

**NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

**BALLOT**

**WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT**

**Western Region Members Only:**

**(Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Mexico (all), Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon), Australia and Asia)**

Vote for one of the candidates below to serve as the Western Region Vice President for the term of July 2005 through July 2008.

Ballots should be returned to me no later than May 1st, 2005.

Please place your ballot in an envelope and return to:

**Jacqueline Linscott Barnes  
3557 Nicklaus Drive  
Titusville, FL 32780-5356  
407-267-9170  
bluebellwt@aol.com**

The resumes for the following candidates for NIA Western Region Vice President are published in the Spring issue of "Drip Points" (This Issue). Please vote for only ONE.

**Larry Shumaker, NIA #4524  
Rocklin, CA**

**Mike Green, NIA #3175  
Lakewood, CO.**

NIA Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

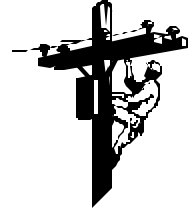
**NIA BALLOT**

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# Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

<http://www.nia.org>

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**Available via e-mail**

**Western Region VP Vote due by May 1st, 2005!**

**A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**



Well another Drip Points issue is out the door. There is plenty to read about in this issue. One really important item is voting for the Western Region VP.

If you live in: **Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho,**

**Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Mexico (all), Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon), Australia or Asia** then you are in the Western Region. There are also Biographies of the two candidates on pages 11 and 12. There is also a ballot at the end of the *Drip Points* for you to vote for the Western Region VP and send in.

On another important topic, The 2005 National will be in San Jose, CA. This promises to be a great show and is in the same facilities as the 2003 Western Regional. **If you intend to have a sales table at this show, you will need a valid "resale number" or a "Temporary Seller's Permit"** If you signed up for a sales table at the New Kensington Show, then Colin Jung handed out the Show packets with the tax form and a check list on what to fill out. Now is the time to get this

form filled out and send in to the San Jose Office. It will take 3 to 6 weeks to get your Temporary Seller's Permit Packet back with an orange color permit with an account number like [ AB CD 100-123456] Please send a copy of this number to Dave Elliott (650) 988-1893 as soon as you receive your permit. For a sales table with multiple dealers, it's almost easier for each dealer to have their own tax number. The correct form is BOE-400-SPA you can go on line to get more info and download this form. [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov) And be sure to send a photo copy of your state's driver license with your application. California is enforcing the sales tax rules and anyone who does not have a resale number or valid temporary permit will lose their sales table. This is important.

**Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720  
Information Director**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



I was saddened to learn that Kevin Lawless passed away on December 22, 2004 with a massive heart attack. He was my confident, sounding board, historian, mentor and most of all a very good friend. It was Kevin that initially encouraged me to run for NIA President. One of Kevin's attributes I admired most was his frankness. I never had to guess where he stood on any issue. He always told it like it was. Kevin contributed unselfishly to the NIA, local clubs and shows. Please read the memorial I have written in this issue outlining the many contributions he made to our hobby which he loved so much.

Over the winter a replica CD 162 in cobalt was created and put on the market. The replica has a threaded pinhole and is embossed on the front skirt HEMINGRAY -19 and on the rear skirt MADE IN U.S.A. The creator has etched three initials and a two digit year on the rear skirt. The seller advises that 150 of the cobalt blue insulators were made. I had the opportunity to inspect one of these at a recent show. The replica looked just like an original cobalt signal at a distance. Closer inspection revealed what the seller had previously noted. The insulator was made in a two part mold rather than the three piece mold. The dome was a little more pointed than a Hemingray signal, the embossing was weak, the inner skirt was thinner and the round

drip points were shaped differently. Please read the statement that Steve Marks, NIA Second Past President, has placed in his message. The statement was prepared by the NIA Board and placed on the NIA web page. Please read Steve's message and educate yourself about this insula-

tor. If you are computer literate I suggest that you go to <http://nia.org/general/speciala.htm> and read the statement and follow the links in the statement for definitions of some of the terms used describing the insulator.

I attended the Dixie Jewels Swap Meet in Mountain Home, North Carolina in November. Three bays of the Fire and Rescue were filled with tables of insulators. The swap was attended by a record crowd of 54 collectors. I hope this is a continued trend for more and more collectors to support the local shows. In January I traveled to Florida for the Annual Antique Insulator and Telephone Show hosted by the Central Florida Insulator Collectors in Maitland. The show was well attended and a huge success. Sandy and I enjoyed the hospitality of the CFIC. Great job!

I am glad to see a continued upswing in the participation of our youth in the hobby. At the Maitland show, 10 year old Clay Bledsoe won the NIA Best of Show Award with his insulator display titled "Nicknames". Congratulations Clay! The Jefferson State Insulator Club has elected a new President. It is 12 year old Mindy Michener. Congratulations to you too Mindy! I also thank the JSIC for their continued support for the youth in the hobby.

I enjoyed writing an article for the

January 2005 *Crown Jewels* of the Wire titled The NIA Needs and Welcomes Your Support. If you haven't seen it, the article touched on NIA history, a little bit about the

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governing structure, what our committees do and the benefits of being a member. I was hoping this would help our membership drive and also encourage current members to support the NIA by serving on one of its committees. If you are interested in stepping to the plate and helping our cause please contact either me, Jacque Linscott Barnes or one of the Nominations Committee members.

Colin Jung, President of the Nor-Cal Club and co-host, continues to send me regular reports on the planning for the 2005 National. He, David Elliott and the Nor-Cal Club have an exciting show planned for all. The dealer tables are sold out but Colin says that they have been getting some cancellations. If you need a sales table it might pay to get on the waiting list.

I hope to be attending the DJIC Swap in Ozark, Alabama in late February, the Deland, Florida show and the Maryland Line, Maryland Show in March. I will also be making plans to attend other shows between now and the 2005 National in San Jose, California. Please take the opportunity to talk to me at these shows.

Please remember to tell someone about your hobby, take a child insulator hunting or to a show and by all means support your local Clubs and shows.

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085  
NIA President**

## FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



By the time you read this, there will be the definite "hint of spring" in at least some parts of the country, and with this comes the first of the many outdoor insulator activities. Actually, the "hint of spring" came even earlier this year in Yuma, Arizona: On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, Lynda and I had the extreme good fortune to attend the

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Yuma Tailgater, held on the grounds of the once notorious Yuma Territorial Federal Prison. Aside from mentioning that we had deep blue skies, a high temperature of 74 degrees, and a desert landscape covered with green grass and flowers due to all the rain this year, I leave the details of the event to the capable hands of the show-report writers. The important thing about this early year event is that it is demonstrative of what our hobby is all about – the bringing together of insulator enthusiasts who enjoy and appreciate each other. Events like this even take on their own personality after a while and become "must attend venues" by many collectors. But "events" don't just "happen": It's all part of the bigger plan. In the case of the YT, we have a dedicated club (the GCSIC) to sponsor the event, a tried-and-true venue for the tailgater, generally favorable weather (even though it's mid-winter), and...most importantly...a hun-

dred or two people who think it's worthwhile to show up at the event! And you just never know who will actually show up at one of these things – and that's part of the fun of it. This year, in addition to several of our Canadian friends who just happen to like the Yuma weather, we were particularly blessed with the attendance of NIA Life-time member Clarice Gordon – famous for her dynamite collection of H.G. Co Beehives...and all the great things she has done for the hobby. This was the first time many of us had seen Clarice for several years, so it was good to "have her home". So what's the moral of this story? Easy, see what you can do to turn your local insulator event into an annual deal that will be long remembered for it's special personality!

