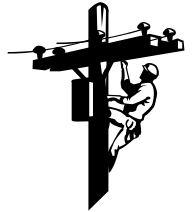


Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

<http://www.nia.org>

Available via e-mail!

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ A Note from the Editor *Arthur McConnachie*
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- ◆ Eastern Region *Doug Williams*
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- ◆ Product Marketing *Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ Winter 2009 Product Order Form

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Highlights in this issue ...

Lou Hall continues his 46-day travelogue to Coralville, Iowa, on page 7.

Foreign glass collectors, be sure to check out Paul Greaves' article on page 13 about Russian insulators and their authenticity. After reading it, I couldn't help but check out their vibrant colors on eBay.

Promotions Chair, Jim White, shares some ideas on page 16.

If you need some Christmas gift ideas, Carolyn Berry has a number of promotional items listed on page 20. Be sure to place your order as soon as possible for a timely delivery.

Merry Christmas to all!

Arthur McConnachie, NIA #6934
Information Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Wow has the year flown by. The holidays are upon us and a new year will be here soon. Let me recap what the last year has brought us and what next year will bring.

2008-2009 marked my first year as President of the NIA and the drafting of new bylaws. These revised bylaws were necessary for the 501c3 IRS application we were planning on. At the General Membership meeting held during the NIA National in Coralville, IA, the membership approved the new bylaws.

This set in motion the final steps in the application process. We received confirmation of the receipt of the application from the IRS and are currently awaiting the IRS' approval. If we are approved, the 501c3 status will be effective as of the date of the receipt. So, we may already be a 501c3.

The NIA has a few exciting things coming up once we get approval. Keep tuned.

Speaking of the National, I want to thank Larry & Pat Whitlock, Dennis & Jeanne Weber, Bill and Linda Connell, Bill Snell and all the other members of the Missouri Valley Insulator Club for making it such a wonderful event.

The National show for 2010 was announced at the show as well. It will again be in the East at Boxborough, Massachusetts. The hosts will be Bill & Jill Meier and Dario Dimare. The date of the show will be July 16-18, 2010. Please see the NIA.org website or Crown Jewels for further information.

I am also pleased to announce that we will also be having a Central Regional show to be held in Columbia City, IN, on May 14 & 15, 2010. Chuck Dittmar and Gene Hawkins will host the show.

Of course we are always looking to the future and hope to have bids for the NIA 2011 show in the Western Region. The due date is April 15th, after which the NIA will open up the bidding for all regions. If you are thinking about hosting a show consider this; the Western won't be up again until 2014.

Please also note that since I am now in my second year (2009-2010), my term expires in 2010 along with the Eastern Region VP. We are currently looking for candidates for these positions. Doug Williams, the most senior VP on the board according to the bylaws, will be the nominations chair. If anyone is interested in running for office, contact anyone on the nominations committee (President Bob Stahr, 1st VP, EVP Doug Williams, CVP Bill Snell, WVP Lou Hall, Treasurer Jack Roach and Secretary Colin Jung) if you are interested in an office.

Additionally, I am proud to announce the NIA has a presence on:

www.Linkedin.com

www.facebook.com

and are working on other creative avenues to promote the NIA and gain membership as well as receive further donations.

**Bob Stahr, NIA #4186
President**

**The National Insulator Association's
41st Annual Show & Convention
Boxborough, MA
July 16-18th, 2010**

<http://www.nia.org/shows/national/index.htm>

1st PAST PRESIDENT



Hello everybody,

At the time of this writing I have just returned from Springfield, Ohio, and the 39th Mid-Ohio Show. This is a yearly event for me even though I must fly there from Phoenix, Arizona.

Steve, Lois, and Glenn always have a great show and even though Glenn was unable to make it this year, I know his contributions to the show were still tremendous. The show has been getting bigger and bigger as the years go on. This year there were 141 sales tables, and they were

8ft tables, not the smaller 6ft that you usually encounter. I have to

Regarding NIA business, the 501(c)(3) Tax Exempts application has finally been filed with the IRS and we are now waiting to hear back from them.

say I think this was bigger than any of the National shows I have been to. I have put together a short collection of photos with my article for your enjoyment.

I know not everyone can make the trip, but if you're on the fence about going to this show, please take my advice and give it a try. You won't be disappointed. The show is usually the first full week-end in November.

