

Grand Extravaganza Saturday, June 18 Columbia River Gorge, Hood River and Mt. Hood

You have worked hard all week. You are tired of hotel carpet and chandeliers; you did not get to see much of Oregon.....

We want you to experience each city and its environs. We don't want you to leave feeling you have not seen some of the best of Oregon. So, part of the scouting trip for the each meeting is finding an excursion that is beautiful, historical, relaxing or active for those tired of sitting. Remember these photos were taken in late November, so imagine it in June.

Not everyone goes, but those who do discover that the networking continues after the formal closure of the meeting. Projects are initiated with people on the bus. This year Al Salas and I consulted our local hosts, especially Ed Keenan, rented a car and set out on our own to see what we thought you would like to do.

This is what we wanted and Stacia Gueriguian at AAMC laboriously negotiated planned it. Here is the itinerary and list of activities.

Dressing casually and warmly, in layers, we board the bus at 12:30 in front of the hotel. This is not a direct or express bus. This is a 46-passenger bus, the maximum size that can go on the scenic, old Columbia River Gorge highway stopping at the Vista House View Point. We have a guide on each bus and distribute boxed lunches.



We continue on to the Lodge at Multnomah or sit outside the lodge and have coffee while enjoying the scenery.



. We spend an hour at Multnomah Falls so you can hike to the top of the falls, go part way, or experiment with your digital camera,



We then continue up the Columbia River and weather and wind permitting we will stop at the Hood River Visitor Center and watch the windsurfers. If there is no wind and no surfers we will alternatively visit the Columbia River Interpretive Center pertaining to the history and exploration by Lewis and Clark on the 200th anniversary of their historic trek to the west.

We continue through the fruit orchards of the Hood River Valley around the east side of Mount Hood on Highway 35 and climb to 6000 feet and the historic Timberline Lodge.



In this year of low snow we should be able to walk without snow. Photographers should be thrilled with the views. Those wishing to visit the lodge can take a tour of the historic lodge with its art, handicraft, masonry and CCC dating back to the CCC days.



We have reserved the day lodge at the Ski Resort where we look south along the Cascade Mountain Range from the deck trying to ignore the clear cut logging scars in the distance. Happy Hour will begin at 6:15 pm and dinner (an outdoor BBQ) will begin at 7:00 pm.



You won't want to miss the Alpine glow on Mount Hood seen from the lodge as we linger in the twilight almost on midsummer's eve.



The buses will return to the Doubletree in Portland after the dinner has concluded. It is about a 1.5 hr drive and we estimate you will arrive between 10:30 and 11:00 p.m. We strongly suggest you DO NOT have an early morning flight on Sunday!

Sign up for the Grand Extravaganza when you register. Remember space is limited and it will sell out. Cost: **\$80.00 per person (Limited to 92 participants)**. This fee covers transportation, guides, boxed lunch, reception and dinner.