

# 2024 EXPO GUIDE

**National Fireworks Association  
Annual Expo & Trade Show  
September 9-13, 2024  
Bayfront Convention Center  
Erie, Pennsylvania**

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# WELCOME

## HELLO, NFA MEMBERS!

The National Fireworks Association has been busy over the last few months preparing for our 2024 Expo in beautiful Erie, PA. The NFA Board, Safety Team, and all of our committees have been meeting to create new action plans for the future of the Association and finalize preparations for this year's Expo. We have some exciting things planned coming this September, with more demos and trade booths than ever before.

That being said, we are excited to announce booths for our Trade Show are currently SOLD OUT! The Trade Show layout will look a little different this year so please refer to the guide. We will have booths in the Great Hall, in all the hallways surrounding the Great Hall, as well as in multiple rooms to accommodate all of our amazing vendors. We have scheduled over sixty demos for the week, as well as a tribute to 9/11 on Wednesday and ending with a Grand Public Display.

Our NFA Board and committees have already been working hard on many objectives to make this the best Expo to date. We are excited to expand communication with our members, create new content for seminars, and collaborate with the local businesses of Erie, PA by inviting them to join us in celebrating through fireworks in our nightly product demonstrations.

We will also be holding our Annual Fundraising Auction again on Thursday, September 12th during the sponsored lunch. This is such a fun tradition started so many years ago to support this great association. If you or your company feel led to donate an item or basket to the auction, please let us know so we can get an idea of how many items we will be expecting. For more information please reach out to Tom Wilson or to **office@nationalfireworks.com**. Make sure to add attending the auction while at the Expo to your itinerary; you never know what those auctioneers have in store for us.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The NFA is aware of the difficulties many of our members have with Social Media, especially the Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.). While in Washington, D.C., we had the opportunity to meet with a couple contacts representing Meta and their platforms. This afforded the NFA the opportunity to communicate directly to Meta the negative impacts the restrictions have put on many regulated products, including fireworks. The Meta representative was very responsive and attentive, and seemed willing to help get some posts and accounts back for our members that were within their policy guidelines. Thank you for being patient with us as we navigate this process and we hope to have more answers for our members as soon as we can. Please refer to this current link of Meta's community standards and policies concerning explosives:

<https://transparency.fb.com/policies/community-standards/restricted-goods-services/>

Our Board, Safety Team, and committees have been busy meeting on behalf of the members the last few months; monitoring Government affairs, addressing financial needs, creating new sponsorship opportunities, preparing for our 2024 Expo, as well meeting with new potential Expo sites for the future.

The NFA board is honored to serve such great members in this industry. We also would like to take a moment to thank all of our sponsors for the 2024 NFA Expo! Please take a chance to say "thank you" to them, as they have been a huge part of making this year's event a success. We hope you enjoy your time at the NFA Expo! We Look forward to a great week in beautiful Erie, PA together!

Sincerely,

*Stacy Schneitter Blake*

Stacy Schneitter Blake







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SCAN THE QR CODES WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE'S CAMERA TO HAVE DIGITAL ACCESS TO THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CHANGES WITH THE EXPO SCHEDULE, TRADE SHOW, AND DEMO SCHEDULE! LOCATIONS FOR SEMINARS AND MEETINGS WILL ALSO BE LISTED ON THE LIVE LINK ACCESSIBLE BY SCANNING THESE CODES.



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TRADESHOW  
MAP



DEMO  
SCHEDULE



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# **2024 NFA Expo Schedule**

## **Monday Sept 9, 2024**

<b>9:00 AM to 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration Open</b>
<b>10:00 AM to 9:00 PM</b>	<b>Expo Set Up</b>
<b>1:00 PM to 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Committee Meetings</b>
<b>6:30 PM to 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Buses leave for shoot site</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Product Demos</b>

## **Tuesday Sept 10, 2024**

<b>7:30 AM to 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:00 AM to 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration Open</b>
<b>8:30 AM to 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Challenges and Solutions - Status on Chinese Fireworks Production</b>
<b>10:00 AM to 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Insurance Round Table</b>
<b>12:00 PM to 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Keynote: CPSC Commissioner Dziak</b>
<b>1:00 PM to 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Tradeshow Open</b>
<b>2:00 PM to 3:00 PM</b>	<b>An Introduction to China CIQ Regulation</b>
<b>4:00 PM to 5:00 PM</b>	<b>NFA Bylaws Q&amp;A</b>
<b>6:30 PM to 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Buses leave for shoot site</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Product Demos</b>

