

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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Available via e-mail

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Well, winter is nearly over for many of you around the country. Certainly the weather has been nice enough for some glass and mud hunting in a very large part of the country with one of the warmest winters on record in a while. I am planning on doing a bit of searching myself in the next two or three months before it gets too hot around my neck of the woods .. uh ... well desert I suppose I should say.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at this year's National in Austin. It will be a great show. See page 7 for show times, dates, contact information, and Hotel information. Everyone who can attend the show should make every effort to do so. I know it's simply not possible for all of you, but you sure do miss a good time when you miss a national show.

If you do make it to the National Look me up. I will be running

around the show as will my wife Cheryl. We haven't missed a show since our first in 1999 at Scottsdale and it will take a pretty significant event in our lives to cause us to miss a National.

One other note, if you received this newsletter, the NIA believes that you are signed up and a member in good standing. It should be smooth sailing for you on NIA day at the show. If however, you know of a fellow NIA member that may have not yet renewed their membership, please remind them that you must be a member to get in on Friday (NIA day) at the show.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



Spring should be just around the corner but with the forecast of snow for North Georgia tonight, I am beginning to wonder if the insulator swap meet Sandy and I are sponsoring next weekend is just a bit early. If you are like me you are starting to get a real bad case of cabin fever and you are ready to get out to the local swaps and shows or maybe a trip down the local rail line for that special find.

Speaking of rail lines, CSX Railroad has been advertising heavily on the local radio stations in the mornings that walking along the rail lines is trespassing and illegal. They are asking for anyone seeing someone along the rail lines to call their local enforcement officers. Y'all be careful out there and don't get arrested. This could turn a joyous day's outing into a horrible nightmare in a hurry. Remember to get permission when hunting on private lands and be safe on your hunts.

Sandy and I ventured to Florida several weeks ago and attended the 117 acre Renninger's Extravaganza in Mount Dora and the Maitland Telephone and Insulator Show. Even though I didn't find anything special for my collection, it was good to see and talk shop

with some of the Florida insulator collectors. The show was well attended.

I hope you are as excited as I am about attending the 37th National Insulator Association Annual Show and Convention in Austin, Texas on July 7-9, 2006. Your hosts are Bob and Carolyn Berry, Jack Roach and Jim Bates. With this team the show has to be good! I understand that a few more dealers' tables are still available. Don't procrastinate. Call one of the hosts now to reserve your table. You can

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expect to experience southern hospitality at its best in Austin.

Don Briel has officially transitioned into the Membership Director's position. He has hit

the deck running. He has been busy developing new data bases, making new NIA brochures with applications and preparing membership mailings among other things. Please, remember that your NIA dues expire at the end of December each year and that your 2006 NIA membership dues are due now. A renewal form is included in this issue of Drip Points.

The new Awards and Recognition Committee Chair, Lou Hall, is busy with his committee. He has selected three at large members from the regions to serve on the full committee. The Committee is gathering comments and suggestions from other collectors to use as they review the NIA Exhibit and Judging Rules for potential changes. The Committee will report its findings and recommendations to the Board. The Board looks forward to receiving the Committee's recommendations.

Have you visited the NIA's web page lately? The web page is really expanding. The Research and Education Committee Chair, Bob Berry, has worked hard to add the kind of things that are interesting and educational. My favorite sections are "Insulator Types and Identifications", "Historical Insulator Timeline" and "Artificially Induced Colors".

Bob is currently working with Dwayne Anthony to update the latter. The web page address is

> www.nia.org If you have not visited the web page in a while you may surprised at what you find.

for the 2007

I am expecting at least one bid and maybe two

National. The Board will announce the winning bid's location at the National in July. We currently don't have bids for a 2006 Western or Eastern Region show. I've been told there may be a Western Region Show in the planning stage. Hosting a region show is a work of love and very rewarding. If you want to host a show but are not sure how to proceed, please contact your Region Vice President. The NIA has experienced show hosts who will be glad to help you get started. Additionally, the NIA Show Host Manual has recently been completed for your use. We are working to put the manual on the NIA web page.

Your Nominations Committee has been busy searching for candidates for NIA President and Central Region Vice President. In-

(Continued on page 3)

cluded in Jacque Linscott Barnes's article in this issue of *Drip Points* are bios of these candidates and their goals for improving our hobby. I promise to work closely with the new officers for a smooth transition in July.

Fake and altered insulators continue to find their way into the hobby. Educating yourself is the first line of defense in protecting your wallet. Please go back and read past issues of *Drip Points* where there are pictures and dis-

cussions on fake and altered insulators. You can also ask longtime members of the hobby about questionable pieces before you buy. Do not forget that the NIA web page is also a good resource for learning about altered insulators.

Springtime provides a lot of local shows. Please support these local shows and be sure to take a child with you. Also remember to take a child on an insulator hunt this spring and be sure to tell someone about your hobby.

Hope to see you at a show this spring. I will be attending the DJIC swap meet in Stockbridge in February, another swap meet in Mountain Home, North Carolina in May and hopefully a show or two in between.

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 **NIA President**

At any rate, aside from

the pleasant weather in

Yuma (it was 83 degrees

when we arrived late on

Friday afternoon), in recent

years the place has

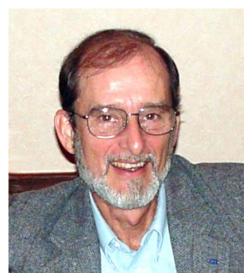
become famous for the

Yuma Tailgater sponsored

by the Grand Canyon State

Insulator Club.

FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



Greetings fellow insulator hobby enthusiasts!

While its still mostly winter out around most of the Nation, by the time you read this, spring will surely be on it's way and this brings all the attendant pleasures of a new "insulator season".

