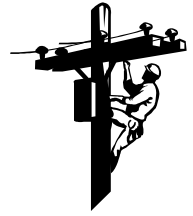




Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

<http://www.nia.org>

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ♦ A Note from the Editor ... *Kevin Jacobson*
- ♦ From the President ... *Tom Katonak*
- ♦ From the First Past President ... *Steve Marks*
- ♦ Regional Reports... *Howard Banks, Ed Peters, Ken Willick*
- ♦ From the Nominations Chair... *Jack Roach*
- ♦ From the Authentication & Classification Chair... *John McDougald*
- ♦ Historian Note... *Rick Soller*
- ♦ Note from the Secretary...*Bob Stahr*
- ♦ From the Awards and Recognition Committee ... *Sandy Ellision*
- ♦ From the Ethics Chair ... *Charles Bibb*
- ♦ The Early Folks...*Bill Kemp*
- ♦ Product Marketing ...*Carolyn Berry*
- ♦ Financial Report ... *Dudley Ellis*
- ♦ Membership Renewal Form ... *Joe Beres*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone, Its that time again. I really have to say that there is some pretty important information being conveyed in this issue of the *Drip Points*.

If you don't read this one you will be missing out. We have finally put together a list of "Questionable Insulators" as defined by the NIA and included photos on our first color insert (see pages 7 & 8).

There is also some good information about the on going investigation by the US postal service into potential mail fraud as a result of the information and evidence submitted to them. See Tom Katonak and Steve Marks column's for more information.

A couple of board members also speak out regarding ICON and some of the troubles of late. See the articles from Ed Peters and Charles Bibb on this.

Of course, as always, there is a lot of other great information. See the information regarding upcoming shows, *Crown Jewels* collectables, and on NIA merchandise that is available for sale.

Also, Bill Kemp (NIA #26) contributed a great list of the NIA's first fifty members that you may find interesting as I did. See "The Early Folks"

We had 43 members taking their Drip Points electronically this time. It's a great start, but it would really help if more of you singed up to the electronic edition.

**Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720
Information Director**

A portrait of a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, wearing glasses and a grey beard. He is smiling and wearing a light blue collared shirt under a grey textured jacket. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

New in this issue is our first installment of a listing of questionable insulators along with descriptions of these items. This terminology means that such pieces are quite possibly either imitation insulators, or altered in some fashion from

As you all know by now, we have taken a stand on the authenticity of the “new style” E.C.&M.s that appeared some six years ago.

In this edition, John McDougald, Chairman of the Authentication and Classification Committee, lists those questionable pieces in the first group, i.e., those we believe are likely to be imitation insulators. There's not very many on the list. And we just shortened the list by taking off the five styles of E.C.&M.s, which we used to consider questionable but now know to be imitations. Take note of the descriptions of these pieces and study the pictures. Knowledge is a great tool when it comes to making decisions on whether or not to buy a particular insulator.

I think that's it for the spring issue. I'm looking forward to seeing you in person at the upcoming events. Best in collecting,

2

A portrait of Dr. David A. Clark, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a yellow polo shirt. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a patterned wallpaper.

I also noted in that column that the NIA was working with the Office of the United States Postal Inspectors on this matter. The Postal Inspectors are conducting an investigation and so far have compiled damage claims from numerous victims in excess of \$100,000. As soon as we have further information on the status of their inves-

Although my last several “*Drip Point*” columns have been focused on serious matters (i.e. NIA rule changes, the matter of fakes, etc.), I did want everyone to know that I am still having fun! Melanie, Sam

3

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of longtime collector and strong supporter of the National Insulator Association, **Grant Salzman**, on Sunday morning, the 9th of February, 2003. Grant was a friend to everyone in the hobby, and those of you that knew him personally will remember him most for his wonderful stories of insulator collecting in times past. He also had a passion for collecting the CD 143 Canadian beehives and was the hobby's recognized expert in this arena. Grant also had a most memorable flair for presenting the Nor Cal Club award at many of the past national shows and his distinguished resonant voice would fill the hall as the audience hung onto every word. He was a man of great stature and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

- Tom Katonak

- Tom Katonak



Another nice thing about clubs is that you're a lot less likely to bump into a "clique" that sometimes pervades larger shows. I've attended bottle club and model railroading meetings in the past where not a single person said a word to me. It was almost like I wasn't even there. If you don't know anyone, it can be very hard to break the ice.

