



**GREATER CHICAGO  
INSULATOR CLUB  
NEWSLETTER**

Yes, the Ottawa Swap Meet is On!

Volume 31, Number 8  
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**Rochester, Indiana GCI Show Report**

Hosting a swap meet for the first time produces a lot of anxiety because of the many unanswered questions. How many people will show up? Will they be able to find the place? Where will they park? How much food and drink is needed? What if it rains? How much is this going to cost? Do I have enough tables for those who did not bring one? When are people going to arrive? Do collectors realize what time zone the show is in (Eastern, not Central)?

Despite all the anxiety, the Saturday, August 19, 2023 swap meet hosted by Bob Fisher and Jennifer Alley-Fisher in Rochester, Indiana ended with all anxiety dispelled. At least 14 dealers from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Michigan attended the show including Mike McLaughlin, Josephine Ramp, Russ & Marge Frank, Bob Stahr, Steve Kella, Mike Davis, Arlen & Tina Rienstra, Dave Shaw, Gene Hawkins, Josh Dondorf, Mark Gilmore, Rick Soller, Jim Johnson, and the swap meet hosts. Other collectors who showed up included Robert Schultz, Larry Rotheiser, Cole King, and Gavin Whiteman & Brynly Symms.

The address of the swap meet posed some problems initially. It was incorrectly given in one newsletter but corrected in the next one. At first, the listing on [insulators.info](http://insulators.info) left off part of the address. Google Maps did not like the corrected address so one had to be found that worked for those using GPS. "6557 N. St. Route 25, Rochester, IN" was settled on as the one to use, was widely publicized, and everyone seemed to get to the swap meet without a problem.

The first arrivals appeared Friday afternoon to set up tables, chat, and go out to dinner. By 5 p.m., most of the auction lots were positioned on sheets of plywood mounted on sawhorses, dealer tables arranged under trees and around the flower beds, sandbox, and swing. Soon after, a group of 8 departed for a local restaurant to enjoy the local cuisine and the company of friends from far away.

Lots of notable insulators and related items made it to the show. Steve Kella showed off some miniature pole line construction models he made. Dave Shaw's table was filled with insulators filled with milk, amber swirls, bubbles, and other junk. Josh Dondorf had some nice porcelain including a nice U-521 as well as bottles and signs for sale. Cole King brought a bucket of lightning rod insulators that had dealers swarming his table for a chance to buy one or more of them. Bob Stahr brought a recent flea market purchase of a CD 132 that was base embossed PATD that quickly changed hands. Mark Gilmore had about two dozen CD 126.4s to look through. Collectors of commemoratives, miniatures, and private issues had plenty to look at on Russ & Marge Frank's tables. Gene Hawkins offered a Jumbo on his table, a piece not seen very often at a Midwest swap meet. Jim Johnson's table included low end glass for the new collector and some interesting cobalt blue suspensions for the specialist.



(Above) One of Steve Kella's creations. Jim Johnson's sales table is in the background. (Below) Auction lots waiting to be sold.





Normally an auction would be held starting about 10 a.m., but since Cole King was not set to arrive until 11 a.m. and given the smaller number of lots, the auction was delayed until 11 a.m. By 11:30 a.m., the 48 lots were sold to 12 successful bidders out of 14 who signed up for bidder numbers. One unusual item in the auction was a box of white porcelain fence insulators marked C.O.P. That marking puzzled bidders as to what it stood for and saw spirited bidding for the lot. There were six sellers who saw \$316 worth of their merchandise change hands. Of this amount, 10% (\$31) went to the show hosts to defray expenses. The club contributed additional funds to the show hosts for this purpose. Results of the auction are found at the end of this report.

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A delicious lunch spread followed the auction. No space to describe the delights 😞

After the show, at about 1:30, the fun continued. Four collectors headed about 30 miles south to Peru, Indiana to search an interurban line that ran from Peru to Logansport, Indiana. The line was built following the Wabash River in the first decade of the 1900s and used Fred M. Locke insulators. Participating in the adventure were Robert Schultz, and Larry Rotheiser in one car, and Rick Soller in his pickup truck. Joining the hunt a little later was Gavin Whiteman.

The two-car group spent some time weaving around rural roads before finally finding a road leading toward the river. Near the river, Old Stone Road seemed to follow the path the interurban would have taken (or was the path). The area from U.S. Route 31 east to Peru was inspected by car with two stops in places to look for traces of the line but no signs of the line were found. It is possible the road was built over the line and line material cleaned up.