Of course, I have the advantage of being closer to "springtime" by virtue of living in New Mexico and if you go far enough south here, it's pretty much like spring all winter long! So, when the end of January rolled around, my bride and I headed southwest to take advantage of the balmy weather. This

has now become more-or-less of a "pilgrimage" where we not only take advantage of the splendid

weather, but we get to visit many of our hobby friends in the Desert Southwest.

One day's drive took us to Phoenix where we visited several of our insulator friends, checked out the new additions to their collections and

caught up on all their activities. After an evening of fine dining (and story telling) with NIA Information Director, Kevin Jacobson and his wife Cheryl, we caravanned across the state to the world famous Quartzite flea market.

For those of you that have never been to Quartzite, you are really missing a piece of Americana! Here, in twenty-five square miles of packed flea market activity, one can buy nearly anything from anywhere! This includes of course insulators of all description. The downside of Quartzite is that fully

50% of everything there is imitation – so you have to know what you're buying. If the insulator

you're considering is a weird bluish purple, its irradiated so you know not to buy it!

A couple hours south from Quartzite, through some pretty spectacular desert country, one comes to

Yuma, in the triangle where Arizona, California and Mexico all join forces. I don't think there are any real "Yumans" in Yuma because the place is totally packed with RV'ers from all over the north – including many of our Canadian friends.

At any rate, aside from the pleasant weather in Yuma (it was 83 degrees when we arrived late on Friday afternoon), in recent years the place has become famous for the Yuma Tailgater sponsored by the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club. This annual event draws collectors from all over the west –

and often well beyond. This year was no exception and on Saturday morning - just as the sun was pushing up the edge of the eastern sky, the first of hundreds of boxes were being opened in the Territorial Prison Park down along the Colorado River. There were more tables of glass and mud than last year, more people than last year - and best of all, more old friends to greet and new folks to meet! The action was frantic for the first few hours of the morning, but fortunately abated somewhat in time for the traditional lunch of grilled hamburgers with all the classic side dishes. Some really wonderful stuff changed hands as the day wore on. Late in the day, after all the glass (that hadn't been bartered) had been packed away, some of the folks set out to hunt down insulators in the local area. Yuma is quite a historic place and the crossroads for immigrants and communications since the 1700s. Of interest to insulator collectors of course are the early telegraph lines in the area - mostly covered with EC&M's. The insulator hunting continued early on Sunday

morning with a visit to old Fort Yuma high on the bluff overlooking the Colorado River. Even though the original fort-to-fort telegraph line ran right through this historic complex, we were unable to turn up a single artifact related to it — no pieces of wire, no shards of glass — nada! But it was fun never the less and we spent most of the sun-drenched day searching the desert east of Yuma for remnants of the old telegraph line.

The next few days were spent at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show – the largest show of this sort in the world. Now we didn't find a great number of insulators here, but there were a few, and there were lots still out in the surrounding mountains in need of liberation (and we spent a couple days in this endeavor). The most interesting thing about the TGMS is meeting people from distant parts of the world and seeing the many wonderful things that come from their countries.

With the weather still holding steady, we headed easterly back

into New Mexico and occupied another few wonderful days looking for the old telegraph and telephone lines in the southwest corner of the state. This gave us the opportunity to visit more of our close insulator friends in the Silver City area and do a bit of research telegraph research at the local university.

Finally, Lynda put her foot down and said "we <u>have</u> to go back home and rescue our dog before she forgets who we are"! So this morning we turned the van north and pushed on up the Rio Grande valley concluding yet another wonderful insulator adventure.

We trust you too have had another wonderful insulator adventure since we spoke with you last, and we look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming shows – or maybe a field trip together somewhere...

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 NIA First Past President

...DRIP NOTES

It's not too early to start planning for next years national show. The 37^{th} NIA Annual Show and Convention will be in AUSTIN, TEXAS July 7 - 9, 2006.

To make your hotel reservations, call the Doubletree @ (800) 347-0330 or online @ www.doubletreeaustin.com with convention code "NIA" for the National Insulator Association blocked room rate.

For all the details on-line, go to:

http://www.nia.org/shows/national/

FROM THE WESTERN REGION



It seems we are constantly becoming more and more dependent upon technology in today's world. The current generation is growing up with computers, cell phones, ipods, X boxes, digital cameras, and much more. It has all become quite normal to them. Who knows what the next generation will see. Our fast paced and ever changing world often seems a bit overwhelming. One of the things I love about collecting insulators is their simple connection to the history of modern technology. Insulators were a key component in the development of the telegraph which just may have been the greatest invention of the 19th century. What an amazing step it must have been for people living in that time. Suddenly people could communicate with each other in minutes or even seconds instead of days and sometimes weeks. So

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astounding did it seem that many people believed the invention of the telegraph might anger God himself. One famous telegraph related quote

read, "Is it not a feat sublime? Intellect hath conquered time." So it seemed for the people of the mid 1800's as the electronic age ushered itself in. Many new inventions would follow, the telephone, the light bulb, electric power, and on and on. For the last century and a half technology has increased at a dizzying pace. It amuses me to think that the digital world in which we live today all began over 160 years ago with the simple strike of the telegraph key. When Morse Code was invented it used simple dot and dash patterns to represent the letters of the alphabet. In today's world digital information flows everywhere in the form of binary code, simple plus and minus signals arranged in sets of eight to represent a myriad of letters, numbers, and symbols. When you stop and think about it, all those plusses and minuses are just a modern day version of the dots and dashes used

in Morse Code.
The inside of a computer is like a giant network of telegraph lines with messages being sent and processed at amaz-

ing speeds. When you compose an e-mail it is sent in code and translated back into words by the computer on the receiving end, similar to what a telegraph operator did years ago. We have certainly come a long way but there are still connections with the past. Our hobby is a wonderful link to that history.

So the next time you are amazed or overwhelmed by a new piece of technology just look over at one of your early telegraph pieces and smile, for that is where it all began.

