



CALIFORNIA CROSSARMS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN STATE INSULATOR CLUB

Christina Jung

From the President's Corner

March 2010

Hello fellow GSIC members,

I hope that you all had a great holiday season and a wonderful start to this New Year. Here's hoping that the signs of an economic recovery continue. We could all use it. 2009 was a tough year, with obvious signs being less-than-expected attendance at some of the shows and fewer sales of insulators. With that said, I have to inform you that the club will no longer be sponsoring the Placerville Show, due to lack of participation and the high costs to the club for the facility. It is a shame because it was a good place to hold a show. I want to thank Larry Shumaker and Bill Rohde for their efforts in trying to make the show a staple on the show circuit. I also want you to know that the club is still interested in some show involvement in the northern part of the state and would love to hear your thoughts on what we could do. Tailgaters or a backyard show make the most sense. An idea has been put out there that the club could get involved with and co-sponsor the Chico Bottle Show. Sharing costs does have some advantages but mostly we need member participation and involvement to make that idea work. If you have any ideas and want to get involved, please let any board member know your thoughts. There will be a club meeting at the Rohde Ranch BBQ and this will be one of the items that we will be talking about.

It is my great pleasure to let you know that the date for the Rohde Ranch BBQ is set. It is April 10th and should not be missed. I know it is one that I look forward to. Don, Camille, and Bill always put on a great show, and it shows. I heard that over a hundred and twenty people showed up last year. That should tell you something. I also would like to announce that the dates for the annual Cayucos show and are set. They are May 14th and 15th. It is still in the same beautiful location right on the water at the pier. Like last year we will ask the membership to help with the BBQ. You can either bring a side dish or dessert. I will e-mail out a request the closer we get to show time.

Secondly, I would like you to know that the club has purchased a backlit case for the show. Dwayne Anthony sold it to the club at a greatly reduced price; thanks Dwayne. Bob Merzoian has offered to store the case at his place in Cayucos. That way someone does not have to haul it to the show every year. The new case will be used for new or recent finds by the membership, to share with rest of us. I know that this was something we did in the past and was a lot of fun. So bring out those gems to showoff and brag about! It will be fun for all of us. Well that's about all that I have for this time. Hope to see you at a show soon.

Dave Le Forge
GSIC President

Southern Region Report

Even though the Yuma Tailgater is not a GSIC event, I will provide a brief report on it since so many of our club members enjoy attending. Yuma is located at the Arizona/California/Mexico border, not a location one would think as a good draw for an insulator show, right? On the contrary, the mild weather in February provides the unique opportunity for collectors to bask in the sunshine while the rest of the country is usually inundated with inclement weather.

This year we did have a slight threat of rain, but the skies were mostly clear the morning of the event and as usual, collectors started appearing at the park in the pre dawn hours. While most of California was experiencing rain showers, Yuma attendees enjoyed a morning of mild temps...but a building of conspicuous clouds to the west was clearly evident.

By 9 a.m. the park was buzzing with activity. A row of sales tables could be seen lining the edge of the parking area, from one end to the other. Collectors from many states were present, as far away as Florida, plus our snowbird collectors from Canada. The selection of insulators offered was very impressive, anything from free insulators to very rare multi thousand dollar gems. I sensed that most buyers and sellers were succeeding in their endeavors, observing continuous trips made by collectors to their vehicles, unloading boxes, bags and handfuls of insulators that had been purchased. One dealer had just purchased a California (CGI) collection and unpacked it on his tailgate. Many character pieces were included in this Cal collection and needless to say, they sold quickly. I was told that by the end of the day the remainder of the entire collection had changed hands in a trade deal. I personally selected 500 insulators from my sales stock and offered them at half price--I sold nearly one-third of them by the end of the day!

As the morning wore on the clouds began to darken and a few stray drops fell at one point, enough to bring out some canopies, but that was the extent of it. As is customary, lunch was served by members of the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club. A flurry of buying activity took place after lunch, followed by a gradual thinning of the crowd. Most dealers began packing up by 2 p.m. Five minutes after Dave and I left the park the rains hit. Perfect timing! It was another great show in Yuma this year and I highly recommend that you put Feb 2011 on your calendar for next year's event.

