



# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

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## 2015 SIA FALL TOUR GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

**T**he 2015 SIA Fall Tour will be in Great Falls, Mont., Oct. 9-10, with an early bird tour to Helena on Oct. 8. Montana's second-largest city, Great Falls owes its prominence to a series of falls along the Missouri River that impeded Lewis & Clark's upstream expedition in 1805 and then, once the Great Northern RR reached the territory in the 1880s, became the power source on which boosters built their vision for an industrial future. The Fall Tour will visit a variety of operations that have developed around that industrial base.

The O'Hare Motor Inn in downtown Great Falls will serve as the conference hotel. The Great Falls airport is served by Alaska, Delta, United, and Allegiant airlines. Amtrak's Empire Builder crosses northern Montana but

does not serve Great Falls. The most convenient Amtrak stop will be Shelby.

During the 20th century, the Montana Power Co. developed five hydroelectric generating stations along the Great Falls of the Missouri River, one at Black Eagle Falls, right in the City of Great Falls, and four downstream. Participants of the Fall Tour will see two of them: Rainbow, built in 1910, and Ryan, built in 1915. Other tours planned for Great Falls include the Minuteman missile training simulator at Malmstrom Air Base, an airliner refurbishing company at the Great Falls Airport, and ADF, a fabricator of large steel structures.

Prior to the arrival of railroads to Montana, steamboat navigation on the Missouri River provided Montana Territory's main transportation link to states east of the

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Frederic Quintik, all photos

*Interior of the Rainbow Powerhouse. Each generator is driven by a pair of horizontal-shaft turbines.*

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- New SIA Tours and Events Coordinator Julie Blair
- Art of Engineering Exhibit—Roebling Museum
- Mercury and PCB Electrical Devices at IA Sites
- IA on the National Register

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## CALENDAR

### 2015

**Sept. 4–9:** Assn. for Industrial Archaeology Annual Conference, Brighton, England. Info: <http://industrial-archaeology.org>.

**Sept. 6–11:** 16th International TICCIH Congress, Lille, France. Info: [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org).

**Oct. 8–10:** SIA FALL TOUR, GREAT FALLS, MONT. See article in this issue. Info: [www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org).

**Oct. 8–11:** Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, N.M. Info: [www.historyoftechnology.org](http://www.historyoftechnology.org).

**Nov. 1–5:** Assn. for Preservation Technology International Annual Conference, Kansas City, Kan. Info: [www.apti.org](http://www.apti.org).

**Nov. 3–6:** National Preservation Conference, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Info: [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org).

**Nov. 4–8:** Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) Annual Conference, Santa Rosa, Calif. Info: [www.spoom.org](http://www.spoom.org).

### 2016

**Mar. 16–19:** National Council on Public History Annual Conference, Baltimore, Md. Joint meeting with the Society for History in the Federal Government. Info: [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

**Apr. 6–10:** Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Pasadena, Calif. Info: [www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org).

**May 25–29:** Railway & Locomotive Historical Society Annual Meeting, Moscow, Idaho. Info: [www.rlhs.org](http://www.rlhs.org).

**June 2–5:** SIA 45th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, KANSAS CITY, MO. Info: [www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org).

**June 11–14:** Mining History Assn. Annual Meeting, Virginia City and Gold Hill, Nev. Info: [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org).

**June 16–19:** 6th International Early Railways Conference, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, U.K. Info: [www.earlyrailways.org.uk](http://www.earlyrailways.org.uk).

**June 22–26:** Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Conference, Singapore. Info: [www.historyoftechnology.org](http://www.historyoftechnology.org). ■