Have a great spring and good luck collecting,

Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region Vice President



Your 2006 Austin National Show Hosts (from left to right): Jim Bates, Jack Roach, Carolyn Berry, and Bob Berry.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE CHAIR



Well, it's time to nominate people for the NIA Outstanding Service Award and Lifetime Membership Award. Normally, the Regional VP's coordinate this with assistance from other people. Anyone can nominate a person; you just need to request and fill out the appropriate nomination form, and return a copy to your Regional VP and to me.

General guidelines:

Outstanding Service: A nomination for Outstanding Service should have made significant contributions to the insulator hobby in the last year or two. Generally this is not a current NIA board member or chairman.

Lifetime Membership: The NIA Lifetime Membership Award is the highest honor that can be given to a fellow hobbyist. The list of recipients includes NIA members who have donated significant portions of their lives for the betterment of collecting. The effort taken to recognize those who have given hundreds or thousands of hours and/or dollars to the hobby should not be taken lightly. The Lifetime Membership is for a couple, as the spouse is often involved, or at least very supportive of the primary person being nominated. In some cases, the spouse is also involved in a formal capacity in the hobby, and the contributions of both people should be noted.

There is no requirement that either award be presented in a given year. Conversely, multiple people can be nomination in either category. Final selection of the recipients is determined by the NIA board.

If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail <u>lou-hall@pacbell.net</u>

Thanks for your assistance!

Lou Hall, NIA # 7186 Awards and Recognition Chair

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

2006 NIA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD 2006 NIA LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

NOMINATIONS FOR POSSIBLE RECIPIANTS OF THESE AWARDS ARE BEING SOLICIATED BY THE NIA AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS COMMITTEE

Contact Lou Hall, A & R Committee Chairman, to obtain the appropriate nomination form. Call him at (559) 435-1740 or e-mail request to louhall@pacbell.net
Nominations forms must be submitted to the committee by April 1, 2006



2006



AUSTIN, TEXAS

37th NIA Annual Show and Convention July 7 – 9, 2006

■120 sales tables – 28 Displays
Raffles – Appraisals – Silent Auction - Seminars
■11,000 sq ft show hall

2006 Show Itinerary

Thursday, July 6th

Dealer Unloading & Exhibitor Set-up

Friday, July 7th

"NIA Members Only Day"

NIA General Membership Meeting

Sunset "Bat Watching" Riverboat Cruise

Saturday, July 8th

General Admission (\$3, kids under 12 free)

Awards Dinner Banquet

Sunday, July 9th

General Admission

Dear Collectors and Friends:

We are very pleased and honored to be your show hosts for the 37th National. This will be the first show ever in the Central Texas area. We are very pleased with the assistance the Lone Star Insulator Club members have offered. We are working diligently to ensure you have a great national. Response has been excellent in the first two months of sales. We have 20 sales tables, and only 6 exhibit spaces remaining. Table availability will be filled from a waiting list on a first come, first serve basis, once tables are sold out.

We hope you will consider joining us at the 37th show!

Respectfully, Your 2006 Show Co-Hosts, Bob, Carolyn, Jack & Jim

Hotel information: We will be holding this event at the Doubletree Hotel Austin. The hotel offers many amenities to make your convention stay a pleasant one. Easy access to major highways, many restaurants and attractions. You can reserve your rooms now!!

To make your hotel reservations, call the Doubletree @ (800) 347-0330 or online @ www.doubletreeaustin.com with convention code "NIA" for the National Insulator Association blocked room rate.

For additional details please contact one of your show hosts, or go online to the following website location:

http://www.nia.org/shows/national

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



NIA Membership,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the candidates for the two offices being vacated this year on your Board of Directors. I appland the two unopposed gentlemen who have stepped forward to give more of their time to your hobby. Their leadership will assist in securing the integrity of our hobby and continue to make it a desirable organization of which you can be proud to be a member.

With no other candidates stepping forward, Kevin Jacobson is the candidate for the NIA Presidency and Ross Baird is the candidate for the Central Regional Vice-Presidency. Therefore there will

be no ballots mailed in the next issue of Drip Points.

For those of you who may not know one or both, their hobby bios are included in this issue for your reading.

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA#1380 Nominations Chairman

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Welcome to 2006! This is the start of a new year and, for me, the start of officially stepping in as NIA Membership Director. I have learned much to date and look forward to a rewarding chance to serve. As I process membership renewals I have the opportunity to see many familiar names and learn who the long time collectors are. I hope to meet many of you in person this year at the National Show in Austin. It's always nice to tie faces to names and develop new friendships. In my mind, that is one of the most valuable parts of the hobby.

This is the first Drip Points of a new year. It signals that spring is just around the corner, insulator shows are starting to pick up once again, and here in the north we'll soon be out in the field hunting those glass jewels. Unfortunately, this first issue of Drip Points each year is also the smallest printing of the year as many memberships have yet to be renewed for the new year. Be sure to remind friends and fellow collectors that their membership must be renewed to stay on the Drip Points mailing list and participate in elec-A membership applications. tion/renewal form is included in each issue. Please use it or pass it along.

When renewing memberships, please fill out the renewal form completely and send it along with your dues payment. This ensures that all information is kept current and it helps to provide correct information for the Annual Directory. It is also where you specify what information is to be shared in the directory.

We closed last year with 1603 active members. This year we will try to renew all of those memberships and strive to add many new members. A new tri-fold brochure is about to be printed and will be used to help advertise the NIA. These brochures will be available to members and clubs to pass along to potential NIA members.

The NIA organization provides excellent benefits to members while promoting and preserving the integrity of the hobby for everyone. Your small payment in dues goes a long way in helping to keep the hobby interesting and viable. Please support your NIA organization through your dues, your active support on committees, and through your positive promotion of the hobby and the NIA organization.

Have a great new year and may your collecting go well!

