# Drip Points

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@insulators.com

http://www.nia.org

VOLUME 26 \* NUMBER 4 \* SUMMER 1999

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- Editor's Note
- ♦ From the President...Kevin Lawless
- ♦ Note from the Executive Director...*Ed Peters*
- ♦ Regional Reports... Ken Willick, Bob Stahr, Matt Poage
- ♦ Historian Note...Rick Soller
- ♦ Report from the Nominations Chair... Dudley Ellis
- From the Ethics Chair...Elton Gish
- ♦ From the By-Laws Chair... Steve Marks
- ♦ Show Standards...Sandy Ellison
- ♦ Product Marketing...Carolyn Berry
- ♦ Financial Report...Mike Guthrie

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The "Prime Time" of the hobby is here once again! Yes, this is the season of shows, hunts, swaps, tailgaters and all those great things. The next "big thing" of course is the National Show over in Scottsdale at the end of this month. You'll read more about it later in the newsletter.

This is also a sad time for the hobby - for in the past three months, we mourned the passing of hobby stalwarts Evelyn Milholland, Dora Harned, and Bob Adams. Our sincere condolences go out to the families and loved ones of our three deceased

friends. Kevin Lawless pays tribute to these fine people in his article following.

As some of you know, my wife (of 35 years this very month!) and I have been exploring the trail of the telegraph lines that connected the military forts throughout the southwest in the second half of the 1800s. In connection with this. we were given access to the artifact archives of Fort Union a year ago to document their holdings of telegraph equipment. A major stop on the Santa Fe Trail, Fort Union was the premiere showpiece of the western fort system and served as the depot for supplying the rest of the forts in

New Mexico and Arizona. Three weeks ago, we were personally invited by the Superintendent of the Fort Union National Monument to hold a two-day seminar at the Fort to explain the history and use of the military telegraph and to show off some of their artifacts to park visitors. This was a fascinating experience and the subject of a report-in-progress to the National Park Service. were able to take detailed photographs of the threaded and threadless insulators and other telegraph equipment in their archives. In addition, I was able to browse through hundreds of old

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

telegrams on microfilm dating between 1868 and 1891 and it

fascinating to 🛮 view the history of those exciting times. have some They wonderful insulators their collection including some amber 733.1s, an olive 733 green and Boston several

Amber 733.1s, an olive green 733 and several Boston
Bottles - all found in the vicinity of the fort

Bottles - all found in the vicinity of the Fort. When I run low on things to do, I will publish an article setting forth the details of our research for you all to read.

But in the meantime, I have to publish this issue of *Drip Points*, and even though I can think of quite a few more exciting things to do on a beautiful Memorial Day weekend here in sunny New Mexico, I

must get my nose back to the grindstone! There's lots of good stuff included in this issue, including Elton Gish's information on the irradiated insulators from Florida and Steve Mark's detailed agenda for the upcoming Scottsdale National. Oh, and this is very important, Dudley Ellis tells us the status of the election process for the next Western Region Vice President - a subject near and dear to my heart! So with that...on with the show!

**Tom Katonak** 

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow NIA members:

The hobby has lost three of its L pioneers. Evelyn Milholland, Lifetime NIA # 39, passed away on February 22. She was just weeks shy of her 95th birthday and had been in poor health and in a nursing home for several years. Her husband, Marion, preceded her in death in 1976. On March 26, Dora Harned, Lifetime NIA # 48 and founding editor of Crown Jewels of the Wire magazine, lost her battle with cancer. She was 72. Her husband, Don, survived Dora. On May 17, Bob Adams, Lifetime NIA # 381, passed away after several months of poor health. His dear wife. Phoebe. survived him. Bob was a mainstay of the Central Florida Insulator Club and at NIA National Shows, and was also a past Membership Committee Chair.

