A WIDE SELECTION OF TOURS

Computer History Museum

Ames Research Center

Hiller Aviation Museum

Royal Coach Transportation

San Francisco

Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards
One of the three sites visited was the Exploration Center. The facility provides a place where visitors can experience NASA technology and missions first hand. Among the exhibits on display were a one-tenth scale interactive model of the Mars rovers, a Mercury capsule flown as the last unmanned test flight before Alan Shepard’s flight aboard Friendship 7, a moon rock and many exhibits of past and current Ames research.
The NASA Advanced Supercomputing Facility (NAS) provides simulation capabilities for all of NASA and many other leading-edge US scientific endeavors. The NAS has several computers, the most advanced being Columbia which ranks among the world’s most powerful. In the Fall of 2004 Columbia was rated at 51.9 teraflops. (One teraflop is \(10^{12}\) calculations per second). Columbia was used extensively in the Space Shuttle return to flight effort following the Space Shuttle Columbia loss in flight on February 1, 2003. More recently, it has been used to predict paths and strengths of several recent hurricanes. Of course, it also is used routinely for aerodynamic simulations. The NAS facility has over 400 terabytes of online storage and many graphics devices used to display calculated results.
“Future Flight Central” is the world’s first full-scale virtual control tower. The facility provides a way to test potential solutions to air and ground traffic problems at commercial airports. Projection screens provide a seamless 360 degree high-resolution view of an airport from the perspective of the control tower. It can simulate the realistic movement of up to 200 aircraft and ground vehicles at any one time. Airlines and airport managers use the facility regularly.

Views of several other facilities are also shown on this page.
NACA Ames retiree George Cooper and his extended family have 28 acres of vineyards on a 120-acre estate that has been in the family for over 100 years. They produce 6 kinds of wine, three of which have received many gold, silver and bronze awards. Their historic tasting room and store was originally built about 75 years ago to store dried prunes and apricots. Each of the about 150 attendees who took part in this tour received an inscribed wine glass identical to those used for the Banquet. Several persons purchased some of the wines to have sent home. The Garrod family also manages an excellent equestrian facility on the property with 200 head of horses and staff to manage them.
COOPER-GARROD ESTATE VINEYARDS

Discussing the Vineyards

Soon to be Chardonnay

We Hope Doris Cooper Isn’t Saying She Forgot the Formula

Fermenting Tanks

Barrel Room (Note dark hands - Bill Cooper has been Into the Grapes)
COOPER-GARROD ESTATE VINEYARDS

Tasting on the Patio

Proprietor George Cooper and Dick Kurkowski

Light Snacks With the Wine

Pouring is Jack Franklin - A Prized Committee Assignment

Don’t Forget the Horses
The all-day San Francisco tour started and ended at the hotel in sunny San Jose. On San Francisco, however, fog obscured some of the more distant views, particularly near the bay. Nevertheless, the group enjoyed visiting Golden Gate Park, the downtown area around City Hall, Union Square, the Presidio, the Embarcadero, and Twin Peaks. Of course, the tour did make the trip across the Golden Gate Bridge and stopped at a vista point on the edge of Sausalito. A two-hour lunch stop was made at Pier 39 next to Ferry terminals and Fisherman’s Wharf.
The Hiller Aviation Museum was founded by Stanley Hiller, Jr. in 1998 and is located at the San Carlos airport, a few miles south of San Francisco. In addition to restoration shops, museum store and theaters, it has a 27,000 square foot main gallery for full scale aircraft and an 8,000 square foot atrium for display of small aircraft and scale models. Some of the exhibits include the 1869 Aviator, Curtis Jenny, XH-44 helicopter, Boeing Condor, 747 cockpit, Boeing SST mock-up, AD-1 sub-scale oblique-wing flight demonstrator, and an early spy plane. Many attendees on the tour could easily have spent more time than was available pouring over the exhibits and “reliving” the early days of aviation.
HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

Cockpit Mockup

Wright Brothers Wind Tunnel Model

Hovercraft Display

An Attentive Audience

The Macon Was Stationed at Moffett
The Computer History Museum is the world’s largest and most significant history museum for preserving and presenting the computing revolution and its impact on the human experience.

The museum’s current collection contains more than 4,000 artifacts, 10,000 images, 4,000 linear feet of catalogued documentation, and gigabytes of historic software. Its initial west coast location was established in 2000 at Moffett Field where it remained until being moved to its current location in 2002. Two weeks after our Reunion the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledged a $15 million gift to the museum’s fund-raising campaign, bringing the total of money raised to over $73 million toward its $125 million goal.
COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

Control Data Corporation 6600

Detailed Explanation

Fun to Watch the Dials Spin

Part of ILLIAC IV Computer, Once at Ames