**Tom Katonak, NIA #3567  
NIA First Past President**

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## FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT



The holidays this year brought news of the passing of a very special friend. Although Melanie and I met Kevin years before, we really didn't get to know him until we attended the 1995 National that he co-hosted. We remember walking away from that show thinking

"Wow, wouldn't it be nice to do that some day." **Kevin had served as an example.**

In 1998 Melanie and I submitted a bid to host the 1999 National in Scottsdale. The Board was split on whether a young couple in the desert, who had never hosted a show before, and who only had the backing of a then small two-year old club, would be up to the task. In Williamsburg we sought advice and support from our predecessors. We also drank a lot in the lobby of a "dry motel." We had regular conversations with Kevin regarding the progress being made on the show. **Kevin had confidence in us.**

Melanie and I wanted our show to be the grandest event the hobby had ever seen. Some of the best collections were on display (Nagel, Rusk, Guthrie, Yuhas, Bliss, An-

thony, Haltman, Baird, MacGillvary, Albers, Banks, Katonak, Miller, Gay, McDougald, Soller, and others including Lawless). He was arrested and hanged at Rawhide. He produced those beautiful commemorative cachets with stamps (including a unique style made-up for the show host and himself). **Kevin had supported our show.**

Our National hadn't yet ended, and I remember a conversation in the lobby of the Doubletree. . . "Would you consider being my successor?" **Kevin thought highly of my abilities.**

In 1999 I took on a complete rewrite of the NIA Manual. Kevin spent many evenings and many hours on the phone with me as I slogged my way through rewriting each section and sub-section to comport with our newly acquired

corporation status. **Kevin gave freely of his time to improve the hobby.**

In 2000 I became President at the Bloomington National. Melanie and I so looked forward to spending time with him each year. I remember my first thought about taking over was "How could I hope to follow in the footsteps of my able predecessor?" I learned a valuable life lesson: When assuming the leadership role of an organization, it's important to have access to historical information about that organization. **Kevin was an invaluable resource and possessed a wealth of knowledge.**

I had the privilege of serving with Kevin on the NIA Board for another four years. Much has been accomplished. There was, however, a defining moment in 2002 for the NIA. The Board had pushed the issue of fakes harder than it had ever pushed before. I had sent a letter to the suspected offender at that time, and a response came back from an attorney he hired threatening suit. I circulated the letter with my analysis and recommendations to the Board. Kevin was one of the first Board Members to respond: "Steve, you are exactly correct in your analysis. Press on. Show no quarter. Damn the torpedoes! Full steam ahead! (Aharr)." I remember how good it made me feel to have that kind of support.

***I miss my friend.***

\* \* \*

The NIA is a non-profit corporation formed for educational purposes, whose Board and Committee Members are unpaid volunteers. It is the NIA's goal to encourage growth and public awareness of the insulator hobby through collecting, dealing and

educational endeavors. The NIA strives to protect the interests of insulator collectors and dealers, by establishing standards and ethics by which insulator collectors and dealers may fairly deal with one another.

The NIA Board has become aware of a reproduction CD 162 being offered for sale. At this time it appears that these have only been created in cobalt, and that approximately 150 have been made. While this item is currently being offered with etched initials and a year, it was not "manufactured in accordance with NIA guidelines." That means, among other things, that the person(s) engaged in the manufacturing of this item did not agree to "permanently mark" them at the time of their creation in a manner acceptable to the NIA, to minimize the possibility that it could be mistaken for, or misrepresented as, an "original insulator."

This insulator has thus been deemed an "imitation insulator" by the NIA Board rather than a "commemorative," due to its extreme similarity in size, shape, embossing, and color, to known "original insulators." This imitation is different than other commemoratives such as the Mid-Ohio Show and NIA National Show commemoratives in that the latter pieces do not have threaded pin holes, are not of a size or embossing that resembles known original insulators, and are produced directly from the mold with permanent markings to allow them to be

differentiated from any original insulator.

As such, the NIA Board of Directors have determined that these seller-described reproductions are "objectionable to the best interests of the hobby." This is not because the NIA Board believes that the creator has any intent of committing fraud, but rather because some collectors may be confused by its design. The NIA Board of Directors are of the opinion and belief that items deemed objectionable to the *best interests* of the hobby, create the

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possibility that members could suffer financial loss as a subsequent party might attempt to alter or sell the imitation as an original insulator (i.e. fraudulent use).

It is the NIA Board's belief that this particular matter is a matter of public concern, and the NIA Board Members feel strongly that they have an ethical obligation, and are duty bound, to share their opinions concerning reproductions with the NIA General Membership. Please educate yourself and others about this imitation insulator.

**Steve Marks, NIA #4951  
NIA Second Past President**

**FROM THE WESTERN REGION**



February. 74-degrees. Clear, blue skies. Bright Sunshine. Gotta be Yuma!

It's another great tail-gater. Whether it's the insulators or the sunshine, the Yuma tail-gater continues to grow in popularity each year. I'm sitting in the ga-

zebo at the event as I write this. My wife, kids and I drove 1,100 miles to get here. But lots of folks drove a whole lot further. Texas, Washington State, and British Columbia are just several of the originating sites with more impressive points of origin.

One of the things I've learned to appreciate more and more as Western Regional Vice-President is the effort of so many fine people to host shows and tail-gaters. The Grand Canyon State Insulator Club does a tremendous job hosting this, the Yuma, event. To all the hosts of events throughout the American and Canadian West, I say to you on behalf of all collectors, "Thank you".

My term as Western V-P is winding down with just a few months left. It's been a pleasure serving

the region. This issue of "Drip Points" contains the biographies of those running for the office of Western Regional V-P. Please take time to read what the candidates have to say, and remember to vote.

**Howard Banks, NIA #900  
Western Region Vice President**

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**...DRIP NOTES**

Did you know that the Drip Points is available electronically? Did you know that roughly 20% of your fellow NIA members and their families get the *Drip Points* Electronically via e-mail? Taking the *Drip Points* electronically has many benefits including:

- Saves printing and mailing costs of the newsletter (\$1.50 a copy per person) enabling the NIA to help fund research and other beneficial activities to the hobby without having to raise dues.
- You get a color issue, and now with each electronic copy sent, will be attached one club newsletter from a participating club from around the country. You get to see various club newsletters in addition to your DP at no additional cost.
- Get your copy earlier, the electronic copy goes out before the mailed copy.
- Your copy doesn't degrade or wear out and is easily backed up on your computer. Also, the NIA is placing the back issues of the electronic versions on the NIA web site for all to see and retrieve (after the issues are 1 year old).

**FROM THE CENTRAL REGION**



Greetings Fellow Collectors,

By now everyone knows about Kevin Lawless passing away just before Christmas. I'm also sure that most of you know his many NIA achievements. I will spend this issue of Drip Points talking about what a great friend he was.

