

The Dixie Jewel

Newsletter of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club

August 2017, Issue #101

President Bill Haley Editor Bill Haley
Treasurer Cal Baker Secretary Bill Grieser

Website: <http://insulators-dixiejewels.com>



Summer Dixie Jewels Swap Meet

August 19, 2017

Webb School,

319 Webb Road, Bell Buckle, TN

Plan to attend the summer Dixie Jewels Insulator Club swap meet, hosted by Jim Wright. It will take place at Saturday, August 19 from 8:30-2:30 Central time at the Webb School, on TN Hwy. 82E (319 Webb Rd.) in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. The historic little town of Bell Buckle is located a short distance south of Nashville, TN off I-24. Bring insulators, go-withs, bottles, or other collectibles. Set up is always free, and you do not have to be a DJIC member. There will be some sales tables available, or you may bring your own. Please contact Jim Wright, our host, at (615) 708-4911 ahead of the swap meet date to reserve sales tables. A noon meal will be served. If you wish to contribute, desserts, chips or drinks it will be appreciated, but is certainly not required. We always have plenty of food, so plan to stay for lunch. This will be a new venue and a new host. A good crowd of collectors from 6-10 states is expected. Come enjoy great fellowship with fellow collectors and plan to add some nice insulators to your collection!

For More Information, Contact:

Jim Wright

(615) 708-4911

Notes on the May DJIC Meeting

After a fine lunch of fried chicken with all the fixings, Bill Haley called the spring Dixie Jewels meeting to order. He thanked Stephen and Robin Ruppel for hosting. Everyone was most appreciative of their efforts and the good food at lunch. This was their first time as swap meet hosts, but Bill stated that he hoped the club will be able to meet at Bethel Baptist Church again in the future. It is very easy to find and the church has ample room for setting up either inside or outside.

Upcoming DJIC swaps were announced. The August meeting in Bell Buckle, Tennessee will be a first-time venue with a first time host, Jim Wright. In November, it had just been confirmed that Dave and Geny Collins will host. Dave found a small community center about 11 miles north of Eatonton, Georgia that looks like it'll work perfectly for a swap meet and will be easy to access. An added attraction is that if you come in the day before the swap, you can visit Dave and view his impressive collection. Fred Pittman has already committed to hosting the May 2018 swap in Mountain Home, North Carolina. That leaves February, August and November 2018 up for grabs.

Bill also mentioned a couple of other big shows in the next two months. The 2nd annual Insulator Collectors of America Expo will be held in Washington, Pennsylvania June 23-24. This may be an option for those who can't attend the much-anticipated NIA National in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which promises to be one of the best nationals ever. Dixie Jewels members will be attending both those shows.

Steve Roberts, current NIA President, shared a few things going on, including the news that NIA shows are now being bid on a year earlier than in the past. This is

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May DJIC swap meet notes (cont..)

a response to the fact many venues capable of hosting such a large gathering are requiring more lead time. The extra year helps NIA members to negotiate better prices and get the dates they want. A bonus of attending the NIA meeting in Colorado at the end of the first day of this year's National is that not only will the 2018 National in the Central Region, be announced, but also the 2019 National, which will be held in the Eastern Region.

Steve went on to say the NIA has recently made many changes to its handbook, which will be available as a pdf on their website. Other NIA news he shared was this year two scholarships will be awarded, one going to Trevor Dean the son of DJIC webmaster, Ralph Dean. He will graduate from Ohio State and enter graduate school next year. Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible, and Steve urged folks to consider supporting this worthwhile project. He thanked everyone for supporting our club and the insulator hobby, making the point that the people are what make the hobby strong and viable. Steve also made a strong case for the need for volunteers, as show hosts, or a position within the club or the NIA. All organizations need dedicated volunteers.

