



National Fireworks Association

NFA NEWS

- December 2014 -

NFA Mission Statement

The mission of the NFA is to work diligently to ensure that the Fireworks Industry is regulated in a fair and sensible manner. We promote Safety within the industry and to the Consumers that use our products. The NFA was established to serve the members no matter whether a company or an individual. The NFA promotes the Safe Use of Fireworks in all sections of the industry.

NFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donald Lantis - President
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2015

NFA
The National Fireworks Association

EXPO

September 8th-12th
Kingsport, TN

HOST HOTEL: Meadowview Conference
Resort & Conference Center
1901 Meadowview Parkway
Kingsport, TN 37660

Toll Free: 1-888-632-3697
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Fax: (423) 578-6650
www.marriott.com/tric



What an awesome adventure!

China

What an awesome adventure!

By Tami Towne

China! What an awesome adventure for 21 NFA members this past month. Those traveling will agree it was an outstanding trip, well worth it and a great way to see some of the countryside.

Thanks to the tour guide, Bob Kellner, for making the arrangements and putting together a fantastic trip. Most of the group was traveling to China for the very first time.

The trip consisted of 4 1/2 days in China where most of us started out as strangers from 3 countries and 8 states. At this point, we have now traveled by plane, train and bus, which took us half way around the world. Some of our trip highlights included visiting three factories in Wanzai County, fireworks demos on two nights, a hike around Moon Mountain, which is not for the weak, paranoid or those fearful of heights, (I'd insert names in here but we know who they are!) This trek ended at a beautiful lake setting, which was as breathtaking as the mountain itself. We also visited a quality control testing laboratory in Yichun, toured through the largest warehouse facility in Huayang, attended the International Fireworks Festival and attended of a cooperative fireworks meeting.

Of course a trip to China is never complete without an After the Smoke at our Five Star resort hotel. We were treated like royalty while there and all our meals were a step into the culture and traditions for their best guests. Do you feel like you regret not going? You should, because what you can't read here is all the extras that come with a trip such as this one. Introductions to new manufacturing companies, meeting people you have worked with before, but finally getting to meet them in person, or just the comradery shared between the NFA members.

Besides gaining knowledge about China, you quickly learned a few Chinese words (common ones were bathroom and thank you), felt comfortable using chopsticks and I've been told, that if you can get two peanuts picked up at the same time, you are proficient. Oh, I about forgot the rice wine toasts can occur at every meal. Just hope you don't have to hear the word "Gumbay" more than a couple times during that meal. If you haven't been to China, I won't ruin it for you. Just know the next time the NFA offers a trip, you should sign up quickly because I believe there are now 21 repeat travelers.

By the end of the travels we felt a new bond. We were having fun and able to help Bob make sure everyone was on the bus (even Patricia). Story telling about businesses back home, strange and unusual fireworks happening and our families were now taking place. So, Bob, when are you starting to plan the next trip?



PRESS RELEASE

By Bob Kellner, *NFA Treasurer*

NFA CLUB CHALLENGE

The Board of Directors of The National Fireworks Association is proud to announce **THE NFA CONSUMER FIREWORKS CLUB CHALLENGE**. This will be a new feature at our upcoming 2015 NFA Expo. The NFA Expo is the World's largest fireworks industry trade show and, in 2015, it will be held at Kingsport, TN.

Two regional fireworks enthusiasts clubs will win the opportunity to create 10 minute fireworks displays set to music on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Bristol Thunder Valley Dragway. Both clubs will be given the exact same amount of 1.4g Consumer Fireworks and three days to create their Pyro masterpieces. At the end of the performances, the audience will text vote for the display that they enjoyed the most. The winning club will receive a trophy and a check from the NFA for \$5,000.00. The other club will receive a trophy and a check from the NFA for \$2,500.00.

Invitations have been mailed to all 22 regional fireworks clubs in the U.S. The requirements for a club that wishes to participate are:

- The club is an associate member of the NFA
- The club would actively sponsor a membership drive for the NFA through April 1, 2015.
- The club would be responsible to register their crew members to attend the NFA Expo.
- The club would be responsible to bring their own firing system, choreography software and music.