## **Wednesday Sept 11, 2024**

<b>7:30 AM to 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30 AM to 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration Open</b>
<b>8:30 AM to 9:30 AM</b>	<b>AFSL General Membership Meeting</b>
<b>9:45 AM to 10:45 AM</b>	<b>Pyro Muzika: A Prescribed, Prepackaged Fireworks Show</b>
<b>11:00 AM to 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Boosting Sales w/ IGNITE &amp; GLOW 3D</b>
<b>12:00 PM to 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 PM to 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Tradeshow Open</b>
<b>6:30 PM to 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Buses Leave for Shoot Site</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Product Demos</b>



# **2024 NFA Expo Schedule**

## **Thursday Sept 12, 2024**

<b>7:30 AM to 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30 AM to 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b>
<b>8:30 AM to 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration Open</b>
<b>9:00 AM to 4:00 PM</b>	<b>DOT Train the Trainer Course</b>
<b>10:15 AM to 11:15 AM</b>	<b>Managing Fireworks from Boat to Boom</b>
<b>11:30 AM to 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Fundraising Auction</b>
<b>1:30 PM to 4:30 PM</b>	<b>Tradeshow Open</b>
<b>6:30 PM to 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Buses Leave for Shoot Site</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Product Demos</b>

## **Friday Sept 13, 2024**

<b>7:30 AM to 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:00 AM to 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Registration Open</b>
<b>9:00 AM to 5:00 PM</b>	<b>PGI Shooter Safety Course</b>
<b>9:00 AM to 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Tradeshow Open</b>
<b>12:00 PM to 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 PM to 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Tradeshow Tear Down</b>
<b>6:30 PM to 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Buses Leave for Shoot Site</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Product Demos</b>

## **Saturday Sept 14, 2024**

<b>9:30 AM to 11:30 AM</b>	<b>NFA Board of Directors Meeting</b>
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# 2024 DEMO SCHEDULE

## MONDAY, SEPT. 9 - CHINA NIGHT

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 7:50   NATIONAL ANTHEM AT 7:55   DEMOS START AT 8:00**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM BY GUANDU**

**SHOW - BELIEVER**

**SPACE RANGER FIREWORKS • RED LANTERN FIREWORKS • SKY HAWKS FIREWORKS**

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**FIREWORKSWORLD.NET WILL SPONSOR A CHINESE FIREWORKS DEMO NIGHT PARTY AFTER MONDAY'S DEMOS IN THE BUILDING TO THE LEFT OF THE DEMO AREA. PLEASE VISIT THEM AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS NIGHT'S WONDERFUL DEMOS AND SHOWS!**

## TUESDAY, SEPT. 10

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 7:50   NATIONAL ANTHEM AT 7:55   DEMOS START AT 8:00**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM BY WINDA FIREWORKS**

**PYRO PLANET • FIREWORKS FACTORY DIRECT • JAKE'S FIREWORKS, INC.**

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**PYROBUY • TEXAS OUTLAW FIREWORKS • SHOGUN | VULCAN**

**BROTHERS PYROTECHNICS, INC.**



# 2024 DEMO SCHEDULE

## WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11 - 9/11 TRIBUTE SHOW

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 7:50   NATIONAL ANTHEM AT 7:55   DEMOS START AT 8:00**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM BY PYROTECHNIC ARTISTS, INC.**

**HAPPY FAMILY • WORLDWIDE FIREWORKS • BADA BOOM FIREWORKS • SUNWING  
MIRACLE FIREWORKS • T-SKY • RIAKEO • BLACK SCORPION • PYROSHINE FIREWORKS  
PYROBOX • DOMINATOR FIREWORKS • WISLEY PYROTECHNICS  
'76 PRO LINE**

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 12

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 7:50   NATIONAL ANTHEM AT 7:55   DEMOS START AT 8:00**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM BY CUTTING EDGE**

**PJF WHOLESALE • TARGET • SOUTHERN IMPORTS • FAR EAST/CUTTING EDGE  
MAGNUS FIREWORKS • FIREHAWK FIREWORKS • RED RHINO FIREWORKS  
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SKY PIONEER • SPIRIT OF '76 • HOT FIREWORKS**

## FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 7:50   NATIONAL ANTHEM AT 7:55   DEMOS START AT 8:00**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM BY RACCOON FIREWORKS**

