



GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

John Fisher, Club Member of the Month



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May Club Member of the Month

John Fisher, son of Bob Fisher and Jennifer Alley-Fisher is the club member of the month. He was all smiles at the Columbia City, Indiana show and attracted lots of attention. I asked him if the club could hold a swap meet at his house and he said yes. In conversation with his parents, a date of August 19, 2023 was arranged for the gathering in Rochester, Indiana. More details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Second place for club member of the month goes to Robert Winkler who made a surprise appearance at the show with his brother-in-law, Bob Harris. Robert managed to pick up a CD 102 he was looking for, score a couple winning bids in the auction, and resell some of the auction pieces before heading back to Michigan City.



(Left) John Fisher hacking into a Russian defense database. (Right) Robert Winkler (in a hat) talking with Gene Hawkins (in a hat).

Columbia City Show Report

The May 5-6, 2023 Friday and Saturday show in Columbia City, Indiana was smaller than usual but still marked by some good purchases, sales, auction triumphs, walk-ins, food, and an informative show & tell session.

Dealers filled 21 sales tables. Show co-host Gene Hawkins in his yellow shirt had 2, co-host Mike McLaughlin had 3, Justin Stoudt had 3, Arlen & Tina Rienstra had 2, Josh Dondorf had 3, Ken Richardson had 1, Jim Johnson had 2, Dave Shaw had 2, Rick Soller had 1, Kim Borgman had 1, and Josephine Ramp had 1.

A few people walked into the show with insulators to sell. Some of these insulators ended up in the auction but a milky aqua CD 162 Hemingray No. 19 was shopped to dealers around the show and ended up going home with Rick Soller for \$400 – a bargain price for a piece listed in the price guide for \$500-600.

Those who attended the Friday evening show & tell session learned a great deal about K.C.G.W. insulators. Dump diggers present at the gathering included Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Bob Stahr, Rick Soller, and Gene Hawkins. Dump finds shown by Arlen included Fruit jar tops in shades of aqua, chunks of glass, and parts of a ketchup bottle (not made there but bottled there). Dump finds by Gene Hawkins included pieces of insulators with dots and bars, and small shards of a CD 120.

Testimony from the collectors at the event indicated that K.C.G.W. insulators were used all over the U.S. Specific reports indicated they were used in Western Kentucky, Indiana, and Alaska as well as other states.

Examples of the Fairmount company's insulators highlighted that the insulators generally came in limited colors. The most common colors ranged from aqua to dark green with the blue ones being one of the least common colors. A notable exception is a citrine piece in a Pennsylvania collection that was picked by a lineman. This piece was in a combined display at the Mid-Ohio show in Springfield a few years ago.

There were 36 lots offered by 8 sellers in the auction, grossing \$235 and netting \$23 in commissions for the show hosts. This averaged out to \$6.50 per lot with 10 lots selling for \$1 and the most expensive lot going for \$30. Out of 18 collectors signed up to bid in the auction, 14 (78%) were successful.

#	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Mike McLaughlin	4 porcelain insulators	\$11	Bob Winkler
2	Mike McLaughlin	Milk bottle, fence insulator	\$1	Bill Schwantes
3	Mike McLaughlin	Mickey Mouse, spool, transposition	\$30	Patrick Zaharako
4	Mike McLaughlin	3 Dump insulators, broken, CD 128s	\$1	Rick Soller
5	Mike McLaughlin	3 cables + 1 insulator	\$4	Al Arlic
6	Mike McLaughlin	English composition insulator, porcelain spool	\$1	Josh Dondorf
7	Mike McLaughlin	Star green beehive	\$4	Patrick Zaharako
8	Mike McLaughlin	Hemingray 9s	\$6	Kim Borgman
9	Mike McLaughlin	WFG CD 121	\$14	Arlen Rienstra
10	Mike McLaughlin	Steel Blue 143s (4)	\$6	Bill Schwantes
11	Mike McLaughlin	9 insulators	\$7	Bill Schwantes
12	Jim Johnson	Box lot of metal pins	\$2	Kim Borgman
13	Jim Johnson	Box lot of metal pins, 2 x \$2	\$4	Lee Brewer
14	Jim Johnson	Box lot of metal pins	\$1	Lee Brewer
15	Jim Johnson	Box lot of metal pins	\$1	Ken Richardson
16	Jim Johnson	6 box lots of metal pins	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
17	Jim Johnson	Choice of Boxes 2@\$1	\$2	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
18	Jim Johnson	Choice of Boxes	\$1	Jim Berg
19	Justin Stoudt	12 porcelain insulators	\$3	Al Arlic

