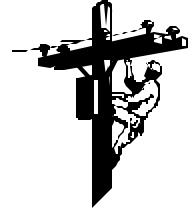




Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

<http://www.nia.org>

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ A Note from the Editor ... *Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ From the President ... *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ From the First Past President ... *Tom Katonak*
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- ◆ From the Museum Committee... *Rick Soller*
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Available via e-mail

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Wow, has the year ever gone by fast. Here it is December already. I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the upcoming holidays. I certainly am.

I was able to attend several Insulator related events this year, starting out with the Yuma Arizona tailgater put on by the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club every year. This last year was the 5th year for the show and the attendance is usually in the 100 person range with 20 or more sales tables. The next Yuma tailgater is

already set for 2005. It will be Saturday, February 5, 2005, from 9:00 AM until mid afternoon at Riverside Park which is located next to the Yuma Territorial Prison at Arizona Exit 1 on Interstate 8. If you can make it I would recommend it. The tailgater has turned into a very nice get together.

I was also fortunate enough to make it to both the New Kensington National and the Denver Western Regional this year. Both of these were great shows put on by folks who are very dedicated to the hobby. I have not yet personally hosted a show myself. But as an NIA board member, I do participate in the evaluation and selection of the National and Regional shows. The bid packages submitted by the would-be hosts are formidable and give a "tip of the iceberg" view into the amount of work involved.

Thank goodness for us all that there are dedicated folks out there that are willing to host shows. One of the hardest decisions to make in selecting the location of a National or Regional occurs when

there are multiple bids. You know that all of the bidders put forth a lot of hard work just to submit the bid.

It bothers me that someone will be turned down in a particular year, because they may just give up and not bother the next time around. Since the National shows move from one region to the next each year, a missed bid one year may mean that there won't be an opportunity to bid again for two more years.

There are also the super dedicated folks out there, there are many of them, but Steve Blair and Glenn Drummond come to mind of the Mid Ohio show hosts fame. If you didn't know, next year will be their 35th year of the show. Yes, 35 years.

There are multiple other examples of long running shows as well. To all those that help make the National, regional and local shows possible, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sandy and I made an eight day vacation out of our trip to the 2004 NIA Western Region Show in Denver, Colorado. The scenery, food and hospitality in this area of the country just can't be beat. Congratulations are in order for Mike Green and Galen Howard for organizing a well attended and fun show. Events included an insulator hunt along the Transcontinental Railroad and a ride on the Georgetown Loop narrow gauge railroad. Thanks guys for a superior job.

I just got back from my trip to the 34th Mid-Ohio Show in Springfield, Ohio. Steve and Lois Blair and Glenn Drummond have done it once again and produced a show you shouldn't have missed. I always have a lot of fun at this show and see a lot of old friends. I managed to get a Diamond pony rich in swirls of carbon and other junk for my collection. You definitely need to plan to attend this one next year. I hear that the 35th Anniversary Show will be special.

Colin Jung, Dave Elliott, and the Nor-Cal Insulator Club are planning a spectacular NIA Convention in San Jose, California at the Double Tree Hotel on July 8 – 10 2005. Colin is providing me regular planning updates. This is shaping up to be a great show. If you need a table, now is the time to get on the waiting list.

Looking ahead, your Board has received and is currently reviewing bids for the 2006 NIA Convention and also the 2005 Eastern Region Show. Glenn Drummond, Executive Secretary, will announce the winning bid for the 2006 NIA Convention at the National in San Jose. We will award the bid and announce the location of the 2005 Eastern Region after the Board's review and approval.

I am glad to see what appears to be an increase in youth activity in our hobby. Sean Green

won Best Junior Exhibit at the NIA Western Region for his Junk in Glass display and Savannah Lewis came in second with her Insulator Barbie display. Hannah Stafford was recognized as a first time displayer at the 34th Mid-Ohio Show. Great job, y'all!!!

