

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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

In this issue of Drip Points:

- ♦ A Note from the Editor ... Arthur McConnachie
- From the President ... Kevin Jacobson
- From the First Past President ... Dudley Ellis
- ♦ From the Second Past President ... Tom Katonak
- Western Region... Mike Green
- Central Region ... Ross Baird
- Eastern Region ... Larry Novak
- Nominations Chair ... Kay Bryant
- Membership Director Donald Briel
- Promotions ... Bob Merzoian
- ♦ Historian Chair ... Glenn Drummond
- ♦ Executive Secretary ... Jacque Linscott-Barnes
- ♦ Financial Report ... Jack Roach
- NIA Contact List
- NIA Promotional Items
- 2007 Membership Renewal Form
- Winter 2006-2007 Product Order Form

Available via e-mail

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Season's Greetings!

First of all, let me thank all of my fellow collectors who contacted me after my first issue of Drip Points to express their thanks and encouragement, especially Wayne Junop who sent a letter all the way from Ontario. It's perhaps the first personal letter I've received in years thanks to email. I would also like to thank Kevin Jacobson for such a smooth transition and Don Briel for helping me sort out so many mailing issues.

Although every article is worth reading, I would like to call your attention to Tom Katonak's tall fish tale from Alaska, which includes visits to Bernie Warren and Jim Wright. Another must-read is Mike Green's advice on how to put on an insulator show—indispensable for any future show host.

Also worth checking out are the NIA Promotional Items and the Winter 2006-2007 Product Order

Form. There are many gift ideas to keep your junior collectors warm this winter.

May God's blessings be upon you all this holiday season. Stay warm and safe and share your love of insulators with someone new.

From sunny Albuquerque (where it snowed last week),

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934 Information Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fall certainly is in the air, even in Phoenix. Now that I have lived in Phoenix for 21 years, I find that fall is one of my favorite times of the year. I am originally from Hannibal, Missouri and used to dread the onset of winter about this time of year. I knew that it was going to get cold and that it wasn't going away until at least late March, five months away. Here in the desert Southwest, fall is the week between summer and winter when the temperature drops from daytime highs of 100-105 down to highs of 85-90. While 85-90 still sounds hot to many of you, it is really nice when the air is as dry as it is here and the night time temps are in the 40's

The next 6 months are Insulator hunting weather here. I am planning at least a couple of trips out to local lines and hunting spots to see what turns up. I will let you know more about how that goes in the March 1st Drip Points.

There are several shows in this area of the country this time of year. If you're not from the Southwest, you may want to plan a fall or winter show out this way. The weather and a good show are just the thing for cabin fever.

I recently attended the Enchant-

ment Insulator Club's 19th Annual Insulator, Bottle, Barbwire and Collectibles Show and Sale in Albuquerque. It was yet another

great show, lots of folks, great weather and Glass, Mud, and Bottles of all kinds. The Enchantment club did a great job with this again.

By the way, I am going to put in a little plug for a upcoming tailgater-show in Yuma. Arizona. This insulator get together has been going on for 8 years now and has been growing every year. There are between 75 and 100 folks attending from California, Arizona, New Mexico,

Canada, Oregon, Texas, and other locations. Another plus is that it will likely be 75-80 degrees the day of the show in early February! The show is sponsored by the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club, but as with many shows, the majority of the work and planning is done by one or two folks. Roger Nagel and Terri Taylor of Peoria, AZ are those folks when it comes to the Yuma Show. Thanks for your hard work Roger and Terri.

The details are: Grand Canyon State Insulator Club 8th annual insulator show/tailgater on Saturday February 3, 2007, Yuma, AZ from 10:00 AM MST until mid afternoon. Tailgater will be at the Riverside Park which is located next to the Yuma Territorial Prison. Directions: Exit Interstate 8 at the Giss Parkway exit (exit #1, Yuma

Territorial Prison exit). Follow the signs to the Yuma Territorial Prison. Just before you get to the Prison parking lot there is a turnoff

to the right that goes down the hill into the park. There will be signs posted saying 'GCSIC Picnic'. If selling insulators please bring tables or set up in the back of your truck, no reservations required. Questions? Contact Roger Nagel at 623-566-0121 (California quests remember the 1-hour time zone change. The show is in Arizona on Moun-Standard tain Time.

Don't forget to renew your NIA membership if you are not a multi-vear member. The renewal form is near the end of the Drip Points issue. It must still be mailed in. but we are working on the online renewal and payment of dues at this time. It is coming and I hope to have more on this by the March 1st. 2007 Drip Points publishing date.