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

CANDIDATE for NIA PRESIDENT



Fellow collectors, I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. Certainly many of you have seen my face plastered in the Drip Points as I have been the NIA's information director since late 2001 and publisher of the Drip Points. Many of you may not know the collector or the person behind the photo. My name is Kevin Jacobson. My wife Cheryl and I live in Phoenix, Arizona. Cheryl is a native of Phoenix (something fairly uncommon) and I was born in Hannibal Missouri. I grew up there, and across the river in Quincy Illinois. Cheryl and I founded an electronics company back in 1990 that builds different equipment used mainly for flight test, certification, and production testing of business jets and some military aircraft. We both work for the company as does my step-son Jason who has a family of his own.

My wife and I are both active members of the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club in Arizona as well as members in the Enchantment Insulator Club and the Dixie Jewels Club. We will undoubtedly be joining some others in time. I have been serving as the NIA information director now for a little over four years now, and I am currently running as a candidate for

the NIA President position that Dudley Ellis will be vacating at the Austin National this year. Dudley will become the First Past President, and Tom Katonak will move to Second Past President. I am not certain what the current Second Past President, Steve Marks, will be doing after Austin, but I bet he's around and active doing more things in support of our Hobby!

I have had the "collecting bug" since childhood. I have not always collected Insulators, but collect stuff, I surely do. I'm not certain, but I think it might be genetic. You either have the gene or you don't. All of us certainly seem to have it, and I am no exception. I have collected stamps, old radios, most any form of electronic equipment, and now insulators.

As a kid growing up in Missouri and Illinois, I worked on my grandfathers farm most every summer, and I knew about insulators at an early age. They caught my eye piled in that five-gallon bucket over in the corner of the shed. I'm not certain where the insulators came from, perhaps a farm sale, or perhaps my grandfather really collected them. Sadly, my grandfather passed away when I was 16 and I never found out the story behind the bucket of glass. Several years passed, I went off to school, had a couple of jobs, and one of them brought me to Phoenix Arizona in late 1985.

In 1997, my wife and I had a new home built. I had a couple of rather large book shelves put up in my office, and had some "extra" room on a couple of the shelves. We decided to go out to a local antique store and pick up a "few" insulators to sit on the shelf. Since I am a computer engineer with electrical engineering and computer science in my background, I have lots of electrical equipment

sitting around. We (actually Cheryl) thought that insulators would be just the ticket to fill that "extra space".

So we went to the antique store and picked up about seven or eight pieces from a booth that had a nice selection of insulators. We had no idea what we were buying. Some were more expensive than others, but we went for the ones we had not seen before. One of these was a nice little blue one that we picked it up and decided to buy it in spite of its high \$8 price. We took them home and displayed them on the shelves. A few weeks later, I decided to see if there was any information on the Internet about glass insulators. Prior to hitting that enter key, I thought we might be the only ones in the world collecting and displaying any of these things! After Yahoo returned www.insulators.com, the naiveté was shattered. We started looking through the pictures in the photo album and there was one that kept catching my eye. I saw it four or five times before thinking that we might have one of those. Well, yes indeed we "did have one of those". Our first trip to find insulators, in an antique store no less, vielded a CD 120 Patent Dec 19, 1871 in Cornflower Blue! Talk about beginner's luck! Well that was all it took, we were both hooked.

Since that time, our collection has grown to in excess of 700 pieces. Many of these are reasonably common, but we like them just the same. (Yes I even have a few from that bucket on the old farm). I have a hard time throwing away even a broken Hemi-42 in aqua, so it looks like the days of having "extra space" on a bookshelf are gone forever. Cheryl and I have started specializing somewhat. I am presently collecting anything embossed Dec 19th 1871.

We also have a color signal collection of H.G.Co and Hemingrayembossed CD 162's started, as well as a twenty or so piece EC&M collection. I have a small McLaughlin collection and have a fancy for the McLaughlin Commemoratives as well.

My first national was Scottsdale right here in Arizona. Cheryl and I have attended every national since Scottsdale and a few regional shows as well. We plan to attend every National from now on, and as many other shows as possible. In addition to the glass bug, I am also an amateur photographer and I particularly enjoy taking pictures of insulators in service. I have taken over ten thousand digital photos of glass in service over the past five years and

hope to put these together in either book or electronic form sometime in the future. I am also presently the newsletter editor of the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club, and while relatively new to the hobby (about eight years), I have gone at insulator collecting with a passion unlike most that I have had before.

I enjoy helping promote the hobby and helping educate (where I can) those who wish to learn. I also like being educated a great deal myself. That's where this hobby has been so great. The folks involved are the hobby for me. The glass and mud are nice too, but the people, the information, the stories, the hunts, the history; these are what I like the most.

While I have been on the NIA board for about four years, I would really like to become even more involved with helping to promote the hobby and doing what I can to help out a great organization like the NIA. This is why I agreed to be a candidate for the position of NIA President. This position is a lot of work, and comes with it's own set of issues, but for every one of those "issues" there are several hundred of you fellow collectors. Is it all worth it? Of course you are!

Best regards and hope you can make it to Austin,

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720

CANDIDATE for CENTRAL REGION VP



Thanks Jacqueline and all the others who have twisted my arm to step forward as your candidate for Central Regional Vice President. My arm still hurts! With your support I look forward to working with the NIA members to promote and improve our hobby. Most of you already know me, but for some of you that do not I live in Fort Worth, Texas and have been involved in the hobby for over 30 years. I

have been married to my wife Donna for 22 years and have two children, Clint and April.

As a teenager, I have been a collector of many things, beer cans, coins, arrowheads, stamps and insulators. Although I have lost interest in most of these I have always been fascinated by insulators with their unusual shapes, colors and the history these unique jewels carry. Besides insulators I enjoy fishing, hunting for insulators and building race cars. My son got me started in cars when he became old enough to drive. I now own a performance shop where we specialize in Toyota and Hondas. Lucky for my daughter that I know how to work on cars, about once a month she has a fender bender. I sometimes wonder if she should be in a demolition derby.

