

ATKRON 12 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 INFO Page 4

ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT

THE FLYING UBANGIS

AT OUR WEBSITE WWW.VA12.COM



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NEW MEMBERS

We have two new members:

Larry J. Davis 65-68

Edward J. Bolt 61-63

2017 REUNION NOTES & INFO

2017 REUNION

Yes, the 2017 Reunion is happening, beginning July 20 at the Red Lion, Jantzen Beach in Portland, Oregon. Attached/enclosed you will find our registration form. We need all attendees to fill it out and mail it no later than May 1, 2017 along with a check for the appropriate items. The excursion costs are not included and attendees will pay for those events as we visit each. John Larch has invested many hours in planning our itinerary and I am sure that we are all in for exciting and memorable events.

Joe Kyle 66-68

TREASURY REPORT

Previous Balance	\$610.41
Dues & Reunion Sales	24.00
Acct Interest	2.09
SUB TOTAL	\$636.50
Stamps *	38.75
Printing *	130.45
CURRENT EXPENSES	\$169.20
NEW BALANCE	\$467.30

DUES

While many of you have opted to receive your Newsletter 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, but not required.

Joe Kyle 66-68

TRANSPORTATION NOTES

First, as the local man-on-the-ground, I held out that there was a distinct possibility the travellers could all get by without renting cars! If the Reunion group was large enough, I could arrange for motor coach transport to all of our venues and fun stops. But this has fizzled out and is not very likely now.

Second, the people who make financial decisions for the Red Lion Jantzen Beach have decided to stop the complimentary Airport Shuttle rides. They still offer shuttle rides to venues, sites, and attractions within a radius of the hotel, just not to and from the Airport.

This has been a highly disappointing and vexing development for me, on several fronts. How to get to the Hotel? How to get back to the Airport?

CAB RIDES

Most of the major taxicab companies are going to charge \$30-\$35 for a ride from the Airport to the Red Lion Jantzen Beach. This may be an option you would choose.

CAR RENTAL

Those who have already planned to rent a car, or now decide you'll have to rent a car after all – you have to pay attention to your travel dates.

Those on a 5-day adventure (travel on the 20th and return the 24th) have a 5-day car rental and there is a certain price to pay.

Strangely enough, it seems to be cheaper to rent a car for a week. The total bill is lower (!!! ???) than for a 5-day rental.

I am not sure if there is a charge or fee for an early return, as in the case where you rent the car for a week on the 20th and turn it in early, after 5 days, on the 24th. Find out in advance!

PLEASE NOTE!!! Oregon does not allow self-serve gasoline sales, you have to have an

attendant pump the juice and take payment. And the most typical gasoline brands out here are Union 76, Arco, Chevron/Texaco, Shell, and Exxon/Mobil.

MOTOR COACH RIDES

I was all set to arrange for charter coach rides to venues on Friday and Saturday but this is trending to the impractical side, as we see our potential group remain small.

Renting a nice charter coach for an 8-9 hour day does not come cheap and the most reasonable rate I have dug up sits at around \$900 per day. The economies of scale means that it costs less per rider, the more riders we have.

If we have 25 people, for 2 days at \$900, then $\$1800 / 25 = \72 each total. Not a bad figure, actually.

But since most of the travellers are likely renting cars anyway, the charter coach idea is thus an added expense that makes little sense.

WAGON TRAIN!

So, what do you say about a wagon train of cars? I plan on supplying good maps. And the Wagon Train idea works better if we team up and put 4 people in a car.

Fri. July 21 – A 45 mile drive to McMinnville, OR.

1. Evergreen Aviation Museum
2. Lunch in McMinnville
3. Visit a nearby winery in Dayton, OR

Sat. July 22 – A 60 mile drive into the Columbia Gorge

1. Visit Vista House
2. Visit Multnomah Falls
3. Lunch in Cascade Locks, OR
4. Visit Bonneville Dam

CREDIT CARDS

Take the time and effort in advance of travel to identify the cards you anticipate using, call the number on the back of every credit card, and have them add on a travel note to the card to prevent a suspension of the card. The representatives typically ask what area(s) you will be travelling to and in.

In years past, my wife and I have repeatedly been told, do not call for the travel advisory too early,

wait until a week or 10 days before departure date to call.

AIR TRAVEL

The longer you wait to book your tickets for a flight, two things will happen.

1. Your first flight choice is going to get filled up.
2. The price is going to rise rapidly as departure date nears.

When booking for a 1-stop flight, it is wise to ensure that the layover is at least 1 ½ to 2 hours. At a minimum!

This gives you time to absorb the most common flight delays, and time enough to walk the 4 miles from your arrival gate A5 to the new departure gate Z34. Arghhhh!

It is also unwise to purchase the ticket(s) and then just forget about the whole deal until the last minute. I have personally had 1-stop flight departures, arrivals, and layover times altered (SEVERELY altered, on more than one occasion...) by the airline. ***In some cases, they never told me about the changes***, and I only knew because I was periodically checking at the place where I bought the ticket.