May is traditionally the time we have club elections for new officers. Bill stated, "I put something in the newsletter about elections, and *would you believe*, my e-mail box was swamped with people volunteering to be officers?" Turned out nobody believed Bill and sadly, it wasn't true. Bill called for any nominations from the floor, explaining that our club has only three elected positions: President, Treasurer and Secretary. Currently filled by Bill Haley, Cal Baker and Bill Grieser, respectively. No nominations were forthcoming, so a motion was made and seconded that we continue with the current slate of officers for another year. Everyone was in favor of that, so Bill H., Cal and Bill G. will continue.

We had one show and tell item., John Gasko had recently found a pretty blue-glazed porcelain stand-off with a base that could be attached to the side of a house with screws. It featured several wire grooves. He stated he'd never seen one before. Dave Kingston commented he had one like it in a brown glaze.

The meeting was adjourned and everyone went back to looking at insulators and continuing a nice day of fellowship with their fellow collectors.

May Swap meet attendees:

Dudley & Sandy Ellis	Stockbridge,GA
Bill Haley	Chattanooga,TN
Mike Funderburk	Franklin, TN
Jim Colburn	Greenacres, FL
Dave Kingston	Chester, SC
Tim Baggett	Clarksville, TN
Chris & Shannon Hernandez	San Antonio, TX
Ken Roberts	Huntsville, AL
Gary & Elizabeth Tilson	Madisonville, TN
Roy Hale	Greenville, AL
Jason Bradley	Greenville, AL
B.Z. Cashman	Blue Ridge, GA
Paul & Betty Deriso	Orange Park, FL
John Gasko	Augusta, GA
Stephen & Robin Ruppel	Loudon, TN
Bill & Joyce Hutchison	Butler, PA
Phil & Scott Ball	Ooltewah, TN
Ralph Dean	Milton, GA
Steve & Jana Roberts	Madison, TN
Mark & Michelle Haley	Knoxville, TN
Marissa Cox	Lenoir City, TN
David Little	Greer, SC
Fred Pittman	Flat Rock, NC
Sheila Savage	Flat Rock, NC
Marge Krutulis	Murphy, NC
Brandon Cook	Loudon, TN
Tom Blatnik	Woodstock, GA

Do you have an insulator-related story to share? Contact your editor at wgh@tnaqua.org and send your story in to be included in a future edition of *The Dixie Jewel*.

DIRECTIONS TO THE AUGUST DJIC SWAP MEET:

Webb School

319 Webb Rd. East, Bell Buckle, TN

The town of Bell Buckle is located south of Nashville, Tennessee, off Interstate 24.

- Take I-24 to exit 97 (Hwy. 64W);
- Coming from north, turn right on 64 W;
- Coming from south, turn left on 64 W;
- Continue about 1.8 miles to Hwy. 82;
- Turn right at the large Bell Buckle sign;
- Continue for almost 6 miles on 82 and the Webb School will be on your right. (*Look for the 15 MPH school warning lights to know you are almost there*);
- The first main driveway takes you back to the gym area, where the swap will be held.



Dixie Jewels Club Dues

Membership dues for the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club are \$5 per year. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. You can pay at the next swap meet, or mail a check or money order, payable to Cal Baker, our club Treasurer.

His mailing address is **Cal Baker, 230 Carriage Summit Way, Hendersonville, NC 28791.**

If you have lost track of when your membership expires, you can e-mail him at calb@bellsouth.net, or phone him at (828) 697-9410.

Important: If your mailing address, phone number or e-mail address should change, please contact both Cal Baker, who keeps up with the membership list (*see info above*), and Bill Haley, Dixie Jewels editor (WGH@tnaqua.org, (423) 326-9248) to furnish your new contact info.

We cannot send a quarterly newsletter if we don't know where to send it!



Brothers Mark Haley and Bill Haley at the Loudon, TN swap

Presidential Ponderings:

I sometimes hear collectors saying they can't attend a swap meet because it is just "too far". I recently posed a question on ICON (Insulator Collectors on the Net) on how far is *too far*? Specifically, I was talking about distances insulator collectors will travel to shows or swap meets. Everyone has a different perspective and different limits to their time or pocketbook, so the answer will vary person to person.

