

# **The 57th National Insulator Association**

## **Convention and Show**

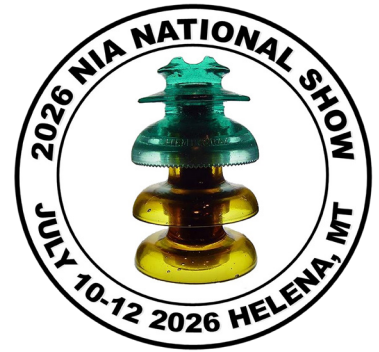
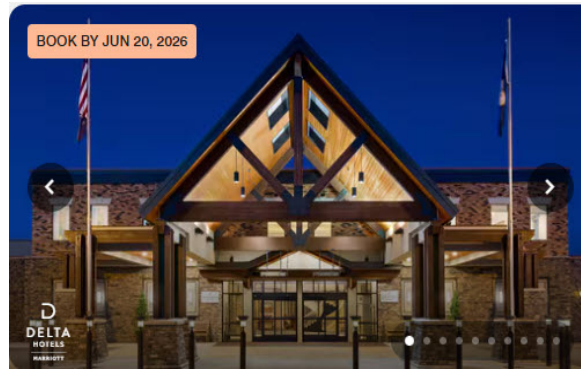
**July 10-12, 2026**

**Helena, MT**



The 57th National Insulator Association Convention and Show  
July 10-12, 2026  
Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds  
98 West Custer Avenue  
Helena, MT 59602

Host Hotel  
Delta Marriott Hotel  
2301 Colonial Drive  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-443-2100



Welcome: We are so excited to host the 57th National! For those who remember, we hosted the Western Regional here in 2019 and folks are still talking about it. The 2019 National was so well attended that the Delta Hotel was packed tight, so ... we are having it at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds is an outstanding complex. All paved parking, easy to unload & load and we have more room than we need. We have 110+ sales tables and 25+ display tables to start. We will still have the Delta as our Host Hotel and we will have the Banquet there as well. So make your reservations ASAP and start Planning your summer vacation around the National and see Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks as well as all of the other sites Montana has to offer.

Reservations: There is a discounted rate of \$165.00 per night at the Delta Marriot for the National, which is valid for three days before and after the show. Here's the link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1748454941166&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink>

**The Last Day to Book : Saturday, June 20, 2026**

Air Travel: Helena, MT has an airport with shuttle service to the Hotel and car rental is available at airport. You can also fly into Bozeman, Missoula, or Great Falls and they all have car rentals as well, all around 100 miles from Helena.

Parking: Free Parking is available at the show, and Hotel. RV parking is available at the fairgrounds with power and water for a charge. See contact information. (if your planning on camping at the fairgrounds make your reservations early as they fill up fast)

Admission: Only active NIA members will be admitted on Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, the show is open to the public. 3-day admission is \$5.00. There is no charge for dealers or helpers. No charge for children under 12 years old. To join/renew your NIA membership, visit [www.nia.org/membership](http://www.nia.org/membership)

Dealers: Sales Tables (8') are \$70.00 for the first table and \$65 for additional tables. Electricity is \$25.00 (and you supply your own cords)

Exhibitors: Table(s) are (8') and electricity is provided at no charge

Packages: if you have something you need to ship contact Ron Yuhas or Doug Rusher to make arrangements

**And Remember Montana Has NO Sales Tax to deal with.**



Show Directory: This directory will be a collectors edition and will have around 40 pages of history regarding the insulators from Montana, information on the lines, patent information, etc. The cost will only be \$10.00. This will be a great addition to your reference library. An advertising form is included in this packet if you want to get your information in the directory.

Food: We will have a food trucks(s) on site that will serve breakfast and lunch as well as coffee and drinks.

Payment: **PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO THE "NIA"** or you can pay thru ZELLE or PayPal at [treasurer@nia.org](mailto:treasurer@nia.org)

More Information: visit [https://www.nia.org/shows/2026\\_national/](https://www.nia.org/shows/2026_national/) or contact one of the show hosts below.

Doug & Becky Rusher, Co-Hosts, 3370 Chance Court, Helena, MT, 59602, 406-461-7341, [ddrusher@aol.com](mailto:ddrusher@aol.com)

Ron & Peggy Yuhas, Co-Hosts, 895 Lodestar, Helena, MT 59602, 406-439-4573, [Hemiblueuncie76@gmail.com](mailto:Hemiblueuncie76@gmail.com)

Roger & Beth Ziesak, Co-Hosts, 8865 Grouse Drive, Missoula, MT 59808, 406-239-1646, [glassandrailguy@gmail.com](mailto:glassandrailguy@gmail.com)

Justin Martin & Michelle Strum, Co-Hosts, PO Box 1005, Plains MT 59859, 406-490-3888, [justinmartin.8@aol.com](mailto:justinmartin.8@aol.com)

Justin will be doing a display of the early Montana Power Insulators and early Montana Power signs. I have heard rumors that the ultra-rare Covington will be on display as well.



Canyon Ferry Feeder 69KV A and B Line



## Show Itinerary

### Thursday, July 9th

7:30 am - 8:30 am  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
8:30 am—4:00 pm  
5:00 pm—9:00 pm

NIA Board of Directors breakfast  
Explore Helena, Gates of the Mountains Boat Tour, etc.  
NIA Board of Directors meeting  
Dealer unloading only, Exhibitor setup

Lewis & Clark fairgrounds board Room  
Your Choice  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds board Room  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall

### Friday, July 10th

7:00 am—9:00 am  
9:00 am—4:00 pm  
4:15 pm—5:30 pm  
6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Dealer/Exhibitor setup  
Show Hours—NIA Members only  
NIA General Membership meeting  
NIA picnic

Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Covered Picnic Shelter

### Saturday, July 11th

8:00 am—9:00 am  
9:00 am—4:00 pm  
5:30 pm—6:00 pm  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Dealer/Exhibitor setup  
Show hours—General Admission  
Reception—Cash Bar  
Awards Banquet