> I would like to thank Mike Guthrie for stepping (back) up to the plate help out as the new NIA Ethics Chair. Mike has been the Ethics Chair in the past and Well as a Past NIA President. Treasurer. and Information Director. Outgoing Chairman Charles Bibb has done a wonderful job the past two and half years, but I have been told he thought the position was temporary when Dudley Ellis took office. Now that two years plus has passed. I would like to thank him for his service to the NIA and for his "temporary" service.

> Don't forget about the National for 2007. This is coming up faster than you think. There are still tables available and hotel rooms at

(Continued on page 3)

the show rate, but they are going fast.

The 38th Annual NIA show will be in Orlando Florida. The show will be June 22-24, 2007 and will be held at the Holiday Inn Resort and Convention Center at 6515 International Drive, Orlando, FL.

I stayed at this Hotel on a Business trip to Orlando just a few weeks ago. It is a great place to have a show. There is so much to do and places to eat in the area that no one, collector or not, will be bored. There is something for everyone.

Speaking of Nationals, the 2008 National will be in the Western region if we have one or more acceptable bids from the West. If there are no bids from the West.

we open this to the other two regions as well. If you are thinking about hosting a National or regional show, please let Jacque Barnes know. Bids for hosting National and Regional Shows should be submitted to the NIA Secretary and we would welcome your submittal.

Another reminder, don't forget to renew your NIA membership if you are not signed up as a multi- year member. The renewal form is near the end of the Drip Points issue. It must still be mailed in, but we are working on the online renewal and payment of dues at this time. It is coming and I hope to have more on this by the March 1st, 2007 Drip Points publishing date.

You can already update your membership information

cluding your e-mail address) at:

www.nia.org/membership/ update.htm

Also, did you know that you can download past issues of the Drip Points? See the link below:

www.nia.org/drippoints/archive/ index.htm

If you have suggestions or comments regarding the NIA or just want to chat about insulators, don't hesitate to e-mail or call me. I can be reached at:

kwjacob@icsaero.com or 602-564-0851

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 **NIA President**

FROM THE FIRST PAST **PRESIDENT**



The beautiful fall leaf season was a precursor to what should be a good insulator hunting season here in the south now that the rattle snakes and cotton mouths are getting ready to hibernate, and the first frost has encouraged the kudzu and blackberries to die back. I wish you the best in your hunts this winter and hope that you find that special piece for your collection.

Congratulations to Steve and Lois Blair and Glenn Drummond for hosting another great Mid-Ohio Show in Springfield, Ohio. Even though you don't think they can, they just keep getting better and better. The show was well attended by collectors from all around the United States. I saw

Don't

show.

forget

support your local shows

and swap meets. Also

remember to take a child

on an insulator hunt and

to the next insulator

to

as far away as California, Oregon and Alaska, James Bancroft surprisingly traveled from England to the You show. must put this

collectors from

normally the first weekend in November.

I was very pleased to see many children in attendance at the Mid-Ohio Show. Many of the older

ones were there looking for insulators. I watched Jim Frustieri interact with one youngster and give him an insulator. Words can't express the happiness I saw in the child's face and Jim's too. We all need to make an extra effort to bring children to shows. If we can't find one to bring we can still provide encouragement like Jim.

> I saw some insulators circulating around the show that had their color altered. I don't believe these were for sale at the show but were being shown around under the table so

to speak. I believe I

recently saw one of these on eBay. I did see one questionable dark popsicle purple piece on a table. No matter what we do to try and stop these from getting into the hobby we will continue to see them made by those who do not

show on your calendar to attend next year. It is

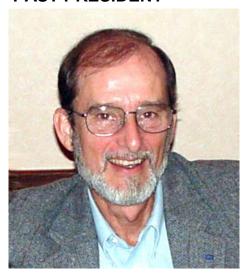
care about the future of our hobby and just want to make a fast buck. Please take the time to educate yourself about altered insulators. The NIA provides the fake and altered insulator display at many shows to help educate you and we publish information in the Drip Points and on the NIA web page. It is a shame but a buyer beware

market has developed in our hobby. Ultimately, it is our responsibility to educate ourselves about these fakes and altered insulators and be willing to educate others. Don't loose your hard earned money to those that are so willing to steal it from you. Educate yourself!

Don't forget to support your local shows and swap meets. Also remember to take a child on an insulator hunt and to the next insulator show

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

FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT



Greetings fellow insulator enthusiasts! I'm a bit remiss for not composing an article for the previous issue of Drip Points, but I have a good excuse: While the last issue was under construction, my bride and I were on a lengthy visit to our largest and most northern state – the land of the midnight sun. While there, I made detailed notes for use in this article.

Ostensibly, the purpose of the trip was to visit our kids in Kodiak, our friends and relatives in the Anchorage area, and to spend some serious time in Katmai. While this provided a good "cover" to con Lynda into the adventure, the real reason was to check in with all my insulator buds and see if there were any new items to add to my collection of insulator stuff!

