

# **Drip Points**



#### QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

http://www.nia.org



#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Winter is here and it's time for insulator hunting here in the Desert Southwest. Being from one of the hot parts of Arizona does have some good things about it. Many folks believe that all of Arizona is all desert and all hot, all of the time, well, it isn't so. As I write this, the temperature is on it's way to 77 Degrees (25C for our international members.) and a humidity of

just 15%. There are no bugs, snakes, ticks, or other bad things to speak of. Weeds aren't much of a problem either in an area that gets 7 inches (17.8 cm) of rain a year. The sun is shining brightly and I'm ready to get out and start hiking the lines. There is 45 miles of newly abandoned line nearby and it's calling my name. Maybe next weekend .... The *Drip Points* comes first.

As Christmas and Hanukkah are close upon us, don't forget to check out the NIA promotional items that make great gifts. There are Polo shirts, Denim long and short sleeve shirts, Caps, Glass Mugs, Coffee Cups, T-Shirts, Car Decals, NIA Engraved Badges and much more. More information and an order form can be seen on pages 14 and 15 of the *Drip Points*.

Also please be sure to read about our new membership director. Joe Beres is stepping down after almost 13 years of service as the Membership Director. Donald Briel of Providence, UT will be taking over for Joe. Don has a contribution to the *Drip Points* in this edition as well as Lou Hall the new Awards and Recognition Chair. This is the first posting these gentleman have made to the *Drip Points* since I have been publishing it. See what Don and Lou have to say.

I would like to extend my thanks to both of them for stepping up to help out with the NIA.

Take care and good hunting.

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

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Congratulations to Larry Novak, Jeff Hollis, Faye-Ann Schott and the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club for hosting a great 2005 NIA Eastern Region Show in Martinsburg, West Virginia. The sales tables were sold out, dealers reported good sales, and the displays were exceptional. There were several good walk-ins, including a nice CD 134 Diamond P in a rich jade full of junk and bubbles. Special thanks go to those who took the extra time to display and share their collection. Charlie Irons won the NIA Peoples Choice Award for his extraordinary and educational "Battery Insulators, Oil Insulators, and Chloride Accumulators" display. Thanks to Charlie, I realize just how much I have lied to others about the proper use of the "Bird Feeder".

The trip to Springfield, Ohio to the 35th Anniversary Mid-Ohio Show was well worth the ten hour ride from Georgia and the cost of gasoline. Accolades go to Steve and Lois Blair, Glenn Drummond and Alan Stastny for another great show. The show offered 120 sales tables and 27 displays. These are excellent numbers for a local show. The show was well attended, the sales were good and it was a fun show to attend. You need to put this show on your cal-

endar for next year.

I was glad to see many young collectors and children at both shows. These youngsters are the future of our hobby. Both the NIA Eastern Region and the Mid-Ohio Shows

had junior displays. I was impressed with the varied number of porcelain insulators in twelve vear old Gregory dis-Malsam's play at the NIA Region Show. titled "Common Porcelain". He proudly took the show host's Best **Junior** Award back home to Fairfax, Virginia. At the Mid-Ohio Show. Alex Havner from Millington, Tennessee proudly displayed manv Missouri Pacific

(MP) porcelain insulator shapes and colors with varied locations of the MP embossing. He found the insulators along a former Missouri Pacific line in Arkansas. Congratulations to these two young gentlemen for their fine displays. Great jobs!

If you have been wondering how you can give something back to your hobby, you can contact Jacque Linscott Barnes, the NIA Nominations Committee Chair, or one of her committee members and volunteer to be a candidate for NIA President or Central Region Vice President. Some of you have expressed ideas that you would like to see implemented to improve our hobby and Association. Now is the time for you to come forward and run for one of

these offices and pursue your ideas if elected. We look forward to working with new members on the Board who have new and innovative ideas. Now is your time to make a positive difference in our hobby.

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Fake and altered insulators continue to infiltrate our hobby. The same is also true with fakes in the bottle and the lightning rod ball collecting hobbies. The unscrupulous makers and distributors of these fake and altered items are not going to go away. That is why we must continue to improve how we

educate the hobby on fake and altered insulators to protect old and new collectors alike. One of the Authentication and Classification Committee's goals for this year was to improve the NIA Fake and Altered Insulator display. Dwayne Anthony, one of the committee members, has worked hard to add additional pieces to the display and enhance the display handout. Remember that this display is for your use at shows to educate collectors. Please contact Dwayne to see how you may obtain this well done display for your show. We are continually seeking ways to improve the hobby's education of fake and altered insulators. If you have suggestions, you should contact John McDougald,

(Continued on page 3)

the Authentication and Classification Committee Chair, me or one of the other Board members.

Recently, I came across an eBay auction of an imitation insulator. The description gave reference to the imitation's embossing being NIA approved. Obviously, I knew better than that so I started working with eBay to have the auction removed. The NIA Board of Directors was of the opinion and belief that the wording in the eBay item description was misleading to potential buyers, and a false advertisement. I sent the seller a letter on behalf of the NIA to immediately cease and desist using the NIA name in any future advertising. EBay could not react fast enough to remove the auction before its conclusion but I am currently working with eBay to place the NIA in a special program that will protect the NIA's rights and assure removal of such auctions in the future.

I am proud to announce that Don Briel from Providence, Utah has been appointed to the NIA Board position of Membership Director to replace Joe Beres who is stepping down after almost 13 years of continuous service on the Board. Don will be working with Joe Beres to accomplish a smooth transition. Don will begin accepting NIA dues on January 1, 2006. Up until that date you should send your dues to Joe Beres. Please be sure to read Don's article in this issue of *Drip Points* for additional information.

