

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

http://www.nia.org

VOLUME 27 * NUMBER 4 * SUMMER 2000

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ Editor's Notes... *Lee Brewer*
- ◆ From the President...*Kevin Lawless*
- ◆ Regional Reports... *Tom Katonak, Ken Willick*
- ◆ Historian Note...*Rick Soller*
- ◆ Nominations Chair...*Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ Show Standards... *Sandy Ellison*
- ◆ Membership Stats...*Joe Beres*
- ◆ Financial Report... *Dudley Ellis*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The time for Drip Points has come again? Already? I guess keeping a busy schedule has the blessing of making time pass quickly by. Pretty soon summer will be here and the opportunity to walk the tracks will once again be a more prevalent part of my schedule (I hope!).

Speaking of walking the tracks -- there are many people out there (especially those on ICON) who have constructed a device for removing insulators from crossarms without having to remove their feet from good old Terra Firma. I would like to tell you about one such de-

vice that I have used. But, of course, due to the day and age we live in, I will include a disclaimer! This device, although simple to construct and use has no endorsement from the NIA. The NIA itself, and no one associated with the NIA can be held legally responsible for any mishaps, etc. from the use/construction of this device. You build, use, and place yourself in a position to use this device only at your own risk!

When I first decided to make my "Insu-picker" I went to Home Depot and purchased a telescoping paint brush handle that reaches up to 24 feet (\$34.00). I bought a cheap (\$1.96) paint roller brush handle, and I also got a can of liquid rubber which is

used for coating tool handles simply by dipping them into the substance.

I removed the cylindrical 'roller' from the wire it was inserted onto; I used a vise and a pair of pliers to bend an insulator-diameter-sized loop in the wire that the roller was just removed from; and I then bent the loop over at a 90 degree angle to the handle (take a look at the enclosed diagram for a better idea of this concept). I then poured the rubber coating liquid into a plastic, flat bowl and dipped the loop into it. This rubber coating on the loop is what enables the insulator to be grasped by the loop.

Once you screw the handle

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

onto the end of the telescoping pole you can stand at the base of a pole; extend the insu-picker's handle up to reach the jewel you wish to retrieve; place the loop over the top of the insulator; pull down over the top of the gem; and slowly unscrew it from its pin. Sometimes I have found I can use the outside of the loop to 'spin' the piece off when it sits on its pin even after I spin it far enough that it is no longer held by the threads. If you have a partner with you, you can push the bottom of the outer petticoat upward and let the gem fall (!!) into the waiting hands of your partner. However, I have also found I can pull my loop down over the top of the insulator right

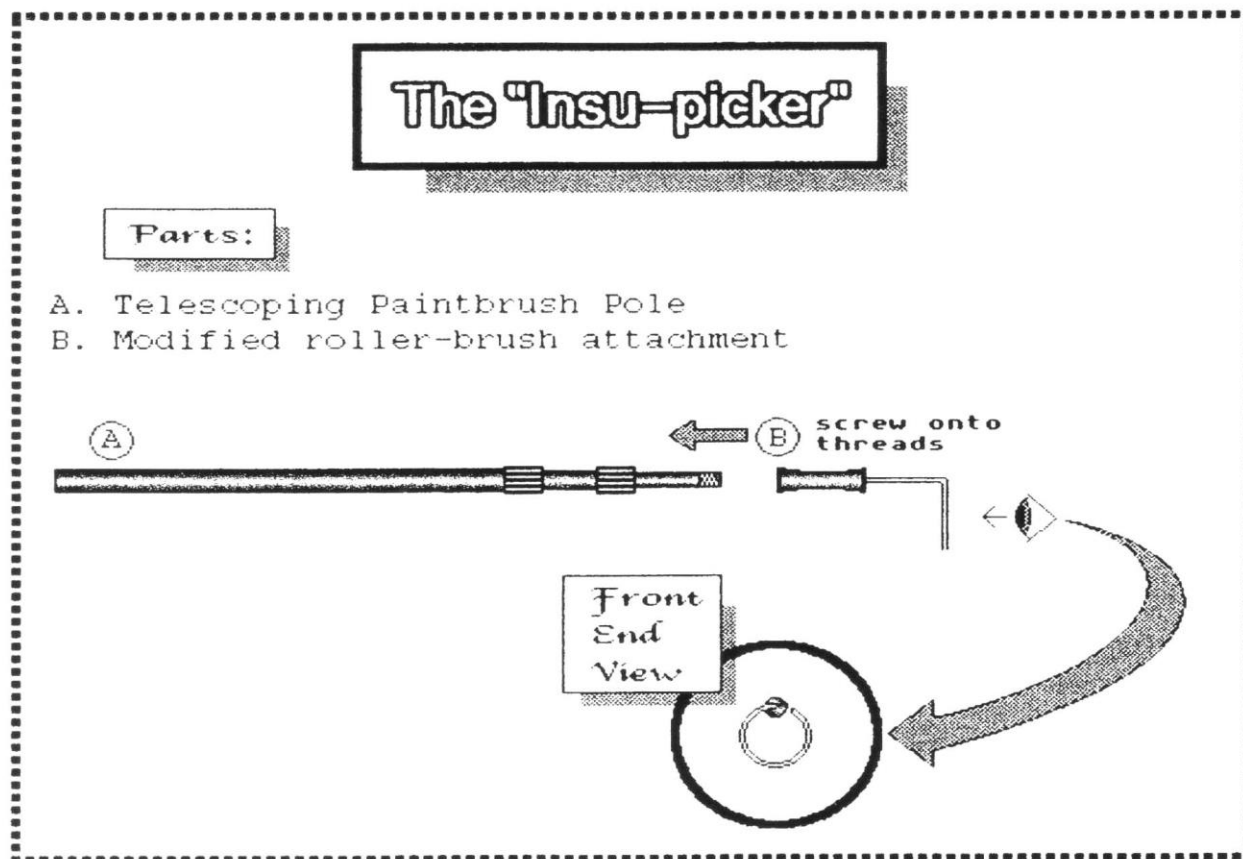
as I give it a final twist from its threads and then am able to lift it from its perch. This can be scary as you do not know if it will slip out of the loop as you slowly lower it to the ground, but I have used this method many times. I presently am working on a model with an attachment to clamp a hold of the insulator after I am done unscrewing it.