Regarding NIA business, the 501(c)(3) Tax Exempts application has finally been filed with the IRS

and we are now just waiting to hear back from them. Due to a slight glitch in handling, 6 weeks went by after the National where I thought our Attorney had submitted the application based on my instructions to do so, but he had not. It seems he was changing jobs from one law firm to another and while I thought things were in the hands of the IRS and being processed, they were just sitting. The application was finally submitted in mid October and we should hear about approval status well before the end of the year.

One note of possible interest is that the Tax Exempt Status will be retroactive to the application date of mid-October 2009, if granted.

Now for some of those Springfield Ohio Show pictures.

Best of luck collecting,

**Kevin W. Jacobson, NIA #6720
First Past President**



At left, just a portion of the Mid Ohio show hall with 141 sales tables and 30+ displays. This is a very nice show to attend. if you can make it, you should definitely go next year.

| <i>November 2010</i> | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |



Dwayne Anthony & Butch Haltman (both from California) buying at Ross Baird's table (from Texas) The show draws from all around.



Above, a very nice confederate Tea Pot purchased by Bill Rohde who also made it in from California.



Above, Marshall Dick Bowman makes it in from New York again. Dick is a long time show attendee.



Above, a very nice Boston Bottle Works purchased by Paul Terek for \$8 at an Indiana Antique store on his way to the show. WOW !



Above, Mike Spadafora with really big mud. Careful Mike, you will get that stuff all over your hands and clothes.



Above, Moe, Larry & Curly made an appearance. Actually this is (left to right) Steve Blair, Denny Hackthorn, and Dave Campbell. Denny and Dave are all the way from California

2nd PAST PRESIDENT



I actually made it to the Mid-Ohio Show in Springfield this year. After many years in attendance I couldn't go last year because of a kidney stone. Well, guess what? I had another stone this year. It was much bigger than the one last year. It was a whopping 1.5 centimeters. The doctor gave me some pain meds and sent me on my way to Ohio and said he would take care of it when I got back.

The show was great as usual, but I really missed Glenn Drummond, who could not make it to the show this year. I am sure Steve and Lois Blair missed him, too. Glenn has put a lot of time and effort into this show and has been a major part of it for thirty-five or more years.

Sometimes when I'm sitting behind my sales tables things may get a little slow and my mind goes to work thinking about stuff. Maybe you do the same thing. On Sunday morning at the Springfield Show, when sales were slow, my

thoughts grew from Saturday's events. During the day on Saturday I made a few, "you can pay me later" deals with fellow collectors. I also culminated a long two month's deal of my own. Earlier that morning I had the chance to talk to another insulator collector about unethical practices in our hobby. Well, sitting there thinking about those deals and that conversation led me to start thinking about the trust that we may or may not develop for our fellow hobbyist.

Deep in thought, behind my sales table, I thought about what it takes for us to develop a trustful relationship between ourselves and other collectors. I also wondered how good a job I was doing at earning other collectors trust. My thinking is that trust has a lot to do about how we apply morals and ethics in our lives. Not everybody's morals are the same. They may vary on how we are brought up and where we are from. I guess that is one reason why the NIA had to develop a Code of Ethics for collectors to go by. If you haven't read the NIA's Code of Ethics, it is available in the NIA Handbook found on the NIA web page at:

www.nia.org/handbook/ethics.htm

My thoughts drifted further into the things we could do to help us build trustful relationships in our hobby. The things that came to mind were:

1. Keep your word. Your word should be good as gold. If you tell someone you're going to do something, do it.
2. Be truthful about your sales items. If it's damaged, point it out to the buyer. Don't nuke an insulator and sell it for the real thing.
3. Don't hide blemishes with price tags or special coatings like Endust.
4. Offer fair prices for sales items.
5. Don't scheme to obtain an insulator that you know another collector is working to obtain.
6. When selling an item through an auction or a listing don't exaggerate color or understate blemishes or damage.

I'm sure you can add ideas of your own to the list. Really, the bottom line is very simple. We all just need to follow the "Golden Rule." Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Remember to tell someone about your hobby, take a child with you to an insulator show or hunt, and by all means support your local Clubs and shows.

I hope I've gained your trust over the years!!

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085
2nd Past President**

Insulator Identification:

<http://www.nia.org/general/index.htm>

EASTERN REGION VP



Hey all, wow! It's that time again. Well, first Happy Holidays to all. We've had some fine swaps here in the East. The Dixie Jewels swap meet in Tellico Plains, TN, held at the Charles Hall Telephone Museum back in August, was a huge success. With so many tables and over 150 in attendance it was like having one of our Eastern Regionals. Look for much more from this club as we approach our twenty year mark.

