

# 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



As I write this, the National is just over a month away. I trust that you have made your preparations. This will be my fifth. Each and every time I learn something new about our great hobby and meet some wonderful people.

I was talking to a fellow collector the other day and mentioned that if no one else hunted for insulators, I'd still be out there, but the reason I go to shows is the people, not the glass. I certainly hope that you can make it. If you can't, please consider attending the Central Regional Show. Details and contact information can be found on page 4.

In this issue, I would like to point out two articles in particular. First, be sure to read Paul Greaves' research on EC&M molds, complete with mold comparison photos.

Second, take a moment to acquaint yourself with Lou Hall via his biography. Lou will be the new

Vice President from the Western region. Lou has put a tremendous amount of effort into his current position as the Awards and Recognition Chair. I am certain that he will continue to contribute to our hobby with the same passion and energy.

Hope to see you in Portland,

## **Arthur McConnachie**, NIA #6934 **Information Director**

Note: If you would like to see the photographs in this issue in color, consider switching your subscription to the electronic version.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello again everyone, I hope you are making it out for spring and early summer insulator hunting and getting out to attend some shows. There are quite a few local shows and events going on all over the country now and I count at least seven of them between now and the National (July 4th through the 6th).

This is my last *Drip Points* article before becoming the NIA First Past President at the National only 4-5 weeks away! Our next NIA president will be Bob Stahr. Many of you will remember that Bob is presently the By-Laws Chairman and has helped out on the NIA board in the recent past as the Executive Secretary. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Bob for stepping up to help our organization.

Our current First Past President, Dudley Ellis, will become the Second Past President, and the current Second Past President, Tom Katonak, will be taking a break from the board for the first time in many years.

I know the cost of fuel is pretty high right now, but I certainly hope that doesn't keep you from joining me and your many other collecting friends at Portland, Oregon, for the National Show.

#### 2008 NIA National Show

Speaking of the National, if you haven't already booked your reservations, you should do so immediately. The show details are as follows:

The 39th Annual

**National Insulator** 

Association's Show &

Convention, will be

Friday July 4th through

**Sunday July 6th** 

The 39th Annual National Insulator Association's Show & Convention, will be Friday July 4th through Sunday July 6th, at the DoubleTree Ho-

Portland-

tel.

Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232. There are 127 sales tables and 40 display tables. Sales tables are \$45 for first, \$40 subsequent, plus \$10 per table for electricity if desired. The DoubleTree offers double sized rooms for just \$89 per night if you book using the code "NIA", or just say, "National Insulator Show". Special room rate valid July 2nd through July 8th. For reservations, phone 800-222-8733. For show info contact:

HOWARD & LINDA BANKS: 541-761-9456 or email: hbanks@grantspass.com or, STEVE WATKINS: 503-794-5691 or email: germsw@earthlink.net

#### **2008 NIA Central Regional**

The National Insulator Association's 2008 Central Regional Show & Sale is just 2 weeks after the National show this year on July 19th and 20th. Many of you may wish to make both shows so plan ahead. The show will be at the Quality Inn and Suites Richfield. 4742 Brecksville Rd, Richfield, Ohio 44286. There are 55 sales and 10 display tables. Dealer tables \$45. Saturday Evening

Awards Banquet \$30. Dealer setup 3-8PM Friday, Show: 8AM-4PM Saturday, 8AM-2PM Sunday. Room reservations at \$74/night plus tax, call (330) 659-6151 and be sure to mention the "NIA Insulator Show" to get special pricing,

good from Thursday sunday night. Your choice of Double or King room, as well as balcony or atrium rooms adjacent to indoor pool, all at the

\$74/night price. For more information or show packets contact:

JOHN HOVANEC (440) 237-2242 email jhovanec@ameritech.net, KEN ORCHARD (330) 659-3786, or RON BARTH (724)845-8439, email rktbarth@windstream.net

#### **Rohde Ranch Tailgater**

I finally made it to the Rohde Ranch Tailgater this year and it was a really great time. I have wanted to make this for a few years now, but this year was the vear. This is an event sponsored by the Rohde family Don, Camille and Bill at Don and Camille's home in Fresno California. It is a Club member event for those in the Golden State Insulator Club, but it's another great club to belong to, so why not join and check out Rohde Ranch next year? I want to personally thank Don, Camille, and Bill Rohde for hosting such a great event.