Gavin arrived after the time the rural section of the line was inspected so the hunt proceeded into Peru. What appeared to be a substation was identified and the three-car caravan went to investigate it. The brick building was still standing but in bad condition although the inside was being remodeled. No wall tubes were seen extending from the half-moon openings in the back and no other signs of insulators were spotted so the group proceeded farther down the street. Pictures of the building are shown on the next page.



Across the street, a hill was built up for the interurban line. Two blocks down the street, there was easy access to the hill, so the group drove there and parked. On top of the hill, the local utility had recently cut shrubs and trees to provide access to a high voltage line. Gavin searched the other side of the hill down by a creek and found some newer line material. Some dildos were spotted and left uninspected. The group decided to call it a day and left, passing a mailbox-like box for people to dispose of needles. There are all kinds of dangers when hunting in the wild but this was a first for me.

Back in Rochester, Josh Dondorf stayed an extra night and searched through the Fisher's barn the next day. There he found the top to a rare U-182A&B embossed (arc) MACY INSULATOR / MACY, IND. Coupled with the bottom piece, it is a no-tie insulator. About five of these have been reported. To the right is a picture of a complete one from the NIA website.

Josh offered to buy the top from the Fishers, but they decided to keep the piece. Indiana collector Cole King is now looking for one of these crown jewels to add to his collection.



### Auction Results

#	Seller	Description	\$	Buyer
1	Rick Soller	40+ metal pins w/wood cobs	\$3	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
2	Rick Soller	Porcelain insulators	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
3	Rick Soller	2 Hewletts + hog liver suspensions	\$5	Steve Kella
4	Rick Soller	CJ magazines	\$4	Larry Rotheiser
5	Rick Soller	Fuse cutout board	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
6	Rick Soller	3 suspensions	\$2	Larry Rothheiser
7	Rick Soller	Porcelain lot	\$14	Steve Kella
8	Rick Soller	Porcelain lot	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
9	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, radio treated	.50	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
10	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$4	Steve Kella
11	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, yellow, white	\$1	Steve Kella
12	Rick Soller	2 boxes of porcelain	\$7	Cole King
13	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$5	Steve Kella
14	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$4	Larry Rotheiser
15	Rick Soller	Pinco, G.P.Co.	\$1	Cole King
16	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$4	Steve Kella
17	Rick Soller	Foreign porcelain, Canada, Aussie	\$15	Cole King
18	Rick Soller	Box of 7 glass insulators	\$2	Gavin Whiteman
19	Rick Soller	Mickey Mouse, CD 252, hi-tops	\$16	Cole King
20	Rick Soller	Porcelain, plastic	\$4	Steve Kella
21	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, Thomas, Victor	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
22	Rick Soller	White, beehive, brown	\$3	Larry Rotheiser
23	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, Westinghouse	\$1	Robert Schultz
24	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$6	Dave Shaw
25	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, helmets, L-M	\$40	Larry Rotheiser
26	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, dry spot	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
27	Rick Soller	Side and straight pins	\$6	Dave Shaw
28	Rick Soller	7 glass CD 145s	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
29	Rick Soller	Cobalt Pinco, Beehives	\$3	Steve Kella

30	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
31	Mike McLaughlin	8 glass insulators	\$4	Gavin Whiteman
32	Mike McLaughlin	9 glass insulators	\$4	Robert Schultz
33	Mike McLaughlin	8 glass insulators	\$4	Steve Kella
34	Mike McLaughlin	2 glass insulators from the area	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
35	Mike McLaughlin	Spools, mini	\$7	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
36	Mike McLaughlin	PP 1957	\$1	Larry Rotheiser
37	Mike McLaughlin	Lynchburg	\$1	Dave Shaw
38	Mike McLaughlin	Green Beehives	\$6	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
39	Mike McLaughlin	Pennycuick in box	\$6	Russ Frank
40	Mike McLaughlin	9 glass insulators	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
41	Josh Dondorf	Crate of glass	\$10	Gene Hawkins
42	Mark Gilmore	Box of glass	\$20	Steve Kella
43	Mark Gilmore	Lynchburg, olive, Bkfld, W.U.	\$28	Josh Dondorf
44	Mark Gilmore	Denver, Lynchburg, olive	\$30	Arlen Rienstra
45	Mark Gilmore	7up, 160's, W.U.	\$27	Steve Kella
46	Mark Gilmore	Jade beehive, Lynchburg	\$16	Cole King
47	Bob Stahr	2 boxes of glass	\$1	Larry Rotheiser
48	Gavin Whiteman	Box of 6 glass insulators	\$4	Rick Soller
	Total		\$316	

## **Upcoming Events**

### **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](mailto: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**

53<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:cboster530@att.net) Visit [www.insulators.info/shows/springfield](http://www.insulators.info/shows/springfield) for more information.