

# Drip Points

<http://www.nia.org>

Quarterly Magazine of the National Insulator Association

Volume 42 • No. 2 • Winter 2014





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### On the cover:

CD 134 Diamond P / Pennycuick insulators, Community display at the 2014 44th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show

Photos by: Shaun Kotlarsky



### Do you want to keep Drip Points full color?

You or your club can sponsor the color printing! For more information contact Don Briel or Lou Hall:

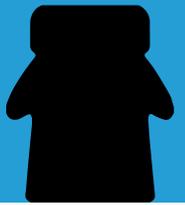
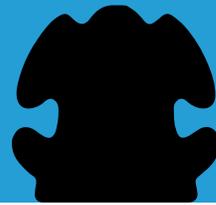
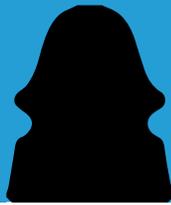
President | **Don Briel** NIA# 7218  
[President@nia.org](mailto:President@nia.org) or (435) 753-5786

First Past President | **Lou Hall** NIA# 7185  
[1stpastpres@nia.org](mailto:1stpastpres@nia.org) or (559) 435-1740

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I am still unwinding from what I consider the best “Springfield” Insulator show ever! I say that for several reasons. I was excited to be able to get some really cool Hemingray Insulators at the show, including some stuff I didn’t know existed.

Keep the sending in your stores about hunts, finds or research project. They are really enjoyed by all.

But getting cool insulators is not the only thing that makes a show good. I met many readers of Drip Points magazine, old friends, and some new friends. That's a big part of the hobby too!

*Shaun Kotlarsky*

I also met many people I only knew from Facebook; social media is definitely helping the hobby grow. There is a thriving community on Facebook for insulator collectors. I think we need to continue to promote the hobby on social media sites, as this is where future collectors are looking for information on insulators.



It was sad to not see some of the people that were mentors to me in the early years. Such as Steve Blair, Jim Crandall, and Chuck Dittmar.

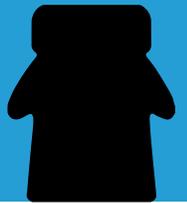
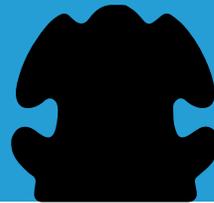
The first insulator show I went to in 1991 was the Huron Vally bottle and insulator show. Back then it was mostly insulators. That is where I met Chuck. He had a second table of mostly common but cool insulators. He said to me “Take the whole table for \$15” needless to say that was the moment I got hooked on insulators! It is things like this that make the shows and people in the hobby great!



Thanks to everyone that brought Insulators for me to photograph at the show. I will be adding them to my websites over the soon to be cold winter here in Michigan.

Thanks to Doug Rusher for the amazing Article he did on the Cochran bells. It is the most complete article ever written on the subject! Doug has some more amazing articles in the works to for us all to enjoy.





This has been a busy year for Jeanne and I and several top notch insulator shows have been a part of it. I find a lot of joy in collecting insulators, but associating with the fine people in this hobby has to be the thing that gives me the most enjoyment. Only through attendance at shows, whether large or small, can one truly appreciate all this hobby has to offer. Jeanne doesn't collect insulators but she now gets excited each time a show is coming up. It's her chance to get away to visit with the friends she has made and make new friends. I encourage you to find a show near you, become an active participant, and partake of the much enjoyment to be found. I thank the many dedicated people that make personal sacrifices to host the many shows we have available to choose from.

As of this writing, the NIA has not yet received an official bid for the 2016 Eastern National show and convention. November 1st was when preliminary proposals should have been submitted, but none were received. If a suitable proposal is not received by March 1st of next year (only 3 months away) the board may elect to solicit proposals from another region for 2016. We have many collectors and several clubs in the Eastern region. Please take a hard look at what you can do to host a 2016 National in your region.

Also, January 1st is the deadline for submitting a preliminary proposal for a Regional show. Members in all regions should give consideration to hosting a regional show as well.

As I pointed out in my last Drip Points article, we will have two board positions up for election next year, Central Region Vice President and Treasurer. February 1st is the deadline for nominations to be submitted, including self-nominations. Matt Grayson is the Chair of the Nominating Committee and is the person nominations should be submitted to. Please review his article in this issue of Drip Points.

While I am well pleased with the candidates currently serving in those offices and hope they will continue, it is your organization and you are invited to take part in the leadership. I often hear complaints about the NIA leadership being the "Good Ole Boys Club". If you feel that way, now is your chance to do something about it.

The NIA will soon have an opening for a new Development Advisor. This is a position currently being filled by Rick Jones who is about to be consumed in his new endeavor of opening a retail art store. Please take a look at Rick's article in this issue of Drip Points and see what talents that role requires. If you feel you have the skills and are willing to serve the organization or know another NIA member with the skills, please let me know. My sincere thanks go out to Rick for his service to date and I wish him well in his new endeavor.

I wish all the members of the NIA a Merry Christmas and a Joyous Holiday Season!

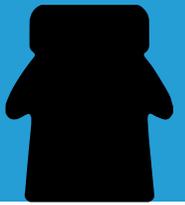
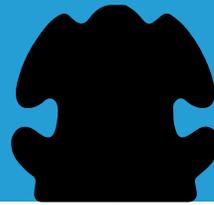
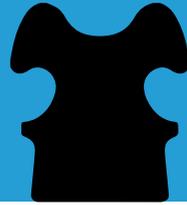
*Don Briel*

## SWAINSON'S HAWK ON TELEPHONE POLE



**Dan LaShelle** from Topeka, KS sent in these awesome photos of a Swainson's hawk sitting on an old pole.

Thanks to Dan for sharing these photos with us! Fantastic sight to see for sure.



This is my first report as the new NIA Western Region VP and I would like to begin by thanking Dan Gauron for a job well done. He is one of those great guys in the hobby that is always fun to talk to. I would also like to congratulate Don Briel for taking on the job of NIA President. I have known Don for some time and he is a super person that really cares about making the NIA the best that it can possibly be.

I missed the deadline for the Fall Newsletter and others have commented on the NIA National at Farmington to a great extent. I would like to also thanks Tommy and add that he has an amazing collector's house. I am still not sure about those hornets nests scattered around!

The Big Sky Insulator Show that Doug Rusher, Justin Martin, my wonderful wife Peggy, and myself put on the last weekend before Labor Day was a great success. The only situation was that the "Big Sky" turned into the big gray rainy sky all day long Saturday so we were indoors this year. Some great pieces changed hands and it seemed like everyone had a great time.

There is still time to get to a local show this Fall in some areas and I highly recommend it if you are able to go. These small shows are an excellent chance to meet and chat with your fellow collectors. I was not able to make the Springfield Show this year but from all reports it was another huge success.

In 2015 I plan to make as many shows as possible including Yuma in February and Seattle when scheduled. The 2015 National in Sandwich, Illinois is shaping up to be another super National Show. If you can make a National Show you will be hooked on the insulator experience.

I hope you have a great Holiday season and that one "Crown Jewel" that you have been looking for ends up under your Christmas Tree.

As the new Western Region VP, I am available to hear any thoughts or concerns you may have. Please feel free to call, email, or pull up a stump behind my table at a show to talk insulators and life.

*Ron Yuhas*

**NIA EVENT ADVISORY PANEL**

The NIA bid process is still open for the 2016 NIA Eastern National. Several different people have discussed it, but we are still looking for bids. If you have any questions, feel free to contact anyone on the Event Advisory Panel. If you have interest in hosting a NIA Sponsored Regional show or have questions about putting on a show in general, feel free to contact us. We are here to assist you in the different steps of hosting a show, from finding a site, to submitting a bid (if necessary).

- Eastern Region..... Dario DiMare.....[dario@dariodesigns.com](mailto:dario@dariodesigns.com)
- Central Region..... Bob Berry.....[pyrex553@aol.com](mailto:pyrex553@aol.com)
- Western Region..... Dwayne Anthony.....[insulators@open-wire.com](mailto:insulators@open-wire.com)
- First Past President..... Lou Hall.....[louhall@pacbell.net](mailto:louhall@pacbell.net)
- Panel Chairman..... Darryl Wagner.....[dwi@blitz-it.net](mailto:dwi@blitz-it.net)

Shows are a way to contribute to the hobby and generate new interest for potential collectors. It is a way for all collectors to contribute and participate. Get involved, you will have a GREAT TIME!

Regards.....Darryl Wagner, NIA Event Advisory Panel Chairman





Here we are again at the end of the year already. Seems like the summer went too fast. Did manage to go on a couple of hunts.

One trip, my wife and I stumbled on to some Hemingray 42's in what I would call Kelly Green. Out of two dozen only one ended up having a internal crack behind the front embossing. Looks good on the outside display. Also found a half-dozen Standard CD145 Beehives with the small Letter " o " in the H.G.Co. front skirt embossing and full of fizzy bubbles. After a good bath a couple of them are pretty jaded color from all the fizz in the glass. On the second hunt, pulled down a CD151 H.G.CO. Smooth Base in index number [170] in Aqua. Did not realize this until contacting Don Briel and he pointed it out to me in the Price Guide. Thanks Don for the informational help.

Made it to Springfield for the second time and want to say a Big "Thank You" to Lois and Curt for their unbeatable hospitality. Great time seeing and visiting with fellow collectors that you see only once a year. Words can not explain well enough

the outrageous community display of one of a kind Diamond P's. Once in a lifetime chance to see them all together in one display. Thank You to all the collectors that were involved. Awe striking educational displays, great food at the banquet and managed to bring home a couple jewels for the collection. Included a photo of one of them with this article.

The 2015 NIA National Show will be in Sandwich, IL west of Chicago, the Central Region VP position is up for re-election and I will not be seeking a second term. I am going to step down. Been an interesting last three years holding the position on the NIA Board and want to say

"Thank You" to all that supported me. If interested in taking the position contact me or NIA President Don Briel. Matt Grayson is Senior VP and he can be reached on the NIA Web site.

May you all have a Safe and Peaceful Holiday Season & Happy Collecting !

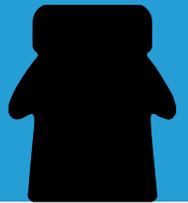
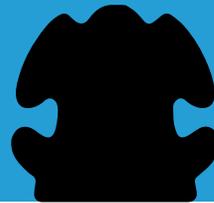
*Bear Spitler*



## END OF AN ERA



Any plans for a 50th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show anniversary celebration at the old Quonset hut location on the Madison County Fairgrounds in London have literally been bulldozed into oblivion. The original home of the Mid-Ohio Show became a victim of obsolescence and the wrecking ball in February, 2014. The original Mid-Ohio Show began at this location in the Fall of 1971, but moved to the current location on the Clark County Fairgrounds in Springfield during the 1990s.



It has been a few days since my return from the Mid Ohio show, my thanks to Curt Boster and Lois Blair for another great show. I was able to add a few pieces to my collection. My goal has been to add one piece to my collection per show, so this was a particularly good show for me, and from all the comments I heard for most everyone else as well. I was not at all surprised when I learned the show was sold out, but I was intrigued to see tables filled by people that did not have a table at the show before. As we all know, this has been a sad year for the collecting community, with a number of well known collectors passing and quite a few others ill, many long time table holders were not present. I am sure these individuals would have been pleased to see their tables filled confirming the solid continuity of this long running show. It was equally exciting to see a number of new and younger faces at the show.

As many of you are aware, Elton Gish is in the process of updating the porcelain guidebook with photographs. There are a number of elusive U numbers that will be eliminated from the book if a specimen is not found to photograph. If you see a request from Elton on ICON or elsewhere for a particular style and think you have one in your collection, please contact him. It is important for the entire collecting community that the book is as complete as possible. I think everyone (including myself) will be pleased by the improved, simplified guide, photographs will make it quite a bit easier to identify what is in your collection.

I would also like to remind everyone that the scholarship fund can use more donations. This is one of

the most important functions of our organization, education. Remember, if anyone you know is going on to higher education this coming year, check out the scholarship information on the NIA webpage. We all know how expensive schooling is and every little bit helps. If we can help some one from the insulator collecting community, so much the better!

I would like to say thanks to Rick Jones and Bernie Warren who both announced their retirement attending shows. Good luck to both, their knowledge and good humor will be missed, not to mention all those great insulators on their tables.

There was an outstanding assortment of shows in the east this season, I attended a few, but not enough. If I was able, I would attend every show I could. If all goes well, I might have a January escape to warm weather, I might even turn up at a show in Maitland, Florida. Who knows? I might even see you there.

All the best holiday wishes and happy collecting!

*Matt Grayson*

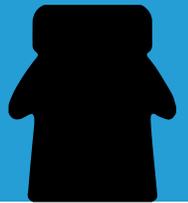
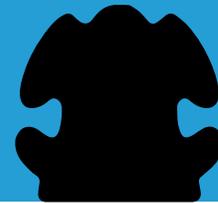


**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS.**

**Treasurer and Central Vice President.**

Nominees should be forwarded to, Matt Grayson, Eastern Vice President, at [easternvp@nia.org](mailto:easternvp@nia.org).

**Deadline is January 27th 2015**



Greetings to All,  
In the last issue of Drip Points I commented on the wonderful National we had just experienced in Farmington. I spoke on the two great benefits of going to a show. One is the obvious, insulators, the other... the relationships that we make with fellow hobbyist.