I also attended the Las Vegas Bottle Show one week after Yuma. Attendance was up over last year, as well as sales. In general, I'm seeing a slight upward improvement in show attendance and collector spending after a definite decline in the last couple of years. Let's hope we all have the good fortune in our personal lives to keep this possible upward trend moving forward. Collecting is good therapy...and most of us can clearly admit to needing a little good therapy now and then! ☺

On behalf of the club, I want to pass along our sincerest condolences to club members Don & Elaine Bayes for the loss of their youngest son, Jon Bayes, at age 44. Jon passed away January 10 after battling cancer. Jon at one time specialized in collecting toll insulators and amassed an impressive collection before finally selling it and moving on to other collectible specialties. Jon is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Bill & Maria Bayes (also GSIC members).

Dwayne Anthony
Southern Region V.P.

Central Region Report

Hi All,

Where does time go?! I'd always heard growing up that the older one becomes, the "faster" time goes. Boy is that perception ever right!

Which leads me to how hard it is to believe that Rohde Ranch is upon us and not long after that is Cayucos. I can't wait to go, but I know our miserable economy has affected us all in so many lousy ways. I can only hope that it doesn't hasten the demise of insulator shows and tailgaters. I believe it is up to to shore up these events by going "all-out" to attend and participate in them. Thus said, I realize it "ain't" easy to fill up the tank, rent a room, pay for meals, and then have enough money left over to buy a few desirable pieces, but if we let these venues "die" for lack of participation, it would seem unlikely they would ever return, good economy or not, in the future.

We must continue to counsel and guide fledgling collectors, initiate new ones, retain the older and seasoned people, and just generally amp up promotion, whether collectively or individually. In-my-opinion, these measures are vital for the life of our beloved and sometimes taken-for-granted, hobby. Consider the fun you have had over the years attending shows and other insulator-based tailgaters and how much joy you obtained communing with friends and swooping up a few pieces to fill holes in your collection. Now consider whether you'd even have the desire to continue collecting if the fellowship and insulator gatherings vanished because we let the crummy economy "defeat" us. We either nourish the hobby or perhaps see it unalterably changed forever. Just a few thoughts...

This Fall's Tulare show was a certified success (weather included). With Dave Brown back at the helm (and feeling much improved health-wise) and the Merzoian brothers, Mark and Bob, as his right and left hand men, the show proved to open and close without a hitch. Many Golden State members were in attendance. The Bayes, Bill Rohde and parents, Bill Heitkotter, Dwayne Anthony, Dave Hall, Bill and Luann Harrison, Colin Jung, the Greaves, Larry and Alice Shumaker, and Dave LeForge to name a few were found enjoying atmosphere and friends. Dave Elliott brought a large amount of quality glass to sell as he has decided it was time to "thin out" his collection. In fact, the quality of glass available over-all was excellent. The Friday night dinner at the hall was tasty and the hungry crowd eagerly chowed it down and enjoyed the fellowship. It was definitely appreciated seeing so many club members supporting this well-regarded historical show.

The bottle collectors were in full attendance as well. A large array of bottle types were in evidence. A plethora of milk bottles filled many tables, common and not-so-common. Whiskies, wine, beer, medicine, and even cone inks were in the offing. A vast array of other collectibles made for a nice blend of items available.

Walk-in traffic, although not huge, was sufficient. Many happy buyers left with arms loaded. Good deals abounded. Sellers and buyers both deemed the event worthwhile and promised to return next year. Dave and crew are rarin' to accommodate them.

Bob Merzoian
Central Region V.P.

Northern Region Report

The 49er Historical Bottle Association's Auburn Show was a bit stranger than usual but in a good way. Since Pat Patocka turned the reins of the show back to the bottle club officers, all of us insulator dealers felt we were being driven out of the show and for good reasons !! I can tell you now that things have turned completely around since last year. I have never felt more warm fuzzies from the hosts; The 49er's Bottle Club has decided they want us there and from the stories I have heard, they have been bending over backwards to prove it.