I first met Kevin at the London, Ohio show in 1996 when I first got back into the hobby. I was very impressed with his sales table as he always had some of the nicest insulators. Being new to the hobby, I felt like some of the old-timers were a bit unapproachable. That was my hang up. We struck up a conversation and he asked if I was a member of the NIA, I said no because I didn't really believe in "organizations". With the look on his face you would have thought I'd insulted his family or something. Looking back on that now I guess I may have. He began to convince me of the errors in my thinking. So I also explained to him that I didn't join in 1981-82 because I didn't want a number above 3000 because it would make everyone think I was a newbie to the hobby, when I'd been collecting since about 1970. I think I can quote him on this "That's one of the stupidest things I've ever heard." I did join the NIA a year later, with number 6300.

At the Mid-Ohio shows Kevin would make a trumpet noise when Dick Bowmen and others walked into the show hall. I didn't understand what the Order of Vikings was but Kevin

and others invited me. Unless you're a member here then you may not know what this means and I won't explain it here. But Kevin was one of the great Vikings in the clan.

When the NWIC held its first show in 1998 I was calling all around the Midwest and east trying to get dealers from outside the Twin Cities to set up. Kevin volunteered and bought a couple tables and brought Dick Bowman with him. He was a great supporter of our two shows and attended both. I was very impressed that he would come that far. He even called other dealers and talked the show up. The result was the shows were great successes to our club and helped give us confidence to try a National.

At the 1999 Mid-Ohio show Kevin had a frog on his table that would croak every time someone passed by. Sitting across from it and having to listen to it drove us nuts. So the night of the banquet we frog napped it and left him a Dear Kevin letter. It read just like a Dear John letter but from Froggy.

I was traveling a great deal for work at the time so for the next year I took that frog all over the country. I went to Las Vegas, Chicago, Florida (twice), California, New York City and Phoenix. It even had its picture taken in a USMC Apache helicopter at Camp Pendleton, CA. I'm sure I missed a couple places. I took that darn thing everywhere and sent him pictures and letters each time, mailed from the local post offices. I was a real pain in the behind, and I'm pretty sure my co-workers thought I lost my mind. But Kevin always loved a good joke, and since he didn't know me very well I was the perfect person to pull it off. I did have trusted contacts that I let into the secret to see how Kevin was taking it. He was all over the map thinking about who was doing it. But I was off the radar screen. At the next Mid-Ohio show I snuck the frog back to his table with another note apologizing for leaving. I was-

n't until two years ago that I finally told him that I had done it.

Kevin was looking for "new blood" for the NIA board and asked me to be the Executive Secretary for the NIA. I had never thought of serving on the board, and I was truly honored to have been asked; I accepted. As a board member I really got to understand fully what the NIA does for the hobby. I can tell that it's not a "power thing" with any of the members I've served with. It's the love of the hobby that's at the core of every board member's heart. Kevin was tantamount to that. He loved this hobby and dedicated a great deal of his time and expense to it.

Because of Kevin's influence and mentorship I ran for Central Vice President and the fine members in my region voted for me. Thanks. I would never have had the fortitude to tackle a National show or run for NIA office if it hadn't been for his guidance.

A few years ago Kevin started showing up at the shows with someone special. Connie and I liked Debbie from the very beginning. Kevin had a bit of an edge to him, and Debbie rounded him out. It's amazing what a really good woman can do for a man. I hate to think what I would be like without Connie. Debbie if you read this, please don't be a stranger to the shows, you are part of the family.

Kevin wasn't perfect, no man is, but I give him full credit for what he did for the hobby. We all owe him our thanks for that.

I will miss Kevin for his sense of humor and his friendship.

**Ed Peters, NIA #6300  
Central Region Vice President**





**In Memory of Kevin F.  
Lawless 1954-2004**

Kevin always had a great love for collecting insulators and the insulator hobby. He began collecting mostly North American pin type insulators in 1977. His collection grew to more than 1600 pieces. One of his special loves was for Boston Bottle Works glass insulators. He also collected insulator related books, magazines, and publications and literature. For many years he gave unselfishly of himself to improve and advance the insulator collecting hobby. He believed in educating other collectors about the hobby and establishing standards and ethics for them to follow in their pursuit of the hobby. His major thrust was to encourage the support of local clubs and their shows. He was always there when needed to help or provide advice to establish a new club or to put on that first local show.

Kevin encouraged all collectors to support the hobby by attending shows and getting actively involved in their local clubs and the

National Insulator Association. Kevin practiced what he encouraged others to do. Kevin participated as a dealer at most shows he attended and also provided educational exhibits at many. He attended more than 230 shows including 26 National Shows and approximately 25 Region Shows. He was very active in two local clubs, the Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club (YPCIC) and the Capitol Region Antique Bottle and Insulator Club (CRABIC), formerly the Capitol District Insulator Club (CDIC). He served as President of the CRABIC, held offices as the Vice President, Historian and Secretary for the CDIC and was the editor for the Club newsletter for many years starting in 1981. The CDIC shows were hosted by Kevin starting in 1979. Kevin also served as Historian for the YPCIC for several years.

Kevin joined the National Insulator Association at the 1977 National held in Lakeland, Florida and was given NIA # 1679. His involvement in the NIA was just beginning. In 1982 Kevin accepted the NIA Board position of Executive Director and served in that position until

1986 when he was elected NIA President. He served as President, Past President, and Second Past President for the next six years. When these terms expired he again stepped up to the plate and in 1992 he agreed to serve the NIA as the Promotions and Education Committee Chair. He held this position until 1995. Kevin saw a change in the hobby and in the NIA that he thought needed redirection, so he again ran for President and was elected in 1998. He served six more years as President and Past President, completing his term on the Board in 2004.

Kevin co-hosted the National in Saratoga Springs, New York in 1986 with Doug MacGillvary and John deSousa, the Eastern Region Show in Meriden, Connecticut in 1991 with Doug MacGillvary, the National in Marlborough, Massachusetts in 1996 with Steve Jones and Bill and Jill Meier, and the NIA sponsored Eastern Region in Corning, New York in 2000 with Ken Willick.

The NIA presented Kevin Lawless with their most prestigious award, a Lifetime Membership, in 1991.

The insulator collecting hobby has lost a true friend, and a mentor. Kevin will always be remembered for his love and enthusiasm for the hobby and his fellow collectors. Kevin's many accomplishments and unselfish abandon will long be remembered.

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085  
NIA President**



1993 Denver National



1990 Capital District Insulator Club Swap Meet & Picnic



2003 Springfield Ohio National



2003 Springfield Ohio National



Dick "Marshall" Bowman, Kevin Lawless, Glenn Drummond, Doug "Insulator Man" MacGillvary. The photo is believed to have been taken, probably by Steve Blair, circa 1985 at the site of the "London Show" (a.k.a. Mid-Ohio show).



2003 Springfield Ohio National

## FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR

Off we go.....

I am tired!! As with so many of us, time sometimes becomes my worst enemy...and since October much of my free time has been spent working on my insulator hobby DVD project.

My partner and I have completed about 99% of the content. Next we make the disc labels, title page, and the DVD case (artwork and photos)...whew! I have over 25 hours of video tape from the last two year's journeys to tailgaters, shows, and residences.

My co-producer, Michael McMaster, and I have devoted nearly 70 hours to video editing. Unless you're "in-the-business", it's hard to understand just how much work is involved to produce professional DVD's. We have many gigs on Michael's hard drive disc array space taken up with some pretty fine insulator content.