Best of luck collecting,

Kevin

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 President

#### 1st PAST PRESIDENT



The 39th Annual National Insulator Association's Show and Convention in Portland, Oregon, on July 4, 5, and 6th is quickly approaching. The Convention not only brings collectors together from around the country and world to share the hobby and friendships that we cherish so much but it also represents a time of assessment and renewal for the Association

The NIA Board has its annual Board meeting to discuss issues of the past year, resolve new issues and propose a direction for the Association for the next year that will hopefully encourage collector ethics and a continued

growth of our great hobby. The General Membership Meeting is held each year for the Board and Committee Chairs to share with the membership what they have accomplished the previous year. Most importantly, the General Meeting provides time for membership input. Another key part of this time of renewal is the changing of the guard in some of the Board positions and Committee Chairs. This renewal is very important because it brings new and fresh ideas to the management team of your Association. Without this continued renewal we would bog down with the same old goals and ideas and become a stagnant organization with no growth.

The bottom line is that each one of you needs to be part of this annual renewal. If you attend the National Convention this year please make time to attend the General Membership Meeting to provide your input. Another way to participate in the annual renewal is to volunteer to serve on a committee. If you have leadership abilities, how about volunteering to chair one of the NIA's committees, or even run for an NIA office? The NIA needs you and your

refreshing new ideas. You can make a difference in our hobby. Contact one of your Board members or Committee Chairs and let them know that you want to be part of the Team.

If you are going to the National, please don't forget to take some purple insulators to donate to Howard Banks for the Insulators for Kids Program. This is a very important program to our hobby because it encourages new young collectors. Remember that the youth are the future of our hobby.

Don't forget to encourage your children and even their friends to collect by taking them on a hunt or to an insulator event. Be sure to bring a youngster with you to the National.

Have a great summer!

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

#### 39th National Insulator Association Annual Show & Convention Portland, Oregon, July 4-6, 2008

Wednesday, July 2nd Outrageous Jet Boat Adventure Heart of the Gorge Cruise 8 am - 5:00 pm

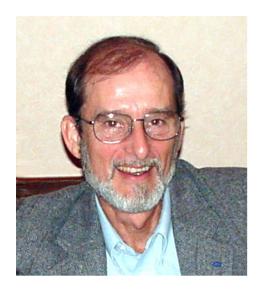
Thursday, July 3rd
10:00 am - 4 pm - NIA Board Meeting
11:30 am - 2:30 pm - Portland Spirit Lunch Cruise
5:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Dealer Unload/Exhibitor Setup

Friday, July 4th
7:30 am - 9:00 am - Dealer and Display Setup
9:00 am - 4 pm - NIA Members Only Show Hours
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm - General Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 5th
7:30 am - 9:00 am - Display Judging; Dealer Setup
9:00 am - 4 pm - General Admission
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Reception/Cash Bar
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Awards Dinner Banquet

Sunday, July 6th
7:30 am - 9:00 am - Dealer Setup
9:00 am - 1:30 pm - General Admission
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Dealer/Exhibitor Take-down

#### 2nd PAST PRESIDENT



Hard to believe that summer's almost here again. Here in the desert southwest we already have the hot dry weather (well under an inch of rain so far this year here in the Albuquerque area) and we're already experiencing devastating fires all around the state. One lesson to take away from the fire problem out here is to be careful with fire when you're out hunting the lines. Let's not be part of the fire problem.

Speaking of hunting the lines, several of us here in New Mexico have been able to get out and look for glass. We've looked at

more of the early telegraph lines and have made some good finds – and increased our knowledge of where and when various types of insulators were used.

I've also hunted some more lines down in Mexico this past month on another of my joint insulator/ mineral expeditions. Boy there's some great stuff down there! The nice thing about hunting trips out here in Mexico and New Mexico is you don't have the heavy undergrowth - full of the ticks, snakes and mosquitoes that bless the eastern, central and southern parts of our country. You can see the scorpions and the spiders, and you can hear the rattlesnakes ... and the mosquitoes only come out at night, so it's pretty nice!

On the latest Mexican venture, I ran across lots of really interesting power porcelain stuff associated with some of the old silver mines. This trip took us to the depths of Barranca Del Cobre – the famous Copper Canyon – perhaps the most well known silver mining area in Mexico. We managed to come up with over a hundred specimens of silver, much of it in the native metallic form. Not being a "mud guy," I left the porcelain for the real mud aficionados exploring

this out-back area in the future. (Take at least two spare tires if you get serious about going there!)

And when we got home, we held another of our spring garage sales: I set out more of my one dollar common pieces — just like last year - and again I was amazed at how many people just had to have a couple of these things sitting on their window sills! I think I only sold around 50 this year, but that's one more box out of my garage!