**GUANDU/IRON CLAW • WOLVERINE FIREWORKS**

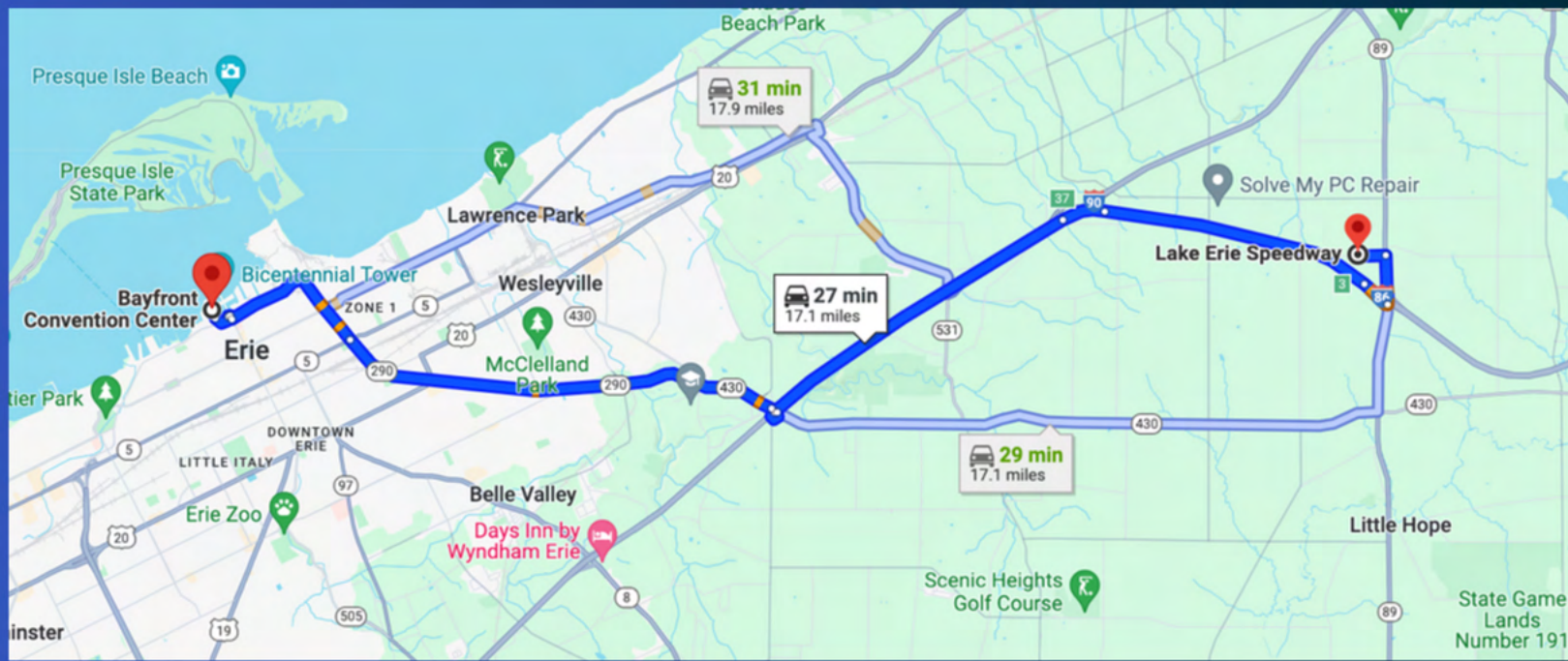
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# DEMO DIRECTIONS

## DEMO SITE: LAKE ERIE SPEEDWAY



### Bayfront Convention Center

1 Sassafras Pier, Erie, PA 16507

- Get on I-90 E in Harborcreek Township from E Bayfront Pkwy and PA-290 E

16 min (7.9 mi) \_\_\_\_\_

- Continue on I-90 E. Take I-86 E to Delmas Dr in Greenfield Township

9 min (8.8 mi) \_\_\_\_\_

- Continue on Delmas Dr to your destination

1 min (0.4 mi) \_\_\_\_\_

### Lake Erie Speedway

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Please see our **NFA demo** at **8:00pm** on **Monday Sep. 9th, 2024**

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# ERIE EATS



Seafood, steaks, and pastas are just a small part of this delectable menu! There is also a beer garden on site with a food truck and mini golf.



With over 25 menu options and an impressive craft beer selection, this place is a must try!



Located at the Sheraton, Two45 has a wide selection of seafood, steak, and specialty cocktails.



Stunning views, indoor and outdoor dining options, a full bar, and Erie's only fresh oyster bar can be found at Bay House!



Looking for something a little more laid back? Enjoy live music, good drinks, and the occasional karaoke night? The Sloppy Duck Saloon is the place for you!