I would like to share something that happened to me at the National that will affirm these two critical elements of this hobby. While at the National I sat down to talk to a good friend, Rick Jones. Rick and I only see each other once or twice a year. Usually at the National or the Mid-Ohio show. We were just catching up on what had been going on since we last saw each other when his eyes grew wide and he said... let me tell you a story! Rick stated that he had received a call a few weeks before the National from a fellow hobbyist, John, who lived in the New England states. John had received a call from a contractor who lived in the Cincinnati area. He had been working on the roof of an old building and removed three large insulators. The contractor wanted to know what they were and their value. John suggest that someone living nearer to him needed to deal with him. John called Rick and told him of his conversation with the contractor. Rick called the contractor the next day and made arrangements to see the insulators. As you can guess, he had three CD 317's. Two were perfect and one had a small flake. Rick stated that he showed the contractor what their value was in the price guide and made the gentleman an offer to purchase all three. Rick went home with all of them. He then called John and advised him that he had purchased the insulators and offered John an opportunity to buy one. John accepted. I asked Rick what he had done with the other two. He said he was keeping one and guessed he would take the other one to Mid-Ohio to sell in November. I said, I have a better idea, why don't you just sell it to me! Rick gave me a price and I said I'll take it... sight unseen. Rick made the comment that he thought I would like it. I wrote him a check and told him to send it to me after he got home.

About two weeks after the National, Rick sent me an email and asked if I was ready for him to send the insulator. To be honest I had forgotten to let him know that my wife and I had returned from our visit to the western states, but I answered and said send it on. A few days later I received the box. Boy was I surprised. What an insulator! It had been gently washed; however, it still had paint specks and soot on it. It was a light color and full of bubbles and in perfect condition! Talking about pleased... I was ecstatic!

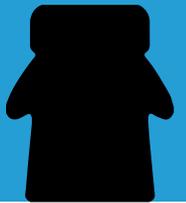
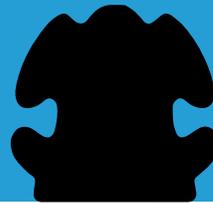
The moral of the story... it was by happenstance that I acquired this insulator. The insulator wasn't at the show. Because Rick and I took some time to visit, I was made aware of its availability. That only happens by meeting people and creating relationships. You can't do that very well unless you go to a show and make an effort to meet the people. So, get up and get out to a show. You will develop some of the best friends that you have on this earth and you just may be surprised by the next insulator you secure! Thanks Rick Jones. You're a Prince!

Finally, by the time you receive this edition of Drip Points we will be into the Holiday Season. My Prayer is that each of you may have a Prosperous Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

All My Best to Each of You,

*Steve Roberts*





NIA business in 2014 is moving along well with current membership at 1720 members.

2012 was our previous highest membership year with 1769 members by the end of that year. There will be a few added before the end of 2014.

Just a reminder: Any NIA change requests for the directory listing in CJOW that were received after October 15, 2014, will be in next year's CJOW directory. If you do have address changes for any other business needs please continue to send them in. We always need current information.

If you change either your physical or e-mail address, this can be updated through the <http://www.nia.org> website, snail mail or e-mail me at: [membership@nia.org](mailto:membership@nia.org). Also, if you need to change the delivery method of your Drip Points, same means.

As a side note, here are the NIA membership rates:

- Regular members (including families) ..... \$22.00
- Junior members ..... \$5.00
- Club memberships ..... \$50.00

Insulator Clubs: Please note that you must have current NIA memberships to participate in NIA benefits such as insurance through the NIA for shows. Now is the time for clubs to renew their memberships as well as individuals and families.

If you haven't renewed yet and or are not paid up through 2015, your membership will expire at the end of December. Second reminder notices will go out in mid-January. I would like to thank all of you who have renewed to date. Renewing early helps keep costs down.

A very special thank you goes out to the many members that have included an added donation with their dues. This is so appreciated and on behalf of our organization I would like to acknowledge you all.

*Vickie McConnell*

## THREE THOMAS M-2362S FOUND!

**Heath Rankin** of Lisbon, OH made an exciting discovery of three rare Thomas made M-2362s. Prior to this discovery there was only one known example of this style.

Heath found 1 damaged one marked "THOMAS", one in good condition marked "THOMAS" and "2021". The one marked with "2021" is the first known one to be marked with the catalog number. Markings on this one look hand written. Third was a damaged no name unit.

The M-2362 was cataloged by Thomas in their 1912 and 1917 catalogs but was discontinued by the 1920 catalog. It was listed for 25,000 volts.

These were used on an interurban railway in Ohio. Perfect discovery for Heath, as he is a Thomas collector!





National Insulator Association

2014 - 2015 financial statement

3 months ending Sept. 30, 2014

	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$	<u>50,710</u>
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>		\$	12,848
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		\$	<u>(10,528)</u>
	<b>Increase/Decrease</b>	\$	2,320
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$	<u>53,030</u>

Hello everyone.

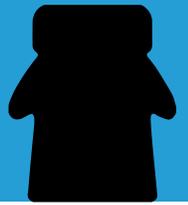
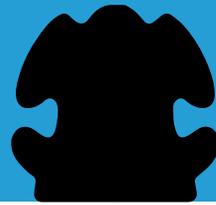
WOW, what an INCREDIBLE show we had in Farmington, huh??

THANK YOU Tommy for your hard work, HOSPITALITY and of course, the expense of hosting such a huge event for people to enjoy !!!

We are off to a GREAT start this year .

Usually, our first quarter is down a little because of printing expenses and insurance premiums that have to be paid, and our membership income hasn't yet begun.

BUT, thanks to Lou Hall, Mike Doyle and ALL the bidders of the Selby collection at the National, we started out with \$6,702 of income the first week!!!!



Seeing as this is my first article in Drip Points, I should probably introduce myself! My name is Christian Willis, and I started collecting about 25 years ago at the age of 10. Since I became an NIA member in 1992, it was always a desire of mine to help out the NIA. A couple of years ago, then-president Lou Hall asked me to assist Shaun Kotlarsky with managing the ads in Drip Points, which I was happy to do. Then, earlier this year, our current president Don Briel asked if I wanted to be appointed to the position as Information Director for 2014-2016. Absolutely!

The position of Information Director has evolved since its creation, and is still in the process of being developed. Primarily, my role is just as the title implies: provide information about our hobby, through advertisement or other publicity. The Board of Directors has given a very generous budget towards advertising, and I plan to leverage that to help spread the word about our hobby. I have some other responsibilities as well that I will expand upon in a future issue.

Now, I'd like to share a story about a new collector. Earlier this year, I took my 4 year-old son Christian Jr. to the Colorado Springs insulator show. As I showed him around, an older boy approached us and offered my son a CD 152 Hemingray No.40. That brought

the biggest smile to my face! I introduced myself, and learned his name is Francisco Campos, from New Mexico. I found out that he had also decided to collect Hemingray insulators, and uses my web site ([Hemingray.info](http://Hemingray.info)) for reference. Well, that settled it. The next time I saw him, he and his parents were at the Farmington National, with his very own sales table and display! I brought along some Hemingrays for him and pointed out some others around the show hall. He thanked me by offering me anything from his sales table. I picked a hand-made insulator ornament and refrigerator magnet, which is proudly on display in my home.

This is the very same thing that collectors like Jim Barton, Dwayne Anthony, Ron Norton, Bob Stahr, and Bill Heitkotter (and many others) did for me when I was a kid, and I'll never forget it. I know it's been said before, but our younger collectors truly are the future of the hobby. Whether it's being a mentor or giving them an insulator (or both), someday they may turn around and do the very same for the next generation!

Sincerely,

*Christian Willis*

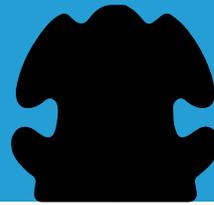
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This will be my last article in Drip Points as Development Advisor (formerly under the title of Philanthropy Advisor). New NIA president, Don Briel, has asked me to write an article regarding the duties and responsibilities of this position since changes upcoming in my life will not allow me enough time to help in this capacity for at least a few years.

This position is an advisory one to the NIA president and board giving them information about following IRS rules on the operations of a 501(c)3 nonprofit, tax exempt organization. This advice may include laws governing tax exemption of cash and property donations to the NIA and any rules by the IRS about how donations, special events, board involvement, conflicts of interest, and many other issues by a nonprofit are handled. This is all to ensure that the nonprofit, tax exempt status is maintained by the orga-

nization and to avoid putting the NIA in jeopardy of legal action or losing that status.

Anyone with experience working in a 501(c)3 organization should be able to offer this advice to the NIA. Of course, ideally, the person would be an attorney with such a specialty, so if anyone knows someone out there who is either a collector or would be willing to provide pro bono advice to the organization, please contact Don at your earliest opportunity. Otherwise, our hope is someone with enough experience and knowledge in the nonprofit world will step forward soon.

*Rick Jones*



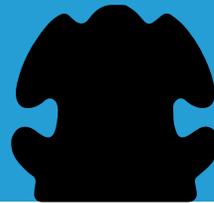
**CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES TO DRIP POINTS!**



I always welcome interesting insulator related articles. It can be anything from a general research paper or to something very specific (Like a CD, M, U or ST Number study). I also want stories about hunts and finds!

If you want to submit an article or have questions about doing an article contact me.

**Shaun Kotlarsky** | Drip Points Editor [publications@nia.org](mailto:publications@nia.org)



Cold and windy in Springfield but lots of hot stuff going on in the show. A hall full of collectors and insulators....what could be better? Saw many good friends and had a great time visiting. Another super show in Springfield.

Our scholarship poster and brochures were on display and prompted some good conversation about the program.

Let's talk for a minute about our program. In case you missed it, last July we awarded two scholarships and both winners are collectors. This is our primary goal.....attract and mentor young collectors. As I looked around the hall in Springfield, I observed an aging group of collectors. Who will replace them if we fail to attract young collectors to the hobby? As collectors we need to challenge ourselves to discover ways to publicize the hobby. What better way than to offer young people monetary assistance with their education? The scholarship offerings on the web are numerous and generous. We must be competitive in our offerings.

We hope to be able to continue our program and possibly increase the amount of the scholarship award. However as we know this will take funds. Can you think of any way to increase our budget? Would your club or any social group consider donating some funds? All donations are tax deductible. This is a wonderful way to recognize a person for outstanding contribution to the hobby. A memorial donation for a collector is so appropriate.

We would like to thank those who have donated to our fund: Bonnie Trueblood, Matt Grayson, Dan Gauron and Jack Riesselman. Every donation brings us closer to another scholarship award.

Our scholarship brochures are available on request. They can be distributed to schools, libraries, social gatherings etc. Please let me know and I will mail you a supply.

*Kay Bryant*



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If you have questions, or live outside the continental USA, please contact me by phone or email.



I would like to thank Ron Yuhas, Justin Martin, Nathan Lamkey, Chris Hedges, Dwayne Anthony, and Jim Harlow for all the help and input on this article. If you have Questions or Comments please contact me at [ddrusher@aol.com](mailto:ddrusher@aol.com)



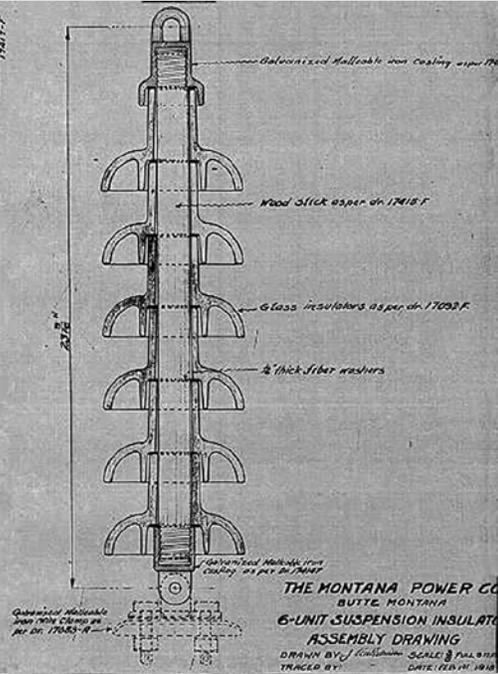
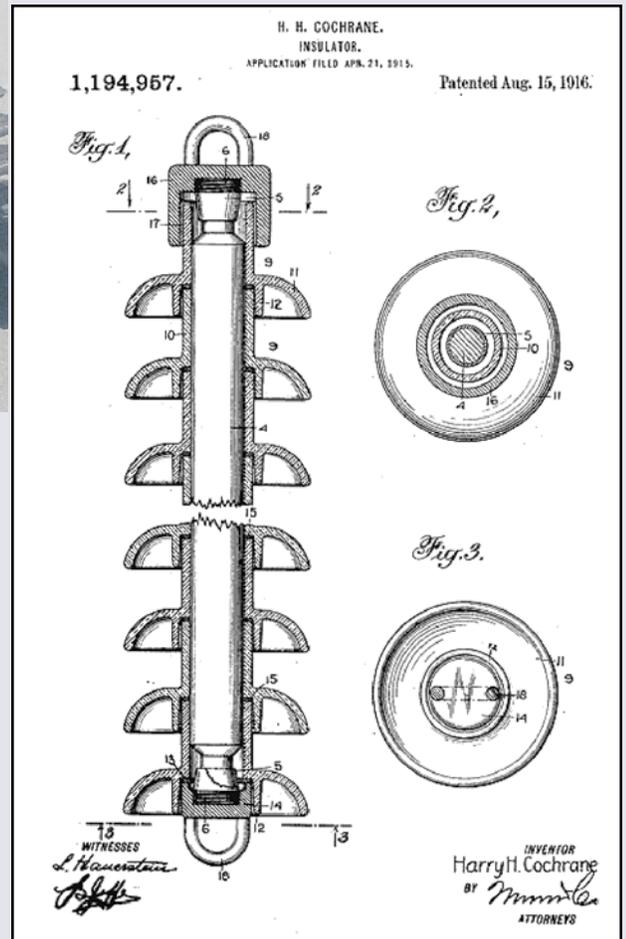
**My Rendition of the last standing pole on the Porphyry Dike Line**