I have been very fortunate in this hobby to meet so many nice people and to make so many close friends. Unfortunately many of these people have passed on and it makes me realize how short life is. I can never forget some of the great times we had together and it all started because we shared a similar interest in insulators. I look forward to working with the committee members on important issue that this hobby faces in the years to come.

Ross Baird, NIA #1983

FROM THE PROMOTIONS **CHAIR**



This year is already flying by...can't we slow down a bit?! I have begun to formulate a shorter version of my "Insulator Collecting" DVD which should result in a more brief and concise look at our hobby. This will be available for the NIA to utilize at shows and events. I will make it available to clubs as well. This should make a good P.R. tool. Along this line, a P.R. promotional package needs to be formulated. This would include the DVD, photos, literature, membership information, and

venture which

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should result in making the task informing of those interested parties easier. If you wish to be involved in formulating this package, please let me know. It is very important that we N.I.A. and individual club members

continue to promote the

hobby. A committee can only do so much, especially since we members are so far apart geographically. Your words, cards, and even an insulator passed on can do wonders in gathering interest. I must repeat, as we all know, if we don't expand this hobby beyond simply replacing those who have passed on or "retired" from the hobby, we will find ourselves with an even more

depressed market and fewer shows and tailgaters to attend. We

cover letter. This is an important can not let interest wane...we must

build a new generation of collectors and they do must the same. Let the coin collecting hobby teach us the lessons they didn't learn. So, on with the enthusiasm...new blood needed!

P.S. I wish to thank all of those who have purchased my DVD.

In addition, I have

received many responses indicating the hope that I can produce a "Volume Two". If sales continue as they have, then a second edition will be planned. If you have any comments about this first DVD endeavor, or wish to order a copy, please drop "a line" my way. Clubs will receive a quantity discount.

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

...DRIP NOTES

Did you know that the Drip Points is available electronically? Did you know that roughly 20% of your fellow NIA members and their families get the *Drip Points* Electronically via e-mail? Taking the *Drip Points* electronically has many benefits including:

- Saves printing and mailing costs of the newsletter (\$1.50 a copy per person) enabling the NIA to help fund research and other beneficial activities to the hobby without having to raise dues.
- You get a color issue, and now with each electronic copy sent, will be attached one club newsletter from a participating club from around the country. You get to see various club newsletters in addition to your DP at no additional cost.
- Get your copy earlier, the electronic copy goes out before the mailed copy.
- Your copy doesn't degrade or wear out and is easily backed up on your computer. Also, the NIA is placing the back issues of the electronic versions on the NIA web site for all to see and retrieve (after the issues are 1 year old).



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION FIRST SIX MONTHS 2006

Beginning Balance-General Fund 7/1/04	und	7/1/2005		12413
Museum Exploratory Committ	tee			972
Authentication/Ethics Accoun				2297
Revenues				
Donations				
Membership Dues			3,045	
Miscellaneous Incor	ne		468	
Product Sales		T (ID	2,429	
		Total Revenues		5942
General Fund Expenses				
Advertising			53	
Bank Charges, Taxe	es, Fees			
Marketing Products			2,774	
Misc. Postage			991	
Misc. Printing				
Misc. Supplies			704	
Misc. Professional S	Services			
Crown Jewels Reba	ites		486	
Drip Points Printing			1,662	
Drip Points Postage	;		693	
Show Advertising S	ubsidy		500	
Show Awards				
Stationery Supplies				
Telephone				
Special Projects			394	
Educational Disp Po	ostage		140	
		Total Expenses		8397
		Total Expolicoo		0007
Closing Balance, C				9958
Museum Explorato	-	-		
Museum Explorato	_			972
Authentication/Eth		= '= '		
Authentication/Eth				2297
Total Balance on I	Hand	12/31/2005		13227

2006 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 **NIA President** 131 Plantation Way Stockbridge, GA 30281 770-957-9928 pony102@bellsouth.net

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Donald Briel, NIA #7218 Membership Director P.O. Box 188, Providence, UT 84332 435-753-5786 Don.Briel@comcast.net

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Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 By-Laws 515 Carriage Drive, 2D West Chicago, IL 60185 630-231-4171 bob@hemingray.com

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA #1380 Nominations

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John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification

P.O. Box 21157, Sedona, AZ 86341 928-284-3628 cpamcd@aol.com

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Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-2006 pyrex553@aol.com

Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions 1080 N. Scenic Drive Porterville, CA 93257-1637 559-781-6319 bobmerzoian@mac.com AUSTIN ***AUSTIN *** AUSTIN*** AUSTIN*** AUSTIN ***AUSTIN ***AUSTIN **AUSTIN **AUSTIN **AUSTIN **AUSTIN ***AUSTIN ***AUSTIN **AUSTIN ***AUSTIN ***



Make sure you don't miss the 2006 National...it is going to be a "primo" show! www.nia.org/shows/national

DON'T FORGET YOUR ENGRAVED NAME BADGE FOR THE NATIONAL!! Show your local club affiliation; order a club bar today!! ie. Lone Star Insulator Club (LSIC)

*Grey, 2X - screened t-shirt - 1/2 price - \$8.00

* Price does not include postage – please see order form for details

Additions!

- Due to several requests by members of our hobby, we now have size "small" up to
 "3-XL"in the long sleeve and short sleeve denim shirts and sweatshirts
- Due to popular demand, we now carry "<u>cardinal red</u>" as a standard color in the t-shirts and sweatshirts, see order form for details
- ALL SIZES AVAILABLE youth sizes too!

I have enclosed an updated order form in the back of this issue of Drip Points (please note, sale prices will not be shown on the order form).

The website www.nia.org/product.htm has been updated to reflect the NIA items currently being sold and also a printable-order form!

