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THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY



President's Message

FEBRUARY 2008

Fellow Stretch Enthusiasts,

Happy New Year! The Officers and Board of Directors join me in wishing each of you a happy and prosperous 2008, hopefully filled with fun and excitement somehow associated with iridescent stretch glass. The new year brings some changes in the leadership of our Society. As previously reported, Dave and Renee Shetlar have retired from their positions on our Board of Directors. I'm happy to report that Marilyn Farr has agreed to serve as our new Secretary, and Stephanie Bennett is assuming the role of Editor for the Stretch Glass Please join me in welcoming Marilyn to our Board and Quarterly. thanking her and Stephanie for taking on these important responsibilities. We all look forward to seeing how Stephanie's touch will influence the Quarterly going forward. Please remember that we are always interested in hearing from you about your stretch glass and other collecting adventures, experiences, hunts and finds, so drop Stephanie a note that she can share with our fellow members in a future issue. Please also join me in thanking Dave and Renee Shetlar for their many years as Secretary and Editors of the Quarterly. Even as Stephanie takes over the reins as Editor, Dave will continue to provide articles on iridescent stretch glass and Renee will help us keep our finger on auctions and other sightings of stretch glass.

The new year also brings a full slate of Directors on our Board, with the addition of Tim Cantrell and Mike Getchius! I know I speak for the entire membership as well as the Board, when I welcome them and thank them for agreeing to serve. This is an exciting time for the Stretch Glass Society as we expand from a traditional membership organization to one with a significant presence on the internet. The creative ideas and input of our new board members will help to keep us on track as we navigate new territory and build a club which meets the needs of our traditional members as well as those of the younger, often virtual, collectors around the world.

I'm sure you join me in welcoming the news that the Fenton Art Glass Company will likely continue in business following their restructuring and a recent surge in interest in their products. Fenton has long been a producer of iridescent stretch glass and we look forward to their new 2008 offerings. I see much of their newer stretch glass offered on ebay every day reinforcing that there is a significant following of collectors of the new, as well as the vintage, iridescent stretch glass. Our Society looks forward to welcoming all collectors of iridescent stretch glass and finding innovative ways of integrating the old and new in our (continued on page 2)

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!
Evaline Kirkpatrick,
Kenneth F. Swink,
DIRECTORY UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS
Dorothy Benjamin
Bob & Helen Jones
Norman Carlson
MaryCrespi, MaryCr
Tim & Kathy Eichholz
Fred & Bebe Geisler
Julia Luke
Nona & Lewis Redd,
FaithPerrin
Mary Lynn Padovano
Walter Spung
Paul & Nancy Steiner
Jean Stickrod
Elliot Treby

President's Message, continued from page 1

collections and on our tables. We would enjoy hearing from you about your particular area of interest in stretch glass. Is it dolphins, or tangerine, or Imperial Jewels, or candlesticks or a combination of colors, shapes and manufacturers? How do you use your iridescent stretch glass? How did you get started? Where do you find pieces today (not that we expect you to give away your secret sources)? We all enjoy learning about fellow members' collections and interests, so please share your story with us.

As I always do, I wish you the best of luck in finding additions to your collections. It seems as if more and more dealers are aware of iridescent stretch glass and this is resulting in some remarkable pieces coming to market. Hopefully one or more of these will find its way into your collection. Best regards and happy hunting.

Sincerely, Cal Hackeman, President

Annual Convention, Show & Sale July 30, 31 & August 1 by Pam Steinbach, Director

Work is currently underway to bring you another fun filled and educational convention. This year's dates are Wednesday, July 30 through Friday, August 1 and we will again be at the Comfort Inn in Marietta, Ohio. Because both the NFGS and FAGCA will be at the same hotel, one convention following the other, it is very imperative that you at least reserve your room now, even if you have to cancel out later. The toll free number is 1-800-537-6858 and be sure to tell them you are with the Stretch Glass Society so you can get the special room rate of \$73.70 plus tax.