Our plane arrived in Anchorage on schedule late on the Sunday eve of 13 August. Low clouds and light rain were harbingers of typical weather in the days to come. Old Air Force friends met us at the airport and soon we were in a warm place drinking hot coffee and catching up with "missing chapters" over the past few years.

The next morning, I gave my old friend Bernie Warren (recently honored with the NIA's most prestigious award - Life Membership for he and his spouse Madeline) a call and he invited us over right then. It was a treat indeed to view Bernie's amazing collection again. The last time I was there, he had just moved into their new house and had only a few insulator cases up. Now I was treated to the "insulator museum" in all its glory. There must have been 50 backlit cases filled with Bernie's acquisitions from dozens of trips abroad over the past four decades. There's probably no other place in the country where you can see essentially complete sets of insulators from France, Australia, Morocco and Uruguay. And, of course, each piece had a fascinating story - which ended up taking two days to tell them all. I was pretty impressed! And, as usual, I managed to acquire a few choice gingerbread boys for my collection.

Later in the week, we drove up

north of Anchorage to the old gold mining area around Hatcher Pass where the intent was to look for minerals in the mine dumps. By now, the rain had become a serious issue in-as-much-as the creeks and rivers were out of their banks and starting to flood lowlying areas. We were soaking wet after just a few minutes out in the weather at the first mine we went to so we pretty quickly gave up mineral collecting and headed up over Hatcher Pass to the little town of Willow. Here we found that the Susitna River was out of its banks and in the process of taking out the bridge on the main route up to Fairbanks. I called NIA member and long-time friend Jim Wright and found him at home the weather being far too crummy for fishing! Shortly we were up at his place checking out his stunning collections of insulators, lightning rod balls, Pez dispensers, yoyos, old wooden tops and more. It was like going to museum! We finally broke away late in the afternoon and headed back down to Anchorage. We read in the paper the next day, that both the highway and the Alaska railroad had washed out in the Willow area and for several days there was no way to get to Fairbanks and Denali National Park save for using an airplane. The resulting mess of stranded tourists in Anchorage was quite a sight!

One of the evenings in Anchorage, we went to visit an old fellow

(a friend of a friend) by the name of Fred Ward up in the foothills of the Chugach Mountains east of the city. I really wanted to talk to Fred about his mineral collecting trips down to Kennecott in years past. During the evening, I learned that Fred had been a surveyor for the BLM back in the 30's and 40's and he told me about flying in to a remote camp near Tanana on the Yukon River and retrieving old telegraph insulators. This had to be the original "Billy Mitchell telegraph line" constructed in 1901 and '02 to connect Nome with central and southern Alaska - and to connect Alaska to the United States. This amazing feat was accomplished by then Air Force Lieutenant Billy Mitchell because he had the reputation of being

bulge where the pin went into the two-holed cross-arm. (Later, when I told Lou "Pinman" Hall about this, he said he had only seen a couple of these and he speculated that the bulge in the pin might have been for extra strength in places where there would be a large snow-load.) In a trade for some nice mineral specimens I had brought from New Mexico, I became the proud owner of one of these fine telegraph history artifacts!

Late in August, we flew to Kodiak and spent a couple weeks with our kids and grandkids in one of the more idyllic places in Alaska. Here we got a few days of Halibut (pictured) and Salmon fishing in – caught enough to fill our freezer



able to drive "impossible tasks" to completion. So I asked Fred if I could see some of these insulators; he proceeded to pull out a large box with several aqua Brookfield beehives complete with the strangest wooden pins I had ever seen. These pins were about an inch and a half in diameter, and the top of the pin had a huge

back home, and thereby survive another winter without starving. We used Kodiak as our home base for hiking, climbing and fishing trips, including an incredible trip up to Katmai at the head of the Alaska Peninsula. Katmai is renown for three things: Huge bears, spectacular volcanoes, and outstanding fishing. The only option

for getting to Katmai (the country's second largest National Park) is to fly in on a floatplane. So we hitched up with ace bush pilot S. Willy Fulton, who turned out to be the same guy who flew Timothy Treadwell over to Katmai - before he was devoured by the grizzlies. So Willy is the guy you see on all the documentaries about Treadwell and the Katmai bears. This flight had to be the single-most exciting flight of my life. It was supposed to take 90 minutes, but by the time we had checked out all the wildlife at treetop level along the way, and get a lesson on the geology of the region, the flight turned into a five-hour tour! Highlights included watching whales coming up out of the water in the Shelikof Strait; setting down on the south coast of Katmai and watching bears...up close...ten to fifteen feet kind of close; and flying down into the craters of Mt. Katmai and Novarupta while marveling at the huge glaciers clinging to the crater walls. Novarupta, by the way, was the site of the largest eruption of the 20th Century, an event in 1912 that dramatically changed the world climate for several years.

