



Golden State Insulator Club Newsletter

From the President's Corner

April 2009

I want to first start this off by saying that I hope everybody had a great holiday season and you were able to enjoy some time with your families. I know that my wife Lynne, my girls, and I had a great Christmas and New Year and were able to visit some family.

Looking back on 2008, for me it had some high points and some low points. One of the high points was a spectacular national show on the west coast in Portland, Oregon. For those of you who were able to make it, I'm sure it had to rank up there as one of best shows. Thanks go out to Howard & Linda Banks, Steven Watkins and everybody that helped out to make it a very memorable show.

Another high point (especially for me) was a new tailgater in Southern California. The first Double D tailgater was held in Grand Terrace in October. Dwayne Anthony and I were very pleased the event was well attended even with the threat of rain. Many thanks go out to those club members who helped out. We even were able to put some money back into the treasury. Dwayne and I hope to make it an annual event for years to come.

Obviously a low point was the loss of a club Icon, Pat Patocka. I did not know Pat very well, but he seemed like a nice man who loved the hobby. I know he will be missed by a great many.

Another low point for me was learning that Dave Brown was diagnosed with leukemia. Lucky for him and for us, it is of the type that is curable. After talking with him a while back he sounds great and he says that his recovery is going well. Dave says that he wants to thank everybody for the support that he received. As a lot of you know, Dave is in charge of the Tulare Show. Well, due to his sudden illness, he was not able run the show as planned. That being said I want to make a public thank you to Bob Merzoian and his brother Mark for stepping up to the plate and taking the reins. The show went off without a hitch. It is one of the nice things about being a part of a club; there's always somebody there to help out.

My last low point is the reduced attendance at shows. I know the economy is in the tank and non essential spending is not a high priority, but the shows are the backbone of the hobby. Since 2009 does not look like it is going to be any better, we should make as many shows as we can.

As spring is upon us, it is time to get excited about the upcoming shows.

The Rohde Ranch Tailgater is set. The date is Saturday April 18th. This is the tailgater that all are compared to and is the one I most look forward to. The deep pit BBQ is out of this world. If you plan on attending please RSVP to Bill so they can plan the food accordingly. There will be a club meeting at sometime. Time to be determined later

The Cayucos Show has been set and will be on Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th of May. As in years past the BBQ was under the direction of Sid and Isabel Marques. Unfortunately, they will not be able to help this year, so it is up to the club membership to step up and help pull this off. Don Rohde has offered to run the pit and cook the tri-tip and sausage and I will be assisting him. So we need volunteers to help out with the side dishes and supplies. The club will reimburse members for the expenses of the food and supplies. This is a wonderful venue and we need to make this a true club effort. Please contact Bob or myself if you would like to help out. If you have any questions or need a table reservation, please contact BOB MERZOIAN, or DAVE LEFORGE. Paul Alleeson is still involved, he is getting a new phone number and we will post it as soon as we can.

The Placerville Show is going to be reduced to a one day show. This is to cut expenses and hope for a better one day attendance. The show this year is on Saturday, September 26. If you have any questions or need a table reservation please contact LARRY SHUMAKER or BILL ROHDE.

Decisions still need to be made about the Tulare show so when things are set we will let you know.

As some of you already know Colin Jung is taking over the control of the newsletter. Colin will be writing show reports and formatting the newsletter. Bill Rohde and Alice Shumaker will be helping with the printing and distribution. Many thanks for all their efforts. When we get more organized we will be posting the newsletter on the club website and I will be sending out a notice to all club members (that have an available e-mail address) when the newsletter is ready for viewing. Remember, this is to help save the club the expense of printing and mailing the newsletter to all club members. So please make sure that your e-mail address is updated. Please contact myself or Bill Rohde to update your e-mail address. Those club members without e-mail will receive a hard copy through the mail, as always.

Lastly, I would like to recognize our past president Larry Shumaker and thank him for the wonderful job that he had done as club president. As I learn about all the aspects of being club president, my appreciation for the job he has done grows. I asked Larry for a chronology of his club membership and some of the high points as club president, it is as follows.

~ Dave Le Forge, Club President ~

“Upon moving from Ft Collins, Colorado to Los Banos, California I became a Nor-Cal Club member in about 1988 or 1989.

I was the Nor-Cal Club president from 2000 thru 2003. Then again from August 2006 to September 2008 with the last year being the Golden State Insulator Club president. The joining of the two clubs was one of the accomplishments while president.

In my early years as club president we had a tailgater in Folsom. It was well advertised for people to bring in insulators for appraisal and potential buyers would be on hand if anyone wanted to sell at the appraised price. I think every little old lady in the area and others brought in insulators for appraisal and it was very busy for a while for the appraisal table to keep up with the incoming insulators. What a fun day.

