

DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 3 SPRING 1988

A MESSAGE TO JUNIOR COLLECTORS

Under NIA membership rules, those under the age of 18 years are eligible for Junior Membership. The NIA feels that junior members are an important part of the hobby and has encouraged their participation by offering reduced dues and having a special award category at National Shows for Junior displayers.

In order to encourage more activity by younger collectors, DRIP POINTS is offering a new column. Beginning with the June 1988 issue, DRIP POINTS will list the names and addresses of any Junior NIA member who is interested in corresponding and trading with other Junior members. All that you need to do is send in your name and address along with your NIA membership number and we will print them in the next DRIP POINTS. The rest is up to you...to write and get to know others in your age group who share your interests. If you want your name printed for others to see send the above information to Mike Guthrie, NIA Information Director, 35816 Bonadelle Ave., Madera, CA 93638.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ????

Funny thing about hobby organizations...a few folks try to make it worthwhile for everyone but frequently there is no communication between membership and the leadership. Now, we would like to think this is because everyone just loves the way things are. We believe that this is not necessarily the case. The problem is that it is a rare day when anyone on the Board of Directors receives any type of correspondence from any member. We want your suggestions on how the NIA can improve its role in the hobby. If you have an idea send it to any member of the Board listed in the back of this issue. Thanks !

"MESSAGES"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Insulator Collectors and NIA Members,

I addressed this letter with NIA members listed second because non-NIA insulator collectors outnumber NIA members by TWO TO ONE. Not to imply that NIA members are second class citizens this month, I merely wanted to point out to the non-members in the ranks that the NIA has known for some time that we have had problems attracting and keeping our membership and that we DO want your membership support!

The NIA is in a curious position. Despite the boom in the hobby over the past couple of years, we actually have stagnation in terms of NIA membership. It is apparent that Crown Jewels is still the main drive of many collectors and a subscription to Cj is a must for every serious insulator collector. The need for insulator collectors to support their own "National/International Hobby Support Organization" is also very important since the NIA works hand in hand with Show Hosts, Crown Jewels, and the collecting public at large in the promotion of the hobby and the shows and exhibits of its members. The NIA must react to its members' needs and wishes and, as a "not for profit" organization, must be responsible for its incomes and expenditures.

This letter is not meant to be a "desperate plea for funds"; rather, it is intended to convince the many collectors who are not NIA members that the NIA is a very necessary organization and that we desire your new and continued membership not only for necessary financial support but for input into the organization from you to assist the NIA in developing and meeting objectives which improve the hobby. The more members we have and the more who contribute their talents to the hobby and the NIA, the more successful both will be.

Last year I made a pitch for some educational programs to be donated to the NIA for sharing with local clubs, libraries and individuals who would like to share knowledge about insulators with others. I am pleased to announce that we have received our first contribution. The NIA now has a slide and audio cassette presentation on Porcelain Insulators available to its membership or to local clubs. Many, many thanks to Robert Reyburn of Ontario, California for his generous contribution to the NIA!

Finally, this will be the last issue of Drip Points before both the Eastern and Western Regional NIA Shows. I will be attending the Nashville Eastern Regional Show on March 26 & 27. This will be an exciting show for the NIA since it marks the first NIA sanctioned show in the state of Tennessee. We are looking forward to expanding the hobby in the Southeast!

I will be unable to attend the Western Regional Show in Enumclaw, Wa. this year which is hosted by Violet and Andy Brown and Jeanne Bridges. While it seems like I am at every show in the country, it just is not always possible.

Until Nashville, keep up the "good collecting!"

See y'all in Houston!



Kevin Lawless

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Well the Eastern Regional in Nashville is only a few weeks away and I am starting to get really excited. If all goes according to plan, I will be able to attend what is building up to be a great show, and well worth the 1300 mile drive there. I hope any of you who can attend will do so, not only this regional but any insulator show in your area.