Well, finally Lynda had had it. "Enough", she said. "Don't you realize that it's fall and we have the harvest in front of us?" So, never being one to argue or offer more appealing alternatives, I gathered up my gear, and my box of insulators, and we headed back for sunny New Mexico.

That's my story...and I'm stickin to it!

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 Second Past President

Note: Electronic subscribers can view additional photos on page 17.

FROM THE WESTERN REGION



Greetings Fellow Collectors,

I hope that all of you will have good health and many blessings throughout the holiday season. With a new year quickly approaching you may already be making plans to attend some shows next year. Perhaps you are even thinking about hosting a show sometime in the future. Putting on a show can be a lot of work but it is a very rewarding experience you might want to consider. I would like to offer ten tips that might help should you ever decide to put on a show.

Number one, Plan ahead. Make sure you give yourself enough time to adequately plan for the size show you are considering. For a backyard type club get together a month or two is probably sufficient. As you move up from there you will need six months or even a year to really do it right. In the case of a National Show a year and a half to two years ahead is a must.

Number two, Delegate. Don't try to take too much on by yourself, get other people involved. Pick up the phone and start calling all the other collectors in your area. Tell them about your plans and ask if they would like to help. Over half the people you call will offer to do

something to help out the show. Whether it's coordinating a banquet or just checking people at the door, every person is important and they will feel good to be involved. If it's a big enough show you may want to consider establishing a few committees to handle important aspects of the show such as advertising and awards. Don't forget that there are some really enthusiastic spouses out there as well who might not collect but could really help the show.

Number Three, Get the word out. Having just the local gang show up is fine at a backyard get together but for a show you hope for a lot more. Reaching more than just the local collectors is the key. You must go beyond the obvious choices such as the Crown Jewels and ICON to let people know about your show. Make sure and advertise in a couple local newspapers and any antique publications in the area. Go one step farther and drop off flyers to every major antique dealer in the region. We had nearly one thousand people the first day of the Western Regional two years ago and a large percentage brought flyers we put out which a included a discount to get into the show. Use the word "antiques" in your advertising to increase appeal to the general public.

Number four, Invite others. We are part of a very unique hobby but it is also rather small and very specialized. Don't be afraid to open up a few tables to some other hobbies related in some way to insulator collecting. Including bottles, phones, communication memorabilia, railroad collectables, or other types of antiques can broaden the appeal of your show and bring in a lot more people. We sold a small portion of the tables at the 2004 Western Regional to other types of

antique collectors and the results were terrific. It also allowed to advertise more than just insulators at the show which really helped overall attendance. There were also some great pieces that walked in the door as a result.

Number five, Little things. The big stuff can be so consuming that you forget about some of the little things that can make everyone feel more comfortable. Make sure you arrange to have some food and drink at the show or that it is available close by. Make sure you have put together some flyers or packets for everyone that have show hours and other important information. Have a few of your volunteers help people with loading and unloading, especially anyone elderly. Have some twowheelers and carts available. Make sure you are available so you can quickly deal with any situation that might come up. Have people at the front table who are friendly and have a smile on their face.

Number six, Cover the bases. Make a list and check it twice. Do not leave anything to chance. Whether you are dealing with a hotel, an events center, a school, or a the fairgrounds, do not assume they will come through with everything promised. Deal directly with every important individual and make sure nothing has been forgotten. Your event coordinator at a hotel may seem perfect but double check everything. Go directly to the person responsible for setting up the hall and make sure they know what you've been promised and what your expectations are. Do this with every key person you can think of.

Number seven, Watch the budget.

(Continued on page 7)

There is no reason to take a loss on a show if you've done your planning well. If you're very lucky you can cover a lot of the costs from table sales. As the size of the show increases and if there is a hotel involved things will get more difficult. You will have other costs including advertising and the cost of the show hall. You may need money from door admissions and an insulator raffle to just break even let alone finish with some profit. The important thing is to get an accurate idea of costs before diving in too deep. Once you know your costs you can put together a plan that will cover all the expenses. If you are dealing with a hotel make sure they have given you the best possible deal on the show hall. Watch for hidden costs such as electrical hook ups and table cloths. Try to negotiate for a deal that reduces the hall cost as the number of room nights increases. If you're lucky you might even get the hall for free.

Number eight, Encourage displays. Even small shows can have some truly amazing displays. As you talk with people who are planning on attending the show don't be afraid to ask if they might consider displaying. Do everything you can to get any junior members to do a display. Have experienced and impartial people as your judges and stay completely out of it as the host. Try to come up with something unique for your awards and make sure all displayers get at least an appreciation award.