This year's theme is "A Rainbow of Color" with the club fashioning a color wheel displaying one each of all major color categories going from white to black. It should be quite a sight.

On Friday afternoon we will have a special treat when Fenton's master craftsman Dave Fetty will conduct demonstration of how he creates a piece of glass from start to finish...a "Progressive Glass Demonstration." Mr. Fetty will bring examples of each piece at the various stages of completion. Some of our members have seen this demonstration and they assure us this is really something to see.



Dave Fetty

Fenton Rurities

Our banquet speaker this year is antique dealer, author of the book <u>Early Fenton Rarities 1907-1938</u> and fellow Stretch Glass member, Tom Smith. Tom will discuss Fenton glass rarities and will bring examples of some of these pieces to display.

So that is just a little taste of what we have planned for our convention. Things are getting very exciting with the club this year (we have new Board Members!) so plan to attend the 2008 convention and come see what all the excitement is about. See you there!

2008 Convention Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30:

1-7pm Member arrival, check in, set up. Draw Sales Stampede line up numbers.

4-6 pm Executive Board Meeting

8-10 pm WINE & CHEESE WELCOME PARTY

10 pm Room locked for night

THURSDAY, July 31:

9-11am Late arrival, check in, set up & draw Sales

Stampede line up number

11:15am SALES STAMPEDE 12-5pm OPEN TO PUBLIC

3pm Stretch Glass Identification Workshop with

Dave Shetlar

5pm Room closes for Banquet set up 7pm 2008 BUFFET BANQUET

(Members & Guests)

8pm BANQUET SPEAKER-Tom Smith,

antique dealer & author discussing

Fenton Glass Rarities (OPEN TO PUBLIC)

10pm Room locked for night

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1:

10-4pm OPEN TO PUBLIC

11-12pm Club Display Review with Dave Shetlar

12-1pm MEMBERS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

& FREE BOX LUNCH

2-4pm SEMINAR - Dave Fetty,

Fenton's Master craftsman,

"A Progressive Glass Demonstration"

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

5pm Room Closes to Public.

BEGIN PACKING GLASS

(Room must be cleared by 10 pm)



Fenton Dolphin Pieces Revisited by Dave Shetlar

Fenton hit a popular cord when they produced a line of glassware that was ornamented with fish-shaped handles. While there is only a dozen or so molds used to make these pieces, the various bowls, comports and candy jar bases were shaped to provide a considerable number of possible pieces. Diamond optic (designated #1502) and spiral optic (#1503) plungers were used to add even more variations. Note that Fenton used 'spiral optic' rather than 'twisted optic' which has been used for similar designs made by Imperial.

In 1996, the Stretch Glass Society held its convention in Manassas, Virginia. Cal Hackeman was the local arrangements chair and he and his host committee (Helen & Bob Jones, Arna & Fred Simpson, Barbara & Jim Sullivan and Jacquelynn Woziak) featured Fenton dolphins for the club display. This committee accumulated an impressive display of stretch and non-stretch dolphin pieces with additions from other society members. Bob Jones photographed all the pieces in the display using a professional setup and the images were eventually printed and sold as a special album available to Society members. A copy of this album usually shows up at our annual convention, so look for it the next time you come to convention!

While I presented a technical piece on the Fenton dolphin pieces at that time for the Newsletter, we have found even more pieces and it's time to review the dolphins again.

