



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

John Fisher, Club Member of the Month

Volume 31, Number 6
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Correction

The address contained in the last newsletter for the August swap meet in Rochester, IN was not correct. The correct address is 6557 N. St. Rd. 25, Rochester, IN 46975 and has been corrected in the list of upcoming area shows in this issue.

Ron Ballard, R.I.P.

At the April 2023 Wheaton show, I learned from Dick Schroeder of the passing of Ron Ballard, 77 years old, from Elk Grove Village, Illinois on December 8, 2022. Ron was big into lightning rod balls and threadless insulators before giving them up due to health reasons.

His interest in insulators perhaps came from his long-time employment by ComEd. Perhaps his intensity toward collecting came from his experience in the U.S. Marine Corp during the Vietnam War where he was awarded two purple hearts, a silver star, and other decorations.

In the early years of the hobby, Ron frequently attended the shows in the Chicago area but had not attended any of the recent ones.



Tama, Iowa Show Report

The 26th Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet returned to Tama, Iowa and the familiar Tama Civic Center on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Situated next to the railroad tracks with excellent lighting, easy in-and-out, no cost for table rental, and Midwest hospitality, the swap meet drew collectors from Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and one dealer from Massachusetts.

As usual, the activities began on Friday evening with a gathering at the home of show host Dave Shaw and his cousin Rhonda. About a dozen collectors enjoyed seeing Dave's collection, talking insulators, and snacking on cheese, meats & crackers. Eventually the crowd headed to the local Meskwaki Indian tribe casino for the buffet where conversations continued.

This may be the last time the group makes the trek for dinner to this establishment since the cost of the buffet plus automatic tip for a large group added up to \$39.99 per person!

Dealers (with number of tables in parentheses) included Pat & Sherrie Miller (1), Bill & Lind Connell (1), Bill & Jill Meier (1), Tom Murphy (1), Jim & Mary Joan O'Conner (3), Riley Armstrong (1), Boone & Jennifer Jeffers (1), Bill Snell, Arlan Johnson (1), Rick Thompson (1), Patrick & Chuck Moyland (1), Rick Soller (1), Dennis Seltrecht (1), Josh Dondorf (2), Dave Shaw (1), Gene Hawkins (1), Steve Hedum (2), Dennis & Jeanne Weber, and Jeff, Jennifer, Dory, Larry, & Pat Whitlock (2).

Others in attendance included Skip Lowe, Deb Booker, Ross Huth, Greg Delia, Wayne Duzinski, Dave Dahle, Jon Brinck, Andy Swanson, Doug Schinker, and a few new collectors.

The strong attendance was despite the upcoming National in Logan, Utah a week later. In fact, the close timing of the two shows may have helped the swap meet as Bill & Jill Meier used the event as a stopping point on the way to the National from Massachusetts and several other collectors from the east planned to continue west after the show.

Jim O'Conner saw the most action at the swap meet as he was downsizing his collection and filled his three tables with choice pieces. A CD 159 Gregory and a mint CD 151 NATCO quickly found new homes. Some great color, power pieces, and other rarities were other insulators that were part of a feeding frenzy.

An auction of 84 lots of insulators and related items saw good participation by both dealers and sellers. By the 10:10 a.m. starting time, 20 people had signed up for a bidder number with 13 of them placing winning bids. On the seller's side, 9 dealers contributed items to the auction with all of the lots selling, bringing in \$71 in commissions for show expenses. 34 lots in the auction sold for \$1, providing bargains for the winning bidders. On the other hand, the highest priced lots included \$60 for a box of wood pins, a \$45 lightning arrester, \$35 for a box of railroad tags, forms, & envelopes, and \$20 to \$25 for various Bell Telephone glass paperweights. Full results are found below.

#	Seller	Description	\$	Buyer
1	Dave Shaw	7 porcelain insulators, colors	\$7	Riley Armstrong
2	Dave Shaw	Green suspension	\$1	Rick Soller
3	Dave Shaw	Date nails	\$1	Andy Swanson
4	Dave Shaw	Box of porcelain power insulators	\$5	Rick Soller
5	Dave Shaw	Nice box of 20 insulators	\$1	Andy Swanson
6	Dave Shaw	Box of 10 porcelain, 1 white	\$1	Andy Swanson
7	Dave Shaw	Porcelain tramp box	\$1	Andy Swanson
8	Dave Shaw	Porcelain box, New Lexington piece	\$22	Josh Dondorf
9	Dave Shaw	Long box of 15 porcelain	\$1	Andy Swanson
10	Dave Shaw	5 porcelain power + long box	\$4	Rick Soller
11	Dave Shaw	Box of glass	\$5	Andy Swanson
12	Dave Shaw	2 large multiparts	\$2	Andy Swanson
13	Dave Shaw	15 pieces of glass in box	\$1	Andy Swanson
14	Dave Shaw	Box of mixed porcelain	\$7	Greg Delia
15	Dave Shaw	Mixed box of porcelain	\$12	Riley Armstrong
16	Dave Shaw	3 boxes of mixed porcelain	\$3	Andy Swanson
17	Pat Miller	Lamp parts	\$5	Gene Hawkins
18	Greg Delia	Box of 8 + cable	\$6	Riley Armstrong
19	Greg Delia	Box of brackets and porcelain	\$1	Andy Swanson
20	Greg Delia	Large box of porcelain + plastic box	\$1	Andy Swanson

21	Greg Delia	Glass beehives	\$1	Andy Swanson
22	Greg Delia	Porcelain spools and brackets	\$1	Riley Armstrong
23	Greg Delia	9 small suspensions	\$1	Andy Swanson
24	Greg Delia	Choice of large blue suspensions 4 @ \$5	\$20	Riley Armstrong
25	Greg Delia	3 large blue Lapp suspensions	\$11	Riley Armstrong
26	Greg Delia	2 grey substation porcelain posts	\$1	Riley Armstrong
27	Greg Delia	Brown substation post	\$1	Riley Armstrong
28	Greg Delia	Box of 5 polymer and hardware	\$1	Riley Armstrong
29	Greg Delia	5 suspensions	\$1	Riley Armstrong
30	Greg Delia	First aid kit and field phone	\$9	Rick Soller
31	Greg Delia	Big Cutout	\$1	Riley Armstrong
32	Skip Lowe	Box of tags, envelopes, and forms	\$35	Andy Swanson
33	Rick Soller	Box of mixed glass	\$9	Tom Murphy
34	Rick Soller	Small box of porcelain x 3	\$1	Olen Hoskins
35	Rick Soller	Rows of multiparts	\$2	Greg Delia
36	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain strains	\$12	Olen Hoskins
37	Rick Soller	Big flat of mixed porcelain	\$16	Jon Brinck
38	Rick Soller	Box of Hewletts & brackets	\$7	Greg Delia
39	Rick Soller	Voltmeter and case	\$1	Andy Swanson
40	Rick Soller	Relay	\$1	Riley Armstrong
41	Rick Soller	Box of CD 168 glass insulators	\$1	Andy Swanson
42	Rick Soller	Lightning arrester	\$45	Riley Armstrong
43	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain and glass	\$8	Tom Murphy
44	Rick Soller	Box of 15 diamond ponies	\$16	Andy Swanson
45	Rick Soller	Box of Canadian glass	\$6	Andy Swanson
46	Rick Soller	Canadian ponies	\$24	Daryl Lawrence
47	Rick Soller	Box of CD 102s	\$18	Olen Hoskins
48	Rick Soller	Box of mixed porcelain	\$1	Greg Delia
49	Rick Soller	Box of Canadian glass	\$6	Andy Swanson
50	Rick Soller	Canadian ponies	\$13	Gene Hawkins
51	Rick Soller	6 Canadian beehives	\$5	Olen Hoskins
52	Rick Soller	2 boxes porcelain and glass	\$3	Riley Armstrong
53	Patrick Moylan	Nice box of glass	\$11	Andy Swanson
54	Patrick Moylan	Nice box of 25 glass insulators	\$4	Andy Swanson
55	Riley Armstrong	Box of 7 glass insulators	\$11	Aiden
56	Riley Armstrong	Row of mixed porcelain	\$1	Greg Delia
57	Dennis Weber	4 cobalt telephone Bell ppwts, small	\$13	Jeff Whitlock
58	Dennis Weber	Choice of cobalt Bell paperweight	\$25	Dennis Seltrecht
59	Dennis Weber	Choice of cobalt Bell paperweight x 2	\$44	Ross Berndt
60	Dennis Weber	Choice of cobalt Bell paperweight x 3	\$60	Dave Shaw
61	Dennis Weber	Choice of Bell paperweight	\$20	Greg Delia
62	Dennis Weber	Choice of Bell paperweight	\$20	Jeff Whitlock
63	Steve Hedum	2 boxes of mixed porcelain	\$1	Andy Swanson
64	Steve Hedum	Box of mixed glass	\$1	Andy Swanson
65	Skip Lowe	Tote of insulators with calendar	\$24	Andy Swanson

66	Rick Soller	1 multipart	\$1	Riley Armstrong
67	Rick Soller	4 multiparts	\$1	Greg Delia
68	Rick Soller	Pyrex power insulator	\$1	Greg Delia
69	Riley Armstrong	7up cans	\$7	Andy Swanson
70	Riley Armstrong	Porcelain tray	\$1	Andy Swanson
71	Greg Delia	Metal can	\$1	Riley Armstrong
72	Greg Delia	2 strings of suspensions	\$3	Olen Hoskins
73	Steve Hedum	Climbers	\$1	Gene Hawkins
74	Steve Hedum	Pins	\$60	Rick Soller
75	Steve Hedum	8 multiparts	\$5	Greg Delia
76	Steve Hedum	8 uniparts, Lapp, Porcelain Products	\$1	Greg Delia
77	Steve Hedum	Porcelain pintypes, kegs, strains	\$1	Greg Delia
78	Steve Hedum	2 porcelain cutouts	\$13	Greg Delia
79	Steve Hedum	4 Edison bottles	\$1	Greg Delia
80	Steve Hedum	Choice of glass insulator x 2	\$2	Dennis Seltrecht
81	Steve Hedum	Choice of glass insulator x 5	\$5	Gene Hawkins
82	Steve Hedum	Choice of glass insulator x 2	\$2	Dennis Seltrecht
83	Steve Hedum	Choice of glass x 12	\$12	Greg Delia
84	Steve Hedum	Rest of glass	\$1	Andy Swanson
	Total		\$719	

Notes from the National

The June 9-11, 2023 National in Logan, UT was a huge success. The venue, although not attached to either show hotel, was spacious, well lighted, and had easy access. Unloading went smoothly, no problems were noted with show security, sales were strong, and displays were great.

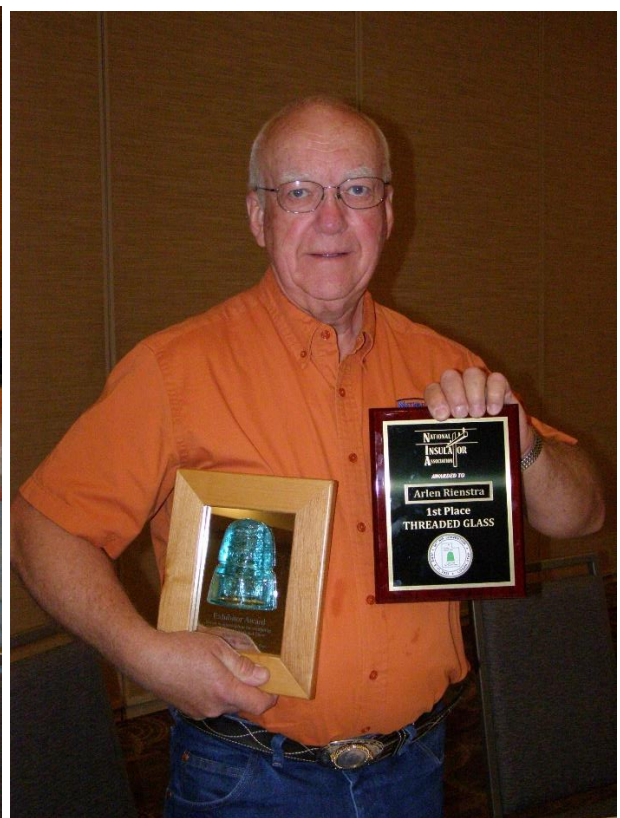
Several club members made the long trip to the event. Rick Soller drove the 1400 miles in two days while it was reported that Jason Townsend and his fellow collector-companion did it in one day. Arlen and Tina Rienstra took an extended trip before and after the show with a total of about 14 days on the road. Bob Stahr flew into Salt Lake City on Thursday, rented a car and drove to Logan, returning the same way on Sunday morning. Les Christensen came with his daughter, Tammy Walsh, although their mode of transportation wasn't learned. Other drivers to the show included Riley Armstrong and Gene Hawkins.

Two club members had displays, both winning awards for their efforts. Arlen Rienstra won the NIA Threaded Glass Best of Category award for his display of Hemingray ice aqua glass insulators. Accenting the display was a custom-made neon sign with the words "Hemingray Glass." This award is named the "Woody" Woodward award, giving it special cachet. Rick Soller too first place in the specialty category with his display of oil insulators. Several rarities were included in the display including a purple CD 240 Pomona and porcelain oil cups from England.

Club president Bob Stahr presented the club award for "Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators," voted on by club members at the show. The winner was Jay Bernasek for a display that included various "eared" insulators. The award consisted of a one-of-a-kind drawing by Gus Stafford of a Mershon insulator on a crossarm.



Jay Bernasek's display that won the GCIC Award for Best Use of Power Insulators.



Club members Rick Soller (left) and Arlen Rienstra (right) with their display award and first place category trophies. Rick took first place in the Specialty category and Arlen won first place in the Threaded Glass category.

Upcoming Area Shows

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. Contact: Ron Barth rktbarth@windstream.net (724) 845-8439.

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Berkley, Michigan

The 5th Annual Michigan Insulator Show will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2299 Twelve Mile Road, Berkley, MI 48072. Show hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with dealer setup starting at 8 AM. 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 \$30 each, free admission. Contact Curtis Erickson at (248) 515-4612 or crerickson1@gmail.com

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Nisswa, Minnesota

The North Western Insulator Club's Annual Summer Swap Meet will be at Colin and Karen Yennie's Home, 1126 Ebert Drive, Nisswa, MN 56468, Setup in the yard but bring your own tables and chairs. A few canopies will be available. Lunch is potluck. Colin will be grilling and we welcome sides and desserts. Hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. An auction will be held mid-day with proceeds dedicated to future club projects. All are welcome to buy and sell. If questions or to RSVP call the Yennies at 507-271-3457 or email Colin at cryennie@hotmail.com or Karen at klyennie@hotmail.com. We'll see you in the summer.

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Rochester, Indiana

GCIC Swap Meet at the home of Bob Fisher, Jennifer Alley-Fisher, and John Fisher, located at 6557 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.