I hope this helps any of you who may want an easy way to retrieve some gems from their lofty perches. I always think this design can be improved, so if you have some ideas, let me know. You should see the plans for the one I was thinking about that has a cordless drill at the top to aid in unscrewing!

Please remember to support your local shows this summer. Personally, I think this is one of the most enjoyable parts of the hobby. I hope to meet some of you this summer at shows. I am looking forward to Claude Wambold's show June 10 in Perkiomenville, PA. By the way, if you happen to be in Northwest, PA on June 24, please be sure to stop up at our first local show co-sponsored by WRIC and GLASS. And most importantly of all - I hope to see you at the National!

Happy collecting to all!

Lee Brewer, NIA #6695
Information Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow NIA members:

It is hard to believe, but this is my final Drip Points as NIA President. My term is coming to a close and two years have gone by most quickly.

I have been disappointed by my inability to perform what I had planned to accomplish this year, due to some unexpected family crises, but many of the tasks we have planned for have been working out well. First, thank you from the bottom of my heart to my Department Chairs, Bob Berry, Carolyn Berry, Sandy Ellison, John McDougald, Dudley Ellis, Elton Gish, Rick Soller and Steve Marks for their tireless efforts on behalf of all of us, and to Dick Bowman for being especially diligent in organizing our Museum planning committee. Thanks, too, to my appointed Board Members, Tom Katonak, Lee Brewer, Mike Guthrie (and Dudley Ellis), Ed Peters and Joe Beres, for making my job look easy. The

NIA's finances, newsletter, membership and records have never looked better, and will continue to be in solid, capable hands.

I had intended to attend the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club's Maryland Line, Maryland Show in March and the NIA Western Regional Show in Enumclaw, Washington in May, but I was forced to cancel those plans. I did attend the Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club Show in Holyoke, Massachusetts and the Ottawa Valley Insulator Show in Smiths Falls, Ontario in April, and both were fine shows. I was also unable to attend the NIA workshop session at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History in March, but Doug MacGillvary, Bob Berry, Larry Novak and Ken Willick were more than capable of getting the massive inventory and cataloguing of their insulator collection underway.

The NIA National Show in Bloomington, Minnesota will

be here before we know it and Show Host Ed Peters and the members of the Northwestern Insulator Club will make sure we have a good show. Also, make sure to plan on going to the NIA Eastern Regional Show in Corning, New York on September 16 and 17. Eastern Region Vice President Ken Willick and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Thank you ... to my Department Chairs ... and Board Members ...

Although I will be stepping aside as President, I know that our organization will be in ca-

pable hands with incoming President Steve Marks. Please give Steve and his Board and Committees the support and respect that you have given me!

