

CONVENTION PORTLAND 2007

The PORTLAND 2007 convention is off to a great start. All those people who said that nobody would want to come to Portland, Oregon were wrong as we are finding just the opposite to be true. Those of us who live out in the Portland area knew that all along and we are really glad that others are proving us right.

We chose the first weekend in August as that is historically the best weather in the area. We expect temperatures to be in the upper 70s or low 80s, real shirtsleeve weather with low humidity and lots of sun. The nights will cool off to around 60 so you won't have to run a noisy air conditioner all night. You will not have to bundle up in the evenings but it's a good idea to bring a summer jacket if you plan to be outdoors very much.

Hopefully many will try to take advantage of the low hotel rates the Double Tree is offering, for 3 days before and after the convention, to visit some of the great attractions all within an hour's drive from Portland.

Whether you are interested in airplanes or not the drive to McMinnville, just one hour from downtown Portland, you will find the permanent home of the famous Howard Hughes flying boat commonly called the Spruce Goose. The Evergreen Aviation Museum exhibits 75 other historic airplanes including a 1903 Wright Flyer as well as an SR-71 "Blackbird". Hundreds of exhibits will fascinate you and the "Spruce Goose Café" is a great refueling stop.

If you choose to tour to the East of Portland you will find Mt. Hood and the beautiful Timberline Lodge. Hand crafted by WPA artisans, Timberline Lodge is an all-seasons reflection of Mt. Hood's Majesty. The peoples lodge was hewn by public workers into a monumental masterpiece and dedicated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on September 27, 1937. Today , a National Historic Landmark, Timberline is finished with museum quality original paintings, carved linoleum , mosaic glass, sculptured wood, stone and metal work. Year 'round, nearly two million visitors make this their mountain home away from home.

Just slightly over an hour's drive to the North is Mt. St. Helens the only active volcano in the lower 48 states. This one of the most popular tourist sites in the area and in the years since the eruption, that attracted worldwide attention, the area has been transformed into a tourist paradise, not with carnivals and glitter but with great natural beauty and all the convenience facilities anyone wants or needs.

If you choose to travel a little farther to the West you can see the famous Oregon Coast and wade in the great Pacific Ocean. Oregon boasts one of the most beautiful and rugged coastlines anywhere and there are many quaint towns to visit along the way. Come to PORTLAND 2007 and enjoy three days with the Four Freshmen then spend more time before and after enjoying this beautiful area.