As always, we appreciate your support of this terrific hobby. Membership in the NIA, makes this a truly special organization in which to be a part. I wish you all an "insulator-ful" year in 2006!



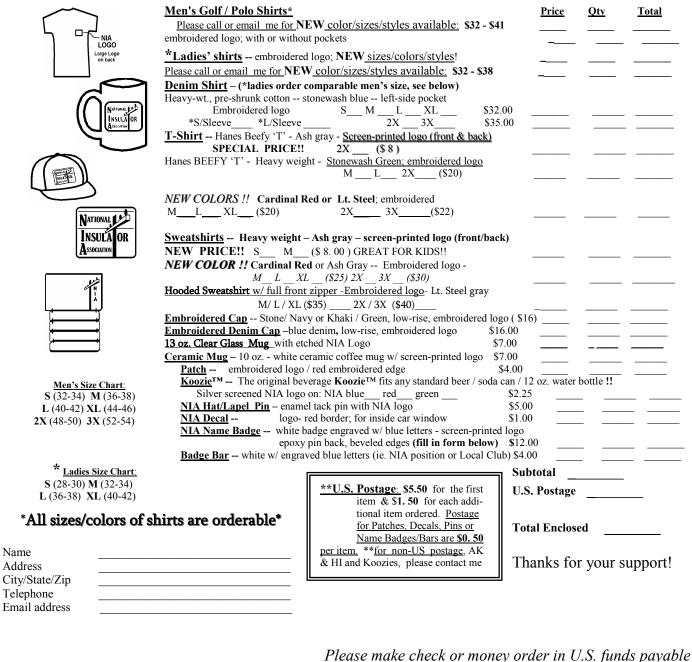
See you in AUSTIN, TX!

Carolyn Berry Product Marketing Chairman NIA#4336





SPRING 2006 ww.nia.org/products



Name Badge Engraving Information

(must be a current NIA member!)					
Name	NIA #	City	State		
Name	NIA#	City	State		
Club Bar:	Use the b	pack of this order for	m for add'l badge/bar orders		

Rev. 3/06

Contact Information: Carolyn Berry – 1010 Wren Ct, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512–255–2006 / pyrex553@aol.com

Donald R. Briel

NIA Membership Director

2006 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

Submit: (In U.S.funds) To:

(Payable to the NIA)

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 _____ Regular____ Family____ Junior____ (Check appropriate Class) Club/Org.____ Single year____ (Check Years of Payment) 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 Paper____ Electronic____ **Note:** I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format. (Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic) **Additional Family Members** Name Nia# (If Renewal) Date Amount Enclosed \$



ARIZONA TELEGRAPH TIMES

The Official Quarterly Publication of the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club Volume 1 January 2006



At right is a photo taken at the December 10th club meeting and party at Kevin and Cheryl Jacobson's home.

The tower is the top 24 feet of a Childs Power Plant Tower from the Childs Line between the power plant and Prescott Arizona. The tower is shown here in it's original form configured for 44KV use. The tower originally had 6 wires with two large flat suspension disks per line as shown. The insulators here are original as well. The line was originally installed in 1908-10 time-frame between Arizona's only Hvdro power plant and Prescott and Jerome Arizona. About 10 years or so later, the line was upgraded to 69 KV. At that time, the middle cross arm was removed and the suspensions shown here were replaced with a three wire arrangement with more modern insulators. What you are seeing here is perhaps the first time one of these towers has been seen in its original configuration since around 1920.

From left to right, top to bottom, Carver Mead, Barbara Smith, Dwayne Anthony, Kevin Jacobson, and Roger Nagle.





Sad News to Report, Passing of Bruce Young

I received news from Margie Young that Bruce passed away on November 29, 2005. Bruce had been recently diagnosed with lung cancer.

Bruce was an original club member and he and Margie were regulars at the club events over the years. They hosted club meetings at their home in Lake Havasu City, AZ twice in the past.

Bruce was an avid collector to the very end. He told Margie a couple of days before passing on that he was looking forward to attending Kevin and Cheryl's party. And it was always fun when Bruce was around. He usually had a good insulator story or two to tell. One of my favorite lines from Bruce was his response to the question: if your house was on fire, which insulator from the collection would you grab before you ran out the door? Bruce's response: I'd probably burn up with the house trying to decide which insulator to take.

Bruce will be missed.

One Man's Insulator Pile is Another Man's Insulator Mound

One of the benefits of being president of GCSIC is I sometimes get emails from people in Arizona wanting to sell insulators. 99% of the time the insulators are just the common Hemi – 42's, etc. About a year ago I got an email from a woman whose parents had recently passed away. They had a house in Flagstaff and there were several hundred insulators in the back yard that this woman wanted to get rid of. The insulators had been collected by this woman, her brother, and parents back in the 1970's when some lines along the railroads in the Williams and Flagstaff area were taken out of service. She said her family would drive along the tracks and stop at every pole that had been cut down and take the insulators that were in decent condition. This sounded to me like it was worth a trip to Flagstaff to do a visual inspection of the collection.

After several failed attempts we were finally able to agree on a date in April to meet at the woman's parent's house. I am an occasional snow skier and the snow conditions were excellent for late in the season so I planned to ski half a day in the morning at Snow Bowl and then check out the insulators in the afternoon. As I arrived at the ski area I knew something was wrong because there were too few cars in the parking lot for a Saturday morning. Turned out that overnight the wind had damaged two of the chair lifts and with wind gusts still exceeding 90 mph high on the mountain the ski area would not be open for the day. Darn. So I drove back to Flagstaff and took a hike to kill some time.