For many of us "older" collectors, the early days of the hobby were supported by the familiar names of Milholland, Tod, Harned, the Browns, Woodward, Cranfill & Kareofelas, Terrill and Tibbitts. Unfortunately, most of these pioneers of our hobby have left us

(only N.R. Woodward, Don Harned, Gary Cranfill and Greg Kareofelas, from the above list, are still with us). Although their passing saddens us all, we are also gladdened that they shared our hobby and their tireless efforts at promoting insulator collecting with all of us.

The NIA Eastern Regional was a super show, despite another fine show, the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club Show in Maryland Line, Maryland, the same weekend. The NIA signed up some new members,

we sold NIA merchandise, there were 85 sales tables manned (more than half of them insulators), and walk through was excellent, especially on the first day of the show (the traditional day for the one-day Huntsville shows). With 13 exhibits (both insulators and bottles, a very nice mix of both dealers exhibitors), the educational support was strong. I was fortunate enough to be awarded the NIA Rosette for Best of Show. and Jeff Hogan won the NIA Regional Show Plague. If only we could attend them all!

I was hopeful for some more positive response to my article about assistance for the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in *Crown Jewels* and my request for assistance in the March 1999 *Drip Points*. This is an important project for us as an organization.

The positive impact for our hobby and our organization could be tremendous. NOW is the time for some club (Chesapeake

Bay?, Dixie Jewels?, Yankee Pole Cats?), to step up to the plate and offer club-wide assistance. Perhaps a two-day trip to Washington, coordinated with the Museum of American History, could inventory the collection and assess cataloging and storage needs. HOW ABOUT IT, NIA?

I have been reluctant to even mention this, given the lack of participation the general hobby showed over the Smithsonian's needs. A prominent collector has called both the McDougalds and me and offered to establish a non-

impact for our
hobby and our
organization could
be tremendous!

The positive

(Continued from page 2)

profit foundation for the establishment of a permanent, centrally located insulator museum. He is talking about the donation of some \$100,000 in seed money to start this. This is a HUGE undertaking and I am hesitant to proceed without some real planning and organization. I am unwilling to commit to anything until I see where we can organize (and carry out!) a more manageable undertaking. If there are SERIOUS folks who would like to work (and I mean WORK) on

such a committee, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Since this is the final *Drip Points* to be published until after the 1999 National Show in Scottsdale, Arizona, I would be remiss in pointing out that - it is not too late to make plans to attend this wonderful show! ALL of your friends will be there, and so will a whole lot of new ones!

See you in Scottsdale!

VERY good collecting,

## Kevin F. Lawless, NIA # 1679 President

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings Fellow NIA Members,

few months ago, our Leader Kevin Fearless Lawless asked me if I would be interested in filling the Executive Director position. Rick Soller would be moving into the NIA Historian position, so it left the Executive Director position open. I talked to my wife Connie, (We just celebrated our 20th year together.) and explained that I would be expected to attend as many shows possible. as especially the National and Regional shows. Now Connie isn't a collector, and I started collecting insulators in the late 60's. I don't think she really understands the collector side of me. But she does a great job of tolerating the insulators, antique telephones. railroad, and telegraph artifacts pretty well. That is as long as she stays out of the basement. Anyway, Connie agreed it would fun to do a little traveling, and she really likes everyone she's met in the hobby. We've made some really good friends in the NorthWestern Region Insulator Club and GCIC.

I discovered the organized hobby in 1981 and I considered joining the NIA. However, I didn't want a 3000 series membership number. I thought other collectors would think I was new in the hobby. I did join the NIA a couple years ago. My membership number today is 6300. Oh well, so much for pride.

I dropped out of the hobby around 1986, and moved from Pekin, IL, to Springfield, to Indianapolis, IN, then to Minneapolis, MN. Each time we moved, my father-in-law cursed those "damned heavy boxes of transistors"! On our last move, we hired professionals. I get along better with my father-in-law now, as long as we don't talk about politics.

Around 1993, after moving the heavy boxes of glass to the basement, I found my old *Crown Jewels*. I made a few calls, found the McDougalds, and resubscribed. A few months later I received a "Milwaukee Railroad" marked envelope and letter from Dave French, Craig Harders and Terry Kornberg inviting me to an insulator swap-meet at Craig's house in Winona, MN. I attended that swap-meet, and I've had the insulator bug ever since. I owe

those three guys. (Connie says that too, but with a different tone of voice.)