With summer, also comes the "show season" – and we have a number of gala events on the docket out here. The big event in the West, of course, is the 39th NIA Convention and Show in Portland, Oregon, on 4, 5, and 6 July. This is really shaping up to be a super event! You can find any planning info you need on the show website:

www.ecandm.com/events.html

Regards and great collecting,

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 Second Past President

#### National Insulator Association's 2008 Central Regional Show & Sale July 19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday) in Richfield, Ohio

For information or show packets contact:

JOHN HOVANEC 440-237-2242 jhovanec@ameritech.net

KEN ORCHARD 330-659-3786

RON BARTH 724-845-8439 rktbarth@windstream.net

#### WESTERN REGION VP



Greetings Fellow Collectors,

Please let me start by saying "Thank you" for a wonderful three years as Western Region Vice President. As I pass the torch I am reminded of all the wonderful friendships that I have in the hobby. Some of those friendships go back 30 years now. I don't see some of those friends very often but when I do it is always so wonderful to catch up and share old memories.

There are many different aspects to our hobby but it is the friend-ships we form that matter the most. Take the time to cherish your closest friends in the hobby and never let something ruin those bonds. I have seen too many friendships hurt by a deal gone bad or some type of miscommunication. Try to think first and always place great value on the friendships you've made.

Many things have occurred in the hobby during my term as Western Region Vice President. We have had ethics issues, show issues, fake and altered issues, and reproduction issues just to name a

handful. I am proud to say that the NIA took these issues head on and has dealt with them all in a positive way.

Many people don't realize how much thought and discussion goes on behind the scenes as the NIA tries to find an answer that is fair and makes sense. It is not easy to just come out and say that something is fake or that something is wrong. It takes proof and careful analysis to pass that kind of judgment. Rest assured that the NIA works hard for you and that when a decision is made that careful thought and research went into it. I have seen this many times and am proud to have been a part of it.

Perhaps the most troublesome issue that the NIA faces is the fake, altered, and questionable reproduction insulators that have plagued the hobby. I can't tell you how much time is spent trying to determine the best course of action when an insulator is suspect. The NIA has even had expensive tests done in many cases trying to determine the authenticity of a piece.

Unfortunately no matter what the NIA does it is sometimes hard to find the truth. Even if the NIA is pretty convinced a particular insulator is not authentic we can't label it that way unless we are 100% sure.

What it really come down to for everyone in the hobby is "buyer beware." If you feel an insulator might be tampered with or fake, DON'T buy it! Do some research.

If the NIA says it is questionable, move on and spend your money elsewhere. I have a fairly large list of pieces I wouldn't touch with a ten foot pole and you should have the same. In the meantime the NIA will keep working to keep the hobby safe from this sort of thievery.

On a much more positive note the NIA continues to sponsor the best insulator shows around and most notably the National Shows. It is an amazing experience to attend a National and I hope everyone in the hobby gets the chance to attend at least one during their collecting journey.

I know the upcoming Portland show will be terrific and my hat is off to Howard and Linda Banks, and Steve Watkins for all the time and effort they have put in. It's going to be a great show and I wish them much success.

Once again my sincere thanks for a great three years as Western VP. I am pleased to say that the hobby is strong and that the Western Region has a lot of collecting activity to be proud of.

Congratulations to Lou Hall who is my successor and I would like to wish Lou the best of luck. I hope you and your loved ones are well and that you are having a great year.

Good Luck Collecting,

Mike Green, NIA #3175 WESTERN REGION VP

39th National Insulator Association Annual Show & Convention Portland, Oregon

July 4-6 2008

http://www.ecandm.com/

#### **CENTRAL REGION VP**



I am putting my plan together to attend the 39th Annual National Insulator show in Portland, Oregon, hosted by Steve Watkins, Howard and Linda Banks. Although I am excited about the show I realize that there is a considerable expense to attend a show so far away from home. The high price of gas and lodging has limited the number of shows that I attend these days. From what other collectors tell me they are doing the same thing. I am grateful that the Internet came about when it did. It allows us to communicate with each other, send pictures and even buy insulators without leaving home!

There have been some nice insulators showing up on eBay recently. There were two CD 154 Whitall Tatums in red amber. CD 132.2 off clear. CD 742 dark cornflower blue, or light cobalt blue and a CD 791 baby glass Teapot. At first there was some skepticism about the Whitall Tatum's, but evidently the color was authentic. With eBay you have to cull through the usual stained and irradiated pieces, so please use caution when buying from unknown buyers, or buyers with high negative feedbacks. There are other insulators that have appeared on eBay and as "walk-ins" at shows that are highly suspicious, most of these are threadless.