I mention this because this DVD (or tape, if you insist) will be offered to collectors and the general public soon. The whole idea is to have a quality production available to those interested in becoming involved and those already embedded within this most unique hobby. We hope to educate, intrigue, and entertain anyone interested in insulators.

The program features many well-known collectors from various parts of the country, lots of glass, shows, and tailgaters. It has been a labor-of-love for me and a fascinating side-trip for my formerly-uninitiated friend, Michael.

His wife's first impression of our project was "what-in-the-world-are those things?!" to "wow, that is pretty cool...those are beautiful, and what nice people!" My wife has enjoyed seeing the bits and pieces of progress I'd bring home to share. She offered welcome constructive criticism and encouragement.

I thank Tom Katonak and Dudley Ellis for believing in my dream. I

hope those of you who obtain a copy will approve...I'm pretty sure you will.

The next stage is to utilize portions of the content and produce much shorter versions for N.I.A. educational and promotional purposes. Such venues might include schools, libraries, service club luncheons or dinners, insulator shows, and tailgaters.

I'm still looking for committee members to help in developing this next stage. A couple of people have expressed interest...the-more-the-merrier, so let me know. More updates (as to price and shipping dates) to come. Oh yes, just keep on "talkin' glass" everywhere you go. We all benefit from every newcomer added to our insulator world. Thanks!

**Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941**  
Promotions Chairman



## FROM THE BYLAWS CHAIR

NIA Bylaws Chairman Report  
Spring 2005

The Bylaws Committee is responsible for continually updating the NIA Handbook and incorporating administrative rule changes as promulgated by the NIA Board of Directors. The most current edition of the Handbook can be found on the NIA's website, [www.nia.org](http://www.nia.org).

The Committee also suggests rule changes to the Board. The Bylaws Committee is currently looking for one additional volunteer to serve with us. Please contact me if you are interested. Also, if any other members of the NIA have sugges-

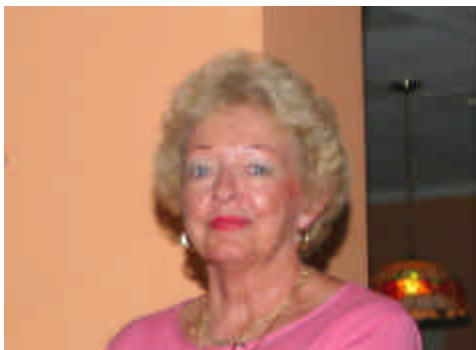
tions for the improvement to the manual, the Committee would like to hear those as well. I plan on being at a number shows this year and hope to see many of you.

**Bob Stahr, NIA #4186**  
NIA Bylaws Chairman



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### **FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR**



Well, it's been a different winter this year. I can say this as I sit here in Florida and watch the weather reports from the wet/rainy western US across to the snow blizzard covered northeastern US. I am still waiting for some of you

who have many talents to share with our hobby to come forth and tell me you want to volunteer with the NIA. We need youth as well as experience, just like the young lady, Mindy Michener, age 12 and in the 7th grade in school, who is president of the Jefferson State Insulator Club (Oregon and California). I applaud this club for encouraging a young collector to actively serve their club. Too often young collectors are passed over because they do not have the age/experience/knowledge of the hobby. What better way to learn!

I must say that my committee members have worked hard to accomplish our first task...encouraging a western

member to run for the position of NIA Western Vice-president. If we have failed to contact an NIA member to give you the opportunity to step forward, please contact me immediately. Following is the bio for our WVP candidates, Larry Shumaker and Mike Green.

**Jacqueline Linscott Barnes,**  
NIA#1380  
**Nominations Chairman**

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### **WESTERN REGION VP CANDIDATE** **Larry Shumaker**



My hobby of insulator collecting started in the late 1960's and in the early 1970's when insulator collecting seemed like a dying hobby in Kansas. I sold my collection to a dealer from Nebraska. This was a big mistake I found out later in life when the books came

out and found some were kind of rare that I had sold. I could not get the insulator collecting out of my mind and after moving to Colorado started picking them up again and then moving to California in 1987 and have collected them up to the present.

I served as President of the Nor-Cal insulator Club in the late 1990's and really enjoyed helping bring the club to a record number of members and having our August Show grow into a lot of fun for all of the collectors.

I retired from my job as a Power Plant Operator at the Bureau of Reclamation's Folsom Dam Power Plant just this past December 31st. This should give me more time to be active in the hobby.

My main interest has always been the CD162 Hemingray and H. G. Co insulators but did have others like the CD 160's and CD 164

milkglass and several other CD's just to keep it interesting. I also have a collection of the Bell Paperweights that I have collected over the years of my insulator collecting. My wife Alice was always supportive and enjoyed the many friendships we have had in the hobby.

I believe that I would be a good Western Region Vice President with my experience as Nor-Cal Club President. I already know most of the collectors in the Western Region and would do my best to make the hobby better. I live in an area where I can attend most if not all of the Western Region Shows and Nationals when I can.

That's my story,

**Larry Shumaker,** NIA #4524  
2690 Manzanita Drive  
Rocklin, Ca 95677  
Phone 916 415 1555

NIA NIA

## WESTERN REGION VP CANDIDATE Mike Green



Greetings fellow NIA members, my name is Mike Green and I would like the honor of serving as your next Western Region Vice President. I live at the foot of the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Lakewood, Colorado. I have been married to my lovely wife Bridget for 16 years and have three children, Sean, Maddie, and Stephanie. My wife Bridget teaches computers at a local elementary school and can figure out just about any computer related problem. She also loves gardening, sewing, and makes some killer Chile Rellenos. My son Sean loves sports, is an avid insulator collector, and is very close to making Eagle Scout. Daughter Maddie rides horses, gets terrific grades, and made the varsity cross country team her freshman year. Stephanie plays the Cello and is an awesome swimmer. I work as a Regional Sales Manager for an automotive aftermarket company and travel many western states. In addition to my insulator hobby I also enjoy hiking, biking, camping, and photography. I also teach chess to grade school kids and have coached two teams to the state championship.

It was about 1974 when quite by accident my insulator journey be-

gan. Some crews were wrecking out an old toll line that ran near my home in Littleton, Colorado. I was messing around with some friends when we noticed crossarms loaded with insulators were being left by the work crew. Curiosity got the best of us and we decided to take a look. We couldn't believe our eyes, "Wow, they're all kinds of different shapes", "this one has a date on it!", you get the picture. We decided to go get our wagons and grab as many as we could. I seem to remember Mom complaining about the big pile of insulators in the garage but she got over it. Time went by and slowly but surely my collection grew. I'll never forget the day my Mom bought me my first really "cool" insulator, a carnival Hemingray D-510 that I still have. Little by little I found out there was a real hobby out there and started to make some connections. Going to my first show in the late 1970's and subscribing to *Crown Jewels* were memorable moments that really got me hooked on the hobby. My first National was the Tacoma show in 1984 which was a very exciting trip that included climbing Mt. Rainier. Over the years I have attended several more Nationals and made many wonderful friends in the hobby. My very best collecting buddy is my son Sean. A few years back he surprised me with a desire to start collecting insulators and nothing has been the same since. After starting out with a general color collection Sean decided to switch to impurities and has built a wonderful collection. He loves going to shows with me and can easily spend all day chatting and looking around the hall. He is also a wonderful hunting partner and is always enthusiastic. Our greatest adventure was on the Transcontinental Railroad in Wyoming where we found a mint

threadless insulator. There are just so many fun ways to enjoy the hobby. Another great experience occurred this past year when I decided to host the Western Regional Show in Denver. It was more work than I had ever imagined but it was worth every minute. Putting on that show was a great experience and gave me the chance to get to know many of my fellow collectors better.

