



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**
Rick Soller, editor



Volume 21, Number 3
May 2013

Yorkville, Illinois Show Report

A very different insulator show was held in Yorkville, Illinois on April 5-6, 2013. Fewer dealers were in attendance than in the past, an auction was held at the end of the show, less porcelain was for sale, a collection of flashlights could be found on one dealer table, an auction was conducted at the show and, despite 73 dealer tables (out of 110 available), the show host reported a loss in running the show.

On the other hand, some things were the same. Many familiar friends were in attendance, only 4 displays were set-up, Richard Case won the award for best display, and I didn't see any insulators that were brought to the show by the walk-in crowd.

How could a show that sold 73 tables lose money? Luckily show host Jason Townsend provided at the show a written breakdown of his revenues and expenses. The 73 dealer tables generated \$2190 at \$30 per table. I don't know if this included the tables for displays or for tables used by the show host. Expenses included \$50 for insurance through the National Insulator Association, \$300 for advertising (flyers, antique & collectable magazine ads), \$600 for the rental of the show hall, \$10 for advertising on eBay, \$1750 for the design of a web page for the show, and \$25 for the domain name. This resulted in a loss of \$545.

I don't think this is so bad. The web page design seems like a one-time expense so if the same number of tables are purchased next year, the show would generate \$1205. Offsetting the lost from this year, the show host would still be ahead by \$660.

The lower participation by dealers may be due to a number of factors. Many of the LRB dealers were absent from the show. Some may have decided to set up at the Kokomo, Indiana LRB show on May 18 instead since that show was hosted by an LRB collector. Some collectors ended up having conflicts that weekend such as Ken Roberts (who usually requested several tables) being unable to attend because his son was graduating that weekend.

One addition to the show was initiated by Rick Soller. On Saturday around noon, Rick ran an auction. Dealers were notified that they could put items in the auction with no seller's premium and buyers were able to buy lots with no buyer's premium. Several tables of insulators and go-withs were auctioned in this way. A total of \$309 was generated by the 33 lots in the auction with results found below:

Lot	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Roger Larkin	CD 164 Maydwell, milk (\$20 reserve)	N.S.	
2	Roger Larkin	Large Pyrex, clear	\$20	Rick Soller
3	Roger Larkin	Box of power insulators	\$11	Rod Krupka
4	Jay/Josh Dondorf	Plastic telephone sign	\$1	Jason Townsend
5	Jay/Josh Dondorf	Box of insulators	\$1	Mike McLaughlin
6	Jay/Josh Dondorf	Box of insulators	\$1	Austin

7	Jay/Josh Dondorf	1 big box	\$9	Bill
8	Jay/Josh Dondorf	1 big box	\$4	Dieter Holz
9	Colin Yennie	Pyrex insulator	\$17	Richard Case
10	Colin Yennie	Pyrex insulator	\$5	Austin
11	Bob Stahr	Vase	\$7	Russ Frank
12	Bob Stahr	Lamp	\$30	Austin
13	Bob Stahr	Hemingray bottle	\$2	Austin
14	Glendenning	2 boxes (choice) @ \$10 each	\$20	Richard Case
15	Glendenning	1 box	\$7	Bill
16	Glendenning	1 box	\$8	Colin
17	Rick Soller	4 boxes	\$3	Jason Townsend
18	Rick Soller	Multipart	\$4	Rod
19	Rick Soller		.50	Austin
20	Rick Soller		\$1	Mike McLaughlin
21	Tim Haraf	Box of Crown Jewels	\$32	Howard
22	Tim Haraf	1 box of glass insulators	\$28	Bill
23	Tim Haraf		.50	Colin Yennie
24	Tom Nugent	Telephone tools, go withs	\$12	Richard Case
25	Dennis Seltrecht	1 box of insulators	\$11	Richard Case
26	Dennis Seltrecht	1 box of insulators	\$1	Richard Case
27	Jason Townsend	Boxes for storing insulators	\$22	Rod
28	Jason Townsend	Plastic telephone sign	1 cent	Duston
29	Jason Townsend	Street light	\$1	Duston
30	Jason Townsend	Insulator	\$18	Josh Dondorf
31	Jason Townsend	Yellow spool	\$14	Jay Dondorf
32	Jason Townsend	Fire plug insulator	\$11	Colin Yennie
33	Jason Townsend	Insulator	\$8	Austin

Columbia City, Illinois Show Report

It has been a while since I attended an insulator show in Columbia City but the May 17-18, 2013 experience made me want to attend again next year. Normally I have to attend graduation on the date but the college where I teach recently instituted a policy whereby attendance by faculty alternates each year and this was the year when I was not required to attend. Thanks to the show hosts of Chuck Dittmar and Gene Hawkins for putting on a great show. I understand that the show's long history dates back to the 1970s when Paul Houpt ran it.

The show was held in a great facility at the Whitley County 4H Fairgrounds. To get to the show, it was a pleasant and easy drive on US-30 through Indiana and then a short, one mile drive south to the location. There were few impediments to wheeling boxes of insulators into the show except for a bump if you're using the side door. Inside, the building was well lighted and spacious yet not so large that it seemed empty.

