

# QUARTERLY

## President's Message



**FEB 2009**

Fellow Stretch Glass Enthusiasts –

Happy New Year, once again – last time it was on the occasion of the start of a new year following our annual convention and now, of course, it is on occasion of a new calendar year. I'm sure you join me and many others in bidding 2008 a fond farewell and share the hopes of many that 2009 will be a better year for all of us. With new national leadership and the prospect of the colors and new life of spring, we should all get a bit of a pick up. I've often shared with you my thoughts on using our iridescent stretch glass to help us celebrate holidays and special occasions. By now, you've heard the stories of how we use pieces from our collection during the Christmas holidays and for other events in our home. I hope you also have gotten the urge to take your iridescent stretch glass out of the cabinet and share it with your guests or just enjoy it on a table or shelf. The bright spring colors of stretch glass are a wonderful way to brighten up a room this spring. I offer this picture of green and ruby stretch glass on our holiday table for inspiration.

We recently moved into a new home and a new neighborhood so we have had the pleasure of sharing our collections with our new neighbors, co-workers and friends. As we know, iridescent stretch glass is very beautiful and it seems to always generate lots of questions and interest among our guests. Given how few people really know what iridescent stretch glass is – let alone how and when it was made – sharing your enthusiasm for this breathtaking glass is a great way to spread the word about it and maybe even interest someone to become a fellow collector. Most of us acquired our interest in iridescent stretch glass with the help of another collector, so please think about passing on your enthusiasm to someone else, especially someone from the younger generation.

This year is going to be an exciting year for the Stretch Glass Society. We are planning another fun convention, show and sale at the end of July, once again in Marietta, OH. We hope you are planning on making the trip to share a few days and nights with us. I have had the privilege of leading our club for several years, but now it is time for me to move on. While I don't plan on disappearing, it is time for you to elect both a new

(continued on page 8)

## INSIDE

Executive Board, Directory. . . . .	2
Updates, and In Memoriam	
Convention, and Glass News . . . .	3
Tech Article: Miscellaneous . . . .	4-5
Larger Candleholders	
Q&A Letters & E-Mails . . . . .	6-7
Eye on eBay, & Egyptian Lustre . .	8
Bud Ashmore, and Blue Dolphins .	9



## STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

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Stanley & Phyllis Wood

## **DIRECTORY UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS**

David Acosta .....	[REDACTED]
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Nancy Steiner .....	[REDACTED]
Jean Stickrod, Rex Tatum .....	[REDACTED] x [REDACTED]



We're sad to share this news of the passing of these members and friends in 2008. Our club is poorer for their loss, and we will miss them.

***Bud Ashmore:*** Bud is remembered by friends on page 9 of this newsletter.

***Mary Crespi:*** Our condolences have been sent to Mary's three sons.

***Johanna Williams:*** Doug, we again extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family for your loss of Johanna last April.



## 2009 Convention Planning Report

by Pam Steinbach, Convention Director

Hello Everyone:

During this winter of unlimited snowfall and subzero temperatures, it's hard to imagine summer and warmth, but it will be here soon and so will our 35th annual convention. Due in part to Mother Nature, progress on the convention has been a bit slow this year and we still have some things to work out. What I can tell you is that we have put together a team of three glass experts to head up our "Stump the Experts" portion of the program. You might recall that we are encouraging you to bring in one or two pieces of glass that you need help identifying. We will then present them to the experts to see if they can determine exactly what the piece is, who made it, etc. These experts are author and Stretch Glass Society technical advisor Dave Shetlar, author Roy Ash and author and Fenton historian James Measell. This event will immediately follow our banquet on Thursday evening. So sort through your collections or recent purchases and find a piece or two of glass and let's really try to stump our experts.



Since the club display this year is **Dolphins**, please try to bring dolphin handled pieces of glass to include in your individual display and/or for sale.



Jim Steinbach is still working with the Fenton Art Glass Company to make a souvenir piece for us and is also working out procedures and details for a silent auction.

Don't forget the dates this year are July 29-31 and we again are at the Comfort Inn in Marietta. If you haven't already made your hotel reservations, please call 1-800-537-6858 to do so and remember to tell them you are with the Stretch Glass Society so you get the discounted room rate of \$74.99.