# CAFFEINE, PLEASE!



Known for roasting their own beans, The Bean is a go-to if you're looking for straight-forward, simple coffee, delicious breakfast sandwiches, and pastries!



With over 25 bagel options, Jo's is THE bagel spot in Erie. They have options for everyone, from jalapeño cheddar to chocolate chip. And as a bonus - locally sourced coffee and espresso drinks!



Want somewhere to sneak away and read while you enjoy a cup of coffee? With shelves full of books and a menu full of hand-crafted drinks, Pressed is the place!



A unique coffee shop with a mission of getting cats adopted to the forever families, complete with a cat lounge to snuggle the animals! Purrista Cat Cafe might be a good stop if you're missing your 4-legged friends!



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# Bayfront Convention Center Layout

- Tier 1 Booths
- Tier 2 Booths
- Tier 3 Booths
- Meeting Rooms, Seminars
- Lunch, Auction, Afterglow
- Registration



BAYFRONT  
CONVENTION  
CENTER



Booth #	Company	Booth #	Company	Booth #	Company
1	Ace Pyro	189	Hunan Vanguard	169	Red Light/Look Fireworks
178	AFSL	35, 36, 37	Hunan Welldone Fireworks	110, 111, 112	Red Rhino Fireworks
92, 93, 94, 95	American Wholesale Fireworks	186, 185	Icon/Arthur Rozzi Pyrotechnics	5	Reliable Fuse
176	Bada Boom Fireworks	130, 131	Ignite	33, 34	RKM
199	Black Market/Full Blast	96, 97	Intergalactic	174	Rogers AR
40, 41	Black Scorpion	122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129	Jake's Fireworks, Inc.	137	Ryder Rosacker
166	Brazilian Fireworks	102, 117	Kaboom	141, 142	Schneitter Fireworks
49, 50, 51	Brothers Pyrotechnics, Inc	182	Kellner's Fireworks, Inc	153, 154	Shiny Star Fireworks
197	Changsha Wanzheng	194	Liuang Jimry	163, 164, 165	Shogun   Vulcan
82	China Galaxy	187, 188	Liuyang Dancing	28	Showven
83	Chuangmei/PyroMAX/JISAN Fireworks	193	Liuyang Great Wall	200	Sky Hawks Fireworks
88	CJ International	180	Liuyang Hekou	191, 192	Sky Pioneer
201	Clover	181	Liuyang Jeeton Fireworks Group	150, 151	Sky's the Limit
10	Coppersmith	121	Liuyang Joy	120	Southern Imports
152	Craig Co	14	Liuyang Stageli	31, 32	Space Ranger Fireworks
105, 106, 107	Dominator Fireworks	13	Liuyang Sunrise	74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81	Spirit of '76
15, 16	Far Ocean Fireworks	177	Liuyang Yuankai Fireworks	132, 133	SQS Technology
29, 30	Finale	114	Liuyang Zhengjiang	8, 9	Starget
52	Firehawk Fireworks	48	Lumo Fireworks	72, 73	Suns
90, 91	Fireworks Factory Direct	11, 12	Magnus Fireworks	195, 196	Sunwing
44, 45, 46, 47	Fireworks Over America	42, 43	MCFireworks	146	Supreme
7	Fireworks Stand Marketer	69	Miami Mission	113	Texas Outlaw Fireworks
138, 139, 140	Fisherman Fireworks	60, 61, 62	Miracle Fireworks	2, 3, 4	TOPGUN Fireworks Co., Ltd
99	Forward Fireworks	190	Nanchang Bright	66, 67, 68	T-Sky
6	Garrett's Fireworks	170, 171, 172, 173	North Central Industries, Inc.	24, 25, 26	Twin Fireworks
70, 71, 84, 85	GLMR	17, 18, 19, 20	PJF Wholesale	202	US Free Press
161, 162	Gold Spinning/Doremi Fireworks	118, 119	Pro Pyro Racks	146	Wayne's World
89	Guandu/Iron Claw	21, 22, 23	Pyro Planet	155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160	Wild Willy's Fireworks
168	H3 Fireworks	58, 59	Pyrobox	183, 184	Winco
103, 104, 115, 116	Hale Fireworks	108, 109	Pyrobuy	63, 64, 65	Winda Fireworks
175	Halt Fire Suppressor	167	Pyromart	134, 135, 136, 147, 148, 149	Wisely Pyrotechnics
53, 54	Happy Fireworks	38, 39	Pyroshine Fireworks	179	Wolverine Fireworks
55, 56	Helm Fireworks	86, 87, 100, 101	Raccoon Fireworks	57	Worldwide Fireworks
27	HOT Fireworks	198	RIAKEO		
98	Hunan Jiayexing	143, 144, 145	Red Lantern Fireworks		





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**-Glen Dodd, owner -Dizzy Dean's Fireworks Stores**

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**It turned out to be the best advertising we have done in 22 years!** We had record sales at both our stores, thanks to the mailer. Jim and the team at U.S. Free Press are easy to work with - they did a nice job on our creative, worked closely with me on our campaign, and I was happy with their affordable pricing and fast turn around.

