

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

http://www.nia.org

Available via e-mail

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Fall is in the air, even here in hot and sunny Phoenix. I am really looking forward to some fall insulator hunting and I am sure many of you are already out doing this. I have plans for 2-3 short hunts this fall when the temperatures here in the Desert Southwest finally drop below 100 degrees or so. The temperatures are still in the 105-

110 range even in September. It's late October before we start to enjoy the 85-90 highs that make great glass hunting weather around here.

Before I forget, I want to make a special plea to you all to consider a bid to host a 2006 regional show or for the 2007 National. We need bids (at least one) for these shows and it seems everyone thinks someone else will do it. if you, or your club, are interested in hosting one of these events and have questions concerning the guidelines and NIA expectations you may Call Glenn Drummond at (334-257-3100 or glenn@patent-1871.com).

Also, for those of you in the western region, we have a new Western Region VP, Mike Green. Mike replaces Howard Banks who did a superb job (Thanks Howard). Please see Mikes contribution on pages 5 & 6 to learn more.

Finally, My apologies that the DP is a little late this month. I had unavoidable commitments for work that took me to Munich Germany for nearly 2 weeks at the end of August. This is when the DP would normally be printed and mailed.

I will be attending the 18th Enchantment Insulator Club shows to be held in Albuquerque on the 1st of October as well as the 35th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show, November 5 & 6. Maybe I will see you at one of these shows.

Take care and good hunting.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



WOW! What a great National in San Jose, California. Colin Jung, Dave Elliott, and the Nor-Cal Team are to be congratulated for organizing and hosting one of the best Nationals that I have attended. The walk in crowd was much larger than usual. On Saturday after lunch the huge crowd filled the show hall and crowded the isles. There was a wide variety of both eastern and western insulators to choose from on the dealer's tables. Every dealer that I talked to had an exceptional show. Both the competitive and noncompetitive exhibits were phenomenal. I was pleased that we had three quality junior displays. Andrew Elliott won the First Place Junior award with his large display of Star insulators. Sean Green showed his extraordinary collection of Junk in Glass and Clay Bledsoe displayed some rare pieces in his display titled Insulator Nicknames. The quality of these three displays made judging very tough.

Congratulations to the winners of the other NIA Awards: Dwayne Anthony, First Place Specialty for "The Brookfield Glass Company"; Dave Elliott, First Place Threaded for "North American Telegraph Glass"; Gil Hedges-Blanquez, First Place Foreign for "Mexican Insulators"; Carl Scott, First Place Go-With for "The People Who Did the Job"; Mike Spadafora, First Place Porcelain for "Fred M. Locke, Father of the Porcelain Insulator Industry"; Mike Green, First Place Color for "What

God Hath Wroth": Carver Mead and Barbara Smith. First Place General for "Evolution of Hiah Tension. 1889-1909"; Guthrie. Mike First Place Threadless for "Early **Patents** and Other Old Stuff": Mike Milhol-Guthrie,

land Educational Award for "Early Patents and Other Old Stuff". Special thanks goes to all exhibitors for the many hours of work it took them to plan, do research, assemble, disassemble and transport their displays.

The location of the 37th National Insulator Association Annual Show and Convention was announced in the General Membership Meeting. The 2006 show will be hosted by Bob and Carolyn Berry, Jack Roach and Jim Bates in Austin Texas at the Doubletree Hotel on July 7 – 9, 2006. Start planning today to attend this show. I understand that there are a limited number of dealer tables left. You need to go ahead and get your tables now. Remember, you can expect to find that good old southern hospitality at its best in Texas.

Congratulations to Mike Green from Colorado who replaces Howard Banks as the Western Region Vice President. I also want to thank Larry Shumaker for stepping to the plate and being a candidate for the position. Mike and Larry

were both excellent candidates. I hated that one of them had to loose. The race was won by a very close margin. This in itself reflects the quality of both candidates. Your Board looks forward to work-

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ing with Mike and we are sure he brings some fresh new ideas to the table. I give a big thank you to outgoing Western Region Vice President Howard Banks for his three years on your Board. Howard always brought a list of issues from his western constituents to discuss with your Board. We also thank him for all the extra time and effort that he gave to the hobby by getting personally involved to help resolve the fake E.C.&M.Co. issue. I personally thank Howard for his continued passion to involve children in the hobby with his Insulators for Kids program and by providing the youth their own "Kids Korner" in the Crown Jewels of the Wire. We will miss you on the Board. Thanks, Howard, for a job well done!

In my last message I asked for candidates to fill the vacant position of the Awards and Recognition Committee Chair. I was pleased to be asked by Lou Hall from Fresno, California if I would

 $(Continued\ on\ page\ 3)$

consider him for the position. After a thorough review and discussions with members of the Board, I offered the position to Lou after I returned home from my California trip. I look forward to working with Lou and his committee as they review the NIA Exhibit and Judging Rules and make recommendations for possible change.

I have been contacted by two NIA members who are interested in transitioning into your Membership Director's position as Joe Beres steps down after thirteen years of service. Both candidates have excellent qualifications which make the selection process very difficult.

The NIA Board meeting lasted longer than I intended this year (5 hrs and 36 min) but every Board Member and Committee Chair was given the opportunity to tell what they had accomplished during the year and to pursue opinions and discussion of special issues they had. You will read about some of the discussions in your Board Member and Committee Chair reports in this issue. Here is a brief summary of some points made in the meeting:

- 1) There is a need for bids for the 2007 National in the Eastern Region and 2006 Region Shows in the Eastern and Western Regions. Please call Glenn Drummond, NIA Secretary, with your interest and questions.
- 2) NIA Membership showed a slight decline. NIA Membership Applications will be provided to all Committee Chairs and Board members to use at shows and swaps to promote membership.
- 3) The Nominations Committee now includes 6 members in addition to the Chair to seek candi-

dates for NIA offices and other needed positions. The Board suggested the use of electronic ballots as an option for the election of Central Region VP and NIA President.

- 4) More NIA members need to be encouraged to subscribe to the electronic version of *Drip Points*. The rising cost for printing and postage would be minimized. This is an easy way to receive and store your Drip Points. A bonus Club newsletter comes with each electronic edition.
- 5) The discussion to print the Crown Jewels of the Wire Subscribers and NIA Membership Directory every other year was tabled for further study and membership opinions.
- 6) A new Show Host Handbook is being finalized and will be made available on the NIA web page.
- 7) The NIA Handbook has been updated and is now available on the NIA web page.
- 8) The NIA web page continues to grow. A popular section of our web page, titled "Insulator Historical Timeline" is continually being updated to provide a basic reference to significant events in history related to insulators. Go check this out at www.nia.org!
- 9) The Promotions Committee has grown to five committee members plus the Committee Chair. A promotions packet is being developed which will include a short promotional video.
- 10) Fake and Altered insulators continues to be a major concern of NIA members. Tests to determine old versus new glass have been very disappointing. Additional in-

formation and improved education of collectors is a must to help them make a more informed decision when purchasing insulators. The NIA fake and altered display and handout are being upgraded.

