

# ATKRON TWELVE NEWSLETTER

## SQUADRON LINEAGE

1946 VBF-4  
1946 VF-2A  
1948 VF-12  
1955 VA-12

# VA-12

Published by the  
**VA-12 REUNION ASSOCIATION**  
See Contact Information on Page 8

ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT

**THE FLYING UBANGIS**

AT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.VA12.COM](http://WWW.VA12.COM)



## 2017 REUNION

Now that the 2017 Reunion has come and gone it is time to review and plan. Speaking for myself, I must commend Mr. John Larch for the exceptional experience our attendees enjoyed in Portland, OR.

Everything went very smoothly and I'm pretty sure everyone had a great time. I will let John detail the events as they transpired as he was the prime architect of the event. All I want to say is the Great Northwest is beautiful. So it is time to begin considering the 2019 reunion location. Those in attendance this year were the nominating committee. Of the 5 ideas floated, the top two are Myrtle Beach, SC and a 7-day Caribbean Cruise out of Port Canaveral, FL. The voting ballot is on our website, created in Survey Monkey. I am suggesting that only those likely to attend either location vote so as not to skew the results. Also, you need to be current with your dues to participate in selecting the location. If you vote and are not current I will let you know.

*Joe Kyle 66-68*

### TREASURY REPORT

Previous Balance	\$610.41
Dues & Reunion Sales	320.68
Acct Interest	26.65
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$957.74</b>
Stamps	18.41
Printing	104.66
<b>CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$123.07</b>
<b>NEW BALANCE</b>	<b>\$834.67</b>

### DUES

While many of you have opted to receive your Newsletters digitally via email, a few still prefer a hard copy to hold in their hands. I don't really blame you, because I feel the same. We are still accepting Dues from any and all, but the required amount for Hard Copy Newsletter is \$12 annually. Email copies are whatever you wish to contribute.

*Joe Kyle 66-68*

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### ON THE COVER

Mt. Hood is Oregon's tallest mountain at 11,250 ft. It sits about 50 miles east of Portland along the Columbia River Gorge. It is a prominent mountain in the northern part of the state and is climbable by around 10,000 mountaineering enthusiasts each year.

It is home to 12 named glaciers and many winter sport adventures including 6 different skiing areas, and the scenic Timberline Lodge.



### NEW MEMBERS

We have five new members:

**Gene Armstrong 57-62**  
**Mike Coleman 80-84**  
**Gregory Goater 71-73**  
**Danny Gregory 82-86**  
**Thomas Stodola 71-72**

## HOTEL AND ARRIVAL

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the VA-12 Flying Ubangis was held in Portland, Oregon in July 2017. Our base of operations was the Red Lion Hotel at Jantzen Beach. This hotel sits on the Columbia River in North Portland.

The activities officially commenced at 5 PM on Thursday July 20 and continued until Sunday evening July 23. Attendees arrived at staggered times as early as Monday July 17 all the way through Thursday afternoon. Most of the attendees flew into the airport and obtained rides to the hotel, or rented a car. One couple was on a long RV trip across the country and stayed in a nearby RV park.

On Tuesday, early arrival Ed Thomas and local Man-On-The-Ground John Larch met at the Red Lion and took off for a day-trip to Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood.

On Wednesday, Ed and more early arrivals Joe & Kathy Kyle and RVers Terry & Joan Nies braved what turned out to be heavy and slow Portland freeway traffic to venture south to John L's house near Salem for a dinner party.

We had the use of a meeting room in one wing of the hotel as our "Hospitality Suite" and spent parts of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon catching up on all the latest news.



## FRIDAY - EVERGREEN AVIATION MUSEUM

Friday we began the day by meeting up at the hotel lobby and packing ourselves into 3 vehicles for a trip to McMinnville Oregon. This was made possible mostly by George Hartlein who offered the use of his 15-passenger van, which 12-14 people boarded.

McMinnville is approximately 45 miles from our Red Lion hotel. About a third of this trip was on freeways and through busy urban and suburban areas and the traffic was heavy and slow, especially on the freeway. The remainder was through Oregon wine country and agricultural areas in the Northern Willamette Valley. We made it!

The Evergreen Aviation Museum houses a large collection of civilian, military, and space craft in an aviation museum building, a space museum building, and an iMax movie theatre. This includes the Spruce Goose aircraft built for Howard Hughes. Most of the Ubangis present went on a tour offered by staff at the Aviation Museum.

After attending an iMax movie, we toured the Space Museum. At one point or another, most everyone stopped at the café inside the Aviation Museum and had a bite of lunch.





