



# The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 4 Issue 2

Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com>.

Oct. Nov., Dec., 2011



**“Aerial Rocket Artillery”** ....when called on by those who were in danger, our units were there laying it on the line.

We were proud of our Aerial Rocket Artillery Team then and still proud of it now.

The Straphanger Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. Issues will be published on or about the 1st of January, April, July and October. Members who have e-mail will receive a copy as an pdf attachment



## President's Corner



Portland Nighttime Skyline

It seems that we just finished the 2011 Reunion in Charleston and now it's time to plan for our Reunion in Portland, OR. Herb and Cindy Hirst are the sponsors and have put together a great program. We are pleased to present this initial information.

## 15<sup>TH</sup> ARA Reunion in Portland, OR May 23 – 27, 2012

Please plan on joining us for the **AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION REUNION!** We have some great plans and hope to see you there.



Information for the reunion may be found on the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association web site ([www.araassociation.com](http://www.araassociation.com)). Additional information will also be published in subsequent editions of the Straphanger Gazette as it becomes available.

### **WHERE WE WILL BE STAYING**

Headquarters for the 2012 Reunion will be the Benson Hotel located at 309 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. A block of King Deluxe Rooms has been reserved for the Association and reservations should be made by calling the Benson Hotel direct at **503-228-2000/800-663-1144**. You must inform them that you are attending the **Aerial Rocket Artillery Association Reunion** to get the Association rate of \$119.00 + tax (12.5%). This rate is good for several days before and after if you wish to come early or extend your stay. On-line booking should not be attempted since there is no promotion code. You may access their website at [www.bensonhotel.com](http://www.bensonhotel.com) to view the hotel and its amenities.

**A word of caution to all** – This is a very popular area with lots going on and we are only guaranteed 30 rooms so you need to make reservations early to be assured of accommodations. Also, reservations made after April 23, 2012 will be at regular rack rates of \$148.00 nightly + tax and availability may be limited.

Some additional news about the booking. If we book 30 rooms for four nights (120 nights of booking) we will get four upgrades to Junior Suites at the Association rate of \$119.00 + tax. One Junior Suite will be reserved for the Reunion Host & Hostess and the remaining three will be allocated by random drawing to those members who have registered as of April 23, 2012.

The Hotels Presidential Suite will be our Hospitality Room. It is of special interest to note that every U.S. President since Taft that has visited Portland has stayed in this Suite. The Hospitality Room will be BYOB.

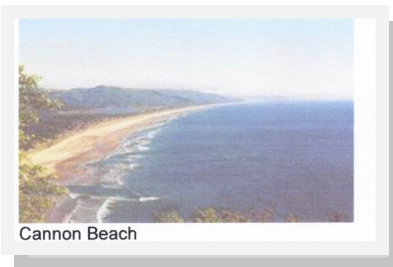
Also, if arriving by POV be aware that parking at the hotel will be \$24.00 nightly. This is a discounted rate for us.

## WHAT WE WILL BE DOING

We will have lots to do or you can do as little as you want. You can take in all of the scheduled activities or you can make your own schedule. If you like you can just hang out with friends and catch up on what's been happening in the last year.

**DAY 1** – Wednesday, May 23 is check in, get briefed, meet old friends, have dinner on your own at the hotel or at any of the fines restaurants in the local area. You may also get in an evening tour or activity if you want to or just hang out in the hotel lounge or the ARA Hospitality Suite.

**DAY 2** – Thursday, May 24 begins with breakfast on your own followed by the North Oregon Coast Tour. The bus will leave the hotel at 9:00 a.m. and returns at 6:00 p.m. **Cost is \$52.00 per person and includes box lunch with drink.** You will fall in love with the beautiful, breathtaking Oregon Coast. From the hotel the one and a half



Cannon Beach

hour drive to Cannon Beach is through Oregon's Coastal Mountain Range. Cannon Beach offers seven miles of wide walkable beach. The beauty of sea stacks offshore and headlands onshore make your stroll down the sand particularly memorable. Take pictures of Haystack Rock, which at 235 feet high, is the third largest monolith in the world. Or stroll through the village shops in Cannon Beach enjoying the eclectic tastes of the local artisans. Get back on the bus for the most breathtaking sights along the beautiful Oregon Coast. There will be several stops along the way for photo opportunities. Next stop is the

Tillamook Cheese Factory. This co-op of local dairy farmers has been providing cheese products nationwide for 100 years. See the actual cheese making process and enjoy some of the dairies famous



Tillamook Cheese Factory

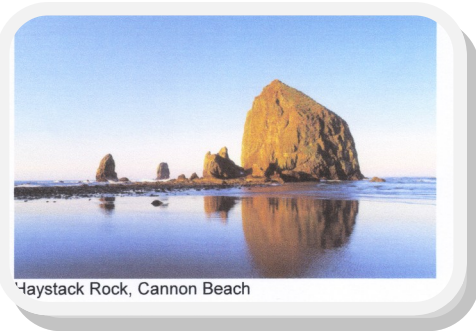
Tillamook Ice Cream.