Howard Banks noted in the last *Crown Jewels of the Wire* that he is seeing a substantial increase in request for insulators in his Insulators for Kids program. This is great news! Providing free insulators to kids is a worthy program to encourage new young collectors and needs all of our support. Please contact Howard to see how you can support this program with your insulators and cash donations.

One of your Promotions Committee's goals is to develop additional ideas to promote the hobby to our youth. You can help in this effort by taking a child on an insulator hunt, taking them to insulator shows, and by encouraging them to develop displays for school and insulator shows. You may even want to give a presentation to a school group. You'll enjoy the

looks on their face and the excitement in their eyes. I know first hand. Please pass other ideas to Bob Merzoian, the committee Chairman.

Jacque Linscott Barnes, your new Nominations Chairperson, has formed her committee with two collectors from each region. One of the Committee's goals in addition to finding candidates for NIA officers is to compile a list of collectors who are willing to serve the NIA in some capacity. We need your skills and support.

Please consider contacting your region representative and adding your name to the list, and be sure to tell them how you can help.

I know that many of you are aware of the theft of Ron Yuhas's insulator collection from his home in Helena, Montana. The NIA has offered to help Ron in any way to get his collection back. Currently, we are maintaining a low profile due to the nature of the investigation and Ron's request. This event has sent a shockwave throughout the hobby. It has made me more aware that we all need to inventory our collection and obtain insurance to protect its value.

In closing, please be sure to take a child to an insulator event, support your local clubs and shows and don't forget to tell a friend about your hobby!

Sandy and I wish each of you a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

I know that many of you are aware of the theft of Ron Yuhas's insulator collection from his home in Helena, Montana.

FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



We got back from our trip to Canada's Maritime Provinces too late to include this report in the *Fall Drip Points* (in fact I wrote my fall article while on the road) so I thought I'd get it in this issue. 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 its 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 20th 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 35th 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. In addition, there was outstanding attendance from across the country and this afforded the opportunity to catch

up on old friendships.

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 were really "out east" now. In fact, Newfoundland is in the next time zone east of Atlantic Time – only three and a half 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.

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 territory 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

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".

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 northern-most 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 understood. 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. We now have an

appreciation for why so many of our Canadian members do their insulator hunting in the wintertime!

Just outside Ottawa, we diverted to the southwest and made a surprise visit to long-time NIA member Wayne Junop, in the farming community of Palmer Rapids, Ontario. Wayne lives on a beautiful farm where he repairs International farm machinery and raises hay. He is quite the collector and has a wonderful array of vintage telephones (his primary collection) and also many great insulators.

From Wayne's place, it was a short hop on down to Bancroft Ontario, the "mineral collecting capital" of Canada. Lots of people here and great minerals as well. I would have liked to spend several days here, 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.

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 bogeyed on south stopping for an overnight in an unlikely out-of-the-way spot called Leon, Iowa. A small town by-passed 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 NIA member Sandy Ellison, founder of 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!

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

...DRIP NOTES

- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsored insurance is available for information on some of the available companies contact: Kevin Jacobson (NIA Information Director) at 602-564-0851 or kwjacob@icsaero.com
- Want to play a bigger part in the NIA? Volunteers are always needed. Write to Dudley Ellis and tell him what you're good at!
- Moving? Send change of address to Joe Beres (and save us the cost of resending your copy of *Drip Points*. Each returned *Drip Points* costs the NIA \$0.85 plus the cost of printing it in the first place).

NIA NIA

FROM THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE



NIA President Dudley Ellis has asked that each committee expand its membership so Larry Novak and Bob Stahr were added to the Museum Committee during the National show. Larry is a volunteer at the Smithsonian Institution and was responsible for the NIA's involvement in helping with the identification of what is in that collection. Bob has had contact with the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, Indiana which is building their collection of Hemingray insulators.

At the Smithsonian, most of the insulator cataloging work is finished except for electrical porcelain items like wall tubes, knobs and cleats.

Nance Briscoe, the main contact at the museum, has retired but still puts in a few days a week. The insulators have been housed in better, divided cases now and organized by CD numbers. I believe our involvement has significantly improved their collection. The next step involves adding to their collection in areas that are incomplete.