THE TWO CLUBS THAT GENERATE THE MOST NEW NFA MEMBERS BY APRIL 1, 2015 WILL BE THE INVITED PARTICIPANTS
WWW.NATIONALFIREWORKS.ORG

A Mystery To Me

I cannot think of any reason why every fireworks dealer in America would not want to be a member of the National Council on Fireworks Safety.

The NCFS distributes consumer safety press releases prior to the seasons and has a wide assortment of handout materials to be used in your places of business.



If you are a member of the National Council on Fireworks Safety you may use the NCFS logo on your ads, website and promotional materials. I am not saying this would keep you from a fine or lawsuit should there be a problem, but it certainly could make a family want to visit your place of business thinking you are, "Safety Conscious!"

We have plastic shopping bags that have the NCFS safety rules printed on the side of the bags available for every purchase. The consumer cannot say they were not given safety instructions at your place of business if they are carrying one of these bags home.

I have attached one of our membership applications with this article and hope that each of you who are not currently a member sign up right away!

By Nancy Blogin, *President*
 National Council on Fireworks Safety

Office Funny



"I figured you should have breakfast in bed on your birthday. Can you reach the stove okay?"



FROM THE MIND OF MARV

The first thing I want to do is inform everyone if they need postage stamps to check on the new forever stamps. They have a flag in the foreground and fireworks going off in the background. Real cool. I want to divert from my normal topics this issue, and wonder off into one of the experiences I have had in my 54 years in the fireworks business. My wife has told me that I should write a book about all the experiences that I have had over the years. I am not that ambitious. If I ever did this it would have to be listed as fiction, since I don't think many would believe the stories.

I have enjoyed Jack Leonard's stories, so here goes with mine.

I have a selfish reason for wanting to relate this story to you this time, and that reason is to honor the memory of my good friend Bob Brichacek who passed away yesterday, November 5th, after a long battle with Cancer. I got Bob started in the retail fireworks business back in 1965. In 1971 we decided to form a partnership and start wholesaling fireworks. We imported our first time in 1972, and called our company Big Red Fireworks. For those of you who are not familiar our beloved football team here in Nebraska are referred to as The Big Red. The incident I am going to relate to you happened in 1968 just after Richard Nixon was elected president and the Cardinals has lost the World Series to the Detroit Tigers. Bob, his wife Ruth, and I decided to take a weekend and travel from Nebraska to Clinton, Missouri to buy some fireworks from Zenith Specialties. We left Schuyler, Nebraska on Friday evening in Bob's father's pickup. The pickup did not have a cover over it, but has stock racks, and we took along a tarp for added protection from the elements. We drove to Kansas City on Friday evening, and then on to Clinton the next morning, and proceeded to buy some of each of the variety of products that Larry Brown had to offer at the time. We then traveled back to Kansas City or Independence and made a stop at the Truman Library. Traveling North from Kansas City before we got into Iowa here came the snow. Lots of it, an, of course, we became very concerned about our cargo getting wet. We finally got to Clarinda, Iowa. The first thing on the agenda there was to get two Motel rooms. One for Bob and Ruth and the other for me and the merchandise. We unloaded everything and sought out some food. The only thing open that had anything to eat was the local bar. We thud dined on potato chips and a glass of wine. The next morning we rented a U-Haul Trailer, and proceeded to load the cargo in the trailer. While doing this the Motel maid came along and when she saw items such as Buzz Bomb, Thor Missile, Sky Jets, etc. her eyes got real big and she got away from us fast. She probably thought, "here I am in this small town in Iowa, and I have to put up with some Terrorists." Well we made it back home late that afternoon with our payload in tact. These are the kind of experiences that last a long time. I can assure you that I treasured the friendship that Bob and I have had for so many years.

Have a great Holiday season and stay well.

*Best Wishes,
Marv*

Musings by Jack Leonard

Candle Causes Panic (*Paranoia on Parade*)

Had you had the opportunity to meet my dad back in the 1950s, you'd have sworn he was normal. And in most respects he was. I mean, he kept the yard looking great, enjoyed sports, worked five days a week, and helped my with my homework. The only thing that distinguished him from others fathers of the time was his all-consuming fear of the police. Whether it was a county, city or state policeman, he was scared to death of them all.