**Based on these results, we have signed on with U.S. Free Press for direct mail campaigns in all 10 of our store locations for next year, in June 2025.**

I would highly recommend going with direct mail from U.S. Free Press!"

**Glenn Dodd, President  
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# SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL AND FIREWORKS GO HAND IN HAND

America just celebrated our 248th birthday. For centuries, the Fourth of July has been defined by spending time with family, friends, and fireworks. It is a tradition that America has kept since 1776 and one that we must preserve, now more than ever.

We are reminded of what John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail upon drafting the Declaration of Independence:

"I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires, and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."

Adams certainly had it right in his assessment of how we should celebrate America by remembering this important day. This year was a success and hopefully next year and 2026 will be even better.

Past Presidents and other dignitaries have encouraged Americans to enjoy fireworks safely as they are a tradition throughout America. Cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Boston and Washington, DC, held their annual celebrations, while other towns like St. Joseph, Wichita, Sioux Falls, Des Moines, and Troy listened to our leaders and held their celebrations. 49 out of 50 states support fireworks sales. They know the value in uniting citizens around a simple, time-honored tradition. And year after year, the growth in fireworks sales—as well as the innovation in the type of illuminations available—defies detractors who use scare tactics to try to extinguish the flame of the fireworks industry, and the thousands of Americans who work in it. Even though fireworks are constantly being bombarded by environmental groups and others with reasons to stop their use, each year we see a growth in people purchasing illuminations, so they can be shared. It is something that makes America.

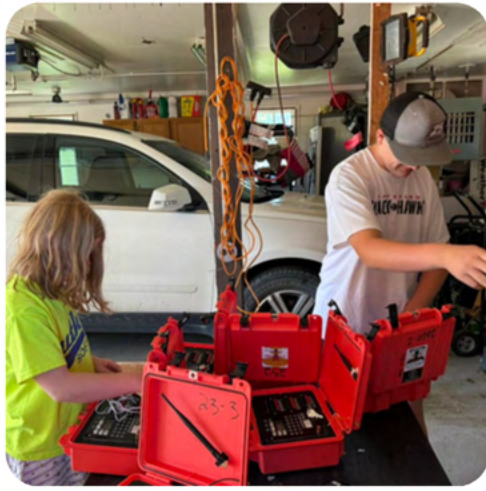
The fireworks industry is hyper-seasonal. The businesses that manufacture, import, distribute, and sell have only a short time to pull it all off, after years of planning, leading up to the Fourth of July. We work hard to ensure that fireworks are available for sale. The NFA works with port authorities, Congress, and the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to make sure everything functions, so that National Fireworks Association members receive their orders and Americans can properly celebrate the Fourth of July, as our Founders intended.

Safety is the NFA's number one priority. We stress, through social media and public service announcements, in conjunction with local fire marshals, that fireworks can be enjoyed safely by following basic safety suggestions.

Over the next two years our collective psyche needs something that feels quintessentially American. Americans will want the opportunity to share togetherness, community, and hope. As we move towards the Semiquincentennial—250 years as a country—and celebrate with illuminations, we hope to unite as one nation and focus on the things that make us truly American. Our country needs its traditions.

Stacy Schneitter Blake, President  
National Fireworks Association







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# 2024

## INSTRUCTORS

### **BRETT PRIBULSKY/ GRAYLIN PRESBURY PGI SHOOTER SAFETY COURSE**

A welder by trade of 17+ years, current class A CDL holder, and a volunteer firefighter of 17 years, Brett currently holds the position as Captain with the Upper Yoder Vol. Fire Company. Previous roles held at West Hills Regional Fire Dept. were Rescue Lieutenant and Safety Officer. He has also held a Deputy Chief position for a few years with Somerset County search and rescue team, where he had two search and rescue dogs. He is currently certified in CPR/ First Aid, Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2, Hazmat Operations, Basic Vehicle Rescue Tech, Special Vehicle Tech and Heavy Vehicle Rescue Tech, as well as numerous other trainings and classes taken. About 7 years ago, Brett joined the Pyrotechnic Artists. Howard Fry took him under his wing and taught him most everything he knows about pyrotechnics. Within a year, he was PGI certified and was taking on shows as a lead shooter. Throughout the years, he has shot for a few professional companies, such as Kellner's Fireworks and American Fireworks, not just for the 4th of July week, but throughout the year. This gave him a lot more experience. About four years ago, Brett got his certification to be a PGI instructor and has had a ball teaching ever since. He is grateful to be teaching this class for the NFA and hopes to be more helpful throughout the upcoming years. Brett's contact information is listed below if there are any questions.

