

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**T**hank goodness! Winter is finally over! I was nearly snowed out of a great insulator hunt in early May! Actually, we do have an advantage down here in the desert SW: If we go far enough south, we eventually run out of the snow!

Well, a new collecting season is upon us. By the time you read this, many of you will be making final plans for the Chicago National. I hope to see you there! By the way, the National is close to a sell-out in terms of available tables. So if you haven't secured yours, I wouldn't wait much longer! There's a bunch of local shows upcoming as well and these are recounted by the Regional VPs later in this issue. And speaking of shows, don't

forget the two NIA Regional shows in the early Fall. Both the Eastern and Western Regionals will be held the last weekend in September. These will both be premier events - held at a pleasant time of the year.

On a different subject, let me remind all of you that the *Drip Points* is the official publication of the National Insulator Association. The intent here is to use this formal mechanism to convey information about NIA activities and topics within a reasonable timeframe (i.e., quarterly) to the general membership so that everyone receives the same information at the same time. I know that many of you relay this information to the numerous clubs at their scheduled meetings. If you haven't been doing this, please take your copy of

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## FROM THE EASTERN REGION

**T**here will be a 1998 National in the Eastern Region! I can't tell you much more than that at this time, except that it will not be in Marlboro, MA again! ☺ You will hear the full details at the 1997 National in Chicago July 25 - 27.

A number of clubs put on good shows in the Eastern region this spring. They were generally well attended and "upbeat".

I am more and more convinced that many potential collectors are finding out about the insulator hobby from the INTERNET.

If your library doesn't have any books on insulators, and the book store certainly doesn't, how is a new or potential collector supposed to get started? Easy. They

all know about the INTERNET, and they search for insulators and find our Web pages! I encourage everyone who has access to the INTERNET to help promote the hobby in cyberspace. Include E-mail contacts on all your newsletters and show flyers and list some of the INTERNET Web sites or your local club's Web page at [www.insulators.com](http://www.insulators.com).

You know the Web is filled with useful information when several of the insulator magazines and club newsletters are using material from the Web and reprinting it (with permission) in their publications. Isn't that a refreshing change!

I get a lot of E-mail from new, potential, or curious collectors. I want to quickly relay a couple of messages I have received. In the last several weeks, two civil war historians and diggers have found CD 128 "CSA" insulators and were wondering... Are these relics of the

Confederate States of America? I'm sure they are disappointed with my answer, but when you think about it for a moment, how else would they research what "CSA" on a glass insulator meant?

Another collector who I corresponded with wrote:

"I just wanted to thank you for the information you gave me a few months ago about getting started back in the insulator hobby. I went to my first little insulator show in Beaumont, TX. To my surprise, I met Mr. "Woody" Woodward and he told me about their local club in Houston. (Lone Star Insulator Club) I joined and went to my first meeting. I didn't know quite what to expect when I attended. (I thought I'd meet a bunch of hard core collectors that really didn't want to deal with a beginner.) I was very pleasantly surprised how friendly and helpful everyone was. I even purchased an insulator. I'm excited to attend the next meeting we have."

To me, that's a pretty positive statement about the future of our hobby!!

Don't have a PC yet? A recent nationwide survey says that a PC is becoming a "must-have" item, just like the telephone and the car. When will you be getting yours?

See you at the National!

**Bill Meier, NIA #4322  
Eastern Region Vice President**

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INCLUDE EMAIL  
CONTACTS ON ALL YOUR  
NEWSLETTERS AND  
SHOW FLYERS.

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## FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

**I**n my last report I mentioned several shows and get-togethers that were going on this Spring. I would like to report on a few of them.

First of all, the Metroplex show lived up to its expectations again and everyone had a good time and several interesting pieces showed up. This show was a little too far for me to go to, but I sure wish I could have been there.

The Collectors Jubilee show in Wheaton, Illinois was great. There were approximately 68 sales tables full of lightning rod equipment and insulators. The weather on Friday was great too. It was around 70 degrees and sunny. I'm looking forward to seeing next year's show.

The Alma, Kansas insulator show was well attended also. A number of veteran collectors from the plains attended this show and I hope the show continues to have success.