If you have sold at the show before and miss being there, it is time to contact the show hosts and get your name on the wait list. You will be pleasantly surprised by the reception. We need to build back up our presence at this important show.

There was a surprise visitor to the show. Ray Klingensmith (Ohio) of Glass Discoveries Catalog Auctions was in town no doubt picking up a large consignment of Pat & Shirley Patocka's insulator collection. He was sharing tables with Mike Patocka and promoting his auction catalog among the attending bottle collectors.

Bart Magoffin got the traditional parking lot buy of the show. A local walk-in brought in a large bucket of insulators he accidentally dug up. All of them were very old examples of two piece transpositions (MLOD), including a CD192 unembossed bottom. Bart paired it with my CD193 top and it sold quickly at the show.

Other insulators trading hands at the show included an ink blue A-mold EC&M that was recently dug in San Francisco and a pink color, unembossed CEW CD120 that was mentioned under the HOT FINDS column in the last club newsletter.

Overall, insulator sales were mixed. I think some of this has to do with the overall attrition of insulator dealers at the show and subsequent reduced crowds. The other cause is still the economy and people's financial uncertainties. Dealers willing to cut prices and make better deals for the buyers had good overall sales. Dealers who didn't reduce prices probably just sat there.

Another sign of the bad economy is the rise in thefts at the show. The show hosts and volunteers were on high alert for thieves attending the show. There seem to be an announced bottle theft every couple of hours at the show. No one was caught in the act. Fortunately, the thefts did not spill over to the insulators as far as I know.

Colin Jung
Newsletter Editor

Hot New Finds!

What is still out there if you are looking hard enough.

Report your hot new finds to Colin Jung

at muddhogg99@hotmail.com



January 2010. Mark Merzoian was in a Kern County antique store where he discovered a purple CD120 unembossed CEW. Because of the damage: a small base chip and open base bubble, it was priced “as is” at less than half the cost of the \$44 dark purple California signal and purple Whittall Tatum CD154. Good thing these antique dealers know their insulator pricing!!

Welcome new club members!

Gary & Joice Spoelstra, Clovis, CA

Lisa Plavan, San Diego, CA

Joe & Patti Huizar, Madera, CA

Doug Condon, Oakdale, CA

THE OFFSET PINHOLE

An occasional column authored by Golden State Insulator Club writers for the membership. Submit your opinion pieces, stories, reflections about the hobby to the Editor for publication consideration.

