



**GREATER CHICAGO  
INSULATOR CLUB  
NEWSLETTER**

Marge Frank, Club Member of the Month

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**“Beat the Winter Blahs” Show Report**

Wow! The “Beat the Winter Blahs” show hosted by Tina and Arlen Rienstra celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> year this year. The Saturday, January 28, 2023 show held at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, Indiana had a healthy number of dealers and a strong attendance from the public. The weather was excellent for the area, food was filling, and the auction was as large as ever. There were even two displays this year!

An amazing display by Josh Dondorf was worth studying. He brought insulators found while digging in the area or found at antique stores. Most notable was a CD 732 no embossing threadless insulator with an exactly matching CD 131.4 threaded insulator with the Patent Dec. 19, 1871 embossing. This confirms that Hemingray made threadless insulators.

Rick Soller set up a display of things that might be insulators or might not. Attendees could guess which and turn a card over to see if they were correct. Even some seasoned collectors were stumped by one or two of the things in the display.

Thirty-one dealer tables were sold. There would have been more, but one dealer was sick and could not make it after all. A nice variety of insulators and other items were available for sale. Russ Frank had loads of miniatures. Tony Letnich had some foreign high voltage signs. One dealer had a range of fruit jars. Riley Armstrong brought some huge, flat glass suspensions. Josh Dondorf had three tables of goods that included some interesting signs, and bottles. Gene Hawkins had a good selection of K.C.G.W. insulators on his table. Josephine Ramp was there with her granddaughter and some glass in some nice colors. Mike Davis covered all the bases with bottles, bell paperweights, and insulators in porcelain and glass. Other dealers included Dale & Kathy Glendenning, Dick Schroeder, Mark Gilmore, Mike McLaughlin, Tom and Tim Nugent, Arlen Rienstra, Bob Stahr, and Kim Borgman. There are probably others I missed.

Others in attendance included Rich Feeham, Les Christensen, J. Brown, Justin Perault, Jeff Sherry, Mike Bauer, Pat Wallace, Roger Lucas, Ross Berndt, Jennifer Alley-Fisher, Cole King, Doug Tomamichel, Mario Pisterzi, Michael Lutson, Wyatt Lambersie, Matthew Paine (shooting a video), Dave Bullock, Richard Case, and Nathan.

The total price of lots sold in the auction reached \$1618 which was the second most sold at a club auction with last year’s show setting the mark for the most at \$1937. On the other hand, the auction tied the record for the number of bidders (38) and, with 13 sellers, the auction was one seller away from tying the record for the number of sellers. Results are on the next page.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the show. Marge Frank and Tina Rienstra made the food. Russ Frank recorded all the auction information with Rick Soller doing the selling and Mike McLaughlin holding insulators high for everyone to see. Josh Dondorf helped set tables and chairs up on Friday with Rick. Greg Delia and his mom as well as many others help take down the table chairs and put them into the storage room. And of course, Arlen was responsible for organizing everything.

