

# **Drip Points**



#### **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

drippoints@nia.org http://www.nia.org

#### In this issue of *Drip Points*:

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#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone, It's getting pretty close to National time now, and I have to say that I am counting the days. I started going to the Mid Ohio show a couple of years ago. That show is hosted by the same

folks (and is in the building next door) as this years National held June 26 - 29 (Thu - Sun). I want to tell you, that just as I will not miss a National show, I will also not miss a Mid Ohio show. Steve & Lois Blair and Glenn and Sandra Drummond do a wonderful job with the Mid Ohio show, and It is with great anticipation that I await this years National.

What really makes a National for me is turnout. By this I mean both the folks and the insulators. The turnout in this area at Mid Ohio shows has been excellent in the past, and with this being a National, and in such close proximity to so many large population centers, well hold on to your hat, it's going to be big!

Then there are the insulators, some wonderful pieces have come out of this area. I would highly encourage anyone who can make it to the show to try hard. You will not be disappointed. Sales tables are sold out, and at last count I heard there were close to 170 of them!

I will certainly be at the National as will most of the folks contributing in this *Drip Points* I hope to see you there. I will be sitting just inside the door next to long time and well know collector Dwayne Anthony. Stop by and say hello.

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I've gotten a number of favorable comments from members about the color spread on questionable insulators we did in the Spring Is-

sue of Drip Points. Most were delighted that we've finally put down in print just what those items are that we suspect (but can't yet prove) are fake. We're still working on the next installment which will provide color coverage of altered insulators. This is a far more difficult area to delve into as there are so many ways to alter glass objects. I can't promise just when

we'll have all this together, but stay tuned!

The next big event on the docket is the 34<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Springfield, Ohio come the 26<sup>th</sup> of June. Steve Blair and Glenn Drummond report that they are on track to host a long-to-beremembered show. For example, at last count, there were thirty-nine exhibits in the line-up...this could be an all-time record!

While on the subject of shows, this has been a frustrating quarter for trying to get the NIA shows scheduled for 2004. At issue, we have had a real lack of quality bids coming in. We are well past the bid submittal deadline and we still

don't have a National show site selected, nor either of the attendant regional events. We <u>do</u> have some prospects – that is "draft bids" – but it's going to be difficult to get everything lined up in time to make the announcements at the Springfield National.

Now let me shift my attention to something known as the "Hobby Protection Act": Have any of you ever heard of this? Let me go back a few years. In September 1997, then NIA By-Laws Chairman Steve Marks conducted some legal research while preparing to rewrite the NIA Code of Ethics. His research efforts led to a review of the "Hobby Protection Act." This

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act is a 1973 Federal Statute that currently protects two hobbies: coin collecting and political campaign memorabilia. The Act requires that reproductions in these hobbies be permanently marked with the date of manufacture and the word "copy."

Fast-forwarding to 2003, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which administers the Act, has opened the Act up for public comment. In March, Steve learned that the National Association of Collectors (NAC) and the Association of Collecting Clubs (ACC), were lobbying for an expansion of the Act to cover other antique and collectible areas having problems with unmarked reproductions and

fantasy items. Steve brought this to the attention of the NIA Board, and it was the Board's consensus that the NIA should weigh-in with a statement as to how such items have affected our hobby, and to lobby the FTC to include insulators as a Federally protected hobby.

Toward the end of April, I prepared a statement describing the insulator hobby, the NIA and the effect of imitation insulators on the hobby, and submitted it to the FTC for their consideration. The main theme of the statement was that imitation and altered insulators threaten to undermine the hobby because they are becoming evermore prevalent. I made the point

that to date, our emphasis has been on educating insulator collectors about the known fakes on the market, but that this alone was inadequate to stem the flow of bogus items. The statement can be viewed in its entirety on the NIA's website. The potential impact for the hobby here is that if insulators were to be included under the umbrella of the HPA, we would have another tool to use against those pro-

ducing imitation and altered insulators. We would now be able to bring criminal proceedings against those involved with the manufacture and distribution of unmarked reproductions. As it stands at present, we have a criminal case only if the distribution of fakes is accomplished through the US Mail, so having this additional avenue for prosecution of criminal acts will be quite helpful in our campaign to rid the hobby of bogus items. We will advise you of any response received from the FTC and/or any change to the law.