From the nucleus of that swapmeet, the NWRIC was formed. We have sponsored three very successful annual shows and a couple swap-meets, so far. We have a very active club and we have a great time at our meetings.

# So that's my background. You can wakeup now!

Let's see now...as the Executive Director, I'm supposed to report on the Regional and National Show bids. Well we have some. We currently have two bids for the

Western Regional, two for the Eastern Regional and one for the Central National 2000.

Site selections for the year 2000 shows will be voted on by the board at the Scottsdale National

(That's Y2K for the computer people out there.) Site selections will be voted on by the board, at the Phoenix National in June. Hold your breath until then.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

As for the 2001 show bids (that's Y2K+1 for the computer people), I am actively recruiting proposals for the three big NIA shows for 2001. The 2001 National will be an Eastern Region affair that year. Remember the Regional shows should be a 3-day event (two full show-days with prior setup). With the resurgence of the hobby, the

Regional Shows are becoming "mini-Nationals". So if you're thinking of hosting a show, give me a call or look me up at the National. I will do whatever I can to help you out. I've got plenty of bid forms to go around. See you at the Scottsdale National!

Ed Peters, NIA# 6300 Executive Director

# FROM THE EASTERN REGION

C ummer has arrived here in the Northeast, and with that, the flea market and garage sale season has started. There is a local flea market that I stop in at every Sunday throughout the summer, and I do occasionally bring home an insulator or two. But I also find old bottles, fresh produce, baked goods, and tools, so it is never a total loss. You'd also be surprised at the insulators that turn up at garage and household sales. There is no rule of thumb as to where they might turn up, but often a polite inquiry can bring results. There are also several shows and swap meets coming up in the next few months. They are:

JUNE 11-12, KNOXVILLE, TN:

East Tennessee Antique Bottle and Collectibles Society 11th Annual Show

JUNE 12, PERKIOMENVILLE, PA: The 26th Annual PA Insulator and Bottle Show and Sale at the home of Claude and Arlene Wambold

JULY 24, NORTH BLENHEIM, NY: Capital District Insulator Club/ Capital Region Antique Bottle and Collectibles Assoc. 1999 Summer Outdoor Swap Meet

AUGUST 8, WYOMING, OHIO: 4th Annual Tri-State Insulator Show at the home of Alan Hornhorst

AUGUST 28, EAST HAMPTON, CT: Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club "On Golden Pond 1999" -the 1999 Summer Antique, Bottle, and Collectibles Swap Meet at the home of Larry and MaryJo Emmons

SEPT 4, LIMA, NY: Capital District Insulator Club End of Summer Swap Meet and picnic at the home of Ken Willick and Denise Okita. Please contact me for details.

It looks like it's going to be a great summer! Good collecting!

Ken Willick, NIA #3709 Eastern Region Vice-President

# FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

We have already entered "insulator season" and the calendar is quite full for the Central Region. Several swap meets as well as shows including the regional are all ahead of us. Here's how the calendar looks:

June 12: Swap Meet, Toledo, IA June 25-27: NIA National in Scottsdale, AZ July 17: Greater Chicago Swap Meet, St. John, IN August 8: Cincinnati, OH Swap Meet August 21: Lone Star Show, Houston, TX

September 18 & 19: NIA Central Regional, Crown Point, IN September 26: Huron Valley Show, Ann Arbor, MI

October 16: Northwestern Region Swap Meet, LaCross, WI

Next year's National is scheduled for our region and we have a very viable bid. Look for an announcement at the National Show, in your next issue of *Drip Points*, or the July issue of *Crown Jewels*.

The new Millennium brings not only our Central Region National, but also election for the Central Region Vice President. I have decided that this will be my last

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

term as CVP, so I would like to hear from those willing to run in 2000.