Lot #	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Rick Soller	Light box	\$2	Matthew Paine
2	Rick Soller	Corner light box	\$50	Cole King
3	Rick Soller	Display shelf	\$14	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
4	Rick Soller	Climbers	\$2	Richard Case
5	Rick Soller	440 Volt sign	\$12	Cole King
6	Rick Soller	Box of 12 glass insulators	\$10	Nathan
7	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$12	Nathan
8	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$10	Justin Perault
9	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$8	Cole King
10	Rick Soller	Box of 10 glass insulators	\$10	Nathan
11	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$7	Cole King
12	Rick Soller	Odd Stuff	\$5	Cole King
13	Rick Soller	3-CD 152s Diamonds+ 4-CD 143s	\$15	Bill Schurantes
14	Rick Soller	3-cables + 5 others	\$24	Bill Schurantes
15	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$14	Bill Schurantes
16	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$16	Mike Bauer
17	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$25	Nathan
18	Rick Soller	Helmet + glass	\$17	Nathan
19	Rick Soller	Misc.	\$1	Riley Armstrong
20	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$1	Greg Delia
21	Rick Soller	2 books	\$1	Bill Schurantes
22	Rick Soller	6 hoop skirts	\$9	Riley Armstrong
23	Rick Soller	Box of 8 glass insulators	\$11	Wyatt Lambersie
24	Rick Soller	Box of 15 glass insulators	\$1	Nathan
25	Rick Soller	Box of 4 glass insulators	\$21	J. Brown
26	Rick Soller	Bottles and jars, Hotpoint refrigerator bottle, jelly jar	\$15	Mario Pisterzi
27	Mark Gilmore	Glass and McDougalds books	\$87	Jeff Sherry
28	Mark Gilmore	Box of 7 glass insulators	\$27	Cole King
29	Josh Dondorf	Box of glass and porcelain	\$22	Riley Armstrong
30	Josh Dondorf	Bottles	\$1	Cole King
31	Josh Dondorf	Bottles	\$1	Greg Delia
32	Josh Dondorf	Choice-clear Mice 2@ \$25 each	\$50	Rick Soller
33	Josh Dondorf	Jars and glasses	\$1	Justin Perault
34	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles	\$7	Riley Armstrong
35	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles	\$6	Arlen Rienstra
36	Josh Dondorf	Pop bottles	\$1	Greg Delia
37	Josh Dondorf	Misc. stuff	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
38	Josh Dondorf	Broken stuff, chia head	\$1	Greg Delia
39	Russ Frank	5-gallon jar	\$10	Michael Lutson
40	Russ Frank	Box of porcelain 2@\$6	\$12	Greg Delia
41	Russ Frank	1 crossarm	\$15	Mark Gilmore
43	Russ Frank	1 crossarm	\$15	Jeff Sherry

44	Russ Frank	2 crossarms @ \$15 each	\$30	Matthew Paine
45	Russ Frank	Glass	\$15	Nathan
46	Russ Frank	Porcelain knife switch, brass key	\$16	Riley Armstrong
47	Russ Frank	Knobs and porcelain	Free	Wyatt Lambersie
48	Russ Frank	Glass (6)	\$9	Wyatt Lambersie
49	Russ Frank	Phone – chrome	\$30	Pat Wallace
50	Russ Frank	Phone – wall	\$9	Richard Case
51	Russ Frank	Phone – Western Electric	\$1	Richard Case
52	Russ Frank	Glass shelf stands (2)	\$15	Dave Bullock
53	Russ Frank	Glass, porcelain, bottles	\$1	Nathan
54	Mike McLaughlin	Box of porcelain	.25	Nathan
55	Mike McLaughlin	Ohio Brass suspension	\$1	Nathan
56	Mike McLaughlin	4 beehives	\$11	Jay Dondorf
57	Mike McLaughlin	Amber signal	\$35	Riley Armstrong
58	Mike McLaughlin	Porcelain signal, teal, chip	\$60	Rick Soller
59	Mike McLaughlin	Box of glass	\$10	Richard Case
60	Mike McLaughlin	Porcelain fire plugs	\$26	Rick Soller
61	Mike McLaughlin	Purple insulator	\$22	Rich Feehan
62	Mike McLaughlin	10 white Crown inserts	\$1	Riley Armstrong
63	Mike McLaughlin	Purple beehive	\$11	Cole King
64	Mike McLaughlin	Box of glass	\$1	Matthew Paine
65	Mike McLaughlin	Glass – 143	\$20	Cole King
66	Mike McLaughlin	Blue U-908A metal top, cracked	\$5	Nathan
67	Mike McLaughlin	Box of glass (3)	\$5	Nathan
68	Mike McLaughlin	Box of glass (3)	\$22	Cole King
69	Mike Davis	Box of misc. mugs, bottles	\$42	Richard Case
70	Mike Davis	Crown Jewels (donation to club)	\$11	Matthew Paine
71	Andy	Power porcelain	\$8	Justin Perault
72	Dave Shaw	Glass suspensions, 3 @ \$15 each	\$45	Roger Lucas
73	Dave Shaw	Porcelain suspension	\$1	Greg Delia
76	Greg Delia	Box of porcelain	.50	Rick Soller
77	Greg Delia	Box of porcelain	\$1	Justin Perault
78	Greg Delia	Books	\$1	Bill Schurantes
79	Greg Delia	Spools – Iron	\$1	Riley Armstrong
80	Greg Delia	Porcelain	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
81	Dale Glendenning	Bucket of porcelain	\$18	Justin Perault
82	Dale Glendenning	Milk crate of porcelain	\$3	Justin Peralt
83	Dale Glendenning	LRI scroll stands, 4 @ \$20 each	\$80	Rich Feehan
84	Dale Glendenning	Misc. porcelain	\$40	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
85	Dale Glendenning	LRIs and awning rings	\$20	Rick Soller
86	Dale Glendenning	LRI metal bracket rings	\$4	Rick Soller
87	Dale Glendenning	Bells, insulators	\$22	Josh Dondorf
88	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$24	Nathan
89	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$14	Nathan
90	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$30	J. Brown