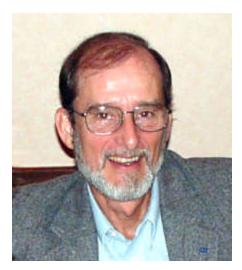
11) The Awards and Recognition Committee continues to work on the review of the Exhibit and Judging Rules for potential changes.

Increased communication within the NIA and the hobby in general continues to be a major goal of mine. Your Board and Committees want to know how we can serve you better. Please contact me, or another Board Member, a Committee Chair or one of the Committee members and provide us with your comments and suggestions. During the months of August through November I plan on being at the DJIC Swap in Tellico Plains, TN, the Eastern Region Show in Martinsburg, WV, the Mid-Ohio Show in Springfield, OH and the DJIC swap in Phoenix City, Alabama. If you are coming to any of these shows or swaps please take some time to talk to me. I hope to see you at one of these shows or swaps.

Please support your local shows and remember to take a child on an insulator hunt or to a show and to tell someone about your hobby.

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

FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



Greetings fellow insulator enthusiasts! Well, summer is just about wrapping up and so are the long vacations – so I guess it's back to school again for all of you junior collectors. The fall shows will be in full swing shortly and there are some good ones coming up. (I'll put in a shameless plug here for the 18th Enchantment Insulator Club shows to be held in Albuquerque on the 1st of October.

This years show will be held on the New Mexico State Fair Grounds and shares the "New Mexico activities list" with the opening of the International Balloon Fiesta. So you can come to the show and take in the awesome sight of a thousand hot air balloon's filling the sky overhead!)

Where do you go to find current show information? Well, you dial up Bill Meier's famous website "insulators.com" of course! And, as most of you know, this website is the "home" of ICON – the Insulator Collectors on the Net!

ICON is perhaps most famous for the informal newsgroup or

From time-to-time. I

get the question from

one of you as to why we

don't "defend

ourselves" or set the

record straight?

"message-board"
which features
insulator-related
messages and
dialogs between
the 1000+ online members.
Besides all manner of insulator
related information, there are

numerous discussion threads ongoing.

This brings me to the heart of my message here. On occasion, one may read adverse or uncomplimentary commentary relating to the NIA on the ICON postings. While most of the NIA Board and Committee members are also members of ICON, we very seldom comment on controversial NIA related topics in this public forum.

From time-to-time, I get the question from one of you as to why we don't "defend ourselves" or set the record straight?

Well, here's the rationale: Although approximately 30% of the ICON members are also NIA members, ICON is <u>not</u> an NIA forum — it's a general insulator hobby group. The "voice" of the NIA is the *Drip Points* and the NIA

website – "nia.org". Usually, we find it more appropriate to communicate "NIA topics" via our newsletter and website. Experience has shown that to debate controversial issues by way of emails to hundreds of people is ineffective

and often has the potential for misinterpretation. This can lead to a imnegative pact on the NIA and thereby the hobby at large.

Our usual tact is

for one of us to email or call the person responsible for a negative thread and discuss the issue with him or her personally.

So, if you read something on ICON that causes you to wonder "why doesn't the NIA answer the mail" – rest assured that we are probably doing just that – but we're not making a "big public deal" over it. And if you think we should be making a public statement, contact one of the board members and tell us what you think. On rare occasions we should and do give an "NIA response" on ICON.

I look forward to talking with many of you at one of the upcoming shows!

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 NIA First Past President

Get a free rotating Club Newsletter with each *Drip Points* by taking the *Drip Points* electronically!

With each electronic edition we will be attaching one club newsletter from participating clubs around the country. Currently participating clubs are the GCIC (Greater Chicago Insulator Club), EIC (Enchantment Insulator Club, New Mexico), and GCSIC (Grand Canyon State Insulator Club, Arizona).

FROM THE WESTERN REGION



Greetings fellow collectors. It is a privilege and honor to be your new Western Region Vice President. My sincere thanks to all for giving me the opportunity to serve you in the N.I.A. I would like to start by offering my best wishes and prayers to Larry Shumaker as he continues to recover from heart surgery. We recently spoke and I was pleased to find out Larry was recovering well and is already out exercising. Running against Larry for the Western V.P. job was an honor in itself. Larry has done a great deal for the hobby and I will value his input on issues affecting the western region. The entire region wishes you well Larry and we hope you will feel better than ever.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to thank outgoing Western Region Vice President Howard Banks for his outstanding service to the N.I.A. and the entire hobby. Many people may not realize how critical Howard's role was in exposing the fake E.C&M. insulators. Had it not been for his diligent and determined effort collectors might still be getting ripped off by these fakes. Howard is a great example of how the National Insulator Association does its best to improve and protect the hobby. He and Linda are also incredible sponsors

of the hobby as editors of the Crown Jewels of the Wire Magazine. Sincere thanks for everything you've done and continue to do Howard, you're a tough act to follow.

I would like to give a quick update on an event that affected almost everyone in the hobby in some way. The theft of Ron Yuhas's collection last year in Montana left all of us in shock. It was almost unimaginable to most of us. For Ron and Peg it was a nightmare that has lasted for months. The investigation took many bizarre twists but progress was made and pieces were slowly recovered. There have been no arrests for the theft but an individual has pleaded guilty to possession of stolen goods. Unfortunately it appears that Jail time is unlikely. As of this writing most of you know that the bulk of Ron's collection has been recovered. About 10 pieces remain unaccounted for with most of the rarest pieces being returned. A CD 288 emerald green Mershon is one piece that Ron is still hoping to get back. If anyone finds any information about this piece please contact Ron immediately. Hopefully we will never hear of an event like this again but we still need to protect ourselves. Ron offered me a couple tips to share with all of you. First, thoroughly photo document every important piece in your collection. Not just general pictures but detailed shots showing unique things about the piece. No two pieces (especially rare ones) are alike. The location of a bubble, a swirl, a crease in the glass, a chip or flake, etc. makes that piece very unique. Make copies of these pictures and keep them in a safe place. I have taken multiple detailed digital shots of all my better pieces and placed them on CD's. These CD's

are in a couple safe places including one in my insurance agents file. Ron said having these kinds of shots was critical in helping him to prove that the now recovered pieces were his. These types of pictures can also be distributed quickly in the hobby so other collectors can keep an eye out in the event of a theft. Second. Ron said that we need to be a little cautious about who we invite over to see our collections. The individual who stole Ron's pieces was likely a guest at his annual swap meet. It is unfortunate that the trust and kindness of someone like Ron was betrayed but it's a reality we must be aware of. Be at least somewhat cautious of who sees your collection and take note of anyone who is not a N.I.A. member or who is not listed in the Crown Jewels directory. There are other steps you can take but those two tips will go a long way. Also be sure your homeowners policy will cover your collection and provide the detailed pictures to your agent. On another note I would like to mention that even after all he had been through Ron made the trip to San Jose to attend the National. took a lot of courage and dedication to make that trip and we were all very happy to see him there. To Ron and Peggy, let me just sav that all of us in the hobby are very sorry you had to go through this and that we send our love and best wishes to you and your fam-

One of the highlights of my summer and the first real taste of being an N.I.A. officer came at the National Insulator Show in San Jose. Dudley Ellis graciously invited me to the N.I.A. board meeting on Thursday to get better acquainted with important issues in the hobby. I was very impressed