I remember trying to get enough money together to fund the regional in San Jose. We had people donate twelve insulators to be sold with a decreasing price and the table of insulators that were left, people would sign up for and a drawing held for the winner to take home what was left. That was one of several ways we came up with enough money to have the regional in San Jose. Bill Rohde came up with the collection of donated insulators to be raffled at the regional which was a huge success.

One year we had everyone who had a piece for a two piece tramp bring them in for display and see if anyone might have the other piece. Some beautiful tops and bottoms to two piece tramps came in and a few found the other half needed to make up a set. Another year I had people set up displays of 40 or less insulators and we had a full stage of displays which were beautiful and tough competition for the People's Choice award. It is my belief that displays are a very important part of a show, not only for old timers but new collectors as well.

Alice and I designed the Nor-Cal patch and helped with designing the new Golden State Insulator Club patch. These are just a few of my favorite memories as club president. Thanks Again."

~ Larry Shumaker ~

Southern Region Report

It's been several months since my last report, so let's play some quick catch up. First off, I'd like to personally thank Dave LeForge for taking on the current position of Club President. Dave is one nice guy and I'm sure his "new blood" leadership will be beneficial to the club. One thing we all need to remember is that we can't expect him to do it all alone, so please lend your support in any way that you can. Give him a call or send him an email letting him know you are more than just a name on the list. ☺

I'll leave it up to the other regional VPs to report on past shows in their regions, which leaves two here in the south for me to briefly cover. The first annual "Double D Tailgater" at Wilden Park in Grand Terrace was held on Oct. 4 of last year. Your hosts, Dave LeForge and Dwayne Anthony, decided to ask the club for sponsorship of this event, to hopefully put a few dollars into the club coffers. We ended up with approximately 75 in attendance and 30 tables of insulators and related items--not bad for a first attempt! Several club members came down from the Central and Northern region of the state to show their support, plus we even had some out-of-state

collectors join us. We weren't short of volunteers, with many bringing side dishes for the lunch, donating items to the raffle and offering a helping hand where needed. With everyone pulling together, we netted over \$250 for the club in food and raffle donations! Thanks to everyone that attended and assisted, we couldn't have done it without you! We are looking to secure the site once again this year, so stay tuned.

The second event to report on was actually just over the California border in Yuma, Arizona. This annual tailgater is hosted by the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club and draws many members of our club. The weather was a bit wet at times, but attendance was good and the buying and selling by those present seemed to remain brisk until the steady rain in the early afternoon chased everyone away. Thanks to everyone in the GCSIC that assisted in hosting this event, especially Roger & Terry Nagel.

Tailgaters seem to be building in popularity. If you haven't attended one yet, please know that you are missing out on some really great opportunities to visit and bond with your fellow collectors in a more casual setting...plus some great insulators have been known to appear at these events. Next stop: Rohde Ranch in April!

Best in collecting to all!

~ Dwayne Anthony, Southern Region VP ~

Central Region Report

The year is zipping by. It seems as though the Tulare show was just last week and here it is the end of March. So how come the work day goes by so slowly?! Anyway, on to our obsession ...glass and mud.

The Tulare show went quite well considering we'd been "dark" the year before. To make matters worse, Dave Brown had become ill and couldn't lead his loyal crew (brother Mark and me) in his usual efficient manner. Mark and I picked ourselves off from the floor after we heard about his situation and did our best to put the darned thing on in his honor. We had about 70 percent table capacity filled, which wasn't bad considering the state of the economy (who would've figured that mess would ever crop up?!). All participants enjoyed themselves and, to-a-person, clearly indicated they would return next year. Walk-in traffic was decent enough that most seemed to fare well with sales. We appreciated help offered by club members. The rallying cry had been heard and we managed to put on a successful show. Dave promises to be back crackin' the whip next year. I can hear those feared pops and commands ringing in my ears even now. We hope all those club members who attended and some you who didn't will support this historical event next year.

I must commend Larry Shumaker for putting on a fine show up Placerville way. Once again the economy lowered the turnout, but those of us there had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect, the hall nicely laid out, and the atmosphere was delightful. There were a few walk-ins who put various pieces and small collections up for auction. I missed an opportunity to bid on

some very nice California glass (Colin...how about it?), but did manage to "win" the right to purchase a lovely purple, unembossed CD 120 for a pretty good price. Larry and Alice were their usual wonderful hosts. It would be tough to find a nicer couple to hang out with. Several club members drove from afar to attend and that was much appreciated. I hope many more will show up for next year's "bash" in the North country.

Rohde Ranch isn't far away and then the busy late Spring and summer romps will be upon us. We all have been affected by this terrible economic meltdown, but I, for one, plan to attend as many of our shows as possible. Though we all need to watch the wallet, I do think we shouldn't deprive ourselves of the pleasure which these gatherings afford us. What better way to reunite with old friends and acquaintances? Budget, budget, budget and then get ready for a season of fun!!