Brett Pribulsky

C: 814-421-0923 Email: Gunman993@verizon.net

### **ART FLEENER DOT TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSE**

Art Fleener spent 32 years with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and retired in 2019 as the Hazardous Materials Program Manager for the Midwest. Since his retirement from the USDOT, Art provides hazardous materials and explosives consulting to the transportation industry. The seminar will provide basic USDOT hazardous materials training for transporting pyrotechnics.



# 2024

## PRESENTERS

**EDDY HE / GUANGHUI WEN**

**CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS - STATUS ON  
CHINESE FIREWORKS PRODUCTION**

As many of you are aware, procuring fireworks from China in time for the 2024 July sales season presented significant challenges. The burgeoning Chinese market has led many factories that were previously catering to the US market to realign their production lines to meet domestic demands. This shift has resulted in a shortage of supply, which is expected to persist for the next few years as the trajectory of Chinese market growth remains unchanged.

The Liuyang Fireworks Manufacturers Association has been diligently collaborating with our members to identify strategies for enhancing the supply chain and meeting the needs of our US clients more effectively.

Through this presentation, we aim to engage with NFA members and explore avenues for securing your products from China more reliably. Key topics we will cover include:

- Understanding the causes behind the product shortage
- Identifying the specific items experiencing short supply
- Highlighting key statistics pertaining to fireworks production for the US market
- Strategies for establishing secure working relationships with factories
- Exploring methods to ensure the security of your product procurement

Mr. Guanghui Wen is the Chairman of Export committee, Liuyang Fireworks Manufacturers Association. Mr. Wen is the owner of Xiaohe fireworks and has been in fireworks manufacturing for over 30 years.

Mr. Eddie He is with Winda fireworks. He is a seasoned expert in fireworks trading between China and US.



# 2024

## PRESENTERS

### TAMI TOWNE/KRISTY WOLFE INSURANCE ROUND TABLE

#### Tami Towne

Tami started at the agency in January 1998. Her role within the office started as a customer service representative, but fast forward to 2024 and she is now the President of the agency.

- Management of fireworks program
- Oversee training, frontline underwriting, production, and processing for all P&C lines of the program
- She and her husband are owners of a fireworks import, wholesale & retail company in NE
- Member of APA, NFA, & PGI
- AFSL Standards committee member

#### Kristy Wolfe, CIC

Kristy started as a customer service representative in January 2007 and is now a Fireworks Agent and Partner at the agency.

- Management of fireworks program
- Training of CSR team, frontline underwriting, production, and processing for all P&C lines of the program
- Husband works for fireworks company
- Member of APA, NFA, & PGI

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**MIKE KROEGER**  
**MANAGING FIREWORKS FROM**  
**BOAT TO BOOM**



# 2024

## PRESENTERS

### **REBECCA SONG** **AN INTRODUCTION TO CHINA CIQ** **REGULATION**

Any fireworks that are legally exported from China must comply with CIQ regulations. Change of CIQ policies and enforcement has a significant impact on fireworks delivery. What is CIQ, and how does it regulate and track the various steps of exporting fireworks like carton and fireworks manufacturing, testing and shipping? What are the CIQ challenges that American importers are facing because of the regulation differences between USA and China? This seminar tries to give an overview of China's CIQ regulation and share some background information on some hot CIQ related issues like UN0431 classification, exporting of fuses, and CIQ expiration.

Rebecca Song was the General Manager of Panda (Winda) Fireworks from 2013 to 2022 and she founded Space Ranger fireworks in 2023. By running Panda/Winda for many years and successfully founding a new firework exporting company, she gained first-hand knowledge as well as an understanding of the full picture. Plus, as one of the industry representatives, she communicated closely with CIQ authority on some key challenges. She speaks good English, excels at communication, and will give a clear presentation on this complicated topic.

### **JAY HOWELL** **AFSL** **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Jay Howell is a knowledgeable and experienced Quality and Regulatory Compliance Executive with a wide-ranging and successful career - encompassing federal consumer product safety policy and law, regulatory compliance and enforcement, total quality management, manufacturing operations, and supply chain management.