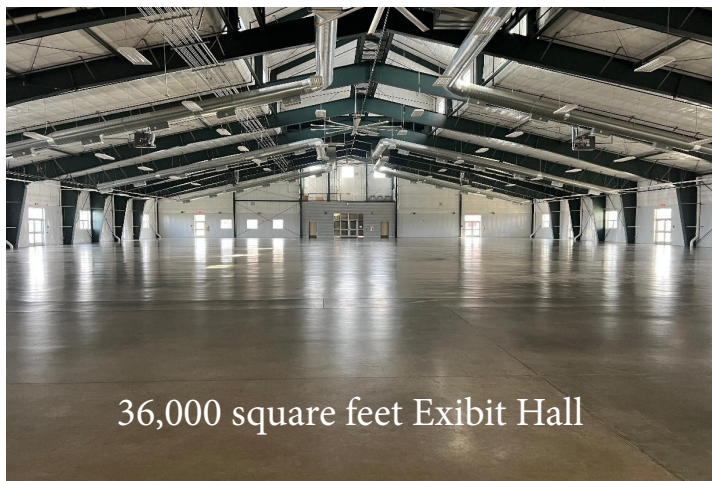
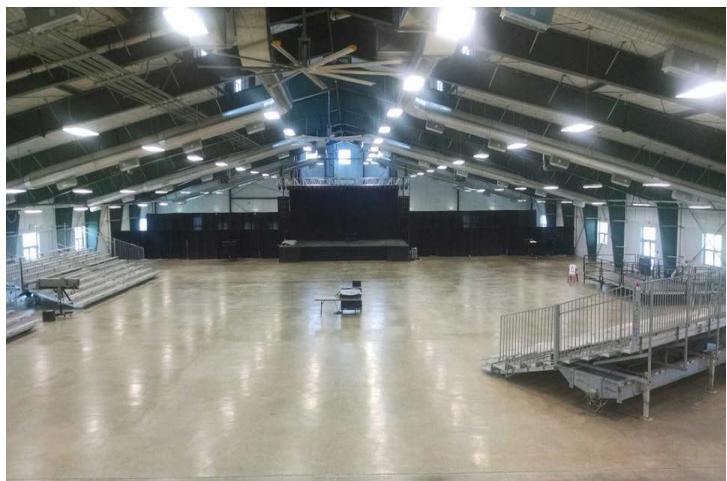
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Delta Banquet Room  
Delta Banquet Room

### Sunday, July 12th

8:00 am—8:30 am  
8:00 am—9:00 am  
9:00 am—1:00 pm  
1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Sunday Devotion  
Dealer/Exhibitor setup  
Show Hours—General Admission  
Dealer/Exhibitor teardown

Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
Lewis & Clark fairgrounds Exhibit Hall



36,000 square feet Exhibit Hall



## Friday Night Family Picnic

After the NIA Membership meeting we thought it would be a good time to relax and kick back for a good old Montana picnic right here at the fairgrounds. We have a nice covered area with lots of green grass where everyone can just kick back and relax and talk insulators or just visit with friends.

We will be serving The Famous Suds Hut Chicken, potato salad, tossed salad, baked beans and a drink of either bottled water or a soft drink, **For those of you that want an adult beverage. you will have to bring your own.**

The picnic starts at 6:00 pm and runs to 8:00 pm more, or less

Price per person \$29.00 each

Number of Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$29.00=\_\_\_\_\_

Kids Dinner \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.00=\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_



Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

They will use a checklist at the food line to check you in for serving.

**Please return this contract with the Reservation Summary Sheet**



## Sales Table Reservation & Agreement

I and my representatives (i.e. participating family members, helpers, other dealers, etc.) agree to abide by the NIA General Show floor rules, code of ethics, and any special rules, as specified in the information in the show packet. I understand that neither the National Insulator Association (NIA), its officers and committee members, the show hosts, nor the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, and agents will be responsible for the theft, loss or damage to person or property, from any cause whatsoever, during our participation in this event. I hereby agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, and agents, the NIA, its directors, chairpersons, agents and members, and the show hosts against any claims or expenses arising out of the use of the exhibition premises, including, but not limited to, liability resulting or connected with the transportation, placing, removal or display of items for exhibit or offered for sale, or the actual sale of any item(s) by myself or by any of my representatives as described above.

I also understand that failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement may result in my expulsion from the show premises and/or limitations placed on my future participation in NIA-sanctioned shows and activities.

Sales Tables: All tables will have a white cover

Dealer Table 8 foot \$ 70.00

Extra Dealer Table 8 foot # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$65.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity @ \$25.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Dealer(s) (Limit 1) \_\_\_\_\_

Table Helper(s) (limit 2) \_\_\_\_\_

There is a maximum of four people per 8' table. I also understand that all table dealers and helpers must be current NIA members at the time of the show. See [www.nia.org/membership](http://www.nia.org/membership) to join or renew your membership. I have read the above and completed the form and by my signature, I hereby accept the above requirements, liability agreement of this Agreement's terms and conditions set by the hosts, and the NIA Show Rules and Code of Ethics. I understand the refund cut-off date is June 15th, 2026, and that cancellations past this time will be considered on an individual basis.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

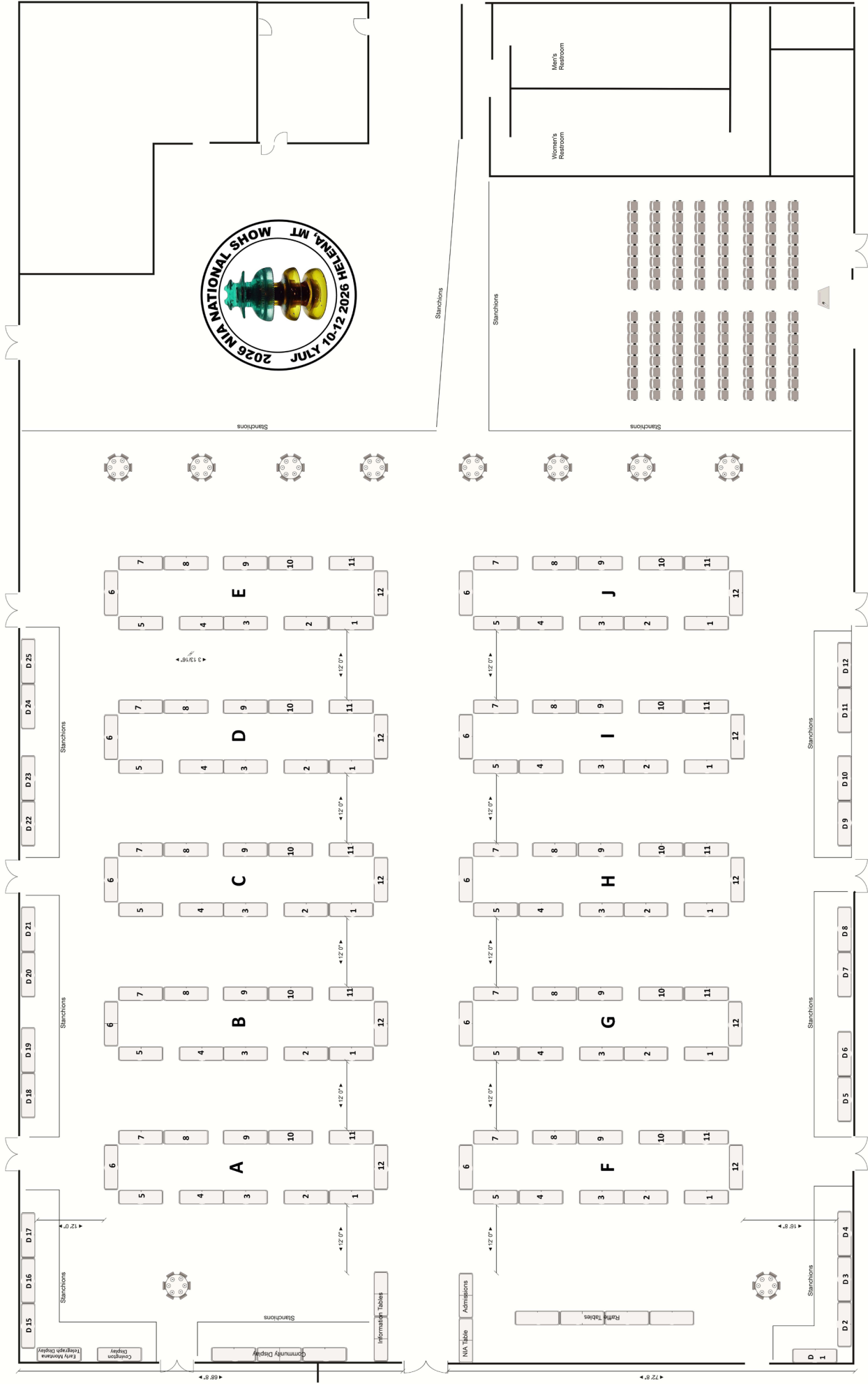
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Show Host's will assign Tables, if you have a request please Contact Doug or Ron**