I found the show hours unusual. On Friday, dealer set-up was from noon to 3 p.m. which was perfect for dealers coming from Chicago since it provided just the right amount of time to get to the show without having to wake up at a much earlier time than usual (except for me since I teach a lot of night classes so don't drag myself out of bed until the morning is well under way). The 6 a.m. – 9 a.m. dealer set-up time on Saturday morning were more of a challenge for

Central Time Zone residents as Columbia City is in the Eastern Time zone so the set-up time was equivalent to 5 a.m. to 8 a.m.. Add an hour for showering, dressing, eating, and checking out of the hotel and I would be falling asleep by noon if I strived to get there right when the show opened. As I've aged, however, I've come to appreciate sleep more so rolled in around 8:30 a.m. instead.

There wasn't much of a walk-through crowd of curious members of the public or area collectors but that did not seem to matter to many dealers. Jamie Houdeshell, for example, was on a buying binge to fill his warehouse and provide stock for antique stores and other dealers. He bought much of what was sold in the show auction, almost all of Robert Winkler's insulators, and several boxes of insulators from Rick Soller. Chuck Dittmar sold a table's worth of boxes in an auction, brokered the sale of another collector's table of insulators to Jamie, bought a table of insulators from Larry Veneziano and resold it to Rick Soller. I heard from Jack Snyder that he sold as much as he bought and, to him, that equaled a fun event. Kim Borgman bought over 50 Hemingray CD 106s for less than \$10 and found a nice backwards 9 in the bunch which more than paid for the deal. Joe Gomez took home over a hundred insulators to clean and inspect.

There was also some trading going on at the show. For example, Russ Frank traded an odd trolley piece to me for an NAJ CD 162 purple private issue. I worked out a trade with Ken Roberts for a 7-up green CD 214.

Lots of other deals were available at the show. Tim Sternke had sets of various shapes and colors available for sale that included a Mickey Mouse, a milk glass Maydwell CD 164, an amber CD 168, an emerald green CD 162 McLaughlin, CD 154 purple Whitall Tatum, and CD 145 H.G. Co. in jade. These sets were being sold for a very reasonable price. Bill Rosato offered quantity discounts on CD 122 Whitall Tatum insulators in a light olive green.

The price to attend the show was very reasonable. Tables were only \$28 for the first one and \$20 for a second one. I reserved a room at the Super 8 for \$50 through PriceLine and, unfortunately, found out later that the show hosts had negotiated a price of \$45 for people attending the show and I couldn't get that rate since I had already gone through one of the travel web sites. Pizza was provided on Friday night, doughnuts were provided on Saturday morning, the Super 8 also offered a free breakfast, and reasonably priced food was offered for lunch on Saturday.

Not only was lunch reasonably priced, but the food was delicious with proceeds going to the Horncreek Northern Star 4-H club to pay for tee shirts for the club. This was the club's only fund raiser and they earn enough that they don't have to conduct another for the rest of the year. The menu included hot dogs, chips, soda, coffee, chicken patty sandwiches, strawberry pie, rhubarb pie, and angel food cake with strawberries.

Insulator collectors I saw at the show included Dave Shaw, Kim Borgman along with 2 kids, Joe Gomez, Gordon Furness, Tom Sawyer, Mark Gilmore, Robert Winkler, Dennis Seltrecht, Russ & Marge Frank, Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Dale & Greg Glendenning, Don Archer, Jim White, Bill & Janice Rosato, Matt Grayson, Robert & Darlene Nobbe, Michelle & Shawn Kotlarsky, Gene Hawkins, Chuck Dittmar, Mike McLaughlin, Tim Sternke, Ken Roberts, Curt Boster, Jack Snyder, Rick Soller, Ken Orchard, Dan Ling, Alan Hohnhorst, Earnest Griffin, Bob Stahr, Jay & Josh Dondorf, Larry Veneziano, Nathan Smack, and Jamie Houdeshell.

Two auctions were held at the show. The first was of insulators from Chuck Dittmar. It is difficult to accurately report the results since some of the planning for the event were put together in an impromptu fashion. A total of \$265 exchanged hands in the first one on Friday.

Lot	Description	Sold for	Buyer
1	Box of insulators	\$12	Jamie Houdeshell
2	Box of insulators	\$1	Jamie Houdeshell
3	Box of insulators	\$8	Jamie Houdeshell
4	Box of insulators	\$1	Jamie Houdeshell
5	Box of insulators	\$1	Jamie Houdeshell
6	Box of insulators	\$1	Jamie Houdeshell
7	Box of insulators	\$15	Jamie Houdeshell
8	CD 121 Opalescent damaged dump pieces	\$7	Rick Soller
9	Box of insulators	\$8	Dan Ling
10	Box of porcelain insulators – MP beehives, strain marked with a patent date	\$14	Rick Soller
11	Box of insulators	\$12	Shaun Kotlarsky
12	Box of insulators	\$28	Rick Soller
13	Box of insulators	\$6	Matt Grayson
14	CD 232 Honey Amber, badly damaged from being buried	\$12	Arlen Rienstra
15	Box of insulators	\$15	Jamie Houdeshell
16	Box of insulators	\$44	Bill Rosato
17	Box of insulators	\$35	Jamie Houdeshell
18	Box of insulators	\$26	Ken Roberts

Ken Orchard was seeking offers for his Hemingray insulators that had the tops turned 45 degrees off centered. He was offered \$400 each but turned the offer down so they were still available at the end of the show.

