

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

..http://www.nia.org

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Available via e-mail

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



With this being my third issue, you'd think that I'd be an expert at putting Drip Points together by now. Well, I decided to change all

that and upgrade to Office 2007 a week before the deadline. There were a few times I said, "where did that feature go?", but overall it was pretty painless.

For those of you who like details, this Drip Points won't disappoint you. Kevin Jacobson, Tom Katonak and Paul Greaves all provide information on "Questionable Insulators." The topic continues with Mike Guthrie's article on imitation and altered insulators.

For all of you map lovers, turn to page 16 where Don Briel has pro-

vided us with a map showing how NIA membership is distributed across the country and abroad.

On pages 18 and 19, Carolyn Berry has put together quite an assortment of NIA gear, including sales items in limited quantities.

Finally, here's a reminder for all of you to make your hotel and plane reservations now for the Orlando National. Don't wait until the last minute.

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934 Information Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello everyone,

I have found myself really busy these past few months with both NIA and non-NIA business. During this time I have been contacted more and more frequently by members and non-members alike regarding things like suspicious insulators, altered insulators, questionable insulators, fake insulators, and what this or that person was selling or doing. I also read ICON and ICAN (the on-line insulator collectors news lists for the US and Canada) when time permits. More often than not, I have to rely on others to relay on-line postings that they think are getting heated within our collecting family. These folks do a good job and I thank them for their effort.

Recently, a few items have come across my "electronic desk" that have made me realize that there appears to be a fair number of our collectors that don't really understand what the NIA's role is and what it really means to be a member. There also seems to be a lot of confusion in terms of relating information about insulators to others. For example: authentic, commemorative, fake, imitation, bogus, irradiated, nuked, cooked, imitation, altered, questionable, suspicious, and several others.

The problem is that all of these definitions are subjective. One person's definition of what it is to be an NIA member is likely not to be everyone's definition. The same is true with insulator classifications. The most visible example of this is color. How many times have you had a discussion on what color a particular insulator is? People simply see insulator color differently, even one person's perception changes throughout their life. With age, many of our perceptions change. For example, colors become not as bright, or start to shift color. Attitudes may change as well with experience and education.

All of the perceptual differences in classifications of insulators, and in the role of the NIA, make for some exciting conversations and posts to the web from time to time. It makes my job in the hobby harder as well. In an attempt to define where the NIA (in it's present form) stands, I have asked Mike Guthrie (Ethics Chair) and Paul Greaves (Authentication and Classification Chair) to write up articles in this Drip Points that will hopefully help let our membership see how we think (both individually and collectively) on these issues. Tom Katonak (Second Past President) also graciously offered to help out with an article of his own.

You will see differences in perception even between the four articles, but hopefully you will see similar perceptions to your own somewhere in these. Joining a club or organization is about being a part of a group of folks who share common interests and philosophies. It only stands to reason that you would not be a part of a club or organization if you felt that it did not represent your interests or values.

Originally, my own reasons for joining the NIA were to help out, at least financially, an organization that I felt was helping the hobby as a whole become more educated about our common interests. For me, the NIA is about research and education first. Another great reason for joining was to help in the promotion of the hobby, although some would call that education as well, myself included. Since my original introduction into the "organized hobby" in 1997, many things have changed. I had no clue at that time, that someday I would be as involved as I am today.

I have had others ask me what the NIA does for them, and I always come back to education. Another good reason is values. While different NIA members will have different values, on the whole, I believe that we all have generally the same values towards our fellow collectors and non-collectors alike.

Sometimes, we may have a member, who for one reason or another, decides to cross the line of trust and values. When that happens, we are in that subjective area of where the line really is. Many of us may feel differently about where to draw the line. The definition of the "line" is why the NIA has a Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics can be seen in it's entirety in the membership handbook available from Don Briel our membership director, or it can be seen on-line at: http://www.nia.org/ handbook/ethics.htm

Mike Guthrie, our Ethics Chair, has done a fine job of summarizing the Code of Ethics in his article later in this issue.

When someone believes that an

(Continued on page 3)

NIA member has violated the code of ethics, the proper avenue of approach is to contact the Ethics Chair to let the NIA know what is going on. The NIA will then step up and look into the complaint. We of course initiate investigations ourselves when we see something that appears to be not in the best interest of the hobby. There are some in the membership that feel we should be "insulator cops" and others who feel completely the opposite. This is the nature of the way things are. Personally, I would rather the NIA not be in the "insulator cop" business. I would

educator | an and point out to it's membership when wrong doing is either going on or appears to be going on. In reality, the NIA does not have any ability to do anything about

rather the NIA be

I have had others ask me what the NIA does for them, and I always come back to education. Another good reason is values.

those who betray our trust except to remove them from the NIA (if they are members) and to point out to our membership who is doing what. Even this is a fine line in today's litigious society.

Our greatest influence is to be able to keep imitation and altered items out of an NIA-sanctioned show such as the National and to educate our membership to help reduce their losses. Having said this, let me clarify something that seems to be a point of confusion. Earlier I gave an example of several terms that could apply to insulators. There are many that mean the same thing, and some that might seem to mean the same thing, but do not as defined by the NIA.