See you soon. **Pam**

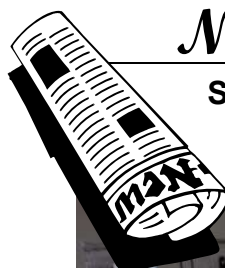


## News from the Glass World

### Sad News: Blenko Glass Closes

January 30, 2009 @ 05:02 PM

*The Herald-Dispatch*



MILTON — Blenko Glass Company announced Friday that it is shutting down production.

Twenty of its 50 employees have been laid off as of yet, and the company is discussing with legal counsel about whether it should file for bankruptcy.

Problems leading to the company's current financial situation go back four years, when the hand-made glass manufacturer was sued by Big Two Mile, its former gas supplier, a press release from Blenko said. The companies had a disagreement about the payments due to the gas company, and a court found in favor of Big Two Mile, entering a judgment against Blenko for more than \$500,000 in September 2005.

Blenko made several proposals for settlement of the case, but none were accepted, the release said.

### The Arkansas Glasshoppers, Inc

Annual Glass Show and Sale

Feb 28-Mar1, 2009

State Fairgrounds at Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas

### 20-30-40 GLASS SOCIETY'S

Depression Era Glass Show & Sale

March 28 & 29, 2009

Saturday 9 am - 5 pm Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

MIDWEST CONFERENCE CTR CONCORD PLACE  
401 West Lake St. Northlake, Illinois 60164

Admission \$ 8.00 Per Person \$7.00 with this ad - Limit 2  
Including associate membership for this event



Featuring Depression Era Glass to Contemporary Glass

For Info: P.O. Box 856, LaGrange, IL 60525  
www.20-30-40Society.org





Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



## Stretch Glass Candleholders II – Miscellaneous Larger Holders by Dave Shetlar

In the last SGS Quarterly, I covered the trumpet, spindle and “colonial” style holders. In this article, I wish to cover the rest of the taller and larger holders.

The first group is the blown-molded holders which can be considered used as either vases or candleholders (Figs. 1-3). While Diamond made some other narrow and thin vases, these three pieces have definite candleholder-like tops. The tall version is 8 5/8-inches tall (Fig. 1) and is most commonly found in blue and green, but a few marigold sets are known. I’ve seen these in black glass, but never iridized black (Egyptian Lustre). The smaller version is 7 1/4-inches tall (Fig. 2) and is also commonly found in blue and green. The #900 (Adam’s Rib) version is 7 3/4-inches tall (Fig. 3) and is very difficult to find. Green and blue are again the most common colors, but I found a marigold pair this last year. While there is also a press-molded #900 candleholder (not figured), none have been found to be iridized. Since there are other blown-molded, stretch effect vases made by Diamond in Blue Crackle (cobalt blue), it’s entirely possible for one of the stick-vases to be found! Keep your eyes open.

Besides the “colonial” style candleholders that have hexagonal bases, there are several other holders that also have hexagonal bases (Figs. 6, 8, 9, 11 & 12). Fenton’s #249 holders (Fig. 6) are about 6 1/2-inches tall and are a bit bar-bell shaped with the hexagonal pattern running from the base through the top. These are found in all the common Florentine colors (e.g., green, blue, topaz), but Velva Rose (pink), Persian Pearl (crystal), wisteria (purple) and Royal Blue (cobalt) examples are known. Non-iridized ruby sticks are also around, so it’s always possible that an iridized set may exist. Imperial made a #6007 (=7-inch tall, Fig. 8) and #6009 (=9-inch tall, Fig. 9) hexagonal holders. The tall ones are most common and, surprisingly, they are most commonly found in ruby and amberina stretch. The Green Ice (teal) versions are obtainable and the Iris Ice (crystal) with true stretch effect is pretty difficult to find. One to two dark wisteria (very dark purple) versions with stretch effect are also floating around in collections. The small holders are very difficult to find with true stretch effect. Shiny iridized marigold and smoke versions of both sizes are fairly common. The Northwood hexagonal holders come in two sizes, the #658 is slightly less than 7-inches tall (Fig. 11), but the #657 is about 8 1/2-inches tall (Fig. 12). Both are very common in blue (both dark and light versions), Russet, Topaz and Jade Blue. These holders are also known in Northwood’s Ivory (custard) and one set of #657 holders has been found in a dark purple color.