So how should the NIA handle these fake and suspicious insulators? When we cannot prove these to be fake, but based on gut feelings something does not add up. I must admit that I have been fooled by some of these pieces, but after hearing from other collectors about their concerns, I realize that I made a mistake. There are some pieces that I have been

asked my opinion on, and when I tell them that I am suspicious of them, they disagree, so who is right? Education is so important in this situation. Please ask someone you can trust for their honest opinion, if you have any doubt. That way you can make an informed decision on your purchase. One thing to remember is "perception" if an insulator is perceived to be fake then it is very likely to remain that way and in most cases that will never go away. I plan to address this at the board meeting and would like to hear from you if you have any ideas on how to handle these situations.

I would like to thank Mike Green from Colorado for his participation on the board as he steps down it has been a pleasure working with you for the past couple of years. Mike's positive attitude has brought some fresh ideas to this hobby.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ross Baird, NIA #1983 Central Region VP

#### **EASTERN REGION VP**



Hi Folks,

Here we go again! We still don't have an Eastern Regional Show

at this time. If someone would like to step forward, there is still some time left.

I had a chance to attend The Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club Show and The Baltimore Bottle Show. Both were well attended. There was a baby teapot that showed up at the Chesapeake show and another baby teapot on eBay. Maybe there is a chance for the rest of us. I was also told that the Deland. Florida show and The Yankee Pole Cat Show were well attended. But now it's time to make plans to attend the Shows to come. First, the Dixie

Jewels Swap on May 17th in Soddy Daisy, TN. Then on to Perkiomenville, PA in June. This show is always well attended. And then The Big One, The National in July in Portland OR. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!! There is still plenty of time to make plans.

**Doug (Dug) Williams**, NIA #1221 **Eastern Region VP** 

#### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



What happened to 'Global Warming' in Utah this year? It's been cold and snowy all spring. As I write this article on May 1st there is about 3" of new snow outside. Anyway, spring should be just around the corner and I'm already starting to think about Portland in July.

I hope many of you have had a chance to read my recent article "Early Communication Technology in Utah" published in the April Crown Jewels of the Wire. It focused on the Deseret Telegraph Company established in Utah in 1867. In late April Jeanne and I had the opportunity drive down to St. George, Utah, on a business trip. While there we took an extra day and visited the Pipe Springs National Monument near Fredonia, Arizona (straight south of Kanab, Utah). Pipe Springs was an early fortified outpost in the middle of nowhere. The Deseret Telegraph was extended there in 1871 and there are guite a few of the original components (or well chosen replicas) on display just as they were installed at the time.

This article includes several pictures of the area with the poles and insulators used there. Once again, I was able to confirm the use of BROOKFIELD CD 133 [230] insulators on the original line. Also of interest, and you'll note in the pole picture, lightning was probably quite a hazard with the old telegraph. The pole has a ground wire that is connected to the conductor and then protrudes into the air. This was obviously a recent addition to protect the building against lightning, but stirs the thought of what the dangers were when the conductor was in use and couldn't be grounded.

At this time last year the NIA Membership count passed 2006's total of 1500 members. This year

would like some to distribute. Just send me an email request at Don.Briel@comcast.net or drop me a note in the mail. Membership applications are available online at www.NIA.org along with a host of other valuable information.

The NIA has also provided Howard Banks with copies of the "What Are Insulators" booklets to enclose with his free boxes of insulators. These are sent to young collectors for just the cost of shipping. What a wonderful program to get the next generation of collectors interested and started collecting.



we are already past 1550 members which is well ahead of 2007 at this time of year. Renewals, new membership applications, and advance dues payments continue to flow in. Keep up the good work of letting fellow collectors know about the NIA and its many benefits. There are still NIA brochures available for anyone that

If you had this 'Drip Points' sent to you, your NIA dues are paid for 2008. By the time you read this article, it will probably be too late for others that are not paid up to send their NIA dues in advance to get into the National on NIA day (Friday, July 4th). NEVER FEAR - its not too late for them to get in. If you know anyone that is not yet

New mailing or email address? Update your information online at: http://www.nia.org/membership/update.htm

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paid for 2008, just have them bring their dues to the show. It may take them a few minutes longer to get in, but the show will be well worth it. Any mailed in dues payments that are not received by me prior to June 25 will not be processed until after the July NIA National in Portland.

Have a great summer and I hope to see many of you in Portland!

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



**Original Pipe Springs Fortified Building** 



Old Pole Replica with Grounding of the Conductor to Arrest Lightning



CD133 [230] Used on the Original Deseret Telegraph Line



**Vertical Pole Corral Fence** 

## AUTHENTICATION & CLASSIFICATION



The subject of EC&Ms seems to have risen into the collective consciousness of our hobby again! Much discussion has transpired on ICON in the last few months. I expect that I will be writing up some sort of extensive report on the subject in the future ... and I have been doing extensive research in preparation. In the meantime, any input from the membership is encouraged ... please contact me if you have any information about EC&Ms that you think might be useful.

