



GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Perry, Iowa Show Report

The Saturday, June 4th, 2022 swap meet in Perry, Iowa was held in the most beautiful hotel at which I have ever set up a table. The show was a nice size with lots of new collectors and seasoned dealers. A lot of insulators changed hands, a delicious lunch was available, the weather was mild, however, a few ironic (even paradoxical) instances occurred.

The hotel was so beautiful, no one stayed there. The price of rooms ranged from \$169 to \$249 plus tax. As a result, everyone stayed at the Super 8 a couple blocks away where I paid \$89.10 plus \$10.70 tax for a total of \$99.80 and still got to enjoy the beauty of an Art Deco/Craftsman/Mission style designed and decorated facility. Tiles on the floor had the Hotel Pattee monogram. Rooms at the lobby level like the library had solid oak or walnut paneling. The bathroom had marble counters and toilet stall doors to the floor. It was luxurious.



There was plenty of parking although you weren't allowed to park there. To allow unloading in front of the hotel, collectors had to move their vehicle as soon as they finished unloading. Across the street was a lot with ample parking. Several of us assumed the two-hour limit would not be enforced on a Saturday and, even if so, we thought we could play musical parking lot spots. We learned otherwise. Soon after set-up, barricades were placed at the

entrance to the lot, and we learned vehicles would be towed so tents could be put up for a kid's festival. This necessitated a move to a more distant parking lot.

The show location was easy to find with difficulty. Coming into town and turning onto the street of the hotel required a U-turn to get on the side of the street next to the hotel. Parking to unload required skill at parallel parking. Getting into the "long-term" parking meant not making the mistake of going in the exit but looping around the block to get to the actual entrance. I saw at least one dealer make this mistake. Once in, I was important to avoid the many pillars support a canopy.

Lots of great insulators at reasonable prices were available but I didn't buy much myself. I saw several K.C.G.W.s but all had some chips. Tom Murphy seemed eager to sell everything on his sales table so I made an offer, but we couldn't reach an agreement. On the other hand, club member Riley Armstrong bought a less-than-mint Boston screwtop (CD 158.9) from one dealer and took home a truckload of insulators I picked up for him from the Dick Bell collection.

None of the insulators for sale were in the five-figure range and probably only a couple were in the four-figure range. At the other end of the continuum, one new dealer populated his table with insulators that were probably found from a recent hunt (CD 154s, CD 147s), needed some cleaning, and had a value around \$1 each or less, except for a string of glass suspensions.

There were some interesting insulators at the table of Pat Miller that really weren't insulators. They were miniature reproductions of insulators attached to a replica of a utility pole. One pole had green transpositions on it and another pole had brown multiparts on it. Each insulator was no more than an inch tall. Poles were selling for \$50 to \$75 depending on the number of insulators and other features. One of the most expensive ones included a lineman. The pieces were all hand-made.



Miniature insulators on poles. For sale and made by Pat Miller



Pat Miller creation of a lineman installing a crossarm.

An interesting mix of buyers came to the show although few were members of the Greater Chicago Insulator Club. Club members (some not current on dues, however) in attendance included dealers Rick Soller, Riley Armstrong, Dave Shaw, Dennis Seltrecht, and Darryl Wagner while none of the walk-in crowd were members of the club. There was a couple from Canada who lived north of North Dakota, several people who were not collectors but walked in off the street or were staying at the hotel, some new collectors, and a couple seasoned collectors like Deb Booker from Missouri and Dave Dahle from South Dakota.

There was no auction at the show so not as many insulators exchanged hands as would usually be the case. I think there was room for an auction, but I heard indirectly that some (one?) dealer did not like auctions at the show. I don't know the reason why auctions are disliked nor why the show host agreed. They help fund the show (10% of the proceeds goes for this purpose), provide a way for dealers to get rid of large quantities of common insulators, allow new collectors to acquire insulators economically, provide funds for sellers to spend at the show, seem to be enjoyed by those participating, and usually take a little more than only an hour of time out of the show.

A very early set-up time (6:30 a.m.) on Saturday was scheduled. That was a set-up time too early for me, but I made myself get up and get there by then. Apparently, several collectors stopped by Friday evening and selected a table so some already had name cards on them. The show host wasn't there at 6:30 a.m., so I ended up haphazardly grabbing a table without a name card.



(Above) Riley Armstrong on the left talking to Dave Shaw

A lunch provided by the hotel cost \$15 but was well worth it. Included was a bowl of cheeseburger soup, a pasta salad, a soda pop, and meat rolled into a flour burrito shape. It was very filling and delicious.



This gathering was listed as the 25th Annual Hawkeye Insulator Swap Meet. The early ones were at a park in a side-less shelter house, before being moved to the community center. This was the first year the event was not in the Toledo/Tama, Iowa area but in Perry, Iowa. I heard that next year it will be back in Tama. Since the activities have moved indoors and a table fee is charged, I think it is no longer a swap meet and can officially be called a show.