20	Justin Stoudt	Porcelain insulators, fireplug	\$5	Bill Schwantes
21	Rick Soller	2 boxes of porcelain	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
22	Rick Soller	Porcelain box lot	\$7	Josh Dondorf
23	Rick Soller	Ohio Brass, Canadian porcelain	\$7	Josh Dondorf
24	Rick Soller	6 beehives	\$4	Arlen Rienstra
25	Rick Soller	14 Canadian insulators	\$16	Bill Schwantes
26	Rick Soller	Carnival glass, 6 insulators total	\$21	Bill Schwantes
27	Jim Berg	Empty boxes (7)	\$14	Kim Borgman
28	Jim Berg	Empty boxes (3)	\$6	Mike McLaughlin
29	Jim Berg	Empty boxes (4)	\$8	Bill Schwantes
30	Jim Berg	Empty boxes (1)	\$2	Arlen Rienstra
31	Josh Dondorf	Bottles	\$11	Bill Schwantes
32	John Diller	Glass, house knob, porcelain	\$5	Bill Schwantes
33	John Diller	Spool, porcelain	\$8	Bob Winkler
34	John Diller	12s, glass, bracket	\$4	Bill Schwantes
35	Dave Lewis	Plastic tote of CD 154s, with lid	\$4	Patrick Zaharako
36	Dave Lewis	2 plastic totes of CD 154s, 2/lids	\$6	Gene Hawkins
		Total	\$235	



(Left) Josephine Ramp talking to Jennifer Alley-Fisher (Right).



Al Arlic looking over Mike McLaughlin's sales tables. Auction lots are on the table behind Al.



(Left) Mark Gilmore sitting at The Insulator Store table staffed by Justin Stoudt who came all the way from Kutztown, Pennsylvania and picked Lee Brewer up in Bellefontaine, Ohio



Josh Dondorf with all kinds of insulators, bottles, jars, lightning rods, quilts, signs, and other antiques on his three sales tables.

Wheaton Prairie Path Hunt

Around the time of the DuPage Collectors Expo show, is about when hunting on the prairie path is at its best. The weather is cool, and the vegetation hasn't made seeing insulators on the ground difficult. This year, Robert Schultz initiated the hunt with a group of four collectors heading out to explore a section of the trail that had not been searched yet as far as we know.

The timing of the hunt was tricky. Rain was predicted for several days after the April 1 show so Thursday, April 6, 2023 was picked as the best option. Robert Schultz, Rick Soller, new collector Larry Rotheiser, and Doug Pfau met at 9:30 a.m. near the intersection of Warrenville Road and Batavia Road to head north on the trail.

Nothing much was found over the course of the approximately 1-mile stretch that was searched. A few pieces of glass were found by Robert. Larry took home a modern gray porcelain lightning arrestor. Rick found a plastic Ohio Brass lightning arrestor but let someone else have it. Newer hardware consisting of a brass bolt-like clamp used to connect two wires and two aluminum gripping pieces was found. A heavy hunk of metal was also hauled out to be recycled.

2023 Insulator Price Guides for Sale.

The new (2013) Insulator Price Guide by Don Briel is out and a large quantity was bought to get a quantity discount. As a club member, you can get one for \$49 postpaid if sent by media mail (a \$5 savings), or \$45 if purchased at a show (\$9 savings). They will be available at Rick Soller's sales table at Tama, IA, Logan, UT, Rochester, IN, Ottawa, IL, and Springfield, OH. There is a page in the guide to order the price guide browser to use on your smart phone, tablet or computer. To order a guide, you can make out a check or money order payable to Rick Soller (Not the GCIC), and send it to him at 4086 Blackstone Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031. PayPal friends and family can also be used to make payment using the email of rdmershon@aol.com.

Upcoming Area Shows

Saturday, June 3, 2023. Tama, Iowa

The 26th Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet will be returning to Tama and is being held at the Tama Civic Center on Saturday, June 3rd from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The Tama Civic Center is located at 305 Siegel St, Tama, IA 52339. Dealers planning on setting up can do so starting at 7:00 AM. There will be no cost to those planning on attending though dealers wishing for table space will need to contact the show host in advance. This event tends to attract collectors from Iowa and surrounding states and is a very relaxed atmosphere which is greatly enjoyed by those attending. We look forward to hosting you again and wish to provide you with some Hawkeye hospitality. For any additional information and to request table space, please feel free to contact Dave Shaw at (641) 484-5463 or e-mail at dashaw@mchsi.com

Saturday, July 8, 2023

West Leechburg, Pennsylvania

The Western Reserve Insulator Club's 23rd Annual Allegheny Valley Insulator Show & Sale will be held in the West Leechburg Fireman's Recreation Hall, 1116 Gosser St., West Leechburg, PA 15656. Show Hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with dealer setup starting at 7:30 AM. 8' tables are \$20. Free Admission Contact: Ron Barth rktbarth@windstream.net (724) 845-8439.

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Rochester, Indiana

GCIC Swap Meet at the home of Bob Fisher, Jennifer Alley-Fisher, and John Fisher, located at 4557 N. St. Rd. 25, Rochester, IN 46975. Bring a table if you can. Lunch provided. There will be an auction. Contact: Jennifer at jalley341@yahoo.com or call (574) 551-9040 to RSVP or get more information.

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Ottawa, Illinois

This will be the last swap meet that Tom Nugent hosts. 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 to make it easier to find his domicile.