The week before the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club held their second fine show of the year, another very well attended event that has just about outgrown their hall again! Just super. Thanks! More

cool news is the Western Reserve Insulator Club turned ten years old. Another great club. Congratulations to all!

In September the Yankee Pole Cat prowled around the golden pond at the home of Larry & Mary Jo Emmons of East Hampton, CN. Again very well attended.

Our New England gang is getting geared up with excitement on their upcoming 41st National in Boxborough, MA, July 16-18, 2010. Lots of super glass and porcelain and collectors just counting down the days. Start making your plans now.

I was the only insulator collector to attend the second Monks Corner, SC Antique Bottle & War Relic Show. I did pick up a few great insulators. Thanks to all who didn't attend.

Then on to my most anticipated show, Springfield, OH. This is where East meets West with over 135 sales tables, over 20 super displays of insulators, lightning rod items, etc. If it is related to the telegraph or electric field, it's at

this show. One just can't believe how much good glass can be in one building. Our second National! I would like to thank all of you displayers and dealers and all who attended, or wanted to. Also a special thanks to Steve & Lois Blair, and Glenn Drummond, along with all their helpers for the love of our hobby. What a great show!

Also my term is in its last year. So we are currently looking for candidates for the board position of Eastern Vice President. If anyone is interested in running for office, contact President Bob Stahr or myself.

On a lighter note. Some of you seasoned collectors be careful. Your prize insulators maybe worth way more than you or your spouse may think!

Hope to see you at a show! Thanks.

Happy collecting!

**Doug (Dug) Williams, NIA #1221
Eastern Region VP**

Drip Points



**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

Archive of Past Issues:

<http://www.nia.org/drippoints/archive/index.htm>

WESTERN REGION VP



Forty-six DAYS and 7771 MILES! The trip to Iowa continues.

Denver was wonderful but there were still many miles to go. I left there headed in a southeasterly direction in order to connect to Highway 50 and cross Kansas. I had been told by several people that a “must see” was Tower Antiques near Genoa, CO. I found the place and visited for a couple of hours. It takes that long to get through the place. There were lots of insulators but no pins or brackets to speak of. On to Kansas!



As I crossed into Kansas the site of large thunderclouds forming for later in the day greeted me. Most of the day was spent driving to avoid storm activity and listening to the radio. Between severe thunderstorm warnings and commodity reports on the radio I kept abreast of the news. I had no desire to experience large hailstones or a tornado.



I spend the night in Garden City, KS. My next day took me through Dodge City, Wichita, and ending the day in Coffeyville, KS. I had my first encounter with snapping turtles near Coffeyville. Found out they were on migration, and as a result, became road kill as they attempted to cross the highways. Spent the next day with friends near by.

After spending the night in Joplin, MO, it was time to head in a more northerly direction. I left Missouri, crossing back into Kansas for the drive north to St. Joseph, MO.

My interest in the Pony Express and Transcontinental telegraph required a visit to the Pony Express Museum, the Pattee Hotel (now a great museum) and a tour of the Jesse James Home.



Travel across Missouri took me to Jefferson City, Lake of the Ozarks and Columbia before arriving in St. Louis. I spent several days in St. Louis. As a collector of pins and brackets, especially those manufactured by St. Louis Malleable Casting Company, it was an important stop. Several days were spent researching the historical archives for material regarding this company. I also found and visited the original site of the foundry.

Of course, I had to meet up with fellow collector Pat Scott. He has been gathering old St. Louis Malleable brackets for me for several years. What a great time we had! I arrived at his home and was greeted with "Get in the truck! I've got a bunch of stuff I want to show you." Off we went! In and out, up and down the streets and alleys of old St. Louis, Pat pointing out locations of hardware he had found but not yet procured. There is a lot of cool stuff there still in use. An experience I will never forget!



I couldn't resist going to Hannibal, MO, the hometown of Samuel Clemens better known as Mark Twain. Toured the caves, went to a theater show, and rode the riverboat on a cruise tour of the Mississippi River. Highlight of the dinner cruise (yes, I rode the boat twice) was that the captain offered me the opportunity to pilot to craft for almost an hour! Of course, he was right there making sure I didn't wander off course. I wonder what the other passengers would have thought had they known it was I who was getting them back to the dock.

From Hannibal, I headed into Iowa. First stop, Des Moines - where I found a fantastic indoor flea market. No insulators, no pins or brackets but they did have a stuffed Armadillo that I has serious thoughts of obtaining after seeing several of them as road-kill in Kansas. Paid a visit to the National Balloon Museum. Who would have thought there would be so much memorabilia about hot air ballooning? Next on the journey were stops at Fort Dodge, Dubuque and Clinton, IA.