One of the most sought after and unusual insulators from Montana is the Cochrane Suspension Insulator. Living less than 10 miles from the site of the old line it's always been one of my favorites. Ron Yuhas and I have spent many hours hiking the old line, which is now just a past memory. I really wished I would have taken more pictures back in the 70s, especially of the Bertha Substation. You can still find a few pieces of broken purple glass and if you are really lucky, like Nathan Lamkey, maybe an almost complete set of bells. There were 2 lines that used the 6 bell cochranes: on the one fed the Porphyry Dike Mine and started at the Bertha Substation at Corbin/Wicks and ran 13.5 miles up the mountains to the Mine, the other line ran from Granite Creek to Virginia City which was around 3.25 miles long. There have been reports of another line around Conrad Mt but no reported sets of bells have ever shown up from that area. As far as the Strings of Bells, colors vary quite a bit from Clear, these were used in a substation very high up where they would not get direct sunlight (see Pic thanks Justin Martin) to the lighter shades of SCA to light purple. These came from the Porphyry Dike Line which ran through mostly forested mountains, so they did not get as much sunlight. The darker strings came from the Granite Creek Line which was more rolling hills to open country where they got lots of direct sunlight making them dark SCA to a beautiful shade of purple.

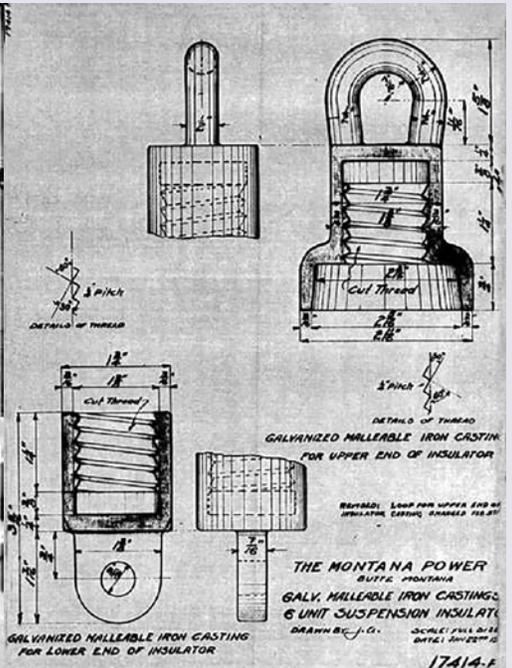
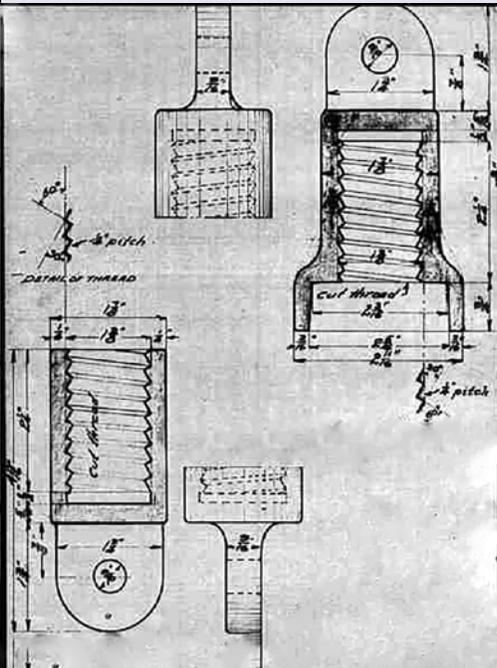
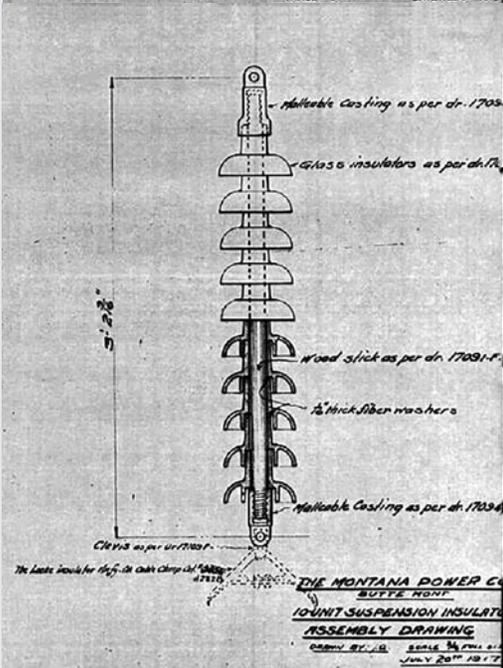


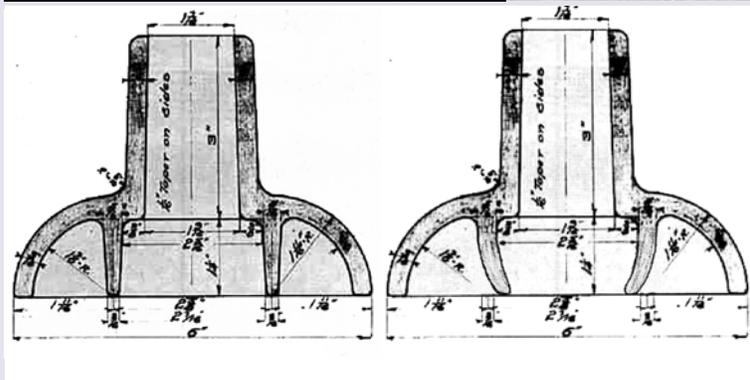
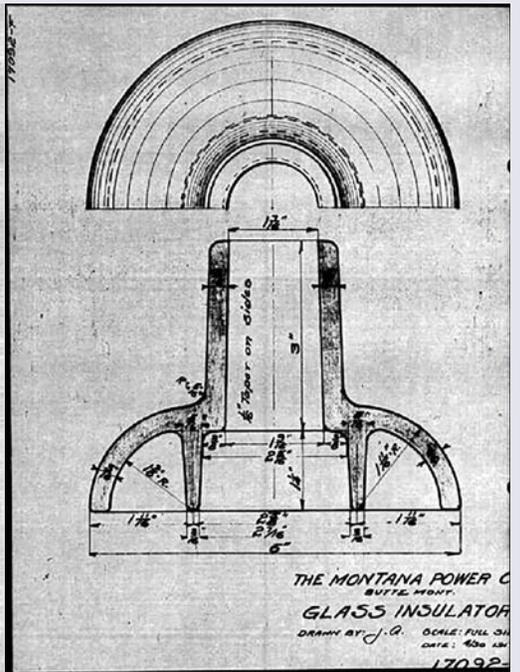
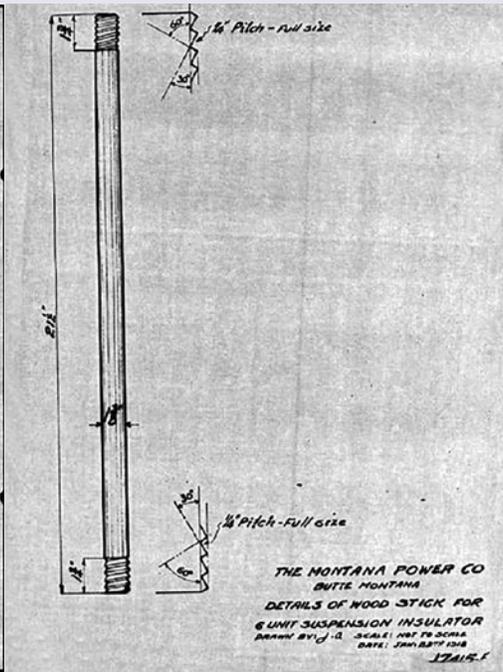
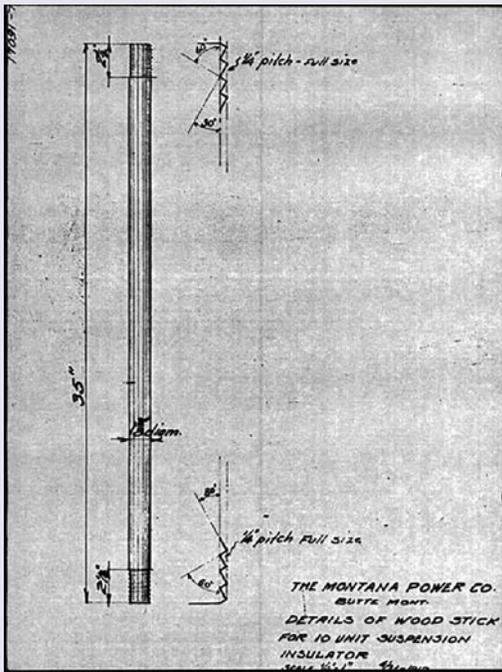


Color Variations in 6 high Suspension Units ID# ST-6001



There are copies of the original Patent drawings with this article showing the details for the 6 bell rack, there were drawings for the same string but with 10 of the smaller bells. We have never found a set of the small 10 bell strings ever in use.





Mold A

Mold B



Mold A

Mold B

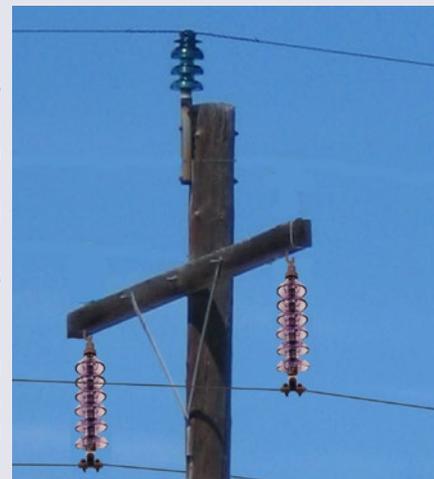
ST-6001 and ST-6001A Bell Mold Types, Note the difference in the inner skirt.

There are 2 different molds for the 6" Bell: one had slightly rounded inner skirt and the other had more of a straight inner skirt. You will find these mixed on the Cochrane strings.



Top: ST-6001A 10 High Unit  
Bottom: ST-6001 6 High Unit

This is a rendition of a Replacement Pole from the Granite Line or Virginia City Tap. It was 3.25 miles long. The average span was 200 feet, the line was constructed with 2 Cochranes and a Muncie in the center phase, however on replacements Hemingray Stackers were used. It carried 50,000 volts, the telephone line ran below and used Hemingray 19 insulators with #9 iron wire for a conductor and were on a 2 ft 6 inch crossarm.