U.S. Glass made two candleholders with spiral-twist

stems (Figs. 16 & 17). One style has a flattened, round base, and petal-shaped bobèche-like tops (Fig. 16). These are 9 3/8-inches tall (plus or minus 1/8-inch) and are most often found in crystal or topaz, but blue ones are also known. The #315 holders (Fig. 17) are 9 1/2-inches tall with bell-shaped bases. These are most often found in blue and topaz, but a few crystal sets are known.

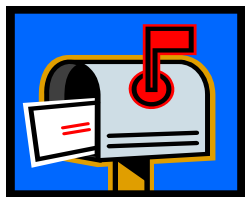
To finish out the other miscellaneous taller holders, Fenton made an elegant set of ribbed holders, the #232s (Fig. 4). These are 8 1/2-inches tall and have been found in virtually all the Florentine colors except for ruby. Celeste Blue and Topaz are the most common versions. These were made to match the #231 footed bowls. Imperial’s #320 “double-scroll” candleholders (Fig. 7) come in two sizes, but only the 8 1/2-inch versions have been found in stretch colors and effects. I’ve seen one set of the short ones in a shiny smoke color. By far, Northwood made some of the heaviest candleholders with their 11-inch tall #651 pieces (Fig. 10). These have square bases and sides and they are found in the common Northwood stretch colors (e.g., Blue, Topaz, Russet and Jade Blue). To round out their #310 line, U.S. Glass made a tall candleholder set (Fig. 15). These are 9-inches tall and they are most commonly found in Blue, green opaque and yellow opaque. I recently saw a pair in shiny marigold and one would think that these should be fairly common in green and pink since much of the rest of the #310 line is in these colors.

The final candleholders that I have included are some of the stranger pieces. Fenton made a #1683 candle vase (Fig. 5) which is 7 1/4-inches tall. Only one in Florentine Green is known, though a crystal etched version is known to Fenton collectors. Fenton also made the #950 “cornucopia” holders (Fig. 14) in Persian Pearl and Aquamarine that were used as console sets with matching bowls. These candleholders are difficult to find without faults in the bases or in the iridescence. Imperial made a rather strange candleholder-tray (Fig. 13). These are about 8-inches tall and come most commonly in Rose Ice (marigold) and Blue Ice (smoke), but a few dark purple ones are known. Diamond made a bowl with two candleholders attached (Fig. 21). These are about 7 3/8-inches wide and 3-inches tall. They are most often found in green and blue, but marigold and Ruby or Royal Lustre (shiny red and cobalt blue) pieces are also known.

I’ve included what appears to be a one-of-a-kind blue candleholder (Fig. 18) that the Walns brought to the Convention in 2007. I’m still not sure who the maker is, but it was well done. Has anyone else seen this holder, either iridized or plain?

I’ve also included images of the two U.S. Glass #179 candleholders. The normal one (Fig. 19) and the wide base form (Fig. 20) which weren’t shown in the last newsletter.





## Q&A Letters & E-Mails from Renée & Dave Shetlar



I've attached an image of three colors of the Fenton coasters. We know them in Royal Blue (cobalt), Celeste Blue, Topaz (vaseline) and crystal. I've heard that there is a pink and green set out there, but I haven't seen them - yet. The coasters periodically show up on eBay under "coasters," but I haven't seen too many recently. They are about 3 1/4-inch wide with four interior ribs to keep wet glasses from sticking. Most other coasters have six internal rays. The bottom has an impressed star with 30 points and the outside wall/rim has 30 flat surfaces. Unfortunately, Northwood made virtually identical coasters for their diamond optic/quilted tumbler and pitcher sets. Their pieces only come in blue and topaz so if you find crystal or clear ones, they will definitely be Fenton. There is only a minor difference in the length of the inside four rays that separates these coasters! Other than this, they are the same size and have the same number of rays and panels. Most people don't worry about the difference! Hope this helps in your quest to get the coasters. Also, if you look at the Fenton catalogs, the pitcher also sat upon a cobalt blue base! This base is only found in cobalt blue and black (as far as I know).

Dave

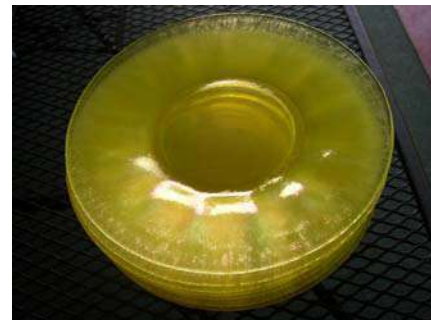


**Q:** Hello, my wife and I have a Fenton rib optic lemonade set from the 1920's, but it does not have the cobalt coasters pictured on your site. Do you know any place one might see a detailed image of these and the exact size.