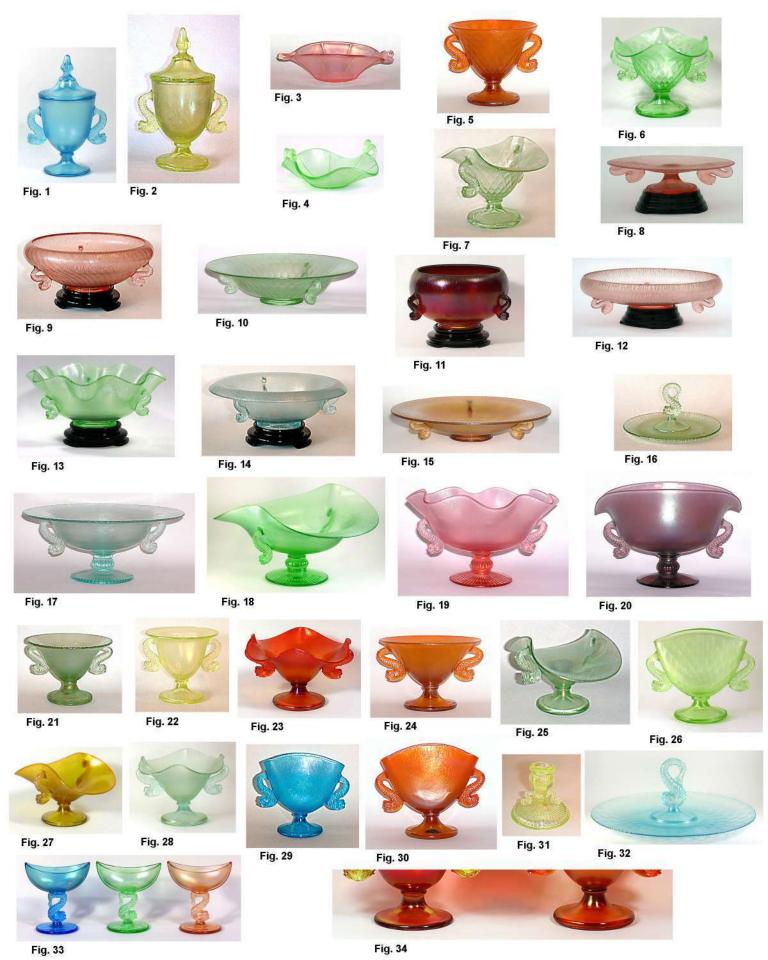
The most common dolphin pieces are made from two candy jar bases, a 1/2-pound jar (Fig. 1, #1532A) and a 3/4-pound jar (Fig. 2, #1533A). The actual jars are difficult to find though the Velva Rose one probably the most commonly Unfortunately, Velva Rose was used in the 1980s when Fenton reissued the #1533A jar. When Fenton began to remake this jar, they also retooled the foot. Surprisingly, Fenton decided that the old foot was too thick, so they replaced the base plate with a thinner foot (Fig. 34). While the stem of the new foot (on the left) is thicker, the actual height of the basal rim is thin and there is no indented rim inside the foot. The original foot (on the right) has a thinner stem, but the outside rim is thick. So, you can tell new #1533A pieces from old ones just by looking. You don't have to pick them up and look for the Fenton Logo which has been placed in most, but not all of the new pieces! The smaller #1532A has not been remade. The bases of the #1532A and #1533A jars have been used to make various comports (Figs. 5-7, 21-25 & 27-28), fan vases (Figs. 26, 29 & 30), and even a card tray (Fig. 8). The base diameter



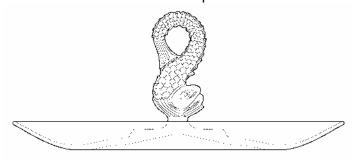
of the #1532A is about 3-inches while the larger #1533A has a 3.5-inch diameter base. The most common shapes are flared (Figs. 5, 21, 22, & 24), oval (or two sides up) (Figs. 7, 25 & 27), square (or four sides up) (Figs. 6, 23 & 28) and the vases are always fan shaped (Figs. 26, 29 & 30).

I know of only one #1533A flattened down into a card tray (Fig. 8) and this one even has the diamond optic surface, so it is technically a #1502 dolphin tray! There are non-iridized trays to be found, but these are also very rare. The most common colors for these #1532A and #1533A pieces are Florentine Green, Velva Rose, Topaz, Aquamarine and Tangerine. Celeste Blue pieces (Fig. 29) are quite difficult to find and I've never seen one in Persian Pearl. The #1533A is also found in Ruby only in the square shape though remember that modern Ruby pieces have been made in various shapes.