From Clinton, IA, I couldn't resist crossing into Illinois for a look at the John Deere headquarters in Moline. What a fantastic building and museum. While there I was directed to the John Deere Museum and Visitor Center in downtown Moline. Wouldn't you know, there was a huge gift shop there as well! I gathered up a few items

for my tractor collector friends. From there it was only a short distance to Coralville.



Arrived in Coralville, IA, several days before to show so I toured the outlying areas. Visited the Amana Colonies, North Liberty and Kalona. I went to Kalona on a Monday, expecting to visit the Amish Museum there but found it closed. Instead, I was there on auction day! All kinds of really good stuff was there if you had a need for it. I checked out every box and barrel but not a single insulator or pin or bracket was to be found!



And so, I had made it! I was in Coralville, IA. I moved from the local Best Western into the Marriott there to begin meeting with fellow collectors as they arrived from all parts of the country. It was National Insulator Show and Conference time!



Labor Day and the week following you would have found me in the middle of Nevada. That is the time of the annual 10-day field trip to re-search the Transcontinental Telegraph line built in 1861. Miles McLall and his dad, Jerry, joined us this year. We found several new pole butt locations as well as other discoveries and materials.

I don't know about you but for me this year has just flown by. I'm hard pressed to believe that year-end is upon us. I hope yours was a good year, that your collections grew, that your sales and/or trades were great. To everyone, please have a happy, safe and joyous holiday season.

**Lou Hall, NIA #7185
Western Region VP**

Glass and Porcelain Insulator Quick Reference:

<http://www.nia.org/general/cdtool/qr.html>

CENTRAL REGION VP

For me, the trek to Springfield, Ohio, has become part of the rhythm of the year. I know when the leaves change and the days grow cooler, it's time to start thinking about the Mid-Ohio show.

And what a show it was this year! Once again, thanks to show hosts Steve Blair and Glenn Drummond (and their families and many other volunteers) for their top-notch organization and execution. I found some great treasures to take home, including three signs, several books, three cobalt Russian insulators, and the obligatory commemorative. This year I had to get four commemoratives because they were all so different

and I couldn't choose just one! I had to get one of this year's Wilkerson "bullet" commemoratives, too. Having miniature insulators pressed on the show site is really special and the Wilkersons' demonstrations never fail to fascinate. Of course a highlight of any show is getting to see and talk with so many insulator friends, many of whom I rarely see except at this show. I think this year brought a new personal record for me in number of new friends I made.

We have a couple upcoming events in the Central Region. The WRIC Swapmeet and Club Meeting will be January 23 in Strongsville, Ohio. Then we have the MVIC Insulator & Bottle Show in St Joseph, Missouri on March 13. If you enjoyed the MVIC-style hospitality at the recent Coralville, Iowa, National, you'll find it again in St Joe. The size of the show might be smaller than the National, but the enthusiasm is certainly there.

I'm very pleased that we have a date set for the Central Regional show in 2010! Mark your calendars for May 14-15, 2010, and make your travel plans for Columbia City, Indiana. Deepest thanks to show hosts Gene Hawkins and Chuck Dittmar for their willingness

to expand their show into a Regional. These guys are hard at work to make this a memorable event that you won't want to miss.

Now that winter's coming, it's time to think about those indoor activities, like inventory of trading stock and collection (I usually manage to catch an error or two when I double-check) or writing a story for CJ or the club newsletter. Maybe you could think about writing something, too. There are many stories of the "early days" of collecting that ought to be written down. Do you remember a great find? How about a mind-blowing "walk-in" at a show? I encourage you to write it down and share it with us. A lot of today's collectors were not involved in the hobby during the 1960s, 70s or 80s. Some of them weren't even born yet! Preserving that hobby history will benefit us all.

I wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season. Maybe if I'm very, very good, St. Nick will leave an insulator or two under the tree for me. The new year 2010 will bring many new insulator events, so I hope to see you at some of them!

**Bill Snell, NIA # 2624
Central Region VP**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Since my last writing in Drip Points, Jeanne and I have had our lives become rather eventful to say the least. We had plans to attend three different shows and didn't make any of them. The latest was the mid-Ohio show that Jeanne and I were all set to fly out and attend for the first time when my father passed away the Sunday before. He was still physically active and 89 years old until shortly before his passing. We do plan on attending several shows next year including the National in Boxborough. We're hoping to see you all there!

collection. All of the insulators have now been cleaned and set in place with room left over to grow the collection. Each is displayed only one deep which makes for a much better display than what I had before. Included are some pictures, but the lens wasn't wide enough to capture all of the shelves, nor is the color anything like seeing the setup in person. If you're ever in northern Utah be sure to look us up.