The final stop (time permitting) will be at the Tillamook Forest Visitors Center before returning oto Portland.

This will be a narrated tour with a professional tour guide on a restroom equipped Motor Coach.

For those who wish to remain in the Portland area there is a multitude of activities. You may tour the Portland Waterways on the "Portland Spirit" ([www.portlandspirit.com](http://www.portlandspirit.com)), visit the Oregon History Museum ([www.ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org)), the Portland Art Museum ([www.portlandartmuseum.org](http://www.portlandartmuseum.org)), the Portland Japanese Garden

([www.japanesegarden.com](http://www.japanesegarden.com)), the Lan Su Chinese Garden ([www.lansugarden.org](http://www.lansugarden.org)), the Grotto ([www.thegrotto.org](http://www.thegrotto.org)),



Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach



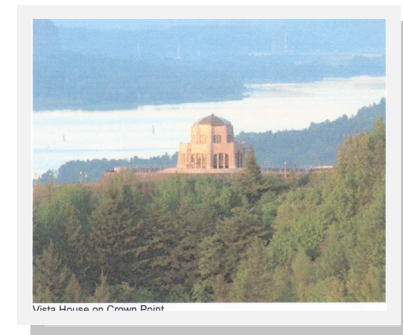
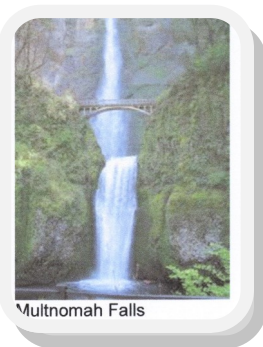
or any of many other fascinating destinations. For more information on things to see and do visit [www.traveloregon.com](http://www.traveloregon.com).

After an active day of touring and sightseeing, have dinner at the Benson or one of the many fine dining establishments in the local area. For more information go to [www.travelportland.com](http://www.travelportland.com).

Finish the day with friends in the hotel lounge or the ARA Hospitality Suite.

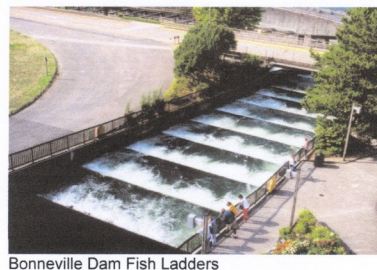
**Day 3** – Friday, May 25 will begin with breakfast on your own followed by the Scenic Tour of the Columbia River Gorge. The bus departs at 9:00 a.m. **Cost is \$48.00 per person and includes lunch.**

This full day tour begins with the mouth of the Columbia River Gorge (Oregon side), an 80 mile geologic wonder that forms the border between Northern Oregon and Southern Washington. Glacial floods thousands of years ago carved this 1200 mile long river with cliffs rising as high as 4000 feet. The gorge acts as a funnel for North America's fourth largest river, the Columbia, whose tributaries include the mighty Snake River. The river's canyon-like walls create ideal wind conditions for wind surfing and sailing. First stop is Crown Point for a breathtaking view of the Gorge both east and west. Visit Vista House, built from 1916 to 1918 as a memorial to Oregon Pioneers, and providing a comfort station for those traveling on the Historic Columbia River Highway, and serving as an observatory. The tour continues along the Historic Highway where you can see Latoune Falls, Shepard Dell Falls, Horsetail Falls, and stopping at the nationally famous Multnomah Falls, the second highest waterfall in the U.S. where we have lunch at the Multnomah Falls Lodge ([www.multnomahfallsloodge.com](http://www.multnomahfallsloodge.com)). After lunch we will travel on to the Bonneville Dam to check out the fish ladders and Fish Hatchery, which is home to Herman, the 70 year old, 11 foot long, 500 pound sturgeon before returning to Portland at/about 3:00p.m.



This will be a narrated tour with a professional tour guide on a restroom-equipped Motor Coach.

For those who choose to remain in the Portland area you may take advantage of the previous day's offerings listed above or you may elect to depart the area for other attractions. Suggestions are the tour of the Columbia River Gorge on board the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler ([www.portlandspirit.com](http://www.portlandspirit.com)), a visit to Mount St. Helens ([www.visitmthelens.com](http://www.visitmthelens.com)), or to the Sea Lions Cave ([www.sealioncaves.com](http://www.sealioncaves.com)). For more information on things to see and do visit [www.traveloregon.com](http://www.traveloregon.com) or [www.goseeoregon.com](http://www.goseeoregon.com).



Once again, after an active day of touring and sightseeing have dinner at the Benson or one of the many fine dining in the local area. For more information go to [www.travelportland.com](http://www.travelportland.com).

Finish the day with friends in the hotel lounge or the ARA Hospitality Suite.

**Day 4** – Saturday, May 26 is breakfast on your own.

The Board of Directors will meet from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. is set aside for the Association Business Meeting in the hotel conference room.