(Continued on page 6)

with the way all the board and committee members discussed topics and did their best to find positive ways to deal with problems facing our hobby. It was a long meeting that left me with little doubt that the N.I.A. is truly made up of people who care about protecting and preserving the hobby. If you are reading this it probably means you believe that also. Now if we can just share that belief with everyone we encounter in the hobby. The N.I.A. does matter and the hobby is better because of it. Anyone who has attended even one National Show can attest to the N.I.A.'s value based on that experience alone and this years show was no exception. Colin Jung and Dave Elliott, along with a

superb group of volunteers, put on a terrific show. It was well organized from start to finish and everyone I talked to appeared to have a great time. My son Sean and I were busy all four days and loved every minute of it. A tremendous amount of high quality glass changed hands and I think most people in attendance brought home something special for their collection. The quality of the displays was also extraordinary. was blown away by the amount of work that went into several of them. The hours that went into Carver Mead and Barb Smith's display alone were enough to leave you shaking your head. All in all it was a wonderful show with great friends, super glass, awesome displays, and timeless memories. Thanks for everything Colin and Dave. Now that San Jose is over I am already starting to think about next years show in Austin, I just know it's going to be great!

Good luck collecting!

Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region Vice President

FROM THE EASTERN REGION



Here in the D.C. area we feel as if global warming is here for sure. This is one of the muggiest summers I can remember and on some days, going to the end of the driveway to get the newspaper is about as much time as I want to spend outside. If there are any diggers out there this summer they are indeed dedicated. I can't wait for the cooler fall months.

The weather in San Jose, however, was incredible during the National. I can see why those west-coasters put up with a few earthquakes now and then. The National was also incredible. I've been to nine Nationals and they all have great displays but I think this

National vear's was off the I There charts. were so many awesome displays. Thanks to all of the exhibitors who put so much time into developing their displays to show

us parts of their collections and to teach us about their specialty. I kept my record intact by going to the Giants baseball game on the Wednesday before the show started. What a great ballpark!

I plan to make it ten in a row by attending the Austin National. My sister-in-law is moving to Austin in a few months so I'm sure we'll make a vacation out of that trip.

This fall, my club, the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club is hosting the NIA Eastern National on September 30 and October 1. We have space for 45 dealer tables and as I write this, we only have one table remaining, so I'm sure we'll sell

out and have a full house. We have dealers coming from as far

away a s Texas, Colorado, Arizona and many more states are repre-This sented. looks like it will be а great show and I hope you can

make it.

This fall, my club, the

Chesapeake Bay

Insulator Club is hosting

the NIA Eastern National

on September 30 and

October 1.

The Yankee Polecat Insulator Club is having their annual swap meet in East Hampton, CT on September 10th. Even though it's not in the east, the 35th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show in Springfield, OH is just a hop, skip and jump across the Midwest border and is something I look forward to every year. This year, unfortunately, I have a conflict and cannot make it but I'm sure it will be another great show. I'll see you at the shows

Larry Novak, NIA #5889 Eastern Region Vice President

Authentication & Classification Committee



This is a follow-up story regarding the production and attempted sale of what are believed to be fake threadless insulators. The story began in the mid 90's when I was contacted by an individual from Florida who had been on the fringes of the insulator hobby for a number of years, but he certainly could not be considered an active collector or dealer. He indicated that he had been working a dump along the Ohio River and had unearthed a number of never-beforeseen threadless insulators. I encouraged him to send me examples or pictures, and I finally received a snapshot of an insulator from about 20 feet away that looked like a CD 718 with an extra rumple.

I heard nothing further from this individual until 1997 when he rented a table at the Chicago National Insulator Convention. Several unusual "threadless" insulators appeared on his table, and after a discussion with a number of the NIA Board members present, we asked the individual to remove the pieces from his table as their authenticity, based on a physical inspection and questioning the individual regarding their source, was clearly questionable.

The individual complied, and by the opening of the show the next morning, he had packed up his table and was gone.

To the best of my knowledge, none of these pieces ever entered the hobby. However, in 2004, several collectors were contacted by another individual from Florida and asked if they were interested in purchasing a threadless insulator collection which this individual had "inherited." Dwayne Anthony was one of the individuals who was contacted, and Dwavne followed up by requesting a complete list and pictures. Eventually, the list and pictures of most of the pieces arrived. The list and a substantial sampling of the pictures are included in this article. When questioned further about how this second individual had "inherited" these pieces, it turns out that he had gotten them from the first Florida source in "partial settlement of a debt." The value that had been placed on the collection was \$150,000.

Dwayne informed this individual that some of these pieces had been seen a number of years before and that their authenticity was questioned. Dwayne offered the names of several individuals in Florida whom this individual could contact if he wanted confirmation as to the authenticity issue. Once again, no further contact was made with Dwayne or any of the suggested contacts.

In a similar (but not necessarily related) incident, some never-before-seen threadless insulators were offered by a non-collector from Montana on Ebay. These had supposedly been found in the attic of an old house, and were to be auctioned off over time. I only actually saw one of them on Ebay,

and after some severe questioning by a number of potential bidders, the piece was withdrawn, and I am unaware of them surfacing again.

Special thanks to Dwayne Anthony for following up on this issue when it surfaced last year and for his work on providing the list (page 9) and the pictures (page 8). As you can see, the pictures that were provided are not from a good angle, but Dwayne did a good bit of clean-up work on them to give you the best idea we could of what these pieces look like.

This article is primarily to provide you with an ongoing warning that fakes are continuing to surface in the hobby and that you need to continue to be cautious when considering purchase from unknown sources. Those of you who are active on Ebay are aware that individuals are altering the color of insulators by using radiation. Some of them are very close in color to legitimate rare insulators, and unfortunately their techniques are improving. The NIA is working on tests to separate authentic pieces (those that were manufactured in color or turned naturally by the sun) from those that have been artificially altered. We will keep you posted on our progress. In the mean time.

- 1. Know the source of your insulators
- 2. Report any suspicious pieces to the A&C Committee of the NIA, and, as always,
- 3. If the deal looks to good to be true, it probably is.

John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification Committee



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List of Suspicious offerings

Please note that the CD numbers listed were provided by the seller, many of which are not currently recognized as officially assigned CD numbers.

701electric blue

702 aqua

715 aqua

718 amethyst

719 aqua

719 blue

719 aqua

719 amethyst w/milk

719 olive

719 amethyst

719 amber

719 aqua

719 aqua

719 aqua milk glass

719 green

719 ice blue aqua

719 cobalt

719 dark amber

719 aqua

719 aqua

719 slag glass (red brown)

719 amethyst

719.1 cornflower blue

720 green

720 green

728.2 light aqua

731 dark forest green

731 emerald green

731 white milk glass

731 amethyst

731 aqua,

731 cobalt

731 aqua

731 cobalt

731 olive black glass

736 aqua

736 aqua

737 cobalt

737 cobalt,

737 light amethyst

737 cobalt,

737 dark forest green

737 amethyst

737 amethyst

737 amethyst

737 dark forest green

737 lime green

738 aqua

738 light aqua

738 dark forest green

738 light aqua

743.2 aqua

743.2 cobalt

743.2 amber

743.2 olive green

743.2 blue aqua

743.3 olive green



FROM THE SECRETARY Minutes of the General Meeting, National Insulator Association, 8 July 2005.