A well-known collector from Arizona answered that geography has something to do with it. Out west things are more spread-out and he made the point he could drive several hundred miles and not be out of Arizona. (*For that matter the same could be said for Tennessee. Have you ever driven lengthwise across Tennessee? It takes a good six hours.*) He said if you drew a circle within 200 miles of Tennessee you have 6 states pretty close. I can see his point, but using our club as an example, at the May swap we had folks from eight states. While it was an easy trip for some, others had to drive (or fly) hundreds of miles to join us. We had a collector from central Florida and one from south Florida, a couple from Butler, Pennsylvania, another couple from San Antonio, Texas and two collectors from L.A (Lower Alabama). Even people who came from South Carolina were outside his 200 mile radius.

Many people in the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club make it a point to attend the Mid-Ohio show in Springfield, Ohio. Several attend most NIA Nationals around the country, and there are numerous other shows where our club members are represented. I think it boils down to this: If you want to go bad enough, you find a way to make it happen.

I found out early-on that you can include insulator shows with a vacation! In my case, the insulator hobby has made it possible for me and my wife Candy to visit many areas of the country we've never been to before.

I realize that not everyone is interested in setting up a sales table at shows and swap meets and buying and selling insulators. For me, it has been a wonderful way to really get to know the people within the hobby. When I first started collecting as a teenager, I'd get a *Crown Jewels* magazine and look at grainy black and white pictures of early insulator shows. (*What a difference between then and now!*) I dreamed of some day attending a show and having my own sales table. That seemed out of reach at the time but I always thought it would be fun to do that. And it turns out I was right—it is! If it proves to be a "good" show, (*hint: they are all good*) and my sales are decent, I pay for at least some of my travel expenses. If not, hey, I still get a good vacation out of the deal, and I'm probably coming home with some nice new sales stock.

Our Dixie Jewels swap meets are held in different locations every three months. The idea is to attempt to be close to all members at least once each year. How do we settle on the places where the swap meets are held? Do we put a map on the wall and throw darts at it? Is there some formula? Nothing as fancy as that.

Our club relies on members who volunteer to host a swap meet in their area.

Someone commented to me at the most recent get-together that it was looking like an all-Tennessee club. Not sure why they would say that, as we met in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in February, and will meet in Eatonton, Georgia in November. I thought I had someone from Kentucky lined up for August and then November, but they cancelled both times.

Sure we have two Tennessee locations this year, but they are separated by a good geographical distance. Why two locations in Tennessee? Because two club members - who happen to live in Tennessee — volunteered to be hosts. It's as simple as that.

If you ever feel this is getting to be a "one-state club", I know of a remedy: Find a location for a swap meet near where you live and let me know. February, August and November, 2018 are open. Fair warning. Fred Pittman, who has hosted many times, has already stepped up. We'll be in Mountain Home, North Carolina in May. However, you North Carolina folks shouldn't think that lets you off the hook. Who knows, Dixie Jewels might be an all North Carolina club next year! I'm waiting to hear from you.