~ Bob Merzoian, Central Region VP ~

Northern Region Report

I will cover the two shows not reported by Dwayne and Bob, which were the Auburn Show hosted by the 49er Historical Bottle Society this last December and the just completed Chico Show hosted by the Bidwell Bottle Club in March. The December Auburn Show has always been a dynamite show for insulator enthusiasts; however, that was not going to be the case this year for two reasons. One, the obvious severe downturn in the economy and two, potentially unfavorable rule changes by the show hosts. First, visitor traffic was much lighter than previous years and it seemed that those who attended were mainly window shopping. It is never a good sign when other dealers keep asking you how's business during the show.

This show has never been the same since Pat Patocka retired and turned over the reins to other bottle club members. Under the new hosts, several long-time, insulator dealers lost their sales tables and others have not been able to get a table after missing a show. In 2008, Butch Haltman and Dave Brown did not occupy their sales tables for very legitimate reasons. It remains to be seen if the show hosts offer them sales tables in 2009. Bill Vincent and Arnie Lowenstein were on the waiting list and got a sales table, only to be instructed that as a new dealer, a high percentage of their sales stock had to be bottles. Bill and Arnie displayed a bunch of junk bottles to comply with the new rule, but that just doesn't make for a good show. Insulator dealers need to monitor this situation and back up their table reservations with names of other collectors in case they miss a show. Club members please support the Placerville Show with your attendance. Auburn may very well turn into an all-bottle show in the near future.

The Chico Show was a joy, like a rainbow after a long, rainy storm. Collectors broke that cabin fever and came in droves. Lots of old and new faces from far, far north: Nathan Lamkey, Mike Kurns, Ken Klein and son Kenny, Jeff Hooper, Paul Putkammer and even, Mike Spadafora, now from New York. Special recognition to some folks I haven't seen in years: Mark and Jamie Smith from Roseville, Dave Cook from McCloud, and Dan Dirks from Yuba City. And of course I never get tired of the regulars: Janet Bond, Steve Bava, Bill and Luann Harrison (you won't recognize them!), Lou and Deedee Hall, Larry Shumaker, Dave Elliott, Glenn Adkins,

Steve Marsh, Ray Howe, Bart Magoffin, Frank Feher, Dave Cross, Bill Rohde, Paul Greaves and Tom Holbrook.

This was probably the most social bottle show I have been to in years and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I even sold a bunch of glass too. Janet Bond was the happiest dealer. She bought a power porcelain collection that first showed up at the Placerville Show. She got it for a “moving out of town” price and manage to sell most of it at Chico. Way to go Janet! Did you keep one for a doorstep?

~ Colin Jung, Newsletter Editor ~

Public Announcements

Jim Decker is a volunteer for the Niles Canyon Railway Association, a volunteer organization of mainly railroad enthusiasts who operate and maintain a rail line enjoyed by the general public from Niles (Fremont) to Sunol—formerly part of the Central Pacific Railroad. Jim’s main project is to create a working telegraph line. He has all of the poles and hardware, but he still needs glass insulators. Yes, you heard correctly, Jim wants to put glass into the air, back into service!! You can help Jim out by donating your unwanted glass insulators in the following CDs and embossings: CD133 Brookfield, CD 145 Brookfield or Hemingray (also H.G.Co.), CD 152 Brookfield and Hemingray, CD 154 Hemingray, CD154 McLaughlin, CD 161 California or Star, CD 162 Star, CD 162 Brookfield and CD 163 Hemingray. Contact Jim at 209-836-2568 or email him at jd2568@earthlink.net

Gene Hawkins, NIA 421, is conducting a mold survey of the California keg style variant, CD112[010]. This is the one with the extra lip of glass below the lower wire groove and comes in aqua and blue aqua colors only. Locally, **Colin Jung** is collecting the data for Gene from west coast collectors. If you have a California keg variant and are willing to participate in the survey, please bring your keg variants to the Rohde Tailgater in April. The mold survey involves masking the insulator with an acetate sheet on which the embossing is traced. The procedure will not damage the insulator and will only take a few minutes to complete.

Hot New Finds! *(Report your Hot Finds to Colin Jung, email muddhogg99@hotmail.com)*

2008-**Dan Dirks** had a great show and tell insulator at the Chico Show. He stumbled upon a small sage green California egg at of all places the Turlock Auto Swap Meet.

Jan. 2009- **Colin Jung** browsing through some internet classified advertising came across an “insulator” (note spelling) collection that was for sale in Santa Cruz. A follow-up telephone conversation with the seller indicated he had among the common insulators a bright yellow H G Co insulator. Hard to misidentify that color!! It turned out to be a CD162 yellow glower.

Feb. 2009- **Dave Brown** purchases a small Fresno collection after a generous referral from Colin Jung. The best pieces were a CD164 citrine McLaughlin and an odd-shaped white porcelain power piece that Bill Rohde did not have. I thought Bill had everything? You are welcome Dave.

Tulare 2008



Auburn 2008



Chico 2009