2011 Western National Bid Status

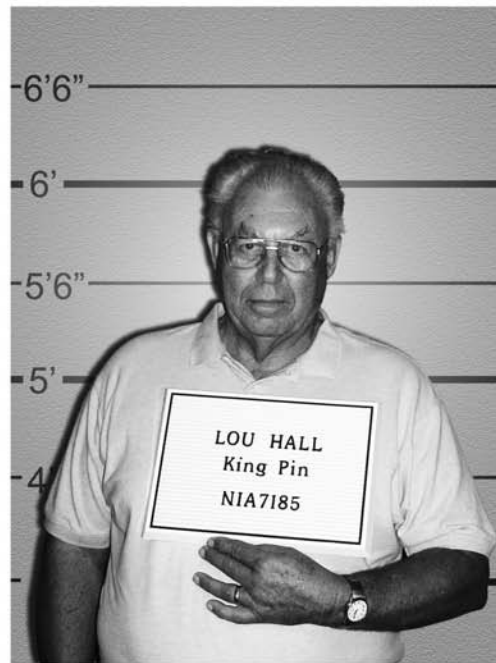
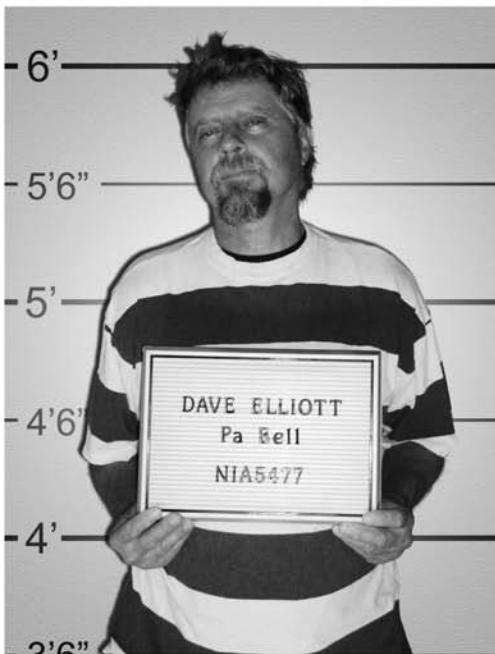
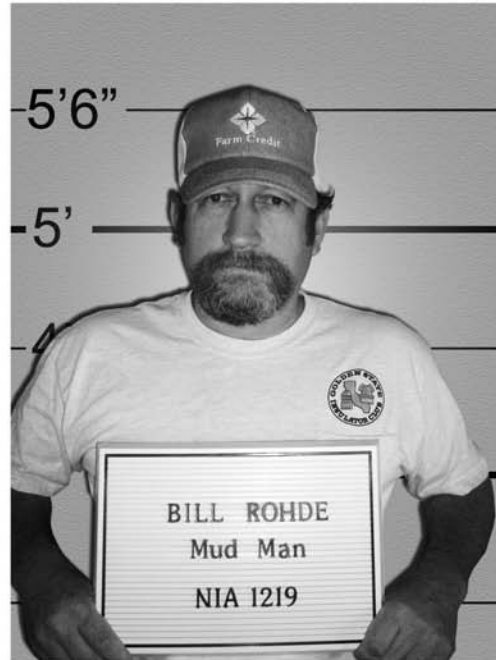
Our 2011 NIA Western National bid package was submitted to NIA President Bob Stahr at the end of February, so it is just a matter of waiting for the questions and finding out the results of the voting. Since two of us, Lou Hall and myself, sit on the NIA Board, I am confident we have at least two “yes” votes. The question remains whether the NIA Board would be sufficiently interested in returning the National to a San Jose, CA location since it was recently there in 2005 and the wild card if there are attractive competing bids.

I would like to thank Dave Elliott, Lou Hall and Bill Rohde for helping to get the bid package out. We are all committed to putting on a great National. We are all concerned that the National has become too predictable and sometimes just plain boring. We are looking for ways both small and large to make the National experience more fun and interesting should it return to San Jose. Your designated hosts will be at the Chico Show, the Rohde Tailgater and Cayucos, so feel free to share your ideas with any of us. According to my notes, the NIA Board should make a decision on the 2011 National by late March to April, but the chosen hosts must keep the decision a secret until the NIA Board makes its public announcement at the 2010 NIA members meeting held in conjunction with the Boxborough National.

We had cover art produced for the National bid package. It is just one way of saying that we will be bringing fresh ideas to the planning of a National Convention.

Colin Jung

NIA
**MOST WANTED
SHOW HOSTS**



**July 8-10, 2011
San Jose, California**



Upcoming Events



PLEASE CONTACT THE SHOW HOST TO VERIFY DATES AND TIMES

WHEN March 26 & 27, 2010 (Friday – Saturday)
WHERE Morro Bay, CA
DESCRIPTION 42nd Annual San Luis Obispo Bottle Society's Show & Sale,

@ the Morro Bay Veterans Hall, 209 Surf Street, Morro Bay, CA. Friday 3 pm- 7 pm, Saturday 9 am – 3 pm. For show info contact **Richard Tartaglia** 805 543 7484.

WHEN April 10, 2010 (Saturday)
WHERE Fresno, CA
DESCRIPTION Rohde Ranch BBQ Tailgater,



At the Rohde Ranch, 12441 North Friant Road, Fresno, CA. Sat. 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Insulator Club members in good standing are invited to this event hosted by the Rohde Family. You will enjoy free of charge the famous Deep-pit BBQ feast courtesy of our gracious hosts: Don, Camille and Bill Rohde. Bring insulators for sale or trade. Numerous tables are provided by our hosts, but you may bring your own, or just open your tailgate and sell and trade!! Swapping stories and bringing your recent finds are strongly encouraged. Bill's extensive porcelain insulator collection will be open for public viewing—a must see for porcelain collectors. For tailgate info contact: **Bill Rohde** 530-701-4377.