There are less than five months before this year's National! The 1989 Regional and National show hosts and sites are traditionally announced at the National. Many of you have been collecting and/or dealing in insulators for many years. Won't you submit a bid to host a show in 1989? The NIA will provide support data to help ensure your show is a success. If you are a former host, your previous experience will make things much easier this time around. So drop me a line and let's see if we can help you.

Insulator traffic has been pretty slow up here during the winter months but is bound to pick up as soon as that snow melts. Grounders can usually be easily seen at this time of year and digging is much more enjoyable without the heat or bugs. There is still lots of good glass out there, so let's get looking.

Eric Halpin, # 2768



FROM THE CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT:

Spring will soon be upon us and the busy show season will be starting again. I've talked to several of the Central Region upcoming show hosts and the near future seems very bright indeed.

The 9th annual Omaha, Nebraska Show, April 30-May1, has been moved to a different facility this year with new show hosts-- Al Perry and Ken Stubbe. I've talked to Al and Ken and they appear to have the makings of a great show. By the way, I want to thank Paul and Carol Ickes for all the work they have done over the years hosting all of the previous Omaha shows, twice as the NIA Central Regional. The MUTC has been looking into purchasing club patches and these may be available at this year's show.

A little later, on June 3 and 4, will be the Collectors Jubilee in St. Charles, IL. The show will again be held at the Dunham Inn and, as before, will be sharing the weekend with the famous Kane County Flea Market. You won't want to miss this one.

But, before these shows, I would like to remind all of you in the Central Region of another nearby show that will be coming up soon--the NIA Eastern Regional. This year's show will be in a great location for both Eastern and Central U.S. collectors--Nashville, TN. Being this far west puts it within traveling range for much of the country. The show will be at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds and will coincide with the Nashville Flea Market. I encourage all of you to attend.

After all of this, what more could you want? Well, how about the biggest event of them all--the NIA National in Houston, TX July 22-24. I'm sure the three show hosts will have lots to tell you about this one in Crown Jewels from now 'til July.

Please try to attend as many shows as you can--they're educational and great fun. I'll be there--hope to see you all there too. I can hardly wait for showtime..."the future's so bright, I gotta wear shades..."



Dennis Weber

FROM THE EASTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT:

I hope everyone was able to have a nice, healthy holiday season. The new year already looks very promising for insulators with some super

shows planned around the country and especially here in the East. I continue to urge all collectors to attend at least one show this year. Support the hobby while meeting some great people.

The Eastern Region sure has its share of new subscribers to Crown Jewels. I have written to several of you and have enjoyed your replies. This is an open invitation to anyone interested in hobby information...all you have to do is ask! Write to myself or to any of the NIA people listed in this newsletter. John de Souza is now the NIA membership committee chairman and is a super guy always willing to help out.

If I had to describe the ideology of the insulator hobby in one word I would say...friendship. It's been very important to me and hope that many of you feel the same way. When you have some free time, write to a new collector who lives near to you and welcome them to the hobby. You just might get a good friend for your effort.

Also important to me is the active continuation of the hobby. My interest in insulators started in the early 1970's and I have seen both the big shows and the quiet times. Everything is going strong right now and to help keep it that way I will be hosting my first show on September 17, 1988. It will be in southeastern New York at the Millbrook Fire House in Millbrook. This will be the first insulator show ever to be held in Dutchess County. Come see us! Millbrook is a very active Antiques Center with dozens of shops within three blocks of the show site. There are numerous restaurants nearby and a beautiful park right across the street. Bring you family! Millbrook is easily accessible from the Taconic State Parkway and other state highways. The firehouse is a beautiful building with excellent lighting, air conditioning, smoke eaters, and a large parking lot. Food will be available throughout the show. More specific details will be available soon but mark your calendars now.

Right around the corner is this year's Eastern Regional in Nashville, TN. Hosts Cordell and Sally Smith will be sharing their "southern hospitality" with all in attendance. Many activities are available nearby for all interests so please write the Smiths for more details.