When it comes to NIA classifications in the Code of Ethics, there are 11 definitions presented. Many of these refer to original items that we collect and find acceptable. There are really only a couple of classifications that apply to items that the membership should avoid. "Imitation" These are "Altered". The Code of Ethics says "NIA Members shall not make or manufacture, advertise, exhibit or introduce into the hobby for distribution (including buying, selling or trading), any imitation insulator or related item deemed by the NIA to be objectionable to the best interests of the hobby, unless preapproved by the NIA for educa-

> tional purposes." It also says the same thing about altered insulators. Definitions for "Imitation" and "Altered" are found in the Code of Ethics. Now is a good time to point out something that has been confusing to many of our

members that I have talked with. Notice that I did not mention anything about "questionable insulators" this is because they are not referenced in the Code of Ethics. The NIA has classified and published a list of "Questionable Insulators", but you don't see questionable mentioned in the Code of Ethics. Why is this? You definitely should read Paul Greave's article "Questionable Insulators?" later in this issue for the detailed answers.

Recently I had to address a complaint against an NIA board member for selling an insulator on the e-place that was classified as Questionable by the NIA. The person complaining was certain the piece was a "fake" and the NIA was just "protecting it's own." This is not at all true, and I think a little light on this and similar situations is in order. The piece MAY be an

"Imitation Insulator", however, at this time, the NIA does not have enough proof to classify it as "Imitation." So, what does the Code of Ethics say about "Questionable Insulators"? Nothing actually, and this was purposeful. The NIA has referred and continues to refer to insulators that we believe are suspicious enough to make them known to the membership as "Questionable."

trading Selling or these "Questionable" pieces is not in violation of the NIA code of Ethics, which does not specifically mention them, with one caveat. Code of Ethics Item number 5 of 12. savs. "NIA members shall make every effort to comply with standards established by the NIA for accurate description of the type and condition of insulators." It is therefore the duty of an NIA member selling these to make it known that these are classified as "Questionable". I am happy to say that the individual selling the "questionable" piece went out of their way to make it known the piece was listed as questionable. There was no wrongdoing and so there was no action taken.

Please read the 2nd Past President's article by Tom Katonak for a very good history and yet another perspective on Questionable Insulators.

Well, I hope I was able to answer more questions than I created. If so, then maybe I actually pulled off "Education" and not "Confusion."

Best of luck in your collecting endeavors,

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

FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



Spring must not be too far away. I seem to have that hankering to get out of the house and go to a show or maybe hike down an old set of tracks to search for that special piece of glass for my collection. I trust that you are having a similar experience. As you make your spring plans please include giving your support to a local insulator swap or show in your area.

I am excited about the growth of

the hobby that I have been seeing, especially here in the south. I attended the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club's swap in November in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee and was surprised at the large number of insulator collectors in attendance. The swap drew over 120 collectors from ten states. Some of those in attendance were what I call closet collectors. These were local collectors that carried price guides and lists of insulator needs but did not know there was a regional Club. The DJIC signed up many new members that day. During lunch I had the opportunity to tell about the NIA and what we are about. I did manage to sign up one family in the NIA.

I wonder how many closet collectors are really out there nationwide that we need to bring into the fold, so to speak. The Soddy-Daisy swap was advertised in the local newspaper, in antique shops, in the Crown Jewels of the Wire and on ICON. I believe it was the article in the newspaper and the ad-

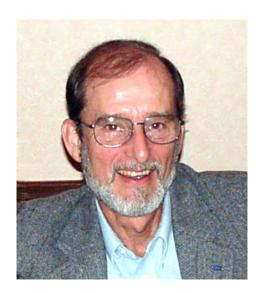
vertising in the antique shops that brought the closet collectors to the swap. Please keep this in mind when you plan your next swap, tailgater or local show. Make advertising a key part of your preparation for your event. We need to advertise our hobby more!

I was also pleased to see a lot of children with their families at the DJIC swap. Some of the older children were buying insulators for their collection. I saw several dealers drastically cut prices for the youngsters. Remember that the youth are the future of our hobby. Please encourage your children and even their friends to collect by taking them on a hunt or to an insulator event.

I hope to see many of you at some of the spring shows. Be sure to bring a youngster with you!

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

FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT



THE STORY ON QUESTIONABLE INSULATORS

Over the past year or so, I've had a number of people ask me about the NIA's "questionable insulator category"; what is it...how does something get on it...and how do you get something off the list?

Good questions. But to answer these questions, I have to give you a little background.

About five years ago, we were besieged with folks asking for a determination of authenticity on this item or that. They wanted to know if the particular insulator was an imitation or the real thing; or they wanted to know if their insulator was an authentic color or had it been altered.

As you might guess, there were a number of items we inspected that "looked phony", i.e. we were suspicious that they might be imitation insulators, but we couldn't tell for sure. And when we tried to run down the particulars on these items (who found them, where, when) we could never get verifiable answers. What were we to do with these things? What should we call them?

We had well-established definitions for several categories of insulators (and Mike Guthrie covers these in his article this issue), but we didn't have a definition or category for stuff we just weren't sure about. So unofficially, we put all these suspicious items into a category we referred to as

"questionable items".

To address this issue, we incorporated a statement into the section of the NIA Handbook that covers conduct at NIA sanctioned shows. and specifically relating to the permanent marking of imitation and/ or altered insulators. What this statement said was that you could deal questionable insulators and they didn't have to be permanently marked, but you had to be up-front and candid about the item. In other words, you had the ethical responsibility to tell a potential purchaser of a questionable piece the nature of the controversy that got the piece on the "Q List" in the first place, and you had to be forthcoming in answering questions about the controversy. This put the onus on the seller to be honest and ethical in his dealings. (Note that I said this is in the General Show Floor Rules section of the NIA Handbook....NOT the Code of Ethics. This could change in the future, but right now we address the "questionable issue" under Show Rules.)