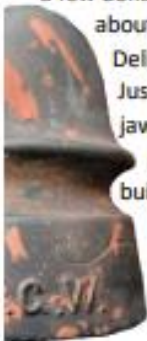
91	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass	\$20	Cole King
92	Dale Glendenning	Box of beehives	\$9	Matthew Paine
93	Dale Glendenning	8 beehives	\$12	Matthew Paine
94	Dale Glendenning	11 glass insulators	\$1	Wyatt Lambersie
95	Dale Glendenning	8 glass insulators	\$15	Jeff Sherry
96	Dale Glendenning	Misc. glass	\$23	J. Brown
97	Dale Glendenning	LRIs and holder	\$40	Josh Dondorf
98	Dale Glendenning	Box of 10 glass insulators	\$7	Bill Schurantes
99	Dale Glendenning	Battery jars	\$22	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
100	Dale Glendenning	Battery jars	\$15	Riley Armstrong
101	Dale Glendenning	Two flag holders	\$15	Tom Nugent
102	Dale Glendenning	Box of porcelain	\$8	Greg Delia
103	Dale Glendenning	Box of plastic insulators	\$7	Riley Armstrong
104	Michael (donated)	Glass	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
105	Greg Delia	Spool bracket	\$1	Richard Case
106	Greg Delia	Brackets	\$7	Riley Armstrong
107	Greg Delia	Porcelain suspension	\$12	Riley Armstrong
108	Greg Delia	Spool brackets	\$5	Richard Case
109	Greg Delia	Rubber chicken – extra large	\$1	Riley Armstrong
110	Dick Schroeder	Large porcelain	\$15	Nathan
111	Dick Schroeder	Glass suspensions (2), Sediver	\$20	Rick Soller
112	Dick Schroeder	Glass suspension	\$5	Justin Perault
113	Jay Dondorf	Piano insulators (2), clear	\$2	Greg Delia
114	Jay Dondorf	Mark Corriero wood insulators blue signal, wood CD 287	\$8	Greg Delia
115	Roger Lucas	Hemingray bottles	\$10	Mike McLaughlin
116	Riley Armstrong	Rubber chicken insulator	.25	Greg Delia
117	Riley Armstrong	Multipart	\$1	Nathan
118	Riley Armstrong	Glass	\$3	Nathan
119	Riley Armstrong	Porcelain	\$11	Nathan
120	Riley Armstrong	Broken porcelain	\$2	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
121	Riley Armstrong	Porcelain	\$11	Richard Case
122	Greg Delia	Porcelain	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
123	Greg Delia	Porcelain	\$9	Riley Armstrong
124	Greg Delia	Plastic	\$1	Richard Case
125	Greg Delia	Suspension	\$1	Greg Delia
126	Greg Delia	4 boxes of metal pins and stuff	\$1	Riley Armstrong
127	Pat Wallace	Porcelain	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
128	Pat Wallace	Glass	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
129	Pat Wallace	Glass	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher

# **“Back Home Again, in Indiana”**

By Cole King

On Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, an amazing KCGW CD162 walked up to my table at the Beat the Winter Blahs Swap Meet in a plastic grocery bag, wrapped in one single paper towel. Here is the story of how this amazing piece came to be “Back Home Again, in Indiana” after 125 years.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Cory Meier posted a photo of a CD164 H.G.CO. with a rather large upper wire ridge in the “Insulator Friends” Facebook group. Common aqua in color, not worth more than a few dollars. However, it would fit nicely on my shelf that compares 164’s to 166.2’s. I messaged him about it, and he explained to me that he is a lineman, not a collector. However, his friend, Greg Della, had advised him about the hobby, and would be willing to deliver the piece to Crown Point. Just two days later, Cory sent me another photo, with the caption “Found another little guy.” My jaw dropped. It was a KCGW signal, wonderfully coated in black soot and splattered with red paint. He then sent me a photo of the bracket it was hanging on, still in service, on a red brick building in St. Louis, Missouri. The bracket was hanging at an angle, with the service coming in horizontally. To my understanding, the KCGW was in the middle of this three-insulator pin. See photo below. Cory moved the service to the top insulator, and snagged the KCGW. Unfortunately, not being a collector, he did not take up-close photos of the bracket, or the other insulators the KCGW was used with.