I went to the woman's parent's house at the planned meeting time. I followed her into the backyard and there in the corner of the yard was a pile of insulators, in the dirt. No boxes or anything, just a pile of insulators. They had been there for many years because most of them were half covered in dirt and leaves. But not just any dirt, it was clay, which is hard to clean off the insulators. After looking through the pile for about an hour I made the woman an offer which she happily accepted. I figured I could clean up the insulators and then resell them to Tommy Bolack who buys common insulators for his aqua insulator mound. I guessed there were around 500 insulators in the pile and all were the common variety. There were lots of aqua "B" embossed beehives, Brookfield beehives, Hemi – 42's and 40's, HGCo CD 151's, a few Hemi and HGCo beehives, and a few McLaughlin 42's. There were also some CAL CD 152's in light green. Buying the insulators would also give me a chance to do a closer inspection of all the insulators, maybe one would have a nail or something interesting in it.

Then came the hard part, hauling the insulators from the backyard to the back of my truck. After working until dark I realized it was going to take two trips to get all the insulators back home. Here is a photo of the first load in the back of the truck. There were even more insulators for the second load.



After unloading all the insulators in my backyard I began the task of cleaning and packing the insulators. The insulators were packed into empty paper boxes that I got from work and was able to get between 38 to 40 insulators in a box. It took several months and several boxes of SOS pads to get the dirt and junk off the insulators. Each time Terri and I made a trip to our place in Colorado I would take along as many boxes of cleaned insulators as I could. Our place is about an hour from Tommy Bolack's ranch in Farmington, NM. This past Thanksgiving I was able to get the last of the boxes to our place. The total count: 31 boxes, 1194 insulators. There were more than twice as many insulators as I originally estimated.



Here are the boxes loaded in the back of my truck.



Over this past Christmas / New Years holiday season I contacted Tommy and arranged to take the insulators to his aqua mound. He pays 75 cents a piece for the insulators if you deliver them in person. It should be noted that he wants the insulators to be clean with no dirt or train smoke on them. There can be minor chips, dings, and small cracks, but no major damage. After scanning through the boxes he found a few that had cracks, so he reduced the total to 1180, for which I was paid \$885. Here is a photo of Tommy next to the infamous agua mound. Tommy estimates there are over 250,000 insulators in the mound. Wow !!!



There were almost as many geese and ducks as there were insulators on Tommy's ranch. The birds were standing on ice in the lake.

This project was a labor of love, so-to-speak, because after subtracting the purchase price and the cost of gas, not much of a monetary gain was realized. However, I did add three insulators to the collection and added a few \$5 to \$20 insulators to the sales stock. The insulators saved for the collection were a Brookfield beehive with a small finishing nail in it and a couple of HGCo CD 151's with some amber swirls. So although the pile of insulators were mostly common it paid to do a close inspection of every one. As you can see below, there were a few interesting ones. This made it seem like all the time and effort spent hauling, cleaning, and inspecting the insulators was worthwhile.

Roger Nagel



Message from the President

Roger Nagel



The past club meeting was a Christmas party held at Kevin and Cheryl Jacobson's home. One of the most visible attractions for the party was the 'high power' Christmas display. The display consisted of the upper 25 foot section of one of the original Child's Power Line towers with white Christmas lights strung between the garage and the tower and the house. At night the lights gave off the effect of an energized high power line. A little history about the tower: it was originally installed around 1908 in the mountains southeast of Prescott. It belonged to an area rancher and had been removed from service in the late 1990's. The tower was purchased by Carver Mead via Kevin. Kevin and I transported the disassembled tower from the ranch to Kevin's house with a rented Ryder moving truck. Eventually the tower will be sent to Carver's ranch in Oregon where he will have it put back up. A future article about the tower is planned for Crown Jewels. (See Photo front cover).

But back to the party. The turn out was pretty good. Some of the club members like the Harlow's, Mark Barnard, Bud Johnson and grandkids, Ray Clapper, Troy Evans, Steve Kelly, George and Marta Pastirchak were there. Also in attendance were Arthur McConnachie from Alamosa, CO; Dwayne and Ofelia

Anthony from Highland, CA; Tom and Lynda Katonak from Albuquerque, NM; and Carver Mead and Barbara Smith from Woodside, CA. Fred and Norma Flaig fro Banning CA. showed up to the party and are now the newest members of the club. Welcome!

Kevin and Cheryl have a beautiful home nestled near North Mountain in Phoenix. Many people spent time sitting near the fish pond enjoying the warm weather and watching the Koi swim around. It was very relaxing. Another popular spot was the kitchen/breakfast area, where Cheryl spent most of the day preparing and serving snacks, appetizers, dinner, and dessert. I know I had to loosen my belt a notch, everything tasted so good.

Kevin and Cheryl's great insulator collection continues to grow. Several nice insulators have been added since they last hosted the Christmas party two years ago. One of Kevin's specialties is 1871 embossed insulators. A light yellow olive green 1871 CD120 drew lots of attention. Kevin also has sub-specialties of EC&M's, colored HGCo and Hemingray signals, Grand Canyon beehives, and McLaughlin Commemoratives. At one point several of us took turns picking out our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd favorite insulators from Kevin's collection, which was fun.

Thank you very much Kevin and Cheryl for hosting the club meeting again, I know everyone enjoyed it very much.

Don't forget, the Yuma Tailgater is just a week and half away. It's set for Saturday Feb. 4, 2006. Details are included on the last page of this newsletter.

The next meeting after the Yuma Tailgater will be sometime in May at Troy and Ann Evans house, which is located in North Scottsdale, AZ. Details will be given in the next newsletter.



Early on the morning of the meeting, Dwayne Anthony, Tom and Lynda Katonak and myself "hiked the hill" behind my home. Dwayne poses next to a decorated Cactus that someone has made up for the holidays.



Above, one of the clubs new members Brandon Jones enjoys some insulators put out for sale. .



Troy Evans and Tom Katonak carefully inspect some of Dwayne Anthony's sales stock.



Bud Johnson and Grand Kids talk with Tom Katonak.



Everyone seemed to enjoy the food a lot. Cheryl put out a great spread. For everyone to enjoy.