To give the membership a quantitative feel for the "Q List", we published a list of items in the Spring 2003 Drip Points and we included good colored pictures for reference. As I recall, we had seven items on that list including the no-

torious "West Virginia Bullets", the Mexican "fence-post insulators", and the pointed-dome, "small-O" Tillotson CD 731s. You can view this issue on line at:

www.nia.org/drippoints/archive

We pointed out that this list dealt only with insulators we thought might be imitations. We did not include insulators that we suspected might have their colors altered. And in fact, we never did come up with a list of questionable altered insulators because there were just too many items to include and the list continues to be ever changing.

So, now to the question of how to get something on or off the list. Easy questions! To get ON the list, simply come up with a new find that has a murky hard-to-trace story of the find. Never give out real names and phone numbers of people you can actually talk to in order to verify the details. If the discovery looks like new glass right out of the factory - shiny and pristine - this will help. And if you can come up with wild colors that have here-to-fore never been seen in the 40+ year history of the hobby, this too will help. Also, if you've been involved or implicated in selling known imitation or altered pieces, it automatically makes your "latest find" suspicious! (Is that any kind of a surprise?)

It's easy to OFF the list as well. This can be accomplished by producing straightforward verifiable details of the find. This might be done via a published article in the Crown Jewels or Drip Points for example. Good photographs of the dig or discovery are always helpful. Being helpful when the NIA investigates the new find will also aid in the reclassification.

Now here's something you can do for the hobby on the subject of questionable insulators. How about passing this information along to others in the hobby that are not members of the NIA? Make this a topic of discussion at your next club meeting. Give the NIA website link above to other collectors so everyone here is on the same page. Help get the word out!

Fortunately, our new chairman of the Authentication and Classification Committee is well versed (and immersed) in this whole topic of "bogus glass" and I'm sure we'll hear more from him on this area as well.

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 Second Past President

FROM THE WESTERN REGION



Greetings From Snowy Denver,

Once again a new year has started out with the tough task of juggling many different activities. Most of us find ourselves doing a annual balancing act between family, work, hobbies, and other commitments. It seems that no matter how much we try to plan ahead there is just no way to fit it all in.

While I may love collecting insula-

tors it ranks way behind work and family in terms of importance. The trick is finding the right balance. There have been times in my life when collecting was too high a priority and other areas of my life suffered because of it. If you ever find yourself in the same position I urge you to take a step back and focus on the true priorities. If your commitments to God, family, and work come first, all your other activities, including collecting, will be

that much more enjoyable. Getting a new piece for the collection can sure feel good but it doesn't compare with doing something nice for someone you love. I hope each of you has a great year collecting and an even better year in

the things that matter most.

Best wishes,

Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region VP

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION



I keep hearing about global warming, but this year seems to be unusually cold here in Texas and other states. Southern California and the deserts of Arizona have been hit with freak snowstorms. Colorado had record snowfall in the plains shutting down Denver airport for a couple of days. I remember as a kid we had a spring and fall, but now it is just winter and summer!

There continues to be a lot of debate on how to handle the rise in altered, stained and fake insulators that have surfaced in the

hobby and on eBay. Trying to prove an insulator as fake can be very difficult. There has been a couple of threadless surface in the last few years that I am suspicious of, in fact I have gone back and forth on their authenticity. I doubt that I will ever be able to prove one way or the other. So what can I do about it? I can voice my opinion about my gut instinct, but some will agree and some will disagree. Very seldom will everyone have the same opinion unless there is overwhelming evidence, or the fake is very obvious. I thought some wild colored EC&Ms and CEWs were obvious, but there were some collectors that were adamant that they were real. Some collectors have mentioned opening up an Internet site and listing the questionable insulators. I am all for education so that the collector can make informed decision about a particular piece.

Thinking back to the earlier days of the hobby I can remember when the CD 140.5 and the Haley were in doubt. Over a period of time collectors began to uncover

information more information from bottle diggers, archives and other collectors to prove that these pieces were indeed genuine. A visit to the Smithsonian Institute by a small group of collectors answered a lot of questions. I think it is good to scrutinize new insulators and colors, but we need to keep an open mind and not be so quick to judge. Just ask Andy Wadysz how many collectors doubted his find of the Twiggs in the beginning.

Many of you may not realize that Ben Tucker Lincoln, Nebraska was involved in a serious car accident recently, his prognosis is good, but he maybe hospitalized for a long time. We also have some others with illnesses, or going through cancer treatment. Please keep these collectors in your thought and prayers.

Good collecting,

Ross Baird, NIA #1983 Central Region VP

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

2007 NIA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD & 2007 NIA LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

NOMINATIONS FOR POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS OF THESE AWARDS ARE BEING SOLICITED BY THE NIA AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS COMMITTEE.

Contact Lou Hall, A & R Committee Chairman, at (559) 435-1740 to obtain the appropriate nomination form, or e-mail your request to louhall@pacbell.net Nominations forms must be submitted to the committee by April 1, 2006.

FROM THE EASTERN REGION



We are in the middle of a major cold spell here in the mid-Atlantic – so far it's the second coldest February on record, so I don't imagine many people are out looking for insulators except in antique malls. Until a few weeks ago, however, we seemed to be having one of the warmest winters on record, so we're just making the averages work out.