We will certainly miss Joe Beres on the Board. I believe that Joe holds the record for being on the Board for the most consecutive years. He was appointed Membership Director in July of 1993. Being Membership Director is no easy task. I understand that Joe only missed one National during his tenure as Membership Director. As President, I can tell you how comforting it was to know that Joe was on the NIA front desk on opening morning of NIA Day at the Nationals. Even though many volunteered hours were required to complete the task, I guess many of us took Joe's handling of checks, the many mailings, the

continuous record keeping and his other various duties for granted. Joe never complained about all the work. He just handled it. On behalf of the NIA, I thank Joe for his long and dedicated service to the hobby. Joe, a job well done!

I hope to see many of you during the winter months. I plan on attending the DJIC swap meet in Phoenix City, Alabama, The Maitland, Florida Show, the Saint Petersburg, Florida Show and a few other shows along the way. If you see me at a show please take time to share your ideas with me.

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

Sandy and I wish you the very best Christmas and Holiday Season ever. Please take time to enjoy the Season with your friends and loved ones.

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

#### ...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 WESTERN REGION



Greetings fellow collectors. As the year draws to a close I would like to wish all of you well and hope that you've had a successful collecting year. I have been blessed with a very rewarding year and feel fortunate in many ways. A number of new experiences came

and my way opened really new horizons for me. There are so many wonderful ways to enjoy our hobby. My favorite ways will always be shows, club get togethers, hunts, and visiting my collector friends. Other include ways

ICON, eBay, and catalog auctions. Each of these activities has its own unique quality and each can be very enjoyable. I think the important thing is not to limit yourself. You can enjoy all aspects of the hobby while still focusing on the things you like best.

My absolute favorite activity would have to be hunting insulators in some remote place with my son Sean. We have built many happy memories hiking together in search of hidden gems. Nothing quite beats the feeling of discovering an insulator in a spot where it has rested for a hundred years or more. Unfortunately this year became very busy with other insulator activities and our hunts were very limited. Hopefully we can make up for it next year. Going to shows, club activities, and visiting friends, all come in a very close Being around people, second. telling stories, and working out deals face to face just can't be beat. I hope to make more shows next year but as many of you know the time and expense to travel is tough when you are raising a family.

Other insulator related activities such as eBay and ICON have also added new ways to enjoy the hobby. I often hear negative comments aimed at eBay and even

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**ICON** occasionally. That sort of attitude really disappoints me. In relatively small hobby like ours we should try to welcome anything that helps promote collecting insulators. I some-

times get frustrated with eBay but I have also built many relationships with new collectors and helped them to learn about other aspects of the hobby. I often refer new collectors to ICON and the Crown Jewels magazine with the hope that they will get more involved in the hobby. I personally know of several collectors who got started on eBay and are now branching out to other aspects of the hobby.

As many of you know I recently ran my first catalog auction. These types of sales are nothing

new and have been around for nearly 20 years. It was an eye opening experience being on the other side of things. Being a collector first I tried very hard to make the sale a good experience for everyone who took part. I sincerely hope that adding some competition to the catalog market and getting more good glass into the hands of collectors will be a positive for the hobby.

I guess the point I'm trying to make here is that every activity involving insulators can be a positive experience with the right frame of mind. Try to enjoy all aspects of the hobby and help promote collecting insulators every chance you get. If you just don't like a certain area of collecting try to focus on other areas and leave the negative comments behind. We are all so fortunate to be collecting at all. It is a privilege to live in a place and be at a point in time where such freedoms exist.

May God Bless You during the Holiday Season and good luck collecting, Mike

Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region Vice President



### FROM THE EASTERN REGION



My club, the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club hosted the NIA Eastern Regional show on September 30 and October 1 and it turned out to be a great show. We sometimes have trouble finding people willing to host the regional shows but they are such a nice addition to the hobby that I hope more people will think about hosting them.

I want to thank my co-hosts, Jeff Hollis and Faye-Ann Schott as well as too many people to mention from the CBIC. We had lots of help planning the show and during the show. We sold out our 45 dealer tables and had six nice displays for people to see. I have to admit that I was a little worried about doing a Friday/Saturday show but I see the Friday crowds at the National and know that people don't need much of an excuse

to take a day off work for a show. We had a great turnout on Friday and lots of those people came back on Saturday so the crowd was still good and I suspect that most of those who returned for a second time were there to buy something.

I have not done the final budget

My club, the

Chesapeake Bay Insulator

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1 and it turned out to be a

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yet but it appears that we came out in good shape, thanks in part to the donations that Tom Rogers collected for the raffle. Thanks to the people who donated

to the raffle: Dick Bowman, Chris Childress, Glenn Drummond, Dudley Ellis, Richie Farmer, Charlie Irons, Jaque Linscott-Barnes, Doug MacGillvary, Chip McElwee, Larry Novak, D.J. Panknin, Jack Roach, Tom Rogers, Rick Snyder, Andy Wadysz, and George Wright.

I also want to thank Claude Wambold and Steve Bobb for giving up their show this year so we could have the regional. Please support their show next year – Claude has a great back-yard swap meet, usually in June, and Claude and

Steve have a show, usually in late September.

Things are slowing down here in the East for the winter. There are some bottle shows over the winter and there may be some swap meets in the south but I don't know any specific information about them. The next shows that I

know about are the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club's show on March 4, 2006 and the Y a n k e e P o I e c a t Show on March 26. Winter is also a

good time to get out hunting the old lines – the brambles and the snakes will be gone and as long as it's not too cold and there is no snow on the ground, it will be fun whether or not you find those deeply-buried threadless insulators.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season and hope to see you again when the weather warms back up.

Larry Novak, NIA #5889 Eastern Region Vice President

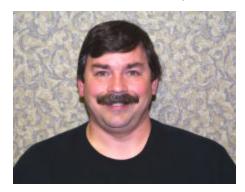
### ...DRIP NOTES

Don't forget to renew your NIA membership if you are not one of the folks who renew on a multi-year basis. Memberships expire on December 31st.