Until then, please remember to support your local show, your local club, and your fellow collector. Enjoy our hobby!

Good collecting and see you at the National,

**Kevin F. Lawless, NIA #1679
President**

NIA NIA

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Wow - summer's almost here again. Already have the hot dry

weather and from the looks of the Los Alamos fire preview, we could be in for a terrible fire season here in the west. 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.

A couple weeks ago, I had

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the great fortune to go to the Pacific Northwest to attend the Western Regional Show at Enumclaw. Cool and damp up there – so no problem with wildfires! This was my first Enumclaw show and boy, was I impressed. Good glass, fine people, great displays and many old friends! I really had a great time. I have to comment particularly about the displays.

There were ten of them and these were some of the best displays I've ever seen at the regional level.

Particularly note-

worthy was the massive (and I mean massive!) display of Locke insulators. This took up about 30 linear feet of wall space and featured the largest collection of Locke equipment displayed in the last 30 years. This work of art was the result of the combined effort of Elton Gish, Howard Banks, Paul Greaves, Gill Hedges-Blanquez, Bill Rhode, Mike Spadafora, Robin Harrison, Ben Kirsten, Ed Sewell and Tim Wood. Doug Smith received the coveted "Peoples Choice Award" for his nifty collection entitled "Insulators & things" and the Enumclaw blue ribbons were presented to Larrin Wan-echeck and Brent Burger. Larrin had a fantastic display of insulators from the Collins Overland Telegraph line and Brent's exhibit contained a breathtaking assortment of CD 102s. This was Vi Brown's last Enumclaw show,

and it was really a hum-dinger! Thanks, Vi, for your long-standing dedication to this event (and to the hobby at large)! Everyone is hopeful that someone new will pick up the reins and continue this longstanding tradition in the Northwest.

Last weekend, I had the privilege and distinction of presenting a weekend-long "tutorial" on telegraph communications at Fort Union, New Mexico. This is the second

These were some of the best displays ... at the regional level.

year that the superintendent of Fort Union National Monument has invited me and the president of the New Mexico Historical Bottle Society to present this seminar. The Monument was hosting their annual open house so there were more visitors than usual for the weekend. For those of you that have not been there, this is a true historic archive of the American west. From 1851 to 1891, Fort Union was the gateway to "the real west" and the logistical supply point for all the other military establishments in the west. More importantly, Fort Union was the commercial focal point for the importation of the major fraction of materials and supplies coming from the east. Thousands of Conestoga wagons traveled west on the Santa Fe Trail – to Fort Union, where they unloaded their haul into the vast warehouses at the fort for further

distribution to points west. Well over half of the fort was used for such commercial purposes. Fort Union was absolutely essential during the several major Indian wars of the period and was the supply base for both soldiers and equipment.

You might imagine just how difficult it would be to keep such a massive transportation and supply operation up-and-running without some speedy way of communicating. Well, until the late 1860s, the fastest mode of communication in northern New Mexico was by horseback; so it was several days before a message could be delivered from, say, Fort Union to Fort Apache in central Arizona. This all changed abruptly and dramatically when the first leg of the military fort-to-fort telegraph system was completed between Denver and Santa Fe in 1868. Now, all of the sudden, it only took seconds for the garrison commander at Fort Apache to tell the quartermaster at Fort Union that he was about to be attacked by the Apaches and needed 200 troops and ten cannons post haste!

As early telegraph lines go, this one was in operation for a long time – almost 11 years! It was supplanted by the telegraph system operated by the A T & S F railroad when it came to the fort in 1879.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Again on this trip, I was permitted to browse through the archive storage facility and bring artifacts up to the Monument visitor's center to use in my display and talk. I picked a dark yellow-olive amber CD 731.3 and a dark olive-green CD 731 as examples of what I believe to be the telegraph insulators that were used on the original 1868 line. I also took up a pair of Boston's (CD 158.2s) up to center as examples of probable replacement glass. Interestingly, Boston bottles have been found along the New Mexico telegraph lines in several places. I also brought up an aqua blob (CD 126) found at the fort and a chunk of a purple blob! These most likely were used along the Santa Fe RR.

This trip I was able to locate the position of the telegraph office at the fort from old drawings and to photograph the remaining walls and surrounding structures. These I hope to include in a future and more detailed report on the matter.

At any rate, the visitors to the Fort Union Monument were quite interested in the telegraph story and it was fun to share the real insulators with

them – an unusual treat as these things are normally locked away in the archives.