Thanks, Wade

**A:** Wade, Nice Set!

**Q:** Good afternoon, I found some vaseline plates at a garage sale on Saturday and I read some info on eBay that you helped contribute. I was wondering if you could take a look at some pictures and tell me what you think. It is all so confusing! Any help would be greatly appreciated. I have a total of 8 of them. Sincerely, Jennifer



**A:** Jennifer,

These wide-panel like plates are commonly mistaken for Imperial and since Fenton is the last remaining maker of stretch glass, almost everything is being attributed to them! However, both would be incorrect for your plates. Your plates were made by U.S. Glass and they come in about four different sizes. The most important feature is that they have ground bases. The true wide-panel plates were made by Imperial and these all have snap bases (molded bases). Imperial's plates also have the panels with distinctly rounded outer edges of each panel while the U.S. Glass panels go completely to the edge. These come in typical U.S. Glass colors: topaz (vaseline), a light blue (almost a Celeste Blue, but a bit lighter), an odd green (with a little hint of blue, not a Florentine Green), crystal (the most common color, often with black or green enamel band along the edge), and a light pink (which is probably why folks think they may be Fenton as these look a bit like Velva Rose). We have the plates illustrated on our stretch glass web site at:

<http://www.shetlarglass.com/stretchglass/SGCompanies/USGlass/USGlass12.htm>

**Q:** Good morning, I'm not much into "married" pieces but it fires the imagination to think that these two pieces have come together and stayed together for so long; IF they are Northwood's #613, variation? Rex



Sold on eBay for \$520



**A:** Hi Rex, We've been watching them also. We think that they may actually be Fenton's quilted optic vases that have been turned into the shades. What has us most concerned is that these may have been done outside the factory since there are two different bases! Dave

**Q:** *I just love you. I'm sorry, I don't know you but you have the most wonderful website. I search the web a lot and you have the most detailed information I have ever come across. I wouldn't bother you but I think these are Fenton (based on your diagrams) but these bases are 8 sided rather than round. If you have time please take a look. Thank you, Debbie W.*



**A:** Thank you for the compliments! We've spent a lot of years studying iridescent stretch glass. Dave is very precise with measurements (something he learned from Berry Wiggins, an early collector/glass researcher) and quite particular with his photos. Your candleholders are U.S. Glass #94. See our website link: <http://shetlarglass.com/stretchglass/SGCompanies/USGlass/USGlass11.htm>

Thanks for writing! Renée and Dave

**Q:** *Hello, The attached photo is a sampling of what I believe is stretched glass. I was given an assortment of wine glasses and these in the photo by a relative who bought a furnished house and these were a part of the inventory. I would like to know how to find out the value of my collection, if any. I live in the Tampa Bay, Florida area. Do you know of a collector, dealer, interested member in my area that I can contact for an opinion/appraisal? Thank you for any help you can offer. Sincerely, Betty Anne B.*



**A:** Betty Anne, Your tumblers and stem pieces are iridized, but not true stretch glass. There were many companies that made this iridized stem ware and tumblers from the 1920s through the 1940s. Some companies are popular and others relatively unknown. These pieces are relatively common, and while quite attractive, they usually don't command big prices. You might call the Gas Plant Antique Mall in St. Petersburg to see if they have a glass expert. There used to be a great glass dealer in Ft. Myers and two in Lakeland, but the last time we visited both locations, they had gone out of business! Sorry we can't be of more assistance as we don't get to Florida but twice a year to visit our daughter who lives in Naples!