The Internet together with almost any collectable is a really good thing; it helps inform people so that they know what is collectable.

Ed Peters, NIA #6300
Central Region Vice President

A portrait of a man with short, light brown hair, a mustache, and glasses. He is wearing a white t-shirt and is smiling slightly. The background is a patterned wallpaper with a green and blue floral design.A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, graying hair and a slight smile. He is wearing a dark-colored polo shirt under a light-colored sweater with a small, repeating geometric pattern. The background is a wall with a light-colored, intricate floral or damask pattern.

Authentication & Classification Committee



Over the past several years, the NIA has been active in dealing with the issues of imitation and altered insulators. In many cases, we have reason to suspect that a given item may be an imitation or an altered piece, but the proof is not (yet) in hand. These items we have labeled as “questionable insulators”. The NIA Handbook dis-

cusses this category at the bottom of page 19:

While the NIA Code of Ethics requires Imitation and Altered Insulators to be plainly marked “reproduction” and “fake” respectively, it does not require Questionable Insulators (those which may not be Original Insulators), to be permanently marked. The goal of this rule is to cause a prospective purchaser to easily recognize that an item is a reproduction or fake, or to cause them to question its authenticity. Insulators of questionable authenticity should be represented with candor. If not, a show host can require a participant to remove the item from a display or sales table.

The NIA Board of Directors has classified the following as “questionable insulators” and provides pictures and descriptions

below to help NIA members identify these items if they are offered for sale or trade. This notification is designed to make NIA members aware of the concerns that the NIA Board has regarding these pieces, and the NIA Board recommends that NIA members exercise due caution in any transactions involving these pieces. Note that this list deals only with potential imitation pieces; questionable items produced by alteration will be covered in a future *Drip Points*.

If you have any questions about any of the above information, please contact any member of the NIA Board or myself, John McDougald, chairman of the NIA Authentication and Classification Committee.

John McDougald, NIA #689
Authentication & Classification Committee



1. CD 120 C.E.W. – These questionable insulators appeared in the early 1990's. They have been found in a wide variety of spectacular colors, not before known to the insulator hobby. However, some pieces were also produced in colors similar to known legitimate CD 120 C.E.W.'s, such as the aqua one pictured.



“Sierra” Glass Blocks



“S.F.” Glass Blocks

2. Glass Blocks – Two different styles of glass blocks have been classified as questionable insulators. The first has become known as the Sierra glass block, designated as such based on the purported location that they were found. They are unembossed and have been found in several colors, including cobalt blue and various shades of green and aqua. These were introduced to the hobby in 1996, and the purported discovery was documented in a *Crown Jewels of the Wire* article in that year. The second style is known as the San Francisco (or S.F.) block and was introduced to the hobby in 2000. This piece is embossed with the S.F. Glass Co. name and has been found in aqua.



3. CD 735 Unembossed – This item was also introduced to the hobby in the early 1990's, and has been widely dispersed throughout the hobby over the past 10 years. This piece has been found in a wide variety of colors, including many exotic shades. Some members may be familiar with the fact that a handful of unembossed CD 735 imitations in aqua were introduced to the hobby in the early 1970's. These pieces are unrelated to the style introduced in the 1990's.

4. CD 133.4 Unembossed "West Virginia bullets" – This piece was introduced to the hobby in the late 1980's and has been found in three unusual colors: purple, cobalt blue and teal aqua. Some additional pieces have been found in aqua and clear, but they are much less common. Chards of these pieces have been located on a railroad line in Virginia, but the NIA has determined that these pieces should be classified as questionable.



6. CD 738 Unembossed – The following piece was purported to have been dug near Zanesville, Ohio and became known in the hobby in 2001. To date, only one specimen of this piece is known in the hobby and is pictured here.