With the chilly weather it's hard to

think about spring, but in only a few weeks the March 3rd Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club's Maryland Line show will be underway. Then, on March 24th, the Western Reserve Insulator Club will have their Allegheny Valley show in Natrona Heights, Pa., and on the 25th the Yankee Polecat Club will have their show in Enfield, Ct. Up in Perth, Ontario, Canada (yes, it's in the Eastern Region, too!) the Ottawa Valley Insulator Collectors will have their show on April 21. After that, we'll be on a roll again during the warmer weather.

Don't forget that this year's National will be in the Eastern Region, in Orlando, Florida on June 22-24. I hope you will plan to be there.

Later in the year, there will be an election for the new Eastern Regional Vice President. I have decided not to run again, mostly because I have not been getting out

to as many shows and swap meets as I would like and feel that someone who circulates more would be a better representative. I have enjoyed my term as V.P. and have gotten to have great respect for the people who volunteer many hours of their time to address issues in the hobby and to make sure that we have a strong, meaningful national organization. It's too easy to sit back and snipe at some of the thing that go on in the hobby, but as part of the NIA board, I have seen why it is so difficult to address them and how hard people work to try. If you think, "somebody" ought to do something about it, I can assure you that there are plenty of opportunities for you to become "somebody." I hope you will consider it.

Have a great 2007.

Larry Novak, NIA #5889 Eastern Region VP

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



As the time approaches for the 2007 National Show in Orlando, I would like to encourage each of you who are attending to make

time for the General Membership Meeting on Friday evening at 4:15 in the Citrus Ballroom (to the right as you come in the Convention Center's Main Entrance). The NIA Board members and Committee Chairpersons spend a lot of time making this organization work for you. It is important that you are there to show your support for the members and the organization.

As your NIA Secretary and also 38th Show Host, I would like to give you an up-date on the show. All of the designated Exhibitor tables/spaces have been reserved but we do have the flexibility to add more is needed. Over 75% of

the Sales Tables have been reserved. The Luau and the NIA Awards Banquet reservations are filling up but there is flexibility there also. Raffle items are being received. The Club Logo Wall Hanging is almost finished and is going to be just beautiful. And your show hosts are anticipating your arrival for the show. So ... make your plans, reservations, pack your insulators and meet us in Orlando, FL ... "where the magic begins".

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA #1380 Executive Secretary

When was the last time you visited?

www.nia.org

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



By the time you read this article many of us will start to see signs of spring -- even here in Utah. I've taken advantage of the winter weather to work on a computer application to track my collection. Actually, it is a re-write of an application I wrote several years ago and have used faithfully. This time I've added the capability to add more pictures, longer comments, reference files, etc. The fun part has been researching various glass manufacturers, patent holders, company owners, etc. and adding what I find into the new application for easy retrieval. I've learned a lot over the past couple of months while having fun.

Anyway, that's enough about my activities and what's happening here. As most of you are aware, the NIA membership renewal reminders went out on the 1st of October. The response was fantastic. Another reminder went out mid January to those folks whose membership expired at the end of 2005 or 2006. As of this writing we have passed 1400 active members for 2007. On page 16 is a map showing the current active membership by state with a list of members from other countries. To all of you who have renewed your NIA membership, I extend a personal thank you for your support of the NIA and the insulator collecting hobby. It's the super people involved in insulator collecting that make this hobby so enjoyable.

Anyone that hasn't renewed by this time will not be receiving this 'Drip Points'. Please take the time to remind your fellow collectors that it is past time to renew their NIA membership.

The NIA National is right around the corner. I'm looking forward to

seeing many of you once again, or in some cases meeting you for the first time. Its looks like it will be an exciting show and its in a great location. If you can make it to Orlando I'm sure you'll have a wonderful time. Orlando is a great vacation destination so be sure to bring your family and plan a little extra time there. Remember, only active NIA members are admitted on Friday (NIA day). If you have family members that plan to attend the show with you on NIA day, be sure they are listed as NIA members. There isn't any extra membership charge for those family members residing in your household. While folks can renew their membership at the door, or even join the NIA at the door, things get rather hectic at that time. It takes a lot less time to get into the show if you're signed up ahead of time. Bringing your current membership cards with you also gets you into the show faster.

Until next time, have an enjoyable season of collecting!

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

FROM THE AUTHENTICATION & CLASSIFICATION CHAIR



QUESTIONABLE INSULATORS?

What is a "questionable" insulator? It's a question I've been struggling with lately. I've seen many of the items on the "Questionable" list, and I wish I knew how to move them off in one direction or the other. It's a goal I'll try to reach for, but it may not be possible to do without more information coming in from outside sources. Historical provenance and discovery context are probably the most valuable information of all to the "history detective". If you ever do find something of significant historical value, please take high

quality photos of it in its historical context! Documentation will pay off in more ways than one. Meanwhile. I find that each "questionable" item I look at has a list of features that seem consistent with an authentic item, and a list of other features that seem surprising, unexpected, or inconsistent with a truly old item of history. Some have one list longer than the other, and some are the other way around! In many ways I like the term "inconclusive" because that is really the best I can say about them. Probably one of the most disturbing things about many of these items is that every

example seems to be not quite right in the way they look. Why don't they ever turn up looking like your average authentic Mulford & Biddle, or Dec. 19, 1871 item? Some things leave little doubt that they were used. But proving something is authentic or bogus is very difficult.

So, how should we manage the "Questionable" list while they remain inconclusive? Should we publish a list for each item, of the features that seem good and those that seem troubling? It could be good for the education of the people in the hobby, but it could

also give someone trying to make a better forgery some pointers to improve their product. And, should there be a formal procedure by which items could be submitted by the membership for evaluation by the NIA? If so, should it require that the request be endorsed by (say) 5 current members before being submitted for action? I would be interested to hear any thoughts on these matters.