Finally, let me turn to the upcoming schedule of events. There are some great shows and swaps on the books here in the west, and here is the line-up:

June 3rd, in Victorville, California: San Bernadino County Historical Bottle & Collectible Club's 32nd Annual Show & Sale, at the Ramada Inn (Palmdale Rd & I-15). Dwayne Anthony has the details (909) 862-9279.

June 10th, in Mountain View, California: 4th Annual San Francisco Bay Area Insulator Show and Swap Meet at the T.L. Mobile Home Park ClubHouse. Call Dave Elliott, (650) 988-1893, if you need more information.

June 11th, in Salem, Oregon: The OBCA Antique Bottle & Collectible Show and Sale at the Salem Fairgrounds. Shayne Bowker, (503) 695-2884, has the details.

July 15th, in Merlin, Oregon: Jefferson State Insulator Club Outdoor Summer Swap Meet at Howard Banks' place. If you want more info, call Howard at (541) 479-8348.

July 27 – 30, The National Show in Bloomington

Minnesota. Ed Peters, (612) 447-2422 is the right guy to talk to.

September 16 –17, in Naramata, British Columbia: 13th Annual Antiques and Collectibles, Insulators and Bottles Sale and Swap at the Chute Lake resort. Call Gary or Doreen Reed, (250) 493-3535 for information.

AND FINALLY

(I just love free advertising!)

September 30th, The Enchantment Insulator Club's Thirteenth Annual Insulator, Bottle, Barbwire and Collectibles Show and Sale. Call me for details or send me a net note. Mark your calendars now for a fall get-away to the desert southwest!!

(By the way, did you know that the www.insulators.com website has an updated list of all the shows?)

Well, I think that's about it for the summer report. I'm looking forward to seeing you (or maybe meeting you for the first time!) at the National. Don't forget to call me if you have any visions concerning the Western Region.

Regards and great collecting,

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567
Western Region Vice President

NIA NIA

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

Summer is finally here. A time of unlimited in-

culator potential. Swap meets, flea markets, barn and garage sales, antique shops, digging - the list goes on and on. Also, rain, insects, high temperatures, poi-

son ivy, snakes... Oh well, every reward should have a little risk.

Hats off to Mike Guthrie,

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Dwayne Anthony and Tommy Bolack for providing the information-packed articles on fake and altered insulators in the February and May issues of *Crown Jewels*. I strongly suggest carrying these issues with you on your flea market and antiquing trips for a quick reference should you come across any "too good to be true" insulators.

Also, in the same issue, Jarl and Karen Anderson took the time to write in and share some information on antique shops selling altered insulators. This is the kind of concern and cooperation our hobby needs to keep these insulators out of collecting circles. I encourage you to make known any shops or individuals selling questionable insulators.

Perhaps a web site could be set up with a list of locations throughout the country where these pieces are for sale. There are plenty of collectible insulators out there without dealing with junk.

Good luck in your travels, and good collecting!

**Ken Willick, NIA #3709
Eastern Region Vice President**

FROM THE HISTORIAN

Insulator Club Officers

With the extensive list of club newsletters in the NIA archives, one of the latest projects of the historian is to compile a list of club officers over the years. This generally entails paging through each issue of the newsletter searching for who held what position when. At this point, the officers of the Yankee

Anyone ... will be able to identify some of the pioneers.

Pole Cat Insulator Club, the Greater Chicago Insulator Club, and the Capital District Insulator Club have been compiled. **W**hen some gaps are filled in and some additional clubs are added to the list, you will be able to find the information on the NIA web site. By August, most of this project should be finished.

several ways. Anyone interested in writing a history of the hobby will be able to identify some of the pioneers. Anyone curious about who's who in the hobby can find some partial historical biographical information. The NIA awards outstanding service and lifetime achievement awards, and this information can facilitate that process and allow the membership to understand how the awards were made.

This information is useful in

**Rick Soller, NIA #2958
Historian**

NIA NIA

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

The ballots for the Central Region Vice President were coming to my mailbox fast and furious for about three weeks but have tapered down to near zero. I have had less than 25% of the ballots returned. COME

ON! You can do better than that!

Those of you in the Central Region who have not voted, please go back to your Spring *Drip Points*, read the resumes written by Jimmy Burns and Ed Peters, then remove your ballot and **VOTE!** One of these two candidates will be your voice on

the NIA Board for the next three years. Don't let a minority of the NIA Central Region members select your voice on the Board! **VOTE!**

Remember that you have until July 5, 2000 to submit your ballots to me. The instructions for voting are on the ballots.