Two bowl molds were used. The #1621 is a small bowl with two dolphin rim-handles and eight external rays (Figs. 3 & 4). This piece has a 2.5-inch diameter snap base (ground). What's interesting is that Fenton catalogs show two sizes of this bowl, but the larger one has not been found with the stretch effect. The smaller bowl is also pictured with a candleholder pressed into the center, but this has only been found in non-iridized or etched pieces. This bowl has only been seen in Florentine Green and Velva Rose. Only the oval and square shapes are known in stretch, but catalog pages show some other forms, especially a flared, round form. The #1504 bowl is commonly called 'triple-dolphin' by collectors because of the three dolphins located equidistance around the outside (Figs. 9-15). I have only seen one bowl with the spiral optic interior (Fig. 9) and one with the diamond optic interior (Fig. 10) though both forms are quite common in non-iridized colors. Florentine Green and Velva Rose are again the most common colors with Aquamarine and Wisteria being fairly obtainable. A couple of cupped (rose bowl) bowls are known in Ruby (Fig. 11) and another couple of wide flared pieces in Amber (Fig. 15) are known. Non-iridized amber pieces are fairly common, so the 'Dope Fairy' seems to have been absent during most of the amber production! The crimped rim bowl (Fig. 13) is likely the most common shape to be found, but ones with rolled rims (Fig. 14), and low bowls (Fig. 12) are known. The low bowls often rest on the dolphins without a stand. I've not seen bowls in Topaz or Celeste Blue, but they should be out there somewhere!



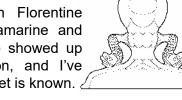
The #1600-series comports are called footed bowls in the Fenton catalogs, but we'll continue to call them comports. In this series, Fenton used a separate number for each shape. The #1600 has a rolled rim edge (not shown), #1601 has a flared rim (Fig. 17), the #1602 has a crimped rim (Fig. 19), the #1604 has an oval (two sides up) rim (Fig. 18), and the #1606 has a square (four sides up) rim (not shown) and the #1608 has an oval, two sides pulled out, rim (Fig. 20). impressive pieces are found in Florentine Green, Velva Rose, Aquamarine and Wisteria. From the numbers, there might be additional shapes (e.g., #1603, 1605 & 1607) which might be JIP (one side up and one side down), flattened or cupped-in forms. These have not been seen, but they are common treatments used by Fenton on other bowls and comports.



Dolphin-handled servers include a 6-inch diameter butterball (Fig. 16) and a 10.5-inch diameter server (Fig. 32). The butterball (#1557) is most commonly seen in Florentine Green and Velva Rose, but I've heard of a Celeste Blue one. I would think that this should also be found in Aquamarine since the larger server is commonly found in that color. The larger server is most commonly found in the #1503A, diamond optic, form and Florentine Green, Velva Rose and Aquamarine are fairly common. In the case of these servers, true #1502 forms (plain, not shown) are more difficult to find. I've seen the plain ones only in Velva Rose. I've seen the diamond optic server in non-iridized Tangerine, so it's possible that an iridized one might be out there!

Fenton made a dolphin-stemmed nut cup or salt dish (Fig. 33) which has a boat-shaped dish. These little items are most commonly seen in Florentine Green and Velva Rose, but Celeste Blue is known. Finally,

there are short twin-dolphin, #1623, candleholders (Fig. 31). These are most commonly found in Florentine Green, Velva Rose, Aquamarine and Wisteria, but a Topaz one showed up recently at our convention, and I've heard that a Celeste Blue set is known.





Q&A Letters & E-Mails

from Renee & Dave Shetlar

Q: Hello, I love your website. I found pictures of a Fenton Jug and

tumblers that I purchased from my great Aunt's auction on your site. The pitcher is the Fenton Celeste blue jug with cobalt handles, #220. It came with 6 tumblers that are the celeste blue in the style like #222 tumblers. Do you know how old this glass is? It is beautiful and in great shape. One of the tumblers has a hairline at the handle. Other than that, perfect condition. Thanks, Jeannine

