

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders Greater Kansas City will be Saturday July 12th, 2008 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM

There is more bad news to report concerning our friends from Minn. Colleen Ott has reported that her husband, Charles is fighting cancer and we know that they can use all the help that they can get now if it is only from people letting them know that they care. We hope that they will be able to make it to the Gala this year but if not, hope that the reason is that Charles is recovering from his illness. Good news to report is that Bill Chadd made it to our meeting in June and is well on the road to recovery. And for a little bit of added good news Janet Wilke has had both of her knees replaced and is doing better than expected in her recovery from this surgery. Sorry that I did not inform everyone before of this but it was information that was not given to me until our meeting in June.

Roger Thompson provided a great program on Llardo glass with a little help from Nick Duncan. They informed us about the way the porcelain is produced as well as a little bit about how it is marketed in the US. One thing that I found interesting was when a member informed us that they had visited the factory in Spain they had looked for a particular piece of Llardo but was told that it could only be purchased in the US because they made some items that were only sold in certain regions and nowhere else. So if you get a chance to go to Spain and check out this wonderful porcelain be prepared to see things you will never be able to see in the US. I will not try to even describe the examples of Llardo that Roger and his wife brought to show us but will let the above picture do the talking. It was wonderful to see all this porcelain in one place. Thanks Roger for taking the chance of breaking one of these beautiful pieces of art to do this program for us.

Our show and tell was quite good as well with lots of examples of Fenton as well as a piece of early Kelsey Murphy, one that was made when she worked at the Pilgrim Glass Factory. It featured Hippos and was quite wonderful. There was also 3 large top hat vases, a amber snow crest, ca. 1950's, a cranberry swirl, late 1940's and a mosaic, ca. 2000's, a unusual small amberina mixing bowl, a Fenton Gift Shop sample. We also had a Dave Fetty cranberry hanging heart teapot, a small Robert Barber vase, a late 1960's Aventurine Green Vasa Murrhina vase, a 1930's crystal dancing lady oval bowl, a blue Dragon and Lotus bowl without iridescence, a 1920's Lilac dolphin handle compote, a 2008 carnival green Parrot Vase without a logo, a #184 10" Ruby wheel cut vase from the 1930's, a Frosted Aster on Blue Satin Votive, a large light blue vase with four cobalt blue gobs of glass around the rim and a cobalt blue foot, when looking at the gobs of glass

closely you are able to see that the gobs of glass have been impressed with the head of a bear, a Dave Fetty piece. There was a Fostoria Chanticleer Rooster, a Rosaline perfume bottle and southern bell or brides maid figure. There were 2 green Franklin decanters, one with a crystal stopper, a green Franklin whisky glass, a Ming Franklin whisky glass, a 1976 Barber Labyrinth Satin Finished vase and a pink tray that may or may not be Fenton.

In the last two newsletters we covered very briefly two of the three kinds of glass that will be featured in our big glass display this year, Rosaline and Ruby. That leaves Favrene. Favrene is Fenton's version of Tiffany's Favrele and Steubens's Blue Aurene. Without a doubt most of us Fenton collectors will agree that it is a very successful version. To make Favrene Fenton uses pure silver and mixes it with cobalt blue. They reheat the glass to bring out the beauty of silver. Then according to the Glass Messenger it is sprayed with metallic salts to develop a silvery blue satin luster. One of the first objects that they attempted to make with it was the Jefferson Comport in 1974. Because of production problems the comport was produced in what they called Independence Blue (a slightly lighter cobalt blue that was iridized). While production of the Jefferson Comport proved to be too difficult in Favrene they did manage to make a few and they have made their way slowly out of the factory. One does show up on eBay every so often. When it does the price reflects how very hard it is to find this piece.

The 1970's was also the time that Robert Barber was at Fenton and like with any other glass treatment Fenton was unable to resist following Barber's example and do some freehand pieces using Favrene in the 1980's according to John Walk in his 1970 90 Fenton Rarities book. Check out his book to see some examples of these experimental pieces. Fenton did not start out by including any Favrene pieces in its line, it was just too difficult to work with and the results were just too unpredictable. For a time they only used Favrene on special orders, club pieces, and special collections. More recently Fenton is using Favrene more often but almost always in a special collection or limited run piece. It was surprising to me that it was so difficult to find information on this beautiful glass in Fenton's books. Perhaps I choose the wrong books but if you would like to check out the information that is available please check out John Walk's book on Fenton Rarities, Fenton Glass the 1990s Decade, edited by James Measell and Fenton Glass the Third Twenty-Five Years by William Heacock. Maybe it is time for some big time collector and lover of Fenton's Favrene to research this wonderful glass and produce a book on it. How about it Richard, it's hard to think of anyone who has a better collection of Favrene than you or who knows more about it.

And speaking of Richard, he wishes to remind everyone to send their list of glass that they would like to have included in the big glass display. Please remember that we will have over 200 pieces of glass in the display and that we will need everyone who can to help provide us with that glass.

Sondra Mattaei attended her first meeting last month. Hopefully it won't be her last. She has very kindly given Richard her list of glass to be used in the big display. Since she is a big collector of Rosaline I know that Richard has a happy face after getting that list. A big welcome to the FFOGKC Sondra. And while we are giving Sondra a big welcome lets include new members James and Delores Wilmoth and please add their information to your roster. (Address intentionally omitted by the editor.)

Everyone is getting ready to attend the national conventions and looking forward to finding that rare and hard to find piece of glass that they have been looking for - for well, it seems like forever. If you are planning on attending the FAGCA convention and are wanting to take glass for a display, you need to contact Stanley Wood, their display table chairman. You have his email address in our roster or contact him thru FAGCA. It sounds like you need to do it fast. The information from the Butterfly Net is that the tables are going fast. At the same time remember that it is good experience to bring to the Gala.

Janet Wilke reports that 14 tables at the Gala have been spoken for at this time. There will be some checking done but I believe that we have just 20 tables to be used for displays so it is important to sign up early. There are no rules beyond making sure your display is safe and the glass is identified. Any information that you can get for your glass will add interest to your table and help educate the rest of us.

We want to send our thanks to the Twin City Fenton Finders for their donation to the hospitality room. This is always helpful as you may know the person in charge of the hospitality room tends to spend a lot of money so that everyone can find something to munch on whenever they visit. Thanks folks - it really helps.

By the time you get this newsletter the Forth of July will be history, hopefully your holiday was a happy and safe one spent among your friends and family. We will be doing a group program in July - Red, White, and Blue to celebrate the 4th. So bring your glass for the program and bring some for show and tell and we'll have a good time on July 12th. See you there.

Jackie Oglesby
Secretary