The NIA is all about education and promoting the hobby. Should I be elected I will endeavor to work with fellow collectors throughout the region with those things in mind. Keeping the history and stories of these wonderful artifacts alive needs to be an ongoing process. I also believe we need to share this knowledge as much as possible with other organizations and clubs who are also dedicated to preserving communications history. Sharing the information we have with others can only serve to better our hobby. The NIA must also keep up its diligent efforts to educate collectors about fake and altered insulators. I believe this is the most greedy and destructive thing going on in the hobby and needs to be a zero tolerance issue. I want to work very hard with collectors and board members alike to protect people from being taken by fake or altered insulators. When it comes to promoting our hobby I think the sharing of ideas is key. If a show has exceptional success, or a club has terrific membership, I would like to find out why. If that success is something that can be identified I would to share it with other clubs, other show hosts, etc. To me the position I am running for is about communication. I want to listen to people from throughout the region and gather the best ideas to benefit the region as a whole. I come with an open mind and a willing-





**From the Treasurer**

**Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer**

**2004-2005 FINANCIAL REPORT  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
SECOND QUARTER ENDING 12/31/04**

<b>Beginning Balance-General Fund</b>	<b>10/1/04</b>	<b>10105.60</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee</b>		<b>972.01</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account</b>		<b>2296.75</b>

**Revenues**

Donations	.00	
Membership Dues	2431.00	
Miscellaneous Income	50.00	
Product Sales	269.00	
	-----	
Total Revenues		<b>2750.00</b>

**General Fund Expenses**

Advertising	.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	.00	
Marketing Products	26.79	
Misc. Postage	211.04	
Misc. Printing	632.78	
Misc. Supplies	633.66	
Misc. Professional Services	.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	400.00	
Drip Points Printing	676.71	
Drip Points Postage	375.15	
Show Advertising Subsidy	.00	
Show Awards	.00	
Stationery Supplies	405.94	
Telephone	.00	
Special Projects	.00	
Educational Disp Postage	162.69	
	-----	
Total Expenses		<b>3524.76</b>

<b>Closing Balance, General Fund</b>	<b>9330.84</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures</b>	<b>.00</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee Balance</b>	<b>972.01</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures</b>	<b>.00</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Balance</b>	<b><u>2296.75</u></b>
<b>Total Balance on Hand September 30, 2004</b>	<b><u>12599.60</u></b>



**2005 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 NIA President**  
131 Plantation Way Stockbridge, GA 30281  
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**Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 First Past President**  
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**Joe Beres, NIA #563 Membership Director**  
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440-526-3478  
jjjb@aol.com

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com574@clc.cc.il.us

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bob@hemingray.com

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407-267-9170  
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512-255-2006  
pyrex553@aol.com

**Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education**  
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pyrex553@aol.com

**Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions**  
1080 N. Scenic Drive  
Porterville, CA 93257-1637  
559-781-6319  
bobmerzoian@mac.com

**2005 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM**

Submit: **(In U.S.funds) To:**  
**(Payable to the NIA)**

**Joe J. Beres**  
**NIA Membership Director**  
**1315 Old Mill Path**  
**Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147-3276**  
**E-MAIL: JJJB@AOL.COM**



**Note New Dues Schedule!**

Regular Membership----- \$ 12.00  
 Family Membership----- \$ 12.00  
 Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00  
 Club or Organization----- \$ 12.00

=====  
 (Check appropriate Class)      Regular\_\_\_\_\_ Family\_\_\_\_\_ Junior\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Org.\_\_\_\_\_

(Check Years of Payment)      Single year\_\_\_\_\_ Multi-year\_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**NIA # (If Renewal)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State/Province** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip/Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_ (+4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Country (If Non U.S.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory      **Yes**\_\_\_\_\_      **No**\_\_\_\_\_

Please include my Telephone Number      **Yes**\_\_\_\_\_      **No**\_\_\_\_\_

Please include my E-Mail Address      **Yes**\_\_\_\_\_      **No**\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format.      **Paper**\_\_\_\_\_      **Electronic**\_\_\_\_\_

**(Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic)**

**Additional Family Members**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nia# (If Renewal)** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

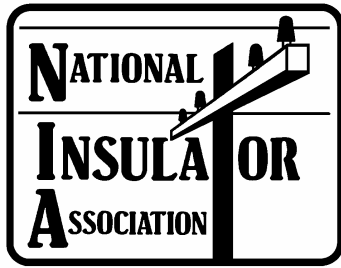
2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

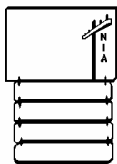
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Spring 2005

www.nia.org/products



	<u>Price</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Men's Golf / Polo Shirts*</b> embroidered logo; some with pockets			
<i>*Please call or email me for all color / styles available: \$30 - \$41</i>			
=>>NEW *S/S golf - yellow pique w/ navy & royal blue collar/sleeve. (\$38)			
<b>Ladies' shirts</b> -- embroidered logo; call for additional options!			
=>>NEW *S/S golf - yellow pique w/ navy & royal blue collar/sleeve. (\$38)			
<b>Denim Shirt</b> -- (*ladies order comparable men's size)			
Heavy-wt., pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue -- left-side pocket			
Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$32.00			
*S/S ___ *L/S ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ \$35.00			
<b>T-Shirt</b> -- Hanes Beefy 'T' - Ash gray - Screen-printed logo (front & back)			
L ___ (\$15) 2X ___ (\$16)			
Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Ash Gray; embroidered logo on left front, only!			
M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ (\$20) L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ (\$22 w/ -pocket)			
Sea foam Green; embroidered - M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) 2X ___ (\$22)			
<b>Sweatshirts</b> -- Heavy weight -- Ash gray			
S ___ M ___ (\$16.00) L ___ XL ___ (\$20.00) Screen-printed logo (front & back)			
=>>NEW**Embroidered logo- M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$30)			
=>>NEW**Zippered -- Hooded - Embroidered logo- L / XL (\$35) 2X (\$40)			
<b>Embroidered Cap</b> -- Stone/ Navy or Khaki / Green, low-rise, embroidered logo ( \$16)			
<b>Denim Cap</b> -- blue denim, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00			
=>>NEW**13 oz. Glass Mug w/ Faux Etched NIA Logo \$8.00			
<b>Mug</b> -- 10 oz. - white ceramic coffee mug w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00			
<b>Patch</b> -- light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge \$4.00			
<b>Koozie</b> <sup>TM</sup> -- The original Koozie <sup>TM</sup> fits any standard beer / soda can			
Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$2.25			
<b>NIA Lapel Pin</b> -- etched enamel tack pin with NIA logo \$5.00			
<b>Decal</b> -- light blue w/ logo - red border; for inside car window \$1.00			
<b>Name Badge</b> -- white badge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed logo			
epoxy pin back, beveled edges (fill in form below) \$12.00			
<b>Badge Bar</b> -- white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.00			

**Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Postage** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Women's Size Chart:**  
S (28-30) M (32-34) L (36-38) XL (40-42)

**Men's Size Chart:**  
S (32-34) M (36-38) L (40-42) XL (44-46)  
2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*All sizes/colors of shirts are orderable\***

**\*\*U.S. Postage: \$5.50** for the first item & **\$1.50** for each additional item ordered. Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/Bars are **\$0.50** per item. **\*\*for non-US postage, AK & HI and Koozies, please contact me for an**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bar: \_\_\_\_\_ Use the back of this order form for additional badge/bar orders

Rev. 3/05

**Contact Information: Carolyn Berry - NIA # 4336 - pyrex553@aol.com**  
**1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681 - (512) 255-2006**





# THE EIC ECHO

The Official Newsletter of the *Enchantment Insulator Club*  
Editor: Rick J. Bentley - 505-772-5627 Insulator-king@gilanet.com  
US Hwy 60, HCR 32 Box 205, Datil, NM 87821

Volume 8\*, Issue 3

20 October 2004

## **EIC Meeting Saturday 13 November at Duane Davenports.**

**Time is 11:00 AM. See the map on page 3.**

**Note, this will be a joint meeting with the NMHBS.**

**At this meeting we will be discussing the plans and direction for the EIC and the annual show for the future. Please come and be ready to discuss ideas to possibly move the time of the show.**

### **AD HOC EIC MEETING, 26 SEP, 2004**

EIC members present: Tom Katonak, Lynda Katonak, Ross Thompson, Duane Davenport, Rick, Judith & Anthony Bentley, Valerie Meyers, Mike Gay

NMHBS members present: Tom Katonak, Duane Davenport, Marsha Hoglin, Greg Hoglin

Tom announced that he and Lynda will no longer be the show hosts for the annual EIC/NMHBS show. It's time to "turn over the reins"!

- The two clubs must come up with someone who will take on this task
- For the 18<sup>th</sup> show, Sep 2005, Tom and Lynda will take on the show host responsibility only if a "show host in training" is designated. This person (or couple) would go through the process in "lock step" with the Katonaks in order to get the procedure down, and thus provide continuity for future shows.
- The Katonaks will provide a "transition plan" which will include a detailed checklist/description for the show operation as part of this process
- The Katonaks plan to remain actively involved with staging the shows and will volunteer to head up one or more major segments of the operation.

Tom requested this topic be given top billing at the next meeting

### Moving the show date

- ◆ Duane D. suggested moving the show date from end-September to a time in October because of the conflict with his end FY workload. If the show date were to be moved, he would have time to actively engage in the show operation.
- ◆ Talk about conflicts with other scheduled shows. We are sandwiched between the state fair and the Balloon Fi-

\* Please note that the volume # in the first 2 issues this year was incorrectly listed as Vol 7. This is actually year 8 of the EIC Echo.

- esta, and thus if we move it, it would probably be to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in October.
- ◆ The group also discussed the pros and cons of moving the show to Memorial Day weekend in May for the 2006 show.
  - ◆ There may be a problem with holding the 2005 show at St Pauls in September due to upcoming construction at the church. (Tom will stay on top of this issue).
  - ◆ Moving the show date to any other time could be a problem due to other shows' long-standing schedules.
  - ◆ Moving our show date could present a problem with both dealers and attendees since we have created a time "slot" which is recognized throughout both the insulator and bottle-collecting hobbies.
  - ◆ Mike G. suggested we should be on the lookout for a new venue because we can not be sure of securing the St Paul's Chapman Hall in the future. Mike will investigate the new community center going up in Paradise Hills as a potential venue. The group thought it would be a good idea to have a joint-club standing committee to look for a new venue.

- New tailgater: Duane D. proposed having a major insulator/bottle tailgater at his spread next May (Memorial Day weekend). This could play into the transition from the end-September show date to the Memorial Day time.

- Lessons Learned from the 17<sup>th</sup> show:

- Need to tighten up our procedures for collecting money at the silent auctions. We had some problems keeping track of who paid for which item.
- Lynda K will incorporate administrative changes into the show checklist

- Next meeting will be a joint NMHBS/EIC activity, to be held at Duane D's place on 13 November. (Both Jerry Simmons and Tom Katonak have a conflict since this is the date of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium at the NM Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro.)

## EDITOR'S NOTES

By Rick Bentley: Editor

Greetings everyone.

Fall is here, another great EIC Fall show has come and gone, and I finally made it out to the OK City tailgater put on by Sandy Ellison every October.

At the EIC show, I thought sales of insulators were moderate, judging from the comments of a few other people/dealers who had tables there. I sold 3 insulators and 2 bottles. Did much better with the bottles, they were scarce 7 Up bottles, one from Albuquerque and one from Socorro. \$158 for 2 soda bottles.

There was definitely a lot of action on the bottle side of the house, lots of wheeling and dealing going on that I could see.

As you may have noticed, Mike Gay's Presidential Notes is not here. Mike has been working tons of time at Intel, and has been unable to spend much time at home.

As I noted earlier, the kids and I attended the Oklahoma City tailgater hosted by the Prairie Signals Insulator club, with Sandy Ellison as the host. It was held at the clubhouse where Sandy lives, which is a nice venue. It certainly helps to offer free tables to dealers!

There were 2 men who responded to an ad with lots of insulators to sell. One guy sold them individually, while the other went to the auction route. Brian Riecker came out the top bidder paying \$3800 for the collection. It had some good colored signals, including a purple CD 162 Hemingray that was 1 peck away from mint.

Some people whose names I remember attending were Mae Beth Whaley, Larry Vredenbaugh [sp], and...and...well, my mind is a total blank. My apologies.

Out of room, so will finish up for today.

# EIC "HOT SHEET"

Deals that are hotter than Green Chili Ice Cream!

## FOR SALE:

I have a number of fine **insulators from the Ukraine and Russia** for sale, including some magnificent colored pieces. This is primo stuff! You won't find these pieces anywhere else – including eBay! **WANTED:**

Any strange variant of **MEXICAN** or **OVG insulators**. Strange colors, misshapes or anything else unusual.

Tom Katonak, (505) 898-5592,  
Email: "tkatonak@Comcast.net"

## Ralph Davenport Mershon

This is the scarce 2 volume set which is a biography of the inventor of the Mershon insulator. There are some tremendous photo's of rare multipart insulators being tested.

This book is like new. About 10% of the pages are not even open from the binding process, and will need to be slit open carefully with a knife.

Asking \$185, postpaid in the US. More to Canada.