**Please return this contract with the Reservation Summary Sheet**





## Display Table Reservation & Agreement

I and my representatives (i.e. participating family members, helpers, other dealers, etc.) agree to abide by the National Insulator Association (NIA) General Show floor rules, code of ethics, and any special rules, as specified in the information included in the show packet. I understand that neither the NIA, its officers and committee members, the show hosts, nor the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, and agents will be responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to person or property, from any cause whatsoever, during our participation in this event. I hereby agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees and agents, the NIA, its directors, chairpersons, agents and members, and the show hosts against any claims or expenses arising out of the use of the exhibition premises, including, but not limited to, liability resulting or connected with the transportation, placing, removal or display of items for exhibit or offered for sale, or the actual sale of any item(s) by myself or by any of my representatives as described above.

I also understand that failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement may result in my expulsion from the show premises and/or limitations on my future participation in NIA-sanctioned shows and activities.

Display Choice: ☐ Table ☐ Space Age Group: ☐ Adult ☐ Junior (<18 years)

All tables will have white tablecloths.

Number of tables needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity: ☐ Y ☐ N Check the category for your display:

### Competitive Categories:

- ☐ Threadless ☐ Threaded Glass ☐ Threaded Porcelain
- ☐ Specialty (one company, one style, patents, errors, etc.) ☐ Color (glass, porcelain, or any combination)
- ☐ World Wide (glass, porcelain, or any combination) ☐ Lightning Rod Equipment (insulators, balls, vanes, etc.)
- ☐ Pole Line Hardware & Equipment (must include some use of insulators and show the connection between insulators and the other items exhibited)
- ☐ Go-Withs (must include some use of insulators and show the connection between insulators and the other items exhibited)
- ☐ General (exhibit of mixed insulators which doesn't fit any other category)

Or:

☐ Non-Competitive (insulators and/or related display items)

I have read the above and completed the form, and, by my signature, I hereby accept the above requirements, liability agreement of this Agreement's terms and conditions set by the hosts, and the NIA Show Rules and Code of Ethics. I understand the cut-off date is June 10, 2026.

I also understand that all exhibitors, helpers, and assistants must be NIA members at the time of the show.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this contract with the Reservation Summary Sheet**



## Advertising Contract for Show Directory

Promote your club, promote your show, and promote yourself!  
Let other collectors know who you are and what you are looking for, selling, or representing!

I hereby authorize the insertion of the following advertisement in the 2026 NIA National Show Directory and agree to pay the total for the advertisement I have chosen.

Advertising Options:

1/8 Page Ad (Business Card) \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$10.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1/4 Page Ad \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$20.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1/2 Page Ad \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$35.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Page Ad \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$60.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Advertisement Copy Due by June 10th, 2026**

Email the advertisement to Doug at [ddrusher@aol.com](mailto:ddrusher@aol.com)

Name:

**Please return this form with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

With a copy of your ad or e-mail it to: [ddrusher@aol.com](mailto:ddrusher@aol.com)

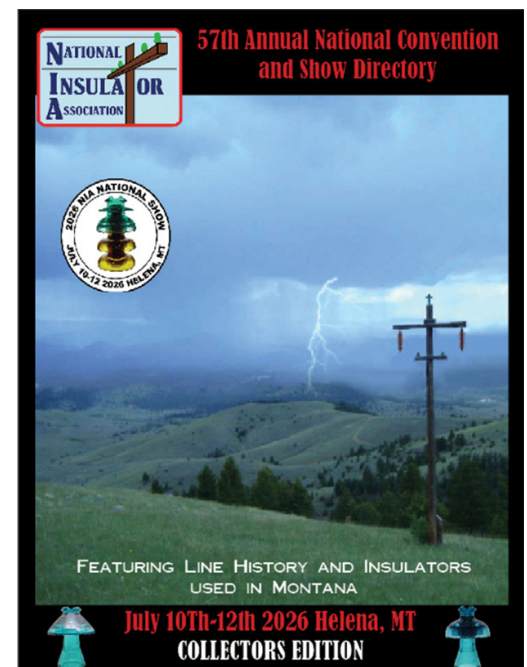
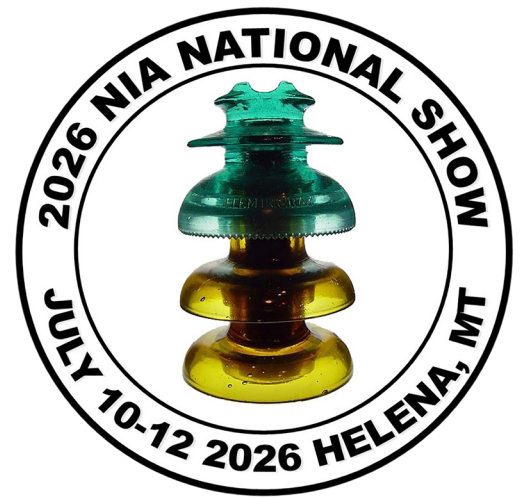
Remember this is a Collectors edition and will have around 40 pages of the history of insulators from Montana with information on the lines, patent information etc.

you will want to add this to your reference library.

