



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

Rick Soller, editor-in chief

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May 4-5, 2018 Columbia City, Indiana Show

The Columbia City show will be here in no time and there are a number of reasons to get there. First, everyone likes to see the collection of others in the hobby and Josephine and Dave Ramp are opening their house on Friday night for all attendees to see their fantastic insulator collection. Dave is retired so has been known to travel as far as Missouri to attend an auction with insulators. Rumors have it that he has deep pockets and lots of display space (or was it that he has spacious pockets and deep holes in his place?) so there should be insulators that you seldom see.

A second reason to get to the show is the incredible auction that will take place. Rick Soller reports that he has been stockpiling insulators for the auction since January. He indicated that he already has 150 of them boxed and ready to go and plans to add a few more boxes beyond that. A recently purchased collection provided some of what will be auctioned off at no reserve and he stumbled across boxes from a collection purchased a couple years ago that will provide buyers additional opportunities to have first shot at some pieces.

Third, it is becoming a tradition for Friday visitors to share something during the show and tell hour. It is a great time to eat some pizza, drink a beverage, and hear about a favorite insulator, a fascinating hunt, or a rare find.

Table rates are low, hotel costs are reasonable, and you don't have to spend much time on busy roads to get there so see you there. More information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Club Hunt of the Wheaton Prairie Path

10:20 a.m. on Friday, April 6, 2018 found me waiting in the parking lot of St. Andrew's Gold Course and Country Club wondering if anyone would show up. Shortly afterwards, Robert Schultz rolled in, followed by Josh Dondorf about 10 minutes later.

From the St. Andrew's parking lot, we moved to the parking lot of the nearby mall and walked to the Prairie Path to start searching. We walked down to where the trail went through a tunnel without finding anything so headed back to our vehicles to try a different section that Robert wanted to try.

At this point, the hunt was already exercising a toll. Lots of burrs were accumulated on our clothes. Rick had fallen to his knees once when trying to get down a hill. The wind made walking in the open on the trail very cold. Thorns reached out to scratch us. Vines put feelers out to trip us. At least the cold kept the ticks at bay.

After a much needed lunch, we wandered around a few roads looking for a good access point. We drove into subdivisions, found cul-de-sacs but no parking or access only by way of cutting across private property after parking on a curbless street. Doubling back out of one subdivision, we went into another and finally found a good place to park right next to the entrance of the path.

Within about 40 yards, the first insulator was spotted by Josh. It was a CD 160 and looked like there was a lot of it there rather than just pieces. The picture below shows the insulator before it was dug out. By this time, it was getting to be near when the show hall opened so we didn't have time to continue searching together. Robert stayed to hunt some more and the rest of us headed to the fairgrounds.



A few pieces of porcelain were also found but nothing special in that category. Josh found a piece of metal that looks like a finial. He took it to the show and had it for sale. We saw one of the towers used to hold crossarms as well as the base of a streetlight. Both of these were too big and heavy to bring home. Maybe some other time? Pictures below and on the next page are from the hunt.





(Left – Josh Dordorf with a finial (?))



(Right – Robert Schultz)

Estate Sale Finds

On Friday, March 30, 2018, I was searching Craigslist for insulator when I came across a notice of an estate sale that indicated “old glass and porcelain insulators” would be sale. Unfortunately for me, the estate was that day and it was in Springfield. I didn’t want to drive that far to learn that there weren’t many insulators, they were common, overpriced, damaged, and already picked over. So I opened my Crown Directory and called and emailed Tim Shelabarger who is the only collector listed in Springfield.

It turns out that Tim works just a few blocks from where the estate sale was located. I contacted him at 9:19 a.m. and by 11:08, he emailed me back that he immediately went to the sale and bought a bunch. His email indicated that he picked up, “a Patent / Patent CD257, CD106 GOOD, CD104 No Embossing, CD114 Hemingray, CD160 B, CD160 HGCo, CD 121CD&P Telco, CD154 WT Purple, and 2 CD161Californias Smoke & Green. Plus 6 Side Pins. All for \$70.”

I followed up the next day to remind him that if anything was left behind because it was overpriced, he should go back since prices are often half off on the last day. He indicated he left behind 5 or 6 porcelain power pieces, and some common glass but may check back and would send pictures. He also related to me that the collection belonged to the father of Chuck Alexander, an NIA collector in Idaho whom he had bought insulators from before. Tim noted, “It’s a small world.”

We both estimated the pieces he bought were worth at least three times what he paid. The Mickey Mouse was a nice light aqua with the only “damage” some open bubbles on the ear. The CD 114 Hemingray had some nice milk in it and a ghost embossing. The pins were in great shape and had even been shellacked.