Until we can find a test that will tell us the age of a given piece of glass, we will probably have to live with the "Questionable" list. It's a way of informing our membership that we have examined the items in question, and have found enough about either the items themselves or the conditions of their introduction to the hobby that troubles us, that we feel we need to pass the information on to the membership. But in the end, it will be up to each person to decide for him- or herself how to use that information when it comes time to consider making a purchase or trade.

Paul Greaves, NIA #2685 Authentification & Classification Chair

FROM THE AWARDS & RECOGNITION CHAIR



NIA Outstanding Service & Lifetime Membership Award Selection

Well, it's time to request your nominations for the NIA Outstanding Service and Lifetime Membership awards for 2007. Anyone can nominate a person; you just need to fill out the appropriate nomination form, and return a copy to your Regional VP and to the Chairman of the Awards and Recognitions Committee. The appropriate forms are available by contacting the A & R Committee

Chairman. The contact information is at the end of this article.

General guidelines:

Outstanding Service: A nomination for Outstanding Service should have made significant contributions to the insulator hobby in the last year or two. A nominee must not be a current NIA board member or committee chairman.

Lifetime Membership: The NIA Lifetime Membership Award is the highest honor that can be given to a fellow hobbyist. The list of recipients includes NIA members who have donated significant portions of their lives for the betterment of collecting. The effort taken to recognize those who have given hundreds or thousands of hours and/or dollars to the hobby should not be taken lightly. The Lifetime Membership is for a couple, as the spouse is often involved, or at least very supportive of the primary person being nominated. In some cases, the spouse is also involved in a formal capacity in the hobby, and the contributions of both people should be noted.

There is no requirement that either award be presented in a given year. Conversely, multiple people can be nominated in either category. The NIA board determines the final selection.

If you have any questions and to request nomination forms, please contact me at:

E-mail: louhall@pacbell.net Phone: (559) 435-01740

Written requests may be sent to:

363 W. Stuart Ave. Fresno, CA 93704-1544

Thanks for your assistance!

Lou Hall, NIA #7185
Awards & Recognition Chair

Insulator links:

http://www.cjow.com

http://www.insulators.com

http://dmoz.org/Recreation/Collecting/Insulators/

FROM THE ETHICS CHAIR



There continues to be a great deal of conversation about fake (imitation) and altered insulators in a variety of forums including at shows, via email, and through ICON. Many of the discussions focus on what the NIA is doing about the "problem".

The NIA's authority and power to act on the issue of imitation and altered insulators rests in the NIA Code of Ethics (COE) which can be found in the membership handbook and at the following link: http://www.nia.org/handbook/ethics.htm.

I will attempt to summarize the key points of the COE to clarify what the NIA can and cannot do about the imitation/altered issues. This is important to understand as there are many misconceptions floating around about the NIA's scope of influence.

First, the NIA's authority to act against individuals who may not be compliant with the COE is limited to those persons who are current NIA members. The sanction which may be applied, in the most severe cases, is revocation of membership.

Second, the NIA's influence in enforcing the COE and Floor Rules at shows (found in the membership handbook and at: http://

www.nia.org/handbook/ethics.htm limited to NIA sanctioned shows. This applies primarily to National and Regional Shows but may, on occasion, apply to other local shows. At these events, the NIA's authority to act is, again, Failure to comply with limited. floor rules or the COE at these events may only result in sanctions against one's NIA membership at a later time. It is exclusively the show hosts' right to take any action against improper display or sale of prohibited items since the seller is under contract with the host, not with the NIA. And, if the seller of prohibited items is not an NIA member, there are no sanctions available to the NIA.

This being said, here are the definitions of and rules about imitation/altered insulators from the membership handbook:

Definitions:

- 3. "Imitation Insulators" are ones that purport to be, but in fact are not, original insulators, commemorative insulators, or salesman samples. This category includes but is not limited to reproductions, copies, replicas, or counterfeits of original insulators, commemorative insulators or salesman samples.
- "Altered Insulators" include original insulators, commemorative insulators or salesman samples which have been intentionally altered from their originally manufactured condition in a manner other than described under "Restored Insulators", below. This category includes, but is not limited to mechanical actions (i.e. sandblasting, grinding, embossing modifications, etc.), heating, cutting and re-gluing, irradiation, dying and painting, and non-factory carnival coating. Altered insulators are deemed to be objectionable to

the best interests of the hobby.

- 8. "Objectionable to the Best Interests of the Hobby" includes, but is not limited to, any action or item which is likely to cause financial damage and/or loss, ill will, or injury to collectors or organizations involved in the collecting of insulators and related items. For example, a false or misleading representation of fact likely to cause confusion and/or the possibility of the use of an insulator to commit fraud (either by the issuing party or through a subsequent party).
- 10. "Manufactured in Accordance with NIA Guidelines" is a term reserved for use by the NIA Board of Directors pursuant to the authority granted to it in Article II, Sec. 11.0 of the NIA By-Laws. Upon application to the Board of Directors, an NIA member may apply for use of the term "Manufactured in Accordance with NIA Guidelines" in conjunction with the manufacture and sale of imitation insulators. Use of this term means that those engaged in the manufacturing of this particular insulator, have agreed to mark the imitation in a manner acceptable to the NIA to minimize the possibility that the item may be mistaken for, or misrepresented as, an original insulator.
- 11. "Permanently Marked" is defined as an identifying letter, number, etc., or a combination thereof, that cannot be removed from an imitation or altered insulator without obvious and conspicuous damage to it. Ordinarily such a mark will be that of an impression (as opposed to an embossing which has the potential for removal). However, due to the diverse styles of insulators, the NIA reserves the right to determine what constitutes permanent marking on a case by case basis for imitation and altered insulators.