Many collectors have been singing the praise...and also cursing the Internet auction site, Ebay. This site has been very in teresting:

Collectors have been singing the praise....and cursing the Internet auction site, Ebay!

Several rare insulators, including a CD 160 HG CO in olive green, a CD 170.1 in purple, and a Thames threadless have all been sold there in the last year. In the case of the HG CO and the 170.1, these insulators were being sold by average people who knew nothing of their rarity. This is great for the hobby, because this brings out unknown pieces. However, this site also has, in my opinion,

been taking an important element away from the shows. We have shows not only to buy and sell insulators, but to also meet other

> collectors and forge new friendships. This is what Ebay lacks. It will be interesting to see if the novelty of Ebay wears off, or if it is here to stay for us collectors.

Just because Ebay exists is no reason to stop going to Our club has had shows. wonderful success with our swap meets and club meetings. It tends to be more of a social gathering than a "what did you bring to sell?" atmosphere. At our last club meeting, two new collectors up inquiring about showed insulators. They had some, didn't know what they were, and were looking for answers. Well a

couple of us actually showed them what to look for, went over some nicknames, values, and all the rest of the basics. This kind of interaction is essential for new collectors to be a part of. I am sure both of these people went home that day, thinking what a nice group of people we all are. So, think about how you collect and why you collect and try to help out these new collectors. Good Collecting.

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

## FROM THE WESTERN REGION

This should be my last input for *Drip Points* as I will be finishing my term as NIA Western Regional VP this year in June. I want to thank any of you who took the time to call or ask questions during my time and hopefully I was of assistance in answering your questions or helping out in some way. There have been a few issues that have come up in my time as Vice President in the insulator hobby and I believe the NIA has done its best answering them and making sure they were dealt with in an appropriate manner. I know I've enjoyed working and talking with the NIA board and trust that the next Western Regional VP will do an even better job helping out and solving the issues of the day. Thanks also to all of you who took the time to answer your survey questionnaires as I believe this is the best way to express your feelings on how the hobby is currently going and where it needs to go in the future!

We have a few events here in the West this summer – BESIDES the National! Get your calendars out and mark down the following:

July 24: Merlin, OR - <u>Summer Swap</u>, Home of Howard & Linda Banks. Call Howard for more info, (541) 479-8348

August 14: Portland, OR - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Filling the Void Insulator Swap and Show!. Call Dan Howard for info, (503) 761-7799

August 14: Trinidad, CO – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual EIC-TRIC Tailgater, Kit Carson Park. Call Larry Volmer for details, (303) 235-0587

September 25: Albuquerque, NM – It's the <u>12<sup>th</sup> Annual EIC Show</u> (in terms of events in the Desert Southwest – it's second in size only to the Scottsdale National!!). Info from Rick Bentley, (505) 772-5627

In closing, I trust that all of us will continue to support shows where and when we can, and clubs and local meetings too. Without them the hobby just wouldn't be what it is today. There will always be controversial topics that arise, but hopefully, with communication between all parties, we can all get through it in one piece.

Enough of my lecture!! Again, thanks for letting me be your NIA Western Regional VP. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

Matt Poage, NIA #3757 Western Region Vice President

#### A NOTE FROM THE HISTORIAN

In the last *Drip Points*, I reported on several

trophies in the NIA archives. There are two additional items I will point out in this note. First, there is a tape of who I believe

is Brent Mills reading an abridged passage from his book Porcelain Insulators and How They Grew. It provided me with about half an hour of listening in my pickup. Second, there is a beautiful stained glass window donated by

Dennis and Jeanne Weber. You can see a picture of this on the NIA web site.

Please send auction catalogs for the NIA archives! Missing from the NIA archives are any of the auction catalogs f r o m R a y Klingensmith, Dwayne Anthony, Ross Baird,

or the AB!C auctions up in Canada. Anyone who wants to donate these, please send them to me. Thanks.

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian



# FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

Summer is almost here and another National is fast approaching. This year's National in Scottsdale, Arizona is being billed as one of the biggest and best Nationals of all times. I'm not going to miss it and neither should you.