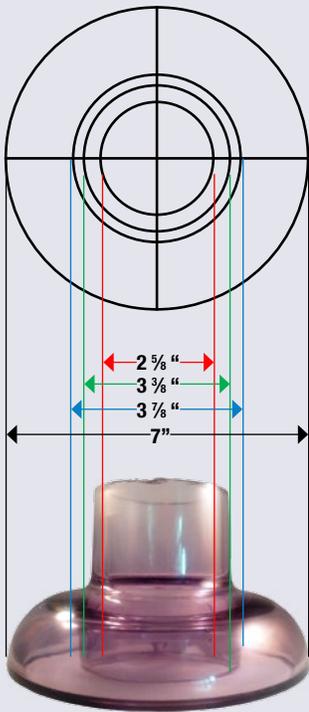
6 Bell Cochrane Shoe



**Most of the pins for the small 10 bell sets were used as guy wire insulators.**

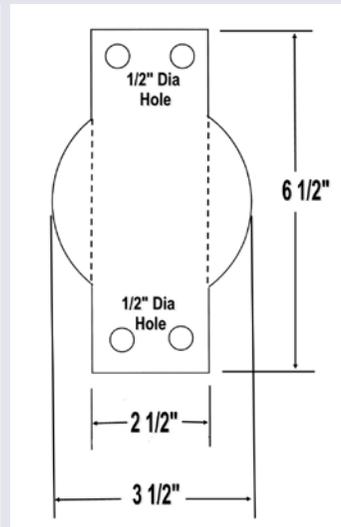
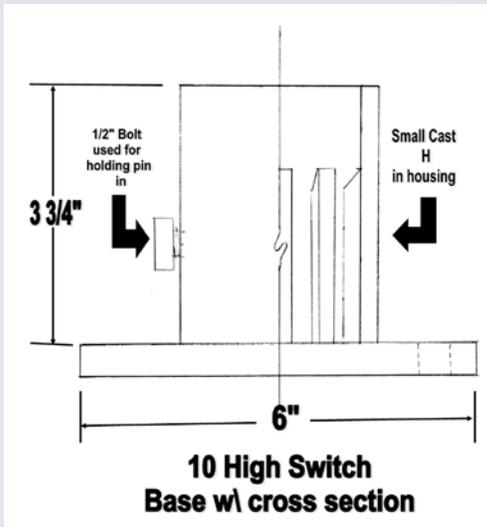
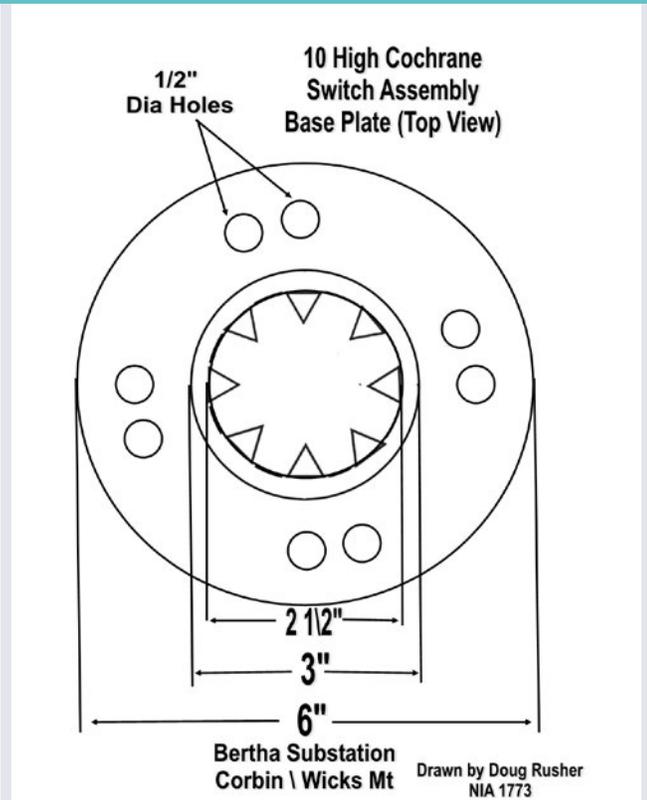
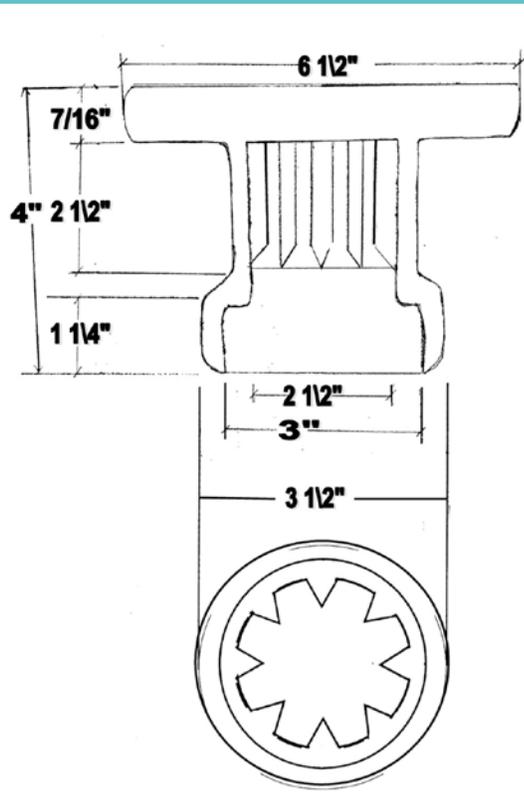
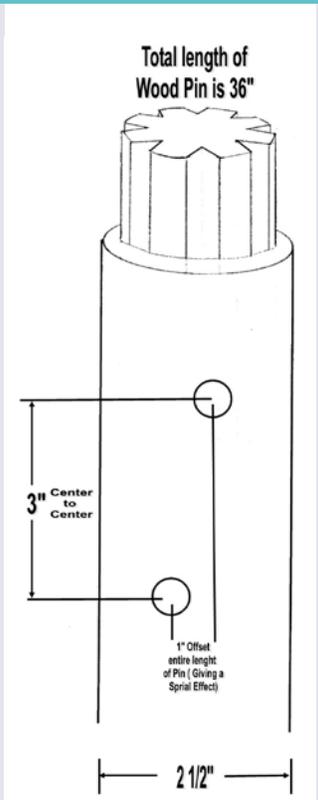
### **The Bertha Substation**

Now for the Ultra Rare large 10 high rack, these were used on the Bertha Switch Tower which there was 9 of them. These bells are quite a bit larger than the smaller diameter suspension style. They used a 2 1/2" diameter Oak wood that was pressure treated with wax. The pin was 36" long which supported the 10 glass bells, the tower was 20 to 24 feet high and none of us ever got pictures of it back in the good old days. So, I put this rendition together to give you a idea what the Bertha looked like. No Drawings have ever been found of the large switch units either. So I have made a set off of my 10 High switch unit for reference.



**Bertha Substation and Switch  
Yard Porphyry Dike Mine Corbin  
/ Wicks MT.**

**SS-6000 In Use at the Bertha Substation  
(Rendition Created By Doug Rusher as no Photos ever Survived)**



### The Mystery Lines



There are 2 different lines that have been reported: the first is the Conrad line where a few loose small (6 string) bells were purchased from a local rancher and a complete set of ST-6001 6 string Bells were purchased from a couple of hunters who found them. More to follow on this line as it gets hunted.

The other Mystery Line is the Childs Power Plant Line that ran from the Childs power plant to Prescott and Jerome AZ. This line had been built in the 1919-1921 era had solid NO. 1 copper wire and had been built with Cochrane insulators all on Areomotor steel towers. I believe the last strings were removed in the early 60s and at that time there was still quite a few still in the air. This was told to a fellow collector by a lineman who used to work for Montana Power then moved to AZ in the early 60s where his first job was to change out all the Cochranes with porcelain.

Jim Harlow has walked and hunted the Childs Line for years and not found any parts or pieces, but has heard the story of the Cochrane section coming off the main line and feeding a mine. So I really hope Jim hits the right spot one of these days, and avoids the Buzztails.

## The Hunts

This is a great article that Nathan "Mr Cochrane" Lamkey wrote a few years back on hunting the Porphyry Dike Line and a great article written By Dwayne Anthony about a great find at a estate sale from 2005.



Nathan's great display he has set up at his home so he can enjoy the Cochrane Line whenever he wants to look at it



### Part I

Here it was April and I was ready to take a trip to Montana to pick up a railroad signal for my collection. I recently became interested in railroad signals. I guess I have always been interested in railroads but when I had the opportunity to purchase a complete US&S Co. Style B lower quadrant semaphore my collecting interests haven't been the same since. Anyways, I had quite the three day weekend planned except for what to do Saturday? Friday I was picking up the signal and Sunday was an opportunity to attend a train show... ah yes, Saturday would be the perfect day for a hunt. Of course I'm not familiar with the area since I had only been to Montana one other time for a weekend and I had no idea where to go insulator hunting. This is where it's great to have friends in the insulator hobby. You get to know people in just about every state. Yep! Good ol' buddy Ron (shifty) Yuhas was free that day to take my mother and I out hunting on the infamous Cochrane line. My mother never passes up an opportunity for a road trip to another state; plus having a double set of eyes hunting on the line is a plus as you will see. For early April the weather wasn't too bad for such a high elevation and we find the turnoff to the hunting spot. We start up a slick muddy road and now I'm kicking myself for not getting the 4WD fixed before this trip. Fortunately Ron was kind enough to give us a ride up to the start of the line. Ron said he had hunted the line many years ago but hadn't been back in quite a while and it was evident in the amount of time it took to locate a line that wasn't the clearcut right-away it once was. We eventually find it and start walking. I'm pretty jazzed to be walking such a famous line that the desirable purple Cochrane suspensions came from. Ron reported finding a complete set under a tree on one of his early hunts with his dad. I have no illusions that I'm going to find a complete set but I was really hoping to at least find some cool hardware. We continue on and find some purple shards to tell us that we are definitely on the right line. From the looks of things it looks like it was pretty cleaned up here either

by the dismantling crew or other hunters. I figure if anything is to be found it will probably be in the steeper section of the line. We continue on when all of a sudden my mom exclaims "look at this!" There in the bush sat a CD 295 as if it was just carefully set there yesterday.

Surprisingly it was in VNM condition after lying on the ground all these years. See! Here is where that extra set of eyes comes in really handy ;-). We continued on the line and the elevation was evident by the snow that was starting to blanket much of the ground making it difficult to really see much. We reached a particular spot where the line became really steep with boulders and rocks and decided to check out the area since there wasn't much snow in this spot. We also lucked out in that it was also an old pole location. We poked around a bit finding broken chunks of Muncies and a few shards of Cochranes but nothing as interesting as the complete Muncie crossarm in very good preserved condition lying in the rocks. I knew that was going to have to go home with me next time I was up that way. I had no desire to try and pack that out in its water-logged condition. We all decided that was enough hiking through the snow. My shoes were starting to get too wet and cold for this fair weather hiker. I retrieved a two pin arm that Ron said probably held a couple of CD 295s and we headed back until next time.

## Part II

Over a year later excitement is building for my weeks vacation to Montana. This vacation is strictly a get out and hunt with an insulator swap thrown in for good measure. My mother and I rolled into the preshow gathering Friday evening for a BS session. Saturday at the Yuhas' was a time for checking out the tables of glass. A good gathering commenced before long and the glass started changing hands. I picked up a nice purple colored 160 Cal and an orange amber Hemingray spool. Apparently I wasn't the only one who had my eye on those two since I got offers to buy them as I was stashing them away. Noon came and the best show food I had eaten in quite some time was served. Nothing like filling up on good food before the big hunt.

After the meal and the goodbyes were said we took off heading for that place I have wanted to get back to for over a year. We headed back to our previous spot up the same road. Of course now that my 4WD was fixed it wasn't needed. The road had been graded and graveled in the bad spot where I couldn't go the last time. We passed the spot where Ron had parked previously and that's when I was glad the 4WD was working. The road turned into a steep deeply rutted Jeep trail with big loose rocks. We climbed a ways and pulled off to find the line. Unfortunately the higher you climb the further away from the line the road goes. I head across the mountain in search of the line not realizing that I criss-crossed it a couple times in my search. It wasn't until I found an under-arm tramp bracket that I realized where it was. Once you are in the cut it's easy to tell but if you are not paying attention you can easily lose it. It's getting late so we find a camping spot for the big hunt the next day.

We are up with the sun and pack last minute extras in our packs and take off. We follow a gated road that leads in the direction of the line and come upon someones summer cabin. No one is around so we pass on by in search of the line. We finally find the line and ascend what is probably the steepest part of the line looking for signs of something good. It isn't until we are halfway up the mountain that we find the first goodies of the day. Lying in the dirt is two of the J bolts used in the crossarms to hang the suspensions from. Wandering around the pole site I spy a metal clamp thing. Picking it up I'm excited to discover one of the Cochrane suspension cable clamps. This is closer to what I'm looking for... now one of my Cochrans will be more complete. We continue on up the hill in search of the next pole site. I just know that somewhere there has got to be a set of the metal caps that held the suspensions together. Unfortunately I was to discover 5-6 of the wood dowels on my hunt with none of the wood in good enough shape to bring back and all minus the caps. Where are the caps? We continue on finding many pieces of purple suspension bells and I grab a few pieces for another project I'm working on. We find a couple more suspension clamps at the next couple of pole sites.

As we get to the top of the mountain we almost stumble into the backyard of another summer home. Sheesh! What is this country coming to? It seems to be getting harder and harder to find remote areas to hunt anymore even in Montana! There are

signs of life at this home so we keep in the trees but the line is becoming harder and harder to follow. We come upon the last pole we were to find at the top of the mountain. We searched in vain on the other side but to no avail. There just was no sign of anything. Talking to Ron afterward he reports that he also had trouble finding the line in that area. He said he had to start from the other end and work his way back this direction. We head back down gathering up our goodies. My pack is now getting noticeably heavier and there is still a ways to go to get back to the truck. Back on the gated road we get closer to the summer cabin when I notice that the skylight has been propped open. Hmm... the no trespassing signs I saw earlier from the other direction where now vivid images in my mind. This called for a change in plans since I had no desire to find out if the occupants were the type to shoot first and ask questions later... you never know in Montana! Plus I did not want to explain the stuff we were carrying. We make a major detour up the mountain away from the cabin and back to the truck. We quickly packed up and got the heck out of Dodge.

We drove back down the mountain to the bottom. I figure it's time to do a little hunting elsewhere since it's just getting too crowded. A large steel trussel of an abandoned RR grade looks like something that needs to be checked out. I find a road that looks like it goes to the top of the hill at one end of the trussel. Climbing up the road my mom notices a subbed pole in some trees. Time for a detour, the trussel can wait! Out across the grassy meadow are some more pole stubs. This looks like a lead that needs to be followed. The line heads down over the hill and into a stand of young trees. There we find another stub pole with some crossarm parts and broken Muncie pieces scattered about. Next to the base of an older tree is a chunk of glass sticking out of the duff. Could it be? Reaching down I pluck it up to discover a light aqua CD 164 Brookfield in very good condition. It was probably tossed there sometime ago and only now that the lower branches on the tree were bare was it visible. No Cochrane but better than mud! We continue on in search of the next pole.