**Extra Collectors Edition Directory will be \$10.00 each**

Qty \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_



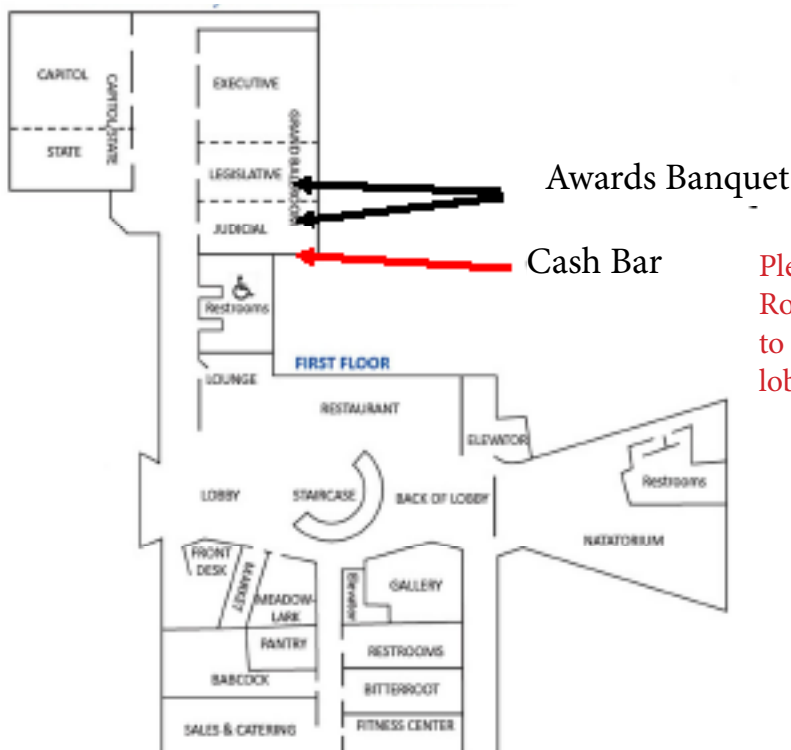


Awards Banquet Meal:

Grilled London Broil # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children (under 10) chicken tenders or ☐ # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Please use the Cash Bar in the Banquet Room for Adult Beverages since we have to use it, rather than the Lounge in the lobby.



# Pre-order a 57th National T-Shirt

Price \$35.00 XXL \$39.00

Cotton Tee by Gildan is a standard crew-neck t-shirt made of 100% cotton



Back View



Front View

Size Small .....Qty\_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Size Medium.....Qty\_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Size Large.....Qty\_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Size X Large.....Qty\_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Size XX Large.....Qty\_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Payment for these will go to **Doug Rusher**

Please make checks to Doug Rusher and Mail to:  
Doug Rusher  
3370 Chance Court,  
Helena, MT 59602

**SHIRT ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 31st 2026**

## Donations

To help defray the costs of the National Convention, we will have silent auctions and maybe a raffle or two from donated items at various times throughout the show. Please consider donating insulators, go-with items, etc., to help with our fund-raising efforts. We want to make this a National you won't forget

**Please fill out this form and either include it with your Reservation Summary or mail/email it to:**

Roger & Beth Ziesak  
8865 Grouse Drive  
Missoula, MT 59808  
406-239-1646  
[glassandrailguy@gmail.com](mailto:glassandrailguy@gmail.com)

Item(s) to be donated:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU! For your support for this great hobby  
Please return this form with the Reservation Forms  
Or Contact Roger



## Insulator Club Awards Information

If your Insulator Club would like to present an award at the Awards Banquet, please complete the form below and mail/email the form to:

Doug Rusher  
3370 Chance Court  
Helena, MT 59602  
[ddrusher@aol.com](mailto:ddrusher@aol.com)

Presenters Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Award ☐ Ribbon ☐ Plaque ☐ Trophy ☐ Certificate ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Please return this form with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

# Reservation Summary Sheet

Sales Table Reservation.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Display Table Request ..... Check if displaying ☐ \$ No Cost

Friday Night NIA Picnic Adults # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$29.00 Children # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$17.00..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Advertising for Show Directory..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Awards Banquet meal:

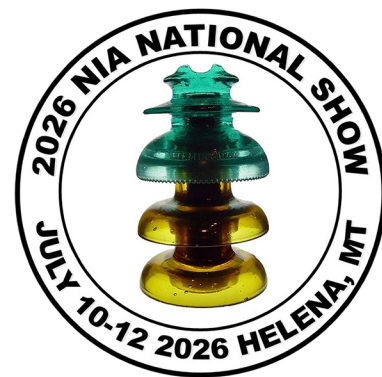
Grilled London Broil # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$55.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lemon Thyme Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$55.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Stuffed Portabella Mushroom # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$55.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children (10 and under) # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due\$ \_\_\_\_\_



Total Due:..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Be sure to sign and include the Sales and Display Agreements, Friday Picnic, and Advertising Contract.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NIA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NIA**

Mail forms and checks to:

Doug Rusher 3370 Chance Ct.

Helena, MT 59602

Once again, Thank You for your support of the 2026 National

These events benefit our hobby, but they can only be successful with your participation and support. Encourage your fellow collectors to join us in Helena! You won't want to miss this show, Thanks!



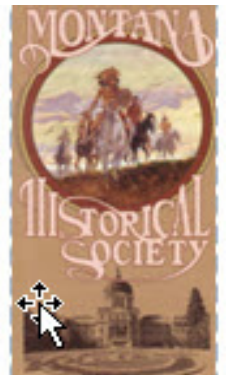
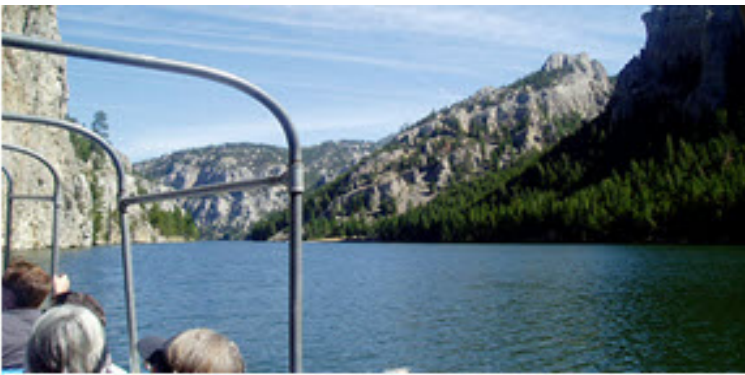
## Thursday Day Activities

Thursday during the Day, we decided not to have a tour on Thursday as there are so many things to do in Helena. Some of our favorite things is to take the Gates of the mountains boat ride and tour, it's well worth the drive and be sure and take a camera. As you will see wildlife, breathtaking views and scenery.

Another place that we highly recommend is the Montana Historical Society Museum at the capitol complex. Plan on spending some time there as it's in a brand new larger building and is a must see.

The Golden Girls Antique Mall on Last Chance Gulch is a must go to Tons of goodies there.

Lots of Ghost towns very close by, Sapphire digging, micro brews, the walking mall downtown, the parrot candy shop, Reeder's Alley, plus much more





# Things to do in and around Helena

The evening of July 19, 1805, was a hot one in the wilderness that would later become Montana. On the Missouri River, not far from present day Helena, the hardy members of the Lewis and Clark expedition toiled to move upstream. Rock embankments made towing from shore impossible, and the deep channel forced the men to row rather than pole their boats forward.

Suddenly, there loomed before them towering rock formations unlike any they had ever seen. From both sides of the river, limestone cliffs rose to a spectacular height of 1200 feet. "In many places," wrote Meriwether Lewis, "the rocks seem ready to tumble on us." At each bend in the waterway, great stone walls seemed to block passage, only to open like gentle giant gates as the expedition drew near. In his journal, Meriwether wrote: "I shall call this place: **GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS.**"

The name stuck, and for nearly two centuries travelers have ventured down this stretch of the Missouri to marvel at its natural wonders. Today, most visitors enjoy the beauty of the Gates of the Mountains from aboard a tour boat – the "Canyon Voyager" or the "Sacajawea" (named after the only woman and indigenous person on the Expedition).