(Continued on page 7)

2000 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS

AS OF 5-23-2000

TOTAL NIA NUMBERS USED		7180
NIA NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED		21
NIA NUMBERS DOUBLE ISSUED		70
NEW MEMBERS FOR 2000		148
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE (not paid)

MEMBERS	1441	5503
CHARTER	113	710
LIFETIME	31	14 (DEC.)
NON U.S. MEMBERS	32	87
CLUBS	5	5
INTERNET WEB SITES	1	0
COMPANIES/ORGANIZATIONS	1	1
MUSEUMS	1	1

28 YEAR MEMBERS	32	0
27 YEAR MEMBERS	27	1
26 YEAR MEMBERS	12	1
25 YEAR MEMBERS (SILVER)	17	3
24 YEAR MEMBERS	16	9
23 YEAR MEMBERS	18	3
22 YEAR MEMBERS	14	2
21 YEAR MEMBERS	22	4
20 YEAR MEMBERS	16	7
19 YEAR MEMBERS	14	10
18 YEAR MEMBERS	30	8
17 YEAR MEMBERS	37	16
16 YEAR MEMBERS	31	15
15 YEAR MEMBERS	34	13
14 YEAR MEMBERS	25	20
13 YEAR MEMBERS	51	28
12 YEAR MEMBERS	35	30
11 YEAR MEMBERS	42	50
10 YEAR MEMBERS	45	57
9 YEAR MEMBERS	50	81
8 YEAR MEMBERS	53	90
7 YEAR MEMBERS	79	148
6 YEAR MEMBERS	92	159
5 YEAR MEMBERS	79	257
4 YEAR MEMBERS	106	383
3 YEAR MEMBERS	156	569
2 YEAR MEMBERS	160	1049
1 YEAR MEMBERS	148	2490

MISC.

DECEASED MEMBERS (KNOWN)		141
DOGS (NIA NUMBER ISSUED, BUT NOT VALID)		4
MEMBERS ALREADY PAID FOR 2001+		175

**1999-2000 FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
THIRD QUARTER ENDING 3/31/00**

Beginning Balance-General Fund	1/1/00	3743.65
Education & Promotion Account		1026.09
Authentication/Ethics Account		1196.75

Revenues

Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	3239.00	
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	
Product Sales	334.70	
	Total Revenues:	3573.70

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	0.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	55.00	
Marketing Products	11.36	
Misc. Postage	375.75	
Misc. Printing	22.75	
Misc. Supplies	48.71	
Misc. Professional Services	310.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	67.00	
Drip Points Printing	294.63	
Drip Points Postage	149.47	
Show Advertising Subsidy	0.00	
Show Awards	0.00	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	0.00	
Special Projects	837.00	
	Total Expenses:	2171.67

Education & Promotion Fund Expenditure	146.73	
---	--------	--

Closing Balance, General Fund:		5145.68
Education & Promotion Fund Balance		879.36
Authentication/Ethics Account		1196.75
Total Balance on Hand		7221.79

Rev112099

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KEVIN LAWLESS, NIA #1679, **PRESIDENT**
41 CRESTWOOD DRIVE, SCHENECTADY, NY
12306-3433 (518) 355-5688
EMAIL: kflbostons@aol.com

ED PETERS, NIA #6300, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
5424 DUFFERIN DR, SAVAGE, MN 55378-4627
(612) 447-2422 EMAIL: edpeters@wavetech.net

KEN WILLICK, NIA #3709, **EASTERN REGION VP**
7349 SENECA AVE, LIMA, NY 14485-9712
(716) 624-3007

BOB STAHR, NIA #4186, **CENTRAL REGION VP**
11728 LEONARDO DRIVE, SAINT JOHN, IN
46373-9448 (219) 365-4171
EMAIL: bob@hemingray.com

TOM KATONAK NIA #3567 **WESTERN REGION VP**
1024 CAMINO de LUCIA, CORRALES, NM 87048
(505) 898-5592 EMAIL: tomk164440@aol.com

DUDLEY ELLIS, NIA #5085, **TREASURER**
131 PLANTATION WAY, STOCKBRIDGE, GA
30281 (770) 957-9928
EMAIL: pony102@aol.com

LEE BREWER, NIA #6695, **INFORMATION
DIRECTOR**
22 E. HIGH STREET, UNION CITY, PA 16438
(814) 438-2965 EMAIL: LBrewer42@tbscc.com