A precursor to this year's National was the Eastern Region Insulator Show in Huntsville, Alabama, sponsored by the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club. An abnormally early springtime Regional kicked off the show season with a blast. The walk-in crowd for the first day was well over 300 people. The large crowd opened their wallets after the long winter doldrums and made all the dealers extremely

happy. Highlights of the show were the many interesting and educational displays, a seminar on some dump digs by Alan Stastny and Glenn Drummond and an awards banquet featuring southern barbecue!

Normally at this time I would be reminding the Western Region NIA members to return their ballots to me for electing the Western Region Vice President. Additionally, I would encouraging each of you to attend the annual NIA meeting to find out who would be the new VP. As you folks in the West know, I have not sent out ballots this year. No. Even though I did not forget. many appeals were made for candidates for this position only one NIA member stepped forth to accept the challenge. accordance with Article V, Section

2.0 of the NIA Bylaws, there were no ballots mailed and the sole candidate will be "elected by acclamation".

I offer my congratulations not only to the new Western Region Vice President Elect but also to the Western Region for being represented in the hobby during the next three years by one of the most dedicated persons in the insulator collecting hobby. You will be excited about the Western Region's representation on the Board after you read the following resume.

See you in Scottsdale!

**Dudley Ellis**, NIA #5085 **Nominations Chairman** 

# WESTERN VP CANDIDATE RESUME

To the NIA members in the Western Region:

Hello fellow insulator enthusiasts,

My name is Tom Katonak and I'm a candidate for the Western Region Vice President. Many of you already know me, or know of me, as I've been the NIA Information Director (and consequently the Drip Points Editor) for the past six years. For those of you who don't know me, I'd like to meet you and get your views on how the NIA can be more effective in servicing and consolidating the hobby - and I intend to do my best to make this happen. I've been pretty active in the insulator hobby since about 1985. I've been to many events, and I've displayed at local,

regional and national shows. addition, I've hosted the 11 fall insulator shows here in New Mexico, one of which was an NIA Regional event. With the help of a few dedicated collectors, I started the Enchantment Insulator Club in 1987 and am currently the president of this organization. positively love the hobby - and most importantly - the people who make the hobby what it is today. I've been part of the steady growth of insulator collecting over the past decade-and-a- half and I want to ensure the spread of this great pastime for our future generations. I believe the National Insulator Association is important contributor to "spreading the word" and indemnifying the growth of the hobby. I hope to contribute more to the hobby as the Western Region VP and I plan to do that by actively seeking the involvement of more young people in insulator

related activities and by working to bring collaborative relations between the growing number of local clubs here in the west. To me, the historical, research, and educational aspects of the hobby are "where it's at" and I will work to strengthen and expand these aspects. I really hate to give up my job as the Info Director as I've enjoyed the opportunity to communicate with you over the years. On the other hand, I see that more work needs to be done to move insulator collecting into the next millennium. I'm hopeful that each of you will support my bid for this important office.

Sincerely,

The best

protection...is to

become familiar

with the known

styles & odd burnt

amber color

produced.

**Tom Katonak** 

# IRRADIATED INSULATORS

An offer to educate and inform

XYe issued a warning last year about the proliferation of irradiated insulators coming out of Florida. Non-member and noncollector Pacer Henry willingly admitted that he was irradiating large volumes of clear glass insulators and selling them at flea markets. He looked at this as a way to make a living. Long-time collector and non-member Jeff Hogan is living in Florida and has documented every style of insulator that Pacer Henry has Jeff is offering to irradiated. anvone who is interested a FREE color photograph and a complete description of CD numbers and markings of the 20 different styles of clear insulators that Pacer Henry irradiated. To get your free photograph and description, please send a **SASE** to Jeff Hogan, 67 Winthrop Ave., Umatilla, FL 32784.

You may also want to for refer to Dan Howard's October 1997 issue of *Old familiar Strains*, pages 22 and 24 for color photographs and description of six known irradiated styles of glass radio strain insulators.