President Dudley Ellis called the meeting to order at 4:08 PDT on 8 July 2005, in the Doubletree Hotel, San Jose, California. He welcomed all members present to the 2005 General Membership meeting and briefly reviewed the events of the day, making special notice of the fantastic displays present. Pres. Ellis then introduced Dave Elliott and Colin Jung, hosts of the 2005 National Insulator Show.

Pres. Ellis presented the Secretary's report in the absence of Glenn Drummond. Dudley asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held during the 2004 NIA National show at New Kensington, PA. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Grant Barnes, and seconded by Jacque Linscott Barnes, motion carried.

Pres. Ellis stated that Treasurer Jack Roach had filed the "Annual Corporation Report and Certificate of Disclosure" with the State of Arizona Corporation Commission. The NIA is registered as a non-profit organization in the State of Arizona. The annual submission of this report is required to maintain our good standing with the State of Arizona.

Jack Roach, Treasurer, presented the Treasurers Report. The Gen-

eral Fund contains \$10,977. The Authentication and Classification Committee has retained a carryover of \$2,296.75 in its 2005 budget. Expenditures for the year have been \$12,861; total revenue has been 14,296.85. The total balance on hand is \$15,682.15 as of this date.

Jacque Linscott Barnes, Nominations Chair., reported that Mike Green, Lakewood, CO, was elected Western Region Vice-President. She noted that of the 131 members "in good standing" and eligible to vote, only 34 percent cast their ballot.

Pres. Ellis stated that two exceptional candidates, Mike Green and Larry Shumaker, were in a tight race for the office. Their interest in serving the NIA is sincerely appreciated. He recognized Mike Green and offered him the opportunity to speak to the assembled members.

Mike Green thanked the Western Region members for their support. Mike stated that he had attended the Thursday Board meeting and observed that the Board members and Committee Chairs are truly working on many tough issues for the membership. He promised to work hard for the interests of the Western Region as well as the membership at large. Mike further expressed that he was deeply troubled about the theft of the Yuhas collection.

Pres. Ellis summarized his accomplishments during the preceding year and his goals for the coming year. Pres. Ellis expressed concern about communication between the Board and the membership. He, personally, attended four shows in the past year as well as four local club meetings in three states. He indicated that he has found a deep concern within the membership for the proliferation of faked and altered insulators in the hobby. It was evident that improvements must be accomplished in the field of educa-

tion in these matters.

Foremost in his concerns for the future is the immediate need to fill the following positions: Chair... Awards and Recognition Committee and Membership Director. Furthermore, the terms of the Central Region Vice President; and the President will expire at the end of the upcoming year. It is essential that volunteers step forward to fill these two vital positions. His goals for the coming year include: increasing the number of volunteers who serve on committees, especially the Promotion Committee; to improve the function and services of the Promotion Committee to include video presentations, promotion packets, and vouth involvement.

Pres. Ellis called on Board and Committee Chair members to summarize their activities during the preceding year.

Joe Beres, Membership Director, reported that, prior to the opening of the show, the membership totaled 1,512. He has received and processed 41 membership applications since the beginning of the show, bringing the present total membership to 1553.

Larry Novak, Eastern Region Vice-President, commented on the death of Kevin Lawless. He mentioned that Claude Wambold's backyard swap meet has been held 32 years. Larry noted that the Eastern Region show will be held in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on September 31 and October 1, 2005.

Ed Peters, Central Vice-President, reported that he has completed the revision of the Show Host's Handbook. The Handbook will be made available on the NIA website.

Howard Banks, Western Region Vice-President, mentioned that the Crown Jewels/NIA Directory will be mailed in November. It will be dated 2006, rather than 2005, because the

mailing occurs so near to the end of the year. Please note that there will be no 2005 Directory as a consequence of this change.

Kevin Jacobson, Information Director, emphasized the cost reduction for postage and printing of Drip Points achieved through the use of electronic mailing to members. These reductions have resulted in a significant savings for the NIA.

Bob Stahr, By-Laws Committee Chair., informed the assembled members that the By-Laws Handbook has been updated to reflect all changes approved by the Board to date.

Carolyn Berry, Product Marketing Director, reported that sales during the year were the second highest on record. She indicated that she is continuing to seek suggestions for products that may be of interest to the membership.

Bob Berry, Research and Education Committee Chair., stated that traffic on the website continued to increase during the 2004-2005 year. He has added additional patents to the Insulator Timeline. The insulator identification section has been significantly expanded and is the most popular feature of the site. The site now includes 11 years of Old Bottle Magazine and full coverage of the "Old Familiar Strains" newsletter.

Bob Merzoian, Promotions Committee, Chair., reported that he has produced an 80-minute DVD for the promotion of the hobby. Pres. Ellis added that the Board is concerned with and is actively seeking means of promoting youth involvement in the hobby.

John McDougald, Authentication and Classification Committee Chair., stated that tests conducted to date to determine the age of certain glass insulators has failed to achieve 100 percent accuracy.

Pres. Ellis reported for Charles Bibb, Ethics Committee Chair. Charles has received a number of complaints concerning sales. He is resolving those issues as they arise.

Pres. Ellis reported for Rick Soller. Historian. Rick has been active. along with other volunteer members, to assist local museums and historical societies to improve inventorying, understanding, and displaying their collections. He is attempting to obtain a translation of a booklet prepared by Jean-Pierre Volatron of France on the production of glass insulators. A new page has been added to the NIA website listing significant events during the history of Mementos of Kevin the hobby. Lawless have been added to the NIA Archives.

Pres. Ellis expressed his concern that he has been unable to fill the vacant position of the Awards and Recognition Committee Chair. An appeal was made to the assembled members for a volunteer, or a suggestion of someone who would be willing, to fill this position. (Note: Lou Hall, Fresno, CA, volunteered to accept the position soon after the meeting. His offer has been accepted.)

Pres. Ellis, in the absence of Glenn Drummond, Secretary, reminded the assembled membership that the 2005 Eastern Region show will be held in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and will be hosted by the Larry Novak and the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club. He stated that no bids have been received for 2006 Eastern and Western Region shows. He appealed to those present to consider fulfilling this need.

Pres. Ellis informed the assembled members that the 2006 National show will be held in the Doubletree Hotel Austin, Austin (Round Rock), Texas, July 7 – 9, 2006. Hosts Bob

and Carolyn Berry, and Jack Roach were introduced and were asked to inform the assembled members about the show site and the procedure for reserving dealer tables. Jim Bates, who is also a member of the show host team, was unable to be present because of illness.

Pres. Ellis expressed his appreciation for the support and cooperation of the Board, Committee Chairs., and especially the membership during the past year.

He concluded with the following two challenges to the membership:

Take a child to a show or on an insulator hunt, and

Tell someone about your hobby!

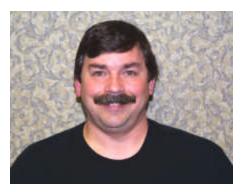
Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Guthrie, seconded by Carver Mead, motion carried.