The next site took some doing to find. In fact I ended up skipping a couple of pole sites and had to back track after finding the line again. Nothing much at the next few poles but more broken Muncie parts. The next pole site revealed a nice little crossarm with a CD 160 H.G.Co. with the tie wire still intact. That's a keeper as I carried it down the hill to meet up with a dirt road that came up to the line. It looks like this little gully is frequented by target shooters. Garbage was lying all over that had been shot up. I hike back to the truck and bring it down to the spot with the waiting crossarm. We head off again following the line as it ascends up the mountain. It's easier to follow now since they didn't do as good a job of cleaning up here. Rotten crossarms are at every pole site and the stubs are still standing. This rabbit thought that I couldn't see it hidden next to the crossarm. Continuing on we find nothing until we come upon the site of the Bertha substation. Ron reports that this was the location of some of the Cochrane station post style insulators with the larger sleeves. There are broken pieces of

mud here along with a few other hardware odds and ends. I took the opportunity to liberate a nice looking Muncie pin and an old date nail in the pole stub. The line fades out again as we enter an area that had recently undergone reclamation to help with erosion control. It takes awhile but we finally locate it again quite a distance further and way up on the hillside. I come upon a little used road and find another pole lying there with the crossarm still attached. Wow! Check this out. An original Cochrane corner bracket is still attached to the arm. It can barely be seen on the right half buried in the duff. My mom wants to do some exploring in the area so I make a long trek back to bring the truck around. I try to follow the line back down the hill but it eludes me so I waste no time getting back to the truck. I drive on up the mountain and turn off on the side road and park at the pole site with the bracket. I discovered why it was still there too. One of the nuts was giving me a good workout to get it off. Looking at one of the crossarm braces I notice that it is stenciled Mont. Power Co. Corbin Mont. That will be useful in a future display I thought. After stowing the goodies in the truck I'm looking around when I notice wire hanging in the trees along the road. Upon closer examination I discover that it is some of the original line wire. I was surprised that it wasn't copper but rather a three strand twisted steel. It has since lost its galvanized coating and is all rusty now. I roll up 100 feet of it as big wind gusts come up and it starts raining.

After hunting on the line the past couple days I was ready to get on the road now that the weather was acting up. I was just about ready to pull onto the main gravel road when I wondered out loud if we should hunt the next few pole sites since the

line was getting close to the road. After hemming and hawing a bit the hunting bug bit again and we were off. The wind gusts practically blew us up the small rise when all of a sudden it calmed down as quick as it started. We're now in a small stream gully next to the main road. Cows had recently been in this area so I'm watching where I step. I'm walking some distance ahead of my mom when all of a sudden I catch the glint of purple glass in the downed branches of a tree. I walk over and start yelling "I don't believe it!" "I don't believe it!" My mom comes running up to see what all the commotion is about. There protected from the cows by dead branches is a set of Cochrane bells complete with wood and metal caps! I can hardly believe my good fortune; minutes earlier I was ready to quit the hunt until next year. The bumper hit when I realized I had left my camera back at the truck. Now I had to walk all the way back to get it before I could pull it out and verify the condition. On the way back to the truck I passed a pole site I had glanced at earlier when a piece of rusted metal buried in a slight depression caught my eye. I dig it out and discover another suspension cable clamp with a section of the original line wire still clamped in. Looking at the location where the Cochrane was hiding relative to where the line ran, I believe that it was placed there by someone years ago. If it weren't for the cows eating down the vegetation I probably would not have seen it lying there amongst the dead tree branches. I snap a couple of photos before pulling it out. Although it was missing two bells I was relieved to discover that the rest of them were in good condition. I figured this was a good way to end the hunt. Until next time!

### Part III

Another August rolled around and like a bad habit I was ready to get on the road, take in a show and do some huntin'! After another great Yuhas show and the best show food in Montana we were off for another week of vacation hunting on the Cochrane line, or so I thought. Finding the line after all these years is more difficult than you would think unless you know where to look. The first day was spent trying to find the line. Little did I know that I crossed it twice on foot and four times driving. Fortunately my ace in the hole was just a phone call away... that is when I was in range of cell service. Without Ron's help finding the line would be nearly impossible and I already wasted a day of valuable vacation time!

It's dusk when we arrive back at the meadow where Ron said we should be able to find the line. We setup camp and there is just enough light for me to do a quick search to see where the line is from our camping spot. I locate the first pole stump where Ron said it would be. Looking both directions down the line I'm amazed at how easy it would be to overlook if you didn't know where it was. Nature has done a good job hiding the evidence.

#### Day 1

We are up bright and early the next day and head off to the northwest toward Porphyry Dike. Following the line is somewhat difficult as the section follows along a meadow where hunters frequent. The pole sites were devoid of anything very

interesting other than some small shards of glass and a couple pole date nails. I brought my metal detector this year in hopes of finding any hardware that may have gotten hidden by time. It works great too! I think I dug up every piece of line wire. Bah! We continue on and eventually enter into a forested section. The line is easy to follow now, but still no sign of any line materials. Everything seems to have been cleaned up along this section. We are about to emerge into a logged area when there lying along side the trail was a pole complete with crossarms and hardware. This crossarm has the under arm brackets used when the line was making a turn. I only found three of these on the whole line. I would guess that there were originally approx 6-8 of these brackets judging by the number of angles in the line. Searching around the polesite I discover the bottom end to a Cochrane set. The wood is burnt and it is tied to the guy wire. I still haven't figured that one out. This pole originally had two Muncies, unfortunately the tops of both the Muncie pins were broken off or they would have been keepers. I also notice some broken porcelain suspension pieces. My mom finds the string of four porcelain suspensions in the logged clearing and drags them back. Attached to the bottom disk is a Cochrane wire clamp. This would indicate that some of the Cochranes were replaced as needed with an early (insert here) mud suspension. We continue to follow the line through the logged area. All signs have been pretty much wiped out. Our only guide is the faint line cut on the other side of the clearing. We find nothing else for 10 or so poles until we come out

to a natural open area. There is no doubt about this polesite with all the broken purple glass scattered about. My mom locates the second best find of the day, the bottom hardware of a Cochrane set with the wire clamp still attached. So where are the top ends? I metal detect the area and discover three more wire clamps and the keeper pins that go with them. We come to the top of the ridge and see Porphyry Dike in the distance. We head in the direction we think the line is but it's not to be found, again! It's getting late so we call it a day and head back. We'll just have to save that part for next year

## Day 2

We are up bright and early again and I'm not sure why. It's so cold this morning it would freeze the balls off a brass monkey. I survey the frost covered ground wishing the sun would peak over the trees and warm things up a bit. After a hot breakfast we head southeast this time. This section is pretty well forested and the line is easy to follow. There's not much other than the broken shards of purple glass and big chunks of Muncie and the rotted remains of poles and crossarms. We come to a pole site with many shards of purple glass and a couple of wire clamps. I metal detect the area for any other goodies but nothing is to be found other than the many pieces of iron wire. We continue on to the next pole but it is not to be found anywhere. In fact the next few hours prove futile and the line is nowhere to be found. The decision is made to come from the other end and work back this direction to see if we can find where it went. About half way back to camp we stop and rest at a pole site that looked interesting enough to do some metal detecting. My mother looks around and notices an insulator off the trail in the brush. It turns out to be another Hemingray CD 295 in mint condition! Even with 14 hours of daylight it goes pretty fast when you're having fun. We pack camp and head down to where we left off on our last trip so that we can try and find where we lost the line.

## Day 3

We are up with the sun and the air is warmer here down lower on the line as we ascend the mountain to the access point on the line where we lost it last year. We break over the top where the line comes into an open meadow. I start searching for the line and I practically walk straight to it. I can't believe how I couldn't find it last year. The first few poles don't reveal much but the usual debris of rotted poles and the occasional strand of guy wire and broken glass. What's interesting about this line is they used the same wire for down guys as they did for the primary and used trees as the guy anchors whenever available. The tree's are pretty tall in the line cut making it more difficult to follow but you can see the rotting log piles stacked along the side of the line when it was cleared originally. We reach a part of the line where it starts to descend steeply and there at the next pole site is something I had been looking for on all my hunts on the line. There half buried was a Cochrane cap. Finally! After hunting all these miles of line one finally turns up. This polesite must have been double armed as there were multiple Muncie pins to be salvaged. It also held a "whatsit?" that looked like it could have been a crate for holding an insulator. I later found out it was the inner core of a line cable spool. Continuing down, the line crosses an old long distance telephone

lead. The poles on this lead were cut for 5 crossarms. The line was dismantled and the insulators and hardware were buried in very shallow graves. Unfortunately the only insulators I dug up were Hemingray and Pyrex 128s. The poles and arms were left to rot back into the ground. If the line was accessible someone would be able to salvage a large quantity of good arms. Down at the bottom of the mountain we reach the last pole and there off to the side of the line is a well preserved pole. It was nice to be able to see what the original construction looked like. Searching the area reveals a set of Cochrane end caps. Finally! A complete set of caps. I sweep the metal detector around the area looking for any more goodies until I tire of the incessant beeping from all the bits of rusty line wire. Just by chance I happen to look up and there hung up in the trees are two primary line conductors with two Cochrane clamps attached to each. What luck! Getting them down was another matter that required a little bit of work. Since the majority of the line wire was salvaged I figure this bit here must have been too much work for the linemen so they left it behind. This brings me to my next unanswered question. The two clamps on each line were too close together to have two sets of Cochranes on each side of the pole so what did the bracket look like that would have connected one set of Cochranes to two clamps? Unfortunately I will probably never know.

We cross the stream at the bottom of the canyon and ascend the hill to the first pole site as indicated by all the broken purple glass littering the area. Wish there was some use for all that glass... The previous scavengers were kind enough to leave me another wire clamp. We continue on and break out of the trees and onto a sagebrush covered hillside. There is no line cut to guide us now and looking behind us the trees have grown in such a way that there is no telltale sign that you were even on a line. We ascend the hill in search of the next polesite. My mom is off to my right a ways when all of a sudden she yells "Hey, look at this!" I run over to where she is and there in the grass is another CD 295 with the pin still in the pinhole. How does she do that? We quickly locate the next pole site a little ways further up the hill. I search the area on the downhill side of the pole and there in the grass next to some sagebrush is a set of Cochrane caps still connected to the pin in really good condition as if it was dropped there yesterday. I start metal detecting the area and locate something buried. As the digger woman, it was my mother's job to dig out whatever it was that was buried. She started digging the spot with the little hand rake and found the ground to be incredibly hard and full of roots. She hands me the rake and says she's done. I give it a go for a few minutes and carve out a nice little hole and find nothing for my efforts even though the metal detector says there is something there. My mom starts chiding me for giving up so easily but who wants to put so much effort in trying to uncover another piece of line wire? She starts digging again when all of a sudden she strikes metal and out pops the top cap of a Cochrane! Further metal detecting reveals the bottom cap about two feet away. Another set of caps! This is turning out to be a fruitful day. The wood pin is pretty well rotted and I find it strange that one set was in great condition and the other set got buried.

The next pole didn't give me any hardware but off in the low

brush was one single cochrane bell probably set there by a previous hunter when whole bells were to be found. This one was in the best condition I have found so far on this line with just a chip out of the neck. We discover we have lost the line again and split up to cover more ground. I spend the next hour or so wandering around trying to locate it. There are natural cuts through the trees in this area and it's easy to think you've found the line cut when you really haven't. I find it again but not where I expected it. I backtrack a ways on the line and find another goody. The broken pin with a bottom cap and clamp. After some searching I locate my mom and we head on down the line until we come to a dried up swamp. There on the other side is a dirt road we had been walking down the day before when we had lost the line. I know I can find the spot where we lost the line previously. I have my mom stay at the last pole site and climb the hill looking for the last pole we found the day before. I locate it and call back to my mom. I can now see that the line took a turn at this pole to the right. I should have realized that by all the guy wire here but the natural cut that went straight

ahead confused us the day before. I head toward my mom's voice off in the distance and locate the next lost polesite. There is broken purple glass all over where a suspension set blew up. I search around the area for anything good and see a chunk of a CD 295 sticking partially exposed in all the rotted log debris. I pull it out expecting it to be broken but I finally found my first whole 295! Of course I had left my pack and camera with my mom so no picture to prove I finally found one.

We head back picking up our goodies along the way. That stuff sure gets heavy fast! On the way back we check out some of the pole sites a little more thoroughly and that's when I notice something I had not see anywhere on the line previously. A pintype porcelain cable insulator.

Well that wraps up another hunt on the Cochrane line. I could get into a lot more detail, especially about all the time spent trying to locate the line at times, but you're probably half comatose by now anyways so I'll spare you this time!



Be sure to check out Nathan's other hunts at <http://natsulators.com/adventures/> These are great reading!

## Cochrane Bell Suspensions

Written by Dwayne Anthony

I've been meaning for some time to write down and document this information on the Cochrane Bell Suspensions.

During the fall of 2005 I was invited to an estate sale in Needles, CA. In this desert town bordering Arizona and the Colorado River sat a rock shop from at least the 1950s. The final shop owner had passed away, so all the contents of the shop, the many outbuildings and everything on the several acres of property were being sold off. About 80% of the available material was rock, gem and mineral related, but a fairly sizable quantity of antique bottles and insulators were also scattered about here and there, or stored away in boxes.

I first viewed a room full of pin-type insulators, but no more than a dozen were of true collector quality. Out in the back forty a small pile of broken CD 130 Cal Elec Works were found lying on the ground, evidently collected from a nearby line many years prior. One fairly nice specimen was acquired from a house win-

dow ledge where a family member was still living on the property.