Jeff reported these to Dan shortly after purchasing them at a show. Danís *OFS* newsletter for collectors of radio strain insulators and related items is published bimonthly and contains many well-researched articles and photographs.

The best protection against

purchasing altered or irradiated insulators is to become familiar with the known styles and the odd

amber burnt color Please do produced. not miss this opportunity to educate vourself on irradiated insulators. Other styles may show up in the future. Jeff's photograph documents the various known styles and colors produced by irradiation,

which will help you recognize these insulators.

Elton Gish, NIA #41 Ethics Chairman

## FROM THE BY-LAWS CHAIR

s a follow-up to my column in the Spring Edition of *Drip Points*, I want to advise all prospective show hosts that the NIA's insurance policy is now available to them. All one needs to do is contact Mike Guthrie, the NIA's Treasurer. You must provide Mike with the following: (1) the name(s) of the host(s) and/or club (all of whom need to be NIA members in good standing); (2) a check in the amount of \$25 as a processing fee; and (3) the name, address, phone and fax number where the event is taking place. Mike will pass this information along to the NIA's insurance agent, who will issue a certificate of insurance directly to the host and copy Mike for the NIA's files.

Of course the BIG news that I have to report on is the preparations for the National! Melanie and I are just as excited about hosting this event now as when we started our preparations over a year ago. At the time of my writing this column, there are only 5 sales tables left out of the 138 sales and display tables in the Grand Ballroom! We have already sold 98 banquet tickets! I strongly recommend that you purchase your banquet tickets now, as I do not think that there will be many available at the show. In fact, banquet tickets will not be available for purchase on Saturday (the day of the banquet). As far as hotel rooms, we have set an all time record for any insulator show, anywhere: 404 room nights to date!

### Schedule of Events

Thurs. June 24th 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Display set-up

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dealer unloading only

Fri. June 25th 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Dealer/Display set-up

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. NIA Day (Grand Ballroom)

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. NIA General Membership Meeting (Chambers Lecture Hall)

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Rawhide Outing

Sat. June 26th 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Dealer/Display set-up

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. General Admission (Grand Ballroom)

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Seminar on Altered and Repaired Insulators

(Chambers Lecture Hall)

6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cocktails in The Forum 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Awards Fiesta in The Forum

Sun. June 27th 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Treasure Hunt (Lobby)

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Dealer set-up

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. General Admission (Grand Ballroom)

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dealer/Display pack-up

Rawhide is a famous attraction in North Scottsdale. It is a re-creation of an 1880's western town, complete with wooden buildings, board sidewalks and dirt streets. There is no admission charge! Authentic western items from the 1880's decorate the steakhouse. A country and western band plays for your dinning enjoyment. Visit with Native Americans and examine their latest jewelry creations, ride the stage coach, watch gunfights in the street, or pan for gold. Already 62 people have indicated to us that they will be attending the outing!

We have, of course, changed the "awards banquet" into an "Awards Fiesta" this year! We are actually throwing a Mexican theme party! Forget the bar, we are having a Cantina! Forget the peace and quiet, we have booked a very talented guitar player!

Think you're smarter than the average insulator collector? Try your luck at the Treasure Hunt! The hunt is limited to 30 teams. One or two person teams only. A map and first clue will cost you \$10. Numerous prizes will be awarded but only one prize per team. Prizes include a cobalt signal, a rare \$300 porcelain multipart, a Muncie, guide books, a commemorative warming

(solid) pour, a lavender WGM toll, and many more! Be sure to sign up early on Friday and Saturday at the show.

Packages: Please plan on having your packages arrive at the DoubleTree no earlier than Tuesday, June 22nd. Be sure to include the following: (1) 30th Annual NIA Show; (2) June 24th-27th; (3) Your name; and (4) ATTENTION: Conference Services.

I look forward to seeing you in three weeks! In the meantime, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Melanie or me at (480) 473-7014.