Bill Haley , President, DJIC



Some Mike Funderburk Photos from the Loudon, TN Swap

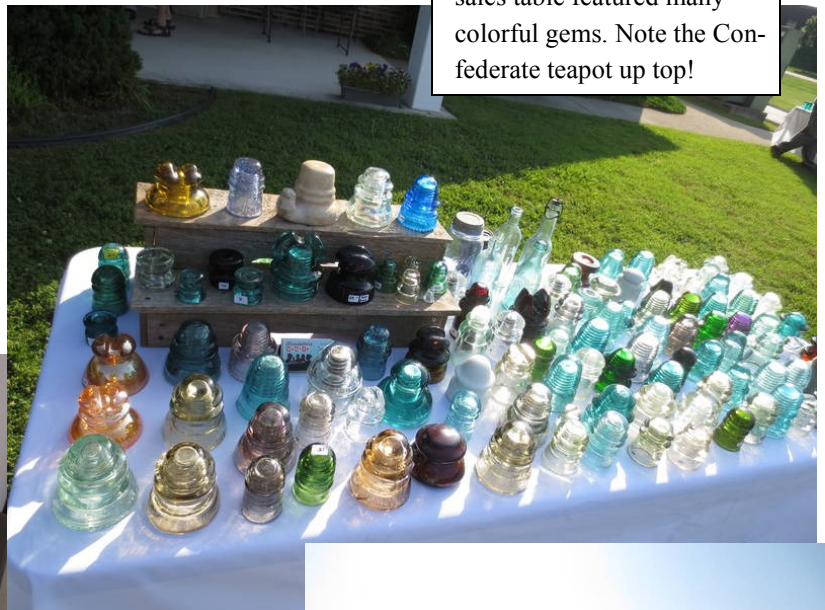


Swapping Green for Mud: In the photo above Elizabeth Tilson and Bill Haley check out the good “mud” on Stephen Ruppel’s sales table. While they are mainly into glass, each of them appreciates porcelain too. Bill snagged four nice ones before Elizabeth could get to them!

Above: Sandra Ellis visiting with Mr. “Good Looking”, aka John Gasko, at his table. John, who lives in Augusta, Georgia, is just one of the many interesting characters you may run across at a Dixie Jewels swap meet.

Below: Mike Funderburk’s sales table featured many colorful gems. Note the Confederate teapot up top!

Below: Bill and Joyce Hutchison, from Butler, PA attended their second Dixie Jewels swap meet and set up this sales table. It was sure good to see them again, and we appreciated the distance they’d traveled to join us.



Right: Ken Roberts always has a sales table loaded with great glass in a rainbow of colors that shine in the sun..



Upcoming Insulator Events

Aug. 12:

18th Shenandoah Valley Show, Martinsburg, WV

This show, sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club, will be held from 9:00-1:00 at the B & O Roundhouse in Martinsburg, WV. 8' tables \$25, additional \$20. Contact Jeff Hollis (304) 671-5359, or e-mail redoak1953@gmail.com.

Nov. 3-5:

47th Annual Mid-Ohio, Springfield, Ohio

The annual Mid-Ohio show, held at the Clark County Fairgrounds, 5 miles east of Springfield, Ohio, will take place Friday Nov. 3-Sunday, Nov. 5. Show hours are Fri. 3:00-6:00, Sat., 8:00-4:00, Sun. 9:00 till? There will be a banquet Saturday night and the last few years, there has been an insulator auction on Friday after the show. For more information, contact Curt Boster (614) 301-5125 or cboster530@att.net.

Sat., November 18:

Fall Dixie Jewels Swap Meet, Eatonton, GA

Our Fall swap will be at Harmony Community Association Hall, 1081 Oconee Parkway, Eatonton, GA 31024. Dave and Geny Collins will be our hosts. This will be a new venue for DJIC, and shouldn't be too difficult to access. It is about 10-11 miles south of I-20, on GA Hwy. 44. Sales tables will be available. Contact Dave to reserve tables at **(706) 484-1061** or e-mail **dpc1@bellsouth.net**. Dave plans to have an Open House at his place the day before the swap meet for anyone who wants to come by and cook hotdogs, hamburgers, etc. Dave's collection is impressive and you don't want to miss this chance! He plans to cook some Boston Butts on his Big Green Egg smoker and we'll have pulled pork at the swap meet. He's planning on getting beans and slaw, but will appreciate side dishes you may wish to bring.



Lots of Choices! Gary Tilson checks out the selection of insulators on Dudley Ellis' table at Loudon, TN.



Tim Baggett, in orange, swaps tall tales with our Loudon swap meet host, Stephen Ruppel,.