The second auction was a benefit auction for the NIA and the 4-H club. It took place at about 1 p.m. on Saturday and raised \$68. \$20 of it went to the NIA and the rest to the 4-H club.

Lot	Description	Sold for	Buyer
1	Choice of lot – CD 102 purple pony picked	\$14	Shaun Kotlarsky
2	Choice of lot	\$12	Bob Nobbe
3	Choice of lot	\$6	Bob Nobbe
4	Choice of lot – NIA tee shirt picked	\$12	Chuck Dittmar
5	Choice of lot	\$6	Chuck Dittmar
6	Choice of lot	\$7	Chuck Dittmar
7	Lot of bottles	\$4	Festus
8	5 glass insulators	\$6	Chuck Dittmar
9	2 porcelain insulators (1 was a green signal)	\$1	Jamie Houdeshell

A few other notes about the show are in order. Ernie Griffin brought some of his collection of Russian insulators. One has a CD 514 made with an off-centered 2-piece mold so that the mold line, rather than running through the top saddle groove, ran to one side of the saddle groove. Tim Sternke gave Michelle Kotlarsky an insulator decorated by his father, Earl, and put others on the free table. I remember when Earl first offered these decorated insulators at one of the Milwaukee shows. The glass insulators had gold colored tops and a decal that was

“cold fired” on the side. Tim indicated that his father died about 7 years ago. There were also some shenanigans going on at the show as insulators from the free table found their way to various dealers’ table or vehicle.

As has become a tradition at the show, there was a presentation on Friday evening. Arlen Rienstra provided the basics of bottle making and Chuck Dittmar talked about hand-blown marbles. Arlen covered the different tops of bottles, how the tops were made, and different kinds of bottles. The presentation included numerous bottles that were passed around the audience and I found the information useful the next day when I ended up with a basket of bottles. Chuck provided information on pontiled marbles, covering price as well, and gave everyone in the audience a free example of one. Over a dozen people enjoyed the presentations. Thanks to Arlen and Chuck.



Above: Show hosts Gene Hawkins (left) and Chuck Dittmar (right)

Below: CD 162 Ft. Wayne Electric Works in green, CD 514 in blue with off-centered mold line



Upcoming Shows

June 8, 2013 (Saturday)

16th Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet

Toledo, Iowa

Dave Shaw and Tom Murphy are hosting the swap meet at the Toledo Heights Park in Toledo, Iowa located one mile west of the city on old Highway 30. Swap meet hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get there early for a table under the shelter house roof or bring your own. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Dave at (641) 484-5463 or Tom at (641) 484-6870.

July 19-21, 2013

44th National Insulator Association Convention, Show & Sale

Franklin, Tennessee

The 44th National Insulator Association Convention, Show & Sale, sponsored by the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club, will be held July 19-21 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, 700 Cool Springs Blvd, Franklin, TN 37076, located just 10 miles south of Nashville. 130 dealer tables and at least 25 display tables are available. For info contact the show hosts: BILL HALEY 423-326-9248 or email: wgh@tnaqua.org ; STEVE ROBERTS 615-419-7905 or Steve_Roberts@comcast.net ; KEN ROBERTS 256-656-1636 or kroberts@apprser.om

July 26-27, 2013 (Friday & Saturday)

19th Annual Hog Roast

Arcanum, Ohio

The 19th Annual Hog Roast hosted by Alan and Joan Stastny will be held on Friday, July 26, 2013 with an insulator swap meet on the following day (Saturday, July 27). Come hungry but you won't leave that way. For more information, contact Alan at 8784 Grubbs Rex Rd., Arcanum, OH 45304 or by phone at (937) 884-7379 or (937) 546-4745 (cell) or you can email Alan at FuzzyFace42@aol.com.

August 24, 2013 (Saturday)

North Western Region Insulator Club Summer Swap

Nisswa, Minnesota

Colin & Karen Yennie are hosts at their lake home at 1126 Ebert Drive, Nisswa MN. Hours are 9-3 and Colin will be grilling lunch. Bring your own tables if possible-a few may be available. Also bring items for the now famous auction. Call 507-271-3457 or contact Colin at cryennie@hotmail.com for questions or more info.

September 7, 2013 (Saturday)

13th Annual Greater Chicago Insulator Club "End of Summer" Picnic and Swap Meet

Racine, Wisconsin

13th Annual GCIC "End of Summer" picnic and swap meet. Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch served at noon. Please let Randy know if you plan to attend so enough food can be prepared. Brats and hot dogs are on the menu this year. Bring items for the Famous Rick Soller Auction if you want or hundreds will be available otherwise. The event will go on rain or shine. It will be held at the home of RANDY WESNER, 434 Blaine Ave., Racine, WI 53405 (262) 633-0756 Email: randysdodge@gmail.com Call or email if you need directions.