Depending on the number of candidates who run, there may be elections for NIA President and Central Region VP in the March 1st, 2006 *Drip Points*. If you forget to renew your membership and you are not an NIA Member in good standing as of February 15th you may not vote. Ballots must be returned to the Nominations Chairperson prior to May 1st.

So be sure you are renewed. There is a renewal form at the end of the *Drip Points*.

### FROM THE HISTORIAN A Halloween Horror Story



It is Halloween as I write this story, a story about the most horrible day that a collector could live through, if they had the strength, and although this story happened to someone else, be warned that it could happen to you!

The torment began the night before the biggest show of the year. Angus planned to leave at 9 a.m., after rush hour, to get to the show location well before 5 p.m. for dealer set-up. He had already talked to a couple collectors about what they were bringing and salivated at the prospects. His posting on the Internet surely would entice other dealers to bring items in his specialty too. With a fat checking account from a month of overtime, he was ready for a great time.

The alarm didn't even have to go off to get Angus up early on that fateful day. He was out of the shower and sitting at the breakfast table way ahead of schedule when his wife, Beverly, popped a surprise on him. She had decided to go too. She figured while Angus was at the show, she could visit her sister who lived nearby.

Because she was never one to participate in his hobby, Angus was a bit anxious to have her along but decided it might be a good idea to share some time with her on the way to the show since he was not going to see her much that weekend otherwise. If only she could quickly get packed and ready, it would not be a big deal. That was not how Angus' luck would run on this trip. By the time they left, it was already 9:40 and Angus still needed to stop at the bank.

"Why didn't you go while I was getting ready?" was Beverly's comment.

Angus just had to grunt and fume. He didn't want to

make her feel rushed, then angry by doing that and kept believing she would be ready at any moment. After all, didn't she know how important getting to the show

ment. After all, didn't she know how important getting to the show was?!

At the bank, she tried to help by for the bigges suggesting he use the drive-by The two collections well before 5 p.m. for dealer set-up.

amazement the show location well before 5 p.m. for dealer set-up.

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had to admit something to his wife he would rather not.

"I need more money than I can get

from the ATM," he said.

ATM rather than parking and go-

ing into the lobby where he would

have to wait in line. Now Angus

The inevitable, "Why?" and subsequent argument about money followed. Angus ends up with cash, but much less than intended. At least he still has the checkbook, he thinks.

The drive to the show becomes long and painful. Construction delays force Angus further behind schedule. "So much for antiquing along the way," he thinks. Added pit stops make reaching the show when it opens even more unlikely.

Trying to make up some time, Angus gets stopped for speeding and it will be a couple hours into dealer set-up before he gets there. Throughout the trip he is still justifying to his wife why he spends so much on insulators, why they take up so much space, and why he devotes so much time on them. Unvoiced but definitely on his mind is what is going on at the show while he is not there.

When Angus finally walks into the show, he is met by two smiling

collectors who wonder if he misunderstood when show began, if he forgot to wind his watch, did his home exist in а different time zone. and, in general, express

amazement that he would be late for the biggest show of the year. The two collectors sympathetically shake their heads at Angus' misfortunes that day but only make it worse as they revel in telling what he missed so far at the show.

One of these collectors, Nagul, is a long-time rival of Angus with the same collecting interests. When Angus wasn't there at the start of dealer set-up, one dealer who brought a piece because it was on Angus' want list worried that he wasn't coming so found Nagul to sell it to him. A couple other dealers had set out pieces they brought because they saw Angus' Internet posting and Nagul was able to get these too, at a pretty good price as it turns out. It was hard for Angus not to drool over the pile sitting there on Nagul's table.

Meanwhile, out in the parking lot during the first hours of set-up, Phillip, the other collector, got talking to the widow of an old-time collector who planned to sell off her deceased husband's collection. This old-time collector was a dump digger and had a great collection of one-of-a-kind pieces in Angus' specialty. Angus listened intently as Phillip told the story of buying the collection on the spot, especially since he had already felt his breath catch and his heart rush as he saw the even bigger pile of his specialty on Phillip's table and knew that Phillip didn't collect in this area. Angus knew this because Phillip visited him two weeks ago to see his collection. In talking, Angus expressed the opinion that it was odd that Phillip didn't pursue this specialty because there were a lot of connections with what Phillip currently collected. The air went out of Angus with Phillip's next words, "You know, Angus, when you told me I should start collecting the same insulators you do, I decided you were right."

Angus had to just walk away. Over the next hour as he walked the show, however, it always seemed that Nagul or Phillip was a couple tables ahead of him, making some deal for a piece he would have liked. In fact, it seemed they had unlimited funds to buy whatever they wanted and the way they talked, their houses were filled with light boxes with plenty of room to display the new found treasures.

Then the bad dream turned into a nightmare. His wife called on his cell phone. There was a break-in at the house and a fire got started causing major damage. On the drive home, Angus wished he had kept records of what was in his collection so the police would be able to recover whatever was stolen. He would be able to come up with a list of some of the pieces right away and, with time, could remember a lot of it. Even then, there was no way to prove any particular piece tracked down was his without a photograph or detailed description. And how high a priority would the police set on recovering insulators?

At least thinking about recovering stolen pieces offered some glimmer of hope because there would be no hope for the pieces that went through the fire. The intense heat caused the glass to shatter, if not during the fire, then during the extinguishing of it, or worst of all, when picked up while picking through the rubble. If only Angus had insured the collection. Instead he decided the money would be better spent buying insulators.

Spousal conflicts, rivalries with other collectors, theft, fire, uninsured loss, and a lack of cataloging sure made for a horrible day. Could it happen to you?

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958 Museum Committee Chair

#### ...DRIP NOTES

It's not too early to start planning for next years national show. The  $37^{th}$  NIA Annual Show and Convention will be in AUSTIN, TEXAS July 7 - 9, 2006.