Steve Marks, NIA #4951
By-Laws Chairman (and National Show Host)

# FROM THE SHOW STANDARDS CHAIR

I had the good fortune to be able to attend the NIA Eastern Regional Show in Huntsville, Alabama this past March. There was some really fine displays at this event.

The <u>Peoples Choice Award</u> was given to Jeff Hogan of Florida Jeff's display consisted of impressive Thomas porcelain pieces ranging from pony and signal size to huge power pieces. Jeff also included a picture of the Thomas factory and a nice handout.

The NIA Best of Show Ribbon was presented to Kevin Lawless for a wonderful Boston Bottle display. Many of us have only seen one or two of these rare and unusual insulators, but here was a display of nearly two dozen plus a wonderful handout on the history of the Boston Bottles.

The newly re-designed NIA ribbons have arrived and were requested for shows sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club in March and the Northwest Collectors 22nd Annual Show on May 1-2. No reports on the winning displays from these shows as yet. At the Ottawa, Ontario

show in April, the NIA Ribbon was awarded to Graham Catt for his display of over 200 Toll insulators - nicely back-lit and very impressive!

There are a large number of shows happening all over the US and Canada that have displays, but have not requested an NIA BEST OF SHOW ribbon. If you are planning a show and displays

are going to be a part of it, AND you'd like some " N I A recognition" I'd be happy to help! Call, write or email.

The National show in Scottsdale will have a large number of exhibits. NIA awards will be given for these categories:

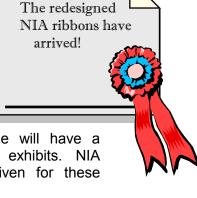
- Threadless
- Best Color
- Foreign
- General
- Go-Withs
- Porcelain
- Specialty
- Threaded
- Lightning Rod
- Junior

All the display tables have been

assigned, so now we can look forward to seeing those exhibits and awaiting the decision of the judges on the winning displays for this year.

Hope to see you in Scottsdale!

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Show Standards Committee Chair



# FROM THE PRODUCT MARKETING CHAIR

#### **NEW NEW NEW NEW**

he NIA product line is slowly being upgraded and updated. Sales have been excellent at the 1999 shows. Special thanks to Paul Alleeson, my husband, Bob, Dudley Ellis, Steve Goodall, Dave Hall, Kevin Lawless, Larry Novack, Carol McDougald and Ed Peters for their help and support at several shows.

We have additional logo'd products for the NIA! As I had mentioned in previous Drip Points articles, the Golf shirts and Denim I/s shirts are now part of our product line. These shirts are available now - or get yours at the National and avoid postage costs!!

Golf Shirts 'Anvil' made in USA

 white pique cotton with 3
 button tab-front - short sleeved
 embroidered logo on left front

side: no pocket. I have a few shirts with a left-breast pocket, logo above the pocket, and can order more as needed. Sizes available: M, L, XL, 2X (other sizes available on per order basis)
Cost: \$25.00 (\$27.00 for 2X)

2. Denim Shirts - All Sport - med. indigo blue, 100% cotton, heavy- weight denim - long sleeve - 1 left, front buttoned-down pocket with embroidered logo above, buttoned cuffs & buttoned-down collar. Sizes available: M, L, XL, 2X (other sizes available on per order basis)

Cost: \$30.00 (\$32.00 for 2X)

Bob will be representing me at the National. All current NIA products will be available for purchase, at the entrance to the show and at Bob's table, # 138.

will have Bob bring them to the National for disbursement. The

order form for all products/badges

is in the back of this Drip Points

issue or you may call or Email me.

Have a terrific National in Scottsdale....Let me know how you like our new additions !!!

Carolyn Berry, NIA #4336 Product Marketing Chairman

I will be putting the photos of these shirts on the NIA website for those with access to see.