Of most interest were the Cochrane bells (more infrequently referred to as Montana bells). After scouring the property and outbuildings for nearly a full day, several sets of Cochrane bells were located, anywhere from good condition to heavily damaged. A small number of single bells, as well as some lone metal caps and wooden "sticks" were found strewn about, some in very odd places. At least 15 sets of Cochrane bells were accounted for, plus the excess parts. A total of 13 complete sets were created after disassembly and reassembly of usable parts. As mentioned, a few of the bells were damaged, some so much so that they were not salvageable. Even though the wooden sticks were originally saturated with paraffin, at least two were rotted away at one end, so they were replaced with two of the extra sticks that were found.



One of the more interesting aspects of this acquisition involved the variety of shades found in the bells. One set was noticeably darker than the average medium purple shades that we are more accustomed to seeing. But the true shocker came when I viewed a small number of the sets in much, much lighter shades. These were a light pink tint, to an off-clear straw with a slight hint of pink! I had only known of one set in a very light shade of SCA (sun colored amethyst) prior to viewing these.

Several of the units also included the cable "shoe" still attached to the bottom cap. These shoes were evidently removed from most of the previously existing Cochrane bells in the hobby, so it was certainly a bonus to acquire a small number them, since they were part of the original hardware.

Pondering over the off-clear and pink tint glass found in some

of the bells, it was first thought that their possible manganese content might harbor the potential to turn a darker shade of SCA after longer exposure to the sun's UV rays.

However, the hardware and wooden sticks on these units definitely displayed signs of weathering, so wouldn't one surmise that they had already been well exposed to the sun for many years? Could it be that they were later replacements and were removed very shortly after installation when the line was upgraded or dismantled, thus not seeing a long enough exposure to the sun to turn them SCA? Maybe they were never installed, stored away somewhere with shelter from the sun, yet were exposed to other elements that caused the weathering of the hardware? I decided to conduct an experiment. However, the hardware and wooden sticks on these units definitely displayed signs of weathering, so wouldn't one surmise that they had already been well exposed to the sun for many years? Could it

be that they were later replacements and were removed very shortly after installation when the line was upgraded or dismantled, thus not seeing a long enough exposure to the sun to turn them SCA? Maybe they were never installed, stored away somewhere with shelter from the sun, yet were exposed to other elements that caused the weathering of the hardware? I decided to conduct an experiment that has been ongoing now for two years. I placed one of the damaged off-clear bells out in direct, full-day sunlight. We know that clear glass containing manganese will usually turn some shade of purple with a few months of sun exposure. Surprisingly, after almost two full years, there has not been any discernible change of color in the sample bell. This now leads me to believe these are stable, manufactured colors that will not deepen in color with additional sun exposure.

Another observation I'd like to point out is the relatively common damage found on the inner skirts. A good number of bells, both in this group and those previously known in the hobby, suffer from one single chip to the inner skirt. It is my theory that these single chips occurred when the units were originally assembled, and it's also quite possible this was done in the field. When assembling a Cochrane bell unit, it only seems logical that the process would involve resting the bottom of the stick assembly on a stable surface for support, hold it at a 45 degree angle and slide the bells on one at a time (at least this is what came natural to me when reassembling those in my possession). At this angle, the inner skirt of each bell will initially make contact with the top "stem" of the bell below it, and quite harshly if not being very careful when sliding them over the stick and letting them drop! Even though a cork washer was installed between each bell, the outer sharp edge of the upper stem is still exposed enough to allow glass-to-glass contact, at least if assembled using the assumed technique outlined above.

As with my procedure of mixing and matching, I believe the early collectors that gathered these units in quantities of more than one also switched out bells from one unit to another to create complete sets in mint condition. Most sets in the hobby that I have seen appear to have been disassembled, sometimes maybe to replace the original decayed cork washers, but more than likely to switch out bells, as well. I have seen numerous sets that contain anywhere from one to all six of the bells exhibiting inner skirt chips, usually one chip to each. Interestingly

enough, it is rather uncommon to find a single bell with damage elsewhere than the inner skirt. By the way, there are two distinctively different inner skirts that you will find on the bells. One is straight and the other has a convex curve to it. You will often find both styles on one Cochrane bell unit, a possible indicator that some of the bells had been switched out.

Cork washers have always been present on all of the original, non reassembled sets that I have handled. Of the 25+ sets that have gone through my hands over the years, I have only seen maybe 4-5 that contained rubber or handmade paper washers that were clearly installed as replacements by collectors. I personally replaced the crumbling cork washers with rubber washers when rebuilding a few of the more recent sets purchased in Needles, CA.

I have found as many as six original cork washers placed adjacent to the metal caps at each end, plus those between the bells. When I had several of the bare wooden sticks lying side-by-side during the reconstruction of the more recent sets, I noted that some varied slightly in length. The length of exterior threading (number of turns) at each end also varied from stick to stick, as well. Some metal caps bottomed out with additional threads showing, some stopped against the termination of the final thread. So, I'm assuming these variances in length and threading resulted in the use of additional washers under the end caps as bushings for a snug fit.

It appears that the Cochrane bells were used exclusively in Montana. There is strong substantiation that those I recovered from the Needles rock shop were collected from Montana, as well. A family member indicated that numerous trips were made many years ago to Montana to dig for bottles. This was confirmed when viewing the bottles on the property. At least 50 percent of the embossed pharmacy, blob top and Hutchinson soda bottles were from various towns in Montana.

As for numbers of complete Cochrane bell units known in the hobby? I know I've had at least 25 go through my hands over the years, including consignments to our auctions. If I were to throw out a guess...I'd estimate somewhere in the vicinity of 50 total. Value? Anywhere from \$300 for the damaged ones to \$1,000+ for the mint sets. About 5 years ago we sold an unusually deeper purple unit in our Open-Wire auction for \$1,810.00

## Cochrane Wall Tubes



These Bells are the Large Bells (7" Dia) for the Switch Unit that were used on the Bertha Switch, these wound up being used on one of our Local Dams Less than 40 Miles from the Bertha, would have made 2 complete Switch Units, there is a total of 20 Bells there



Everything I learned about insulators I learned in kindergarten. Well, it seems like that when it comes to my acquired skill for identifying porcelain insulators. It's not that I don't appreciate mud or understand those who collect it, it's just too much for me to learn easily and too hard to retrieve from my brain what I do learn, especially when my affinity is for glass. I say that to preface this story of my recent insulator buying experience.

When talking antiques and insulators with someone I had met last April, he mentioned that his father collected "those things" and that he would like to move them out of the storage area that he was about to clean. He didn't know much about them, his father had been an electrician at the "mill" and brought them home over the years. Now he was gone, and it was time to ready the home for eventual sale. He thought there were a "few hundred" and he would let me know when he had dug them out of storage.

When we finally got together one day at the storage area, I started looking through the crates and old nail kegs that I was helping to get down from the garage loft and was not disappointed to find Micky's and No. 3 cables galore. Just what I had hoped a mill worker would bring home. There were other glass treasures and it was obvious that the man had collected from places other than the mill. However, most were very encrusted with soot, slag dust, iron oxide and other industrial pollution deposits. I could only imagine how much work was ahead if we made

a deal for them. After lowering down more crates, enough to tire ourselves, we agreed to complete the job another day, settled the deal and loaded what was retrieved that day; with the promise that I could buy the remainder another day.

When I unloaded them at home, I was excited to have some prospects of amber streaks and unusual colors under all the debris on the glass. I took a few "before" photos and did a quick estimate of total value, deciding that I had done quite well with my new purchases. A few porcelain stowaways also got into the photos, I liked the cobalt blue ones but had no clue how to classify them. For me, a U number stands for "unknown" and M number stands for "mystery" when it come to my understanding the assigned number system. But when I posted the pictures on a Facebook insulators group, the amount of comments and questions that followed was astonishing. It was looking like maybe an very good purchase. And, there were more where those came from.

I managed to get the remainder of the collection a couple weeks later, although I was a bit disappointed to find that most were porcelain, and ugly ones at that.

After some helpful correspondence and offers, I made commitments to get back to all and began the task of cleaning and organizing. Fortunately, the annual Columbia City show was just around the corner, so after cleaning a few of each type (a process requiring two lye and also acid baths, and lots

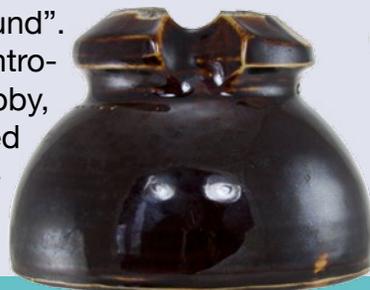




of scrubbing) I decided to take the remainder to the show to sell. A few were sold “as is” in cyber deals, but I still wasn’t positive what all the different mud types were. I hoped to find out more about my find from porcelain collectors at the show. I was not disappointed. Box lots of dirty glass changed hands quickly and soon I was relieved of my glass cleaning nightmare thanks to other more courageous and bargain-hunting glass collectors.

But the best was yet to come, as Shaun Kotlarsky and Mike Spadafora were there to help me identify the mud pieces. They were rewarded for their efforts with some deals for themselves and other mud nuts at the show and for some with whom they messaged and exchanged information. I was left at the end of the day with sufficient profits to make me smile and change my attitude about porcelain insulators. Many of them turned out to be seldom seen substation and rack insulators from the early days of the mill and manufactured by Thomas. They had been rescued from what was then U.S. Steel Works in Gary, Indiana when power distribution systems were upgraded. Several had mounting pins and caps for attachment to substation racks, buss bars, and cut-outs. They were secured into the pinholes and onto the cable tops with molten lead, making it a challenge to try to remove or to decide to leave as is.

Pictures will help complete the story here, but it remains to be concluded with the sometimes trite statement, “they’re still out there to be found”. I am pleased that I could be part of the reintroduction of some great pieces into the hobby, and with thanks to those who encouraged and helped, I know a bit more about porcelain and the meaning of “U” and “M” numbers.





## Understanding Altered Insulators

Altered insulators are not new to the insulator collecting hobby. Fake and altered items appear in most hobbies. However, in recent times altered insulators seem to be appearing at an alarming pace. There is nothing illegal about altering an insulator, but there certainly are both moral and legal issues when alteration and sale includes deceit and harm to others. The purpose of this short article is two-fold. First, it is to state some of the issues. Secondly, it is to make collectors aware of what is happening, learn how to identify altered insulators, and suggestions on what to do to protect one's investment and the hobby as a whole.

When a person in this country chooses to alter an insulator they are well within the freedoms afforded by our Constitution. I do not want to lose those freedoms. There are people that knowingly purchase altered insulators which drives the market for them. They are free to do so. However, there are a few devious people marketing altered insulators that fail to state their insulators are altered or even claim that their insulators are not altered. The fraudulent sellers are in danger of legal action that can be quite costly to them, especially when they sell across state lines in violation of federal trade laws. The danger to collectors and the hobby comes from altered insulators being sold as originals. There are two ways this typically occurs. First are the fraudulent sellers, but equally troublesome are the honest sellers that lose control of their altered wares after a sale and the next time around they are sold as unaltered. And by the way, the seller doesn't need to be the one that altered the insulator being sold to be liable for a fraudulent sale. When a person chooses to alter an insulator and wants to be upfront about it all they need to do is mark the insulator as "altered" or "stained" or "irradiated", etc. in an inconspicuous place. The marking should be as permanent as the alteration. This minimizes any unintended fraud.

Knowing that many insulators are altered without any markings and then sold places a burden on collectors to be very wise in their buying. If all collectors



By Don Briel

become diligent in discerning altered insulators from unaltered originals I suspect most of the purveyors of such alterations would find their markets shrinking.

The real issue is how do collectors protect themselves against unknowingly purchasing altered insulators? There are a number of things collectors can do to protect themselves, but all boil down to education, education, and more education. First and foremost, take the time to read the seller's description. Many of the sellers are honest and state their insulators are stained. If that is the case, and you want a valuable, authentic collection then don't buy anything altered. Next, check a reference source such as a Price Guide. If the color is not listed for the particular insulator it is most likely altered. Yes, there is a chance that it's a new discovery, but the hobby is mature enough that the probability is extremely small. Check sources such as the NIA website, ICON, and others for more detailed information on altered insulators. Learn all you can from those sources as well as from seasoned collectors. Then share what you have learned with others. Continue to use forums such as ICON, Crown Jewels of the Wire, and Drip Points to disseminate helpful information, but always in an accurate and courteous way. As collectors it is not up to us to take away others' freedom, but it is our responsibility to help warn other collectors of deceitful acts.

Be diligent and continue to enjoy our hobby!

Don Briel  
NIA President



Thanks to the continued support of collectors, dealers, and an inquisitive public, the 44th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show was a huge success. This year's show was augmented by the most amazing Community Display in Mid-Ohio history and a Friday night after-hours auction featuring the personal collection of our friend, the late Chuck Dittmar. It was a bittersweet evening for Chuck's daughters Joann and Sharon, who were on-hand Friday evening to witness the sale of his mostly Canadian glass collection. Many quality pieces found their way into new collections and there were plenty of collectors who made the trip from the Great White North for the opportunity to bid.

