

# A Visit to The WAAAM Museum in Hood River Oregon

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## INTRODUCTION

There are three aircraft museums within an hour's drive of the Portland area and a fourth a little further away to the west in Tillamook, Oregon. The museum to the north is Pearson Air Museum just across the river from Portland in Vancouver, WA. This museum features the World's first bomber and America's second oldest wooden hangar built in 1918. To the south is the famous Evergreen Aviation and Space museum in McMinnville, Oregon about an hour south of Portland. It has a number of interesting planes but is most famous for the Seaplane Hercules, AKA, The Spruce Goose. To the west at Tillamook is a large air museum with over 30 restored and preserved planes. The newest museum is to the east and is in Hood River, Oregon a nice drive of about an hour along the Columbia River Gorge. We were on a outing to see the water falls and then the "Fruit Loop" at Hood River and only learned about the car and plane museum as we drove into Hood River and saw a sign for the museum as we exited the freeway. We only had a little time to spend in the museum but for those interested in older civilian planes this museum is a real treat. They even had a number of RC planes on the floor around the museum which got special attention from me.

The museum is four years old and they believe in flying the planes and driving the cars they have so the best time to visit the museum is the second Saturday of every month when they bring out planes to fly and the cars to drive. Unfortunately, we were there on a Thursday, but we enjoyed our all to brief visit to the museum very much. Below are pictures of most of the approximately 75 antique aircraft at the museum. I hope you enjoy this picture tour of the aircraft, and a couple pictures of the cars, of the over one hundred at the museum. If you would like to see more I suggest you go to their website where they have videos and pictures at: [www.waaamuseum.org](http://www.waaamuseum.org)

To visit it in person it is three miles south of I-84 exit 62 in Hood River. Their address is: Ken Jernstedt Airfield 4S2, 1600 Air Museum Road, Hood River, Oregon 97031. They are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day of the year except: New Years Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. But as I mentioned above, the second Saturday of every month is the best day to visit. This is primarily a picture review and not a lot of written information. I have also put the pictures into slide show videos as well. So few the planes in still pictures or the video slide show. On the stills just double click to see the picture in a larger format. The quality of my pictures is not very good as the lighting in the museum didn't lend itself to picture taking. But to those interested in this era I hope to inspire you to visit this museum when you are in the Portland area. Make a week of it and see all four aircraft museums.


## FROM PORTLAND TO HOOD RIVER: THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

The drive alone is worth the trip. There are some spectacular waterfalls and the scenery is beautiful. The Fruit Loop at Hood River supplies a look at orchards, llamas, Fresh Pies, great fruit, cookies, mountains and even a train ride is available at Hood River. Here are a few pictures and a short slide show of our outing before the museum. There was sometime for every adult on the trip.





### Downloads

Type	Name	Size
	A short slide show of part of the Columbia River Gorge with short video clips of two waterfalls.	18.09 MB


## RC PLANES AT THE MUSEUM

The RC planes are spread around the museum for the most part on the floor between planes. I took pictures of most of the RC planes and they are displayed here. Now if I lived in or near Hood River and could store my RC planes in their museum ... I would take advantage of the space.





### Downloads

Type	Name	Size
	<a href="#">The RC Planes scattered around the museum</a>	10.19 MB

## THE CURTISS JENNY

They have a fully restored Curtiss Jenny and they have a video of it flying an historical reenactment of a flight from the roof of a hotel in downtown Portland to the airfield at the Pearson airfield museum in Vancouver, Washington. It was nice to see the plane and the video.

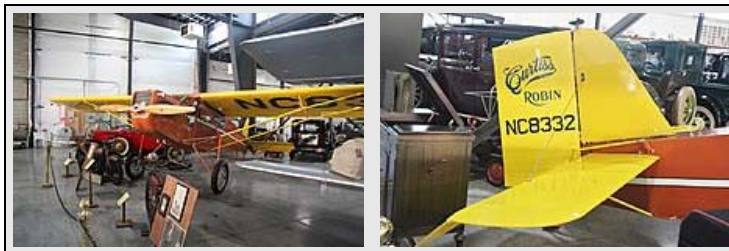


The fully restored Curtiss Jenny that flew from downtown Portland off of a hotel roof to Vancouver Washington.



Again we got to the museum late in the day and basically ran through it taking pictures. They had a nice staff to answer questions and who were understandably proud of their fine collection of planes. I have posted some of my best stills but there are more pictures in the slide show. I hope to go back on the second Saturday of a month and spend the day watching the planes fly. But for now here are some stills and a slide show.







### Downloads

Type	Name	Size
	<a href="#">The first of two video slide shows of the full size planes in the museum.</a>	18.34 MB
	<a href="#">The second video slide show of planes in the museum.</a>	21.10 MB

In addition to the planes they have a large collection of motorcycles and cars. Those however are for another day and another article, but when visiting the museum you will want to save time to see them as well. Here are three of my favorites.



### CONCLUSION

Discovering the museum was a complete surprise to us and we would have missed it completely but for the one sign we saw when exiting the freeway. Our visit was all to brief but at least I got to share a bit of what is there. A few days in Seattle at the Boeing Museum and then four days in driving distance of Portland would make a great week of aviation museums.