When I got old enough to notice his fear, I asked my grandmother why my dad had such an obsessions. Her response was a bit lacking tact: "That man ain't right!" My mom offered another explanation which seemed to make sense. One Saturday morning in the late 1940's, my parents and my grandmother were driving into the city to visit the big Sears store at North Avenue and Harford Road. For the entire trip down Harford Road, they followed a big green Baltimore Transit Company streetcar on the #19 line. When the trolley stopped at Clifton Park, a policeman alighted and issued my dad a ticket for failing to stop at least four feet in back of it.

From then on, my father feared any authority figure clad in a uniform. I distinctly recall him instructing me to never look at a policeman when I was riding in a car because even a brief glance might make the office think we were up to no good. And if there was a police car on the side of the road, Dad would creep past it going far below the speed limit and always looking straight ahead. Once I was riding a motorized go-kart in the front yard, and the local policeman pulled into our driveway to watch. As soon as dad noticed the car, he instructed me to put the go-kart in the garage and immediately go into the house. I suppose the officer was a bit taken aback to see a grown man practically run into the house without so much as even saying hello!

But all the above signs of paranoia pale in comparison to the events on the night of July 4th, 1958. The previous August my cousin Gary and his family had traveled to New Mexico on vacation, and Gary brought back 20 ball Roman candle made by Javre de Grace Fireworks in Maryland. I pestered Gary for months in an attempt to get that candle, and my efforts finally paid off when he agreed to sell it to me for half a buck. When my dad saw the candle, he developed a slight tic around his lower lip and muttered something about jail in his future.

That candle and I became fast friends. When I got home from school, I'd remove it from its place of honor in my dresser and just imagine those colored stars zipping high over the tree tops in our back yard. And then when I was watching Rin-Tin-Tin or another educational show on TV, there would be the candle on my lap. Oh, how I longed for the Fourth of July! And that candle was responsible for my dad's paranoia reaching its peak. The month of June and early July of that year were brutally hot and dry. Every evening I would see neighbors up and down the street watering shrubbery and lawns that were suffering from the drought and beastly temperatures. The Fourth was a scorcher, but I was not concerned about the heat. All I was thinking about was that evening when my candle would take center stage. My dad, however, spent the day in a cold sweat of fear over the candle starting a conflagration in the woods or drawing the attention of authorities who, in his mind, were always lurking behind the nearest tree.

Come nightfall, I could wait no longer. Since I was too young to use fireworks, Dad decided to light the beast for me. He gathered to cement blocks, placed one on top of the other, and lit the candle while holding it! He then put the candle into the block and turned away. A second or two later...BOOM! All 20 stars went out at once! I looked upward and saw several large ruby and emerald

stars peering down at me from atop the large dead tree on the edge of the woods.

Pandemonium immediately ensued!

My dad yelled, "Everybody inside!" He ran into the house, locked the back door, and instructed my mother to extinguish every light in the house. He then commanded, "Nobody talk. I don't want them to hear voices through the front door." And there we sat for the better part of an hour, in the dark and not saying a word as my dad feared the imminent arrival of the police who would surely take him away to await capital punishment for lighting a candle.

Later in the evening, when the lights went on, I asked my father if he was afraid when the candle exploded. His answer was succinct: "I was never so scared." There were few fireworks in our yard for a number of years. Instead we traveled to small country displays where my dad always parked as far back on the lot as he could to be unnoticed by any men in blue. And he always pulled down his baseball cap over his face and said, "they don't need to know what I look like."

I think of my dad and that candle whenever I see a traffic light flashing red and green, and I remember the night so long ago when the errant candle caused chaos in my family. In retrospect, maybe my grandma's assessment of my father's fear was correct. Maybe he wasn't "right", but he sure was funny.



Letter from the President

Kingsport, Tennessee was the location for the NFA Board of Directors meeting in November. We put in some very long days, but accomplished a lot.