You can see true stretch glass at our web site at: <http://www.shetlarglass.com> Dave

**Q:** *(NOTE: This excahnge was written last May regarding the eBay sale of the vase pictured below reported in the May 2008 SGS Quarterly.)*

*Hello. I received my hard-copy of the SGS Newsletter, this week. It has already solved something that puzzled me. i.e. : the Fenton 12" #891 vase. When the Persian Pearl vase came online (eBay) and brought \$876 I thought it was time to sell mine (Celeste Blue) . I didn't get a SINGLE bid then relisted and it got to \$177, well below what I had thought to be a reasonable Reserve. I see now that there is a BIG difference between the availability of the two colors and the fact that I have never seen another vase, in ANY color, just attests to my ignorance and provinciality. Well, I'll just keep it, where it is. I won't sell it for \$177. I do think it is more 'rare' than that. Rex*



**A:** Hi Rex, Indeed, the #891 vases seem to be most desirable in the Royal Blue (cobalt) though the Celeste Blue and Topaz are more rare. The cobalt ones go for \$800 to \$1000 and the Celeste Blue and Topaz ones have been in the \$500 to \$800 range. We notice that you didn't get much interest in your Celeste Blue one and it is definitely worth much more than \$177, but economic times are hard on collectors now and only the big bucks folks bite on the really rare items. I think that several of our members already have Celeste Blue vases. The Pearl one was a real surprise and it gives one hope that other colors (like a wisteria) may be out there! Dave





Recent selling prices from Renée Shetlar



Fenton #232  
Grecian Gold  
candleholders  
\$103.53

Imperial Amethyst Ice  
plate \$40.20



Northwood  
Topaz bowl  
\$24.50

Fenton Tangerine  
bowl \$75.00



Northwood blue  
diamond quilted  
covered pitcher  
\$200.01



4 Fenton green  
octagonal plates  
\$20.51



### President's Message, continued from page 1

President and Vice President to lead the Stretch Glass Society for the next two years. We will also be electing a couple of Directors in 2009, so start thinking about what role you would like to play in leading our Society in the future. Being an officer or director is a very rewarding and exciting way to promote iridescent stretch glass and the Stretch Glass Society. Our Constitution and By-Laws provide for approximately half of our leaders to be elected each year, so we have a great group who will be continuing into 2010. Together with those elected this year, I'm confident our Club will continue to be in good hands.

As always, please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors with comments and suggestions on how we can make your membership in the Stretch Glass Society more rewarding and fun for you. I look forward to seeing many of you in Marietta later this year and wish you the best as we start 2009. Thanks for the privilege of serving as your President.

Sincerely, *Cal*

Cal Hackeman, President



### Sharing Our Collections: Egyptian Lustre

Some of our members would rather not 'toot their own horns', but are glad to share pictures anonymously. Thanks to the owner of this wonderful collection of Egyptian Lustre for sending this picture for our viewing pleasure and, hopefully, for inspiring others to do likewise. Egyptian Lustre is what Diamond Glass-ware Company of Indiana, PA, called it's opaque black glass with multicolored stretch iridescence. If you'd like to communicate with the owner about this collection, please feel free to send me an email, and I'll pass it on. Thanks, Stephanie [REDACTED]





## Friends Remember Bud Ashmore

### Bud Ashmore: A True Collector

Longtime SGS members will remember Bud Ashmore, former member and avid stretch glass collector. I'm sorry to report that Bud passed away on December 8 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

About fifteen years ago, Marietta auctioneer Ross Thomas told me there was a gentleman in Indianapolis who was a glass collector and expert, and that I needed to contact him and invite him to join our local glass club. It was one of the best pieces of advice I ever received!

Bud became a longtime member of the club and a good friend. His wealth of knowledge about Stretch, US Tiffin and all types of Northwood glass was amazing. He also had a collection of American Belleek that I was privileged to see, and that some museums would drool over. All of the club members learned so much from Bud over the fifteen years he was a member. I remember the night he brought in his collection of red stretch -- Wow! Bud's health had declined a bit in the last couple of years. He didn't get to club as much, and he was not able to come to the Hoosier Antiques Expo the last year or so.

Bud was a very close friend and colleague of the late Berry Wiggins. I know Bud and Berry would talk several times a week, and I'm sure they are discussing glass again as I write this. It was a pleasure to have known Bud Ashmore. He was a true collector! Thomas K. Smith

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### Remembering Bud Ashmore

by Renée Shetlar

Dave and I first met Bud Ashmore while attending one of our early SGS conventions, perhaps the 1993 convention in Marietta Ohio. We kept seeing this good-sized man coming and going from the SGS display room, talking off and on with Berry Wiggins, and always carrying a small Whippet (miniature greyhound) dog in his arms. We would frequently pass him in the hallways and he was always cordial, but also seemed reserved and shy. Eventually, Berry introduced us and we discovered that he was a retired Naval (I believe) officer who never married, who lived in Indianapolis and was a very knowledgeable collector of glassware and miscellaneous other items. Most notably I remember the slag pieces produced by the US Glass Company (with stretch iridescence and without), Bellek porcelain and the ceramic figurines of the RCA dog -- Victor (?).