Rules about Imitation and Altered Insulators

NIA Members:

- 1. shall not make or manufacture any commemorative or imitation insulator, or related item without first clearing the design with the NIA to make certain that the item produced will not be objectionable to the best interests of the hobby.
- 2. shall not make or manufacture, advertise, exhibit or introduce into the hobby for distribution (including buying, selling or trading), any imitation insulator which is not plainly and permanently marked "reproduction" with the calendar year in which such item was manufactured. Where the physical size limitation of an insulator prohibits such a marking (as in the case of miniature imitation insulators), the calendar year will suffice.
- 3. shall not make or manufacture, advertise, exhibit or introduce into the hobby for distribution (including buying, selling or trading), any imitation insulator or related item deemed by the NIA to be objectionable to the best interests of the hobby, unless preapproved by the NIA for educa-

tional purposes.

4. shall not make or manufacture, advertise, exhibit or introduce into the hobby for distribution (including buying, selling or trading), any altered insulator or related item which is not plainly and permanently marked "fake", unless pre-approved by the NIA for educational purposes.

In addition to these definitions and restrictions is the category of questionable insulators.

This subject is covered in some detail in the Drip Points of spring 2003. It can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.nia.org/drippoints/archive/DP_spring_2003.pdf

All collectors are encouraged to review this excellent information on the subject of questionable insulators. Since questionable insulators cannot be "proven" to be imitation, administrative sanctions are not possible under the COE.

In addition, there are other discussions on the subject in the fall and winter 2002, fall* and winter 2003, spring 2004, and summer and fall* 2005 editions of Drip Points.

Those editions with major discussions and/or photos are indicated by an asterisk.

There are no short cuts for developing expertise in the recognition of suspected imitation or altered insulators. Please use the resources identified in this article to educate yourself so you and your valuable resources will be protected against the unscrupulous.

If a member of the NIA is suspected of violating any of the provisions of the COE, a complaint may be registered with the NIA's Ethics Committee Chairperson (me) and an investigation will be conducted.

Additional information about altered and imitation insulators may be found at the following links:

http://www.insulators.com/books/fake/

http://www.nia.org/altered/index.htm

Mike Guthrie, NIA #3297 Ethics Chair

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 NOMINATIONS CHAIR



No nominations were received for the office of the Eastern Region Vice President and no volunteers came forward. Therefore some members were contacted and asked to serve.

Doug Williams NIA#1221 has agreed to accept the nomination for the office of Eastern Region

Vice President.

For those of you who don't know Doug I have included a bio below. Doug lives with his wife Donna and daughters Deanna and Dasha in Ocean Isle, North Carolina.

Kay Bryant, NIA #4099 Nominations Chair

Doug Williams Bio

Hi, my name is Doug Williams, NIA#1221. I have been nominated for the Eastern Region Vice President. For those of you who don't know me I have been collecting since I was 8 years old. I attended my first show when I was 12.

I lost most of my collection in a house fire in 1960 but started collecting again three years later at the Rochester, NY National. I have attended 25 Nationals and co-hosted the 1989 Allentown, PA. National. I attend as many shows as possible when I am not hunting for insulators. I have also hosted local shows in State Hill, NY, Middletown, NY, and Sussex, NJ.

Most of my friends are fellow collectors. I am a member of the Dixie Jewels and Capital District Insulator Clubs. I enjoy the hobby and meeting new people who have the same interests. I would appreciate your support and if elected will represent the Eastern Region by attending as many shows as possible.

Thank you,

Doug Williams

Note from editor: Doug Williams was unopposed, therefore there will not be an election and Doug will be the new Eastern Region VP.

In memory of ... Tom Moulton

I would like to tell you a little about a man name Tom Moulton (aka Corkscrew). I first met Tom at a insulator show in Albany, New York. We seemed to have the same interest in base-embossed insulators. So we had something in common, even with thirty years difference in our ages. My wife and I were invited to Tom & Alice's home during the Saratoga National to come see his great collection. As we arrived we were greeted by this huge dog that looked like a bear. Tom assured us she would not hurt us.

We enjoyed talking with Tom and Alice about his insulators and Alice's super collection of canning jars. During which time my girlfriend, soon to be wife, fell in love with their huge dog - so much that she had to get our first Akita name Brookfield. Tom was intrigued that we enjoyed a lot of the same things. So in 1987 one thing led to another and I sold my truck to buy Tom's Americans. Tom thought this was just too good. He could not believe I sold my truck to buy his insulators. Tom loved his insulators and his dog. He actually had a portrait painted of his dog, which he had hid the price from Alice for years.

He always wanted to know how we were and when we were going to get married. So to his surprised he and Alice were at our wedding in 1989 at the Allentown, PA. National. The one last thing Tom and Alice did for us was to remember how much Donna and I enjoyed their friendship was to let me have first bid on Tom's insulators when Tom passed. He'll always be remembered as a great friend and pioneer of insulator collecting on the East Coast.

May you rest in peace,

Doug Williams

FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR



It's the dead of winter as I write this. I'll be ever-so happy to feel the warmth of the spring sun! In the meantime, this is the slow time for our hobby. But might I add we can still spread the insulator word.