Minutes of the 36th Annual Meeting of the National Insulator Association are respectfully submitted by Glenn Drummond, Secretary, NIA No. 537.

A special thanks is extended to Bob Stahr, Bob Berry, and Tom Katonak for taking notes in my absence.

Glenn Drummond, NIA #537 Secretary

FROM THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE and Historian



Museum Committee Report

- 1. During the Spring of 2005, as part of a project in a class at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois, Gary Boots, a student, created several pages for the NIA web site including a statement of purpose, a clickable map showing locations of museums with insulators, a list of activities of the committee, a description of the assistance offered to museums, and a list of members/participants.
- 2. On June 17, 2005, the NIA Museum Committee hosted a gathering in Clermont, Iowa to catalog the collection of the local historical society and tour the power house in the city. Bill Snell, Rick Soller, and Jim Hamlyn participated in the activity. A cataloging system was tested at this site and the inventory will be available on the NIA web site. This information will also be provided to the historical society.

This project began a year ago with a visit by Rick Soller and Russ Frank to introduce the idea followed by a year of planning. A date was established to correspond with a swap meet in Toledo, lowa the following day. Calls were made to local collectors seeking volunteers and a general posting was sent to the internet. Next year, the project will involve creating a display for the insulators,

donating some insulators that were used in the area, and continuing cataloging. The main con-

person

also has quite a bit of historical information about local the power plant and she is being encouraged to publish the information. with the help of the NIA if she wants. The local newspaper sent a reporter to the cover event and an article about

insulators.

tact

the NIA, and the cataloging trip was published.

3. Robert Winkler is coordinating donations of porcelain insulators for the Michigan City, Indiana trolley project. This will be an operating trolley line that seeks insulators from the early part of the 20th century. I'll staff an NIA table at the November Springfield, Ohio show so if you have insulators for this project or the Cleremont, Iowa museum that you would like to donate, you can bring them there.

Historian Report

1. The most interesting addition to the archives is a booklet by Jean-Pierre Volatron of France on a machine used to make glass insulators. With the help of Maria Mantorola, a French teacher at the College of Lake County, the book is being translated. Once translated, perhaps the author will make the translation available to English speaking members.

2. A new page has been added to the NIA web site listing significant

Robert Winkler is coordinating donations of porcelain insulators for the Michigan City, Indiana trolley project. This will be an operating trolley line that seeks insulators from the early part of the 20th century. I'll staff an NIA table at the November Springfield, Ohio show so if you have insulators for this project or the Cleremont, lowa museum that you would like to donate, you can bring them there.

events the hobby such as the publication of Woodward's CD chart (1967), the date the first Crown Jewels was published (1969),formation of NIA the (1973), and the creation of the NIA's web site (1998).Forty-one events are listed to date with related

photographs and links to more details included.

- 3. The obituary of Kevin Lawless plus numerous testimonials by collectors left on an internet site have been printed and placed into the archives. Photo albums formerly owned by Kevin are in the process of being added to the archives.
- 4. In December 2004, news reports from around the nation told the story of an Oregon couple who bought an insulator at a garage sale for a couple dollars and sold it on eBay for over \$10,000. These variations on a theme about the CD 180 Fluid Insulator sale make interesting reading about how different news organizations headline and highlight such stories. Copies of the reports were added to the archives due to the outpouring of people with insulators it produced.

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958
Museum Committee Chair

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Wow, what a Nat'l we had in San Jose, CA! So many insulators and new collectors. The newly elected Western VP, Mike Green, is busy with his new responsibilities. Now we turn our attention to the Central Region where in 2006 the membership will elect a new Central VP and all membership will elect an NIA President. This is where you as an NIA member can do your

part to exercise your membership privileges in a number of ways. If you know a member who would make a good candidate for either

Central VP or a NIA President, please let me know their name. If you, y o u r s e I f, would like to be considered for candidancy for either position please let me know. You

as a member have an obligation to the hobby to lend support in making our organization a stronger more informed group of collectors. You need to give back to the hobby your expertise. We need your support. Please remember that you must be a "member in good standing"that is, your

dues for 2006 are paid and received by February 15th in order to receive a ballot. The winter issue of Drip Points will carry the

Now we turn our

attention to the Central

Region where in 2006 the

membership will elect a

new Central VP and all

membership will elect an

NIA President.

names and biographical sketches of the candidates and come spring, ballots will be mailed to "members in good standing".

Thanks for your assistance, Jacque Linscott Barnes, NIA#1380

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA#1380 Nominations 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 PROMOTIONS CHAIR



The gathering in San Jose was quite a nice happening. If you missed it, you missed something special. I. and I'm sure as well as most every other attendee, congratulate the Nor Cal Club for sponsoring and producing a successful National Show. Dave Elliott and Colin Jung are to be commended for spearheading the gathering. Being both an N.I.A. and Nor Cal member, I must say it is events like this which presents our hobby in its finest light to both the membership and general public.

I observed many "people-off-thestreet" wandering in and then through

the show appearing both intrigued and interested in the hobby with purchases being made. I had several non-collectors stop at my tato ask probing questions about the whole gamut of insulator collecting. I was happy to serve as one of the many ambassadors for the N.I.A.. This should be a task we happily attend to, as, ously, it promotes our organization and sales of glass and porcelain. I know, I know, but it must be written again, we are our hobby's best salespeople. These delightful and inert hunks of glass and mud are much more likely to change hands with the entrance of new collectors...the more the merrier! Keep talkin' and spreadin' the faith!

My newly released DVD sold fairly well at the show, and not just to veteran collectors. I would say at least a dozen or more went to "newbies" and non-collectors. While laboring

produce

this DVD, it

to

was my constant hope that it would appeal to current and new collectors as well as to spark interest within the general public. I h a d а DVD/TV unit operating durina the entire run of the show. There never seemed to be moment when one or more persons

gathered

around to catch a moment or two. I witnessed many knowing smiles and chuckles as they watched. Naturally this made each day an extra delight. I can only hope sales persist and the DVD helps spread the word about our hobby, even in a very small part due to this professional look at "our world" and the people, glass, and mud in it. A fairly blatant commercial approaching...I guarantee you will be delighted if you purchase one of these DVD's, whether you're a grizzled veteran or new hobbvist. It really is a loving and entertaining look at collecting, why we do it, and examples of the jewels we have acquired. Contact me at bobmerzoian@mac.com or 1080 N. Scenic Dr. Porterville, Calif. 93257 for information, if interested.

A final comment, I'm not a loner any longer. I now have fellow Promotions Committee members: Tom and Lynda Katonak and Don

Briel. We met in the lounge at the Double durina Tree the show. It was the first official committee meeting. Whew. it sure is nice to have somebesides one myself to brainstorm with...I was feeling a bit schizophrenic to that point. We discussed many ways to promote the hobby and will continue via email and phone to get

projects underway. If you wish to be involved or have any ideas, please let us know. Thanks to all and goodbye for now.

Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941
Promotions Chairman

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of

I guarantee you will be delighted if you purchase one of these DVD's, whether you're a grizzled veteran or new hobbyist. It really is a loving and entertaining look at collecting, why we do it, and examples of the jewels we have acquired.

Contact me at bobmerzoian@mac.com or

1080 N. Scenic Dr.
Porterville, Calif. 93257
for information, if
interested.



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

2005 - 2006 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

Beginning Balance-General Fund Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account	7/1/04	10977.54 972.01 2296.75
Revenues		
Donations		
Membership Dues	10397	
Miscellaneous Income	700	
Product Sales	3199.85	
	Total Revenues	14296.85
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising	315	
Bank Charges, Taxes Fee	es & Ins. 978.66	
Marketing Products	2717.06	
Misc. Postage	1037.46	
Misc. Printing	1038.72	
Misc. Supplies	656.57	
Misc. Professional Service	s 70.31	
Crown Jewels Rebates	577	
Drip Points Printing	3042.93	
Drip Points Postage	564.71	
Show Advertising Subsidy	500	
Show Awards	698.53	
Stationery Supplies	0	
Telephone	0	
Special Projects	664.05	

Educational Disp Postage

Total Expenses	12861
Closing Balance, General Fund	12413.39
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures	0
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance	972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures	0
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance	<u>2296.75</u>
Total Balance on Hand June 30, 2005	15682.15

2005 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 First Past President 1024 Camino de Lucia Corrales, NM 87048 505-898-5592 tkatonak@comcast.net

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 Second Past President Richmond, VA 23233 804-364-1887 stevemelsam@comcast.net

Larry Novak, NIA #5889 Eastern Region VP 12604 Eldrid Court Silver Spring, MD 20904-3505 301-680-8910 insulators@sweetlucybrown.com

Ed Peters, NIA #6300 **Central Region VP** 5424 Dufferin Drive Savage, MN 55378 952-447-2422 edwardpeters@avaya.com

Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region VP 2513 S. Balsam St. Lakewood, CO. 80227-3135 303-763-9924 n2glass@qwest.net

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 Information Director 1102 West Aster Drive Phoenix, AZ 85029-2808 602-564-0815 kwjacob@icsaero.com

Glenn Drummond, NIA #537 **Secretary** 600 Co. Road 87, Notasulga, AL 36866 334-257-3100 pat.eighteenseventyone@verizon.net

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer 8 Tremont Trace Wimberly, TX 78676 512-847-7302 iackroach@email.msn.com

Joe Beres, NIA #563 Membership Director 1315 Old Mill Path Broadview Heights, OH 44147 440-526-3478 jjjb@aol.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Lou Hall, NIA #7185 Awards and Recognition 363 West Stuart Ave. Fresno, CA. 93704-1544 559-435-1740 louhall@pacbell.net

Charles Bibb, NIA #6097 Ethics P.O. Box 1 Inverness, MS 38753-0001 662-265-5134 zedkay@bellsouth.net

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian 4086 Blackstone Avenue Gurnee, IL 60031 847-782-8602 com574@clc.cc.il.us

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

3557 Nicklaus Drive Titusville, FL 32780-5356 407-267-9170 bluebellwt@aol.com

John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification

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

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

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



PRODUCT MARKETING THE 'FALL' SCOOP



NIA Product Marketing sold well in Julythanks to the San Jose National!
New colors just in for women's polo's !!! Hint, Hintgreat gift for the ladies!!
Badges and Club bars continue to be a great avenue for conversation and interaction amongst collectors. These are the BIGGEST sellers!!!
Clothing styles, sizes &/or colors, not represented on the order form, are always available by special order. Give me a call or an email.
See the NIA website for photos / printable order form and more details on the items offered: www.nia.org
hardrate all value amproved the NTA vitle their purpleases in our last fixed vecy. We had

Thanks to all who supported the NIA with their purchases in our last fiscal year. We had a record sales year!

Your purchases help support the endeavors of the hobby, including sanctioned local, regional and National shows.

As always I appreciate your ideas and feedback!



In Support of our Insulator Hobby, Carolyn Berry

2005 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

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

Joe J. Beres NIA Membership Director

1315 Old Mill Path Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147-3276 E-MAIL: JJJB@AOL.COM

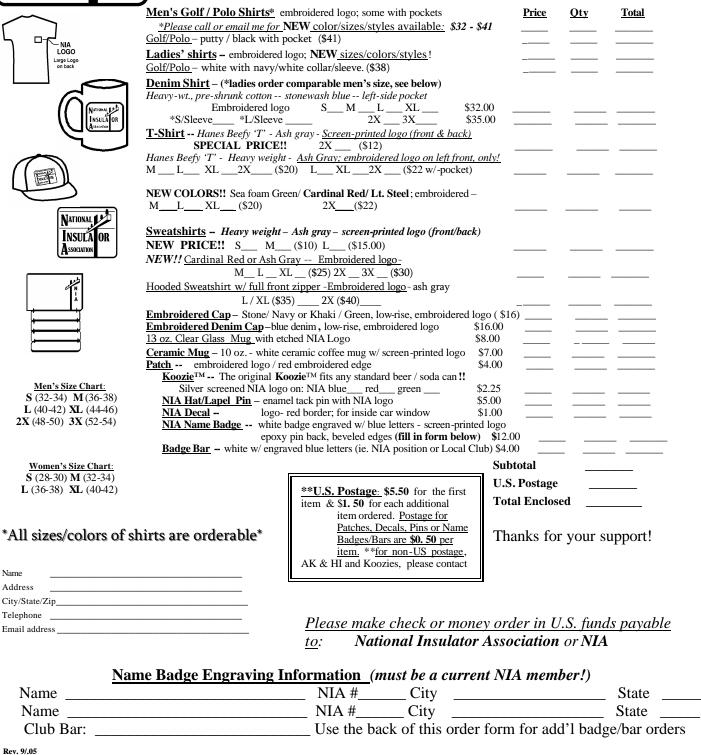
Note New Dues Schedule!



	Club or Organization-				W.
	appropriate Class)		Family		
(Check	Please Print	Single year_	Multi-ye		
	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	he Annual NIA/Cr	own Jewels Directory	Yes	_ No
	Please include my Tel	ephone Number		Yes	No
	Please include my E-M	Mail Address		Yes	No
Note: (Ch	I Would like to Receiveck Only One Choice)			_	Electronic
Name		Additional	Family Members	N	Nia# (If Renewal)
1					
2					
3					
4					
Signed					
Date		Amo	ount Enclosed \$		



Fall 2005 www.nia.org/products





THE EIC ECHO

The Official Newsletter of the *Enchantment Insulator Club* **Editor:** Rick J. Bentley - 505-772-5627 Insulator-king@gilanet.com
US Hwy 60, HCR 32 Box 205, Datil, NM 87821

| Volume 7, Issue 2 | 8 August, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MACHINE

By Mike Gay: EIC President

The next EIC meeting will be held at the Davenport residence on Saturday, August 21 starting at 11 AM. Bring your interesting items for show & tell. Be sure and RSVP to Davenports if you plan to attend - 281-9036

The 2004 Western Regional Show in Denver, CO is 3 weeks away...August 27-29! Check out the website at: http://home.earthlink.net/~n2glass/NIA2004.htm Mike Green & Galen Howard have done an outstanding job in promoting this event, and it is expected to be a "Mini National". Volunteers are still needed for this show & sale, and I have attached a Volunteer Form in this issue. [Ed.- see page 7] Help is needed with security, set-up & knock-down, front-table assistance, etc. If you plan to attend & can help please contact Mike through the website listed. Also, I have been placed in charge of judging for this show...if you are interested in judging displays at this event, please contact me at cdn102@comcast.net.