A: Hello Jeannine, Thank you for your comments about the website. You have a real treasure in your stretch pieces. Fenton first introduced stretch glass in 1917 and continued production into the 1930s. Your pieces were likely made in the 1920s when the majority of their stretch was produced. The Celeste Blue was one of the most popular colors of the time based on the amount that was made. Since the handles are added separately the spots where they are attached are fairly weak and is often where cracks can happen. You should be quite proud of your set! Renee and Dave



Q: Dear Dave and Renee, I have just been enjoying your links to the Stretch glass site and have happily bookmarked that page. I am a seller on ebay and have just listed this unusual stretch glass lamp, I am pretty certain that it is Fenton. It is a fan shaped florentine velva rose fan shaped boudoir lamp? I am curious if you as collectors of stretch," have seen a lamp like this before? Anyway it will sell for whatever it sells for but I am curious how common it is? Thanks for looking and

you can click on the link below to take you to the listing, or if you don't trust the links you can look me up under popenoe as my sellers id on ebay. Thanks for your time, Jesse

A: Jesse, I have seen one other of these lamps and have heard that there are a couple of others known. They are made from the Fenton #847 "melon rib" fan vase. The one I saw certainly looked like it could have been factory made, but there were a lot of decorating companies back in the 1920s that did all kinds of things to Fenton Glass. Dave



(Editor's note: Pam and Jim Steinbach are happy to report that they are now the proud owners of this lovely and unusual lamp.)

Q: Question from ebay seller for item #110020005214: described as Blue Ice Imperial? Twisted Optic? Stretch Glass Bowl. Seller asks which description is correct and if she's listed correct manufacture time period.

Marilyn, This bowl/plate is a Northwood piece, illustrated in my book, American Iridescent Stretch Glass and in the Heacock, Measell & Wiggins' book, Harry Northwood: the Wheeling Years. Imperial didn't make this color of blue in their stretch glass lines. This piece was made in the early 1920s. There are two sizes of this piece, and you can see them on my web site at:

http://www.shetlarglass.com/stretchglass/SGCompanies/Northwood/Northwood2.htm

The small bowl has a 2.5-inch diameter base and the larger bowl has a 3.5-inch one. There are also matching candleholders for this pattern! Dave Shetlar



Follow-Up: I appreciate you taking the time to help me out with the identification of the piece. I find reference books very handy in my search for history on all of the pieces of glassware or pottery that I find. I do though lack any reference material on Stretch Glass other than what is pictured in one of my Fenton books. Thanks again for your help, Marilyn

Marilyn, There are no other reference materials solely about iridescent stretch glass except the one book we had published by Collector Books in 1998 ("American Iridescent Stretch Glass" by Madeley and Shetlar); our website is a continuing update of this book. Collector Books is not interested in publishing another book solely on stretch glass because of the limited market.

The only other books that include any stretch are those on Tiffin (pre-1940 area) and the two books by Wiggins/Measell "Great American Glass of the Roaring 20s." Two books published in the early 1970s have nice pictures but some outdated ID information, with items since attributed to other manufacturers. ("Stretch in Color" by Wiggins and "Iridescent Stretch Glass" by the Umbraco's).

We are very glad you are intent on listing your items accurately on ebay; many sellers have no interest in researching or even making corrections when we offer help. Renee Shetlar

Q: Hi Dave&Renee, I hope you can help me with a piece of stretch. Its a 8" bowl with a 3 1/8" ground base. it has the iron cross mark. the odd part is it is pearl ruby with an opalescent outer edge the base glass is clear. I've looked on the stretch sights and in my stretch book and found no reference to an opalescent edge. Thanks for any help you can give Ray Jordon

Ray, You have to be careful with iridescent stretch glass collectors! Since Pearl Ruby pieces are a deep marigold iridescence on crystal glass, some of the crystal glass used may have had phosphorus in the batch and would strike if exposed to the right temperatures. Carnival glass collectors go ape over any hint of opalescence, but stretch glass collectors generally ignore it unless it produces a very striking effect. We have seen several stretch items that have an opalescent striking and Fenton's tangerine is notorious for having this effect. Of course, there is good reason to point out any opalescence if you are going to sell the item since most of the thumbnail images on ebay make it difficult to see. And, there might be someone willing to pay a premium. Dave

News from the Glass World

Fenton Art Glass Plans to Continue Glass Production (from 12/04/07 web press release)

(Williamstown, W. Va.). The Fenton Art Glass Co. is now contacting about 900 dealer accounts and will accept orders from them for Fenton glass items for Spring 2008. Production of these pieces is currently scheduled to begin within the next few weeks.