The 120-minute cruise starts at our Marina, just 3 miles off Interstate 15 in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains between Helena and Great Falls, Montana. Aboard a comfortable open-air boat (covered in case of rain), you'll glide through magnificent country Meriwether Lewis would still recognize if he could return.

Great towering walls of limestone still stand guard over the river. Bighorn sheep and Mountain Goats scamper in the rocks high above the water. Ospreys, eagles (bald and golden), vultures and falcons (peregrine and prairie) still soar on the updrafts. The canyon is also home to otters, deer, squirrels, ermine, beaver, mountain lions, black bears and other wild creatures. The life list for bird species is over 120 right now.

From the vessel you can see Mann Gulch, the site of the raging forest fire that killed 13 smokejumpers, August 5, 1949. This tragedy was the main subject matter of Norman Maclean's book "Young Men and Fire". The story of Mann Gulch is one of the more interesting stories told by the guide and pilot.

Near Mann Gulch the pilot will hug the shoreline to give you a look at Indian pictographs painted on the rock wall. Proof that indigenous people lived here long before Meriwether named it the Gates of the Mountains.

The tour's main attraction, though, is the inexhaustible scenery – wooded slopes, rugged rock formations, and the placid beauty of the timeless Missouri.

**Remember to Book your tour early as they fill up fast and you don't want to miss a chance to take this Boat tour**

## [Gates of the Mountains – Boat Tours and Marina](#)



Montana tour book order form  
<http://www.visitmt.com/guidebookorder.html>

Montana Tourist info  
<http://www.visitmt.com/>

Helena Area Campgrounds  
<https://montanastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/black-sandy-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contract-Code=MT&parkId=630312>

Montana Historical Society (Helena)  
<http://mhs.mt.gov/Museum>

Helena Tour Info  
<http://www.helenamt.com/>

Custer Battlefield info  
<https://www.nps.gov/libi/planyourvisit/index.htm>

Glacier National Park  
<https://glacier.org/explore-glacier-national-park/>

Yellowstone National Park  
<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/travel-guides>

Virginia/Nevada City Ghost towns  
<http://virginiacity.com/>

Philipsburg Mont (Awesome Sapphire Digging)  
<http://southwestmt.com/communities/philipsburg.htm>

Philipsburg Mont Sapphire Hunting  
<https://www.gemmountainmt.com/>

Dinosaur Trail  
<http://www.mtdinotrail.org/>

Museum of the Rockies (Bozeman)  
<https://www.museumoftherockies.org/>

Gates of the Mountains (just outside Helena)  
<http://www.gatesofthemountains.com/>

Crystal Park (Dillon Mt)  
<http://www.visitmt.com/listings/general/national-recreation-area/crystal-park.html>

Montana Blue Jewel Mine  
<http://www.montanabluejewelmine.com>

Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine  
Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine | Montana's Oldest Sapphire Mine ([gemmountainmt.com](http://gemmountainmt.com))





Glacier National Park is a 1,583-sq. -mi. wilderness area in Montana's Rocky Mountains, with glacier-carved peaks and valleys running to the Canadian border. It's crossed by the mountainous Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Among more than 700 miles of hiking trails, it has a route to photogenic Hidden Lakes. Other activities include backpacking, cycling and camping. And lots of diverse wildlife

Both National Parks require Reservations due to heavy traffic, so when you get your dates figured out PLEASE make your reservation for your trip.

Glacier National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

<https://glacier.org/explore-glacier-national-park/>

Yellowstone National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/travel-guides>



Helena to Glacier Park 215 Miles

Yellowstone National Park is nearly 3,500. sq. -mile wilderness recreation area atop a volcanic hot spot. Mostly in Wyoming, the park spreads into parts of Montana and Idaho too. Yellowstone features dramatic canyons, alpine rivers, lush forests, hot springs and gushing geysers, including its most famous, Old Faithful. It's also home to hundreds of animal species, including bears, wolves, bison, elk and antelope.

Helena to Yellowstone Park 175 Miles





# GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT AT NIA SPONSORED SHOWS

[www.nia.org/handbook](http://www.nia.org/handbook)

**The NIA Board of Directors has adopted the following rules to ensure that NIA sponsored insulator shows are enjoyable for collectors, dealers, and the general public. They are to be prominently publicized to all show participants (dealers and exhibitors), and attendees.**

1. All participants shall abide by the NIA Code of Ethics. In particular:
  - (a) Participants shall not knowingly misrepresent the condition, rarity, or value of insulators or related items they offer for sale or trade.
  - (b) Imitation and Altered insulators or related items may only be brought onto the show premises if they are PERMANENTLY MARKED or embossed so as to indicate their lack of authenticity. While the NIA Code of Ethics requires Imitation and Altered Insulators to be plainly marked “reproduction” and “fake” respectively, it does not require Questionable Insulators (those which may not be Original Insulators), to be permanently marked. The goal of this rule is to cause a prospective purchaser to easily recognize that an item is a reproduction or fake, or to cause them to question its authenticity. Insulators of questionable authenticity should be represented with candor. If not, a show organizer can require a participant to remove the item from a display or sales table. The decision of the show host shall be final. NIA Board Members attending an NIA sponsored show will provide active assistance, if requested by a show organizer, in resolving violations of the NIA Rules.
  - (c) All restored and/or repaired items on sales tables must be clearly labeled as such.
2. All show participants and the attending public shall abide by any site specific show rules set by the show organizer/host including applicable State laws, local ordinances or restrictions imposed by the owner of the facility, etc.
3. Positively no public attendance during show setup hours.
4. “Aisle dealing” by the attending public is discouraged.
5. It will not be permissible for dealers to “work the aisles” in any fashion which preempts the opportunities of fellow dealers.
6. Dealer side shows (spotlights, excessive “cow bell ringing,” etc.) shall not be carried to the point of being abusive to fellow dealers and the general public.
7. Dealers will not sublet portions of their reserved tables without first consulting with the show host and obtaining permission.
8. Participants shall keep aisles in front of tables free of boxes and clutter.
9. Participants are encouraged to cover their unattended tables.
10. Dealers should keep their sales tables intact until the end of the published show hours. There will be exceptions made for those driving long distances or needing to make other travel connections, but advance arrangements should be made with the show organizer(s) when reserving the table. The show organizer(s) reserves the right to locate such tables on the outer aisles or near exits to avoid disruption of the rest of the show with any early departures. The show organizer(s) may announce blanket authority for early takedown at such time as public attendance appears to have essentially ceased.
11. Participants will be responsible for any damage they do to the facilities with their setup practices (i.e. no signs or other items taped or tacked to walls or furnishings).
12. The show organizer(s) will make every effort to provide good security but will not be responsible for any loss of participant property due to theft or breakage. Each dealer and exhibitor is asked to help with security by watching after his own items and keeping an eye on adjacent tables in situations of obvious risk.
13. At the NIA National Show only, exhibitors, contracted sales table dealers, and all table helpers and assistants must be NIA members.
14. The reservation of a table at an NIA sponsored show constitutes the acceptance of these rules and agreement to comply with them.