Jay is currently serving as the Executive Director of the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory (AFSL), a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to facilitate improvements in the safety and quality of consumer fireworks. Prior to joining AFSL, Jay held various roles at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), including Deputy Executive Director of Safety Operations and Acting Director of the Office of Compliance and Field Operations.



# 2024

## PRESENTERS

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Bob Kellner is President of Kellner's Fireworks of Harrisville, Pa. Kellner's Fireworks is a charter member of the NFA and Bob served as the Treasurer for many years.

Ryan Deng is the Vice General Manager of Jeeton Fireworks Group of Liuyang. China Jeeton Fireworks is one of China's top Fireworks enterprises, consisting of manufacturing, domestic and international trading, and designing and operating large fireworks productions globally.

**SCOTT SMITH  
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Scott Smith is a leading innovator in the pyrotechnics technology space, heading companies such as COBRA and IGNITE Firing Systems.

With the rapid adoption of electronic firing and 3D show simulation, these technologies are revolutionizing the industry, enabling customers to transition from simply shooting fireworks to creating and executing entire shows.

By empowering your customers to design and shoot their own shows, they can create more impressive displays and share the experience with friends and family. Both IGNITE and GLOW visualization technologies are pivotal in this transformation, helping to expand the retail space by turning customers into bigger spenders who invest in better shows.

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# PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

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**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NATIONAL FIREWORKS ASSOCIATION (NFA) HAS WORKED VERY DILIGENTLY TO UPDATE THE BY-LAWS OF THE NFA TO BETTER SERVE THE MEMBERS AND THE ASSOCIATION. THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES THAT ARE BEING PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE MEMBERS TO APPROVE:**

1. Membership categories are determined by the Directors to create different types of membership categories that are beyond full voting membership to allow those people that love fireworks and want to continue to be supportive and want to make sure that fireworks remain in their lives.
2. Full voting members will be able to vote for directors and corporation issues for each company and are limited to only 3 companies to make sure that everyone's voice is heard and counted.
3. The position of President Emeritus will be designated by the Board of Directors to help the Board with issues and continuity with the prior Presidency and make sure that the Association honors its past mission and moves to the future.
4. Changed the qualifications for Board members to require them to be members, officers or employees of only full voting members of the NFA. Also in a separate section, states that in the event that a member company for whom the Director is affiliate withdraws or is removed from the membership list of NFA, then the affiliated Director will automatically be removed from the Board of Directors.
5. The Board of Directors will have an election by the full voting members of 4 officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and then 3 independent appointed board members to ensure that the Board of Directors is truly independent and representative of the fireworks industry. There also was clarification on the terms of the officers and when they are elected. This also clarifies the process when an Officer or Director resigns or is removed and the filling of that vacancy.



# PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

6. Clarifies the nomination process for nominating candidates for being an Officer of the NFA and the requirement that any candidate to be an Officer of the NFA would have to be part of Full Voting Member with dues paid and a membership in good standing as of May 31.

7. Clarifies and explains the voting and ballot tabulation process for the election of Officers at the annual meeting.

8. Allows for electronic meetings of the Board of Directors as well as allow the Board to continue in the event that an annual meeting of the membership can not conducted until later because of events outside the control of the NFA. This is referred to as the "COVID" clause to account for situations that are unforeseen.

9. Determines that no director is to be personally liable for any damages that may result from any action or failure to take action as a Board Member and that the NFA will indemnify and hold any Director harmless from their service as a Director of the NFA. The change of the by-laws also permits the NFA to obtain insurance to protect the Directors.

10. Describes and specifies the various duties of the Officers of the NFA such as the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer as well as the role of "President Emeritus" to the Board.

11. The changes also require that outgoing Directors are specifically required to turn over all money, property and records of the NFA and permits the Board of Directors to create and appoint those committees as are needed to assist the NFA as it addresses the needs of the fireworks industry.

12. Clarifies the annual and/or special meetings of the membership, and what is to occur; notice language that is to be required for the meetings to be provided to the membership for annual and/or special meetings ; clarifies that attendance at an annual or special meeting of the membership is a waiver of any defect in notice; determines that a quorum of the membership will be met with at least 10% of the membership and a majority of the members present shall be sufficient to affirm action taken by the Board of Directors of the NFA.



# PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

This summary of the changes to the bylaws are just a summary, and any member with any specific questions and should read all of the bylaw changes proposed by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors have worked with their attorney and believe that all of the changes proposed are for the best of the NFA and moving the entity to the future to protect the fireworks industry - not only for the member companies, but also to maintain the availability of fireworks to be used and enjoyed by members of the public.

