

## RAILS TO ROCKETS

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Here's an update on the Fall 2008 Southwest Section Conference, September 26-28, 2008, in Ogden, Utah.

Plans are moving rapidly forward and we are succeeding in bringing you a great conference at a reasonable price. Our main goal was to make this as cost effective as possible so it will be an option for FWP's, academics, and families as well as those loyal members who always attend, while still including many unique activities for everyone. Please try to plan on arriving on Thursday night as Friday will include several wonderful activities. Most attractions are within walking distance of our host Marriott Hotel (\$89/night).

**Friday** We will be enjoying the lovely Fall weather and foliage by taking a bus ride from Ogden to Snowbasin Ski Resort, site of many events during the 2002 Olympics. This is a Sun Valley Resort and is very luxurious with incredible views. We will be having a brunch buffet in their main lodge (the marble & gold bathrooms are a must see!), followed by an enclosed roundtrip gondola ride to the top of the main mountain and Needles Lodge, and plenty of time to shop the fantastic gift shop for those upcoming Christmas presents! This ride is handicapped accessible but those that have breathing issues might want to stay at the main lodge as Needles is approximately 8000' high. We are still negotiating some prices but this will be \$50/person or under for the 4 hour event. We will return about 3pm for meetings which will also allow attendees to wander 25<sup>th</sup> Street, a wonderfully eclectic collection of art galleries, antique shops, restaurants, and clubs. Our welcoming reception (\$25) will be in the historic Union Pacific Railroad terminal lobby with a great catered dinner and pay-as-you-go bar. This is a five minute walk from the hotel but transportation for those who need it will also be provided. There will also be time to stroll back down 25<sup>th</sup> Street or sample any of the clubs or breweries located in the two blocks.

**Saturday** We will begin with a full breakfast buffet followed by the business meeting. 49 ½'s and guests will be taken on a tour of 25<sup>th</sup> Street including breakfast and will have a chance to visit all 4 museums in the Union Pacific Station complex (Browning Cars, Browning Arms, Gem & Mineral, Train) and a very large craft fair that will be underway this weekend at the Station. The Farmers Market and Art Show is also an outdoor affair located all down 25<sup>th</sup> Street with live music, produce, food booths, and artisans until noon. Lunch will be on your own and we will then assemble for a bus tour (\$20) to the new Adams Aviation Plant located at Ogden Airport and the Hill AFB Museum. These locations blend the new and the old aviation activities in the Ogden area and our museum has been sited as the best west of Dayton. It includes a wonderful display to Women in the Military and the WASPS including our charter member, Alberta Nicholson, who is also the only female member of the Utah Aviation Hall of Fame which is located at the museum. A wonderful interactive education room allows you to fly F-16 and T-37 simulators as well as several computer simulator programs and has aviation activities for infants through adults. This is one of the few museums located adjacent to an active Air Force Base which supports two Fighter Wings in F-16's, B-2 bombers, A-10's, and F-22 Raptors, so enjoy the Jet Noise Sound of Freedom. Adams Aircraft has chosen Ogden Airport as their manufacturing site for the new VLJ and has built a beautiful new facility on the airport. They are located in the Ogden Gateway Complex which also houses Rickenbacher's Bistro and Dolittle's Deli, two wonderful and tasty additions for aviation nuts. We will hold seminars throughout the day, as well as the Silent Auction and FlyMart. The new Junction Center, a block from the hotel, includes a Megaplex Theater, FatCats entertainment arcade, I FLY indoor skydiving, and a state of the art Children's Museum.

Our banquet will be held in the Marriott Ballroom that evening and will hopefully include a speaker on the future of aviation. ATK Thiokol is located just north of Ogden and has been developing and manufacturing parts for the Space Shuttle since the start of the program, Northrup Grumman is located just south of Hill AFB, and our new Aerospace and Science Elementary charter school, Odyssey, is training the minds of the future.

Salt Lake City is the nearest commercial airport and shuttle transportation is available as well as all rental companies. Our new Frontrunner commuter train will be operational by then but may not include a connection to the airport. It will be available for those who want to whisk off to Salt Lake City (\$10 roundtrip) for a tour and shopping. Ogden Airport is one of the best kept secrets and we invite anyone to fly-in and enjoy the hospitality of Cornerstone Aviation, which is a flight school operated by our own, Susan Horstman. An operational control tower, ILS, and VOR approach and three converging runways give you lots of opportunities and assistance. Free transportation will be available from Ogden to the hotel (5 miles) but Budget is also located on the airport.

For more info, please go to [www.envisionogden.com](http://www.envisionogden.com) to see the sites. 25<sup>th</sup> Street is the Historic Business District. Please plan to make this a family event. Rates will extend for 3 days before to 3 after at the Marriott. We hope you'll put us on your calendar for Fall 2008 and we promise you'll be given a true Western welcome and a trip to remember.

Utah Chapter of the Ninety-Nines