To make your hotel reservations, call the Doubletree @ (800) 347-0330 or online @ www.doubletreeaustin.com with convention code "NIA" for the National Insulator Association blocked room rate.

For all the details on-line, go to:

http://www.nia.org/shows/national/





### AUSTIN, TEXAS

## 37<sup>th</sup> NIA Annual Show and Convention July 7 – 9, 2006

■120 sales tables – 28 Displays
Raffles – Appraisals – Silent Auction - Seminars
■11,000 sq ft show hall

### 2006 Show Itinerary

Thursday, July 6th

Dealer Unloading & Exhibitor Set-up

Friday, July 7th

"NIA Members Only Day"

NIA General Membership Meeting

Sunset "Bat Watching" Riverboat Cruise

#### Saturday, July 8th

General Admission (\$3, kids under 12 free)

Awards Dinner Banquet

Sunday, July 9th

General Admission

Dear Collectors and Friends:

We are very pleased and honored to be your show hosts for the 37<sup>th</sup> National. This will be the first show ever in the Central Texas area. We are very pleased with the assistance the Lone Star Insulator Club members have offered. We are working diligently to ensure you have a great national. Response has been excellent in the first two months of sales. We have 20 sales tables, and only 6 exhibit spaces remaining. Table availability will be filled from a waiting list on a first come, first serve basis, once tables are sold out.

### We hope you will consider joining us at the 37<sup>th</sup> show!

Respectfully, Your 2006 Show Co-Hosts, Bob, Carolyn, Jack & Jim

<u>Hotel information:</u> We will be holding this event at the Doubletree Hotel Austin. The hotel offers many amenities to make your convention stay a pleasant one. Easy access to major highways, many restaurants and attractions. <u>You can reserve your rooms now!!</u>

To make your hotel reservations, call the Doubletree @ (800) 347-0330 or online @ www.doubletreeaustin.com with convention code "NIA" for the National Insulator Association blocked room rate.

For additional details please contact one of your show hosts, or go online to the following website location:

http://www.nia.org/shows/national

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE CHAIR



The NIA By-laws charge the Awards and Recognition Committee "to prepare and furnish awards for NIA Sanctioned and NIA Sponsored Shows."

The Committee is comprised of the following seven members: The Awards and Recognition Committee Chairperson, the three Regional Vice-Presidents in office immediately prior to the National Convention; Larry Novak, Eastern VP, Ed Peters, Central VP and Mike Green, Western VP. Three at-large representatives, one from each region, are to be appointed

annually by the current Awards and Recognition Committee Chairperson. I am pleased to report that Deb Fiedler (Eastern region), Brian Riecker (Central region) and Mindy Michener (Western region) have each agreed to fill the atlarge positions. Mindy Michener will also represent the junior members of the NIA.

The Board of Directors has also charged the A and R Committee to review the current NIA Exhibiting and Judging Rules for possible revision or change. Committee considerations are to include reconfiguring the awards program, possibly eliminating categories, creating new judging rules, and making other changes that would improve the procedures used to select and provide awards to exhibitors. The committee will submit a proposal to the Board of Directors outlining its findings and recommendations.

The membership is encouraged to submit their concerns and constructive comments to any of the committee members. Your input will be an important part of the information gathering and review process. I will be attending the Auburn show in December and the Yuma event in February. If you have input for the committee you will have my ear. You can also email suggestions to me at <a href="mailto:louhall@pacbell.net">louhall@pacbell.net</a>. Your opinions and suggestions are important.

Additionally, the A and R Committee is responsible for selecting and nominating recipients for the NIA "Outstanding Service Award" and "Lifetime Membership." Suggestions for candidates deserving of these recognitions are also welcomed. Please contact your Regional Vice-President or me for additional information and nomination forms.

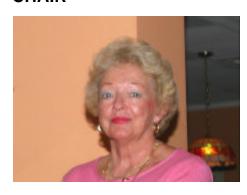
We hope for you a joyous holiday season and that all your insulator collecting wishes come true.

Lou Hall, NIA # 7186 Awards and Recognition Chair

December 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Holiday Greetings from sunny Florida and the desk of your Nominations Chairperson. I am happy to report to you that my committee members...Eastern Region: Peter Abbott-NIA#4439, and Dan Goodrich-NIA#6738; Central Region: Ross Baird-NIA#1983, and Chris Hedges-NIA#15; Western Region: Russell Hughes-NIA#2859, and Pat Patocka-NIA#140 are dili-

gently working for you. I want to thank each of these gentlemen for their continued support and service to the hobby and to you, the members of NIA. I believe the make-up of our committee is excellent and each region is well represented.

Our main item of business is to seek out members for the upcoming vacancies of NIA President and Central Regional Vice-President.

I am accepting nominations until February 1, 2006 (per the NIA Bylaws). So NIA members, please look around you and see if there is anyone who you think would be a good candidate for either office. Nominees will have the opportunity to present a statement for publication in the spring (March) issue of *Drip Points*. The article

must be submitted by the candidate to the Nominations Chairperson no later than February 1st.

Now NIA members, just remember that your "membership in good standing" must be paid in full by February 15th in order for you to receive a ballot.

Support your candidate and the hobby by getting that check off to our new NIA Membership Director, Don Briel-NIA#7218, P.O. Box 188, Providence, UT 84332-0188 so that when he sends me the list of who is eligible to receive a ballot I can be sure your ballot is included in the spring issue of *Drip Points*. I am looking forward to hearing from you!!

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA#1380 Nominations Chairman

### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Having been asked to assume the responsibilities of Membership Director effective January 1, 2006, it is with great humbleness that I approach this position. Joe Beres has been Membership Director for many years and done an excellent His efforts over the years have helped the NIA move forward. His diligence in attending the national shows, only to work at the front desk most of the time, is commendable. Behind the scenes, Joe has pulled together a lot of loose hand tracked data and put it into database form. Through his efforts, I'm able to step in and have good membership records to start out with. I extend my sincere thanks to Joe and hope every NIA member will extend a vote of thanks to him as well for a job well done.