## DEFINITIONS and TERMINOLOGY

### INSULATOR RELATED DEFINITIONS

The term “insulator” or “insulators” appearing throughout this handbook refers specifically to any device used to prevent the passage, leakage, or undesired flow of electricity. It does not refer to devices used to prevent the transfer of thermal or mechanical energy.

An “Original Insulator” is defined as any device manufactured at any time by any industrial, commercial, or private interest with the specific intended purpose of being commercially or privately utilized to prevent the passage, leakage, or undesired flow of electricity.

A “Special Purpose Original Insulator” is defined as any device manufactured at any time by any industrial, commercial, or private interest, with existing regular production equipment, specifically made to be collectible as a souvenir or memento, or to enhance the marketing or sales of original insulators.

A “Salesman Sample” is a specific type of special purpose original insulator uniquely defined as a model of an insulator known to have been manufactured by an insulator company for salesmen to use as a promotional gift or product example.

An “Imitation Insulator” is defined as any device resembling an original insulator, or special purpose original insulator that is not actually an original insulator or special purpose original insulator but could be represented as such. This definition may appear in other terms, including but not limited to: reproduction insulators, insulator copies, insulator replicas, or counterfeit insulators.

**RULE:** All imitation insulators must be permanently marked “REPRODUCTION” with the exceptions noted below in Commemorative and Miniature Insulator definitions.

A “Commemorative” or “Private Issue Commemorative” is a specific type of Imitation Insulator that is uniquely defined as any device manufactured to resemble an insulator with specific embossing declaring the commemorated person, place, device, event, organization, or insulator design.

A “Miniature Insulator” is an Imitation Insulator and is uniquely defined as any device resembling an insulator known to have been manufactured by a private individual or organization for the purpose of resale or gifting as a promotion or commemorative.

**RULE:** All Miniature Insulators must be permanently marked “REPRODUCTION” and the calendar year of production. If the physical size of the item renders such markings impractical the calendar year marking will suffice.

A “Questionable Insulator” is defined as any device purporting to be an original insulator or original special purpose insulator whose provenance is uncertain or cannot be validated or verified. The NIA does not require questionable insulators to be permanently marked. Nor does the NIA require any disclosure by the owner at the time of sale or trade.

An "Altered Insulator" is any original insulator, commemorative or salesman sample that has been intentionally modified. Often, this is to make it appear to be worth more than it would otherwise have been worth for the specific purpose of deceiving the buyer and/or profiting the owner.

RULE: All Altered Insulators must be permanently marked "FAKE."

A "Restored insulator" is any original insulator, commemorative or salesman sample that has been intentionally modified to make it more resemble its original factory appearance. Restored items present a unique dilemma. In the wrong hands restored items can be misrepresented the way that altered items can. Restored insulators are not required to be permanently marked, as is the case with imitation altered insulators. It is important to note that for an insulator to be deemed "restored", the repair must not enhance the insulator beyond what would have been its original factory intended appearance (i.e. removal of drip points or threads, change in color, etc.). To do so would make it an altered insulator. Restored insulators are not required to be permanently marked "RESTORED".

RULE: The NIA requires any repair to an insulator be disclosed to a potential buyer.

## TERMINOLOGY

"Objectionable to the Best Interests of the Hobby" includes, but is not limited to, any action or item which is likely to cause financial damage and/or loss, ill will, or injury to collectors or organizations involved in the collecting of insulators and related items. For example, a false or misleading representation of fact likely to cause confusion and/or the possibility of the use of an insulator to commit fraud (either by the issuing party or through a subsequent party).

"NIA Approved" is a term reserved for use by the Board of Directors. Any member may apply for permission to use the term "NIA Approved" in conjunction with the production and distribution of any hobby related material.

RULE: Any use of the NIA name, graphics, logo, or proprietary material in any form by any entity for personal or commercial purposes (including endorsements), must be approved in writing by the NIA Board of Directors in advance of its use. Approval for commercial use of all NIA proprietary, physical and intellectual property shall include an appropriate written agreement for compensation to the NIA for such use.

"Manufactured in Accordance with NIA Guidelines" is a term reserved by the Board of Directors for the production and distribution of hobby related material specifically including Imitation Insulators. Use of this term means that those engaged in the production and distribution of the Imitation insulator or hobby related material have agreed to abide by all NIA guidelines.

RULE: NIA members who intend to engage in the production and or distribution of any hobby related material, especially Imitation Insulators, shall agree to apply in writing for NIA endorsement prior to commencing any phase of production and wait for the NIA's written response before commencing production.

"Permanently Marked" An item is considered "Permanently Marked" when it bears an identifying alpha-numeric graphic that cannot be removed without obviously disfiguring or conspicuously damaging the item. Ideally such a mark will result from lost material (such as engraving or etching) rather than added material (such as embossing.) However, due to the diverse styles of insulators, the NIA reserves the right to determine what constitutes permanent marking on a case-by-case basis for imitation and altered insulators.

"Hobby Related Material" as used in the Code of Ethics is a term designed to give the NIA Board of Directors the broadest oversight when investigating and dealing with any issue suspected or found by the Board of Directors to be contrary to the best interests of the hobby.

"Related Items" as used in the Show Standards Section include virtually all items associated with power or communications equipment, plus items such as lightning rod equipment, pole nails, magazines, books, etc.

## NIA CODE OF ETHICS

The following mandates govern NIA members' conduct. Any member found by the Board of Directors to be in violation of any of these mandates risks loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion (Reference Bylaws, Article 4, Section 4.6, Removal of a Member) from the NIA. Refer to the "Definitions and Terminology Chapter" of this Handbook.

Obviously, these ethics must take into account the fact that an enormous body of previously produced material exists and must be grandfathered. Specifically, the NIA commemorative, as traditionally designed, has been recognized by the NIA Board and the hobby at large to be an authorized Imitation Insulator.

### ETHICS MANDATES NIA Members:

1. Shall, to the best of their ability, conduct themselves honorably, honestly and in a manner which reflects respect for the NIA, its members and affiliated clubs, and contributes to the best interests of the insulator collecting hobby as a whole.
2. Shall conduct themselves in a lawful manner, and in a manner that does not present a disruptive influence at any NIA sponsored or endorsed gathering.
3. Shall refrain from conducting themselves in any manner that reflects poorly on the NIA or suggests that the NIA condones harmful or unlawful practices in pursuit of the hobby. Such conduct may lead to loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA.
4. Shall conduct their insulator collecting hobby transactions fairly and expeditiously. Members on either side of a transaction found to have conducted themselves in a disingenuous manner risk loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA.
5. Shall make every reasonable effort to comply with grading standards established by the NIA for the accurate description of the type and condition of insulators. (Refer to the chapter titled "Grading Standards")
6. Shall make every reasonable effort to accurately represent the rarity and value of any hobby related item(s) that they intend to introduce into the hobby for distribution, including buying, selling, auctioning, or trading.
7. Shall treat all NIA graphics and credentials as proprietary and refrain from displaying such material in any manner contrary to the best interests of the NIA. Members who observe what they believe to be abusive or inappropriate use of such material must bring such use to the attention of any member of the current NIA Board of Directors.
8. Who produce or contract for the production of any hobby related material whatsoever found by the Board of Directors to be contrary to the best interests of the hobby risk loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA.
9. Who intend to produce or contract for the production of and distribute any hobby related material, for educational purposes or otherwise, must abide by the requirements set forth in the "Guidelines for the Production and Sale of Imitation Insulators." The spirit of this rule is to ensure that all commemorative and imitation material that is produced by our members will contribute to the best interests of the hobby.
10. Who are found by the Board of Directors to have produced, contracted for production, advertised, exhibited, or introduced into the hobby for distribution, including buying, selling, auctioning, or trading, any authentic reproduction, commemorative, imitation insulator or related item, for educational purposes or otherwise, not plain-

