tonight?"

He agreed and I arrived there a bit before dusk. There were 300-plus insulators (glass and mud) in piles... some chipped, many not. I swear I have never seen so many clear and light green Whitall Tatum 154's, 155 Armstrongs, and 121 blue Hemis in one place. I did manage to find a 134 Brookie with a very large prominently-placed bubble and a few other minor "sleepers." My 10-year old son Michael and I went back the following weekend and cleaned out of his yard the good, bad, broken, ugly, and common items ... clean-as-a-whistle! We had a great father-and-son afternoon.

OK, the point of this story is that I took a bin-load to my school today. I told the class that they could raid the container at school day's end. They were "jazzed" all day (as I have regaled them with insulator stories, a viewing of my insulator DVD, pictures, and curriculum-related material). I offered them two each to start, with more to take later. One kid took a third for "mother." This week I plan to extend the offer to my former students still at the school. All of these orphaned insulators will find new homes and perhaps new collectors will be "born" as a result. I heard several serious comments along the lines of "I'm going to start collecting these now." That was music-to-my-ears! I will continue to pass my extras to kids and interested adults alike. Educate, excite, and enthuse these potential collectors and watch our hobby grow and perhaps one day be renewed.

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

Insulator Hobby Timeline

- 1991 Ron & Patti Norton published an insulator magazine "The Rainbow Riders Trading Post" dedicated to trading insulators. This monthly magazine was published until December 1997.
- 1992 Greater Chicago Insulator Club Greater Chicago Insulator Club founded by Bob Stahr and Bob Cook.
- 1993 Steve Goodell begins writing a column on Canadian Insulators for Canadian Bottle & Stoneware Collector's Summer issue (No. 5) and would continue until the January 1995 issue.
- 1994 Keith Roloson begins maintaining a central list of email addresses of collectors that will eventually become the list server for insulator collectors.
- 1995 Steve Goodell's last column on Canadian Insulators runs in the No. 11 issue of Canadian Bottle & Stoneware Collector. Columns ran in the following issues: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11. After issue No. 12, the magazine stopped covering insulators and the magazine was eventually sold to another editor. Sources of information devoted exclusively to Canadian insulators once again dried up.



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

**2007-2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

Beginning Balance-General Funds		\$12,788
Museum Exploratory Committee		\$972
Authentication/Ethics Account		\$2,297

Revenues

Donations			
Membership Dues		1,104	
Miscellaneous Income		50	
Product Sales		1,018	
	Total Revenues		\$2,172

General Fund Expenses

Advertising			
Bank Charges, Taxes, Fees			
Marketing Products	+	1,177	
Misc. Postage		55	
Misc. Printing		373	
Misc. Supplies		182	
Misc. Professional Services			
Crown Jewels Rebates		70	
Drip Points Printing & Postage		1,400	
Show Advertising Subsidy			
Show Awards			
Stationery Supplies			
Telephone			
Special Projects			
Educational Disp Postage			
	Total Expenses		\$3,257

Closing Balance, General Fund		\$11,703
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures		
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance		\$972
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures		
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance		\$2,297
Total Balance on Hand September 30, 2007		\$14,978

2007 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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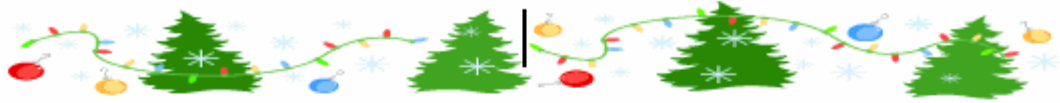
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2007 * Holiday NIA Gift Ideas * 2007

Running out of ideas for a holiday gift?
Why not try something from the products store!
Maybe we can give you that needed idea lift!
Totally revamped website...see what's there & more!

In stock items listed below:



- ❁ Car Decals ❁
- ❁ Embroidered Tshirts ❁
- ❁ Embroidered Patches ❁
- ❁ Screen-printed T-shirts ❁
- ❁ Enameled Hat / Lapel Pins ❁
- ❁ Embroidered Baseball Style Caps ❁
- ❁ Foam Drink Koozies (green, red or blue) ❁
- ❁ Screen-printed & Embroidered Sweatshirts ❁
- ❁ NEW Button-front sport shirts (cream or taupe) ❁
- ❁ Embroidered Polo/Golf Shirts (NEW sizes/colors for ladies!) ❁
- ❁ NIA Engraved Badges and Club Bars (NIA members & local clubs)
- ❁
- ❁ Embroidered Denim Long Sleeved Shirts (blue or NEW ecru/natural) ❁
- ❁ Embroidered Denim Short Sleeved Shirts (blue or NEW natural) ❁
- ❁ Ceramic Coffee Mugs ❁
- ❁ 13 oz. Glass Mugs ❁

See the last page of this Drip Points for latest order form!
Please visit the NIA website: WWW.NIA.ORG/products for complete listing
of items for sale /color photos and an order form.

**If there is an item you don't find, please give me a call with your request.
I can order any item/size /color preference.**

Carolyn Berry
Product Marketing Committee

Membership Application/Renewal Form

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

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

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 Legibly

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** _____

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following format **Paper** _____ **Electronic** _____
(Check only one choice) (An E-Mail address is required for electronic)

Additional Family Members Residing in the Same Household

Name _____ **NIA # (if renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Winter 2007-2008
www.nia.org/products



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

NEW COLOR: Ocean Blue!, Ecu, 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 Heavyweight - 6.1 oz. cotton - 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

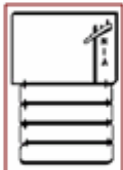
Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details)
S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) ___
2X ___ (\$22) ___

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



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

Color: Ash Gray - Screen-printed logo (large on back / small on front)
CLOSE OUT PRICES! 3 left => S ___ (\$8.00) -- 1 left => 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 with logo **SALE** \$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 **SALE** \$3.50 ___

NIA Decal - for inside car window **SALE** \$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) ___

Page 1 of 2 **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: \$5.85** for the first item & **\$1.15** 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