As morning broke on Saturday, a handful of collectors revealed some gems from their personal collections to share in the Community Display organized masterfully by Mark Gilmore. This year's display featured a rare opportunity to behold more than a quarter million dollars worth of rare Diamond P signals, the likes of which will probably never be seen again.

There was no shortage of awards presented during Saturday's banquet as 18 displays were recognized for participation. Tom Palone received the N.I.A. People's Choice Award for his creative bullet display and Richard Case claimed the Steve and Lois Blair Educational Award for his display of Mickey Mouse insulators. Ellie Dutcher presented the Mickey Dutcher Award to show host Lois Blair for her continued promotion of the Mid-Ohio Show, and a special award was presented to Bernie Warren, who announced his final trip from Alaska to Ohio. Finally, the annual Quonset Hut Awards were presented to hobby pioneers John and Carol McDougald, Glenn and Sandy Drummond, and Dick Bowman, who was in attendance to accept the award.

The 45th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show is scheduled for November 6-8, 2015. Next year's Community Display will be devoted to the late Steve Blair's specialty-- Lynchburg glass insulators--and will be coordi-

nated by Lynchburg specialist Justin Stoudt.

On behalf of your hosts Lois Blair and Curt Boster, thank you to all who help make the Mid-Ohio Insulator Show the most anticipated and attended show on the calendar.



**Dale Glendenning proudly shows off his wood-covered Wade purchased at an Ohio estate auction for only \$10**



**Tammy and the "Curse of the Pyrex"**



**Insulator pioneer Dick Bowman received one of the 2014 Quonset Hut Awards**



This weird piece had many scratching their heads throughout the auction preview. When the hammer dropped, it sold for \$775.



Peter Persoff's timely and impressive display of Canadian 1678 signals



The amazing collection of Diamond P glass insulators offered a rare glimpse in the Community Display.



Beautiful cornflower blue Dominion-42 fetched \$ 500+ at auction



This piece of mud (M-3021) from Chuck Dittmar's collection brought an obscene winning bid during Friday's auction



Brian Weeldreyer's unique display of Pyrex carnival glass



# 44th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show



# Displays



CD 134 Diamond P / Pennycuik community display. It was quite the stunning thing to see in person WOW! Organized by **Mark Gilmore**



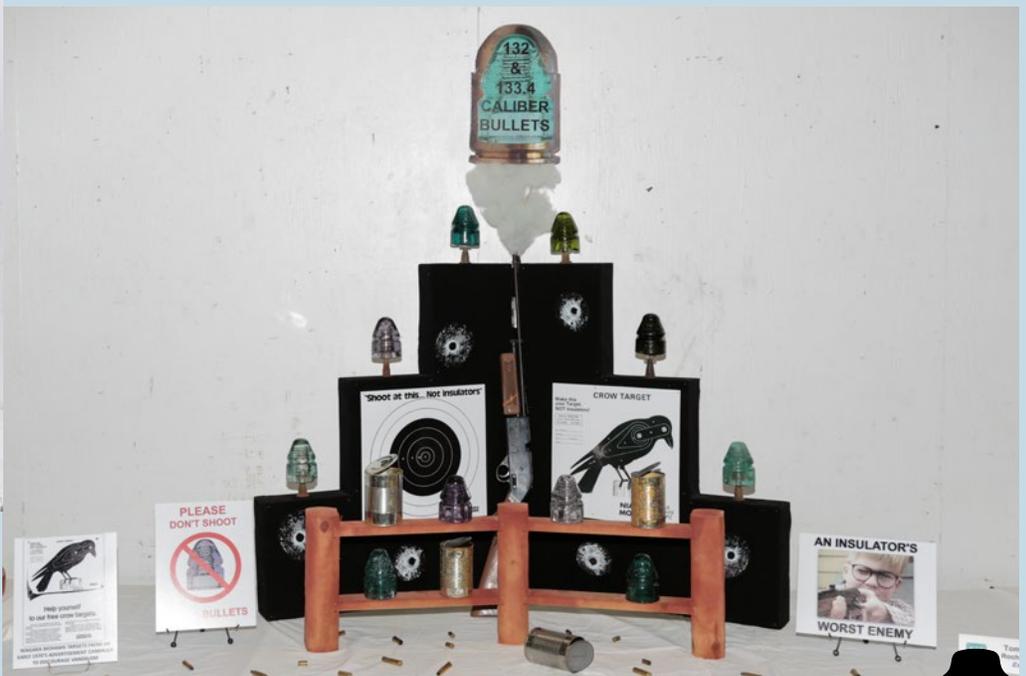
Ice Age. Hemingray Ice blue 1931-1936 By **Arlen Rienstra**



Brook's Blue By **Don Mecklenborg**



Brookfield CD 101 By **Les Christensen**



132 & 133.4 Caliber Bullets by **Tom Palone**



M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E By **Richard Case**



Insulators of The Rochester Syracuse and Eastern Electric Rail Way By **Ken Willick**



Canadian CD 162.4 & CD 162 By **Peter Persoff**



Hemingway Depression Era Bottles in Vintage Wood Crates By **Rodger Lucas**



The CD 731... By **Rick Jones**



Early Wall Tubes By **Elton Gish**



CD 257 Micky Mouse By **Alan Stastny**



Multi Color By **Matt Grayson**



All About Bubbles by **Mary Ann Pike**



Colors of 45 Cliff ST by **Jim Frustieri**



H.G. CO. Beehives | Letter Mold Variations by **Bear Spitler**



Battery Jar Porcelain Lids by **Alan Hohnhorst**



*"I just wanted to thank all that contributed to the main display for the Mid-Ohio show. Ross Baird, Dwayne Anthony, Peter Abbott, Jack Roach, and all the other collectors that brought their fine glass for the display. It made the display a success. Also thanks to Curt and Lois That made the Mid-Ohio show possible. Thanks again."*

**Mark Gilmore**



# 44th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show



# Auction of Chuck Dittmar Collection



Some of the beautiful insulators up for bid at the auction

Joann (Chuck Dittmars daughter) thanking everyone for coming to the auction



The Auction was cram-packed!



Curt Boster Getting the Auction rolling



44th Mid-Ohio Insulator Show



Show Floor





## James Pennycuick and His Insulators

On August 11, 1885, James Pennycuick of Boston, Massachusetts was granted a patent for a “Method Of Forming Screw-Threads On Glass.” No mention about insulators was made within the patent text.

During 1888 the Boston and Sandwich Glass Company closed their plant, which stood in Sandwich, Massachusetts on Cape Cod. Mr. Pennycuick purchased this property during December 1889, having recently formed the Electrical Glass Corporation. He was the company’s director and was eager to get the glassworks up and running. Newspaper accounts of the day indicate that Mr. Pennycuick was very interested in manufacturing insulators, and almost immediately made prospective customers aware of his product by distributing insulator samples. Since he did not begin glassmaking until several months later, he had his samples made by the Sandwich Cooperative Glass Company. Delays in production and labor problems at Mr. Pennycuick’s plant created a substantial backlog of orders for his insulators. His prospective customers liked the samples and orders continued to arrive. Obstacles he encountered at his glassworks caused him to cease operations during November 1890, only six months after glass making began. The property was foreclosed upon a short time later and sold at a public auction.

Nothing is known about the styles or lettering that concern the insulators produced at the Sandwich Cooperative Glass Company or at the Electrical Glass Corporation. At a minimum it seems obvious Mr. Pennycuick identified some with his 1885 patent date. It is noteworthy that these also bear the letter “P” within a diamond monogram boldly appearing on their skirts: . The letter P on these could represent Pennycuick; however, no proof currently exists. All appear to have been threaded by his patent process.

These rare specimens have high quality, fine, concise threading that was unusual for insulators of that time.

The majority of insulators located with this notice-



By Joe Maurath, Jr.

able, characteristic threading are unmarked and are known in many styles. Most of these are aqua. Exceptions are those in light to dark blue and green shades. Some of these are quite intense and vivid; a few have swirls and bubbles, etc. Many examples of these colorful Pennycuick-threaded insulators are shown in the accompanying displays.

Like their unmarked counterparts, Diamond-P embossed insulators appear to have been very well made. These have only been found in CD 134, and many collectors believe they are the most colorful of all Pennycuick-threaded specimens. The majority of Diamond-P’s are aqua. Others have been located in many shades of blue and green. Interesting examples include those in sapphire, cornflower and teal blue. Slag, bubbles, swirls and other inconsistencies add spectacular beauty to some of these oddly colored insulators. Most Diamond-P insulators have been located in Eastern Massachusetts. All are rare, even the aqua ones.

Other CD 134 specimens with lettering and Pennycuick pin-hole threads are those with C.E.L.CO. and PETTINGELL ANDREWS embossing. They are also identical to the outer shape and size of Diamond-P insulators. These corresponding features suggest the possibility that the same glassworks and/or moldmaker made all of these CD 134 insulators. Or at least that the C.E.L.Co. and Pettingell Andrews ones were manufactured by someone who had rights or access to Pennycuick’s threading technique.



### Editors note:

Article was submitted by Mark Gilmore and was part of the Pennycuick display at the 2014 Mid-Ohio Show.

# Winter 2014 NIA Products

## GOLF / POLO SHIRTS

**Colors:** Call or email for colors

**Info:** All with embroidered logo some with pockets, pockets, 2X \$3.00 extra

**Price:** \$38 or \$41

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_

2XL \_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_

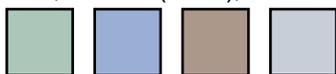
**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

## T-SHIRT

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



**Info:** Hanes Heavyweight, 6.1 oz. cotton pre-shrunk. Screen-printed logo (front & back)

**Price:** \$20 or \$23

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_

2XL \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_

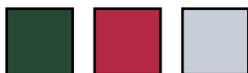
**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

## CREW NECK SWEATSHIRTS

**Colors:** Hunter Green, Cardinal Red, Lt. Steel Gray



**Info:** Heavy weight 100 % cotton/polyester blend, pre-shrunk, embroidered logo

**Price:** \$25 or \$30

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL

2XL \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_

**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

## BUTTON FRONT SPORT SHIRT

**Colors:** White, Red, Blue, Brown, Tan



**Info:** All with embroidered logo (no pockets)

**Price:** \$32 or \$35

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL

2XL \_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_

**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

## HENLEY T-SHIRT

**Colors:** Black and Lt. Steel Gray



**Info:** Only come with embroidered logo. three button placket

**Price:** \$25 or \$28

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL

2XL \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_

**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

## HOODED SWEATSHIRT

**Colors:** Lt. Steel Gray



**Info:** With full front zipper/muff pocket & drawstring hood, embroidered logo

**Price:** \$35 or \$40

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL

2XL \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_

**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

## DENIM SHIRTS

**Colors:** Stonewash Blue or Natural



**Info:** Nicely weighted denim, pre-shrunk cotton, left-side pocket

\*ladies order comparable men's size, see chart

**Price:** \$35 or \$38

**Embroidered logo**

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_

2XL \_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_

\* S/Sleeve \_\_\_ \*L/Sleeve \_\_\_

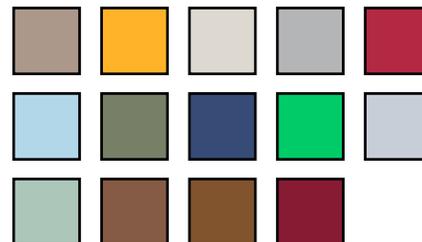
**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

## EMBROIDERED LOGO T-SHIRT

**Colors:** Sand, Gold, Ecu, Ash Gray, White, Cardinal Red, Lt. Blue, Army Green, Navy, Bright Green, Lt. Steel Gray, Stonewash Green, Chestnut Brown, Maroon



**Info:** I have a limited number of t-shirts with pockets, call for details Pockets, \$2.00 additional on all regular t-shirts

**Price:** \$20 & \$23

**Size:** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL

2XL \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_

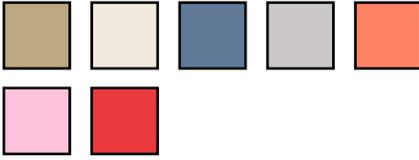
**Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

### EMBROIDERED CAP

Colors: Khaki, Stone, Blue, Gray, Orange, and Pink, Red (\$2 extra)  
(Circle color choice)



Price: \$20 or \$22 (Red)

Total Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

### NIA NAME BADGE

Info: Engraved; beveled edges | pin back (free) OR Magnetic back add \$1.00

Price: \$13 or \$14

Total Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

### COLLECTORS PATCH

Price: \$4

Total Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

### BADGE BAR

Info: For NIA position or local club

Price: \$4

Total Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

### NIA WINDOW DECAL

Info: for outside car window.

White: 5 1/2 x 6 3/4 Color: 4 1/4 x 5 3/4

Price: \$10 (White) \$7 (Color)

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTE BAG

Info: "Big Thunder" Tote bag - sturdy with NIA logo

Price: \$15

Total Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

### Name Badge Engraving Information:

Name _____	NIA# _____	City _____	State _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pin	<input type="checkbox"/> Magnet
Name _____	NIA# _____	City _____	State _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pin	<input type="checkbox"/> Magnet
Name _____	NIA# _____	City _____	State _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pin	<input type="checkbox"/> Magnet

Club Bar _____	Quantity Needed _____
Club Bar _____	Quantity Needed _____
Club Bar _____	Quantity Needed _____



Thank you for supporting the NIA!

### U.S. Postage:

\$6.75 for the first item & \$1.50 for each additional item ordered.