The Meadowview Marriott Hotel and Convention Center is a very nice hotel. We feel confident our members will enjoy the 2015 EXPO at this location. We will have plenty of space for our large Trade Show right at the hotel.

The shoot sight will be at the Bristol Thunder Valley Speedway. There will be plenty of space to shoot and lots of seating.

For all of you wine lovers. There is a winery right beside the hotel.

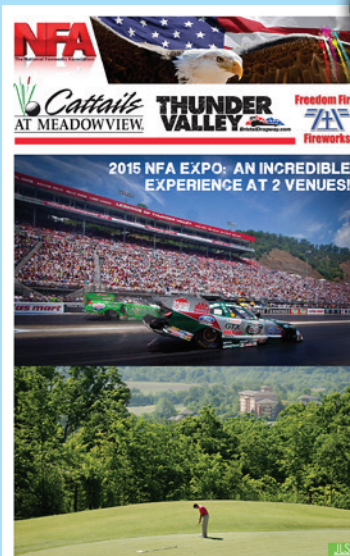
Also the first NFA Golf Tournament will be held right outside the doors of the hotel. Be sure to sign up and register for your rooms as soon as possible. They are going fast!

Don Lantis, NFA President

Hope to see everyone in September!

Expo!

2015



1st NFA GOLF CLASSIC SEPTEMBER 5, 2015



- ☐ **ELITE: \$10,000 (TITLE SPONSOR)**
 - 4 Teams including Dinner • Sleeve of balls w/logo - all players • 10 Sponsor Signs
 - NFA Website • Logo on all Printed Material • Dinner Banner
- ☐ **MAJOR: \$5,000**
 - 2 Teams including Dinner • 8 Sponsor Signs • Dinner Banner
- ☐ **BEVERAGE CART: \$4,000**
 - 1 Team • Team Coozies • Dinner Banner
- ☐ **PLATINUM: \$2,500**
 - 1 Team • 6 Sponsor Signs • Dinner Banner
- ☐ **SILVER: \$1,500**
 - 1 Team • 4 Sponsor Signs • Dinner Banner
- ☐ **PUTTING CONTEST: \$500**
 - Sponsor Sign
- ☐ **HOLE SPONSOR: \$500**
- ☐ **CART SPONSOR: \$250**
- ☐ **TEAM: \$700**
- ☐ **INDIVIDUAL: \$175**
- ☐ **OTHER CONTESTS:**
 - Longest Drive
 - Closest to Pin
 - Hole-in-One

Name _____ Company _____
 Address _____ City, State-Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Fax _____
 Email _____ Amount Enclosed _____

NFA GOLF CLASSIC

Kick off your 2015 Expo experience with the 1st NFA Golf Classic & Dinner at MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center. Surrounded by lush, wooded terrain and tucked between the rolling foothills of the Appalachian and Great Smoky Mountains, this par 71 Kingsport golf course sets the stage for an exceptional TN golf experience. A portion of the proceeds from this tournament will go to support a Wounded Warrior Program.

ELITE: \$10,000 (TITLE SPONSOR)

- 4 Teams including Dinner
- Sleeve of balls w/logo - all players
- 10 Sponsor Signs
- NFA Website
- Logo on all Printed Material
- Dinner Banner

MAJOR: \$5,000

- 2 Teams including Dinner
- 8 Sponsor Signs
- Dinner Banner

BEVERAGE CART: \$4,000

- 1 Team
- Team Coozies
- Dinner Banner

PLATINUM: \$2,500

- 1 Team
- 6 Sponsor Signs
- Dinner Banner

SILVER: \$1,500

- 1 Team
- 4 Sponsor Signs
- Dinner Banner

PUTTING CONTEST: \$500

- Sponsor Sign

HOLE SPONSOR: \$500

CART SPONSOR: \$250

TEAM: \$700

INDIVIDUAL: \$175

OTHER CONTESTS:

- Longest Drive
- Closest to Pin
- Hole-in-One



NFA Board of Directors Meet in Kingsport, TN

The NFA Board of Directors met in Kingsport, TN the week of November 9th to plan the 2015 year ahead. The meetings were long and very busy, but Don Lantis, President reported that the meetings went well with everything running on schedule.