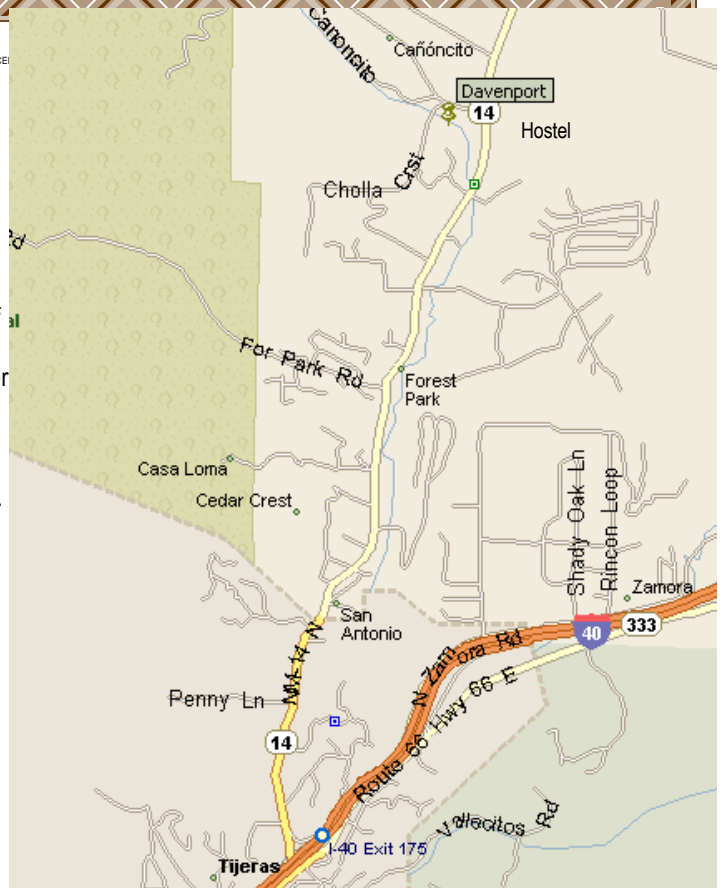
## ENCHANTED ECHOES

- ◆ Have an insulator tale to tell?? Submit your story to Editor, Rick Bentley, for the next EIC Echo newsletter.
- ◆ Small size (1/4 page) Classified Adds are free to EIC Members in good standing. Please submit in electronic form to Editor.

## Directions to Davenports

1. Take I-40 to the NORTH Hwy 14 exit & go NORTH, not south, on Hwy 14. Turnoff to Canoncito Drive is 3.6 miles north of this point.
2. You'll pass a Texaco station on the right. Keep going.
3. Cedar Crest Post Office on your right...you're now a few blocks away
4. On your LEFT, look for a road called only "Canoncito"; take it left off Hwy 14.
5. Since you're an insulator collector, immediately look up at the power line on the right (north) side. Notice about two blocks ahead it crosses diagonally over the road to a power pole on the LEFT side.
6. That power pole marks the entrance to our driveway. It's also the first PAVED road on the LEFT side of Canoncito you will encounter.
7. Once on the driveway you'll see old metal farm wheels along our fence line. Turn in the first entrance to the right....you made it!

Call us if you get lost....281-9036.



# TRIP TO THE MARITIME PROVINCES

Tom Katonak



CD 143s Still in the Ontario Sky

We've all heard about those places "back east" – places like Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, etc. – but nobody actually goes there...right? Well, why not? Besides the "facts" that it's cold, rainy and very far away, we have the additional myth that the people speak French, or Gaelic, or maybe have a really heavy Canadian accent! Well, all of these things are either true...or partially true. So, it seemed like a perfectly logical thing to check all this out. And on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2004, Lynda and I set out on a five-week trip to put all the rumors to rest!

The first major stop was the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Insulator Association Show and Convention in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, just to the northeast of Pittsburgh. Wow! What a great event! Lot's of really fine glass to be had, and the exhibits were top-notch. We had ten EIC members in attendance including Mike Green, Lynda and me, Mike Miller, John and Carol McDougald, Ross Thompson, Kevin and Cheryl Jacobson and Rick Soller. Pretty good representation, huh?

After visiting relatives in the nearby reaches of Pennsylvania, we headed on through New England stopping briefly in Acadia National Park – a place we'd never had the chance to visit before. From here, it was a short stretch up to the Bay of Fundy National Park in New Brunswick. Here we saw the amazing tides of world renown!

Next we stopped for a few days in Nova Scotia, or New Scotland if you prefer. The scenery here ranges from mountainous to pastoral – it's quite beautiful in the summertime! We checked out many antique stores along the way and found lots of common insulators – mostly of Canadian manufacture – but like antique shops in the US, "nothing to write home about".

A quick tour around the perimeter of Cape Breton Island took us to the northern seaport of Sydney, our "jumping-off point" for the six-hour cruise to Port Aux Basques on the SW tip of Newfoundland. We are really "out east" now. In fact, Newfoundland is in the next time zone east of Atlantic Time – only three hours off of Greenwich Mean Time. We spent most of our time in Newfoundland up on the NW coast visiting many old fishing villages and the spectacular Gros Morne National Park – reminiscent in many respects of Yosemite. A noteworthy point here as we were at 54° N Latitude and 54° E. Longitude. (All the natives concurred that this was not a great place to spend the winter!) Interestingly, on the major power transmission lines, we saw many huge strings of cobalt porcelain suspensions; these really stood out against the stark scenery. We also saw piles of suspension strings piled up along the highway as they were being replaced by the Hydro of Canada electric company. These were primarily brown porcelain disks, but an occasional string of pale aqua glass strings could also be found.



Cobalt Power in Newfoundland

Back to the mainland and a short hop through New Brunswick found us on another ship, this time to the beautiful Province of Prince Edward Island. Also populated by the descendents of Scotland, this rural terri-





Suspensions Out of Service in Newfoundland

tory is famous for growing many varieties of potatoes. In checking the antique shops on PEI, I finally did find one insulator to add to my collection: A beautiful deep yellow-green Brookfield CD 101 with a huge bubble right in the front! We visited the old railroad station at Elmira out on the easternmost tip of PEI and checked out the old museum (complete with telegraph office) contained therein. One of Canada's oldest telegraph lines terminated at this station.

From PEI, we cut north along the beautiful coastline of New Brunswick on up to Quebec and the famous Gaspé Peninsula. This rugged protrusion on the south side of the St. Lawrence Seaway sticks well out into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the point at the end was the

landing site of early explorers of North America. While the coastline has many picturesque fishing villages along the way, the interior is quite mountainous and is mostly uninhabited. The mountains here are actually the northernmost extension of the Appalachians.

We took a high-speed ferry across the St. Lawrence at Rimouski and traveled northwest to the scenic Lac Saint-Jean area. In this part of Canada, one is well advised to know a smattering of the French language! We found numerous spots where English was neither spoken nor under-



Elmira Station on Prince Edward Island



Wayne Junop Holding Favorite Telephone

stood. Having said that, we found the locals to be quite gracious and helpful, and aside from a lot of guessing while reading menus at restaurants, we muddled through! About this time, Lynda looked at the calendar and exclaimed, "we'll never get back to New Mexico at this rate". So we started the long trek south and west, cruising through Quebec City, Montreal and Ottawa at warp speed. We did take time to check out a few rail lines and noted lots of CD 143s still in the air. But slogging through the overgrown mosquito-infested pole bases was most unpleasant, so we quickly gave this up.

Just outside Ottawa, we diverted to the southwest and made a surprise visit to our furthest-flung EIC member, Wayne Junop, in the farming community of Palmer Rapids, Ontario. Wayne was amazed at our "EIC outreach program" where we try to visit our non-local members from time to time! Wayne lives on a beautiful farm where he repairs International farm machinery and raises hay. He is quite the



The Junop Farm in Ontario Nice and green.

collector and has a wonderful array of vintage telephones (his primary collection) and also many great insulators. We had a short but great visit – but I couldn't get him to promise to attend our next EIC Show!

From Wayne's place, it was a short hop on down to Bancroft Ontario, the "mineral collecting capital" of Canada. Lots of people there and great minerals as well. I would have liked to spend several days there, but Lynda was relentless in her flogging me to get home.

The drive from Bancroft through Sudbury to Sault St. Marie was scenic, but the constant rain was a nuisance. We had a fine excursion through the famous Sault locks just at dusk. If you haven't been to this historic site, it is well worth the visit.



Telegraph Office at Elmira, PEI



50's Motel in Leon Iowa

The next leg of the journey took us around the northern edge of Lake Superior and to Thunder Bay, checking out rail lines and amethyst mines along the route. We crossed back into the good 'ol US of A at Grand Portage Minnesota and boogied on south stopping for an overnight in an unlikely out-of-the-way spot called Leon, Iowa. A small town bypassed by the Interstate back in the 50s, this was just like the "good old days". The totem pole outside the old motel sported porcelain strains for stubby arms, and many of the old buildings in downtown metropolitan Leon had glass insulators still attached.

In a due south shot to Oklahoma City, we were hosted on our last overnight by Sandy Ellison, founder of our sister organization, the Prairie Signals Insulator Club. It was good to see her again and marvel at her wonderful collection.

And finally...it was over! Home at last to an overgrown jungle – and a month's worth of work to do before leaving for the Denver Western Regional show the next week!



Glass on the Walls – Leon Iowa

# EIC/NMHBS SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

By Tom Katonak – Show Chairman



Mike Bliss, Brian Riecker & Dennis Weber

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Show on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 was another success for the EIC! As in the past several years, we joined forces with the New Mexico Historical Bottle Society to pull this event off. We kept the show in our favorite place again this year, Chapman Hall of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in NE Albuquerque. We had 53 sales tables this year and were maxed out...couldn't have gotten another table on the floor. About half of the tables were insulator dealers while the other half were bottles and other collectibles. While many of the traditional dealers were in attendance and a few new folks as well including Mike Green from Denver, and Dennis Weber from St. Joseph, Missouri. Jack Riesselman of Bozeman, Montana also returned this year since he didn't have a conflict with elk hunting this season. We had dealer representation from CA, AZ, CO,



Beautiful Bottles!

TX, MO, KS, NV and MT – not to mention the NM crowd. The walk-in traffic was perhaps the best we've ever had, thanks in part to a short blurb in the events section of the local newspaper – sometimes it was pretty difficult to maneuver around the hall what with all the people shopping. In addition, we had a number of paid early-bird buyers during the Friday PM setup period. The buyers came from even more states than the dealers did – we had a great representation from around the country!



Cooks Terri Taylor and Judy Bunker

The exhibits – a hallmark of the EIC shows - were outstanding again this year. This is always one of the high points of the show. There were ten displays covering many aspects of the hobby. Four of the exhibits were insulator related, three were displays of bottles, one was both an insulator and bottle exhibit, and the remaining two fell into the "other" Category. Lynda Katonak walked



Lynda Katonak's Marvelous Storyteller Insulator Exhibit

away with top honors with her display called "Storyteller Insulators". She got both the EIC and the NIA Best of Show awards, and the coveted People's Choice ribbon. Denver collector Mike Green got the EIC 2<sup>nd</sup> Place award for his awesome exhibit of rare colored insulators entitled "What is Color". First-



Lynda Katonak is REALLY Surprised!

time exhibitor Joey Wells won the NMHBS most Educational ribbon and the NMHBS 2<sup>nd</sup> Place award for his fine display of "Henry Krick bottles". Mike Miller, a frequent exhibitor at the EIC shows, won the NMHBS Best of Show award for his outstanding exhibit of "Denver Glass", a display comparing the similarities of bottles and insulators manufactured at the Valverde Glass Works in Denver. Rick Bentley won the Open Category with his exhibit of Insulator Related Equipment Catalogs while Arthur McConnachie received the Crown Jewels of the Wire award for his exhibit "Stars from One Line". Honorable Mention goes to Jack Newbold of Durango for his spectacular exhibit of old brass implements – what a display!



Joey Wells Pulls Down Top Bottle Awards

**This year's dealers reported great sales – many said this is the best they've ever done at one of the EIC shows. Foreign items, particularly Australian and Ukrainian glass, and North American highly colored pieces moved briskly. Soda bottles, marbles and barbwire moved well during the show. Also this year, we had a large selection of relics, artifacts and tabletop antiques on various dealers' tables. This seemed to be a big draw for walk-through traffic.**

Activity pretty well tailed off by 3:30 p.m. and some of the dealers packed up their wares. Those spending the night in Albuquerque were able to attend the annual open house at the Katonak's place in Corrales on Sunday morning. This turned out to be a great event: A picture-perfect fall day in New Mexico, a wonderful brunch compliments of Lynda, a houseful of collectors telling the best tales they could muster, and a bit of trading going on the side – you couldn't ask for much more!

People often ask why this event seems so well organized! I sat down and put a list together of "who did what to make the show successful"...turns out that it took about 25 dedicated people – in addition to the dealers and exhibitors – to pull this off. My personal thanks to all of you volunteers, to the dealers, and to the exhibitors: Without you, there would be no show.



Mike Green Gets EIC 2nd Place for a Wonderful Exhibit



: Arthur McConnachie's Exhibit of "B" 145s



Denver Glass by Mike Miller. Note the glass cane at the front.



The Magnificent Brass Exhibit – Jack Newbold

# WESTERN REGIONAL SHOW REPORT

By Tom Katonak



View From the Hotel

As most of you know, the NIA Western Regional Show was hosted by Mike Green and Galen Howard in the heart of Denver the last weekend in August. This turned out to be one of the premier shows of 2004, and we're especially proud that EIC member Mike Green gets the credit! The show was co-sponsored by the EIC and the Triple Ridge Clubs.

As well as the traditional "show venue stuff", Mike planned two additional show activities which really got everyone's attention! The first event was a hike along a portion of the original Transcontinental Railroad bed near Laramie Wyoming. A stalwart group of 20- some enthusiasts found many pieces of the old thread-

less insulators used on this section of the UPR, along with lots of other relics of the bygone days.

The second event was an excursion into the front-range mining town of Georgetown Colorado where we rode the Georgetown Loop steam train over the famous trestles that make this trip so picturesque. This was a chartered bus trip and we filled up the bus. There was additional time to check out all the old shops in the town and sample the local cuisine.



Steam Train Crossing the Trestle

The show itself was a virtual mob-scene: Collectors from all around the country came to the event. Lots of EIC'ers made the trip as well.

The exhibits were awesome – and club member Mike Miller came away with the Peoples Choice award – a large beautiful chunk of gingerale colored glass from the old Valverde Glass Works that had been engraved with a wonderful mountain scene. Congratulations Mike!



Special Award Goes to Tom and Lynda

Next year, the NIA Western Region will host the National Show (San Jose, 7-10 July), so there won't be a separate WR show. I believe the tables for the 2005 National are already sold out.



Tom K With Piece of Mulford & Biddle



Old Grade of the Transcontinental Railroad



Ross Thompson Finds a Keeper



## Enchantment Insulator Club

HCR 32 Box 205  
Datil, NM 87821

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTICE\*\***

Be **SURE** to attend the meeting  
scheduled 13 Nov! See inside for  
details

**TO**

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