How about getting on your local library's community events calendar...put on a presentation concerning any or all of the exciting aspects of our hobby. You might consider discussing the historical perspective, manufacturing, color range, collecting, and more. Pass out a lot of your dust collectors to interested attendees. See whether

you could set up a case display in the library or at a community center. You can contact a local school or two and offer to put on classroom presentations (several of my former students have begun collecting thanks, in part, to my presentations to my classes) and be sure to pass out a ton of commons if you do.

You could also set up an insulator spin-and-win table at your local fair and pass out NIA and your local club information packs. You could contact your local newspaper and offer to be the subject of a story dealing with our rather arcane hobby. How about a colorful magnetic sign for your car. Yeah, I know, kind-of nerdy that one, but I'll bet it would draw some interest. Pass out NIA literature and your card to friends and acquaintances. Educate, educate, and educate some more. I'm sure we could brainstorm and find many other ways to promote collecting. Please feel free to send your ideas my way.

I recently attended a local rockand-mineral show. The hall was packed and sales seemed brisk. I noticed many children and families in attendance. The air was crackling with excitement and enthusiasm over the many wonderfully colorful and fascinating displays. My thoughts were centered, beyond my interest in rocks, upon just how can we spark interest in insulator collecting in the general public.

Insulators aren't generally known to many people under the age of 30 or so since so many of the rail, highway, road, and street lines have be removed. Even a few of the SBC linemen I've encountered were pretty vague about glass insulators. One young guy had no idea what an insulator even was. Well, my answer is pretty obvious, we have to be ambassadors, salespeople, and insulator educators. It's a whole big world out there. We need to enlarge our little family. One-step-at-a-time ... promote.

Bob Merzoian, NIA #3941 Promotions Chair

Insulator Hobby Timeline

- 1965 N. R. Woodward publishes "The Glass Insulator In America 1865-1965 Progress Report."
- 1967 N. R. Woodward publishes "The Glass Insulator In America 1967 Report" which introduces the Consolidated Design or CD numbering system for threaded glass insulators.
- 1967 Claire T. McClellan introduces insulators to bottle collectors in her article in <u>Western Collector</u>.
- 1967 Marion Milholland publishes "Milholland's Glass Insulator Reference Book" with pictures of insulators using N. R. Woodward's CD numbering system.
- 1969 First issue of Insulators: Crown Jewels of the Wire published by Dora Harned of Chico, CA.
- 1969 Joe Maurath, Jr. takes over editing/writing "Insulator Hot Line" in <u>Bottle World (vol. 7, no. 9)</u>

1969 Greg Kareofelas starts monthly column on insulators in Western Collector.



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

2006-2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION SIX MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2006

Beginning Balances July 1, 2006	IO ENDINO DECEMBER 31, 20	* 44.005	
General Fund		\$11,385 \$ 972	
Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account		\$ 972 \$ 2,297	
Authentication/Ethics Account		Ψ 2,231	
Revenues			
Donations	25		
Membership Dues	6,593		
Miscellaneous Income	200		
Product Sales	1,733		
	Total Revenues	\$ 8,551	
General Fund Expenses			
Advertising			
Bank Charges, Taxes, Fees			
Marketing Products	2,114		
Misc. Postage	1,585		
Misc. Printing	223		
Misc. Supplies Misc. Professional Services			
Crown Jewels Rebates	508		
Drip Points Printing & Posta			
Show Advertising Subsidy	1,099		
Show Awards			
Stationery Supplies			
Telephone			
Special Projects			
Educational Disp Postage			
	Total Expenses	\$ 6,329	
	·		
Closing Balance, Genera	l Fund	\$13,607	
Museum Exploratory Con	nmittee Expenditures		
Museum Exploratory Con		\$ 972	
Authentication/Ethics Acc	-	\$ 2,297	
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance			
Total Balance on Hand December 31, 2006			

2007 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

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

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Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-2006 pyrex553@aol.com

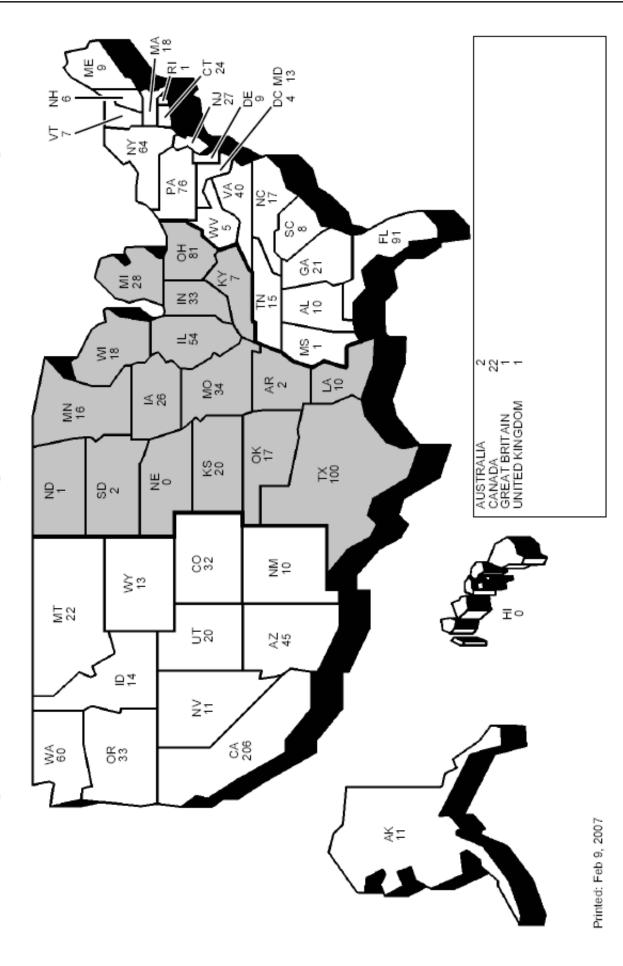
Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions 1080 N. Scenic Dr Porterville, CA 93257-1637 559-781-6319 bobmerzoian@mac.com