JOE BERES, NIA #563, **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**
1315 OLD MILL PATH,
BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OH 44147
(440) 526-3478 EMAIL: jjjb@aol.com

RICK BALDWIN, NIA #336, **FIRST PAST
PRESIDENT**
1931 THORPE CIRCLE, BRUNSWICK, OH 44212
(330) 225-3576 EMAIL: rsbaldwin@worldnet.att.net

STEPHEN BOBB, NIA #827, **SECOND PAST
PRESIDENT**
610 NORTHAMPTON ROAD,
NORRISTOWN, PA 19403 (610) 539-6533

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

CAROLYN BERRY, NIA #4336, **PRODUCT
MARKETING**
1010 WREN COURT, ROUND ROCK, TX 78681-
2741 (512) 255-2006 EMAIL: pyrex553@aol.com

SANDY ELLISON, NIA #6154, **SHOW STANDARDS**
11825 LANCESHIRE CIRCLE, OKLAHOMA CITY,
OK 73162-3229 (405) 721-6578
EMAIL: diamonds4me@worldnet.att.net

ELTON GISH, NIA #41, **ETHICS**
PO BOX 1317, BUNA, TX 77612
(409) 994-5662 EMAIL: gishen@sat.net

RICK SOLLER, NIA # 2958, **HISTORIAN**
4086 BLACKSTONE AVE, GURNEE, IL 60031
(847) 782-8602 EMAIL: com574@clc.cc.il.us

STEVE MARKS, NIA #4951, **BY-LAWS**
21639 NORTH 74TH WAY, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255
(480) 473-7014 EMAIL: Smarks@discounttireco.com





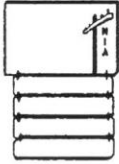
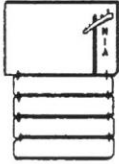
JOHN McDOUGALD, NIA #689, **RESEARCH &
AUTHENTICATION**
5N941 RAVINE DR., ST. CHARLES, IL 60175
(630) 513-1544 EMAIL: cpamcd@aol.com

BOB BERRY, NIA #1203, **PROMOTION &
EDUCATION**
1010 WREN COURT, ROUND ROCK, TX 78681-
2741
(512) 255-2006 EMAIL: pyrex553@aol.com



Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336
 Product Marketing Committee
 1010 Wren Court
 Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741
 (512) 255-2006
 pyrex553@aol.com

**NIA LOGO
 Products
 ORDER FORM**

	Price	Total
 _____	Golf Shirt - Pique cotton - 3 button tab - white - embroidered logo	
	M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25.00) 2X ___ (\$27.00) \$25 / \$27	_____
	* pocketed shirt (check here) _____ + \$1.00 (*special order) \$1.00	_____
 _____	Denim Shirt - Long-sleeved - Lt. blue - Left buttoned, flap pocket- embroidered logo, M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$30.00	_____
 _____	pre-shrunk, heavy-weight cotton 2X ___ \$32.00	_____
 _____	T-Shirts - Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo	
	S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (Light Blue) \$10.00	_____
	L ___ XL ___ (Ash Gray) \$14.00	_____
	2X ___ 3X ___ (Ash Gray) \$15.00	_____
 _____	Sweatshirts - Ash Gray - Heavyweight - Screen-printed logo	
	S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$20.00	_____
	2X ___ (Please note: \$2.00 extra) \$22.00	_____
	Caps lt. gray w/ 5-color logo \$10.00	_____
	Mugs white ceramic w/ 3-color logo \$ 6.50	_____
	Patches light blue w/ 5-color logo \$4.00	_____
 _____	Koozies Beverage holder w/ NIA logo on 2 sides:	
	royal blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$3.00	_____
	Decals light blue w/ 3-color logo \$1.00	_____
	Name Badges white badge w/ engraved blue letters, green and brown screen-printed logo \$11.00	_____
	Bars white w/ engraved blue letters \$4.00	_____

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____

Shipping charge for Shirts, Caps & Mugs is \$3.20 for the first item & \$1.10 for each additional. Koozies are only \$1.00 each, if ordered individually. No shipping charge for Patches, Decals or Name Badges/Bars!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Total enclosed _____

*Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:
 National Insulator Association or NIA*

Name Badge Customization Information (must be a current NIA member!)

Name _____ NIA # _____
 City _____ State _____

Use the back of this order form for any additional badges/bars.