The Ladies activity for the day will begin at 10:00 a.m. Join Cindy Hirst for a short (and free) MAX light rail ride to Portland's Saturday Market. Enjoy a distinctive experience at the nation's largest open-air arts and crafts market. Stroll down row upon row of unique creations made by the people who sell them and enjoy live music and international snacks. Then gather for lunch at a place (to be determined) where the Ladies can convene their own meeting and learn more about each other. The only cost will be the price of the meal which will be determined when the restaurant is chosen. Return to the hotel at/about 3:00 p.m.



The final activity for the day will be the Farewell Dinner in the hotel banquet room from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

There will be a social hour with appetizers and cash bar.

### APPETIZERS FOR SOCIAL HOUR

Imported and Domestic Cheese Including:

Brie, Saint Andre, Port Salut, Oregon Bleu, Boursin Herb, Havarti  
Tillamook Cheddar, Swiss and Pepper Jack with Oregon Dried Figs  
and Hazelnuts served with Sliced Baguette

## THE BROADWAY BUFFETT

Corn Chowder

Fresh Baby Field Greens with Cucumber Dill Dressing  
Apple Jicama Salad with tequila Lime Vinaigrette  
Endive Spears with Creamy Gorgonzola and Roasted Pecans  
Fresh Melon Skewers with Mint and Basil Vinaigrette

Carved New York Striploin with Green peppercorn Au Jus  
Carved Roasted Turkey Breast with Cranberry Relish  
Oregon Hazelnut Crusted Sole

Soufflé Potatoes  
Braised Carrots and Fennel

Rustic and French Dinner Rolls with Creamery Butter

### DESSERT BUFFET

An Assortment of Fruit Tarts, Mousse, Cheesecake, Classic Petit Fours,  
Traditional Tiramisu, Crème Brule, Chocolate Pastries,  
Chocolate Dipped Strawberries

All Dinner Buffets are accompanied with Fresh Brewed Gaffe Appassionato Coffee and Tazo Tea Selection

**Cost for meal is \$55.00 per person.**

**Guest Speaker – To Be Announced**

After dinner meet with friends in the hotel lounge or the ARA Hospitality Suite.

**Day 5** – Sunday, May 27 is final breakfast and departure from the Portland area.

Jesse Hobby

ARA 6

## WINGS

**Once the wings go on, they never come off whether they can be seen or not.**

**It fuses to the soul through adversity, fear and adrenaline and no one who has ever worn them with pride, integrity and guts can ever sleep through the `call of the wild` that wafts through bedroom windows in the deep of the night.**

**When a good pilot leaves the `job' and retires, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder.**

**We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.**

**We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.**

**We know in the world of flying, there is a fellowship which lasts long after the flight suits are hung up in the back of the closet.**

**We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life.**

**We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.**

**Because we fly, we envy no man on earth.**

**-Author Unknown Contributed by Rodger McAlister-Immediate Past President**

## ARA PORTLAND RENDEZVOUS

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ARA REUNION, PORTLAND, OR May 23 – 27, 2012

### Reunion Registration Form

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN NLT APRIL 24, 2012

<b>INFORMATION</b>	
Name/Membership #	
Wife/Guest Name(s)	
Additional Guests	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone #/Email	
Special Assistance?	

<b>Please list name(s) as you would like for them to appear on NAME TAG(S)</b>	<b>Where From</b>
Member	
Spouse/Guest	
Unit(s)	
Dates	

<b>REGISTRATION/EVENT FEES</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b># IN PARTY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Registration Fee	\$30.00	Per Adult Member (over 15)		
Oregon Coast Tour	\$52.00	Includes box lunch w/ drink		
Columbia River Gorge Tour	\$48.00	Includes lunch		
Farewell Banquet	\$55.00			
<b>Total for Reunion</b>				

What day will you be arriving? \_\_\_\_\_ Departing? \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact host if you are bringing children under age 15 so that we can get number and ages and coordinate with caterer for the cost of their meals. Can be paid at time of check in.

Contact information for host: Herb Hirst ([hirst@g.com](mailto:hirst@g.com)). Telephone # 503-647-4600

Mail completed form and check payable to **ARA ASSOCIATION** to:

ARA ASSOCIATION  
c/o Larry Mobley  
779 County Road 106  
Ozark, AL 36360



## AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

### Membership Application

This form may be used for Applying for New Membership or for Renewing Existing Membership. Please circle that which is appropriate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
(At time of service in ARA)

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(If known)

Retired Rank (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

#### List all ARA Units that you served in.

<u>Battery/Battalion</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or PO Box

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work (if okay) Cell

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Association membership is on an annual basis (unless member opts for life membership) running from January 1 to December 31 and is past due on January 31.**

Annual dues are **\$25.00** regardless of when submitting.

Life membership (if paid in full) is **\$250.00**. Life membership may also be paid in **\$50.00** installments on a quarterly basis until paid in full.

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Please indicate in remarks section of check whether this is Initial Membership, Membership Renewal, Life Membership in full, Life Membership payment #.

Mail completed application to: Aerial Rocket Artillery Association  
C/O Larry Mobley  
779 County Road 106  
Ozark, AL 36360

**For Office Use Only**  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Check Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_

Web address – [www.araassociation.com](http://www.araassociation.com)