Dwayne Anthony took this photo of the Koi with his new Nikon D70 Digital Camera. .



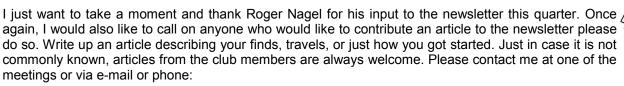
Above is a shot of the tower without the ladder and the insulator junkies hanging all over it. :-)



Message From Treasurer Cheryl Jacobson

The current balance in the club checking account is \$2,963.69

Message from the Editor





Thanks, Kevin Jacobson, Editor kwjacob@icsaero.com or 602-564-0851

New Members of the G.C.S.I.C.

Fred & Norma Flaig #105 2148 Birdie Drive Banning, CA 92220 951-769-0700



President

Roger Nagel #18 8331 W. Foothill Dr. Peoria, AZ 85382 (623)-566-0121 (Home)

Email: mr.162@cox.net

Vice President

Steve Kelly #2 1619 E. Penny Tempe, AZ 85282 (480)-968-2125 (Home) Email: skelly@aztechcontrols.com

Treasurer

Cheryl Jacobson #27 1102 W. Aster Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85029 (602)-564-0815 (Home) Email: cherylj@icsaero.com

Insulator Events Calendar

When: January 28 - 29, 2006 (Saturday - Sunday) Where: St. Petersburg, FL

Description: Suncoast antique bottle clubs 37th annual show. Saturday 9-5, and Sun day 9-3 at the National Guard Armory, 3601-38th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL. Contact George (gus) Dueben, 727-393-8189 or email: res08w341@verizon.net or Chris Cube 727-541-5229

When: February 4, 2006 (Saturday) Where: Yuma, AZ 2006 YUMA SHOW

Description: Grand Canyon State Insulator Club 7th annual insulator show/tailgater in Yuma, Arizona on Saturday, February 4th, 2006, from 9:00 AM until mid afternoon. Tailgater will be at the Riverside Park which is located next to the Yuma Territorial Prison. Specific Directions: Exit Interstate 8 at the Giss Parkway exit (exit #1, Yuma Territorial Prison exit). Follow the signs to the Yuma Territorial Prison. Just before you get to the Prison parking lot there is a turnoff to the right that goes down the hill into the park. There will be signs posted saying 'GCSIC Picnic'. If selling insulators please bring tables or set up in the back of your truck, no reservations required, no cost to attend, lunch available for small donation. Questions? Contact ROGER NAGEL at 623-566-0121.

When: February 4, 2006 (Saturday) Where: Seattle, WA

Description: 17th Annual Emerald City Insulator Collector's Get Together and Potluck, Starts 10:00 AM, BF Day School, 3921 Linden Ave. N, Seattle Wa. 98103. Information: JACK HARE 206/523-3288, GIL HEDGES-BLANQUEZ 206/329-1413 Cell# 206/218-7936,ROBIN HARRISON 206/522-2135. Please bring insulators, electrical artifacts, signs, and anything else you want to trade, sell or give away. Limited tables available, so please bring a table if you can. Please bring something for our potluck lunch

When: February 17 - 18 (Friday - Saturday) Where: Las Vegas, NV

Description: 41st Annual Show and Sale at the PLAZA HOTEL, NUMBER ONE MAIN STREET, LAS VEGAS, Friday, Early Bird, Noon - 3 pm \$15, Saturday, General Admission 9am - 4 pm \$5. Info: TONY PALLADINO, 7004 Debutante Court, Las Vegas, NV 89130, loon on 702-655-8752 (message number only)

When: February 18 (Saturday) Where: Columbia, SC

Description: South Carolina Antique Bottle Club's 33rd annual Show & Sale With Insulators Sat. at Meadowlake Park Center, 600 Beckman Rd, Columbia, SC. Showtime Saturday 9am-1pm. No early admission fee. Show located off I-20 at exit 71. This is the North Main St exit on Hwy 21. Travel north to the first stoplight after the intersection. Turn right on Beckman Rd and the gym is there on the right. This location is only 3/8 of a mile off I-20 which will make it an easy find. Info: Marty Vollmer, 1091 Daralynn Drive, Lexington, SC 29073 Phone: (803) 755-9410

When: February 26, 2006 (Sunday) Where: Enfield, CT

Description: Somers Antique Bottle Club 36th Annual Show and Sale. 9am - 2pm, Admission \$2. Early Buyers, \$10, 8am - 9am. St. Bernard School - West Campus, Pearl Street, Enfield, Ct., Exit 47 - West From I-91. Contact: ROSE SOKOL, 164 Elm St., Enfield, Ct. 06082. Phone: 860-745-7688

When: March 11, 2006 (Saturday) Where: St. Joseph, MO

Description: 4th Annual St. Joseph Insulator/Bottle Show & Sale. American Legion Pony Express Post #359, 4826 Frederick Avenue. Since the show has grown each year, a larger facility has been selected. It is North of the previous location and closer to the motel/restaurant area. Show hours: 9 AM-3 PM. Free admission. Sponsored by the Missouri Valley Insulator Club. Insulators and bottles filled 38 tables (sold out) in 2005 and we now have 60+ tables available at our new location. Info: DENNIS R. WEBER, 3609 Jackson St., St. Joseph, MO 64507, 816-364-1312, or dennisrweber@aol.com.

When: July 7 - 9, 2006 (Friday - Sunday) 2006 NIA National

Where: Austin, TX

Description: 37th NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION SHOW & CONVENTION. For details or questions Contact one of your show hosts, or go online to www.nia.org/shows/national. JIM BATES, (512) 259-0376 - batesjimjr @aol.com OR JACK ROACH, (512) 847-7302 - jackroach@email.msn.com BOB & CAROLYN BERRY, (512) 255-2006 - py-rex553@aol.com

Calendar of Events information courtesy of Bill & Jill Meier WWW.INSULATORS.COM