Number nine, Have fun. Once the big event comes and all the planning is over try to lighten up and just have a great time. There are always a few last minute issues that come up but don't let it get you down. If someone is upset just deal with it calmly and resolve the problem. If others see you dealing with things in a calm way it will have a positive affect on everyone involved. Keep smiling no matter what.

Number ten, Express gratitude. Without fail thank every single person who has attended and helped with the show. Especially let your key volunteers and displayers know how much you appreciated their contribution. Before the hall is empty check under all table and "kick" all empty boxes to make sure nothing has been left behind. Now go home and get some sleep!

Putting on a show is a great experience and I hope there was at least one small thing here that will help. Whether it's your first show or your an old pro I wish you the best of luck.

Happy Holidays to everyone and good luck collecting,

Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region VP

FROM THE EASTERN REGION



Well, I had to miss the great Springfield, OH show again this year because of a conflict. From what I heard, it was one of the best ever. I'll need to offer more sacrifices to the conflict gods this year so I can get out there in 2007.

Things are winding down with the winter and holidays coming. After the long boring winter, the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club's Maryland Line show will kick things off on March 3rd. That will be followed shortly by the Western Reserve Insulator Club's Allegheny Valley show in Natrona Heights, PA. Lots more shows will follow as the weather warms up again. For those of you who hunt and dig, take advantage of the lack of prickly vegetation on the nicer days and I hope you find lots of treasures to show off at next year's shows and swap meets. Don't forget that next year's National will be in the Eastern Region, in Orlando, Florida on June 22-24. I hope you will plan to be

If your NIA dues was up for re-

there.

newal this year, I'm sure you noticed the new, improved format for renewal notices and membership cards that was instituted by our new membership chair, Don Briel. I'm not sure how we found Don but he's done a great job so far.

I hope you have a happy holiday season.

Larry Novak, NIA #5889 Eastern Region VP

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION



Here it is the first of November and my wife, Donna came home with a Christmas tree in a box. I can remember as a kid going with my parents to pick out a real tree. Now with the kids grown I have to settle for an artificial tree. This is about as exciting as a plastic insulator. I am still trying to figure out where the year went and she is already buying presents in November. For some reason I am more of a last minute shopper, I need to hear Christmas music on the radio before I think about buying presents.

Fall means it is Springfield, Ohio show time and this year I had the pleasure of Jack Roach and John Wiggins tagging along. Jack conveniently left his driver's license in

Waco Texas, so that left two of us to drive, but we manage to make it in record time. The trees started showing their fall colors as soon as we got into Arkansas and the colors continued to get stronger the further north we went. Once we got into town we met up with Galen Howard and Denny Hackthrone who had flown into Columbus. Ohio and rented a car. Despite Galen's flight being delayed and Denny's incident on the plane they both landed safely. You will have to ask Denny for the rest of the story! Anyone who has attended the Springfield show knows that this show rivals any National. Glenn Drummond, Steve and Lois Blair have hosted this show for 36 years and I want to personally thank them for all of their hard work.

There has been some rare and interesting pieces show up on eBay during the month of September: a CD 141.7 Twiggs out of Ohio, a CD 132.2 unembossed Paisley in yellow green from a collection in Indiana, and a CD 127 W1 in yellow green out of Pennsylvania. I have heard a lot of positive and negative things about eBay over the years, but it definitely has added some very interesting pieces to our hobby. On the

negative side there have been a large number of stained and irradiated pieces showing up. Although, most pieces have been identified as altered, I wonder what will happen years from now when they resurface. Unfortunately there seems to be a profit in this market, so more people are getting involved. This concerns me and I wish that I had an answer to this problem. We must continue to communicate with each other about suspicious pieces and educate ourselves in what to look for. Over the years Dwayne Anthony and Mike Guthrie have done an excellent job in keeping us informed. Dwayne has an excellent article at the NIA website on the Internet at:

www.nia.org/altered/index.htm

This is the best and most up to date information available, so please take time to read this. Remember to support your show and occasionally a long distance one as well!

Happy Holidays,

Ross Baird, NIA #1983 Central Region VP

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Holiday greetings from South Florida!

As your new nomination chairman I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their contributions and ask for their continued support. In 2007 Eastern Vice President position will come up for election. We need Eastern members in good standing to consider running for this position. Nominations should be to me by January 15th.

Please contact me if you would like to serve in this position or if you know of someone who would be a good candidate.

I look forward to serving you as nomination chairman and hope to see all of you in Orlando in June.