Unfortunately, I could not make the Northwestern Insulator Club's show in Bloomington, Minnesota, but I heard it was a great success. Dealers from several states away drove to the show and set up as well as some local dealers. There was a great walk through and a local radio station mentioned the show. This ultimately led to locating the very rare Kenosha Hook insulator for one of the club members. I must give credit to the club members for really promoting the show. I will definitely attend next year.

Dennis Stewart's open house in Cincinnati, Ohio was also well received. A number of local collectors and some new collectors showed up and everyone

went home with box-loads of insulators.

Only one more show before the National for us Midwesterners. Alan Stastny's hog roast and swap meet will be held on June 6 & 7 at Alan's house. I have attended every one of these and must say that it is a refreshing and relaxing show.

At this time, the National is nearly sold out with about only five tables left. By the time you read this, I expect to have all 162 sales tables sold. This is shaping up to be the biggest National ever so make your reservations now! I hope to see many of you there.

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After I relax from the National, I have two more shows to attend. The first one is the Telephone Collectors International (TCI) show in Erlanger, Kentucky. There will be approximately eight insulator dealers there. This is a first time show in conjunction with the TCI people. I think that it will be well attended by both the people from Dennis Stewart's get together and telephone collectors. The last show for me is the London, Ohio "mini-national". I am looking forward to this show and have already made my reservations.

I'm also looking forward to the warmer weather when I can get out and walk some old lines and visit antique shops and flea markets. It's just around the corner!

**Bob Stahr, NIA #4186**  
**Central Region Vice President**

## FROM THE WESTERN REGION

I'm sure most folks are getting ready for the National show next month, but if you can't make that show - and live around the Rocky Mountain region, here is an alternative show you might want to attend instead: The Triple Ridge Insulator Club is having its annual get-together at an all-new location this year. You may have seen the advertisement in the May issue of *Crown Jewels*. It will be held June 27-28, 1997 and should feature a good variety of insulators, bottles, and Colorado memorabilia. This show differs from several of the past shows as we are holding it in a new location - and not in conjunction with the Antique Bottle Collectors Club of Colorado. Nothing against the ABCC - some of their members will probably even be in attendance or setting up for our show - but we believe we've found a much better location for the show. It will be at the Holiday Inn, ideally located at I-25 and 120th avenue. The atmosphere and accessibility is much better here than the Denver Stockyards where the show is usually held! Collectors from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, and Missouri have traditionally attended this show and there's always a lot of fun going on.

One last "event plug" here is for the catered BBQ at Jeff and Theresa Powers' new home. It's less than 10 minutes from the hotel and will start Saturday after the show closes. The TRC will have Denver's famous Luther's cater the meal, so expect some tremendously good food. Be sure to contact either Jeff Powers at 303-457-4193 or Ray Curiel at 303-773-6190 for

additional details on this show.

In other news, several collectors from the Colorado area tried to make it to the Alma, Kansas, show back in April - but never got the chance to even leave Denver. The weather was so bad that I-70 was closed in many areas in eastern Colorado, and in Kansas the roads were snow-packed and there was little or no visibility. What reports I do have state that it was a nice show with several walk-in's, including one man that had a box of amber and cobalt CD 162 signals! Some were damaged, but apparently they all sold quickly.

I'm sure it's been stated many times, but be sure to support your local area shows. I know everybody cannot attend a National or Regional all of the time, but these smaller shows depend on you for their continued existence! That's about all for this issue. As always, if you have something to talk about, let me know! Until then, have a nice summer!

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PLANS HAVE FIRMED UP  
FOR THE WESTERN  
REGIONAL IN ALBUQUERQUE!

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**Wait! Late breaking news!** Enchantment Insulator Club President Tom Katonak just told me that they have finally secured a larger place for

the Western Regional Show the last weekend in September. The National Guard Armory in the northeast part of Albuquerque is providing nine-thousand square feet of space for the show! This means that they are no longer restricted to the 50 tables they had at last year's show; in fact, they can now have a "unlimited" number of tables! AND, the show will now be a full event: Friday evening setup (26 September) and show

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