DuPage Collectable Expo

The DuPage Collectable Expo held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, Illinois on Saturday, April 7, 2018 was a blast. Hosted by Bob Stahr and Rick Soller, 90+ dealer tables filled with insulators, lightning rod balls, bottles, and go-withs occupied the hall. Sunshine greeted attendees although the wind and cold reminded people it wasn't yet summer.

The table of free insulators saw a lot of action when Tom Underwood brought several boxes of wrapped insulators to give away (Thanks Tom!). Several people helped unwrap them in the hopes of being the first to find something to add to their collection. Richard Case added a piece to his collection. Kim Borgman was on the hunt for script embossed Hemingray No. 9s. I found a white porcelain piece to add to my collection (Thanks again, Tom). Many other pieces disappeared into collections although a couple boxes worth of insulators were left by the end of the show to make a reappearance next year.

Dealers reported good sales. One dealer sold most of his insulators to another dealer at the end of the show. Jason Townsend who had seven tables went home with very little after brisk sales and serious bargaining. Josh Dondorf sold some major pieces from his table including a porcelain Elliot hat. LRBs seemed to sell well and I saw a few battery rests get sold from a bottle collector's table.

Many thanks go out to everyone who helped with the show. Russ Frank and Arlen Rienstra did a fantastic job traveling to numerous antique stores and dropping off postcards advertising the show. Tina Rienstra and Stacy Stahr handled admissions expertly.

Next year, there are plans for two major additions. First, the hosts want to encourage displays at the show. There is room on the stage for this. Second, there are plans to hold an end-of-show auction so dealers can sell insulators they don't want to take home.

Pictures below and on the next page are from the show.



Josh Dondorf's table full of multiparts.



Josephine Ramp staffing a table of insulators. She'll be at the Columbia City, Indiana show too. Below, two collectors talking about LRBs and a rooster weather vane.



Upcoming Shows

Columbia City, Indiana

Friday and Saturday, May 4-5, 2018

Free Admission, Free appraisals, Free air too! at the annual Columbia City, Indiana Insulator, Fruit Jar, Bottle & Collectibles show to be held at the Whitley County 4H Center, 581 Squawbuck Road, Columbia City, IN on May 4 & 5th. Plenty of parking, RVs welcome (no hookups) Friday dealer setup noon -3 PM, Public 3-5 PM, Pizza 5PM, BRING SOMETHING FOR THE SHOW & TELL at 5:30 PM, Open House at the home of Josephine & Dave Ramp 6:30 PM. Saturday Dealer setup 6AM - 8AM, Public 8 AM until the last dealer leaves. First dealer table \$28, 2/\$48, 3/\$60, 4/\$75, 5/\$80, 6/\$85. For discounts on local hotels or for more info email GENE HAWKINS at: gene.hawkins@mchsi.com or call 574-377-0171.

Tama, Iowa

Saturday, June 2, 2018

The 21st Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet will be held on Saturday, June 2nd at the Tama Civic Center from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. The Civic Center is located at 305 Siegel St. in downtown Tama, IA, just two blocks West of Highway 63 on 3rd Street. Dealers can plan on setting up at 7:00 AM. There will be no cost to set up and lunch will be provided to those attending. This annual event tends to be fun and relaxed and draws a good variety of dealers and friends from the Midwest. We again look forward to hosting and providing you another great time in the Hawkeye State! For additional information and table reservation, please contact DAVE SHAW at (641) 484 5463 or e-mail at dashaw@mchsi.com

Mount Brydges, Ontario, Canada

Saturday, June 2, 2018

15th Annual Southwestern Ontario Insulator Meet will be held Saturday, June 2, at the home of Henry and Hilary Nicpon near Mount Brydges, Ontario. There's a \$10 charge for a table, with the fee helping to cover the cost of food and beverages. Please RSVP by May 26th if you are coming. Info: TOM IANNELLI 519-641-0098 or email: tiannelli0098@rogers.com or BARRETT NICPON 519-670-8796 or email: barrett.nicpon@gmail.com

Kansas City, Missouri

Friday, June 22 – Sunday, June 24, 2018

The 2018 National Insulator Association Convention & Show will be at the KCI Expo Center located at 11730 N. Ambassador Drive in Kansas City, Missouri 64153. The Expo center show boasts of its huge 35,000 square feet of Glass & Porcelain Insulators, Hardware, Signs, Lightning Rod Balls, Battery Jars & Rests, Lamps, Bottles, Jars and much more! 175+ Dealer & Display tables, Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (NIA Only). Open to the public on Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Dealers Wanted! For more information and/or a show packet: www.nia.org/shows/national or nwmoshow@dwagnerkc.com