On Tuesday, September 10th at 4PM, the NFA's general counsel, John Brooke, will present a summary of the proposed bylaw changes in a meeting open to all full voting members of the NFA. The Board of Directors will be present to field questions regarding the proposed changes. This meeting is intended to give full voting members an opportunity to provide feedback to the Board of Directors in relation to the recommendation of acceptance of the bylaw revisions. After receiving feedback and addressing concerns received at the 2024 Expo, the Board will move to make an official recommendation to membership to put in to motion the process of holding a special election in order to install the revisions to the bylaws that govern the National Fireworks Association. Members are strongly encouraged to attend Tuesday's meeting, and also the Business Meeting on Thursday, September 12th, where the Board will accept any final comments.



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# A DISAPPOINTING FOURTH? NO WAY!

I did not plan on it being a very exciting Fourth. After all, how can a pyro get enthused when he lives in a state where colored sparklers, hand fountains, smoke bombs, report items, pin wheels, ground spinners, and all aerials can get him a \$200 fine for each item he lights? And having to plan a fun day with only legal items seemed to be impossible. Sure, my daughter and grandkids would be there for the evening show, but what legal pyrotechnic activity could I enjoy during the day with most daytime items banned?

After careful planning, I realized that snappers, snakes, and party poppers were my only options. And so, the noon hour on the Fourth found me on the patio with several boxes of snappers and a half gross of party poppers. Imagine a 77 year old man with 35 years of experience shooting displays and vending fireworks only able to pop a few lame items in his state to celebrate his nation's biggest holiday. But try I did. A few poppers were set off, their serpentine decorating the vines along the edge of the patio, and snappers were dropped on the cement floor by the dozen. Both items generated no excitement in me, so I packed up and went into the house to watch the hot dog eating contest. As far as I was concerned, the Fourth was ruined.

Time passed and before I knew it, 7 o'clock rolled around and my daughter's family and their friends rolled in. By 8, the hugs had been exchanged and it was time to set up my legal fountain show. I had really spent some time and money buying 20 four foot length 2x4s and affixing a large variety fountains on them. There were small and jumbo cones, multi-tubes that sprayed a display of colored sparks, and giant volcanos that erupted almost 20 feet in the air.

As the set up began, my cousin Clyde and his buddy Lester arrived. Both were professional musicians and members of the Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame. Just before the first lighting, Clyde brought several of us to tears with his rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, which he had sung many times before at Memorial Stadium before the Orioles' games. After the vocal performance, the fountain show began and lasted for 20 minutes as my grandson lit over 100 items to the cheers of relatives, friends, and neighbors. At the end of the display, spent tubes were soaked and the attendees moseyed back to the patio fan to escape the 90 degree heat and high humidity that Baltimore summers give us each year.

Burgers and hot dogs sizzled, snacks were devoured, and out came Lester's guitar. For a good hour or more, he serenaded us with a plethora of oldies, gospel tunes, and patriotic selections. All the while, I was sitting off to the side enjoying the music and lighting sparkler after sparkler as illegal aerial fireworks roared throughout the neighborhood. As the clock neared midnight, Lester asked everyone to sing along as he ended the evening with God Bless America. I do not know how the music affected the guests, but it brought a tear to my eye. Imagine singing the song as sparklers glowed on the patio and aerials bloomed above the treetops. What an ending!

Shortly, guests began to depart, and only my wife and I remained. I suddenly remembered my prediction that this year's celebration would be a lackluster one. I realized that I was wrong. I had to admit to myself that the holiday was one of the best. Great food, spectacular fountains, lovely music, and aerial shells bursting in the night. Now, what more could a man ask for?

**SUBMITTED BY JACK LEONARD**

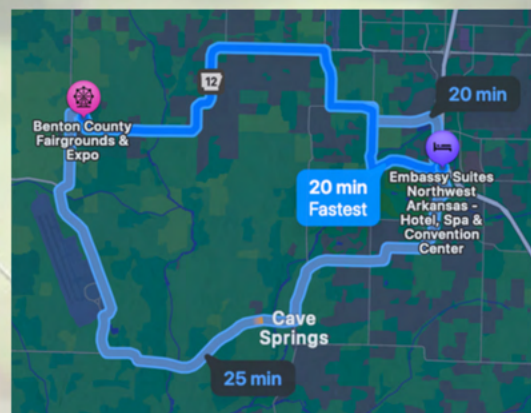


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