Keep an eye on the calendar in Crown Jewels for other shows in your area. I will be talking about the August show in New Jersey next issue. Don't let the quiet times get to you, take advantage of the big shows, please don't take them for granted.

Hope to see you in 1988!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEFF". The letters are stylized and slanted to the right.

FROM THE WESTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT:

Greetings !

The Western Region closed out the old year with the successful 49er Hist. Bottle Assn. Show in Auburn in December. Insulator collectors were well represented at both sales tables and displays. Steve Marsh was awarded the N.I.A. ribbon, and Mike Guthrie took home the Crown Jewels award. All of the insulator displays, as well as a lightning rod and ball display entered by a bottle collector, were really eye-catching and interesting !

The first show of the new year was the Central Counties Insulator Club show at Morro Bay, Ca. on Feb.6, hosted by Sid and Isabel Marques. The deadline for this report is also prior to the Las Vegas Bottle Show on Feb. 27 & 28, but historically it has drawn some insulator "heavy-weights" from the Central Region. The Chico Bottle Show is scheduled for March 12 & 13, and this has always been good hunting ground for insulator collectors.

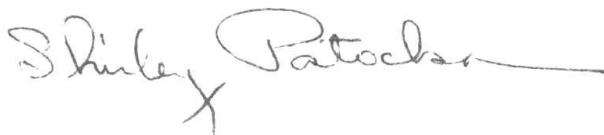
On May 14 & 15 we are looking forward to the 1988 Western Regional Show in Enumclaw, Wa. hosted by Andy and Ili Brown. Be sure to note the new dates, which are later in the month than usual for this show.

The Reno Bottle Show, usually held in June, has been cancelled this year because the National Bottle Show is being held in Las Vegas on July 7, 8, 9, & 10. This show is being presented as "A Celebration of American Glass", The 1988 Antique Bottle-Jar-Insulator Exposition. With planned 400 sales tables, it sounds awesome!

Gary and Doreen Reed of Naramata, British Columbia, are planning an Insulator, Bottle, and Collectible Show and Sale at Chute Lake Resort on June 18 and 19. They attended last fall's Tailgate Show in Cle Elum, Wa. and are really enthused about getting something going up in their area. You can contact them at Chute Lake Resort/R.R. 1, S-16, C-16/Naramata, B.C./POH 140.

There is nothing like an upcoming show to get the old enthusiasm bubbling and I hope there is one someplace in your area soon. Have you thought about hosting a small one yourself? Be sure and let me know about any club doings, tail-gating, shows or finds that you are involved in!

Heaps of Happy Collecting!



FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT:

Have you circled July 22-24, 1988 on your calendar? Have you sent for your information packets? Don't look now, but the National Show is coming on like a freight train and we're bustin' our britches to see that it's one of the best shows yet! See "Calendar" section of this issue of CROWN JEWELS for details.

Since many of you have shivered through a cold winter, we know you're looking forward to the warmer weather down south this summer. But if you are worried about it being too warm, don't! We actually recommend that you pack a sweater because Texans think big and we sometimes tend to overdo on airconditioning. But we promise to tone it down so it won't snow in the Exhibit Hall. Does that put your mind at ease?

If you plan to drive to the Show, Houston is easy to find, and our Convention Headquarters, the Adam's Mark Hotel, will let you, as a hotel guest, park your Rolls Royce, your pick-up, your horse, or your bicycle absolutely free! Both Amtrak and Greyhound Bus Lines can also see that you get here. And if you're flying, the Hotel has shuttle service to both of Houston's airports - Intercontinental and William P. Hobby.

This year, NIA Day will have a special added feature for members. Each hour, by turns, you may come to the microphone and specify which insulatorist you are most looking for and any dealer/collector who can fill your order will then be able to contact you. He probably had it under the table or you missed it in making your rounds of the Exhibit Hall. Charlie Allmon has volunteered to take charge of this effort, and remember, this is only for NIA Day on Friday.