When looking at the back side of the insulator, you can see a soot-free line, running at an angle from the wire groove to the base. Looking at the photos of the bracket and service wire, and the paint on the front, I assume the front was facing the building, hence the red paint splatter, and the service wire came in on the rear of the insulator.

Assuming this insulator was made at the tail-end of the life of KCGW (circa 1897) and sent directly to St. Louis, this insulator has not been on Hoosier soil in 125 years. I feel very lucky to have this wonderful character piece in my collection! The funny thing is, I had completely forgotten about this insulator, as it took over a month for me to finally lay eyes on it. You can imagine my excitement when unwrapping this surprise at the show. Mark Gilmore took a wonderful photo at the show, far better than anything my photography skills could manage. I have included this image on the right.



KCGW piece in middle of bracket, still in service.



Notice when the insulator is held in line with the photo of the bracket, a clear spot can be seen running parallel to the ground, where the service wire was.

## Upcoming Shows

### **Saturday, March 11, 2023**

#### **Platte City, Missouri**

The 2023 NW Missouri Insulator and Bottle Show & Sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Platte County Fairgrounds, 15730 Fairgrounds Rd., Platte City, MO 64079. This is a large Antique show with 85+ tables of insulators, bottles, jars, telephones, porcelain signs, lightning rod balls & arrows and other miscellaneous collectibles. FREE insulator & bottle appraisals available. For information: Darryl Wagner, [insulators@dwagnerkc.com](mailto:insulators@dwagnerkc.com), 816-719-080.

### **Saturday, April 1, 2023**

#### **Wheaton, Illinois**

The DuPage Collectors Expo Show will be held Saturday, April 1st, at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois, Hours are 9:00 to 3:00. Items for sale & trade include Insulators, Lightning Rod items & Weathervanes, Telephone & Telegraph items, Bottles, Jars, etc. \$50 for the first table, \$45 for each additional table. Electricity is \$10. For more information, contact BOB STAHR at [bob@hemingray.com](mailto:bob@hemingray.com) or (630) 793-5345 and RICK SOLLER at [rdmershon@aol.com](mailto:rdmershon@aol.com) or (847) 782-8602.

### **Friday & Saturday, May 5-6, 2023**

#### **Columbia City, Indiana**

The 2022 Columbia City, Indiana Collectibles Show is May 6 & 7 at the Whitley County 4H Center, 581 Squawbuck Rd., Columbia City, IN. This is one of the least expensive shows to attend or be a dealer. A single table is \$30, two tables are \$55, three tables are \$75, and four are \$90. Show info, contact Gene Hawkins [gene.hawkins@mchsi.com](mailto:gene.hawkins@mchsi.com) or Mike McLaughlin 574-377-5490 for other show info or for dealer tables. Friday dealer setup noon-2 PM Open to public at 2 PM Friday 5 PM Pizza. Friday 5:30 PM Show & Tell, where folks bring really cool stuff with special stories. Always interesting stuff comes off collector's shelves for discussion, things you won't see unless you visit them as it often isn't for sale, just special! PLEASE Bring something with a story to share with us! Saturday doors open for dealer set up at 6 AM, public at 7 AM. Saturday at 10 AM will be another auction, so clean out the closet & bring your clutter! Dealers can pack up whenever they need to do so.

### **Saturday, May 20, 2023**

#### **Berlin, Ohio**

The Amish Country Insulator Show & Swap Meet will be held at the Comfort Suites Hotel & Conference Center, 4810 TR 366, Berlin, Ohio 44610 on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Setup time is 9 a.m. with the show running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables are 6 feet by 30 inches. One for \$10 or two for \$15. Work is under way for a block of rooms. The show is in the heart of Amish Country with multiple antique stores and great Amish cooking! Lunch is provided. For more information or to reserve a table, contact Tom Nelson at (330) 231-9579 or email him at [tomnelson1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tomnelson1960@yahoo.com).