Meanwhile, as a preliminary report, I have noticed something very interesting that I don't recall ever seeing documented before. In the past, EC&Ms have been classified into mold types, referred to by letters. The letter designations do not necessarily indicate different physical mold types, for example it is generally accepted that Mold "E" (the upside down embossed one) was re-worked into type "F" by covering the mistake with a "slug plate" and reembossing the opposite side. The base was extended as well. Later the mold was re-machined to be more cylindrical (the E and F molds are more flared toward the base), leading to the "G" mold. As the mold wore out, a defect appeared in the wire groove, leading to what is referred to as the "H" mold. Of course, this is not really



A-Mold Scratch

different mold and a gradual transition of specimens can be found with varying degrees of this defect (it appears as a rough glob of glass in the wire groove). In fact, this whole E-F-G-H sequence is really the same mold (with the E mold types being found on the

earliest lines built by the company).

Another commonly accepted sequence concerns the A, C, and D molds. The A molds are the ones with a flared skirt and no dot, while the C & D molds have a



**C-Mold Scratch** 

straight skirt and a dot on the front. It has been suggested that the A mold was re-worked into the C mold at some point, and it has indeed been shown that the A molds are associated with lines that were constructed early in the company's history. The C mold started to deteriorate with use, and was re-worked again by replacing the metal along the mold line leading to what collectors have called the "tin mold". This is the D mold.

What I have noticed is what I think is proof positive that the A mold was indeed re-worked to create the C mold. I am including a photo of the dome of an A mold here (see photo 1). There is a small scratch in the mold on the embossing side of the dome (see arrow) which leads to a small raised line on the A mold insulators. It turns out that this same scratch is present on C mold insulators! Other dome details match as well. Photo 2 shows the dome of a C mold, with an arrow pointing to the scratch. The scratch is also visible on some D mold EC&Ms, but it is greatly diminished, either because of re-finishing associated with the C to D mold re-work, or possibly some debris filling it in. The connection between C and D molds is not in doubt, as there are other mold defects that are clearly traceable from one to the other. The reason that the embossing on the A mold doesn't exactly match the C molds is that the dome diameter was increased as part of the re-work, so the embossing had to be re-done.

Both the D molds and the H mold EC&Ms have been found on lines built at the end of the company's history, in fact one well known line has these types used on the section built at the end of the EC&M company history and CD 130.1 California Electrical Works used on the section built the following spring. (It is possible that the second company, for some reason, used some of the old EC&M molds again at a later date, but I won't get into that here). What is interesting is that we have evidence that these two molds have a history of use dating from the beginning of the company all the way to the end.

This is good background information to be understood in evaluating EC&M specimens, and will

figure into my future reports. There are other molds used by the company that I have not covered here, that were created sometime in the middle of the company's history. I will cover these later as well. Meanwhile. I am especially interested to hear if anyone has knowledge of what mold styles have been found on what lines, and what dates those lines were constructed. I would like to re-construct exactly when each mold came into use, and even date (if possible) when some of the mold repairs referred to above were done. I am particularly interested in establishing what date the "B" mold EC&Ms first came into use, and also any evidence related to additional production of EC&Ms after the company folded (and if so, what molds were used). My contact information is below. Thanks!!

Paul Greaves pgreaves@surewest.net 916-797-2214

Paul Greaves, NIA #2685
Authentication & Classification

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE REPORT



The Awards and Recognitions Committee has completed its task

of soliciting and gathering nominations for the NIA Outstanding Service Award and the Lifetime Member Award. One nomination for the NIA Outstanding Service Award was received, reviewed by the committee and forwarded to the President. Three nominations for the Lifetime Member Award were received and forwarded to the President. All of the NIA awards are currently being prepared for their presentation at the 2008 National in Portland. I am hopeful that in future years our members will be more active in submitting nominations for these

awards. In fact, as the new year of club activities, shows and tail-gaters continues, take a moment to consider the contributions our fellow members make to our hobby.

I am looking forward to participating in the 39th Annual Show and Convention at Portland, Oregon, July 4-6. Be sure to stop and say "Howdy" to the Pin Man.

Lou Hall, NIA #7185

Awards & Recognition Chair

#### NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Great news from the West! Lou Hall, currently the NIA Chairper-

son for Awards and Recognition, has accepted the nomination for Western VP. Lou has done an outstanding job as chairperson for Awards and Recognition and I am sure will continue to do an excellent job as Western VP. Lou will be joining our new President Bob Stahr in the upcoming 2008 NIA organizations.