WHEN April 16 & 17, 2010 (Friday – Saturday)
WHERE Antioch, CA ** NEW LOCATION**
DESCRIPTION 44th Annual Golden Gate Historical Bottle Soc. Antiques & Collectibles Show,

@ Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Sunset Hall, Antioch, CA. Dealer Setup & Early Buyers Admission (\$10) Friday 12 noon - 6pm; Free Admission on Saturday 9am – 3 pm. For show info, Contact **Gary or Darla Antone** 925-373-6758.



WHEN May 14 – 15, 2010 (Friday – Saturday)

WHERE Cayucos, CA

DESCRIPTION The 18th Annual Great Insulator Show and Barbeque

Hosted by The Golden State Insulator Club. Lions Veterans Hall, 10 Cayucos Drive (at the pier and inches from the beach). Friday 2-8 P.M.: Saturday 9 A.M.- 3 P.M. Free show admission. Barbecue Saturday after show. RV park, motels and restaurants nearby. Please bring recent finds for show and tell. For show info, contact **Bob Merzoian**, bobmerzoian@mac.com, (559) 781-6319; or **Dave Le Forge**, leforge@adelphia.net, (909) 783-3423



WHEN May 14 – 15, 2010 (Friday – Saturday)

WHERE Columbia City, Indiana

DESCRIPTION The 2010 NIA Central Region Show

At the Whitley County 4H Fairgrounds, just off of US 30 in Columbia City and one mile South on Lincoln Way. Friday, May 14th: Set-up from 12-3 p.m., Show hours 3-7 p.m., Seminar 7-8 p.m.. Saturday, May 15th: Set-up from 6-9 a.m., Show hours 9 a.m. -3 p.m. Featuring Insulators, Telephone, Telegraph, Railroad, LRBs, Antiques & Collectables. First 8 ft. table is \$30, additional tables are \$23. For show info contact **Chuck Dittmar** 260-485-7669 or **Gene Hawkins** gene.hawkins@mchsi.com for a dealer application or additional information.

WHEN June 12, 2010 (Saturday)

WHERE San Diego, CA

DESCRIPTION The Antique Bottle Club of San Diego's Antique Bottle and Collectible Show and Sale.

Dealer Set-up 7:30 AM, "Early Bird" 8 AM \$10 Admission, General Public 9AM - 3 PM \$2. Kids under 12 free with Adult. Bottles, Antiques, Coins, Collectibles, Insulators, Paper, Glass and Much More. Location: Al Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego, CA 92111. For show info, contact **Jim Walker**, (858) 490-9019, jfw@internetter.com, www.sdbottleclub.org



WHEN July 16 – 18, 2010 (Friday – Sunday)

WHERE Boxborough, MA

DESCRIPTION The 41st Annual NIA National Convention, Show and Sale

at the Holiday Inn Boxborough, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough, MA 01719; Phone: (978) 263-8701. Rooms are \$95/night; use conference code NIA. Show hours: Friday 9am-4pm (NIA members only); Saturday 9am-4pm; Sunday 9am-2pm. For more information see www.nia.org/shows/national or contact **Bill and Jill Meier** at (978) 369-0208 or national@insulators.info, or **Dario Dimare** at (508) 877-4444 or dario@dariodesigns.com. Come to New England and make it a vacation!!

WHEN December 3 -- 4, 2010 (Friday – Saturday)

WHERE Auburn, CA

DESCRIPTION The 33rd Annual 49er Bottle & Antique Show “The Best in the West”

At the Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn, CA. Dealer Set up & Early Birds (fee) Friday Noon – 8 P.M.; Free admission on Saturday 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. For show info, contact Fred Abbott at (916)631-8019 or email foabbott@comcast.net

2009 Tulare Show



Tulare Show Floor



Nor Cal meets So. Cal and makes the
Great Golden State Club.



Bill Heitkotter minus baseball cap.



Say cheese.



Your Tulare hosts: Dave Brown, Mark & Bob Merzoian



Dinner is served!