Kay Bryant, NIA#4099 Nominations Chair

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



We have had a great response on NIA Membership renewals. There are already more than 1100 members whose dues are paid through at least 2007. I would like to personally thank each and every member that took the time to renew. Your support of the NIA and the insulator collecting hobby is very much appreciated.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2007 there is still

time to renew without missing any member benefits. You can return

There are already more

than 1100 members whose

dues are paid through at

least 2007.

the reminder notice along with your dues payment. Get a membership renewal form online at www.NIA.org or

find a renewal form in 'Crown Jewels of the Wire'. 2007 dues are \$12 for an individual or for a family. Please send your renewal to:

Donald R. Briel NIA Membership Director P. O. Box 188 Providence, UT 84332 Don.Briel@comcast.net

On a personal note, my summer project was setting up a backyard mine train display. The setup is nearly complete now. I created a mine entrance using railroad ties as timbers, laid the track using old railroad tools that I was able to acquire, and had just a little bit of

the experience the old time workers must have gone through. What

an appreciation for the hard work our forebears went through. I think the original telegraph lines must have re-

quired just as much effort and manual labor.

My focus is shifting back to insulator collecting once again. If any of you fellow collectors are in the northern Utah area, you're invited to drop by for a visit, see our mine train setup, or just chat about insulators. I hope to see many of you in Orlando this summer at the National.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR



By the time you read this blurb the holiday season will be well underway. It's really hard to comprehend how the dimension of time operates. It seems like just last

week there were lines all over the San Joaquin Valley in operation, glistening with glass and porcelain. And now most are but a nostalgia-filled memory. The Santa Fe line has little left to remove...and the S.P. isn't far behind. The reason I mention this is because we collectors need to be vigilant in keeping the hobby in the public's view, especially now that lines don't parallel roads, highways, and freeways much anymore. I make a point of carrying a couple of insulators in my truck (not allowed in our car, unfortunately, unless it's a cobalt signal or some such...but that's another story) to use to refresh memories or introduce our hobby to those who have no idea what an insulator is. I also give them out to co-workers at my school, friends, and new acquaintances. I also give out glass as stocking stuffers, gifts to my students, and neighbors. When company visits, I make sure to have my cabinets lighted. More than a few times people ask to see my collection again. Some have begun collecting and others occasionally drop a "gift" by to add to my collection. Any knowledge and awareness of our hobby is, obviously, a really good thing. I know I keep repeating this refrain, but tell as many as you can about this quirky hobby ... and especially "fire-up" the kids.

I am reminded that I seem to be seeing less children at shows and tailgaters lately. This is a worrisome prospect, as we all know,

with a vibrant next generation of collectors coming up, then we may go by-way of stamps, coins, and barbed-wire.

Adding to the problem is growing cheats and thieves who have entered our domain. Fake, altered, and stained glass is becoming more common and is stretching the trust and credibility within our ranks. The N.I.A. has done much to educate current and upcoming

hobbyists, but there is still so far to go. Is there an easy, or even difficult, solution to this rotten dilemma? Not really, but we must continue to battle this problem with diligence. It is up to all of us to inform and educate our membership and the general public whenever we can. We should offer available tools to combat the "crooks" who are so nastily at work.

Final thought, please continue or renew your attendance to shows, tailgaters, and conventions. If support continues this dwindling, I fear we will see venues discontinue one-by-one.

Happy Holidays!

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

FROM THE HISTORIAN CHAIR



My life was rather hectic as summer slipped into fall; consequently this is my first opportunity to report to the membership since I was asked to serve as NIA Historian during the Austin National. Nevertheless, I have given the assignment considerable thought and have taken the counsel of several colleagues during the interim. The following is a basic outline of the direction in which I hope to take the office of Historian and an appeal for volunteers to assist in obtaining the goal.

First, let me state that the goal of the NIA Historian is to collect and archive the bits of information that pertain to the history of the hobby. Documentation of insulator history, including their applications, the materials from which they were made, and the manufacturers that produced them, is not included in the responsibilities of the NIA Historian.

After accepting the challenge, I quickly realized that the tasks of assembling and archiving the great wealth of artifacts associated with the birth and life of the hobby are much greater than one individual can hope to accomplish alone. To this end, I desire to decentralize the responsibilities of the Historian by creating positions for three Regional Historians and, hopefully, a Canadian Historian. Furthermore, it is desired to establish at least two "working groups" to accomplish other essential archiving tasks described below.

The primary function of the Regional Historians will be to collect and assemble hobby-related artifacts such as club newsletters, show flyers, show reports, photographs, and any other material pertinent to hobby activities. I had the opportunity to discuss this plan with Bill Rhode during the Austin National and he has agreed to accept the role of Western Region Historian. Volunteers to fill the positions of Central and Eastern Region Historians are now urgently needed to move forward with this plan. It is also desired that the Regional Historians seek means of recording of Oral Histories from senior collectors and other activists in the hobby. Successful recording of oral histories requires special talents; consequently the Regional Historians may have to call for assistance in completing this task.