Thanks to Mike Green for his great support of NIA as Western VP. Please offer your support to our officers and chairpersons as they work to better the NIA. As an organization we have many mem-

bers but so few are willing to serve.

Remember, if you don't get involved and don't vote, you don't get to complain.

Lou's bio is attached for your information.

Kay Bryant, NIA #4099 Nominations Chair

#### **Biography:**

#### Lou Hall



Lou is a native Californian, born in Fresno 67 years ago. He has been married to DeeDee for 30 years. He is a father and grandfather. In his youth he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Lou has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management of Human Resources. He also holds a California general contractor's license (filed inactive) and has been a Vocational Sales and Customer Trainer. His early career includes assignments as kitchen and bath

design consultant, general manager and director of sales for various design and construction firms.

Although he is attempting to retire. he is the owner of Residential Design Consultants, a firm specializing in distinctive residential (both new and re-construction) design with special expertise in kitchen and bath design. He is a past member of the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), and the National Association of Sales Professionals (NASP). Lou has earned numerous awards in design competitions sponsored by the NKBA. His designs and articles have been featured in the industries leading magazines and journals. In 1992 the NKBA selected Louas a national "Member of the Year." He also was included in the 1994-95 National Who's Who in Executives and Professionals.

Lou started collecting insulators in 1970 when he found a sack full of glass in a barn on a ranch his parents had purchased. After a hiatus of eighteen years he renewed his interest in the hobby. Lou and

DeeDee have been members of the NIA since 1999. Their first NIA participation was in the 2001 Western Regional in Medford, Oregon. Here, fellow collectors saw his first exhibit of insulator mounting pins and brackets. His passion for collecting mounting pins and brackets has earned him the title "The Pin Man." Lou and his wife are also Lifetime Members of the Golden State Insulator Club Both were volunteers that assisted with the Western Regional and National held in San Jose, California.

Lou is also a member of a research team working to rediscover the route of the Transcontinental Telegraph. Annual treks over the past six years into the Nevada desert and continuing research has generated a wealth of information about this historical event. This research, although a work in progress, has led to the development of a permanent display in the Churchill County Museum, Fallon, Nevada.

Lou is currently serving the NIA as Chairman of the Awards and Recognitions Committee.

#### PROMOTIONS CHAIR



Finally, spring is making its way into summer and some of the best shows are upon us. Of course, the National should be a "knock-out."

If I can convince my sweet wife, yet again, to postpone our wedding anniversary celebration on July 5th (17 years swiftly about to pass), I will be attending ... otherwise, have fun y'all.

Around our parts in California we have the Cayucos beach show the end of May, the Merzoian Tailgater in August, Placerville in September, and the Tulare Insulator and Bottle show in November. We always enjoy seeing "newbies" who walk in with wide eyes and curious looks.

I know most of us hobbyists are there, beyond making a sale, to inform and educate and perhaps entice the "lookers" to go past the quizzical to the interested stage. I usually pass out an insulator to most of the questioners and alwavs offer one to kids. Some seem bewildered with a look of, "What do I do with this thing?" and others stop and pursue that sudden spark of interest in what makes us insulator folk tick. It's a perfect opportunity to encourage our hobby to grow and renew itself. We must never take for granted the uninitiated. They are

more than potential revenue sources, but a way to revitalize this fragile hobby.

I continue to pass out glass and information to new acquaintances and sometimes strangers. More than a few have become intrigued enough to attend a show or tailgater and several have become collectors in recent years. And by now you are aware that I am my school's "Pied Piper." I have given our hundreds of glass and mud pieces and will continue to do so. We must also look beyond our own needs and use our creativity to enhance and foster our hobby's expansion. It's tough to put aside our personal pursuits, but it is essential that we unite in spirit and in deeds. Long live our beloved avocation!

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

#### **Insulator Hobby Timeline**

- 1995 Don Lundell takes over the mailing list maintained by Keith Roloson, and puts it on an automated mailing list server allowing collectors to one address insulators@resilience.com, and have their message broadcast to all other collectors on the list.
- 1995 Don Lundell starts a basic web page about insulators, at www.resilience.com/insulators -- this was the "birth" of the insulators web site.
- 1995 Bill Meier takes over as webmaster of the insulator web site at resilience.com
- 1995 Bob Stahr submits the winning name for the list server: Insulator Collectors on the Net (ICON)
- On January 21, 1996, the domain insulators.info was born, and the insulators web site was permanently moved to www.insulators.info from www.resilience.com/insulators.
- 1998 The NIA gets it's own domain www.nia.org
- 1999 Prairie Signals Insulator Club is formed.
- 1999 Jefferson State Insulator Club formed for collectors in Oregon and California.

