



GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

Russ Frank, Treasurer

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Rick Retires!

On August 1, 2022, Rick Soller, the long-time editor of the GCIC Newsletter started his first day of retirement. The retirement was from his other job, not from his service as editor of this fine publication. This will have several effects on the club. First, the club will not be able to use his employee discount to produce the print newsletter which will impose additional expenses for the club. Second, he will be able to attend more shows, so will have more to write about so there may be more newsletters written in a year. In fact, in the last month, he has attended the Gettysburg, PA national (July 29-31), the Berkely, MI show (August 6), and the Nisswa, MN swap meet (August 27).

Last year, the yearly expense to print and mail the newsletter was \$220. Without the printing discount, total expenses are projected to increase to \$360 per year. The other major expense of the club is the award given at the National show to the Best Display Using Power Insulators. The cost of this award equals around \$350 which includes the artwork and the framing. This brings total expenses for the club to around \$710 per year.

According to the club president, Bob Stahr, we have approximately 44 paying members this year. With dues at \$10 per member, this brings in \$440. Revenue from club auctions is usually about what food costs at swap meets so does not contribute to revenue to offset expenses. This year, the club was fortunate enough to earn \$200 from the publication and sale of a book of Robert Winkler's drawings of overhead power and electric railway catenary construction details. Subtracting expenses from revenue is estimated to produce a loss to the club of \$70 next year. Luckily, the club has a reserve of several thousand dollars created from income from hosting the 1997 National. Unfortunately, even that reserve is threatened from fees the bank charges for not having a high enough balance each month.

As a result of this accounting, club officers will be monitoring the situation carefully next year and taking a few steps during the intervening period. In the past, club members who let dues lapse were still sent newsletters for extended periods of time. This practice will be significantly curtailed. We are looking for a new bank that does not charge service fees for the amount in our account. Discussions about raising dues or cutting back on the award at the National have been had with no final decision made. Rick may have to limit how many newsletters he writes a year.

Nisswa, MN North Western Insulator Club (NWIC) show report

Hours north of the twin cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul), Karen and Colin Yennie hosted a swap meet on August 27, 2022. Although technically not a GCIC event, many of those in attendance were GCIC club members including Rick Soller, Dave French, Riley Armstrong, and sometimes Ed Peters (although not currently). In addition, the auction held at the swap meet was run by GCIC members Rick Soller and Dave French with most auction lots provided by club members. With GCIC involvement and since the NWIC does not publish a newsletter anymore, it seems appropriate to write a show report (and perhaps compare the show to GCIC shows 😊).

There were at least 19 people at the event. Besides the four collectors mentioned earlier, others included Judd & Emmett Machala (St. Cloud, MN), John & Nadine Frank (Darlingford, MB), Terry Kornberg & Pam (Andover, MN), Dave Dahle (Sioux Falls, SD), Mike Powers (Brainerd, MN), Gary & Marita Senum (Thief River Falls, MN), recently retired Ed Peters (Appleton, WI), Rick Augustyn & wife (Illinois?), Joe B., Don Coulter, and Colin & Karen Yennie (Nisswa, MN).

Unlike at GCIC swap meets, attendees in Nisswa seemed reluctant to bid on lots with some not being sold (those are not listed below) and several needing to be combined to get a one-dollar bid. On the other hand, those who did bid, took home incredible bargains. A large percentage of the auction lots were brought by Rick Soller who was disappointed in the poor sales but delighted by the bargains he won. He figures the value of what he bought more than made up for the low bids on what he sold.

Another difference between GCIC auctions and the auction at Nisswa was in total sales and revenue to the club. The typical GCIC auction involves 100+ lots with an average of \$1200 sold, thus contributing \$120 to swap meet expenses. As shown below, only 32 lots were offered in the land of 10,000 lakes which only generated \$20 for the club.

Lot	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$2	John Frank
2	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$3	John Frank
3	Rick Soller	3 boxes of insulators	\$6	Riley Armstrong
4	Rick Soller	2 boxes of glass	\$11	Judd Machula
5	Rick Soller	5 boxes of insulators	\$1	Mary
6	Rick Soller	Box of insulators	\$1	Dave French
7	Rick Soller	Box of insulators	\$1	Riley Armstrong
8	Rick Soller	Box of insulators	\$7	John Frank
9	Rick Soller	Box of insulators	\$5	Riley Armstrong
10	Rick Soller	Telephone Pioneers of America (4)	\$14	Don Coulter
11	Rick Soller	Box of insulators	\$1	Joe B.
12	Rick Soller	2 boxes of insulators	\$6	Don Coulter
13	Rick Soller	Box of insulators	\$1	Riley Armstrong
14	Rick Soller	3 crates of insulators, crackled insulators, Hemi-42s	\$1	Don Coulter
15	Rick Soller	Suspension insulator, fog-type, brown	\$5	Don Coulter
16	Club	Insulators	\$1	John Frank
17	Club	Climbers	\$1	Rick Soller
18	Club	Canadian insulator	\$5	Don Coulter
19	Donation	CPR porcelain insulator	\$1	Dave French
20	Donation	Slater cable spacer	\$5	Riley Armstrong
21	Riley Armstrong	Multipart – choice (Victor)	\$14	Gary Senum
22	Riley Armstrong	Crossarm	\$1	Joe B.
23	Riley Armstrong	24 sidepins on a post + post with more sidepins	\$5	Rick Soller
24	Riley Armstrong	Brackets	\$2	Don Coulter
25	Riley Armstrong	Crossarms	\$1	Dave French
26	Riley Armstrong	Brackets	\$10	Rick Soller
27	Riley Armstrong	Green streetlight shade	\$6	Mary
28	Riley Armstrong	2 strings of suspensions	\$5	Don Coulter
29	Riley Armstrong	Pins	\$10	Richard Augustyn
30	Riley Armstrong	Fruit jars, clear and aqua	\$1	Colin Yennie
31	Riley Armstrong	Spotlight	\$1	Colin Yennie
32	Riley Armstrong	2-tone CD 154 Hemingray, skirt chip	\$1	Rick Soller
		Total	\$135	
	Club income	10% of non-donations = \$13 +\$7 in donations = \$20		