Minnetrista's collection is starting from scratch and has an acquisition budget to work within. This led Bob and I to discuss and start development of an acquisition plan for the museum. Such a plan would also serve new collectors who want direction on building their collection. For Minnetrista, it focuses on getting representative examples of colors and styles for minimal expense. For example, to

Bob has had contact with the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, Indiana which is building their collection of Hemingray insulators.

get the greatest variety of color and style, the following insulators were suggested: 7up green CD 106, emerald green CD 121, opalescent CD 128, jade CD 145, Hemingray blue CD 154, ice CD 162, olive amber CD 168, purple CD 194/195, carnival CD 230, and aqua CD 257.

At the recent Mid-Ohio show, Chris Hedges agreed to serve as a liaison to the A.B. Chance museum in Centralia, Missouri. Chris has donated items to the museum before so has an idea of what they already have and what they need. He says much of what the museum focuses on currently is items like hot sticks.

**Rick Soller, NIA # 2958
Museum Committee Chair**

...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).

NIA NIA

FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR

It's been busy these last few weeks. In September we worked very hard to put on the 5th Annual Merzoian Brothers Tailgater in Porterville, California. The weather Gods blessed us and all went well. October brought forth the 1st annual Three Amigos Tailgater in Lancaster, California. The boys put on a really fine time for all attending. Finally, this first weekend of November was the Annual Bottle and Collectibles (read many insulator tables to be found) Show in Tulare, California. No rain this year provided for an easy and relaxed couple of days. Unfortunately, the attendance for the Tulare show was down and as a result it translated into fewer sales. Perhaps the local poor economic situation kept some people away, but mostly I think promotions for the show (and many others like it) needed to be "amped up". I saw very little TV and/or newspaper coverage (besides a few ads here-and-there) of pre and post show publicity which certainly could boost attendance.

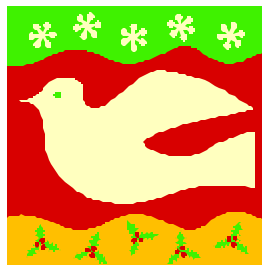
This leads to my point...we need to make available insulator hobby / NIA press and publicity kits to all current and would-be show hosts and clubs across the country. The

more the word gets out about our unique little corner of the collectibles world, the more we'll benefit from new members, collectors, and customers. Now that can't be too bad, can it? Unfortunately, me being a committee of one, I can not tackle the project alone. The vast geography of our country presents practical problems to overcome. Ideally I'd like to see the promotions and publicity committee meet at least twice a year in person...at the National and perhaps a regional. Of course, there's the old stand-by, phone conferencing. maybe web chats in the Insulator.Com chat room...or even via web cam computer linking. What we really need are several people from various regions of the country to volunteer time and effort toward the growth of our hobby. The volunteer's line forms to the right, and please, no crowding. I'd love to have your help...let me know.

An update: I have been diligently working on a DVD to be released after the New Year. For two years I have gathered many hours of video footage and pictures for this project. To be included on the production are highlights, interviews, and glass from shows, tailgaters, and elsewhere gathered from travels in California, Arizona, Oregon, and Montana. As of this writing,

my partner and I have spent 20 plus hours selecting, downloading, and editing video, photos, titles, and music for the project. We are up to 19 minutes and counting. Tomorrow night we continue the quest. This DVD/tape will be made available to insulator hobbyists (that's us), clubs, and the NIA for promotional purposes (part of the press package, and to schools, libraries, etc.). It's been a challenge, but I think you'll be pleased with the results. If this first edition is financially successful, it will afford me to travel to other areas of our great land and create additional geographical editions...and more promotional material for the NIA. Michael (my partner in this) has connections at PBS and the Discovery channel. He has had one documentary aired on PBS, with another in the works for next year. He feels this project may merit pursuing the airwaves. More details will be forthcoming. Happy collecting and keep the trading sweet and rewarding. Oh yes, spread the word!

Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941
Promotions Chairman





From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

**2004-2005 FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
FIRST QUARTER ENDING 9/30/04**

Beginning Balance-General Fund	7/1/04	10977.54
Museum Exploratory Committee		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account		2296.75

Revenues

Donations	.00	
Membership Dues	788.00	
Miscellaneous Income	100.00	
Product Sales	2529.48	

Total Revenues		3417.48

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	38.66	
Marketing Products	1956.77	
Misc. Postage	122.86	
Misc. Printing	.00	
Misc. Supplies	.00	
Misc. Professional Services	.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	94.00	
Drip Points Printing	843.18	
Drip Points Postage	239.26	
Show Advertising Subsidy	250.00	
Show Awards	546.98	
Stationery Supplies	163.57	
Telephone	.00	
Special Projects	.00	
Educational Disp Postage	34.14	

Total Expenses		4289.42

Closing Balance, General Fund	10105.60
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures	.00
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance	972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures	.00
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance	<u>2296.75</u>
Total Balance on Hand September 30, 2004	13374.36



NIA LOGO PRODUCTS



Christmas Gift Ideas * 2004



Order your "NIA Badge" / Club Bar today!
A super way to introduce yourself to other collectors.

For a little variety this Holiday season, I have assembled a "gift package" that includes:

1. Screen-printed gray sweatshirt (L or XL)
2. Embroidered cap (your choice of color)
3. Mug ("new" 13 oz. glass)
4. Koozie (your choice of color)
5. Tack pin

All of this for a seasonal special price of \$ 46.00 (a savings of \$5.25)
(NOTE: Small/Med. Size sweatshirts available for package price of \$42.00)

Shipping cost will be figured for exact amount/zip code, so call me or email me with your order!!

NEW!! 13 oz. Glass Beer/Soda Mug - w/NIA logo - \$ 8.00

NEW!! Green/stone Embroidered NIA Cap -
adjustable, self-fabric band - \$16.00

NEW!! Nice, heavy-weight, zippered Steel Gray hooded
Sweatshirt w/embroidered logo - \$35.00/\$40.00

See last page of DP for newest order form!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

The NIA offers a variety of products and appreciates all who make purchases to support the hobby!

Please visit our website: WWW.NIA.ORG for color photos and an order form.

Carolyn Berry
Product Marketing Committee
NIA#4336

2004 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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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. _____

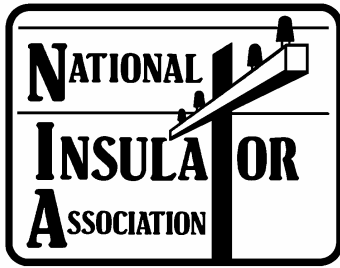
2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

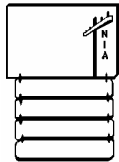
Signed _____

Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Winter 2004

www.nia.org/products



	<u>Price</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
Men's Golf/Polo Shirts* 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)			
Ladies' shirts -- embroidered logo; call for additional options!			
=>=>NEW *S/S golf - yellow pique w/ navy & royal blue collar/sleeve. (\$38)			
Denim Shirt -- (*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			
T-Shirt -- Hanes Beefy 'T' - Ash gray - Screen-printed logo (front & back)			
L ___ XL ___ (\$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) ___			
Sweatshirts -- Heavy weight - Ash gray - Screen-printed logo (front & back)			
S ___ M ___ (\$16.00) L ___ XL ___ (\$20.00)			
=>=>NEW**Embroidered logo- M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$30)			
=>=>NEW**Zippered - Hooded - Embroidered logo- L / XL (\$35) 2X (\$40)			
Embroidered Cap -- Stone/ Navy or Khaki / Green, low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16)			
Denim Cap -- blue denim, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00			
=>=>NEW**13 oz. Glass Mug w/ Faux Etched NIA Logo \$8.00			
Mug -- 10 oz. - white ceramic coffee mug w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00			
Patch -- light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge \$4.00			
Koozie ™ -- The original Koozie™ fits any standard beer / soda can			
Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$2.25			
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ARIZONA TELEGRAPH TIMES

