

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday August 11, 2007 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7: 00 P.M .

Our members decided to play again instead of attending the July meeting - that included me. However at least my excuse was that I had to go to work, dam it. Connie Duncan was kind enough to take notes for me. Thank you very much.

As you can see from the picture above the Dancing Ladies Vases are here. For those of who are waiting for your vase or vases to be shipped to you the wait is almost over. For the rest of us, Richard will bring more vases to the August meeting so that you can pick them up there or if you prefer to wait for the Gala you can get it there. The last count I got was 7 Ruby Vases left, 29 Carnival Vases left, and 34 of the surprise Satin Ruby Vases. Richard decided that since the Satin Finish Vases were a surprise there would be no limit to the number that you can purchase. As a reminder the Ruby and Satin Finish vases are selling for \$70.00 each plus \$10.00 shipping if needed and the Red Carnival is selling for \$75.00 plus \$10.00 shipping.

The Satin Finish vases were a big surprise to me in more ways than one. The biggest surprise was I believe that the Satin Vase is my favorite one of the three. I had not planned on buying one since I had purchased one of each of the others but after seeing them I could not resist. Bad girl. Bernie Johnston has posted pictures on our website so you will want to check those out. The new address is www.fentonfinderskc.net You really need to check out our new website, Bernie has been working really hard getting it updated with pictures of our meetings and other club information. He has added a short video of the last Gala and will be putting up the auction list. Please let Bernie know how much we appreciate his hard work. It looks great. Thanks Bernie.

Connie and Steve Duncan have been working hard on the auction for the Gala. They have sent out the numbers for people to place on their glass and a auction list out for approval by everyone who has glass in the auction. Please let Connie know if there are any corrections on the list by July 31. On the subject on the auction there should be some

excitement at the auction with some of the glass that will be for sale this year. Just to give you a few hints, there will be a Jade Turtle Bowl with 5 1/2" Crystal Bubble Aquarium Bowl, a Green Opal Rib Optic 10" Lemonade Covered Pitcher, Hobnail Black Slag Heart Opening, White Handle Pitcher, SGR 2002, Rare, in fact all three of these pieces can be considered rare. There are some very nice pieces of Fenton in this auction, not all would be considered rare or hard to find but all would improve any Fenton collection. You will find glass from the 1920's to 2005 in this auction so be ready to pull out those credit cards and check out your savings account because this is going to be a great auction.

As a reminder don't forget to plan on bringing something for the hospitably room. And while you are planning on what to bring don't forget to consider something for our members who need to limit their sugar intake. There were at last count only 5 rooms left at the Embassy so be sure and call and make your reservations. If there are any problems Bev Spencer or Joy Livengood are the people to contact. Please check your roster for their email and telephone numbers if needed. The number for the Embassy Suites is 816-891-7788. Don't forget to ask for the Fenton Finders rate.

Please let Richard know if you have any Dave Fetty glass that you would like to have displayed in the big display. He needs to know what glass will be on the display soon.

We have two new members; please welcome them to our club.

William Lear & Sharon Willis (Address info omitted from internet version)

The program for July was Favorite Fenton Story, there was a Topaz Opal Vase that a member had made special, a member found a 1907 or 09 water lily and Cattail that was not marked as Fenton so he was able to pick it up really cheap. There was a Silvertone big cookies basket that was won on ebay, and a special 3 piece for the price of one from QVC that included a special ruby on Black Glass vase as well as a Mongolian Green Dancing Ladies vase and a Chinese Yellow mini Dancing Ladies Vase with matching candlesticks. For show and tell there was a 1911 Green Carnival Glass Vase and a blue hat that was from the 2004 Gala and is a one of a kind decoration. Also two blue opal. Hobnail baskets, in different shades of blue, and a blue melon powder box. There were also 3 vases from the new Century Collection.

The program for August will be on glass made by other companies. At one time there were hundreds of companies making glass in the United States. Now there are only a few left. This month members are invited to bring glass that they have collected over the years that was not made by Fenton. Some of the more familiar names of other companies are Imperial, Westmoreland, Duncan and Miller Glass Co., Beaumont, US Glass and Cambridge and many more. If you have a collection or a piece or two of glass made by other companies please bring them in for our enjoyment and education. Of course there is the chance that if you do not know who made that glass someone at the meeting will. Richard asks that everyone bring only Fenton for show and tell since we will be having glass made for other companies for our program.

The time for the national conventions are here, we will have our meeting after the conventions are over and there will be members who will be able to give us some up to date information on what is happening at Fenton. I know that we all are concerned with what is happening in West Virginia and we are hoping that the Fenton Family will again be able to save their company from the financial problems that it is having now. It is a problem that many of us are having in miniature with the price of gas going up so high that we have to be selective in what we purchase. Where once we would look at a catalog and order 5, 6, or maybe more pieces of Fenton now we may only buy one, if that. We complain about the price of the new pieces being prohibitive, and for many of us they are.

What can we do about it? It seems like there is very little. We know that Fenton is being hit worse by the price of gas since they have to have those furnaces running all the time to make glass, and that is a major reason why the prices have gone up. It is a time when they are exploring new techniques with new artists, Kelsey Murphy and Robert Bomkamp producing very limited editions of cameo glass and of course the limited but very highly in demand Dave Fetty pieces. We know that it has not been enough to save the company.

I was thinking about that a lot while walking through a local antique mall. I was looking for a piece of furniture and not Fenton (there was no way that I could be in an antique mall and not look for Fenton as well) but noticed that there was very little Fenton to be found. There were some pieces from the 70's and 80's as well as a couple from the 40's and 50's. There was the usual collection of carnival glass but no new pieces of Fenton. It wasn't that long ago that a visit to a mall always included some examples of the new Fenton collection in at least one or two booths. Wish there was some way or something that we could do to help solve Fenton's problems, I've heard some suggestions but it doesn't seem that there is much that I can do as an individual to help, not when so many people who are wiser have not come up with a workable solution. We wait and hope that the Fenton's find a solution to a problem that seems overwhelming to most of us.

Let me know of your thoughts on this or if there is anything that you want others to know.

For all of you lucky people who are going to the national conventions please drive safely and slow down for antique malls. Hopefully you will find a lot of Fenton to bring home for show and tell. Don't forget to look through your collections for glass made by other companies to bring for our program. For those of us unable to attend the conventions don't forget to shop around for that special piece of Fenton to bring to show and tell in either an antique mall or on ebay. Be sure to plan on attending our next meeting there is only two more before we have the Gala.

Jackie Oglesby
Secretary