One of the "working groups" will be composed of a group of volunteers who possess the computer skills necessary to scan and archive the existing photo albums as well as incoming photos. The creation of a photo album database will be a daunting task; Needed are volunteers who are willing to take on one album for completion within a six-month period. Success will be realized only if a sufficient number of volunteers can complete ten to twelve pages of photographs per month per individual. That is not an excessive amount of time to devote to further the enjoyment of the hobby. I believe that we can accomplish this goal in the foreseeable future if enough folks volunteer a bit of time each.

A second "working group" will scan and archive the club newsletter database. This goal can be achieved if sufficient individuals within the membership will step forward and each volunteer to scan and archive the newsletters from a particular club over the

next six months. This project should not be an overwhelming task.

The final resting place for these electronic archives will be the NIA website. It is envisioned that team members will pass completed tasks to Bob Berry and he will "stuff" the files into the appropriate niches in the website.

The success of this plan will come to fruition only if a sufficient number of members will step forward and offer their services. I do not envision that the chores of any one individual to be overwhelming; it will require a bit of dedication to see the accomplishment of these goals. Please contact me (glenn@patent-1871.com) if you have the time, equipment, and

skill to provide assistance in this worthy project. The NIA needs a host of good men and women to step forward and accept this challenge.

Glenn Drummond, NIA #537 Historian Chair

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



NIA members and your families,

My wish for you is a Joyous and Happy Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.

As your new NIA Executive Secretary, I'm here to serve the organization in whatever way I can. The

New Year - 2007 - brings your National Insulator Convention, Show and Sale to Orlando, FL where my husband, Graham Barnes, my grandson, Clay Bledsoe and I will be hosting the event June 22-24, 2007. As your NIA Executive Secretary it is my responsibility to be able to present to your NIA Board of Directors bids for the 2008 "National" (to be held somewhere in the Western Region). If you reside in the Western Region and wish to present a bid to host a "National" show, please contact me immediately for a bid form. (It's really not hard to host a "National" show ... I'm doing it for a third time.)

There is one more item that needs the attention of the Central Region Members/Clubs and that is ... a

show bid for a 2007 Regional Show. If you or a fellow member would like to host a regional show, contact either your Central Regional Vice President, Ross Baird (817-236-5580 or email nsulators@aol.com) or myself. We will be glad to answer questions and send a bid form to you.

If you have questions/concerns, don't hesitate to call. We'll look forward to seeing you at a show and hopefully in Orlando, FL June 22-24, 2007.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA #1380 Executive Secretary

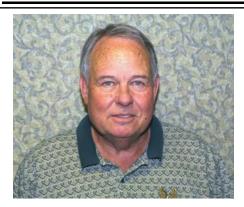
The National Insulator Association's 38th Annual Show & Convention

June 22-24th, 2007

Holiday Inn International Drive Resort & Convention Center

6515 International Drive

Orlando, Florida 32819



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION FIRST QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

Beginning Balances July 1, 2006 General Fund Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account					\$ \$	11,698 972 2,297
Revenues						
Donations						
Membership Dues		\$	780			
Miscellaneous Income		\$	150			
Product Sales		\$ 1	1,440	.		
l I	otal Revenues			\$ 2,370		
General Fund Expenses						
Advertising						
Bank Charges, Taxes, Fees						
Marketing Products		\$	740			
Misc. Postage		\$	45			
Misc. Printing		\$	923			
Misc. Supplies		\$	83			
Misc. Professional Services						
Crown Jewels Rebates						
Drip Points Printing		\$	893			
Drip Points Postage						
Show Advertising Subsidy						
Show Awards						
Stationery Supplies Telephone						
Special Projects						
Educational Disp Postage						
Educational Disp Fostage						
Т	otal Expenses			\$ 2,684		
Closing Balance, General Fund Museum Exploratory Committee					\$	11,385
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures					\$	972
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance				\$	2,297	
Total Balance on Hand September 30, 2006					\$	14,654

2006 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

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

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

Ross Baird, NIA #1983 Central Region VP 8617 Crosswind Dr Fort Worth, TX 76109 nsulator@aol.com

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

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934 Information Director 10700 Academy Rd NE Apt 2636

Albuquerque, NM 87111 arthur@mcconnachie.com

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA #1380 Secretary 3557 Nicklaus Drive Titusville, FL 32780-5356 321-480-1800 bluebellwt@aol.com

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

Donald Briel, NIA #7218 **Membership Director** P.O. Box 188, Providence, UT 84332 435-753-5786 Don.Briel@comcast.net

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

Mike Guthrie, NIA #3297 Ethics P.O. Box 130 Kalama, WA 98625-0200 360-673-2829 inthewoods@kalama.com

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

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

Kay Bryant, NIA #4099 Nominations 8061 S.E. Helen Terrace Hobe Sound, FL 33455 donbottles05@bellsouth.net

Paul Greaves, NIA #2685
Authentication & Classification
8830 Benton Acre Rd
Granite Bay, CA 95746
pgreaves@suewest.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 Dr Porterville, CA 93257-1637 559-781-6319 bobmerzoian@mac.com



Not sure what gift to give? All <u>NEW</u> stock of screen-printed t-shirts now in!!