I will be driving to the show and can transport one other EIC member from the Albuquerque/Santa Fe/Las Vegas NM area in my truck...if you are willing to share gas expenses etc & would like to attend just let me know.

And of course....the **Seventeenth Annual EIC-NMHBS Show** will be held September 24-25 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 9500 Constitution Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM. Dealer setup & trading will be Friday, 4-8 PM and we open to the public on Saturday from 8:30AM-4PM (Public).Tom Katonak has the show packets out & we have advertising in CJ, various bottle magazines, and in the show directory for last month's National Show in New Kensington, PA. Tom is still looking for help with the show so contact him if you can assist.

I wish to welcome new member Arthur McConnachie from Alamosa, CO, EIC#48. Also, thanks to all of you for getting your dues in this year!

Upcoming Events in chronological order:

- National Insulator Association Western Regional Show and Sale, August 27-29. Denver CO. Marriott Southeast, 6363 E. Hampden Ave., Denver, CO 80222. For room reservations at the Marriott call (303) 758-7000. Mention the NIA Western Regional Show for a special \$59.00 room rate good from August 23 to August 29, 2004! Special NIA group trip on the Georgetown Loop Narrow Gauge Railroad on Friday, August 27. The weekend will include a Raffle, Treasure hunt, seldom seen display, banquet and more. For information and show packets contact: MIKE GREEN, NIA 3175, (303) 763-9924, Email: n2glass@earthlink.net or GALEN HOWARD, NIA 7396, (719)-592-9404, ghconsulting@adelphia.net. Visit the website at: http://home.earthlink.net/~n2glass/NIA2004.htm
- Enchantment Insulator Club Seventeenth Annual Show, Fri-Sat September 24-25, Albuquerque, NM. St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Venue Tentative), 9500 Constitution Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM, Friday, 4-8 PM (Dealer setup & trading), Saturday, 8:30AM-4PM (Public), Info: TOM KATONAK, 1024 Camino de Lucia, Corrales, New Mexico 87048. (505) 898-5592. Email: tkatonak@comcast.net; or MIKE GAY (505) 899-8755. Email: cdn102@comcast.net.
- Annual OK SWAP MEET Saturday October 9, Oklahoma City: Warwick Estates Club House The Club House is located next to a lake and park area. Set up time is from 8:30 AM to 9:30AM, Swap Meet from 9:30 AM to 2PM. Tables are free and provided ONLY to those who reserve in advance. The location is far northwest OKC. From the intersection of N.W. 122nd and MacArthur drive south .25 mile to Woodbridge, turn right. Go west .2 mile and turn left at Warwick Club House sign. Address is 6060 Woodbridge, OKC, OK 73162 INFO: SANDY ELLISON, 11825 Lanceshire Cir, OKC, OK 73162. Phone (405) 721-6578. E-Mail:

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Rick Bentley: Editor

Greetings everyone.

The time has gone by much too quickly for me, and I have to start another newsletter. Tom Katonak has contributed several articles with a lot of great photos, and I hope you enjoy them.

The national is over, and while I did not attend, I heard from feedback on ICON [Insulator Collectors On the Net] that it was a great time.

The EIC fall show is coming up soon, I hope you are all ready for it!

In the meantime, plan to meet at Dwayne Davenports home for our next meeting. See map on opposite page for directions.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello Insulator Collector Friends:

I have enjoyed the newsletters from your club even though I am too far away to attend any of the club events. The *EIC ECHO* is an excellent publication and I hope that you will keep up the good work in the club and in providing all the interesting information.

Enclosed is US 10 dollars to renew my membership for another year. Please up-date your records and send the next newsletter when issued.

The use of colour pictures in the newsletter certainly makes it all more interesting and it is good to hear of the members locating various insulators for their collections. Although I collect a few insulators, my main hobby is collecting telephones and related material. After 35 years, I am still collecting a few items now and then. Insulators do turn up from yard/garage sales and junk shops, but as usual, many are over-priced even if they are common types or in damaged condition. A few open wire lines are still in use in this region, but they only have common glass or porcelain on them.

All the best to all in the club and it is good to be a member. Keep up the good work and I look forward to the next newsletter.

Kind regards,

Wayne Junop Ontario Canada

Ed Note; Hello Wayne, thanks for your kind words. It's great to hear from our most distant member! If you ever get down this way, we'd like to take you on one of our field trips – and mebbe show you where some old telephones are stashed! RJB

RATON TAILGATER

By Tom Katonak

A 4 AM wake-up and a beautiful drive across the eastern plains of New Mexico brought us to the city park in the north side of the historic town of Raton New Mexico – and the site for our almost annual joint EIC/Triple Ridge Tailgater.

Lynda and I were the first to arrive, but it wasn't long before stalwart Ross Thompson showed up and started unloading tons of great glass on this overcast and cool morning of 15 May. And shortly, the others began to arrive.

First Mike Gay showed up, and just behind came Mike Miller, Eddie and Savannah Lewis, Russ Hughes, Bob and Judy Bunker, Rob Gilkerson, Scott Utash, Arthur McConnachie, Ray Curiel, Matt Poage and Duane Davenport. It seemed like each had some new find or show-'n-tell to draw the groups interest. All told, we had eight EIC members present!

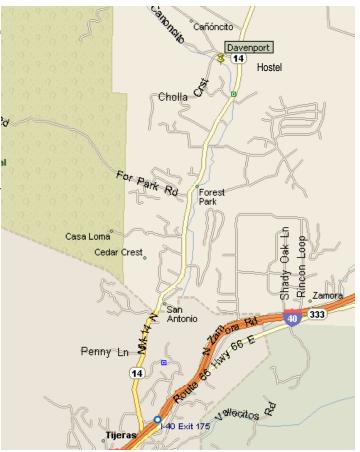


Bob and Judy Bunker Shop for Bargains

Directions to Davenports

- 1. Take I-40 to the NORTH Hwy 14 exit & go NORTH, not south, on Hwy 14. Turnoff to Canoncito Drive is 3.6 miles north of this point.
- 2. You'll pass a Texaco station on the right. Keep going.
- Cedar Crest Post Office on your right...you're now a few blocks away
- 4. On your LEFT, look for a road called only "Canoncito"; take it left off Hwy 14.
- Since you're an insulator collector, immediately look up at the power line on the right (north) side. Notice about two blocks ahead it crosses diagonally over the road to a power pole on the LEFT side.
- That power pole marks the entrance to our driveway. It's also the first PAVED road on the LEFT side of Canoncito you will encounter.
- 7. Once on the driveway you'll see old metal farm wheels along our fence line. Turn in the first entrance to the right....you made it!

Call us if you get lost....281-9036.