NIA Membership by State & Country

485 Western Region Members

455 Central Region Members

478 Eastern Region Members



2007 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

Donald R. Briel

NIA Membership Director

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

(Payable to the NIA)

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 ______ (Check appropriate Class) Regular____ Family____ Junior____ Club/Org.____ (Check Years of Payment) Single year____ Multi-year____ Please Print Name NIA # (If Renewal) Address City State/Province Zip/Postal Code _____(+4) _____ Country (If Non U.S.) Telephone Number E-Mail Address Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory Y es____ No____ Please include my Telephone Number Y es____ No____ No____ Please include my E-Mail Address Y es____ Note: I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format. Paper____ Electronic____ (Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic) Additional Family Members Nia# (If Renewal) Name 4._____ _____ Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ ______

Calling your attention!!



Screen Printed T-shirts are here!!

These shirts are back in multiple colors due to many requests for a logo shirt with regular size logo on front and the larger logo on the back. Nice heavyweight, pre-shrunk cotton.

<u>Great new colors:</u> Stonewash Green, Stonewash Blue, Pebble/Sand (tan), and Lt. Steel Gray.

<u>Sizes:</u> M- XL (\$18), 2XL (\$20)



POWER'ful REDUCTION....this Spring only!

Polo/ Golf Shirts - please call for the various styles/colors available.....

\$5.00 off, in stock polo's / golf shirts, until May 2007!

NEW "Line" ADDITIONS

Sweatshirts; crew neck: Burgundy or Lt. Steel Gray (M-XL-\$25), (2X, 3X - \$30) Sweatshirts; zippered, front muff pocket, hood: Lt. Steel Gray (M-XL-\$35), (2X, 3X - \$40)

SWEATSHIRTS - \$8.00 !!

Ash Gray, crew neck sweatshirt, screen printed logo on front and large logo on back;

Available only in Small or Medium.....

Stock reduction, only 4 of each size left!

Small = small adult (30-32) or Youth large (12/14) Medium = medium adult (34-36) or Youth xl (16/18)

Please see the order form in back of this Drip Points, or call me with your order to get an exact postage quote. <u>WWW.NIA.ORG</u> for product pictures / details.

As always, thank you for supporting your hobby association.

Carolyn Berry – NIA # 4336 Product Marketing Chairman





<u>Don't forget</u> to make your hotel, banquet, excursion reservations for the Florida National this coming June 21 - 24!



SPRING 2007 WWW.nia.org/products

NEW Colors Eura, White, Tange, Tan, Yellow, Marcon, Bright Grove, Mint, Essendid Grove. 353-541 Plant and its or and the fundable independent programs to without peachest.		Men's Golf / Polo Shirts or I	<u> Buiton-Éront S</u>	<u>poet Shirt</u>		Price	Oty	<u>Total</u>
Pener call or annual and for details: anaboroidental large; with or without proclast. Ladies? Placefold style shirts: NEW Cockes I. Parks, Larmanda, Baster Yallow, Mint Grown, Bright Grown Pener call or annual and for details, anaboroidental large (no peachos) \$33 - \$38 Deain Shirt - (*Indies sorder consumables ones"; nim, as below) Henry out, par called consumable of the period of the pener called the pene		<u>NEW!</u> Colors: Ecru, White	e, Tampe, Tan,	Yellow, Maroon, P	kright Gree	o, Mint, Em	erald Gree	m - \$32 - \$41
Ladia ** Pola **Cell style skints - NEW Colors I L. Fail, L. revander, Bertin Y officer, Mint Carom, Reight Gronn Please and for mant ma for details, make reight into, me below) Honey on Lyne should be the style of the s	— I — NIA	Please call or enail me for de	<u>tails</u> ! ambroida	red logo; with or with	out pockets			
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Use the back of this order form for add I badge/bar orders (now 1987)

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

The Nor-Cal Insulator Club Newsletter HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007

From the Presidents Corner

January 2007

I hope you all had a great Christmas and will have a prosperous insulator New Year. The Auburn 49er Bottle Club Show was well attended this year. The first Nor-Cal Club president was there and seemed to be enjoying himself meeting all of the new collectors to him. His name is Bill Galloway from Driggs, Idaho and he was the club president (according to our club historian Jack Foote) starting April 19, 1975 and Pat Patocka was the next president on April 3, 1976.

Colin Jung had a beautiful California CD161 insulator display



The new bylaws state that memberships will now be from January thru December. Those that have paid in the last six months will be okay thru December 2007. If you paid before that your dues are due for 2007. All of those with a paid up dues for 2007 will receive a new Nor-Cal patch as shown here. Some have already received the new patch when they paid recently. Dues are still ten dollars a year payable to our club treasurer Bill Rohde, P.O. box 1008, Williams, CA 95987.

We are trying to set up a place, date and time for a Nor-Cal summer show in Placerville. We should know more with our next newsletter.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!