"In the past two weeks, we've made important progress toward the financial restructuring of our company," Fenton Art Glass President George W. Fenton said. "There are several future hurdles, but we're all hopeful that our company will be able to continue. Since our initial announcement last August, we have processed many orders for our 2007 products and received tremendous support from both collectors and dealers. People from all over the country have visited the Fenton Gift Shop in recent months, and we're seeing many local friends, too. We wish to thank our dealers. collectors and neighbors for this surge in orders because these orders have been essential in giving us a chance to continue."

"We currently have about 120 employees, and we want to preserve those jobs," Fenton continued. "The dealer and customer response to the upcoming Spring 2008 product offering will help determine our future. Our company will be smaller than it was, and we will be making and selling fewer items to a smaller group of dealers. Our company will have two divisions: Fenton USA will consist of glass made domestically and Fenton International will consist of glass and non-glass products that are imported. Each brand will be clearly marked."

"To complete the task of saving jobs at Fenton and serving our customers, we will need to reach agreements with our vendors and lenders," Fenton said. "We also appreciate the support and patience they have shown during this difficult time."

Formed in 1905, the Fenton Art Glass Co. has been producing handmade colored art glass in Williamstown, Va., since January 2, 1907.



THE 20-30-40 GLASS SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS

Presents

CHICAGOLAND'S DEPRESSION ERA GLASS SHOW & SALE

March 29TH & 30TH, 2008 SATURDAY 10 am - 5 pm SUNDAY 11 am - 4 pm MIDWEST CONFERENCE CENTER attendees will be processed as associate members for this CONCORD PLACE

401 West Lake St. Northlake, Illinois 60164

Admission \$7.00 Per Person \$6.00 with this card – Limit 2 Free Parking with shuttle bus to door

Featuring DEPRESSION ERA GLASS to CONTEMPORARY GLASS

Dealers specializing in Glass Repair and Cloudy Glass Cleaning

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20-30-20 Glass Society of Illinois P.O. Box 856, LaGrange, IL 60525 For Info: (847) 394-2491

website: www.20-30-40Society.org For Map & Directions go to www.midwestconf.com



OVER 30 NATIONALLY KNOWN DEALERS

Recent selling prices from Renee Shetlar



Topaz dolphin comport \$140.50



6 wisteria plates \$60.00



Red Imperial plate \$59.99



Marigold pitcher (from night set) \$54.25



Blue Northwood bowl \$22.26



Persian pearl melon rib bowl \$9.99

"Hello, My name is Stephanie and I'm a Collector." by Stephanie Bennett

I can't remember when I was first asked if I was a 'collector', but I do remember saying no. 'Collector' seemed too committed a word for my occasional purchase. But the dealer who sold me my 2nd blue stretch glass bowl also sold me Berry Wiggins' book. Berry's enthusiasm about his beloved stretch glass hooked me! I contacted him, found out about the Stretch Glass Society, and joined immediately.

It was a few years and many blue bowls later that I finally made it to a convention. My first view of the display room left me breathless. I was thrilled when Berry spent time looking at pictures of my collection and helping me identify what I had. Everyone made me feel welcome, and shared their passion for stretch glass. For some it's pure aesthetics – the colors, forms. and iridescence. For others it's history and the guest to identify the maker of each piece. It seems that all love the hunt and the bragging rights for rare finds. After the banquet that year, each person stood and told how long they'd been collecting and how much glass they had. It was like a reverse 12-step meeting: those who had the most glass got the biggest applause! (For those of you who are shy about public speaking - don't worry. We've never done this sort of testimonial since.)