The next topic of interest concerns the NIA show insurance. For many years, the NIA has pur-

(Continued on page 3)

chased liability insurance for Clubs/show hosts could shows. pay a nominal fee of \$25 to the NIA for specific event coverage, saving \$200 or more as compared to providing similar independent coverage. Having access to such insurance has become evermore important as more and more show venues are making contracts contingent on having liability coverage. To date, the cost of this annual policy has been \$300. However, when the renewal came up this past March, the new premium was \$3.000! Wow! This is a huge and immediate problem considering both the Springfield National

and the San Jose Regional have a mandatory requirement for liability insurance. Several board members went to work to find an affordable replacement policy - to no avail. However, I am happy to report that yesterday, Treasurer Dudley Ellis was able to negotiate a policy with an annual premium of \$750! So the problem is resolved for at least another year. To all you show hosts out there, take advantage of this deal! Tell Dudley Ellis you need insurance for vour event and he will obtain the coverage. (We anticipate the cost will be in the order of \$50 per show-day - we're working those

details now.)

In closing, I must pass on the sad news that long-time NIA member Dick Gay of Worcester, MA passed away this past March. Dick was a devoted member of our hobby and a collector of rare insulators in extraordinary condition. More than that, he was a friend to all insulator collectors, and an inspiration to young people coming into the hobby. May he rest in peace.

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 NIA President

## FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



I wish that the NIA Board could update you in detail on the progress of the U.S. Postal Inspectors' investigation into, among other items, the manufacture of imitation E.C.&M. insulators, but we have been asked not to. As I stated in my column in the last issue of "Drip Points," the Postal Inspectors have received claims from numerous victims in excess of \$100,000. The inspectors have compiled additional physical evidence including numerous specimens submitted by the complaining victims. The investigation is expected to continue for quite some time. Typically these matters can take up to a year to prepare before they are presented to a Grand Jury and/or tried. And, of course, the inspectors have many other cases to handle. Once the preliminary work has been completed on the criminal investigation, the NIA Board Members will share the evidence with the NIA General Membership. Again, thank you for your patience and understand-

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**General Membership**.

As noted in President Tom Katonak's column, the NIA has submitted a statement urging the Federal

ing.

Trade Commission to include the insulator hobby under the Hobby Protection Act. I would urge you to read the full text of Tom's statement which is currently posted on the NIA's website, <a href="https://www.nia.org">www.nia.org</a>.

Shortly after attending the Yuma show, Melanie slipped in a restaurant (water on a tile floor), and severely injured her knee. At the time of my writing this, she is set for surgery tomorrow morning. This coupled with some staff changes at my business and summer schedule changes, have cast a serious doubt on my ability to attend this year's National. Although I am hoping otherwise, if I do miss the National it will be the first Board Meeting/Show that I will have missed since 1998. So, if

you do not see me, you now know why.

The NIA
Board is always looking
for enthusiastic volunteers.
If you have a
desire to
serve on an NIA

Committee, or have issues that you would like to see the NIA address, please contact one of the Board Members or Jack Roach, the NIA's Nominations Chairperson.

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 NIA First Past President

## FROM THE WESTERN REGION



Greetings from the West.

Dave Elliott advises that, as of the deadline for Drip Points, 98 percent of the tables for the 2003 Western Regional Show are reserved. That's 80 of 82 tables already taken. And, Dave says, all of them are reserved by insulator collectors & dealers.

Additionally, 96 percent of the display tables have been reserved. That's 23 of the 24 available

spaces.

The show will be held August 8 - 10th at the Doubletree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place at Highway 101

If you'd like to attend a

casual backyard insulator

swap meet in barbeque, I

invite you to my home in

Merlin, Oregon on July 19.

and First Street
in San Jose,
California.
Early lookers
can get in
starting at
10:00 AM Friday. General
admission at
12:30. Satur-

day hours will be 9:00 to 4:00 and Sunday 9;00 to 2:00.

The Western Regional will also feature one huge drawing for a fabulous "collection" of insulators worth an estimated \$3,000. For details about the show or raffle, contact Dave Eliott at 650-988-1893 or Bill Rohde at 530-473-2461. The show is sponsored by the Nor-Cal Insulator Club.

If you'd like to attend a casual

backyard insulator swap meet in barbeque, I invite you to my home in Merlin, Oregon on July 19. The Jefferson State Insulator Club will host the event. Everyone's wel-

> come. Call me for details and directions, 541-479-8348.