Kingsport looks to be a spectacular site for the September 2015 Expo! Thanks to Samuel Jones and Robin Horner our Hosts for next year, many of the plans and actions are already in place and moving forward. For example, the first ever NFA Golf Tournament! The Golf event will be on Monday, Labor Day, September 7, 2015. Full details will be available after the 1st of the year. The golf course is magnificent. You walk out the back door of your Host Hotel, the Meadowview Marriott and onto the course.

As if the golf Tournament is not enough, hold onto your hat, we will be doing our demos on the Bristol speedway! You will not have to worry about finding a seat this year, it seats thousands. The concession stands will be open and you will love the views there as well as on your way to the Speedway. The area is beautiful.

The Trade show, seminars and after the smoke will all be at the host hotel. Be sure to phone in your reservations for rooms

soon. Here is the link for the NFA Website, Book your group rate: National Fireworks Association. The reservation phone number is 1-888-632-3697, The group is "NFA" Rates are good from Sunday before Labor Day thru the Sunday after. (September 6-13, 2015)

The registration forms for the 2015 Expo will be on the Website and in the mail, March 1st, 2015. NO YOU CANNOT REGISTER AHEAD OF TIME. Just do so on March 1st

Membership renewals will be mailed on January 2nd, 2015 so be on the lookout for your renewal notices.

Many issues were addressed in addition to the Expo and the Board was not only busy there, but took plenty of homework back with them.

Nancy Blogin, *Executive Director*

NATIONAL FIREWORKS ASSOCIATION LIGHTING UP THE SKY

SEPTEMBER 5-12, 2015

2015 DEMO
OVER THE
VALLEY
THUNDER
VALLEY
BRISTOL, TN

SUITE PRICING (week reservation)

suite#	capacity	price for week
<input type="checkbox"/> 519 - 521	300 ppl	\$25,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 518	16 ppl	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 517	16 ppl	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 516	72 ppl	\$15,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 515	16 ppl	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 514	16 ppl	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 513	43 ppl	\$10,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 512	16 ppl	\$5,000

***RATES for
reserving a Suite
are based on a
5-DAY RATE.
That rate can be
broken down to
daily rates as well.**

****PLEASE NOTE:
Suites 514 and
519-521 are
already rented.**

Name _____ Company _____
Address _____ City, State-Zip _____
Telephone _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Amount Enclosed _____

EXCLUSIVE FIREWORKS DEMO

Bring your company or just your closest friends the 2015 NFA Fireworks Demo that is truly an experience of a lifetime! Step inside the elevator and rise to the top of "The THUNDER VALLEY Suites" where you'll be treated to the ultimate Bristol experience inside a climate-controlled environment overlooking Thunder Valley! These are all luxury skyboxes that sit above the heart of the Thunder Valley quarter-mile and boast a wide array of amenities.

All suites include:

Enclosed theatre-style seating
Outdoor Veranda Seating
Climate-Controlled Interior
Private Restrooms
Optional Catering Services
Reserved Parking



SUITE PRICING (week reservation)

suite#	capacity	price for week
519 - 521	300 ppl	\$25,000
518	16 ppl	\$5,000
517	16 ppl	\$5,000
516	72 ppl	\$15,000
515	16 ppl	\$5,000
514	16 ppl	\$5,000
513	43 ppl	\$10,000
512	16 ppl	\$5,000
511	16 ppl	\$5,000

Does not include Food & Beverage

Catering service is available through
Levy Restaurants

For more information contact

SAM JONES (423) 956-3197 or

samj48@embarqmail.com

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**Products Liability • Stand Liability
Display Liability • Club Liability
Property • Auto • Cargo
Workers Compensation**



**509 W. Koenig Street • P.O. Box 1228
Grand Island, NE 68802-1228
(308) 382-2330 • (800) 658-4200 • Fax (308) 382-7109**
Member of many fireworks trade organizations,
including NFA, APA, PGI and WPA.