Collectors at the Northern Minnesota swap meet had some surprising purchases and unexpected items for sale. Several collectors bought blue Lapp porcelain suspension insulators, for example. One seller brought two four-insulator strings of J-D blue porcelain suspensions. Polymer suspensions were also popular with Riley Armstrong purchasing about a dozen of them and a younger collector expressing an interest in buying one or more of them. Another collector bought a pile of lightning arrestors and other modern electrical material. A huge Canadian Porcelain multipart with a metal pin cemented to the top and another multipart screwed to the top was sold by Rick Soller with another collector interested in getting one. Riley Armstrong brought a massive airport light to sell with no luck. Wayne Duzynski had a spotlight and about two insulators on his table. One collector's insulators were all California's which you would think would not be in demand in the Midwest.

A club meeting was held after lunch with some interesting issues discussed. With a much smaller balance in the treasury, there was concern about funding club events. Rick Soller motioned and the members unanimously approved charging \$10 to set-up at the October 1, River Falls, WI show. It was surprising that a table fee wasn't already in effect. Dave French motioned and the members unanimously approved increasing dues from \$8 to \$10, especially since most members gave \$10 to the treasurer and said, "keep the change."



Dave French's sales table.



(Above) Rick Augustyn sales table

(Right) Ed Peters at his half of the table. Rick Soller had books and insulators on the other half.



Gettysburg, Pennsylvania National Show Report

Even though Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was almost 700 miles and 11 hours away, Rick Soller and Bob Stahr drove to the National show and back, antiquing on the way during the two-day trip there and powering their way home in one day on Sunday, July 31. Other club members who made it to the show included Dale Glendenning, Gene Hawkins, Arlen & Tine Rienstra, and Jason Townsend.

There were 12 competitive displayers and one non-competitive display. From the club, Rick Soller displayed glass and porcelain insulator molds but did not win any of the NIA nor club awards. The GCIC award for Best Use of Power Insulators went to Mary Ann Pike for her display of Westinghouse insulators. This year's award consisted of a drawing of the CD 249 No. 0 Provo Type and how they looked on a pole. Club president, Bob Stahr, presented the professionally framed artwork to Mary Ann at the banquet.



Berkley, Michigan Swap Meet

The 4th annual swap meet hosted by Curtis Erickson took place in a bigger and better facility than in previous years. The Saturday, August 6, 2022 show drew an interesting mix of dealers including one from Canada (Barrett Nicpon), a couple Detroit-area linemen, numerous Michigan and Ohio dealers, a few “walk-ins” who were experiencing their first show, and Rick Soller from Gurnee, IL.



(Above left) Odette Erickson’s first show with her dad, Curtis. (Above right) A CD 1014 No embossing “Yandell.”

The most excitement at the show was when a woman walked in and showed off a CD 1014 in an unlisted amber color and in incredible condition. This insulator is known as a “Yandell” for the person who patented it. John Yandell received U.S. patent 8,438 on October 14, 1851 for the insulator. The unnamed woman found it in a creek bank when digging for bottles. She originally thought it was a bottle top. Despite a sizeable offer to buy it, she went home with the piece.

Collectors interested in Detroit-area insulators were able to glean quite a bit of knowledge at the show. Insulators removed from lines in the last few days were available on a couple tables staffed by linemen. In porcelain, several U-487s in cobalt blue with an ink stamp of PP 42 96 was for sale with various tie-wire configurations. In glass, there were CD 125 W.U. insulators in aqua, and CD 137 “hockey puck” Hemingray D-990s in clear for sale.

Lots of bargains were available at the show. Several tables and accompanying buckets in the back of the show had a wide variety of free insulators. One dealer table offered mint CD 233 Pyrex carnival insulators at below book value.

Some high-end pieces were also available. CD 154s Dominions in amber and CD 154s from Cuba were offered on Barrett Nicpon’s table. A CD 128 Hemingray in opalescent traded hands at the show as did a CD 267.5 N.E.G.M. in a green color. Rick Soller picked up a CD 966 with some large chips and is going to try his hand at repairing it.

The show also offered great hospitality. A free pizza lunch was provided to everyone in attendance along with a beverage (water or soda pop).

Since the date of the show conflicted with a telephone show, a few dealers were missing (e.g., Jack Snyder who lives a few miles away from the show) who might otherwise have attended. Finding a McDonalds in the morning proved to be a challenge since none were near the show site and getting to one required some U-turns and odd directions. Despite this, the show was well worth attending.

Upcoming Shows

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 Pavilion, 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. Tables are \$10 each. 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!

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

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 - ????. Display tables are always free with advance notification. CONTACT: Curt Boster (614) 301-5125 OR cboster530@att.net Visit www.insulators.info/shows/springfield for more information.