Besides lots of great glass, Ross Thompson showed up with an old telephone line choke and it took Mike Miller's in-depth knowledge to explain how it was used to protect phone lines from lightning damage.



Duane displayed a new Piano Insulator find in a brilliant uranium glass green and Bob bunker showed up with a strange purple glass container which we still haven't figured out. Matt Poage had a large blue McLaughlin bottle that got everyone's attention.

Mike Miller Explains Use of Electrical Choke

There wasn't a lot of walk-through traffic as the sun came out and the clouds gave way to a gorgeous day, but there was great buying and selling among the "in-group"! A number of "locals" dropped in and we checked out a couple of "collections" stashed in various Raton backyards – and as might be predicted, these turned out to be piles of "trashalators"! But – you just never know!

By 2 PM, we called it a success and began to pack things leaving the park as quiet as we had found it.



King of the Amber Brookfields



Stained CanPac Donated to the NIA Fake's Collection



Duane's Uranium Glass Piano Insulator



Savannah Lewis Finds a Good One



A Sampling of Great Color



Bob Bunker's Mystery Piece



Ross Thompson Unpacks Super Glass

EIC/TRIPLE RIDGE FIELD TRIPS

By Tom Katonak

As if the Tailgater wasn't enough, there were two field trips tagged on to make the entire weekend an insulator feast – thanks to the advanced planning of insulator historian Mike Miller!

It started Saturday afternoon at the close of the tailgater. Mike took the group of veteran searchers on a hunt in the Raton Pass corridor where the early 1900's Denver to El Paso Phone line lies in close proximity to the A.T.& S.F. telegraph line. We had permission from the owners of the Valentine Ranch to search along the scenic section on the south side of Raton Pass for the turn-of-thecentury telephone insulators and the older telegraph lines of the railway.

This is a very beautiful area of deep gorges and conifer forests populated by miles of open wire loaded with insulators.



Group Converges with Finds of the Day

We trekked several miles up the grade checking out both lines and marveling at the variety of insulators still in the air. The old phone line had mostly newer glass on the poles, but searching the ground turned up lots of early tolls – mostly Am-Tels. The railway lines were populated with early beehives, Hemingray and Brookfield 152s, and a number of old H.G.Co. 151s.



Arthur McConnachie Checking Out Denver-El Paso Line

We didn't find a lot of insulators for the collection, but the scenery and associated "photo-ops" were extraordinary! And you can't walk along old rail-road grades without finding something interesting. In this case, we found several pieces of porcelain battery jar lids, all embossed "Edison".

We ended the day with a fine dinner in Raton and bedded down for the night.

Sunday morning broke sunny and clear as we continued the venture, this time starting in Trinidad Colorado.



Toll Line Crossing Over the AT&SF Rail Line

Mike took us to an old ranch northeast of town and we were all amazed to see Mickey Mice and mine insulators still in the air! Apparently the mine insulators had seen prior use in the coal mines which dot the region.

Traveling north, we got on the old grade of the Denver and Rio Grand RR east of Aguilar and spent several hours walking the old line looking for artifacts. This section of the line had been dismantled in the 1930s and there were no rails, ties or poles left. But there was plenty of stuff on the ground. At the site of an old stage station, we found old pottery, a broken millstone, and other relics of a bygone age. Lots of old insulators were to be found, including blobtops, 133s, 145s and 152s.



Mickey Mice Still in the Air!



Mike Miller Surveys Relics of an Earlier Day



: Mine Insulator in Use!



Scott Utash with Old AM-TEL Toll



Spanish Peaks Keep Watch Over the Territory



Old Things Along the D&RG Railway



A Great Horned Owl Keeps Watch Over the Proceedings!



The Old Walsenburg Power House



We Need a Lineman Here!



2004 NIA Western Regional
Denver Marriott Southeast
6363 E. Hampden Ave.
Denver, CO 80222
303-758-7000
August 26 - 29, 2004
We Need Volunteers For The Show



If you are willing to help at the show please fill out the information below and return this form to Mike Green.

	Family members and mends ar	e aiso more than wei	icome to neip.	
lame	Telephone		Email	
	You may volunteer for as littl	e or as much as you	would like.	
	I will be a carpool driver on the Thursday I will help with the Frida We need people to help w	y night set-up starting a	at 5:00 PM.	Railroad.
I will work main ent	rance security or front table check-in on Saturda La	ay:Early morning te afternoon	gLate mornir	ngEarly afternoon
I will work mair	n entrance security or front table on Sunday:	Early morning	Late morning _	Early afternoon
	I will help with breaking dow			
	*All volunteers will have free ac		e entire show.	
	Please retu	rn this form to:		

Mike Green
2513 S. Balsam St.
Lakewood, CO 80227
303-763-9924
n2glass@earthlink.net
http://home.earthlink.net/~n2glass/NIA2004.htm

EXPLORING MADRID

By Tom Katonak

On a warm sunny day in the latter part of April, several of us went on an exploratory field trip to the old mining town of Madrid New Mexico. The idea was to look at the potential for a club trip to the area and also to scope out the starting point of the power line that ran from Madrid to the old mining camps of Bland and Albermarl in the Jemez Mountains to the west.

Club member and local historian of the Turquoise Trail and environs, Todd Brown, was our quide.

We first visited the old power plant that generated the power for both the town of Madrid and the mining camps some 30 miles distant. Madrid came to be as the result of coal in the area and the need for this resource by the A.T. & S. F. railroad when it came through in the 1890s. Interestingly, the power lines used the large glass CD 283 Converse insulators and many of these were in a beautiful Hemingray blue color. The only thing left of the plant is the foundation walls and the old steam piping. But throughout the area are the littered remnants of the operation: Old equipment, power panels, electrical apparatus, wires, insulators....

A short distance to the north of the plant proper are the other old buildings which were part of the operation; repair shops, storage buildings and the like. These are now part of the local museum. (It was in this area that Jim Garcia found half of a Boston Bottle several years ago!) This was a weekday morning and no one else was around, so we had the "run of the place" – and it was fascinating looking at all the historical items scattered about and poking through the old buildings.

Stay tuned for a full-scale upcoming trip to this fascinating area!



Large Power Frame at Power Plant Site



Mike Prokopenko Climbs for a Pony!



Old Steam Pipe Network in Power Plant



The Area Poles Show Heavy Use!



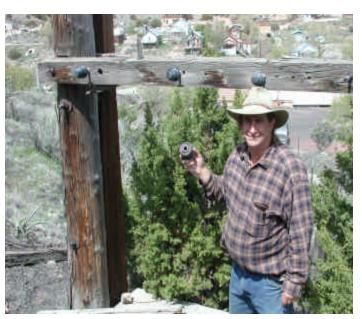
A Turbine Blade from the Steam Generator



BIG Insulator! Buss bar system.



Scattered Remnants of the Power Plant



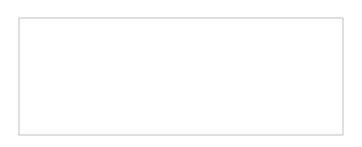
Todd Brown and the Spool of Mud

Enchantment Insulator Club



HCR 32 Box 205 Datil, NM 87821

TO



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