**URGENT !!!** If anyone still wants a badge/bar before the National, I will need orders in by June 8<sup>th</sup>. I

## ...DRIP NOTES

- New NIA Logo items available! (See Product Marketing note) All items available at the National!
- You haven't paid your '99 dues? Want to get into the Scottsdale National on Members Day? Send your check to Joe Beres, Membership Chairman, <u>TODAY!</u>
- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsored insurance is available

(see details on back cover)

- Want to play a bigger part in the NIA? Volunteers are always needed. Write to Kevin
   Lawless and tell him what you're good at!
  - Moving? Send change of address to Joe Beres (and save us the cost of resending





## 1999 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

KEVIN LAWLESS, NIA #1679, **PRESIDENT** 41 CRESTWOOD DRIVE, SCHENECTADY, NY 12306-3433

(518) 355-5688 EMAIL:kflbostons@aol.com

ED PETERS, NIA #6300, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 5424 DUFFERIN DR, SAVAGE, MN 55378-4627 (612) 447-2422 EMAIL: edpeters@wavetech.net

KEN WILLICK, NIA #3709, **EASTERN REGION VP** 7349 SENECA AVE, LIMA, NY 14485-9712 (716) 624-3007

BOB STAHR, NIA #4186, **CENTRAL REGION VP** 11728 LEONARDO DRIVE, SAINT JOHN, IN 46373 -9448

(219) 365-4171 EMAIL: hgco@mail.netnitco.net

MATT POAGE, NIA #3757, **WESTERN REGION VP** 12771 EUDORA DR., THORNTON, CO 80241 (303) 453-1895 EMAIL: matthew\_poage@icgcomm.com

MIKE GUTHRIE, NIA #3297, **TREASURER** 1209 W. MENLO, FRESNO, CA 93711-1477 (559) 435-6127 EMAIL: mgg17@cvip.fresno.com

# TOM KATONAK, NIA #3567, **INFORMATION DIRECTOR**

1024 CAMINO de LUCIA, CORRALES, NM 87048 (505) 898-5592 EMAIL: tomk164440@aol.com

JOE BERES, NIA #563, **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR** 1315 OLD MILL PATH, BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OH 44147

(440) 526-3478 EMAIL: jjjb@aol.com

# RICK BALDWIN, NIA #336, FIRST PAST PRESIDENT

1931 THORPE CIRCLE, BRUNSWICK, OH 44212 (330) 225-3576 EMAIL: Richard.S.Baldwin@lerc.nasa.gov

STEPHEN BOBB, NIA #827, SECOND PAST PRESIDENT

610 NORTHAMPTON ROAD, NORRISTOWN, PA 19403

(610) 539-6533

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

CAROLYN BERRY, NIA #4336, **PRODUCT MARKETING** 

1010 WREN COUIRT, ROUND ROCK, TX 78681-2741

(512) 255-2006 EMAIL: pyrex553@aol.com

SANDY ELLISON, NIA #6154, **SHOW STANDARDS** 11825 LANCESHIRE CIRCLE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73162-3229 (405) 721-6578 EMAIL: diamonds4me@worldnet.att.net

DUDLEY ELLIS, NIA #5085, **NOMINATIONS**131 PLANTATION WAY, STOCKBRIDGE, GA
30281

(770) 957-9928 EMAIL: pony102@aol.com

ELTON GISH, NIA #41, **ETHICS**PO BOX 1317, BUNA, TX 77612
(409) 994-5662 EMAIL: gishen@sat.net

RICK SOLLER, NIA # 2958, **HISTORIAN**4086 BLACKSTONE AVE, GURNEE, IL 60031
(847) 782-8602 EMAIL: com574@clc.cc.il.us

STEVE MARKS, NIA #4951, **BY-LAWS** 21639 NORTH  $74^{TH}$  WAY, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255

(602) 473-7014 EMAIL: smmarks@omlaw.com

JOHN McDOUGALD, NIA #689, RESEARCH & AUTHENTICATION

5N941 RAVINE DR., ST. CHARLES, IL 60175 (630) 513-1544 EMAIL: cpamcd@aol.com

BOB BERRY, NIA #1203, **PROMOTION & EDUCATION** 

1010 WREN COURT, ROUND ROCK, TX 78681-2741

(512) 255-2006 EMAIL: pyrex553@aol.com