Have a great summer.

Howard Banks, NIA #900 Western Region Vice President

#### ...DRIP NOTES

- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsored insurance is available for information on some of the available companies contact: Kevin Jacobson (NIA Information Director) at 602-564-0851 or kwjacob@uswest.net
- Want to play a bigger part in the NIA? Volunteers are always needed. Write to Tom Katonak and tell him what you're good at!
- Moving? Send change of address to Joe Beres (and save us the cost of resending your copy of *Drip Points*. *Each returned Drip Points costs the NIA \$0.85 plus the cost of printing it in the first place*).

## FROM THE CENTRAL REGION



Greetings Fellow Collectors.

I am a firm believer in two things:

1. That history does repeat itself.

That we can learn from history to prevent mistakes.

2. Caveat Emptor let the buyer beware. The Roman's were on to something here that we need to learn from.

Eight years ago there

was a gentleman that dealt in fancy perfume bottles and dabbled in insulators at the local antique shows around Minneapolis. I knew him to buy cobalt blue CD

162 insulators for the \$50 to \$100 range and then resell them for \$300-\$400. Eight years ago that was a pretty steep price, and a pretty shameless markup. At the first NorthWestern Insulator Club show we had a couple of people that had bought insulators from that dealer at our show. Thev were surprised at the vast difference in insulator prices, from what they had paid. They received a hard education. At the time I was seeing this happen, I was adamant that the dealer was the number two most evil man in the world just under Saddam.

Now move to the present.

Most insulators offered at shows and E-bay are legitimate. However, just as in the bottle-collecting hobby, greed has moved some individuals to create rarity and profit from it. Whether creating a copy of a rare insulator, enhancing an insulators color or misrepresenting a piece as an insulator when it isn't. It's all-detestable. How many times have you seen someone pay money for an altered insulator on E-bay, sometimes big money? By my count it's a few hundred in the last 5 years. Or how many times have you seen a middle range piece sell for 2-10 times it's current value?

For every seller of a fakery, there needs to be a buyer. For every seller of an over priced insulator there needs to be a buyer. There is a pattern developing here. If an insulator sells for far over it's cur-

fine, they can do that. Just don't try to sell them at a NIA sanctioned show if they aren't permanently marked. If someone really wants to pay more than the current value for an insulator, more power to him or her. It's their money; they can and will do with it what they want.

All of us as members of the NIA we have a responsibility to help educate collectors so that they understand what is out there. That doesn't mean we become Ebay police, it just means that we continue to do what we've been doing. Sanctioning clubs, shows, having displays and reporting the questionable pieces that are out there.

Happy Educated Collecting,

Ed Peters, NIA #6300 Central Region Vice President

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rent or perceived value at auction.
That's not the seller's fault.

What I'm trying to say here is that it's the buyer that determines the value of an object. It's the buyer's responsibility to determine if an insulator is fraud or over valued. The buyer has the ultimate responsibility to research the hobby and understand what they are getting into. This includes educating yourself in the current values of insulators and the fakery that is out there. If someone wants to own all altered glass insulators

# FROM THE EASTERN REGION



Summertime comments from the Eastern Regional V.P.

I hope everybody is geared up for the summer collecting season! Garage sales, flea markets, and the opportunity to take vacations to different parts of the country can sometimes yield rewards for those searching for a new piece for the collection.

I've had the good fortune to attend three insulator shows so far this year. The first was the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club's Maryland Line show on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Although the weather was unseasonable (snow and fog) the show was well attended, and many nice insulators changed hands. The highlight for me was seeing a NM Emmingers, one of my long time favorite insulators.

The Western Reserve Club hosted their third annual show at the Heritage Museum in Tarentum PA on March 29th. Although a small show, it was fairly well attended. The number of collectors who come to this show has increased steadily every year. I picked up a few new porcelain for the collection, as well as a couple of CD145 CREB's I didn't have.

The Yankee Polecat's spring show in Enfield, CT was held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Kudos to John Rajpolt and other club members for taking

over the reins and continuing to host this excellent show in its present location. The show hall was crowded

One of the trends I've noticed with all the shows in the last year or so is that both dealer participation and attendance has been down a bit.

for most of the day, and some individuals were seen making multiple trips to the car with bags of goodies.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio Club Bottle Show in Mansfield, OH due to a prior commitment with the Cub Scouts. The Western Reserve Insulators Club (AGAIN! Man, those guys are busy!) hosted the insulator, LRB, and other "gowiths" show in one of the show halls. I hear things went well, and a few bargains were found on dealers' tables.

One of the trends I've noticed with all the shows in the last year or so is that both dealer participation and attendance has been down a bit. This is to be expected, what with the economy as it is, and now with the events in the Middle East this is certainly understandable. Also, I've noticed quite a few new collectors attending the shows, most of whom had previously collected on their own or purchased off of E-Bay. The comments I re-

ceived were positive, most had never seen so many insulators in one place, and never thought other collectors would be so helpful! This is what collecting

is all about. Auctions are great places to get certain insulators, don't get me wrong, but there's a lot to be said for attending a local show or swap meet. We need this "people" aspect of the hobby- it's one of the main reasons I've collected for so long.

Good luck in you endeavors, whatever they might be. I hope to see some of you at a show later this year!

Ken Willick, NIA #3709
Eastern Region Vice President

# FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Where did Spring go? Temperatures in South Texas are in the mid 90's and it's time for me to go to the New Mexico high country where it will be much cooler.

The calls for Central Region Vice President candidates must have fallen on deaf ears. Only one brave soul stepped up to the plate. This individual will be re-elected by acclimation at the Springfield National. I want to thank this indi-

vidual for stepping forward.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the National.

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations Chairman







## **NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

# 34th ANNUAL INSULATOR SHOW

A "NATIONAL" REMINISCENT OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

June 26 - 29, 2003 SPRINGFIELD, OHIO Clark County Exposition Center (Exit 59 off I - 70) Mercantile and Annex Buildings



#### **HIGHWAY ACCESS:**

- I-70 The Clark County Exposition Center is located on the north side of I-70 at exit 59. The Holiday Inn is located on the north side of I-70 at exit 54 (383 Leffel Lane).
- **From I-75** The Clark County Exposition Center is located at exit 59 on I-70, 27 miles east of the intersection of I-75 and I-70. The Holiday Inn is located on the north side of I-70. at exit 54 (383 Leffel Lane).
- From I-71 The Clark County Exposition Center is located at exit 59 on I-70, 31 miles west of the intersection of I-71 with I-70. The Holiday Inn is located on the north side of I-70 at exit 54 (383 Leffel Lane).

#### **AIR TRAVEL:**

- Dayton Airport. The most convenient air terminal to the show site is the Dayton Airport located 31 miles west of the Clark County Exposition Center and 27 miles west of the Holiday Inn. No shuttle service is available. Most major rental car companies serve the airport.
- Columbus Airport. The show site is located 51 miles west of the Columbus Airport on I-70 at exit 59; the Holiday Inn is five miles further west at exit 54. The Holiday Inn is located on the north side of I-70 at exit 54 (383 Leffel Lane). No shuttle service is available. Most major rental car companies serve the airport.

#### **MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

- The Holiday Inn I70 Exit 54 Springfield South will serve as the show headquarters all NIA and special events will be held at this location. Special rates will be available for show attendees: \$69.00 for the first night and \$62.00 for each additional night. Reservations must be made prior to June 6, 2003 to take advantage of the special rate. Call 1-937-323-8631 and be sure to identify yourself as an attendee of the 2003 NIA National Insulator Show when making reservations to obtain the special rate. Here a link for more information about this hotel. Remember in order to get the special NIA rates call the number above and mention the NIA show!
- Other motels are located in the immediate vicinity. Attendees will encounter the prevailing rates at the time reservations are made. More information can be found at <a href="http://www.springfield-clarkcountyohio.info">http://www.springfield-clarkcountyohio.info</a>

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** (or what's goin' on where and when)

#### THURSDAY - 26 JUNE.

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. NIA Board of Directors Meeting - Springfield Holiday Inn South.

3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dealers may unload stock and equipment (no dealer table setup permitted).

3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Displayers may (are encouraged to) unload and set up displays.

7:30 p.m. Building closed and secured for the night.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. "Welcome to Springfield Social" - Springfield Holiday Inn South.

#### FRIDAY - 27 JUNE.

6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Dealer and display setup (it's gonna be a long day!)

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Show open to NIA members only (it would be better to renew your membership

before you arrive). Breakfast, lunch, and snacks available in the show hall.

Throughout the day Glass manufacturing techniques, Fred Wilkerson, Wilkerson Glass Co.

4:15 p.m. Building closed and secured for the night.

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. NIA Annual Membership Meeting. Springfield Holiday Inn South. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Collector's Seminar. "Research and Search: Hunting For Buried Treasure."

By Bob Harding and an assortment of friends. Eat early, 'cause you gonna like this, ah gar-rohn-tee!!

#### SATURDAY - 28 JUNE.

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Show Building open to dealers and displayers. (sleep in a couple of hours) 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Show open to public admittance. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks available. Throughout the day Glass manufacturing techniques, Fred Wilkerson, Wilkerson Glass Co.

4:15 p.m. Building closed and secured for the night.

5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Happy Hour (cash bar). Springfield Holiday Inn South. 6:30 p.m. to ---- p.m. NIA Awards Banquet. Springfield Holiday Inn South.

#### SUNDAY - 29 JUNE.

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Show Building open to dealers and displayers (another half-hour to sleep).

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Show open to public admittance.

12:00 noon Don't even think about starting to pack up!

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Dealer and Displayer pack up and depart for home.

5:00 p.m. until dark plus 30. Steve & Lois and Glenn & Sandra enjoy "Happy Hour" at an undisclosed location.

## Please mail your <u>reservations</u> for the annual NIA AWARDS BANQUET <u>not later than 12 June</u>.

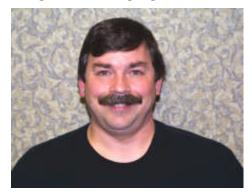
Show Hosts must submit the total number of attendees to the Catering Office by the close of business on 15 June. Sorry but no reservations can be accepted after that date - so please act now!

The banquet will be a "meat and 'taters Saturday night dinner" fit for the local farmers and served up buffet style (you gotta serve your own plate). The meal will consist of two entrees (that's meat for most of us), vegetables, rolls, and a dessert. \$17.00 per adult (\$8.50 for young'uns between 5 and 12, no charge for the little folks). Plan to be seated at 6:30 p.m., Saturday 28 June. Presentation of awards for the "best of" all sorts of things will follow the meal. Show your appreciation for the extra efforts of your fellow collectors by attendance at the awards banquet. Send reservations to Lois Blair, 105 State Route 56 SW, London, Ohio 43140, or, if you have questions, call Steve at 740-852-3148 (e-mail: csob50@aol.com if all else fails). See y'all at supper.

SHOW HOSTS Steve & Lois Blair 105 State Route 56 SW London, Ohio 43140 740-852-3148 SHOW HOSTS
Glenn & Sandra Drummond
600 County Road 87
Notasulga, Alabama 36866
334-257-3100
pat.eighteenseventyone@verizion.net
and the National Trail Insulator Club



#### FROM THE HISTORIAN



#### Milestones in the Hobby

Someday someone is going to update the history of the hobby and, when they do, I think there are some milestones they should recognize. Some of these are clearly marked with well known architects. Others seem to pass unnoticed and only when many of them have passed do you realize it but would find it difficult to know who set the first one.

The publication of insulators in color is one of those clearly marked milestones. The first issue of the CJ to feature color was the November 1987 issue. first insulator reference book with color was Lvnn R. Stuart's 1968 book titled Stuart's Insulator Guide that had 2 pages of color showing 24 insulators. That same year, James L. Hill and Edward Pickett published An Insulator Book for Collectors that had a color cover showing insulators. A year later in 1969, Marvin & Helen Davis included four pages of color pictures of 20 insulators in their book Bottles & Relics. Internationally, W. Keith Neal showed 7 insulators in color in his 1982 book, Searching for Railway Telegraph Insulators. Better color came with the McDougald's 1990 book titled Insulators: A History and Guide to North American Glass Pintype Insulators. This book showed the range of colors that insulators came in and applied names to those colors. Only with the publication of Bruner's (2000) *Definitive Guide to Colorful Insulators* did the hobby gain a full color reference. Other firsts include:

- The first insulator auction catalog with color pictures was put out in 1988.
- The first insulator calendar with color pictures was sold in 1993 by Ray Klingensmith. These were produced until 1997. A color calendar was put out by Stillwater publications in 2001 with photos by Kim Depre, a write-up by Dave French, and production by William

Schmaltz. At about this same time, Guido Boreani of Italy published a calendar with Italian insulators.

The first insulator reference book with color was Lynn R. Stuart's 1968 book titled Stuart's Insulator Guide that had 2 pages of color showing 24 insulators.

The first phone book cover showing an insulator collection was of Lee Faulkner's that was featured on the Margaretville-Andes, NY phone book cover of 1992-93. On a related note, the first published attempt at a color guide was undertaken by Bob Alexander in about 1976 when he came out with The Standard Color Guide for Insulators which involved thin strips of colors taped to the pages of a booklet. In the early 1990s, Mark Lauckner introduced Spec-Tru: Standard Color Reference for Transparent Glass.

Another clearly marked milestone has been the introduction of auction catalogs to the hobby. Ray Klingensmith's first catalog came out in 1988. Seven years later in 1995, Dwayne Anthony started his catalog auctions with the auctions also eventually becoming accessible on-line. Ross Baird 's premier auction catalog reached the public in 1998. Internationally, the AB!C

Absentee Auctions launched their first catalog in May 1996, although insulators were only a small part of the auction. Finally, the McDougalds are running their first catalog this year that also has an on-line component. Bill Meier had a hand in the technical side of both on-line auctions.

Perhaps a less clearly marked milestone in the hobby is a recent increase I've noted in the detailed analysis of insulator traits. One version of this work is exemplified by Gary Kline's work on CD 162 embossings, Fritz Kettenburg's

1974 on E.C.& M. molds updated by Howard Bank's recent CJ article and book. and Clarice Gordon's charts on CD

145 H.G. Co. / Petticoat mold letters and colors. More recently, however, collectors have focused on even finer minutia. Not too long ago, Jim Sinsley enlisted the help of other collectors to catalog variations in CD 147s. Dave Kingston has compiled hundreds of letter codes on clear CD 128 Pyrex insulators. Dave French has studied the various locations of dots on CD 152s. Norm Robar recently completed a study of CD 154 Dominion-42 drip point counts, mold codes and weights. John McDougald has admitted to weighing his CD 106s. Even I have spent time compiling codes on Continental Rubber Works R-4 insulators.

Where will the hobby go next?

Thanks

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958 Historian 

## FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR

I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself to those of you that may not know me. My name is Bob Merzoian, and I am the Chairman of the Promotions Committee.

I began collecting insulators in the early 70's with Duane Davenport. We gathered anything we could find (I still have oh so many Hemi 42's and aqua 145 B's...). We collected in the usual way of the day. In the mid-70's I went off to Calif. State University Fresno and pretty much abandoned the hobby (fool that I was). The real world swept me away into the business world and eventually into the teaching profession 16 years ago. I reentered the hobby in 1989 when Duane convinced me to attend the National at Fresno. I was hooked again and have been a very active participant since that time. I have been married to Rosemary for 12 years (she does indeed prefer anything cobalt...figures). I have a 9 year-old daughter, Sarah, and a 6 year-old boy, Michael. My son and I have gone on guite a few adventures along with my brother Mark, Dave Brown, and occasionally Mike Doyle.

A sideline career for me is videography. I have been taping weddings, graduations, industrial videos, recitals, etc. for 20 years. I currently utilize 3 Sony digital DV Cam Camcorders...expensive, but the results are worth the price. I also use computer editing. I have been taping events, collectors, and people in the communication and power business for the last several months. The purpose is to put together a video tape for the NIA and insulators collectors in general. The NIA plans to use the tape for informational, educational, and public relations purposes. I will edit different versions for their use. I will also produce a general tape for sale to the public.

So far I have taped at the recent Yuma tailgater and the Rhode Ranch tailgater. I have been outin-the field taping interviews, lines, and collections. I plan to continue with the upcoming Cayucos show, the San Jose Regionals, our own Merzoian Brothers tailgater, and to the Albuquerque area. Hobbyists taped or to be taped are Larry

Shumaker, Mike Guthrie, Dwayne Anthony, Mike Doyle, Dave Brown, Mark Merzoian, Lou Hall, Dave Hall, Fred Padgett, Kevin Jacobson, Phil Powers, El Presidente Tom Katonak, and many more. The tape will include footage of collections, large and small...gatherings...linemen and old-time collectors...kids...supportive (and otherwise) mates, and anything else I see as appropriate. The emphasis will naturally be West Coast oriented. If it is successful, I would envision other geographicallybased versions. Expense and time (for taping and studio editing) are serious factors to consider as well. This is a major project and finding the time has been problematic, however I will persevere. I look forward to the final pilotproduct. Anyone wishing to contribute themselves or ideas to the project please feel free to contact bobmerzoian@mac.com me at: Bob Merzoian 1080 N. Scenic Drive Porterville, Calif. 93257.