Best of all, try to think which well known collector hasn't been to a National in years and years even though folks keep asking for him. Well, he's coming this time for sure and we have it in writing! Can you guess?

We're looking forward to seeing all of you so let us hear from you!



Marilyn Albers, John Hall, and Elton Gish



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

If you haven't renewed your membership for the period of April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, please use the form in Drip Points and renew now. Renewing early will help us better plan our finances for the new year and keep our files up to date before the 1988 National Show. Renewing now will eliminate those long lines at the Registration Table on NIA day at the National wasting valuable time which could be spent in the show. It will also save time and money in sending renewal notices during a period where the NIA is trying to keep costs down.

During the fiscal year 1987-88 the NIA had 988 family and individual members, 173 of which were new. We welcome all new members to the NIA and to the hobby. My objectives for the 1988-89 fiscal year are to increase the total membership and improve the efficiency of the membership committee while supporting and contributing to the growth of the hobby. I'm going to need plenty of help and need volunteers to reach every show and pass the NIA message. If you can give a little of your time, please let me know. I prefer to get the total membership involved rather than to rely on just a few committee members to do the work.

Happy new year and good collecting.



John DeSousa, 5 Brownstone Rd., E. Granby, CT 06026



FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

As of the middle of January 1988, only one person has confirmed his interest in running for the position of Central Region Vice-President and we still have no persons interested in running for the President's position. By the time the membership reads this letter in early March, only six weeks remain to get a letter of introduction to me to place in the mail out of ballots to NIA members who will be voting in the upcoming elections. I've noted in my past few articles in Drip Points the importance of both of these positions so if you are interested in supporting the NIA by serving in an elected position please do!

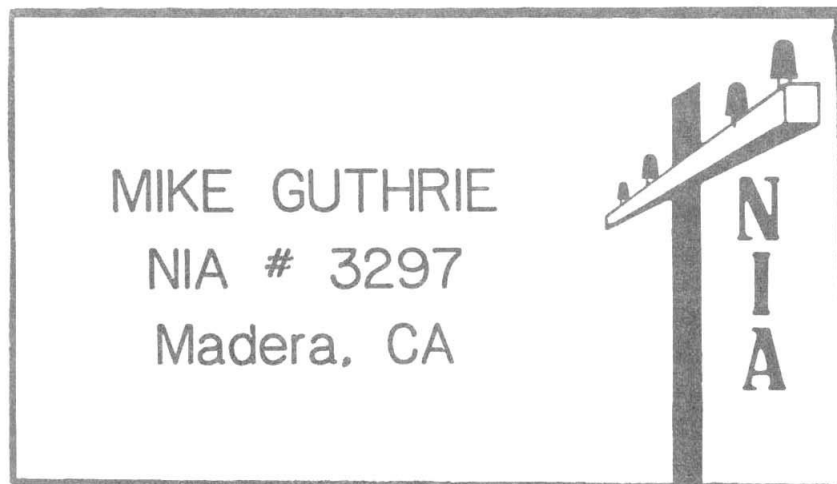
Last year's vice-president's position in the Western Region had three candidates making the election very interesting. It would be nice to have multiple candidates for each of the positions which are open this year. If there are any of you who have interest in running but aren't sure of what is involved, please send me a letter so that I can inform you as to the duties of the office you are interested in. I would be happy to answer any questions which may help you make a decision.

Be an active part of your NIA, run for office !

Russ

Russ Hughes, 2560 S. Yrain St., Denver, CO 80219

NEW NIA NAME TAGS !!!!



The above sample is an actual size NIA name tag which is now available from Director of Marketing Jackie Linscott. The tag is made of hard plastic with a pin on the back for attachment to clothing. To order, write Jackie at 3557 Nicklaus Dr., Titusville, FL 32780. Order now in time for the upcoming show season !

"DISCOVERIES"

In December of 1987 I was going down to Southern Colorado on a trip to look at a small insulator collection which was for sale. I decided to take some of the small county and dirt roads rather than the Interstate to see what kind of exploring and discovering they might offer to liven up the trip.