Bud, though quiet and unassuming, was a well informed collector and during a visit to his home, we were impressed by his collection and what he had learned about each item. He was obviously proud of his

collection and seemed to beam at our response to everything we saw. We learned a lot that day about his interests and about him. We also felt very fortunate to have been invited to his home, since it was said that he didn't offer invitations too frequently.

I will always have fond memories of this quiet man and when I close my eyes, I can still see him walking among the rows and rows of stretch glass with his little Whippet in his arms. We will miss him.



### My Search for Blue Dolphins

by Stephanie Bennett

Here they were, I thought, the object of my desire: Celeste Blue dolphins, clearly pictured on the front of Berry Wiggins' book, my first Stretch Glass Bible. Surely the blue color isn't as deep as that on some inside pictures, but I figured the color quality of the cover was poor.

As my collection of blue stretch grew, and I saw dolphin pieces in other colors, I'd complain to my husband Tom that I was starting to lose faith that blue dolphins existed.

I was so touched when one day Tom presented me with this true Celeste Blue paper weight etched with dolphins. He knew it wasn't stretch glass, but it was his way of encouraging my (albeit strange to him) passion.



When I finally met Berry, he told me that the vase on the cover of his book is Aquamarine, not Celeste Blue, and that he didn't think he'd ever seen a dolphin piece in Celeste Blue. A couple of years later, Frank Fenton confirmed that Celeste Blue dolphins are uncommon, probably because that color was being phased out for the more pastel shade of Aquamarine about the same time that Fenton started making dolphins pieces. So, those of you with Celeste Blue dolphins in your collections, know that they are more special than the common color would lead you to believe!

A few years ago, thanks to Cal Hackeman, I became the happy owner of the Celeste Blue dolphin handled fan vase which I had once imagined was on the cover of Berry's book. But Tom's blue dolphin globe retains a most special place in my collection and in my heart.



Happy Valentine's Day,  
Stephanie

**MARIETTA WILL BE FINE IN 2009!**

**JULY 29, 30 & 31, 2009**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual SGS Convention, Show and Sale**

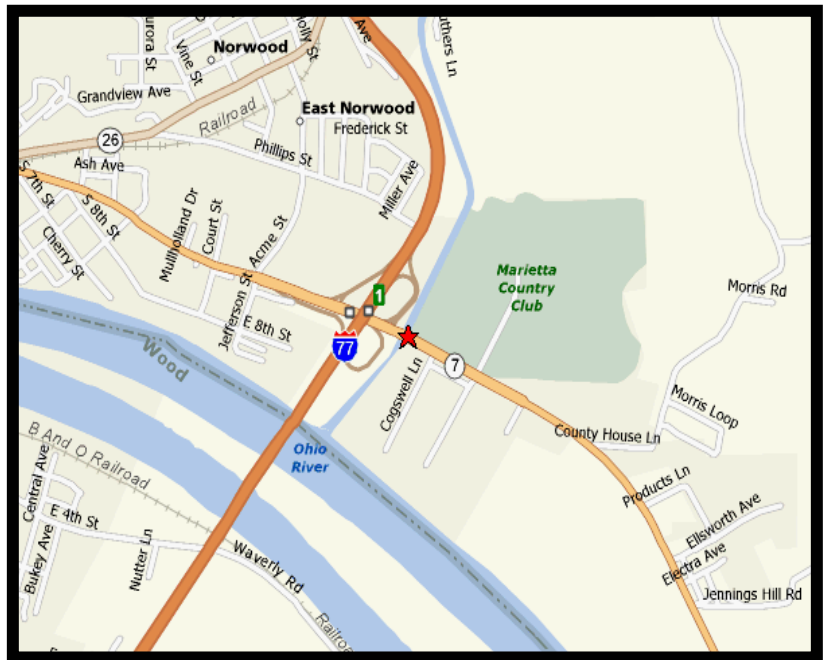
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FOUNDED APRIL 21, 1974 IN DENVER, PENNSYLVANIA

THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

**QUARTERLY**

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