7. Mexican Threadless – Dozens of these pieces were introduced to the hobby in 2001 and were originally described as "Mexican threadless insulators". To date, no evidence has been provided to the NIA to indicate that these pieces were ever used in the traditional sense of an insulator. They have been found in a variety of colors, and have been classified as a questionable insulators, even though it is not a replica of a known glass insulator style.

5. CD 731 Tillotson – This new style of CD 731 Tillotson appeared in the hobby around 2000, and has surfaced in a range of unusual colors, including blackglass and various shades of blue and green. These pieces are distinguished from the well established legitimate CD 731 Tillotsons because they have a higher, more pointed dome and a slightly different embossing style on the (arc) Tillotson embossing.

A portrait of a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a black shirt, against a patterned background.



A portrait of a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a yellow and white striped shirt. He is looking directly at the camera against a patterned background.

So, what's the solution to this problem? While I generally loathe

Before you hit the “send” button, ask yourself these four questions about that zinger you’re about to fire off to more than a thousand other users: (1) Is your post the truth? Remember, many ICONers are new collectors; don’t be guilty of spreading disinformation, propagating rumors, or passing off speculation as fact. And, accusations, founded or not, about the activities of other collectors should never be made on ICON. (2) What is the intent of your post? Asking or answering an insulator query is probably the need Bill sought most to fill when he first set up the mailing list. But, if your post will do little, other than fan the flames of a growing controversy, consider holding off. (3) How will your post affect the other members of the list? Name-calling, rudeness, and intolerance have driven some collectors off ICON

On several occasions, I have seriously considered un-subscribing from ICON due to the combative antics of a vocal few, but ICON is just too important an asset to give up. So, I'd rather light a candle than curse the darkness. Let your ICON behavior be a shining example to others, too.



Stock reduction specials

----- Blue t-shirt - \$9.00 -- Gray Cap - \$9.00 -- Koozie - \$2.00 ---

New items on board for the O"HI"O National!

Embroidered Birch Gray Sweatshirt

Same style/color as the screen-printed sweatshirts, but with the embroidered logo on the left front without a large logo on the back.

We have new colors and styles for our men's polo shirts and new ladies denim and polo style shirts for a limited time offer!

Men's golf/polo (short sleeve) shirts, (M-XL) \$38.00 == (2X, 3X) \$42.00:

1. Arnold Palmer – Cream with herringbone navy/taupe knit band on collar and cuffs. Side vents at the bottom sides. Nice fine cotton pique! This style has a 3-button tab front and the NIA logo on left front. No pocket. Very sharp!
2. Cross Creek - Putty (beige) with herringbone putty/black knit band on collar and cuffs. Side vents at bottom sides. Nice waffle cotton pique! This style has a 3-button tab front and the NIA logo on left front. No pocket.
3. Outer Banks – Taupe with herringbone black/taupe knit band on collar, side vents at bottom sides and a drop tail. Cotton pique fabric. This style has a 2-button tab, reinforced pocket with NIA logo above it.
4. Ultra-Club – Oatmeal with navy/natural knit band on collar and cuffs. Side vents at bottom sides and a drop tail. Cotton pique fabric. This style has a 2 button front tab and the NIA logo on front side. No pocket.

Ladies denim "sleeveless" shirt. Nice quality stonewashed blue denim. The embroidered NIA logo on the left of button front. I would call this a "tuck in style" shirt. Sells for \$32.00.

Ladies white cotton pique polo, "sleeveless" with a navy blue knit band collar by Ultra Club. The embroidered NIA logo on the left of button front placket. There are 6 buttons on the front tab and side vents at the bottom sides. Sells for \$35.00.

Ladies golf/polo short sleeve shirt by Outer Banks. This new design is in **butter yellow with a black/royal blue** trim knit band collar and cuffs. The embroidered NIA logo is on the left of button front placket. There are 4 buttons on the front tab and side vents at the bottom sides. Very nice! Sells for \$38.00.

Please refer to the Spring Order Form, on the last page.

As always, please call or email me with any questions.