Postage for Patches, Badge Bars are \$0.60 each. Decals, \$1.95

Name Badges are \$0.85 each to mail.

For Postage outside the US or AK & HI Contact me for quote

### Shirt Sizing Chart:

#### Adult/ Mens

S 32-34 | M 36-38 | L 40-42 | XL 44-46

2X 48-50 | 3X 52-54

#### Ladies

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

US Postage: \_\_\_\_\_

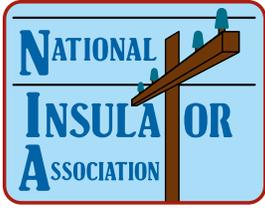
Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Send completed form to:

Tina Rienstra | 6527 W. 93rd Avenue | Crown Point | IN 46307 | 219-365-7913 | [tlriens@att.net](mailto:tlriens@att.net)



# Membership Application & Renewal Form



Prospective members may join the NIA at any time; however, the "membership year" begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st. New memberships issued within three months of the beginning of the new membership year (October – December) will be good for the following calendar year. New members are entitled to all membership privileges immediately upon acceptance by the NIA.

**If you are joining the NIA during the months of January through September your membership will expire on December 31st of this calendar year.**

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

P.O. Box 1466  
Corrales, NM 87048

**Dues Schedule:**

Regular Membership ..... **\$22.00**  
 Junior Membership (under 18) **\$5.00**  
 Club or Organization ..... **\$50.00**

[membership@nia.org](mailto:membership@nia.org)  
 Or renew online at:  
<http://nia.org/membership/>

**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 not U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory..... Yes  No

Include my Telephone Number..... Yes  No

Include my E-Mail Address ..... Yes  No

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following format ..... Paper  Electronic

(Check only one, an e-mail address is required for electronic)

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Family Members residing in the same household at no additional cost.**

Name	NIA # (If renewal)
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Advertising Information

## Drip Points Magazine Advertising Information

- Display Ads will be sold by fractions of a page.
- Camera-ready copy is preferred but not required.
- An additional fee may be charged for color and set-up based on size and complexity for ads.
- All advertising will be kept confidential until it is published.
- Multiple ads must run in consecutive issues with no changes.
- All ads must be paid for in advance.
- Advertisements must meet all postal regulations that govern publications mailed at Non-Profit Standard Mail prices of postage.

### Full Page

1x.....	<b>\$100.00</b>
2x.....	<b>\$189.00</b>
3x.....	<b>\$278.00</b>
4x (Full Year) ..	<b>\$362.00</b>

(Multi run discount **\$11.00/x**)

### One-Half Page

1x.....	<b>55.00</b>
2x.....	<b>101.00</b>
3x.....	<b>147.00</b>
4x (Full Year) ..	<b>193.00</b>

(Multi run discount **\$9.00/x**)

### One-Quarter Page

1x.....	<b>\$30.00</b>
2x.....	<b>\$53.00</b>
3x.....	<b>\$76.00</b>
4x (Full Year) ..	<b>\$99.00</b>

(Multi run discount **\$7.00/x**)

### One-Eighth Page

1x.....	<b>\$20.00</b>
2x.....	<b>\$35.00</b>
3x.....	<b>\$50.00</b>
4x (Full Year) ..	<b>\$65.00</b>

(Multi run discount **\$5.00/x**)

### One-Sixteenth Page

1x.....	<b>\$15.00</b>
2x.....	<b>\$27.00</b>
3x.....	<b>\$39.00</b>
4x (Full Year) ..	<b>\$51.00</b>

(Multi run discount **\$3.00/x**)

For more Info. on advertising or to buy an ad contact:

**Christian Willis**, NIA #5185  
P.O. Box 2797  
Parker, CO 80134

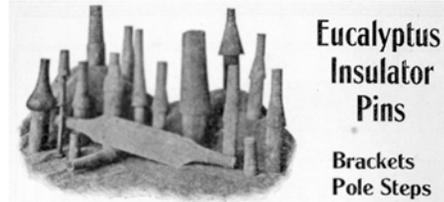
**Phone:** (949) 338-1404

**Email:** [admanager@nia.org](mailto:admanager@nia.org)



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Insulator for Side of Limb  
Attachment AA  
Right Angle Lag Screw

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NIA # 7185  
363 W. Stuart Ave., Fresno, CA 93704  
(559) 435-1740 e-mail: louhall@pacbell.net

DUNTON TREE  
INSULATOR



### National Insulator Association Scholarship Fund

**Money for college!**  
**\$1000/\$500 up to \$2000!**

NIA Scholarships are available for a \$1000 academic scholarship and a \$500 vocational scholarship.

Write a 300 word essay. It's that easy!  
Tell us how to spread the word about the hobby.

These scholarships are to encourage the growth and public awareness of the hobby.



Submission deadline is April 1



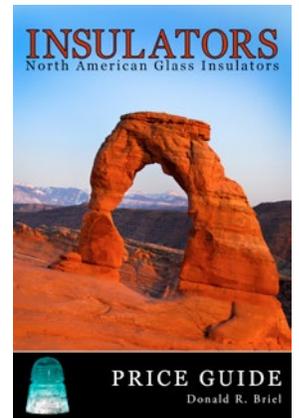
The Scholarship Application and Application Guide is available at:

<http://www.nia.org/scholarship/>

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Visit: [www.InsulatorPriceGuide.com](http://www.InsulatorPriceGuide.com)

# Upcoming Shows

**DECEMBER 7, 2014 (Sunday)**

## **ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club's Second Annual "BEAT THE SNOW" Insulator, Bottle, and Tabletop Collectibles Show and Sale. American Legion Hall, 566 Enfield Street (US Route 5), Enfield, Connecticut 06082. Insulators, bottles, jars, lightning rod equipment, flasks, stoneware, telephone & telegraph collectibles, railroadiana, advertising & paper ephemera, and small table top antiques. Show hall is 1 mile from Exit 49 of I-91 (20 minutes from Hartford as well as the Mass Pike). Show Hours 8AM to 2PM. Dealer Setup 6AM to 8AM. FREE ADMISSION. Room for 40+ sales tables. For a dealer contract, display information, or any other details - please contact JOHN RAJPOLT (203) 261-1190. E-Mail: [rajpolt@earthlink.net](mailto:rajpolt@earthlink.net)

**JANUARY 17, 2015 (Saturday)**

## **MAITLAND, FLORIDA**

The Central Florida Insulator Collectors / Antique Telephone Collectors Association Show and Sale will be held at the Maitland, FL Civic Center. This is a one-day Show and Sale held annually on the same weekend as the huge "Renningers Antique Extravaganza" in Mt. Dora, FL which begins for "Early Buyers" on January 16th. Set-up Saturday at 7:00 am with the doors open to the public at 8:00 am and closing at 3:00 pm. For info: PAUL MIKULA, NIA #7466, 650 East Chapman Road, Oviedo, FL 32765, Tel: (407) 365-4686, email: [wecoman@bellsouth.net](mailto:wecoman@bellsouth.net)

**JANUARY 17, 2015 (Saturday)**

## **STRONGSVILLE, OHIO**

Western Reserve Insulator Club's 16th Annual Winterfest / Swap Meet & Club Meeting at the Spyglass Hill Recreation Center, 13201 Compass Point Drive, Strongsville, OH 44136. Dealer Setup: 9:00am; Show Hours: 10:00am-3:00pm. Club Meeting and Lunch: 12-1:30pm. There are no admission or table charges, but space is limited, so please contact us ahead of time if you plan to set up! Info/RSVP to JOHN HOVANEK (216)392-3622, E-mail [wric@clubs.insulators.info](mailto:wric@clubs.insulators.info)

**JANUARY 31, 2015 (Saturday)**

## **CROWN POINT, INDIANA**

7th Annual "Beat the Winter Blahs" Swap Meet, Saturday, January 31 10 am to 4 pm. Meet at the home of ARLEN and TINA RIENSTRA, 6527 W. 93rd Ave, Crown Point, IN 46307. Bring your own table if possible. Lunch provided, relax, socialize, swap or sell indoors. Experience Hoosier Hospitality, the retro-collectors room and Rick Soller's famous auction, followed by Greater Chicago Insulator Club meeting. RSVP by 1/21/15 to [ariens@att.net](mailto:ariens@att.net) or (219) 365-7913.

**FEBRUARY 7, 2015 (Saturday)**

## **YUMA, ARIZONA**

The annual Yuma, Arizona Tailgater will be held Saturday, February 7, at Riverside Park, adjacent to the Yuma Territorial Prison State Park, starting at 9:00 AM. Bring a table and lots of insulators to sell, swap or just show off. No reservations required; and no cost to set up. Info: ROGER NAGEL 623-566-0121 (call before 9:00 PM Pacific Time) or email: [mr.162@cox.net](mailto:mr.162@cox.net)

**FEBRUARY 21, 2015 (Saturday)**

## **JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA**

The Dixie Jewels Insulator Club's winter swap meet will be held at the Hampton Inn, 1515 North First Street, in beautiful Jacksonville Beach, Florida on Saturday, February 21, 2015. This venue is located within steps of the beach. Make plans to bring the family and take a winter break in Florida! A block of rooms has been

reserved. Call (904) 241-2311 and please mention Dixie Jewels Insulator Club, or group code DJI when reserving. Discounted room rates are \$109 (facing north with ocean view), \$129 (facing south with pool and ocean view) and \$159 (facing east with a view of the ocean, Morocco and North Africa). Reservations must be made by Jan. 21, 2015 to receive the discounted rates, also good for 2 days before and after the swap. Paul Deriso, Skeeter Langford and Jeff Edgerton will be our hosts. For more information contact Paul Deriso at (904) 707-8199 or email [derpaul@aol.com](mailto:derpaul@aol.com).

**MARCH 21, 2015 (Saturday)**

## **TRACY, MISSOURI**

The 13th Annual NW Missouri Insulator & Bottle Show will be held at the Platte County Fairgrounds, 1st & Tribble St., Tracy, MO 64079. This is just off of I-29 between Kansas City, MO & St. Joseph, MO. Set up time will be 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM, then open to the general public from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Tables are \$25 each with FREE general admission. Food for breakfast & lunch will be on-site. Discount available at local hotel if reserved in advance, then depending on availability. For information, directions & show packet, contact Darryl Wagner at [nwmoshow@dwagnerkc.com](mailto:nwmoshow@dwagnerkc.com) or 816-719-0801.

**MARCH 22, 2015 (Sunday)**

## **WILMINGTON, OHIO**

The Columbus, Ohio show has been moved to Wilmington, Ohio. The 2015 show will be held on Sunday, March 22 at the Roberts Centre, 123 Gano Road, Wilmington, OH 45177. Info: JOE HARDIN 937-728-9930 or email: [jkcollections@gmail.com](mailto:jkcollections@gmail.com)

**MARCH 29, 2015 (Sunday)**

## **ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club Annual Spring Insulator, Bottle, and Tabletop Collectibles Show and Sale. American Legion Hall, 566 Enfield Street (US Route 5), Enfield, Connecticut 06082. Show hall is 1 mile from Exit 49 of I-91 (20 minutes from Hartford as well as the Mass Pike). Show Hours 8AM to 2PM. Dealer Setup 6AM to 8AM. Free Admission. 30+ sales tables as well as several displays. Free display space available. For dealer contracts, display information, or any other details - please contact JOHN RAJPOLT (203) 261-1190. E-Mail: [rajpolt@earthlink.net](mailto:rajpolt@earthlink.net)

**APRIL 18, 2015 (Saturday)**

## **NATRONA HEIGHTS, PENNSYLVANIA**

Western Reserve Insulator Club's 15th Annual Allegheny Valley Insulator Show & Sale at VFW Post #894; 894 Veterans Lane, Natrona Heights, PA 15065. Show Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm Dealer setup 7:30am. 8' table \$20. Info: RON BARTH 724-845-8439 [rktbarth@windstream.net](mailto:rktbarth@windstream.net) Directions: Route 28 Exit 16 (Freeport), follow to Natrona Hts, Right at signal (Freeport Rd), Right at signal up lane to VFW

**JULY 3 - 5, 2015 (Friday - Sunday)**

## **SANDWICH, ILLINOIS**

**46TH Annual National Insulator Association Show and Convention** at the Timber Creek Inn & Suites and Convention Center. 3300 Drew Ave., Sandwich, IL 60548. For hotel reservations call (639) 273-6000 and mention NIA for special rates. 135 + Dealer tables, 25 displays. For more show information visit: [www.2015niashow.com](http://www.2015niashow.com) Host JASON TOWNSEND, call: (639) 667-3357 or email: [jtins76@gmail.com](mailto:jtins76@gmail.com)

Upcoming Shows list maintained by:

**Information Director Christian Willis** [information@nia.org](mailto:information@nia.org)

# NIA Board & Chair Contact Info.

## Board of Directors

### President

**Don Briel**, NIA #7218  
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Providence, UT 84332  
[president@nia.org](mailto:president@nia.org)

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### Second Past President

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### Eastern Region VP

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530-701-4377  
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## Committee Chairpersons

### Authentication & Classification

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National Insulator Association  
10801 N. 24th Ave. Ste 103  
Phoenix, AZ 85029-4712

### Drip Points Magazine publishing schedule

Issue	Number	Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	3	February 10	March 1
Summer	4	May 10	June 1
Fall	1	August 10	September 1
Winter	2	November 10	December 1



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