◆ Sizes: Small - 2X

Colors: Lt. Steel, Stonewash Blue, Stonewash Green, Pebble (tan)

→ Prices: Small to XL = \$18.00; 2X = \$20.00

These are a quality Hanes Heavyweight. Taped neck, double-needle stitched hem / sleeves.

Full cut. NIA Logo on front and back.

Take a look at some other ideas:

Embroidered Polo/Golf Shirts

Embroidered Denim Long & Short Sleeved Shirts

NEW!! Embroidered Button Front Cotton Blend Shirts.

Embroidered T-shirts, some with pockets

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 Local Insulator Club Bars

We have an assortment of "new" items that debuted at the 2006 Austin National.

We now have embroidered Cardinal Red, Lt. Steel t-shirts and pullover sweatshirts.

In addition, we have light steel gray sweatshirts with ribbed cuff, zippered front, muff pocket & drawstring hood! A variety of polo / button-front shirts for men and women are in stock.

Please visit <u>WWW.NIA.ORG/products</u> for color photos & an order form, or the last page of this Drip Points issue.



Please give me a call to discuss your order @ 512-255-2006.



Carolyn Berry Product Marketing Committee NIA #4336

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

2007 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

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

(Payable to the NIA) Donald R. Briel

NIA Membership Director

P.O. Box 188

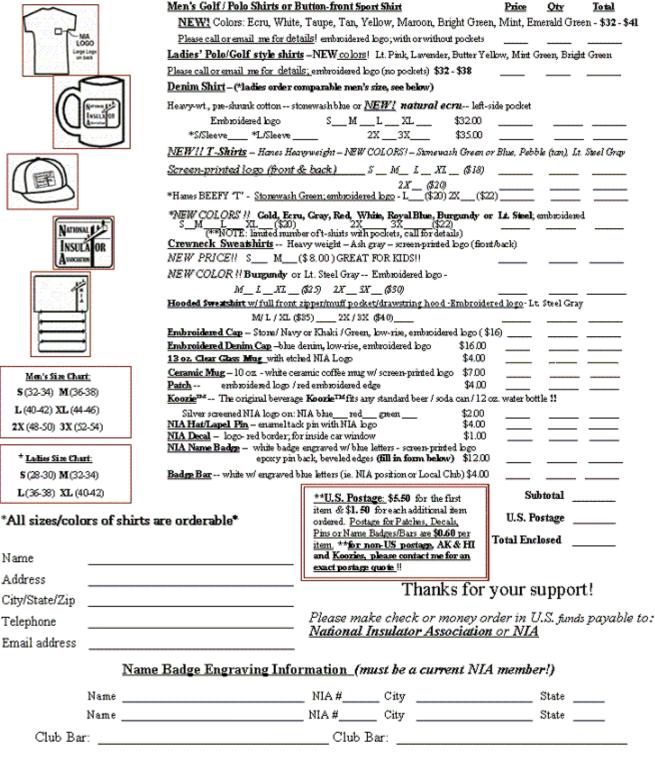
Providence, UT 84332

E-MAIL: don.briel@comcast.net

	Note New Dues Sc Regular Membership		n					
	Family Membership	\$ 12.00	0					
	Junior Membership (un Club or Organization							
(Check	neck appropriate Class) Regular Family				Club/Org			
(Check	Years of Payment) Please Print Name							
	NIA # (If Renewal)					-		
	Address							
	City							
	State/Province							
	Zip/Postal Code(+4)							
	Country (If Non U.S	S.)						
	Telephone Number							
	E-Mail Address							
	Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory Yes							
	Please include my Telephone Number					No		
	Please include my E-M	ail Address		Yes		No		
Note: (Ch	I Would like to Receive eck Only One Choice) (Electro	onic		
Name		Additional Fa	amily Members		Nia# (If Rei	newal)		
					TVIA# (II IXC)	icwaij		
Signed			_					
Date		Amour	nt Enclosed \$					



Winter 2006-2007 www.nia.org/products



Use the back of this order form for add'1 badge/bar orders (Rev. 12006)

Contact Information: Carolyn Berry - 1010 Wren Ct, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com

Electronic subscribers receive these additional color photos from Tom Katonak's Alaskan adventure.



Up Close and Personal in Katmai



The Mountains of Katmai



Jim Wright's YoYo's



Off the Billy Mitchell Telegraph Line

Bernie Warren with one of his Favorites

