

2016 PDF edition

April 15, 1994

Fellow radio antennae insulator collectors,

This is the second letter advocating a new club within the insulator hobby. About half of the recipients of this are new, so welcome!! We need to hear from YOU, what you'd like to see if this 'newsletter' continues and we stay in touch through a vehicle such as this. Looks like there is interest among you to network, trade pieces and exchange historical information on this 'subculture' within our hobby.

There is also the possibility that a design/shape numbering system could be developed. Jeff Hogan has a prototype, but it needs alot more work he says. A numbering system would do alot to popularize this niche hobby. Any artists out there? Jeff travels alot (see updated contact list below) so he cannot be contacted by phone. Hope he'll write regarding what he's done so far.

Just before sending this out, I received a friendly call from Dan Howard, referred to me by Bob Dennison. Dan also has a prototype for a numbering system encompassing various shapes and sizes, so perhaps Jeff and Dan can get in touch, compare the methods, and come up with a proposal for us to use going forward!

You are the experts in this radio antennae hobby. I am looking for articles on the history of companies, what they made, or whatever. We also need to start identifying the relative scarcity of certain pieces. Your articles on what you have, or how you acquire them would be great. Jim Singleton has volunteered to send in an article; Jim, I'm taking you up on your offer, ok? Dan Howard has also offered to contribute articles.

Some of you are immersed in the radio subculture; others of us just like the neat shapes and colors of these little critters. (And some are not so little!) If you know of others to add to the attached sheet, send them in to me, please.

On the updated list I have placed an asterisk before each name that has contacted me. Thus far there is interest, so I will continue to coordinate this for now. If you would each send me two bucks, that would cover 5 more letters (postage) to each of you, and cover this and the last letter. Thank you. I sure appreciate it.

Jim Singleton sent me a list of 10 other collectors, as you can see on the attached. Thanx Jim. Mike Guthrie sold his collection two years ago and has asked to be taken off our list. Jim Overstreet has also provided us with a couple of more names.

If you can be reached via the Internet, with a company electronic mail id, or via Prodigy or America OnLine, let us know. My id is: "internet!kroloson@alphd10.attmail.com" .

THIS EFFORT IS FOR YOU, TO ENABLE US TO FIND EACH OTHER. PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE INTERESTED AND CONTRIBUTE A BIT TO HELP OUT ON POSTAGE. IF WE DON'T HEAR FROM YOU IN AWHILE WE'LL ASSUME YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED.

WANT ADS:

Seeking scarce colored glass radio pieces to add to my collection.
Please write soon or call collect. Keith Roloson

Seeking other ham radio operators who collect. Jim Singleton

This is a first call for information on rare, desirable radio antennae
insulators. When I think of such pieces, a few styles come to mind:

- I know of 2 pieces that are opalescent. One is a small spiral type
in ice aqua, but with a glob of white milk throughout the central
spirals. This milk, when held to the light, has the orange & red fire
of opalescence. I'm sure this piece was not planned to come out this
way.
- Another collector states he has one in solid opalescent, if I remember
correctly. I don't know the style or size.
- There are I believe two styles of dog-bone insulator in milk peacock!
Dog-bone refers to a center section without spirals, but with a bar
of four or more sides instead, and a ring on either end.
- Some small glass radio pieces that I believe came out of Mexico come
in some terrific colors: deep sapphire or cobalt blue, root beer amber
and very rich yellow greens and "sea foam" green.

Do you have these?

Do you know of other rarities that you could describe to us?

Are there rare porcelain pieces that you have or know of?

Would you like to see the names of owners of 'tough' pieces included in
the newsletter, assuming they agree to it?

Drop me a couple of paragraphs on this and I'll publish it for you.
If you don't like to write, that's ok. Just call me or mail me the
basic info and I'll type it up.

I have to confess a prejudice, that I equate collectible rarity with
value, which is to say, rare pieces demand a higher price due to their
attractiveness as well as color, condition and embossing. Put another
way, if a piece is scarce but so large, or unattractive or whatever,
that there is little demand for it, then there is likely to be a low
value for it (since the demand is not there). Scarcity alone does not
cause a piece to have great value. It could only have value if two or
more collectors had a competitive desire for pieces in that 'specialty'.

This is not to say that a scarce piece is not interesting, although not
in demand. I think we would like to hear about it anyway. And if you
write with interesting history from your research (patent dates, the
manufacturer etc.), perhaps demand for that type of piece will increase.
By way of illustration, the porcelain threaded Pittsburg High Voltage
(PHV) styles, though crudely made and sometimes ugly, are eagerly sought
after by specialists.

Do you agree? Disagree? Send in a letter and I will publish it.

Happy Collecting

Keith