

Collector's Corner

Club That Clicks With Collectors

(NASPA)—For those seeking a hobby with a “lighter” touch, there’s a collectors club that may “spark” interest—and really “click” with enthusiasts.

Over the past 70 years, more than 375 million Zippo lighters have been manufactured in Bradford, Pa. Whereas some people have been collecting these gadgets for decades, interest has really ignited over the last 20 years.

In addition to the traditional chrome finish, thousands of designs depicting hobbies, activities, logos and lifestyle interests have been showcased on these lighters. In fact, the company itself admits it doesn’t even know the extent of all the artwork variations gracing its products.

At the same time, the fact that there are thousands of designs and logos is exactly why these items are cherished by collectors. In addition, some have more than just sentimental or nostalgia value; at the 2001 Zippo Swap Meet in Tokyo, a 1933 model in mint condition (in the original box) sold for \$18,000.

An estimated four million Americans—and millions more around the world—collect Zippo lighters, so the manufacturer recently founded an international collectors club—Zippo Click—that allows members to communicate with each other; buy, sell or trade lighters; and purchase exclusive club merchandise.

“The name of the club is derived from the distinctive sound of a Zippo lighter opening,” says Kathy Jones, club administrator.



This 1933 Zippo Lighter with a metallique appliqué was a rare find at a recent swap meet. Metallique was the first method used by the company to decorate its lighters.

“The club’s Web site provides a single source of information about lighters, collectors, events and all things Zippo.”

For an annual membership fee of \$20, members receive a quarterly publication that includes special offerings, new product showcases, collector and employee profiles, archive information, lighter collector club profiles and collector event news, as well as information about limited edition lighters.

To register for the club, collectors, as well as those interested in starting their own collections, can call 814-368-2700 or visit the Web site at www.zippoclick.com.