Upcoming Shows

Friday to Sunday, July 29-31, 2022, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

The National Insulator Association's 53rd Annual Show and Convention will be held at The Wyndham Gettysburg located at 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The spacious Ballroom will accommodate 126 Dealer Tables and 18 Exhibit Tables. This historic location offers plenty to do with Baltimore, Harrisburg, Hershey, and Lancaster all within reach if you choose to plan an extended visit. Detailed show information including the show packet with the daily show schedule and planned activities, dealer and exhibitor reservation forms, banquet and advertising, also a link for room reservations are all available at www.nia.org/shows/2022_national Show host Gus & Debra Stafford, (717) 790-9183, Gus.Stafford@gmail.com

Saturday, August 6, 2022, Berkley, Michigan

The 4th annual **Michigan Insulator Swap** meet will be at a bigger and better location. Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with dealer setup starting at 8 a.m. The swap meet location is at the Knights of Columbus, 2299 Twelve Mile Road, Berkley, Michigan 48072. The location is only 1 hour north of the Michigan/Ohio border, within walking distance to downtown Berkley and there are a few antique stores in the area. Tables are \$25 each. Free admission. Dealers, please RSVP when possible. Contact information: Curtis Erickson (248) 515-4612 crerickson1@gmail.com

Saturday, August 27, 2022, Nisswa, Minnesota

The North-Western Insulator Club invites you to join us on the last Saturday in August for their **Annual Summer Sale and Swap Meet**. Colin and Karen Yennie will host at their home at 1126 Ebert Drive, Nisswa, MN. This is an outdoor show with plenty of space to spread out in the yard. The garage and canopies can be pressed into service if showers threaten to dampen our goodies. Lunch is potluck-so bring a dessert or side dish to share. Colin will fire up the grills to serve brats and burgers. An auction will be held with proceeds to benefit the club. All are welcome to donate or buy. Contact the host with questions or more info. Contacts are Colin Yennie-cryennie@hotmail.com or 507-990-7503 Or Karen at klyennie@hotmail.com or 507-271-3457. This fun event brings in hobbyists from the five-state area and Canada, so there is no shortage of insulators and go-withs to tempt everybody.

Saturday, September 17, 2022, Ottawa, Illinois

The Greater Chicago Insulator Club's annual fall swap meet will be held at the home of Tom & Mary Nugent located at 1999 N. Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350 from 9 a.m. - ?. Bring a table if you can. Free lunch. Club auction with Rick Soller taking bids. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tom at (815) 434-5157 or tnugent@ivnet.com. Although the address is listed as 1999 Columbus Street, attendees need to turn on Alexis Street to get to this address. You cannot see the house from Columbus Street, and you have to travel to the end of Alexis Street to get to the address of the swap meet. Coming from I-80, Alexis Street is one mile south on Columbus Street/U.S. 30 and is the first right turn after Reynolds Manor Dr. You will be going west when you make the turn. Tom will have signs up to make it easier to find his domicile.

Saturday, September 24, 2022, Richfield, Ohio

The Western Reserve Insulator Club's 12th Annual 'Oktoberfest' Insulator Show will be held at the Masonic Hall, 3750 Grant Street, Richfield, OH 44286 (near the southeast corner of Routes 303 & 176), 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Free Admission. 8-foot Dealer Tables \$20. Dealer Setup 9:00 -10:00 AM, Bratwurst and Root Beer available for lunch. Contact: John Hovanec at 216-392-3622, or email him at jrhovanec@ymail.com for details.

Saturday, October 1, 2022, River Falls, Wisconsin

The North Western Insulator Club annual Fall Swap, Show and Sale in River Falls, Wisconsin will be hosted by Mike Braun. We are returning to the Glen Park Pavillion, an indoor facility surrounded by a large park. The building has a wall of garage-type doors that can be opened for comfort and ventilation or closed if weather is inclement. There are floor-to-ceiling windows all around so the light for identifying colors is excellent. Tables and chairs are provided, and lunch will be potluck. Please bring a dish to share. A raffle will be held to finance club activities and an auction. Donations will be welcomed. Contact Mike with donations or for any information. Here is the vital information: Time-9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Host: Mike Braun. Phone: 651-999-9961 Location: Glen Park Pavilion, 361 W Park St. River Falls, Wisconsin Come ready to buy, trade and sell. Bring something to share for lunch. Bring an item to raffle to benefit the club. Be prepared for a great day with friends and fellow hobbyists! Free tables.

Friday to Sunday, November 4-6, 2022, Springfield, Ohio

The 52nd Mid-Ohio Insulator Show will be at the Clark County Fairgrounds, 4401 South Charleston Pike. Exit 59 off I-70. Springfield, Ohio on November 4-6, 2022. Show Hours: Friday Noon - 6 PM, Saturday 8 PM - 5 PM, and Sunday 9 AM - ????. 8-foot tables are \$ 45 each, display tables are always free with advance notification. For easy and immediate payment, PayPal directly to cboster530@att.net. For those wishing to pay via old timey methods, you can send a check or money order to Lois Blair. CONTACT: Curt Boster (614) 301-5125 cboster530@att.net Visit www.insulators.info/shows/springfield for more information.



An amazing piece of art on the wall of the Pattee Hotel room in which the Perry, Iowa show was held. Photograph by Tom Murphy posted on insulators.info.