2008 was a record year for NIA membership with 1719 members in good standing. As of this writing the 2009 members in good standing count is 1654. That is our second best year. Also as of this writing we have 1131 members already in good standing for 2010 with many more renewals coming in each day. We are also adding quite a few new members each week.

Remember, unless you are paid through 2010 or beyond your membership will expire on December 31, 2009. Please consider



Thank you for your continued support of the NIA and the insulator collecting hobby!

**Donald Briel, NIA #7218
Membership Director**



On a positive note, the new insulator room is now complete. We were even able to complete a neat watt hour meter wall lamp. The room is a pleasant, quiet place to spend time and enjoy the

renewing prior to that date for uninterrupted membership and mailings. Staying current will also enable you to vote in upcoming elections.



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

**NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
2009-2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance – General Funds | | \$15,964 |
| Museum Exploratory Committee | | 972 |
| Authentication/Ethics Account | | 2,297 |

Revenues

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Donations | | |
| Membership Dues | \$1,157 | |
| Miscellaneous Income | 100 | |
| Product Sales | 3,067 | |
| Galen Howard Donations | 0 | |
| Total Revenues | | 4,324 |

General Fund Expenses

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Advertising | | |
| Taxes and Fees and Insurance | | |
| Marketing Product | 1,539 | |
| Postage | 415 | |
| Printing | | |
| Supplies | | |
| Educational Expense | 50 | |
| Crown Jewels Rebate | 40 | |
| Drip Points | 1169 | |
| Show Advertising Rebate | | |
| National Show Awards | | |
| Galen Howard Memorial | | |
| Special Projects | | |
| Total Expenses | | 3,213 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Closing Balance – General Fund | | \$17,075 |
| Museum Exploratory Committee | | 972 |
| Authentication/Ethics Account | | 2,297 |
| Galen Howard Fund | | 125 |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| Total Balance on Hand Sept. 30, 2009 | | \$20,469 |
|---|--|-----------------|

AUTHENTICATION & CLASSIFICATION



Recently there seems to be an increasing number of Russian insulators being offered on eBay, many in shades of cobalt blue to purple. Other colors show up occasionally, such as rich greens and amber. This has led to some concern amongst collectors as to whether these items are legitimate old insulators, or whether they are of recent manufacture, or possibly old but of altered colors (perhaps irradiated). For some reason I took an interest in these colorful Russian insulators when they first started showing up, so I started capturing copies of the photos associated with their auctions from the point when they first started to appear. My folder of Russian blues currently has nearly 400 insulators documented! Add in the greens, purples, ambers, blacks & clears, and it increases the count by another 75. I have even purchased a few to examine myself after the initially high prices came down to something I could justify.

So, are these really legitimate insulators? So far, I think that they are. Of course I have not examined every one, and the situation can always change. But here is why I think they are legitimate.

1. After looking at hundreds of photos, and a number in per-

son (I got to examine quite a few at the recent Springfield show) certain patterns can be seen. There are some mold styles that always come in particular shades of cobalt to cobalt purple, certain greens always seem to appear in the same mold style, other shades of blue and purple also only appear in certain mold styles, and so on.

2. There is a wide variety of molds and styles. This is hugely important in my view. Making a mold is an expensive process, so if someone were to gear up to make reproduction items for profit they would try to minimize this cost. These Russian insulators not only come in a number of variations in shape, there is also a wide variety of variation within each mold style. Embossings vary, there are slight differences in lettering sizes and positions, occasional backwards letters or numbers, and variations in mold details such as wear marks, surface texture, and so on. All of this points to an item that has had a history of manufacture in some volume.

3. Many show signs of actually having been used. In addition to the various kinds of typical damage that insulators tend to suffer from being carelessly handled and used as an industrial object, I have seen many with rust stains and soot typical of used insulators. It's not just a matter of being dirty and worn... but having exactly the right kind of dirt and wear. One I saw recently has exactly the kind of silvery marks that indicate that it was used to hold an aluminum wire. Others show the signs of iron wires. It helps to carefully examine them and compare to other known authentic insulators for

details of wear and use. (Sadly, it is something I now need reading glasses to do!) Some concern has been expressed that some specimens have shown up that are shiny and new looking, without showing obvious wear marks. It is possible that some of these are "new old stock," that is, someone found a source of unused old insulators in a warehouse or something. But it is also possible that some were used with insulated wire that did not scratch them, and perhaps were used in locations that were sheltered from dirt and weather. One seller that I corresponded with said that she was finding them on or in abandoned houses from the '60s and '70s. She also bought them from local electricians when they did upgrades.