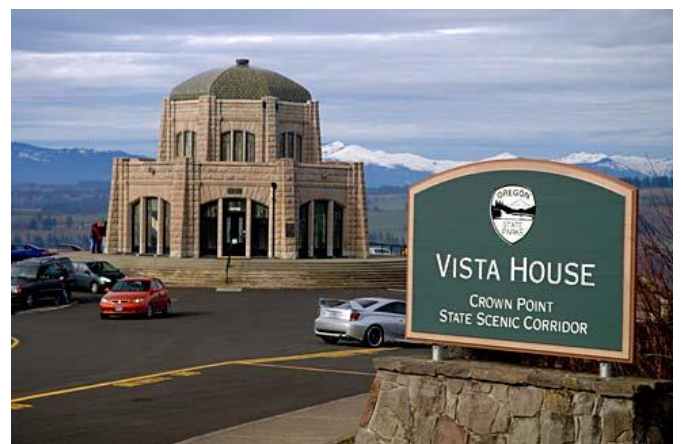
John Larch 76-79

ON THE COVER

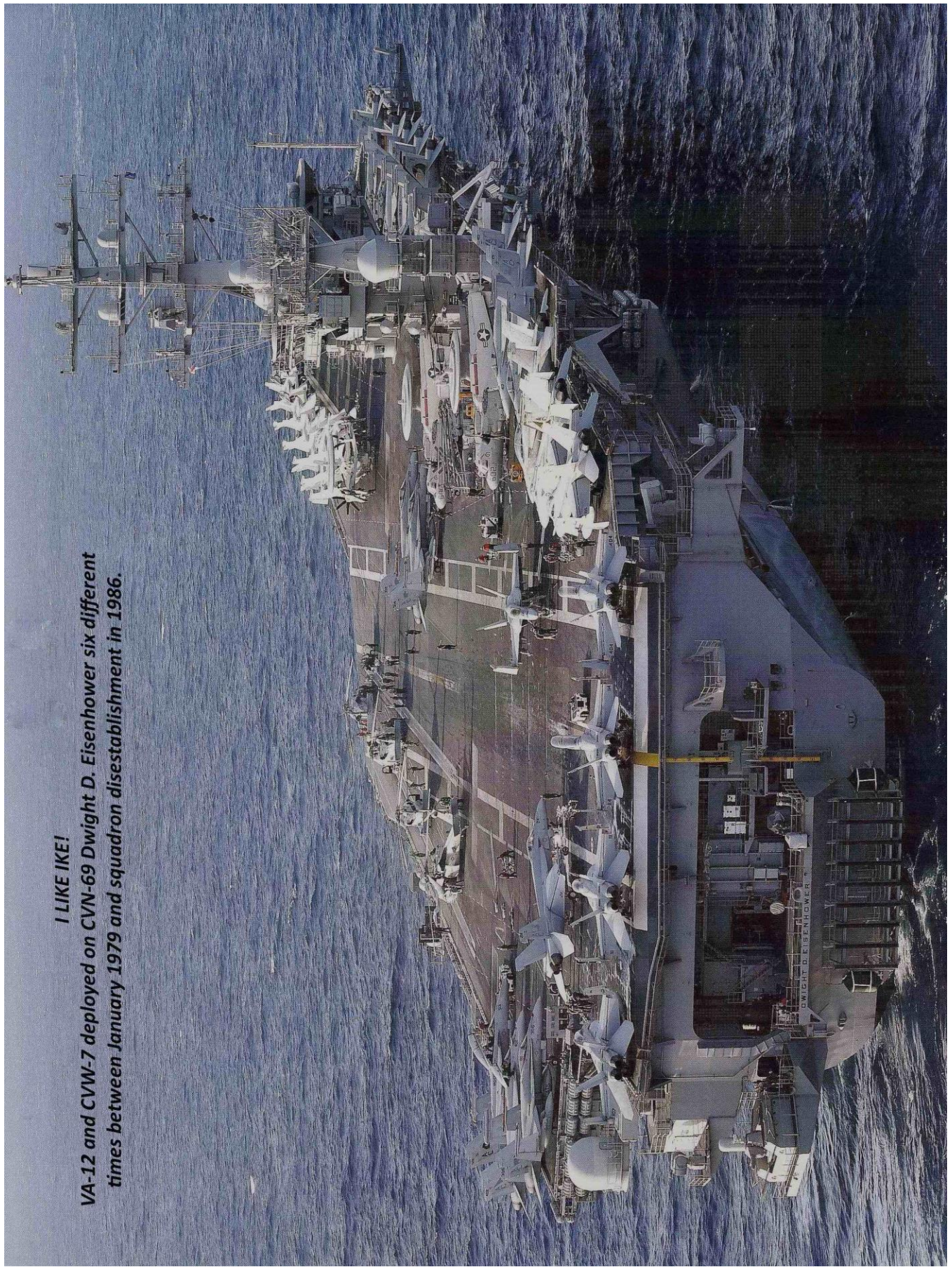
The Columbia River gorge is a canyon of the Columbia River that stretches more than 80 miles through the Cascade Mountain Range, forming a portion of the border between Oregon and Washington. It is up to 4,000 feet deep.

Situated at the western end of the Gorge in the outskirts of the Portland metropolitan area, Vista House is a small museum that was built in 1918.

The site offers an enthralling view of the Gorge scenery.



I LIKE IKE!
VA-12 and CVW-7 deployed on CVN-69 Dwight D. Eisenhower six different times between January 1979 and squadron disestablishment in 1986.



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