2015 Special Order Program

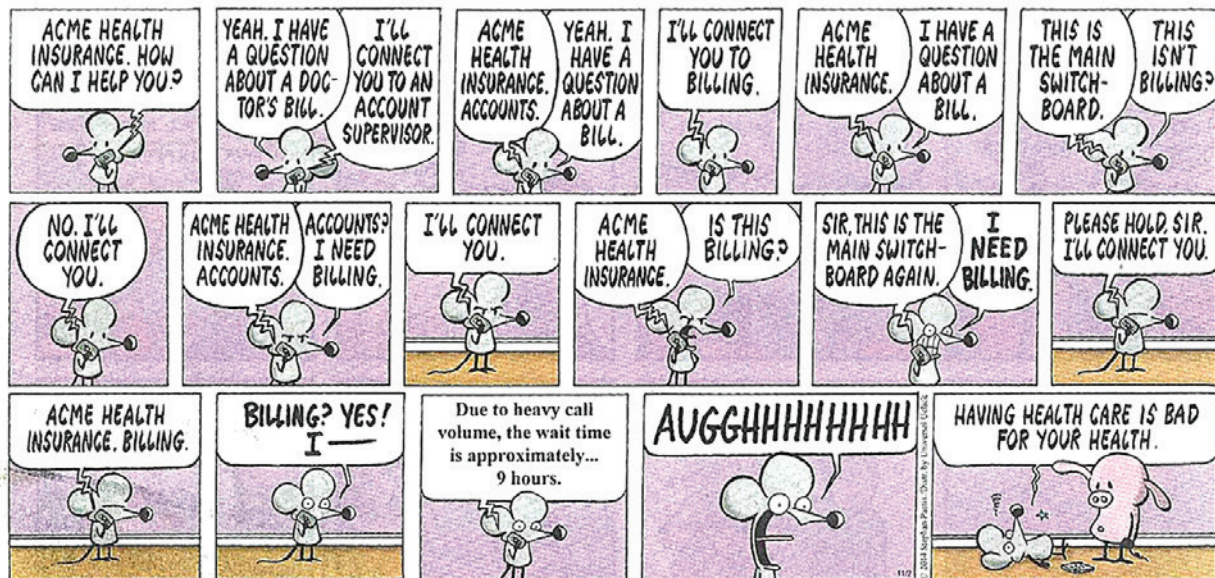
Get our lowest wholesale pricing for 2015. No case minimums on products we carry, and the ability to order any item from any of our brands.

Call 573.447.1776 for pricing



76fireworks.com

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE BY STEPHAN PASTIS





National Council on Fireworks Safety MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

www.FireworksSafety.org

1701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20006

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Bus #: _____

Fax #: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Membership Annual Fee (Please check as applicable):

Friend of Fireworks Safety (individual) _____ \$25.00

Supplier Member (company) _____ \$100.00

Regular Member (company) _____ \$150.00

-REMEMBER-

www.nationalfireworks.org

The username is

"nfamember"

The new password is

"nfaeagle"

Be sure to get on the NFA website
and view all of the most
up-to-date information,
current and past newsletters,
NFA photo gallery,
NFA video
gallery, etc., etc.



*Remembering
Red*



Gabriel "Red" Cassorla

Passed away on November 28, 2014 at 99 years old. Predeceased by his wife, Sarah & sister, Hannah Confino. He is survived by his loving sons, Earl & Steven; brothers, Morris & Joseph (Francine) and several nieces & nephews. Mr. Cassorla was a former owner of Central Wholesale Grocery Corp.



National Fireworks Association

c/o Nancy Blogin

8224 NE Bradford CT Kansas City MO 64151

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2014 **ADVERTISING rates** **IN THE NFA NEWSLETTER**

1/4 PAGE \$75

(\$100 Non Members)

1/2 PAGE \$150

(\$200 Non Members)

FULL PAGE \$300

(\$400 Non Members)

These rates DO NOT APPLY to the Annual NFA Expo Guide.

Articles for the next issue are needed by January 10, 2015.

To Submit an article for publication or
advertise please contact
Nancy Blogin at
nblogin@nationalfireworks.org



2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy Holidays from all of us at NFA!