4. The colors are reasonable. Although, the colors are widely variable and attractive, they are not totally out of character for something made during their time of production. It remains unknown whether they were made in their colors intentionally, or haphazardly. I suspect the latter, probably because the factory that made them was making other things of glass that needed the specific colors. Incidentally, I have checked several of the purples and they do fluoresce under a black light in a way that indicates the presence of manganese. Interestingly, many of the violet-cobalts do as well.

5. They are being offered by a wide number of sellers. If they were all coming from the same person, it would be disturbing... it would be hard to explain why so many would come from one source and no one else, if they were being removed from actual use locations. This is especially true

HISTORIAN CHAIR



After the National in Coralville, Jen Whitlock volunteered to take some of the NIA photo albums holding early photographs and transfer the material to archival albums. At the Springfield Mid-Ohio show in November, I got the new books back and had the pleasure of showing them to some of the Board members. This work will go a long way toward preserving this material well into the future.

The photographs in the new book are mounted with acid free glue on acid free paper. A plastic sheet

protects each page. Additional pages can be added to the album as needed.

Not all problems with the albums were solved and only four years worth of albums have been worked on so far. Some material in the original albums was glued to pages and the material would have been damaged if an attempt was made to remove the glue and acidic paper from the photograph. Mounting the material on acid free paper will help slow degradation, however.

A second problem relates to the size of the album. Some material in the album consisted of newspaper articles. These were folded and placed in a pocket in the old albums. The new albums, although they have larger pages, still do not have pages large enough to allow the articles to be unfolded. At this point, they are loosely stored on archival paper inserted into plastic pockets. In the future, larger albums will be

purchased for this material.

A third issue is that everything in the old album was moved to the new one. Some of the material moved consisted of labels that probably aren't needed in the new album.

A final issue is that photographs in the albums need to be identified. This will require additional work. Ideally, eventually all the photographs will be scanned and placed on the NIA web site.

It cost about \$100 per album to make the transfer. Besides the NIA albums, there are also numerous albums donated to the NIA archives that were created by Kevin Lawless and eventually became the property of the NIA after his death. These albums have photographs attached to 'magnetic' strips of glue with a plastic cover.

**Rick Soller, NIA #2958
Historian**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



It has been a great experience serving as your NIA Board Secretary, but next year will be the first time the membership elects a Secretary according to our new NIA bylaws.

As Secretary I have benefitted from: 1) the opportunity to work with a great bunch of collectors

who happen to also be your board members and committee chairs, and 2) offer my voice and vote on matters that affect our organization and our hobby. The board members are all volunteers and from my observations have the best interests of the hobby at heart. They deserve your continuing support.

It has been a positive experience for me and one I would recommend to you if you thought about serving the hobby through an NIA office. If you have any questions about the Secretary position or what it is like to serve on the NIA board, feel free to contact me any evening (Pacific Standard Time) or weekend.

One prerequisite is that you have to attend all of the Nationals during your term of office, taking and writing up both the board and general session meeting minutes. I understand the extra financial burden this may pose on you, but some relief is in sight. According to my tax accountant, the re-incorporation of the NIA into a 501c charitable organization means that personal National Convention expenses, such as travel, hotel, meals, directly related to board work will be a tax deductible charitable expense. You, of course, will want to check with your own accountant on such a tax question.

**Colin Jung, NIA #7055
Executive Secretary**

PROMOTIONS CHAIR



Sharing

It is Monday morning and as I write, I am still feeling the effects of the three-day Springfield Show. I would guess much of the commentary this issue will revolve around that great annual insulator event set in Springfield, Ohio. As I thought about the topic or theme for this article, the subject of **Sharing** immediately came to the forefront. SHARING is paramount in importance in promotion of our hobby.

SHARED EVENT and EXPERIENCE

Most all of us consider this a HOBBY; an avocation; something that provides pleasure and relaxation. The Mid-Ohio (Springfield Show) show has been a part of my life dating back to the days of London, Ohio. Those were days of infancy when we were not sure we would fill the meeting hall. Since then Springfield is the first thing to go on my calendar each year. It is without a doubt something to live for and look forward to. When a day, a week or even a month is not going exactly as planned, our hobby is a release of that stress, and unfortunately, many of us probably need those stress relievers in these economic times. Springfield grew through the SHARED experiences and word of mouth promotion of collectors.

SHARED TIME

I hope each reader keeps their hobby in per-

spective and appreciates all that it returns to them. The **SHARED TIME** with "insulator friends" has always been a most rewarding experiences for me. We come together as a large family even though we come from all walks of life. Our hobby, just like our vocation, help define us.

SHARED INFORMATION

As a frequent displayer at Springfield, I feel very fortunate to have won the most educational award this year. There were, without doubt, several displays that were of "National Convention" quality. I was honored to be selected. I would not have wanted to be a judge. It is difficult to express the reward that I get from doing a display. I love the research and the educational aspect. I believe most displayers share this aspect of the hobby. This year so many collectors responded when I asked for information, guidance and if they might have any examples that I could add to the display. Everyone was most generous and I want to thank them all ... it speaks volumes about the people in this hobby and their willingness to **SHARE** of their knowledge and experiences.

SHARING is a major component in this hobby and I encourage people to continue to **SHARE** knowledge, their possessions and their time. Do not fear that you do not know enough or have not been in the hobby long enough. I unfortunately hear that with some frequency. **Everyone has knowledge and experiences to SHARE! Step outside your comfort zone and experience the rewards of SHARING with fellow collectors.** Those contributions build our hobby and increase exposure.

SHARED FRIENDSHIP

This year's Springfield Show was very special for me. The top of my list was the experience of meeting a little girl from Tennessee, Carrie Becher. She reminded me so much of my granddaughter, who is the love of my life. Carrie approached me on Saturday with Mom by her side, somewhat reserve as she approached, she asked if she could have an insulator pin. I was

ecstatic that this youngster (4th grader) was interested in the same thing a 59 year old collects. I gladly gave her a pin and quickly added a pony, not knowing if she was starting a collection or already had one. I had the opportunity to briefly speak with her, her sister and mother later in the day. When Sunday rolled around, little did I know that Carrie and I would once again have a **SHARED EXPERIENCE** when she drew my number in the raffle. I hope she will not forget the experience, as I know I will not. I was privileged to meet her and her family and create a bond with some new "insulator friends," who I hope to see again at future shows.

Moral

SHARE your time to promote the good in this hobby;

SHARE your knowledge ... you might be surprised; **SHARE** your friendship with another collector; be a mentor; **SHARE** your collection with others, who may not even be collectors; and the rewards come back many times over in new relationships created along the way.

Springfield Community Display - A New Tradition

To that end, let me close with the good news that through the great work of Rick Jones and Steve Blair, we now have two beautiful backlit cases built by Brian Riecker. Each year Springfield can now feature a community display. A new theme will be selected each year and collectors attending will be able to bring a piece of their collection to **SHARE**. We used to be hamstrung because of inadequate means to display the glass or porcelain pieces. Steve Blair will be looking for ideas for themes and will announce the 2010 theme so everyone can start to plan for next years' community display.

It was great to see all my many insulator family at Springfield. I am off to buy my 2010 calendar and **SHARE** my next display idea with my wife who allows me to **SHARE** the garage while I build it. LOL.

Jim White, NIA #1127
Promotions

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Membership Application/Renewal Form

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

**Donald R. Briel
NIA Membership Director
P. O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
don.briel@comcast.net**

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 Legibly

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** _____

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following format **Paper** _____ **Electronic** _____
 (Check only one choice) (An E-Mail address is required for electronic)

Additional Family Members Residing in the Same Household

Name _____ **NIA # (if renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

NIA PROMOTIONAL ITEMS



Holiday Gifts for 2009

Not sure what gift to give or
what to ask for..... ?

All NEW stock of "Big Thunder" bags,
Sweatshirts, Henley's, T-shirts now in!!

Take a look at some other ideas:

- Embroidered Polo/Golf Shirts (men's and ladies sizes available)
- Embroidered Denim Long & Short Sleeved Shirts (blue or natural)
 - NEW!! Embroidered Button Front Cotton Blend Shirts (brown, red, royal blue, white or taupe)
- NEW!! Henley Style T-shirts (3 button placket in steel gray or black)
 - Embroidered T-shirts; some with pockets; many colors available
 - Screen Printed T-shirts (small logo on front, large logo on back)
- Embroidered Sweatshirts – crew neck or zippered front/pouch pocket (Hunter Green, Cardinal Red, Ash Gray)
 - Embroidered Caps (Navy & Stone or Green & Khaki)
 - Coffee Mugs
 - Embroidered Patches
 - Foam Drink Koozies (green, blue or red)
- NIA Engraved Name Badges and Local Insulator Club Bars

Please visit the NIA website: WWW.NIA.ORG/products for product photos & a printable order form, or go to the last page of this Drip Points issue.

Please give me a call to discuss your order details
@ 512-255-2006.



Carolyn Berry
Product Marketing Committee
NIA #4336

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!



Winter 2009

www.nia.org/products

Men's Golf / Polo Shirts or Button-front Sport Shirt **Price** **Quantity** **Total**

Color Choice: _____

Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo; some with pockets

(Size chart on back) (*note: pockets, \$3.00 extra) \$38.00 _____ _____



Ladies' Polo/Golf style shirts -

Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo (no pockets)

(Size chart on back) Color choice: _____ \$38.00 _____ _____

Button Front Shirts - S/Sleeve only! S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$32.00 _____ _____

Denim Shirt - (*ladies order comparable men's size, see chart)

Nicely weighted denim, pre-shrunk cotton-- stonewash blue or natural; left-side pocket

Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ \$35.00 _____ _____

*S/Sleeve ___ *L/Sleeve ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ \$38.00 _____ _____



T-Shirts - Hanes Heavyweight - 6.1 oz. cotton - Pre-shrunk

Screen-printed logo (front & back) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) _____ _____

2X ___ (\$22) _____ _____

Colors: Stonewash Green, Stonewash Med. Blue, Pebble (sand), Lt. Steel Gray

NEW! Henley style S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ (\$28) _____ _____

Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details)

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$20) _____ _____

(*note: pockets, \$2.00 additional on all sizes) 2X ___ (\$22) _____ _____



Colors: Sand, Golden Yellow, Ecru, Ash Gray, White, Royal, Red, Burgundy, Lt. Blue, Lt. Steel Gray, Stonewash Green (Henley's currently only in Lt. Steel Gray and Black!)

Crewneck Sweatshirts - Heavy weight - 100 % Cotton/polyester blend - Pre-shrunk

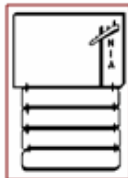
Colors: NEW! Hunter Green, Cardinal Red, Lt. Steel Gray, Steel Gray - **Embroidered logo**

M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$25) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$30) _____ _____



Hooded Sweatshirt w/ full front zipper/muff pocket/drawstring hood -embroidered logo-

Color: Lt. Steel Gray M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$35) 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$40) _____ _____



Embroidered Cap - low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)

Circle color choice: Stone/Navy bill, Khaki/ Green bill, or all Denim _____ _____

13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etched NIA Logo \$2.00 _____ _____

Ceramic Mug - 10 oz. white mug with logo \$7.00 _____ _____

Patch - embroidered logo / red embroidered edge \$4.00 _____ _____

Koozie™ - The original beverage Koozie™ fits any standard beer/ soda can/ 12 oz. water bottle !!

Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue ___ red ___ green ___ \$1.50 _____ _____

NIA Hat/Lapel Pin - enamel tack pin with NIA logo \$2.00 _____ _____

NIA Decal - for inside car window \$0.50 _____ _____

NIA Name Badge - engraved; beveled edges (fill in form on page 2)

NEW OPTION: Pin back (free) OR Magnetic back (add \$1.00) \$13.00 _____ _____

Badge Bar - (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.00 _____ _____

NEW "Big Thunder" Tote bag - sturdy tote w/ NIA logo \$15.00 _____ _____

NOTE:
All sizes, styles & colors of shirts are available by special order



Subtotal _____
U.S. Postage (see back) _____
Total Enclosed _____

Adult/Men's Size Chart:

S (32-34) M (36-38) L (40-42)
XL (44-46) 2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

***Ladies Size Chart:**

S (28-30) M (32-34) L (36-38) XL (40-42)

***Ladies order comparable adult/men's size for most shirts, unless specifically noted as a ladies shirt**

****U.S. Postage: \$6.00 for the first item & \$1.45 for each additional item ordered. Postage for Patches, Decals is \$0.45. Pins or Name Badges/Bars are \$0.85 per item. ***for non-US postage, AK & HI, or, for an exact postage quote, please contact me.***

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:

National Insulator Association or NIA

Order / Shipping Information

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

Name Badge Engraving Information *(current NIA member) Circle back style (pins are free)!!*

Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
Name _____ NIA# _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet

Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____

Thanks for your support of the NIA!

Contact Information:

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