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With the cooler weather, thoughts among Arizona collectors turns to "the hunt". Although it's starting to warm up a bit now, in the recent months, some of GCSIC's own have been out and about the desert southwest looking for abandoned treasures. Seen here is McLaughlin specialist Jim Harlow (up top) removing abandoned smooth base McLaughlin No. 40s. These are actually a CD-154, but bear the embossing No. 40 usually indicative of CD-152 Hemingray styles. On the ground, club president Roger Nagel Holds the 32-ft extension ladder nick-named "widow maker" while Arthur McConnachie inspects one of the latest liberated treasures. This trip occurred a week before Christmas 2003 in the deserts of Western California along I-10. Two trips had been made to this location by GCSIC members and a total of around 120 McLaughlin Smooth Base CD-154 insulators were brought into the hobby. These are among the earliest examples of McLaughlin insulators and were put into service on this line in 1933 (according to the date nails). The first expedition was made in April 2003 after I had mentioned the Smooth base McLaughlin's I had seen on my way back from Dwayne and Ofelia Anthony's home. The photos in this story are from the second "clean up" trip to pull the pieces left behind last April. This trip would include Myself, Dwayne Anthony, Roger Nagel, Jim Harlow, and Arthur McConnachie.





Above an example of a pole with 5 Smooth Base McLaughlin insulators on it.

Above, Dwayne Anthony drops down another McLaughlin. This photo was taken close to the interstate and Dwayne is dressed to hopefully convey the message that we belong here. The line is abandoned, but explaining it to the California Highway Patrol might be somewhat more challenging than actually pulling the glass from 30+ foot poles.



Jim Harlow is thinking this might be a job for Roger Nagel. That McLaughlin insulator is nearly 5 feet from the center of the pole and 3 stories off the ground!



Above, is one of the 3-4 great amber swirled McLaughlin's found. It is very uncommon to see Amber in McLaughlin's. The quality control was quite good. Perhaps these had more because they were very early examples of McLaughlin Insulators.



At left, the days haul. 60-65 Smooth base McLaughlin Insulators and 7-8 peachy colored Whitall Tatums.

Desert Southwest Glass Hunting

The morning started off dark and cool, but it was to be a day of record heat in March. Three GCSIC members would start off at 5:30 AM from the home of Roger Nagel and proceed to one of the hottest places in the state. While it was mid March, and normally the temperatures would only approach 80 or so degrees, it would top 100 this day. Myself, Roger Nagel, and Jim Harlow would still have a great day of hunting and find many interesting pieces.

The line is an abandoned signaling line for the Union Pacific Railroad formerly the "Phoenix Line" of the Southern Pacific. This is a portion of Southern Pacific's famed "Sunset Route". The Union Pacific Railroad has abandoned and is removing the portion of the tracks west of Phoenix between Arlington (Milepost 861.3), the location of the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant, and Roll (Milepost 780.9), a farming community northeast of the town of Wellton. This is a distance of approximately 81 miles. Southern Pacific owned the line until it was merged into the UP Corporation in 1996.

The Phoenix line of the Union Pacific (ex-Southern Pacific) was completed in 1926. The principal passenger trains of the era began using the line on March 20, 1927. Three and one-half years earlier, in October, 1923, Phoenix Union Station had been completed as a joint venture with the Santa Fe Railway. Up to 12 passenger trains a day used the line during its golden years between the 1940s and 1960s. Amtrak service to Phoenix, Tempe, and Coolidge ceased June 2, 1996. At that time, operations over the line also ceased. It is unclear if the modern day poles are original or replacements. Many of the insulators are clearly made in the mid 1930's and no date nails could be found. The signal line consists of mostly round drip point McLaughlin 42 insulators of unremarkable color, but oc-



Miles and miles of poles, and a road right down the line for as far as the eye can see. The trains are long gone, the line abandoned, and the glass is mostly McLaughlins.

casional pieces can be found that seem out of place to say the least. Some of the pieces that we found during our survey of the line are shown on the following pages.

We started the day near Hyder and made our way towards Growler. Along the way, we passed many interesting stops. These included Horn, the Ft. Horn monument, and a railroad stop known as KOFA.

Hyder is 3 miles to the north after Agua Caliente and was one of places where general George S. Patton's forces trained for desert war in World War Two. There is very little that remains about the old camp, but veterans sometimes come back to visit this place.

Hyder is also very near the location of the still unsolved *Sunset Limited* derailment of October 9, 1995. As of December 15th, 2003, A \$320,000 reward remained un-



Above, Roger Nagel holds a nice Green STAR signal found along the way. In all, approximately 20 of these would be found in a 25 mile stretch

claimed. The KOFA train stop was also along the way. There is not much there really. The actual town of Kofa was some 20 miles from the train stop, but the town was dying when the railroad was built and was out of the way. Kofa's post office was established June 5, 1900 and was discontinued August 27, 1928. Kofa, which stands for King of Arizona, was plagued with scarcity of water. The first year the ore was found the mine couldn't even support a town because of the lack of water. Finally, a well was dug five miles from the town site and a mill was constructed. The ore ran out in 1910 but the town managed to survive through 1928. Kofa's mill capacity was at one time 250 tons. Today, The town of Kofa and the mine are located within a military bombing range.



Green Star 162 still on its pin. Although scarce relative to the McLaughlins on this line, 20 or so of these were found in colors worth keeping along a 25 mile stretch of the line.



Above left, can be seen a pole bearing two purple tinted Maydwell 19's. At right, a closer view of one of the Maydwell's



Here you see one of our trained Arizona Scorpions standing guard next to this recently pulled McLaughlin. He might seem a little fella, but he can take care of himself and that insulator! Seriously, when hunting insulators here in the Desert Southwest, you have to watch out for these as well as the snakes.



Shown above, a group of 6 different signal types found on the 25-miles searched. These are (left to right) a CD 161.2 Brookfield (one found) , a CD 162 Maydwell-19 in Purple Tint (two found on the same pole), CD 162 N.E.G.M. Co. (One Found), a CD 161 California in an unidentified color?, A CD 162 H.G.Co Signal (5-6 found), and a 162.1 STAR with Amber (1 of 22 removed, more were found). The California was found on a 25-30' pole right next to a 4 way crossing of a major road with a dirt road. It was the only one found on the trip, and was difficult to get down. Ultimately it was brought down with a picking pole with an extension pole inserted.

Yuma Show Report

By Club President Roger Nagel



Again this year Terri and I were on the road to Yuma a little before 5:00 AM. The weather forecast was for sunny weather with high temps in the upper 60's, so another year where Mother Nature provided us a perfect day for a Tailgater. We arrived at the park in Yuma around 7:30 only to see someone already setting up insulator sales tables. Turned out it was long-time collector Ross Thompson from Tucson, and a few of his helpers. Ross was the big surprise of the show because he was selling his entire collection and sales stock. We're talking 15 boxes of insulators. Ross had been out of the hobby for several years and it was good to see him again. More people apparently stayed in Yuma overnight because by 8:30 there were already quite a few in attendance. Over 65 people showed up for the Tailgater this year. It was especially nice to see Mel Bradford this year. Mel had been unable to attend the Tailgater for the last couple of years as he was recovering from a broken neck. The idea of having a tailgater in Yuma was originally Mel's, and he was surprised and happy to see how much the event has grown. Also in attendance for the first time were John and Carol McDougald (who now live in Sedona). I apologize to the other club members new to the show that I forgot to mention, I know there were a few others.

As you can see from the photos, there were lots of great insulators for sale and trade. The quality of the insulators that were available were almost equal to a regional or national show. There were amber and peacock blue Locke CD 287.1's in VNM condition; numerous threadless including CD701, CD718, and a cobalt blue CD 735; several CD196 Hemingray and HGCo's in VVNM condition; several CD145 HGCo's in depression green, amber, sapphire blue, and olive green; CD125 WU 1871 in yellow olive; and several EC&M's (including one in cobalt blue). And as usual there was a nice selection of Canadian glass thanks to our Canadian club members. I saw four teal diamond ponies (CD102) for sale and at least one had amber swirls. There were 24 individual sales tables, which is a nice increase over the previous years where we had around 15 sales tables.

Thanks go out to Terri Taylor, Carol McDougald, and Cheryl Jacobson for putting together a great lunch and to Dave Kelly for helping cook the hamburgers and hotdogs (I don't think Dave lost any hot dogs in the grill this year).

Other/Miscellaneous Items

I received a letter from club member Wilma Provonsha wanting to sell the remainder of the insulators in their collection. For anyone that is interested I can provide a copy of the list or provide additional information. Wilma lives in Vernon, AZ which is near Springerville, AZ.

Our next club meeting will be at Bruce and Margie Young's home in Lake Havasu City, AZ. The meeting will be on Saturday May 1, starting at 12:00. Directions to Bruce and Margie's home are included on the last page of the newsletter.



Terri Taylor, Arthur McConnachie, Arthur's Mom, Bill Ostrander and Cheryl Jacobson prepare for lunch.



Tom Katonak and Michael Doyle discuss some of the finer points of Ukraine Glass.



Dwayne Anthony and John McDougald inspect one of the more exotic pieces at the show. A purple smooth base CD-162 H.G.CO. Insulator. Approximate value, \$10,000



A closer view of the purple smooth base CD-162 H.G.CO. Insulator. This is a rare one indeed.



Some of the many gems from Ross Thompson's tables. .



Young and older alike searching through what has become a Yuma show trait, the FREE blanket. Actually the blanket is the only thing NOT free. The glass is yours for the taking.



Club Treasurer Cheryl Jacobson renews Mel Bradford's membership. .



GCSIC members Brad Blansette and Arthur McConachie look over Ross Thompson's sale stock.



Shown above are long time collectors and friends, Tom Katonak, Ross Thompson, Dwayne Anthony, and Steve Kelly.

Celebrity at Yuma?

I was wondering if anyone happened to notice the resemblance between Ross Thompson and Actor Lee Marvin? The record has it that Lee Marvin died in 1987 in none other than Tucson Arizona. Now I don't really want to start any rumors, but Ross Thompson is fromTucson Arizona. Is Lee Marvin really gone, or is he now selling insulators?

Cheryl Jacobson.



The Carnival is *STILL* in Town



Shown above and below (close up) are nine carnival Hemingray D-512 insulators found still in service just 6 weeks ago in Hannibal Missouri. I was on a trip back to hometown and when driving down the street, saw these beauties still on the pole. They are getting few and far between in Hannibal as is any glass anywhere..

Kevin Jacobson



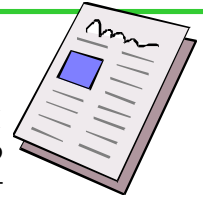


Message From Treasurer Cheryl Jacobson

Reminder, Membership renewals are due in June for the period June 2004 through June 2005. Some of you have already renewed at Yuma and by mail, but for those that have not, this is the first reminder. Due to the change in our club's checking account, checks must be made payable to me: **Cheryl Jacobson**. This is necessary now as the bank will charge us for a business account if we insist on using the club's name. My mailing address is listed below at the bottom of this page.

The current balance in the club checking account is \$2,309.49

Message from the Editor



I just want to take a moment and thank Roger Nagel for his inputs to the newsletter this month. Once again, I would also like to call on anyone who would like to contribute an article to the newsletter please do so. Write up an article describing your finds, travels, or just how you got started. Just in case it is not commonly known, articles from the club members are always welcome. Please contact me at one of the meetings or via e-mail or phone:

Thanks,
Kevin Jacobson, Editor

kwjacob@icsaero.com
or 602-564-0851

New Members of the G.C.S.I.C.

No new members this period Although there were four renewals at the Yuma Show.

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