ly and permanently marked "reproduction" with the calendar year in which the item was manufactured risk loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA. If the physical size of the item renders such markings impractical, as in the case of miniature imitation insulators, the Board of Directors will address these issues on a case-by-case basis. If an item is classified as "altered" it must be plainly and permanently marked "FAKE." (Refer to the chapter titled "Definitions and Terminology")

11. Who observe or become aware of what they believe to be misconduct by any person, persons, or organization are cautioned against gossiping and are advised to share such information only with any member of the current NIA Board of Directors or the Ethics Advisor.

## NIA EXHIBIT AND JUDGING RULES

One of the primary reasons for exhibiting is to promote the insulator "story" to the general public, by stressing education, history and information. One of the NIA's primary goals is to increase interest in insulator collecting thus attracting new collectors, which can be accomplished through quality displays. The NIA Board of Directors as a general guide for show hosts has adopted the following Exhibit and Judging Rules. They are meant to encourage more collectors to display, improve the quality of exhibits, and to provide some measure of uniformity and fairness in judging. These rules are in full effect for the NIA National and Regional shows. For NIA sanctioned local shows, adjustments may be made at the host's discretion to fit certain circumstances.

Exhibitors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the exhibit scoring sheet (see Addendum). The judging of exhibits will be accomplished using the NIA's standard 100- point system. The average of all judges for any given category will be the final score. Points are scored for all of the following aspects included in an exhibit or display: Showmanship (Eye-catching, Public appeal, Good use of go-withs, Display props, Lighting, Condition, Category adherence); Education (History, Information, Explanation, Good use of titles, Labels, Handouts, Exhibitor biography); Rarity; Variety; and Originality (Independent and creative thought, Freshness of idea, New or unusual arrangement.)

### 1. Exhibit Categories

a.) Displays or exhibits may be either a non-competitive entry or a competitive entry.

b.) The Non-Competitive Entry category is open to exhibits of insulators and/or related items displayed by individuals, clubs, groups, museums, or displays shared by multiple owners who choose to not have their exhibit/display judged.

c.) A Competitive Entry (Junior and Adult) exhibit will comprise one of the following 10 categories:

1) Threadless (Dr. Fredrick L. Griffin Memorial Award)

2) Threaded Glass

3) Threaded Porcelain (Marilyn Albers Memorial Award)

4) Specialty (i.e. one company, one style, patents, errors, etc.)

5) General (exhibits of mixed insulators, the total theme of which does not accurately fit any other single category listing.)

6) Color (glass, porcelain or any combination)

7) Foreign (glass, porcelain or any combination)

8) Lightning Rod Equipment (insulators, balls, vanes, etc.)

9) Pole Line Hardware and Equipment (insulator mounting pins, brackets, pole and cross-arm construction materials, lineman tools, tie wires, pole steps, and other hardware used in conjunction with insulators and line construction. The exhibit must include some use of insulators and must clearly identify the connection between insulators and those items being displayed.)

10) Go-withs (advertising pieces, post cards, insulator shipping boxes, insulators on postage stamps, business cards of collectors, metal signs or non-insulator products made by insulator manufacturing companies. The exhibit must include some use of insulators and must clearly identify the connection between insulators and those items being displayed.)

### 2. Exhibitor Rules:

a. At the NIA National Show and Convention only, exhibitors must be NIA members.

b. NIA Junior members will enter their exhibit in one of the standard NIA exhibit categories.

c. A Junior member is defined as under the age of 18. Junior members must not attain their 18th birthday during the show they are exhibiting in.

d. The exhibitor must determine and declare the competitive category of their exhibit/display at the time of reserving exhibit space.

e. Two or more people or a club may collaborate on a competitive exhibit/display. Only one award will be presented to collaborative exhibits/displays. In instances where the collaboration includes both "Junior" and "Adult" members the exhibit/display will be judged as an Adult entry.

f. Exhibitors will be permitted to include limited numbers of non-owned items in their display. Ownership of borrowed pieces must be acknowledged in the display.

g. Imitation or altered insulators and/or related items may be used in exhibits but must be clearly identified as such in the exhibit. Restored items are acceptable in exhibits and need not be identified as such.

h. Exhibits or portions thereof may not be marked "for sale," or their value indicated in any way.

i. Exhibitors are requested to display the awards(s) on their exhibit until it is taken down and should wear any special name cards or badges provided by the show host.

j. Exhibits should not be dismantled until the end of the show unless prior arrangements are made with the show hosts.

### 3. Show Organizer(s) Exhibit/Display Rules:

a. Exhibit space at all shows shall be free and available on a first-come basis. Exhibitors may be expected to bring their own fixtures, extension cords, etc.

b. At the NIA National and Regional shows, if exhibit space reserved for insulators and/or related items should still be available 60 days or less from the date of the show, the show organizer may permit other non-competitive exhibits of suitable antique/collectible items, subject to the approval of the NIA Board of Directors.

### 4. Awards and Presentations

a. The NIA will provide trophies, plaques or awards for Junior and Adult 1st place winners of the various categories.

b. The show organizer(s) will provide ribbons or some type of award for all exhibitors as recognition for exhibiting.

c. The NIA Board of Directors has the authority to honor esteemed contributors to the hobby and the NIA, by naming awards after such individuals. As such, the "Dr. Fredrick L. Griffin Memorial Award" (recipient selected by the show judging panel), is in recognition of the first NIA President, and will be given for the most outstanding threadless exhibit, in lieu of a standard first place award.

d. The NIA will present a "NIA Best of Show Award" at National and Regional Shows. The award will be presented to the exhibitor achieving the highest total cumulative score from the judges. The National Show award shall be presented as the "Steve Blair Memorial Best of Show Award".

e. The NIA, at the National Show, may present four special awards:

1. The "Milholland Educational Award" (recipient selected by the show judging panel). This award is in recognition of Marion and Evelyn Milholland for their tireless work over many years to research and publish information on glass insulators, all of which contributed immeasurably to the growth and enjoyment of the hobby. The award is given for the one exhibit that most effectively achieves an educational theme. Insulators, props and historical explanations must be combined with good showmanship to capture the attention of all collectors and the viewing public. This award may be any exhibit regardless of the category entered. The award is determined and selected as that exhibit receiving the highest cumulative score of all the judges scoring in the showmanship and education portions of the score sheet.