This past month has been used to take Joe's data and work on a conversion program to put the data into a new relational database. In addition, a new easy to use application built around the new database is well under way. The new application will facilitate updates and reports. Mailing labels, reports, membership lists, etc, are all a couple of mouse clicks away. Valuable data such as positions filled, years of service, etc. will all be on-line and readily available. Membership statistics will be available for the other directors.

While all of this has little to do with insulator collecting, the NIA has everything to do with it. I hope to do whatever possible to help keep the NIA alive and functioning. My

interests in insulator collecting have been enhanced through membership in the NIA. It is only fair that I give whatever I can back in the way of service. I would encourage others to do the same. Also, I look forward to the golden opportunity to meet many of you members first hand and build new friendships as I take on the role that Joe has filled so well.

Beginning January 1, 2006, please send any membership related inquiries or dues payments to:

Donald R. Briel
P. O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
don.briel@comcast.net

**Don Briel**, NIA #7218 **Membership Director** 

### FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR



The days are shorter, night appears to fall much too quickly, and winter doesn't seem that far away. Hunts will be fewer and farther between. But we collectors always seem to compensate by gathering together with friends and fellow hobbyists at homes, tailgaters, and shows. It's these times that bring us together for fellowship, exchanging glass and stories, and just generally hanging out. These are also opportunities to invite the uninitiated along for the fun and education of it all. We should go out-of-our-way to inform and cajole those "non-believers" to join our mad pursuit of glass and mud. Luring them into our world will only expand the much-needed growth of our hobby. It is especially important to include younger people

The more insulators

you pass out to children

and curious adults, the

more interest we should

see.

(including kids). As it has been so aptly said... for-better-orworse, there will be a lot of collections coming out in the next few

years and the more buyers we have, the better it will be for all.

The more insulators you pass out to children and curious adults, the more interest we should see. Put a box of your common (but not damaged) pieces in your vehicle and hand them out whenever a likely prospect enters your scene. I have done this many times to the delight of the recipient. To add to the enjoyment, a barrage of guestions for you usually accompanies their thanks. Thus the foundation for a possible new collector is constructed. Other ideas might include setting up an educational display at the local library which could include free insulators with any literature offered. Drop a pretty one off at your local newspaper to a reporter or columnist...they're always looking for an interesting story and/or interview. You could even use a pony piece as a pseudo calling card. Insulators also make unusual Christmas

gifts (but don't skimp...at least put a little color in it). It is certain you have many other ideas which could help spur the

growth of insulator collecting, not to mention the growth of your own collection. Just go out and share your fun and enthusiasm with any and all. Seasons greetings to you!

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







### From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

## FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION FIRST QUARTER 2006

Museum Exp	Balance-General F⊦und ploratory Committee on/Ethics Account	7/1/2005	\$ \$ \$	12,413.39 972.01 2,296.75
Revenues				
	onations			
	embership Dues		\$	507.00
	iscellaneous Income		\$	150.00
Pr	oduct Sales	T D	\$	1,393.50
		Total Revenues	\$	2,050.50
General Fun	d Expenses			
Ac	dvertising		\$	53.30
	ank Charges, Taxes, Fees			
	arketing Products		\$	1,767.18
	isc. Postage		\$	558.19
	isc. Printing		\$	831.07
	isc. Supplies			
	isc. Professional Services rown Jewels Rebates			
	rip Points Printing			
	rip Points Postage			
	now Advertising Subsidy		\$	500.00
	now Awards		Ψ	000.00
	ationery Supplies			
	elephone			
	pecial Projects			
•	ducational Disp Postage		\$	140.14
		Total Expenses	\$	3,849.88
Mi Mi Au Au	Closing Balance, General Fund Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures Museum Exploratory Committee Balance Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures Authentication/Ethics Account Balance			10,614.40 - 972.01 - 2,296.75
Т	otal Balance on Hand	9/30/2005	\$	13,883.16

#### 2006 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# NIA PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

\* Holiday Gift Ideas \* 2005

# Not sure what gift to give your hobbyist? Maybe we can help!

### Take a look at our list of ideas:

- Embroidered Polo/Golf Shirts
- → Embroidered Denim Long Sleeved Shirts
- **♦** Embroidered Denim Short Sleeved Shirts
  - → Screen-printed & Embroidered T-shirts
- → Screen-printed & Embroidered Sweatshirts
  - Embroidered Baseball Style Caps
  - → 13 oz. Glass Mugs or Coffee Mugs
    - Embroidered Patches
    - **→** Foam Drink Koozies
    - → Enameled Hat/Lapel Pins
      - Car Decals
  - → NIA Engraved Badges and Club Bars.

See the last page of this Drip Points for latest order form! Please visit the NIA website: <a href="https://www.NIA.ORG/products">WWW.NIA.ORG/products</a> for color photos and an order form.

We have an assortment of "new" items since the Fall Drip Points. We now have Cardinal Red & Light Steel T-shirts and Sweatshirts. In addition we have in stock, zippered, hooded, Lt. Steel sweatshirts!

A variety of polo shirts for men and women are kept on hand. Please give me a call with your size /color preference.