#### PHOEBE LEWIN ADAMS

July 6, 1925 - May 22, 2008



With great sadness, I report the loss of Phoebe Adams to the hobby on May 22, 2008. She passed away after a short illness in Miami, Florida. Phoebe was truly one of the hobby's pioneers – and a wonderful person. She and her beloved husband, Bob, were married 50 years when he passed on nine years ago. Together, they would travel the country to attend glass shows. They were almost a "permanent fixture" at each of the National Conventions for nearly a quarter century.

Both Phoebe and Bob were celebrated for their support of young people getting involved with insulator collecting, and many on our current NIA roster are members because Phoebe and Bob were their mentors so many years ago. Phoebe and Bob always felt that education was one of the most important aspects in glass collecting, so they developed a trophy to award at each glass show, to honor the display with the best educational benefits to the public.

Known for her quick wit and dry sense of humor, Phoebe was always available to tell a story that would enthrall listeners. They amassed a huge collection of glass and, more notably, a huge collection of friends! In 1984, after almost 10 years in the hobby, the National Insulator Association awarded the couple Lifetime Membership for their many contributions. And in 1991, they received the NIA Outstanding Service Award.

We will miss you Phoebe ...

**Tom Katonak** 

## Articles by and References to Bob & Phoebe Adams

Lightning Rod Balls Crown Jewels of the Wire September 1977, p. 19 by Bob and Phoebe Adams

Bea Lines: Interview with Bob & Phoebe Adams Crown Jewels of the Wire April 1986, p. 3 by H.G. "Bea" Hyve

In Search of Insulators - Family Style Crown Jewels of the Wire December 1994, p. 7 by Bob and Phoebe Adams Memorial to Robert Floyd Adams, 1923-1999 Crown Jewels of the Wire July 1999, p. 3 by Clarice Gordon

For a short article on Fire Grenades written by Bob and Phoebe Adams, please visit:

http://www.insulators.info/go-withs/firegren.htm

#### VOLUME 35 \* NUMBER 4 \* SUMMER 2008



#### From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

#### 2006-2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION NINE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2008

Beginning Balance-General F unds Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account		\$12,788 \$972 \$2,297
Revenues		
Donations	40.407	
Membership Dues Miscellaneous Income	10,127	
Miscellaneous income Product Sales	450 2.040	
Total Revenues	2,040	\$12,617
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising	750	
Bank Charges, Taxes, Fees	750	
Marketing Products Misc. Postage	2,058 1,469	
Misc. Prostage Misc. Printing	887	
Misc. Supplies	182	
Misc. Professional Services		
Crown Jewels Rebates	495	
Drip Points Printing & Postage	3,820	
Show Advertising Subsidy	500	
Show Awards	26	
Stationery Supplies		
Telephone		
Special Projects		
Educational Disp Postage		
Total Expenses		\$10,187
Closing Balance, General Fund	\$15,218	
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance	\$972	
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance	\$2,297	
TOTAL BALANCE MARCH 31, 2008		\$18,487

#### 2008 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

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**Doug Williams,** NIA #1221 **Eastern Region VP** 131 Pine Lake Circle SW Ocean Isle, NC 28469 dwilli69@atmc.net

**Arthur McConnachie**, NIA #6934 **Information Director** 

10700 Academy Rd NE Apt 2636 Albuquerque, NM 87111 arthur@mcconnachie.com

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

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

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Paul Greaves, NIA #2685 Authentication & Classification 8830 Benton Acre Rd Granite Bay, CA 95746 pgreaves@surewest.net

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

**Bob Stahr,** NIA #4186 **By-Laws** 515 Main St #403, West Chicago, IL 60185 630-231-4171 bob@hemingray.com

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

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian 4086 Blackstone Avenue Gurnee, IL 60031 com574@clcillinois.edu

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

Carolyn Berry, NIA #4336 Product Marketing 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

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

## Membership Application/Renewal Form

Dues Schedule:  Regular Membership \$ 12.00  Family Membership \$ 12.00  Junior Membership (under 18) \$ 5.00  Club or Organization \$ 12.00	Donald R. Briel NIA Membership Director P. O. Box 188 Providence, UT 84332 don.briel@comcast.net		
Check appropriate class: Regular Family Junior	Club/Org		
Check years of payment: Single year Multi-year			
Please Print Legibly			
Name			
NIA # (if renewal)			
Address			
City			
State/Province			
Zip/Postal Code			
Country (if non U.S.)			
Telephone Number			
E-Mail Address			
Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory	Yes_	No	
Please include my Telephone Number	Yes		
Please include my E-Mail Address	Yes	No	
I would like to receive Drip Points in the following format (Check only one choice) (An E-Mail address is required for electronic)	Paper	Electronic	
Additional Family Members Residing in the Sam	ıe Household		
Name		NIA # (if renewal)	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5Signed			
	osed \$		