Carolyn Berry

NIA#4336

Product Marketing Chairman



From the Treasurer

2002-2003 FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
SECOND QUARTER ENDING 12/31/2002

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085
Treasurer

Beginning Balance-General Fund	10/1/2002	9594.01
Museum Exploratory Committee		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account		2196.75

Revenues

Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	2831.00	
Miscellaneous Income	25.00	
Product Sales	464.25	
Total Revenues:		<u>3320.25</u>

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	559.95	
Bank Charges/Taxes	0.00	
Marketing Products	1110.04	
Misc. Postage	145.78	
Misc. Printing	8.39	
Misc. Supplies	86.35	
Misc. Professional Services	0.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	70.00	
Drip Points Printing	1351.04	
Drip Points Postage	664.91	
Show Advertising Subsidy	500.00	
Show Awards	305.48	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	0.00	
Special Projects	0.00	
Education Disp Postage	94.09	
Total Expenses:		<u>4896.03</u>

Closing Balance, General Fund:		8018.23
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures	0.00	
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures	0.00	
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance		<u>2196.75</u>
Total Balance on Hand January 1, 2003		<u>11186.99</u>

2003 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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512-255-2006
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Bob Merzoian, NIA #3941 Promotions

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Porterville, CA 93257-1637
(559) 781-6319
bobmerzoian@mac.com

2003 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM
(If this issue was addressed to you, then your dues are paid.)

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

Joe J. Beres
NIA Membership Director
1315 Old Mill Path
Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147-3276
E-MAIL: JJJB@AOL.COM



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.
(Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic)

Paper_____ **Electronic**_____

Additional Family Members

Name	Nia# (If Renewal)
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Signed _____

Date _____ **Amount Enclosed \$** _____



Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336
Product Marketing Committee
1010 Wren Court
Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741
(512) 255-2006 pyrex553@aol.com

NIA - Spring ORDER FORM

NEW Colors and Styles!!!

NEW*Men's Golf/Polo Shirt - see descriptions in this DP article!

1. Arnold Palmer - M L XL (\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X (\$42)
2. Cross Creek - M L XL (\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X (\$42)
3. Outer Banks - M L XL (\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X (\$42)
4. Ultra Club - M L XL (\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X (\$42)

NEW* Women's -- L XL (other women sizes orderable)

*Sleeveless- white/navy pique (\$35) or *S/S - butter yellow/navy pique (\$38)

Denim Shirt -- (all sizes orderable)

NEW* Women's stonewash blue - sleeveless L XL (\$32)

Men's - med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue -- left-side pocket

Embroidered logo S M L XL \$32.00

*S/S *L/S 2X \$35.00

T-Shirt -- Hanes Beefy "T" - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo

S M L XL (blue) \$10.00 less \$1/shirt =

M (Birch Gray; embroidered logo on left front, only!) \$18.00

L XL (\$15) or 2X 3X (\$16) Birch gray screen-printed

NIA Lapel Pin - etched/enamel; NIA logo \$5.00

Sweatshirt -- Heavy weight - Birch gray - Screen-printed logo

S M (\$16.00) L XL (\$20.00)

NEW! **Embroidered logo(front only) M L XL (\$25) 2X 3X (\$30)

Embroidered Cap -- Stone/Navvy, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00

Cap -- Lt. Grey, screen-printed logo \$10.00 less \$1/cap =

Mug -- 10 oz. - white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00 less \$.50/mug =

Patch -- light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge \$5.00

Koozie™ -- The original Koozie™ fits any standard beer or soda can;

Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue red green \$2.25 less \$.25/item =

Decal -- light blue w/ logo- red border; for inside car window \$1.00

Name Badge -- white badge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed logo epoxy pinback, beveled edges (fill in form below) \$11.00

Badge Bar -- white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position) \$4.00

Women's Size Chart:

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

Men's Size Chart:

S (32-34) M (36-38) L (40-42) XL (44-46)

2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

Subtotal

U.S. Postage

Total Enclosed

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

****U.S. Postage:** \$5.00 for the first item & \$1.50 for each additional item ordered.
Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/Bars are \$0.50 per item. **for non-US postage, AK & HI, please contact me for an exact postage quote!!

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to: National Insulator Association or NIA

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

Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____

Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____

Bar: _____