Tailgating: Thanks to spacious parking lots and a nice level grassy lawn around the church, Ken Roberts was able to back his pickup right up to where he set his tables up. The tailgate was the perfect sitting spot for Ken and Gary to catch up on things.

-All photos this page by Dudley Ellis

More of Dudley's Loudon, TN Photos



Bill and Joyce Hutchison at their sales table.



Keith Hernandez, from San Antonio, TX, looks over Mike Funderburk's insulators.



Family Reunion: We often say that insulator shows are like family reunions, as we get to see people we haven't seen in awhile. Sister-in-law Michelle and brother Mark Haley visit with older brother Bill at his table. Bill and Mark began hunting insulators together when they were teenagers.



Jana Roberts and Elizabeth Tilson



Dave Kingston and Jim Colburn at their table.

Right: There was some snatching and grabbing going on when Phil and Scott Ball arrived!



Show Report: ICA Expo, Washington, PA, June 23-24

It is always a treat to go to a show outside the regular Dixie Jewels area, so when my work schedule allowed me to get away June 22-25, my wife Candy and I set out for the 2nd Annual Insulator Collectors of America Expo, held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Washington, Pennsylvania. We also went last year, but this year was much improved. Due to decreased table sales, they opted for another show hall. This one was air conditioned, with great lighting and nice carpeted floors. Getting there was the hardest part, as we were in the car 13 hours the day before the show. *(You can't escape road construction, no matter where you go!)* It proved to be a very good show, with lots of collectors coming through the doors. I bought some really nice insulators and my sales were good too. And then there was the food. For \$25 per person, Hog Fathers BBQ fed us a BBQ feast Friday night, as well as a great breakfast and lunch on Saturday. We all left feeling like we needed to go on a diet! Fellow DJIC member Dave Kingston attended the show. The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum is right across the road from the fairgrounds and we enjoyed taking a trolley ride with Dave before the show began on Friday. I'll minimize my words so I have space to show you some photos I took during the show.

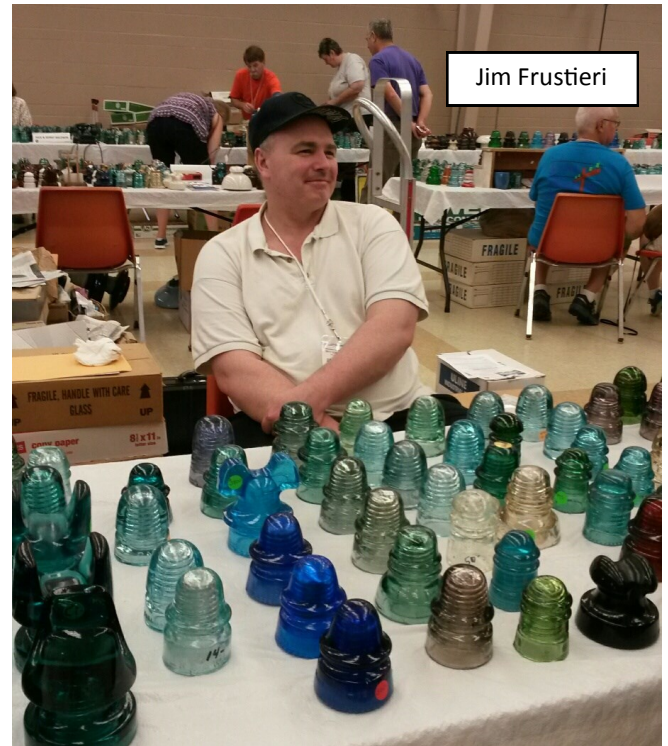
- Bill Haley



John Hovanec, one of the show hosts



Graham Barnes and Gene Hawkins



Jim Frustieri



Gus Stafford and Dario Dimare



Bill Rosato



Al and Carol Fix



Dave Watkins and Dave Wiecek