Carolyn Berry
Product Marketing Committee
NIA#4336

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## WINTER 2005 www.nia.org/products

	Men's Golf / Polo Shirts* emb	oroidered logo; some with pockets W color/sizes/styles available: \$32 - \$	<u>Price</u>	<u>Oty</u>	<u>Total</u>
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Golf/Polo – putty / black with poo				
Large Logo on back	*Ladies' shirts - embroidered le Golf/Polo - white with navy/white				
	<u>Denim Shirt</u> – (*ladies order co				
(NATIONAL LE	Heavy-wt., pre-shrunk cotton sto Embroidered logo	newash blue left-side pocket S M L XL \$32	.00		
INSULA OR Association	*S/Sleeve *L/Sleeve		5.00		
	T-Shirt Hanes Beefy 'T' - Ash & SPECIAL PRICE!!	gray - <u>Screen-printed logo (front &amp; back)</u> 2X (\$12)			
	Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight -	Ash Gray; embroidered logo on left front, o	only!		
The state of the s	M L XL2X (\$20)	LXL2X(\$22 w/-pocket)			
	NEW COLORS !!! Stonewashed Gre ML XL (\$20)	een / Cardinal Red / Lt. Steel; embroidered 2X(\$22)	d		
National 11	<u>Ε</u> (ψ20)	Δ1 <u>·</u> (ψΔ2)			
Insula or		sh gray – screen-printed logo (front/back)			
Association		\$10) L (\$15.00) <u>Only a few lef</u>	<u>t!!</u>		
المرب	<b>NEW COLOR!! Cardinal Red</b> of M L XL	or Ash Gray Embroidered logo- (\$25) 2X 3X (\$30)			
	Hooded Sweatshirt w/ full front z	<u>ipper -Embroidered logo</u> - ash gray			
	* * * *	2X (\$40) or Khaki / Green, low-rise, embroidered lo			
	Embroidered Denim Cap-blue d	enim, low-rise, embroidered logo \$1	6.00		
	13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etch		7.00 \$7.00		
	Patch embroidered logo / r	red embroidered edge	\$4.00		
Men's Size Chart:		nting <b>Koozie</b> <sup>TM</sup> fits any standard beer / soda			
S (32-34) M (36-38)	NIA Hat/Lapel Pin – enamel	n: NIA blue red green tack pin with NIA logo	\$2.25 \$5.00		
L (40-42) XL (44-46) 2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)	NIA Decal - logo- red	d border; for inside car window	\$1.00	_	
		dge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed in back, beveled edges (fill in form below)		_	
	Badge Bar - white w/ engrave	d blue letters (ie. NIA position or Local Clu			
* Ladies Size Chart:				ototal _	
<b>S</b> (28-30) <b>M</b> (32-34) <b>L</b> (36-38) <b>XL</b> (40-42)			U.S. Po		<del></del>
2 (50 50) 12 (10 12)			Total Encl	losed _	<del></del>
*All sizes/colors of sl	hirts are orderable*	**U.S. Postage: \$5.50 for the	Thanks	for you	r support!
		first item & \$1.50 for each		•	11
Name		additional item ordered. Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges	, <b> </b>		
AddressCity/State/Zip		Bars are \$0.50 per item. ** for non-			
		US postage, AK & HI and Koozies, please contact me for an exact postage			
Email address					
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Name Badge Eng	raving Information	2 TOURS THORICO CHOCK OF THORIC	., oraci ili o	.s. juin	perjerote
		a current NIA member!)			
Name	•	_ NIA # City			State
		NIA # City			
		Use the back of this			
Rev. 12/.05					<u> </u>

Donald R. Briel

### 2006 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

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

(Payable to the NIA)

**NIA Membership Director** P.O. Box 188 Providence, UT 84332 E-MAIL: don.briel@comcast.net **Note New Dues Schedule!** Regular Membership-----\$ 12.00 Family Membership----- \$ 12.00 Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00 Club or Organization-----\$ 12.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Regular\_\_\_\_ Family\_\_\_ Junior\_\_\_ Club/Org.\_\_\_ (Check appropriate Class) (Check Years of Payment) Single year\_\_\_\_ Multi-year\_\_\_\_ Please Print Name NIA # (If Renewal) Address \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province Zip/Postal Code (+4) Country (If Non U.S.) Telephone Number E-Mail Address Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory Yes Please include my Telephone Number No Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ Please include my E-Mail Address Paper\_\_\_\_ Electronic\_\_\_\_ **Note:** I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format. (Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic) **Additional Family Members** Nia# (If Renewal) Name Date Amount Enclosed \$



### GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 13, Number 8 November 18, 2005

#### Racine, Wisconsin Swap Meet

Randy Wesner's 5th annual swap meet on Sept. 10, 2005 was a wonderful, fast-moving time. The swap started at 11:00 a.m., lunch was at noon, and a charity auction was held in mid-afternoon. Before you knew it, it was over.

The auction raised \$315 for the Katrina Hurricane victims. The money was donated through Bob Stahr's company which matched the contribution so \$730 went to the victims as a result. Items sold, donors, purchasers, and hammer price are listed below. No actual hammer was used in the auction.

Russ Frank had numerous tables set up at the show filled with a variety of insulators and high voltage signs. There was a nice set of commemoratives from the Springfield, OH show as well as a full set of the tall CD 102 WGS pony insulators.

It was good to see Colin and Karen Yennie for the second year in a row. They came all the way from Oronoco, Minnesota the night before the swap meet and stayed at a local hotel. Colin brought and sold to Rick Soller about 360 aqua insulators that will end up in Tommy Bolack's pile in New Mexico. He also had several CD 226's embossed No. 115 in aqua that he was selling for a reasonable price. Karen went shopping for a while after the start of the show so we suspect that she spent whatever Colin made at the show. Racine has some great outlet malls nearby so we can't blame her.

Mark Grimek, another distant attendee, had some rare insulators on his table. It was unfortunate that most of them had damage. A CD 126.4 with a lot of milky snot was my favorite piece on his table but his asking price around \$600 was too much for me given the big crack in the skirt. I did end up getting from him a CD 293 light purple Locke with a chip off the ear. The \$100 he wanted for the piece seemed fair given the damage and that the book price was \$150-175 but the fact that he was willing to trade for something on my table sealed the deal. Mark drove all the way from Onalaska, Wisconsin (near the Minnesota border at LaCrosse, WI) in the morning, arriving about 11 a.m.

