

Report on the Rushlight Club Summer Meeting and the 51st Aladdin Gathering, July 21 - 28, East Peoria, Illinois

The Rushlight Club summer meeting was held in conjunction with the National Association of Aladdin Lamp Collectors annual Gathering. For the second year in a row the event was held at the Embassy Suites Riverfront Convention Center in East Peoria, Illinois.

The Gathering is a week-long event with a well-established format. Some attendees arrive on Monday and set up for visitation and/or sales from their hotel rooms. Room shopping is a popular activity throughout the week. The Embassy Suites, as an atrium hotel, is ideal for this pursuit. One can easily see who has their room open for visiting and shopping.

Most attendees arrive on Tuesday or Wednesday. Wednesday is a big day with room shopping and visiting throughout the day and evening. Also, the auction preview is in the evening.

On Thursday the Gathering really gets going with an auction of Aladdin lamps, parts and ephemera in the morning and early afternoon. There is a dinner reception in the evening and dealers began setting up the lamp show at 9pm.

Seminars began Friday morning. This year the seminars focused exclusively on Aladdin subjects such as “Cleaning Your Aladdin”, “Proper Use of the Wick Cleaner” and “Aladdin in WW2”.

Dealers continued setting up the lamp show Friday morning. At noon the show opened for Gathering registrants and at 2pm the show opened to the public. Dealers offered for sale a vast amount of all kinds of lighting. Some of the early lighting found at the show included a rushlight, burning fluid lamps, lard lamps, solar lamps, and several rare kerosene burners and chimneys. All kinds of Victorian lighting was present along with hundreds of all types of Aladdin lamps. Burners, chimneys, shades, parts and ephemera were plentiful.



Embassy Suites Hotel



An Aladdin “Lady & Cape” Electric Table Lamp
Sold for \$1,300 at the Auction

Friday evening was the Rushlight dinner. About forty attended. Half of these people were Rushlight Club members, and the rest were Aladdin folks both hungry and curious about the Rushlight Club. Past President Donna Schoenly hosted the dinner and Fred Bohl lit the rush. Bill Courter, the founder of the Aladdin Knights, and several Club members spoke to the group about the activities and benefits of Rushlight Club membership.

On Saturday the lamp show continued for both Gathering registrants and the public. About 50 local people visited the show. Don and Donna Schoenly staffed the Rushlight Club table and sold lighting at the show. They recruited four new members. Seminars also continued throughout the day. The lamp show closed at 3pm. To conclude the Gathering, a banquet and program was held Saturday evening.

Next year the Gathering will be at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Jefferson City, Missouri from July 20th to 27th. All Rushlighters should attend a Gathering at least once in their collecting life. Nowhere else can you find such a large and diverse assembly of lighting collectors, lamps, shades, and parts in one place at one time. And most of it is for sale!



Fred Bohl Lights the Rush



Don & Donna Schoenly at the Rushlight Club Table



Rushlight Dinner
Bill Courter and Donna Schoenly

At the Lamp Show



Victorian and Early Lighting was Plentiful



John & Ann Shallcross Peruse the Schoenly's Wares



Lighting for Sale by Club Member George Foree



Longtime Club Members Betty and Lou Gatter



Kerosene Burners, Chimneys and Shade Holders