I found a few old abandoned mines but after searching through several I was unable to locate anything of interest. During the journey, however, I came across a number of downed poles with what appeared to be some aqua tolls. Upon closer inspection I found a few Am. Tel. tolls. Further down the line I found fragments of aqua R.Good and W.F.G. tolls. Not knowing what might be in the collection I was enroute to inspect. I decided to move on. I marked the line location on my map to permit further inspection on the trip home.

The collection was somewhat of a bust, consisting of clear Hemi-42's and similarly "rare" items. On the way home I decided to return to the area where the tolls were seen to try to salvage something of the trip.

I drove about 5-6 miles from where I started and upon looking across a field the poles headed away from the road and were mostly still standing. I parked the car and walked across the field toward the poles. The poles had one arm per pole with 6 pins per arm. The wires were mostly gone on poles so short that I could jump up and reach the arms. After walking about 2 miles I had picked up from 100-150 CO 121 in WFG and R.Good. The Good's were aqua and bluish aqua and the WFG's were in steel blue and all were in pretty good shape contrary to those I first found. With my binoculars I could see the line winding into a couple of ridges for some distance yet. There were probably hundreds of tolls left on the lead but a few snowflakes led me to believe that the best move would be to return home and come back on a better day to see what secrets the rest of the line may hold.

During the several hours I was in the hills I saw a number of wild sheep and coyotes making the walk even more interesting.

This experience, although not revealing any insulators of great value, shows that there are still remote areas which can yield not only insulators but a pleasurable nature experience as well. Give it a try in your area, there are still lots of insulators left to be discovered.

Russ Hughes, Denver, Colorado

1988 NIA NATIONAL & REGIONAL SHOWS

MARCH 26 & 27 EASTERN REGIONAL SHOW
NASHVILLE, TN. Hosted by Sally and Cordell Smith, Jr.

NOTE NEW DATE:

MAY 14 & 15 WESTERN REGIONAL SHOW
ENUMCLAW, WA. Hosted by Di & Andy Brown and
Jeanne Bridges.

JULY 22, 23 & 24 CENTRAL REGION NATIONAL SHOW
HOUSTON, TX. Hosted by Marilyn Albers, John Hall,
and Elton Gish

1987-88 NIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeffrey McCurdy, Eastern Region Vice President (914) 677-9917
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Shirley Patocka, Western Region Vice President (916) 663-3681
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Marilyn Albers, Second Past President (713) 497-4146
14715 Oak Bend Dr., Houston, Tx 77079



N.I.A. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



The fiscal year for membership dues starts Apr. 1 and ends Mar. 31.
The current dues amounts for various membership classes are:

- \$8.00 Adult (Regular individual membership)
- \$8.00 Family (This type of membership is for one voting adult and other family members at the same address. Enclose an additional \$1.00 for each family member who wishes voting privileges.)
- \$4.00 Junior (Under 18 years of age)

Make checks payable to "National Insulator Association" and send to: N.I.A. c/o 5 Brownstone Rd., E. Granby, CT 06026.

Each member who is not a subscriber to the magazine "Crown Jewels of the Wire" will receive a copy of the October issue which is the subscriber directory of the names and addresses of all NIA members. Each member household will receive, as part of their membership, a coupon good for \$2.00 off the regular subscription price of "Crown Jewels" magazine.

New members, upon payment of dues, are immediately entitled to all membership privileges. Members receive all NIA mailings including the quarterly newsletter, membership directory, and membership handbook. Family members do not receive duplicates of these items at the same address but will receive individual membership cards.

Current membership entitles the member to display and/or purchase a sales table at NIA National Conventions and permits admittance to the show on the first day of the National, which is limited to NIA members.

I (we) apply for () New () Renewal Memberships in the National Insulator Association.

NAME			NIA #
STREET			PHONE
CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE

Include names and NIA #'s of all family members.