Ray Heim, Linda and Lindsey Kartye had an array of high quality, colorful pieces as usual. Lindsey was an active participant in the auction but did not end up getting anything in it.

Arlen Rienstra came with Tina and had a variety of interesting items on their table. Since Arlen does electrical work, he had a number of old house wiring insulators including receptacles and wall tubes. He also had a number of CD 302 "Muncie" type insulators that he had just picked up in a collection.

Tim Haraf's sales table seems to be getting more an more insulators on it every time we see it. I think he must be really searching the lines and having luck finding insulators. He also had some of his custom, insulator T-shirts for sale there. This is the

first time I've seen these. One of them garnered some spirited bidding in the auction, selling for more than the normal \$15 the shirts go for. The examples brought to the swap meet by Tim had five blue insulators on the front and four larger insulators on the back in various colors. These can be customized and a flyer with details is included in this newsletter.

Rick Soller recently bought a large collection of Holly City miniatures and was selling them individually. About half of them ended up being sold by the end of the swap meet. He also had about four tables of other glass and porcelain ranging from \$5 for a box of 60 porcelain pieces to pieces in the \$100-200 range. A large tick-shaped brown porcelain multipart sat on his table but Rick was happy to see that sell to Richard Case. Just what doesn't Richard collect?

Bob Stahr made it to the swap meet this year. Bob was glad the swap meet was only on Saturday since he was heading to a bottle show on Sunday.

#### How Don Flashed the "S.O.S."

By Mabel M. Davis Electrical Experimenter July 1919, p. 236, 275.

Donald Johnson's mother says she feels sure the careless nursemaid they had when "Don" was a baby must have mixed an electro-lytic solution with the milk he was fed. She cannot believe that otherwise any boy could be so permeated with electricity. He could not have caught it from his family as he was an only child, and his mother could not tell a fuse-plug from a dry battery, and his father's abilities in electrical matters were all confined to paying the electric light bill on time each month.

It was different with Don's chum Will Merton. He was the youngest of a large family, all of whom were wound up and went by electricity, and that was their sole motive power.

The story of all the weird and wonderful inventions and imitations of inventions that were produced by these two boys in Don's "Lab" would fill a book. One worth while and early accomplishment was the mastery by both boys of the International Morse code and they often flashed or tapt out signals to each other from various points in the neighborhood.

One evening near dusk "Don" was hurrying home from favorite resort, the dumping grounds of the Ajax Electrical Company's factory. He heard a faint mewing that seemed to come from overhead and looking up he finally located a cat at the very top of a nearby electric light pole. The nine-lived feline was crying pitifully and Don's sympathies were touched. Being a senior in high school, Donald was rather ashamed of showing any fondness for cats. But he glanced this way and that and not a soul was in sight. Se he made a jump and a scramble, hoping to shinny up to the first spikes on the pole. He did not make it and realized for the first time how heavily he was loaded. In the pockets of his mackinaw, he only had a piece of zinc rod, a large magnet for a telephone magneto, some brass rod, copper tubing, a pocketful of assorted screws, bolts, nuts, washers, another pocketful of lengths of iron core wore, and nearly a pound of miscellaneous binding posts. So he cast his treasures from him coat and all and went to the rescue.

After a hard scramble he gained the spikes and climbed quickly up. Standing on the lowest cross-arm he tried to persuade "Pussy" to come down within reach, but she was suspicious of the proffered help and remained fast at her post. He gained the next arm and his persuasiveness brought her down a little way. He reached for her but she backed out to the end of the arm, over his head. Donald followed along to the end of his cross-arm when horrors, his foot slipt

and he started to fall. Donald never could tell just how it all happened, but he suddenly found himself with his two feet on the crossarm below and the peg of the arm above hooked thru the belt of Norfolk coat. In falling his foot had struck the glass, broken it, released the wire, and, as his body slid by the peg it had hooked him. Luckily, his belt had held until his feet found the arm below and relieved the strain a little. He was in a very awkward and uncomfortable position. He tried cautiously to squirm about and get the belt off the hook, tho he was very much afraid that if he succeeded he might not be able to hold on to the cross-arm without the support of the stout peg under his belt.

Fortunately his belt was securely buckled in front, not buttoned. He twisted and tried to turn, finally fingering his belt to see if he could unbuckle it in case he got up his courage to try it. But that question was not to be put up to him to decide as the buckle had slipt around to the back and with all his squirmings he could not get it within reach of his fingers.

He rested with one arm over the cross-arm, his feet very insecurely placed on the cross-arm below, and the pole too far away to reach. He tried a few yells for help but they cracked in delivery, so he gave that up.

Another factory recently built on a side street had caused the electric lighting company to put up a transformer for that neighborhood. "Don" and "Will" had watched and assisted at the installation of that transformer. The cat had chosen to ascend the very pole that held the transformer. As it began to get dark, "Don" noticed the humming of the transformer increasing. He could see Will Merton's house away down the street. Their lights appeared and "Don" could imagine the family all gathered about the supper-table.

The transformer was humming louder now. An idea suddenly came to

Donald. After a terrific squirm he succeeded in getting the fingers of his free hand on the chain of his wire-cutters which. out of school hours, he always carried attached to his person. With the wire-cutters claspt firmly in his right hand he reached for the secondary lead of the transformer which hung in a loop over his head. He knew that it was safe enough to tackle that wire without gloves, as it carried only 110 volts. It was hard work and took a long time, but the trusty wire-cutters did the trick. There was a blinding flash and the loop was cut. Donald could see that the Merton's house and others nearby were dark. He grasped one wire in his right hand, then by touching this to the other, which hung loose, he caused a short flash of light in all the houses, then followed this by two long flashes, which was his chum's private wireless call. He repeated this carefully, then flashed out:

In five minutes Will Merton was dancing excitedly about on the sidewalk below "Don," yelling to his brothers to ring the extension ladder. Other neighbors were gathering and demanding of "Don" why he was up there. "Don" glanced about and saw no sign of the cat he had come to rescue. When the wire flashed the cat had acquired a little common sense and gone down the way it came up. So that embarrassing element of the situation was, thank Heaven, eliminated. At the next call, "Donald Johnson, what are you doing up there?" Don replied, "Fixing the transformer. Bring up my supper, will you?"