2. The "Outstanding Service Award" may be presented to an NIA member who has performed outstanding service for the NIA and contributed substantially to the insulator hobby. The Awards and Recognition Committee receives nominations from the membership and delivers the nominations to the NIA President. The NIA President prepares, distributes and tabulates ballots for this award.

Individual members may not nominate themselves nor their spouses. Individuals receiving the Outstanding Service Award are not eligible to receive that award again for five (5) years.



For a current Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee or Volunteer appointed by the Board to be eligible for Outstanding Service Award consideration, that individual must have served six (6) complete and consecutive years in one or more of the following capacities: Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee and/or Volunteer appointed by the Board.

3. A "NIA Lifetime Membership" may be presented to any NIA member for cumulative meritorious service to the NIA or the insulator- collecting hobby. The Awards and Recognition Committee receives nominations from the membership and delivers the nominations to the NIA President. The NIA President prepares, distributes and tabulates ballots for this award. Individual members may not nominate themselves nor their spouses for this award.

For a current Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee or Volunteer appointed by the Board of Directors to be eligible for NIA Lifetime Membership consideration, that individual must have served six (6) complete and consecutive years in one or more of the following capacities: Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee and/or Volunteer appointed by the Board.

4. The NIA Board of Directors has the authority to honor esteemed contributors to the hobby and the NIA by inducting such individuals into the NIA "Hall of Fame." The purpose of the NIA Hall of Fame is to recognize and preserve the historical significance of the contributions of those who have significantly advanced the invention, manufacture, application and collection of insulators upon which the hobby and the NIA is founded.

Candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame may be any past or present member of the NIA as well as other individuals who have significantly advanced the invention, manufacture, application and collection of insulators upon which the hobby is founded.

Candidates can be nominated by affiliated clubs, individual NIA members, or family members related to the candidate. Current members of the NIA Board of Directors may nominate candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. Individual members may not nominate themselves or their spouses.

The NIA Awards and Recognitions Committee will receive the submitted written applications and supporting documentation for the proposed candidate. Induction into the Hall of Fame shall be by recommendation from the Awards and Recognitions Committee. Induction into the Hall of Fame will require a vote for approval by two-thirds (6) of the members of the Board of Directors.

The numbers of inductees shall be limited to no more than three (3) members per year.

Inductees to the Hall of Fame will be announced at the annual NIA National Show Awards Banquet. Photographs and biographies of the inductees will be published in the Drip Points magazine, Crown Jewels of the Wire magazine, and on the "Hall of Fame" page of the NIA web site. The Association Historian will be responsible for preserving the inductee's biographical information in the NIA archives.

f) The presentation of all NIA category awards and individual club awards should be made on the show floor immediately after the judging and tabulation of scores but at the discretion of the show organizers in coordination with the NIA.

g) The top NIA awards (Best of Show Award, Milholland Educational Award, Outstanding Service Award, Hall of Fame Award, and Lifetime Membership Award) will be presented at the awards banquet. In addition, presentations to show organizer(s), People's Choice award, President's Special Award(s) and other miscellaneous awards will be presented during the banquet. Additionally, if the category and club awards were presented on the show floor, those winners of category and club awards would also be announced and recognized during the awards banquet.

#### 5. Judging Rules

a. Judges and exhibitors should remember that displays are for the general public as well as for other members of the hobby, so it is desirable to be creative and original, and avoid showing the same exhibit several times without substantial modification. Repetitive showings of the same exhibit should result in a reduced score.

b. An exhibit/display must exceed a threshold numerical judging score in order to qualify for the "best of category" award. An Adult exhibitor must achieve a minimum score of 65 and a Junior exhibitor must achieve a minimum score of 50. Single exhibitors in any category must achieve the minimum score for their exhibit in order to receive an award.

c. A tally sheet will be furnished to exhibitors after the judging, showing how the judges rated each exhibit as compared with other entrants in the same category. This will show exhibitors where improvement is needed. The judges will not be identified on these tally sheets.

d. Judging decisions will be final. Ties will be re-judged.

e. There will be a minimum of three (3) judges for each category, and a given person may judge more than one category, if qualified. A total of five (5) judges is recommended. All judges at a National Show should have previous judging experience. The majority of judges at a Regional Show should have previous judging experience. At a National Show the judging panel should include at least one judge from each of the three NIA regions.

f. A person may not judge any category in which that person or a family member has an entry.

g. The Awards & Recognition Committee Chairperson (or in his/her absence an Awards & Recognition Committee Member) will act as the Judging Chairperson at the NIA National Convention. The

The judging Chairperson, with the cooperation of the Show Organizer(s), will determine who will be in attendance at the show, select the judges, supervise them, and tally the score sheets. The Judging Chairperson at the NIA National Convention is not allowed to enter a competitive exhibit.

h. Judges will be furnished standardized printed scoring sheets by the Judging Chairperson, and

1. Should consider each grading factor separately without regard to other factors, thus making a conscious effort to avoid a "halo" effect, or a tendency to give an exhibit high scores in "Showmanship" and/or "Education" because it is outstanding in "Rarity;" and

2. In an effort to make scoring meaningful, judges should consider starting their scoring with a presumptive number of points. For example, start in the middle of the point range and then mentally adjust their ratings downward or upward as appropriate.

i. Judging will be accomplished using the NIA's standard 100-point system. The average of all judges for any given category will be the final score. The standard NIA 100-point system is as follows:

#### NIA DISPLAY JUDGING RULES

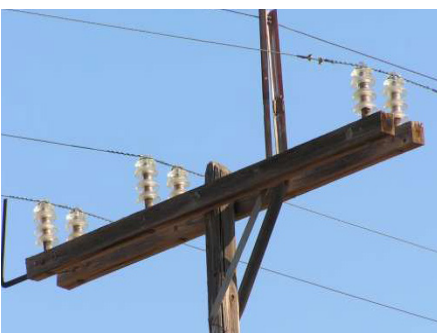
40 points – Showmanship		Points	
Presentation		10	Lighting, arrangement, eye catching
Originality		10	Uniqueness of display-fresh, creative
Public appeal		10	Attractiveness to new/non-collectors
Use of props & go-withs		5	Supporting materials to assist display
Exhibitor biography & explanation		5	Why I collect & significance of the display
35 points – Education			
History		10	When/who - research, timeline, people/company info
Information		10	What/how/why display items were used, methods
Good use of titles & labels		10	What are we looking at? Which item is rare/unusual?
Handouts		5	Long term education
25 points – Content – (Must be within display context)			
Display content		25	Rarity, variety, condition, &/or merit within category
Judge's Optional Bonus		+5	Awarded for exceptional merit in 1 above category

This has 10 divisions of 100 points +5 optional bonus points = 105 possible points

Adult displays minimum 65 points to win a category (or at discretion of A&R Chair)

Junior displays minimum 50 points to win a category (or at discretion of A&R Chair)

# Gone, But Not Forgotten





[illegible]