**FRIDAY – ADELSHEIM VINEYARD**

At the Evergreen Aviation Museum, we loaded up into the three vehicles again and proceeded to back-track a short distance along the route we had taken earlier. This part of the Willamette Valley is very heavily concentrated with vineyards and wineries. We traveled to Adelsheim Vineyard & Winery near the town of Newberg.

The MOTG had arranged for a wine tasting party hosted by one of the winery staff. We were treated to a wine-tasting flight of 5 wines that portray their offerings. Snack boxes containing cheese, sausages, crackers and other treats were handed out. Several Ubangis decided to make a purchase. The designated drivers did not imbibe.

We returned to the Red Lion Hotel and arrived about 4:30 after another bout with heavy traffic in the Portland area.

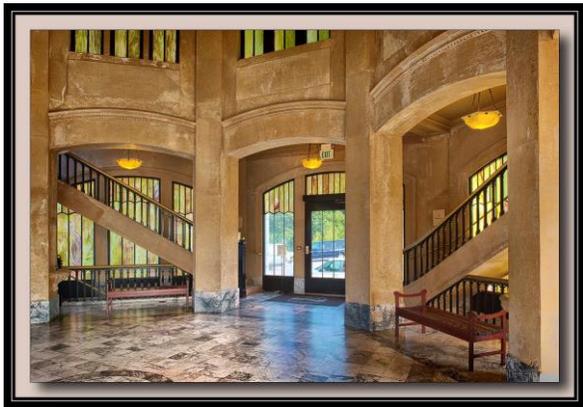


## SATURDAY – VISTA HOUSE

Saturday was a day packed with adventure. The MOTG had hired a bus to ferry us around on a trip that was originally supposed to be going about 75 miles out. Visiting popular attractions, with known terrible parking problems – especially on a warm Summer Saturday! All this was cured by hiring the bus and letting the driver worry about getting us all there without one carload of Ubangis or another getting lost. (The MOTG very nearly did the same thing for the Friday outing.)

Today's Adventure – drive into the Columbia River Gorge and enjoy some spectacular sights and natural wonders!

First Stop: Vista House at Crown Point. Crown Point is an area in the western end of the 80 mile long Gorge where most will take the first notice of it's nature – a deep and wide river channel cut into the rocky terrain. Vista House is a viewpoint cut into a giant rock where one can look east into the Gorge. It was a lovely day and the view was quite spectacular. The MOTG was telling some of the Ubangis that this view is of the start of the Gorge, and that it continues on for roughly 80 miles. We spent a little over an hour there, and then departed for our second destination.



**There's not enough room for all the pictures of our Reunion! More pictures of our Portland adventures will be included in the next Newsletter. Issue 17-1 due in spring 2018.**



## SATURDAY – MULTNOMAH FALLS

We left Vista House and after a slow, scenic drive through heavy traffic on a narrow highway built in the 1920's and 1930's we arrived at Multnomah Falls about 11:30.

This is the highest waterfall in Oregon and is a major tourist magnet. The water feeding from the Falls (and 10-12 other waterfalls in the same general area) comes from creeks and streams that originate in the foothills of Mt. Hood. We departed the bus and agreed to meet back at the entrance at 1:30 PM. We wandered around the grounds, the Lodge and viewpoints for the two different Falls there, and the pools at the base of each.

There is an extensive network of hiking trails which begin at the top of the Falls and wander off into the mountainous region there. A main trail from the Lodge leads up to this trail-start area. Part of the way up this main trail is a bridge over a rock formation near the base of the largest waterfall. Some of the Ubangi clan, with joints feeling fit enough for the climb, took the opportunity and hiked up the mail trail to the bridge for the spectacular view of the mail waterfall.

One of the group (Gerry Sunata) went past the bridge all the way to the top and the trail-start area.





### SATURDAY – LUNCH & BONNEVILLE DAM

We gathered back at the bus and left Multnomah Falls for lunch at a restaurant in the nearby town of Cascade Locks. The view from this restaurant is pure Columbia River Gorge and amazing in it's own way.

The MOTG decided that the last venue of the day was too far out to allow us to return in time for our banquet, so changed the plans and we returned westbound, to stop at the Bonneville Dam. This is one of many hydroelectric power generating dams on the Columbia River, and produces about 1,200 megawatts of electricity.

We spent roughly 90 minutes at the Visitor Center viewing the displays, fish ladders, and media presentations available.

We reassembled and rode the bus back to the Red Lion.



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