## Summer 2008 WWW.nia.org/products



	Men's Golf / Polo Shirts or Button-front Sport Shirt	<b>Price</b>	Quantity	Total		
	NEW COLORS! Ocean Blue, Yellow, Yellow/navy!					
	Color Choice:					
	Please call or email me for details! embroidered logo; with or without p	ockets				
١ - ١	(Size chart on back) \$32 - \$41					
LOGO Large Loge on back	Ladies' Polo/Golf style shirts - Color choice:					
on back	Please call or email me for details! embroidered logo (no pockets) \$32 - \$38					
	(Size chart on back)					
	Denim Shirt – (*ladies order comparable men's size, see chart below)					
	Heavy-weight; pre-shrunk cotton stonewash blue or NEW! NATURAL/ECRU; left-side pocket					
Nerva 11. Institut or	Embroidered logo SM_L_LXL \$32.00					
	*S/Sleeve *L/Sleeve 2X 3X \$35.00					
	T-Shirts - Hanes Heavyweight - 6.1 oz .cotton - Pre-shrunk					
	Screen-printed logo (front & back) S_ M_ L_ XL_ (\$20	0)				
	2X_ (\$2					
	Colors: Stonewash Green, Stonewash Med. Blue, Pebble (sand), Lt. Steel	l Gray				
	Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-s	shirts with po	ckets, call for de	etails)		
	S M L XL (\$20)					
	2X (\$22)					
	Colors: Gold, Ecru, Ash Gray, White, Royal Blue, Burgundy or Lt. Steel	Gray				
NATIONAL 1	Crewneck Sweatshirts - Heavy weight - 100 % Cotton/polyester	blend – Pre	shrunk			
INSULA OR	Color: Ash Gray - Screen-printed logo (large on back / small on front)  CLOSE OUT PRICES! 3 left => S_ (\$8.00) 1 left => L_ (\$10.00)  Colors: Burgundy or Lt. Steel Gray Embroidered logo					
(1	M_ L _ XL _ (\$25) 2X _ 3X _ (\$30	))				
	Hooded Sweatshirt w/full front zipper/muff pocket/drawstring ho					
	Color: Lt. Steel Gray M _ L _ XL _ (\$35) 2X _ 3X _ (\$40)		acrea rogo			
47	Embroidered Cap-low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)					
Embroidered Cap-low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)  Colors: Stone/Navv bill. Khaki/ Green bill. or all Denim						
	13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etched NIA Logo \$5.00					
	Patch embroidered logo / red embroidered edge \$4.0					
NOTE:	K00Zie <sup>TM</sup> - The original beverage Koozie <sup>TM</sup> fits any standard beer / so	da can / 12	oz. water bottl	e!!		
All sizes, styles &	Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blueredgreen \$2.0					
colors of	NIA Hat/Lapel Pin - enamel tack pin with NIA logo \$4.00					
shirts are	NIA Decal – for inside car window \$0.5					
available by special	NIA Name Badge - engraved; epoxy pin back; beveled edges (fill in form	on page 2)				
order	\$12.0	0				
	Badge Bar - (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.0	0				
	1	Subtotal				
	U.S. Postag	e (see ba	ck)			

Page 1 of 2

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

#### Adult/Men's Size Chart:

S (32-34) M(36-38) L (40-42) XL (44-46) 2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

#### \*Ladies Size Chart:

S (28-30) M (32-34) L (36-38) XL (40-42)

\*Ladies order comparable adult/men's size for most shirts, unless specifically noted as a ladies shirt

\*\*<u>U.S. Postage:</u> \$6.00 for the first item & \$1.25 for each additional item ordered. <u>Postage for Patches, Decals is \$0.41; Pins or Name Badges/Bars are \$0.80 per item.</u> \*\*for non-US postage, AK & HI and Koozies, <u>or an exact postage</u> <u>quote, please contact me.</u>

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:

National Insulator Association or NIA

## **Order / Shipping Information**

	City/State/Zip Telephone				_
	Name Badge Eng	graving Information	(must be a c	urrent NIA member!)	
Name		NIA#_	City	S	state _
Name		NIA#_	City	S	tate
Name		NIA#_	City	S	state _
Name .		NIA#_	City _	S	tate _
	Club Bar:		(#	requested)	
	Club Bar:		(#	requested)	
	Club Bar:		(#	requested)	
	Club Bar:		(#	requested)	

## Thanks for your support of the NIA!

Contact Information:

Carolyn Berry - 1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com

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