Donald's father took his place at the bottom of the ladder, steadying it while Will Merton's older brother climbed up, unhooked "Don," and helped him get a place on the ladder. At the bottom he was besieged with questions but evaded them all. Will picked up Don's loaded coat and the hungry, shivering "S.O.S." man was glad to

slip into it. All he said was: "let's get out of this before the company's trouble man gets here to splice that wire."

When he got home he confest rather shamefacedly to his father and mother and Will Merton, that he went up the pole to rescue "A cat!"

"But I've learned my lesson. No more 'cat rescue' work for me. Of all the ungrateful creatures, that beast is the limit."

Donald's parents had to admit that this was an occasion where a practical knowledge of electricity was of some use. Several of the neighbors grumbled at being in the dark for an hour, but as soon as the lights flashed on again they forgave Donald for the inconvenience.

### Commentary on "How Don Flashed the SOS" or "Why Don Should Have Died"

As I first read this story, I enjoyed the creativity of how Don flashed the SOS but felt sure the story never could have happened in real life.

First, I have yet to meet a cat that climbed up a utility pole. Perhaps if one was chased by a dog, it might, but I believe the tendency of the feline would be to turn, hiss, and get big. Cats also would be unlikely to let themselves get into such a position in the first place.

On the second concern I had about the story, I checked my facts with club member and former Commonwealth Edison lineman Jim Crandall. Jim chuckled at the summary of the story I gave him and made an interesting historical point that a house drop might not pull too much electricity in 1919 since few homes had refrigerators at the time. Most homes used electricity only for lighting back then.

However, Jim indicated that Don would certainly need insulator gloves when

cutting the 110 volt line. In addition, each time Don touched the two wires to "tap out" his Morse code, it would create a dangerous arc. No wonder the cat was scared.

The <u>Electrical Experimenter</u> is no longer published. Only about seven years of it were published. Perhaps one of its readers enjoyed this story and tried to duplicate the feat, resulting in some tragedy that got the magazine sued and shut down.

Finding copies of this periodical is a difficult search. I became aware of it when an issue was sold on eBay that contained an ad for Electrose insulators. I didn't pursue the lot too strongly because I figured I could get a photocopy from some library. Since then I've found that few libraries carry it. The Ohio State University library was one of them and I managed to search through every page of the three volumes they owned without finding an Electrose ad. I'll need to search elsewhere for the other volumes.

I almost did not get to do even this research since the magazine had to be brought from storage to the main library. My 9 a.m. request was not in time for the 10 a.m. delivery so I thought I would have to wait until 3 p.m. to see the volumes. This was on the Friday of the Springfield, Ohio show and I knew that if I waited until 3 p.m. and took a couple hours to look through the volumes, it would be late before I got to the show. I resigned myself to not getting to do this research that day and tool solace in the book sale going on in the library that day. After buying two boxes of books for \$5 and heading to my truck with them, a woman at the checkout desk told me that my volumes from storage were there. Luckily my request made the 10 a.m. delivery window. In the future, there will be some more morsels of fun from this journal.

### Racine, Wisconsin Auction results

Seller	<b>Description</b>	Buyer	<b>Price</b>
Colin Yennie	CD 226 No. 115, aqua, VNM- \$20 Reserve, Book value \$40-50	Russ Frank	25.00
Randy Wesner	CD 145 [Star], green	Carol	8.00
Rick Soller	2 boxes of porcelain (75+ pieces) Elaine apparently mistakenly left these behind in the back of Randy's garage	Elaine Corriera	4.00
Mark Corriera	CD 154 McLaughlin, blue gray \$15-20 book value	Steve McCollum	20.00
Rick Soller	Box of 24 \$1-5 insulators	Mark Grimek	22.00
Bob Stahr	CD 164 McLaughlin, green \$15 reserve, \$25-35 book value	Colin Yennie	26.00
Arlen Rienstra	CD 162 Whitall-Tatum, pink	Mark Grimek	9.50
Arlen Rienstra	CD 302 Muncie, aqua	Mark Grimek	15.00
Tim Haraf	Tee shirt with insulator pictures \$8 reserve, \$15 retail value	Ruth Wesner	21.00
Ray Heim	Green Hemingray-42	Arlen Rienstra	4.00
Tim Haraf	Hemingray-43	Jay Case	5.00
Rick Soller	6 tops/bottoms to CD 190/191	Jay Case	7.00
Rick Soller	Box of 20 insulators, \$1-10	Mark Grimek	40.00
Rick Soller	Box of 11 insulators, \$5	Colin Yennie	27.00
Russ Frank	Miley Liberty Bell Finely crafted in Marion, OH with A picture of Alexander Graham Bell on one side of the stand and a picture of George Washington molded on the other. An insulator was used as the bell. Wood base.	Tina Rienstra	15.00
Randy Wesner	Necklace, hand crafted by Randy \$20 retail value	Tina Rienstra	7.00
Mark Grimek	Ukranian porcelain, neck chip	Jay	5.00
Ray Heim	CD 106 Hemingray-9, jade	Randy Wesner	7.00
Mark Grimek	CD 102 purple diamond	Russ Frank	20.00
Tim Haraf	7 Crown Jewel magazines	Elaine Corriera	7.00
Russ Frank	White porcelain radio strains	Jay	4.00
Russ Frank	3 High Voltage signs	Arlen	7.00
Mark & Elaine	CD 145 yellow green with Wood base. Hand made by Mark	Tim Haraf	30.00