Unlike most, my stretch glass collection is still all blue. But like many collectors I've branched out and now have collections of pie birds, wall pockets, tea cups, Thornton Burgess cup plates, post cards, costume jewelry, Mohawk Trail souvenir china, fish shaped bottles, vintage table cloths, and garden books. Dave Shetlar talks about the 'collecting gene.' I don't know where mine came from, but I must have it.

And I'm pretty sure that some of the rest of you do too. I'm hoping that you'll write to me (or call) and share a story and maybe some pictures of your glass or another collections that might interest fellow antiquers. Who knows, maybe someone will find that rare item that you've been searching for and let you know. Which reminds me: If you ever see a Reddy the Fox cup plate, in any color, please let me know. He's a hard one to find, and worth a pretty penny!



Reminder: Don't forget your Valentine

Trying to think of the perfect gift for your valentine or favorite stretch glass

collector with a February birthday? What about a beautiful sand-carved bowl by Kelsey Murphy and Bob Bomkamp? Those of you who were at last year's convention remember the unique pieces of stretch glass with sand carving that this talented duo featured in their presentation, and then sold to lucky attendees.

As Renee mentioned in the November Quarterly, Kelsey later found two more pieces, which are still available. They are both crimped bowls, one in Ruby and one in Aubergine –



the perfect colors for Valentine's day or a February birthday. (Amethyst is the February birthstone.)

To order, contact Kelsey and Bob directly.



Kelsey Murphy & Robert Bomkamp Studios of Heaven



On becoming the new editor

by Stephanie Bennett

I thought long and hard before agreeing to take on this job. I know how important the newsletter is to our members, not just because I love and look forward to it myself, but because we've heard from many of you that this is the best benefit of membership in our club. I was worried not only about format, but also about getting the excellent content, much of which the Shetlars have provided for years.

Before I even began working on this issue, I was no longer worried. I had already received a cd with all of last year's issues as templates, and had spent time on the phone with Renee discussing format. And, besides Dave's technical article, I'd received Q&As, ebay sales, event notices, pictures, an other content from Renee.

So, if this issue isn't quite up to par, please be patient and feel free to contact me with suggestions. But if there's credit to be given, much of it still goes to Renee. THANK YOU, Renee, for your good mentoring. Stephanie

MARIETTA WILL BE GREAT IN 2008!

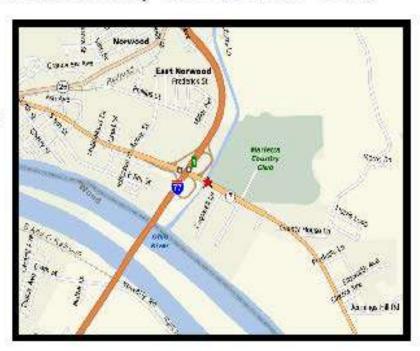
JULY 30, 31 & AUGUST 1, 2008 34th Annual SGS Convention, Show and Sale

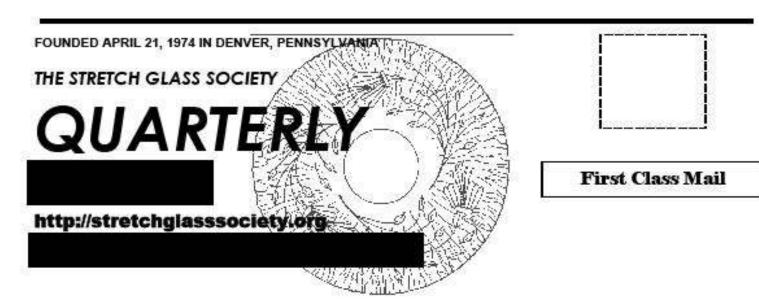
Comfort Inn

700 Pike Street Marietta, OH 1-800-537-6858 or 740-374-8190

Standard SGS Guest Room Rate: \$73.70 (Plus Taxes)

Mention that you are Stretch Glass Society Members When Making Reservations Rooms Are Filling up Quickly, Call Today!





TO: