



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

Yes, the Ottawa Swap Meet is On!

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Berkley, Michigan Show Report

The turnout at the Berkley, Michigan show on July 29, 2023 was so good, the show host, Curtis Erickson, was able to refund money to dealers. Rather than \$30 a table, the cost was dropped to \$25. This was because twice as many dealers set up this year compared to last year, making it easier to cover the cost of the show Knights of Columbus Hall. Dealers came from as far away as Texas (Bob & Carolyn Berry) and Montana (Roger Ziesak) but also from surrounding states including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan (not a neighboring state but listed for completeness). Club members contributed to the strong showing of dealers and included Rick Soller, Mark Gilmore, Cole King, Gene Hawkins, J. Van Brown, Dale Glendenning, and Mike McLaughlin.

Besides the large number of dealers and reduced table costs, the show featured a quality auction, pleasant weather, many new collectors, and some great pieces changing hands. A lunch of pizza, water, and various soda pops was provided by the show host (aided by his parents, Ron and Ann Erickson). The announced dealer set up time of 8 a.m. saw a hive of activity in the parking lot and show hall even before this and the action continued until after 2:30 p.m., well beyond when the typical show dies out. I think everyone made it home safely and with a smile on their face.

There were some notable faces making it to the show but also a good group of younger collectors. Younger collectors included Mike Knox, Jonathan Warzecha, and Danielle Tirpkoff. Curtis Erickson and Barrett Nicpon have been moved to the middle category of seniority. Old timers included Rod Krupka, and Jack Snyder. Others we recognized at the show included John Hovanek & Sharon Foster (dealers), and Raven Kotlarsky, Michelle Kotlarsky (walk-ins).

Surprisingly, the weather was nice despite 100+ degree heat in the south. As the doors to the show opened, it was cool. A brief rain shower occurred shortly after this, but the rest of the day was sunny. The only time I felt uncomfortable was when elevated on the stage during the auction where the heat and humidity was closer to the ceiling.

Two dealers put some very nice lots in the auction, resulting in \$1371 in sales despite the smaller number of lots (59 vs. the usual 100+). Rick Soller called out bids, hovering high on the stage filled with box lots. Mike McLaughlin held up insulators in the lot being sold and identified the contents of boxes. Initially, Ann Erickson was strong-armed into agreeing to be the recorder, but Carolyn Berry replaced her before the 1:30 start of the auction. Her flowing handwriting and detail in the sheets made typing up the results below much more enjoyable. Thanks to both Carolyn and Mike for their help.

Statistics on each auction are collected so trends might be identified. The \$137 commission from the auction went to the show host to defer expenses. Maybe dealer tables will be even cheaper next year as a result! There were 24 people signed up for the auction with 14 of them being successful in buying something. Eight people put something in the auction. Unlike previous auctions, this one was held after lunch and started at about 1:30 p.m.

#	Seller	Description	\$	Buyer
1	Dale Glendenning	12 glass insulators, CD 125s	\$6	John Hovanek
2	Rick Soller	12 glass ponies, Canadian, ambers	\$10	Roger Ziesak
3	Rick Soller	Box lot of 8 porcelain	.50	Mike Knox
4	Rick Soller	6 glass insulators, CD 168s	\$16	Danielle Tirpkoff
5	Rick Soller	6 porcelain, Lapp, OB	\$1	John Hovanek
6	Rick Soller	6 large porcelain	\$1	Jonathan Warzecha
7	Rick Soller	6 porcelain, 1 blue	\$1	Mike Knox
8	Jessica	8 porcelain, Canadian spool	.50	Mike Knox
9	Jessica	Green Lynchburg, blue porcelain, spools	\$14	Bob Berry
10	Jessica	Glass, CD 210, beehives	\$19	Jonathan Warzecha
11	Jessica	Various glass	\$80	J. Van Brown
12	Jessica	20 glass, white porcelain, bullet	\$35	Jonathan Warzecha
13	Jessica	16 glass insulators, Lynchburg, Dec. Patent	\$10	Mike Knox
14	Jessica	15 insulators, 1 purple	\$10	Mike Knox
15	Jessica	20 insulators, CD 133 Lt. green	\$31	Kurt Sturgos
16	Jessica	16 insulators, bullet, CD 210, beehives, Knox, green SDP	\$40	Roger Ziesak
17	Jessica	CD 151, Lynchburg, #2 cable, CD 152 Brookfield	\$32	Bob Berry
18	Jessica	7up, Postal, straw diamond	\$40	Jonathan Warzecha
19	Jessica	Porcelain fireplug, Carnival CD 168	\$50	Cole King
20	Jessica	Clears, gold 2-tone, 7up mint	\$26	John Hovanek
21	Jessica	W.U., Lynchburgs, ponies	\$82	Jonathan Warzecha
22	Jessica	Rubber, porcelain, army green	\$15	Rick Soller
23	Jessica	CD 133, tie wire (3)	\$23	John Hovanek
24	Mark Gilmore	7up green, olive, purple	\$72	Bob Berry
25	Mark Gilmore	Various insulators	\$57	Bob Berry
26	Mark Gilmore	Beehives, blob top	\$30	Bob Berry
27	Mark Gilmore	Lynchburg, B&O	\$23	Roger Ziesak
28	Mark Gilmore	2 piece tramps	\$175	Gene Hawkins
29	Mark Gilmore	Purple Cal, yellow, Lynchburg	\$42	Bob Berry
30	Mark Gilmore	Postal, #4s	\$13	John Hovanek
31	Mark Gilmore	CD 124, 7up green	\$17	Bob Berry
32	Mark Gilmore	Foreign porcelain (shoe box)	\$25	Bob Berry
33	Mark Gilmore	7up green pony	\$57	John Hovanek
34	Mike McLaughlin	Milk Glass CD 164	\$14	Mike McLaughlin
35	Mike McLaughlin	2 Hewletts with hardware	\$16	Mike Knox
36	Mike McLaughlin	Box of porcelain – Lapp	\$15	Jonathan Warzecha
37	Mike McLaughlin	4 cables from Cadillac, MI	\$10	Mike Knox
38	Mike McLaughlin	3 side pins from Cadillac, MI	\$15	Rick Soller
39	Mike McLaughlin	3 porcelain from Cadillac, MI	\$1	Mike Knox

40	Mike McLaughlin	Smokey Cal, CSA in dome	\$12	Curtis Erickson
41	Mike McLaughlin	2 large multiparts	\$5	Jonathan Warzecha
42	Mike McLaughlin	10 glass insulators	.50	Mike Knox
43	Mike McLaughlin	9 various insulators	\$8	Jeff Leake
44	Mike McLaughlin	Amber Lauchner commemorative	\$11	Rick Soller
45	Mike Knox	Mixed lot	\$10	Jeff Leake
46	Mike Knox	Porcelain w/bracket + 8 more	\$3	Jeff Leake
47	Mike Knox	Three RR signal relays	\$1	Bob Berry
48	Mike Knox	Bracket with clear + 9 more	\$14	Jonathan Warzecha
49	Mike Knox	2 porcelain + 7 glass	\$10	Jeff Leake
50	Mike Knox	Porcelain light	\$20	Curtis Erickson
51	Mike Knox	Choice of porcelain \$1 x 2	\$2	Jeff Leake
52	Mike Knox	Choice of porcelain \$1 x 3	\$3	Curtis Erickson
53	Gene Hawkins	Plastic helmet + climbers	\$40	Jonathan Warzecha
54	Conner	3-D glass + painted insulators	\$7	Jeff Leake
55	Curtis Erickson	Blue suspension	\$3	Mike Knox
56	Curtis Erickson	2 multiparts	\$1	Jeff Leake
57	Curtis Erickson	Various – cornflower blue piece	\$15	Mike Knox
58	Curtis Erickson	Weak carnival	\$22	Mike Knox
59	Curtis Erickson	Purple	\$32	Mike Knox
	Total			



(Left to right) Mike Knox, Jonathan Warzecha?, Cole King, Bob Berry, Roger Ziesak, Rod Krupka, Gene Hawkins, Carolyn Berry.



From the Berkley, MI show. (Left) Rick Soller taking bids. (Right) Mike McLaughlin helps out.

Missing/Stolen Insulators

Riley Armstrong reports that he is missing several insulators that seem to have been stolen from his collection at his home in Vermillion, South Dakota. He first noticed that a light blue Westinghouse auto value lightning arrester, 10 to 12 inches tall, was missing. It came with the original paper box. After this, other missing pieces came to light. He had four or five Fletcher, double-J, under arm brackets missing (shown to the right). A light fixture disappeared. Also missing were about 10 to 15 porcelain entry insulators used in wood cutout boxes known as bird houses. If you see any of these, please let Riley know at his email of rileyarmstrong@gmail.com or call him at (605) 670-1224.



Upcoming Area Shows

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.

Friday – Sunday, November 3-5, 2023

Springfield, Ohio

53rd Mid-Ohio Show. Clark County Fairgrounds. 4401 South Charleston Pike. Exit 59 off I-70. Springfield, Ohio. Show Hours: Dealer set up at 10 AM, Friday Noon - 6 PM, Saturday 8 PM - 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM - ??? CONTACT: Curt Boster (614) 301-5125 cboster530@att.net Visit www.insulators.info/shows/springfield for more information.

Wabash Valley Insulator Club

At the Berkley, Michigan show, Cole King passed out an information packet and questionnaire regarding the potential formation of a new club and staging of a 2025 Wabash Valley Insulator Show. Some of the information from the five-page handout is reprinted below.

Hello, and thank you for your interest in the possible formation of our new insulator club and show.

The idea of a swap meet in central Indiana was formed by Cole King and J Van Brown nearly a decade ago. By sheer coincidence, I (ole) moved down south to Shelburn, IN in 2021, only 15 minutes away from J's farm in Jasonville. We have since bounced around the idea of a swap meet at his farm, and joked that we are the "Unofficial southern chapter of the Greater Chicago Area Insulator Club." In 2023, I made a fake logo based on this joke, and was met with overwhelming interest by folks who thought there really was a new insulator club. Since then, I have decided that an insulator show in Terre Haute, IN, may bring serious interest.

Terre Haute is situated just off of Interstate 70 and Highway 41. This location would be a prime spot to bring in collectors from all of the Midwestern states. And thus, the logo of a fire plug was chosen, as they were invented here in Terre Haute!

Before we commit to renting a show hall and printing up flyers, I would like to gather some "intel" on our prospective dealers and visitors. I would like this show to be a favorite for everyone in the Midwest, from Kansas to Pennsylvania. A show "by the people, for the people." If you think the show could be of interest to you, please let me know.

The city of Terre Haute was chosen over a rural swap meet in order to be more inviting to our out-of-state visitors. Terre Haute has many spots that would be helpful for an insulator show, like even centers and ample hotel accommodations. Also, there are plenty of things for tourists to do besides an insulator show! Museums include (but are not limited to) the Candles Holocaust Museum, the Terre Haute Children's Museum, and the Vigo County Historical Society, home to a wonderful display on the birth of the Coca-Cola contour bottle. Just an hour or so south on 41 is Vincennes, IN, which is a beautiful city full of history as well.

The original plan was for this show to be sponsored by the Greater Chicago Area Insulator Club (GCIC). But when I joked about the new "Wabash Valley club," many people seemed interested.

According to Wikipedia, "The Wabash Valley is a region located in sections of both Illinois and Indiana. It is named for the Wabash River and, as the name is typically used, spans the middle to the middle-lower portion of the river's valley and is centered at Terre Haute, Indiana. The term Wabash Valley is frequently used in local media in Clinton, Lafayette, Mount Carmel, Princeton, Terre Haute, and Vincennes all of which are either on or near the Lower Wabash River."

The Wabash Valley encompasses a large part of Indiana and Illinois, but the term is usually used to reference South Western Indiana and South Eastern Illinois. An insulator club centered in this area could be appealing to many collectors that may be geographically separated from either the GCIC or Dixie Jewels insulator clubs. In my mind, the target audience of the club would be Central and Southern Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, and possibly parts of Tennessee and Ohio.

Please feel free to reach out with any comments or questions. I can be reached via Facebook, text, phone call or email. Cole King – (765) 278-8226 or cole.king@charter.com.