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

# FROM THE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

For the first time ever, the Whea-



ton, Illinois Show had displays as part of their activities. The NIA award went to Russ Frank of McHenry, Illinois for his display of miniature and private issue insulators. The award was determined by votes submitted by people looking at the displays. Russ' display contained plastic miniatures recently made by Gus Stafford, a Mr. Lather of Florida, and those made years ago by Bob Fast. It included a large selection of the various styles of Wentzel-Cobb/ Holly City private issue miniatures. Also shown were miniature Hemingray CD 162s, miniature Dominion CD 162s, Armstrong miniature on a pedestal, Pat. Nov. 1870 miniature, Mid-Ohio commemoratives, a McLaughlin commemorative, Impostulators, VTS Industrial in red, Scandariato tall CD 102, and LSV commemoratives.

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Chair, Awards & Recognition Committee



# Carolyn Berry NIA#4336 Product Marketing Chairman

- Order your <u>NIA badge</u> for the Ohio National by June 10<sup>th</sup>
- I will bring any NIA product order to the National, postage free!
- New items to be debuted at the Ohio National....stop by my table!

## It's a Denim Bonanza!

**NEW!** Stonewashed, Blue Denim Embroidered Baseball Cap -\$16.00 with self-fabric adjustable band, metal adjuster. Great style for kids too!

<u>Denim Short Sleeve shirts - \$32.00/\$35.00</u> - Stonewashed blue denim, 6 oz/summer weighted, 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Button front. Left front breast pocket with embroidered logo above pocket.

<u>Denim Long Sleeve shirts - \$32.00/\$35.00</u> - Stonewashed blue denim, Medium weighted, 100 % pre-shrunk cotton. Button front. Left front breast pocket with embroidered logo above pocket.

Button cuffs.

**Ladies Denim "Sleeveless" shirts** - \$32.00 Nice quality stonewashed blue denim. 6 oz/summer weighted, 100% pre-shrunk cotton. The embroidered NIA logo is on the left side of button front.

Summer special ---- Blue t-shirt - \$7.00, all sizes, while supplies last!

# <u>Please refer to the Summer Order Form, on the last page, for size chart</u> and all other order information.

As always, please call or email me with any questions.



Carolyn Berry NIA # 4336 Product Marketing Chairman



### From the Treasurer

#### 2002-2003 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION THIRD QUARTER ENDING 3/31/03

**Dudley Ellis**, NIA #5085 **Treasurer** 

Beginning Balance-General Fund Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account	1/1/2003	8018.23 972.01 2196.75
Revenues		
Donations Membership Dues Miscellaneous Income Product Sales	0.00 4544.00 0.00 197.75 Total Revenues:	4741.75
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising Bank Charges/Taxes Marketing Products Misc. Postage Misc. Printing Misc. Supplies Misc. Professional Services Crown Jewels Rebates Drip Points Printing Drip Points Postage Show Advertising Subsidy Show Awards Stationery Supplies Telephone Special Projects Education Disp Postage	175.00 0.00 507.84 405.47 36.29 434.50 10.00 7.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 46.01 375.47 0.00 Total Expenses:	1997.58
Closing Balance, General Fund: Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditu Museum Exploratory Committee Balance Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditure Authentication/Ethics Account Balance Total Balance on Hand April 1, 2002		10762.40 972.01 2196.75 13931.16

#### 2003 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

Ken Willick, NIA #3709 Eastern Region VP 7349 Seneca Avenue Lima, NY 14485 585-624-3007 limaporc@yahoo.com

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

Howard Banks, NIA #900 Western Region VP 1560 Hugo Road Merlin, OR. 97532 541-479-8348 hbanks@grantspass.com

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

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

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

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

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 First Past President 3655 W. Anthem Way, Suite A-109 Anthem, AZ 85086 623-551-1305 anthempostnet@earthlink.net

**Kevin Lawless,** NIA #1679 **Second Past President** 3363 Guilderland Avenue Schenectady, NY 12306 518-357-2333 kflbostons@aol.com

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

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

Bill Rohde, NIA #1219 By-Laws
Post Office Box 1008 Williams, CA 95987
530-473-2461
mudman@colusanet.com

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

John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification

5N941 Ravine Drive St. Charles, IL 60175 630-513-1544 cpamcd@aol.com

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Awards & Recognition 11825 Lanceshire Circle Oklahoma City, OK 73162 405-721-6578 diamonds4me@worldnet.att.net

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

### 2003 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

(If this issue was addressed to you, then your dues are paid.)

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

	Note New Dues Schedule! Regular Membership Junior Membership (under 18) Club or Organization	\$ \$ \$ \$	Joe J. Beres NIA Members 315 Old Mill Broadview Ht E-MAIL: JJJ 512.00 512.00 55.00 612.00	Path s., Ohio 4	14147-3276		
	appropriate Class)	Regular_					•
(Cneck	Years of Payment)  Please Print Name		ear		·		
	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 An	nual NIA/	Crown Jewel	s Directo	ry Yes		No
	Please include my Telephon	e Number			Yes		No
	Please include my E-Mail A	ddress			Yes		No
	I Would like to Receive Drip I eck Only One Choice) (Need				Paper_	Elect	tronic
	Addit	ional Fami	ly Members				
<u>Name</u>						Nia# (I	f Renewal)
4							
Signed	·						
Date		<i>A</i>	Amount Enclo	osed \$			



Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336 Product Marketing Committee 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741 (512) 255-2006 pyrex553@ aol.com

# NIA – Summer ORDER FORM

	NIANIANIANIANIANIANIANIANIANIANIANIANIAN	Price	Qty	<u>Total</u>	
$\overline{}$	**NEW! Golf shirts to be available at the National!		- •		
الم المراهد	NEW! Women's L XL (other women sizes orderable)				
Large Lago	*Sleeveless- white/navy pique (\$35) or *S/S - butter yellow/navy pique (\$38)				
	Denim Shirts (all sizes orderable)				
	NEW! Women's stonewash blue - sleeveless L XL (\$32)  Men's - med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton stonewash blue left-side pocket				
	Embroidered logo S M _ L _ XL _ \$32.00				
	*S/S*L/S 2X \$35.00				
	T-Shirt Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo				*special.
	SM L XL (blue)				SPECIMA
$\mathcal{C}$	L XL (\$15) or 2X 3X (\$16) Birch gray screen-printed		-		
	NIA Lapel Pin - etched/enamel; NIA logo \$5.00 Sweatshirt Heavy weight - Birch gray - Screen-printed logo				
NATIONAL DE	S M (\$16.00) L XL (\$20.00)				
INSULATOR	NEW! Embroidered logo(front only) M_ L _ XL _ (\$25) 2X _ 3X _ (\$30	0			
Азмени	Embroidered Cap Stone/Navy, low-rise with. cmbroidered logo \$16.00				
	NEW! Denim – low-risc with embroidered logo \$16.00				
	Mug 10 oz white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00				
	Patch light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge \$4.00			-	
	Koozie™ The original Koozie™ fits any standard beer or soda can:  Silver screened NIA loso on: royal blue red green \$2.25				
لتكسيا	Silver screened NIA logo on: royal blue red green \$2.25  Decal light blue w/ logo- red border; for inside car window \$1.00				
	Name Badge white badge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed logo				
	epoxy pinback, beveled edges (fill in form below) \$11.00			-	•
	Badge Bar white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position) \$4.00	ubtotal		-	-
			-		
Women's	Size Chart:	. Postag	е _		
S (28-30)M (32-3	1)L (30-30) 2H3 (40-42)	Enclose	ed_		
	2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)				
Name _					
Address _	**U.S. Postage: \$5.00 for the first ite	m & \$1.50 for	each additi	onal item ord	icred.
City/State/Zip _	Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name	Badges/Bars at	re \$0.50 per	item. **for	non-
Telephone _	US postage, AK & HI, please contact me	for an exact po	stage quote		
Email address				_	
Please make	check or money order in U.S. funds payable to: National Insu	lator As	sociati ****	on or N	IA *****
				de efe ele ele ef	414
	Name Badge Engraving Information (must be a current l	VIA men	iber!)		
Name	NIA # City		_ State	e	_
Name	NIA # City		_ Stat	e	
	Bar;			_	
401	Use the back of this order form for additional badge/bar order				