

Sept. 17-20, 2008 Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands and the Nemaocolin Woodland Resort

Well, I have made an "executive decision". I have decided **not** to make the 600 mile trip with my motor home from Jamestown, NY back to Seymour Airpark in TN. There I would have to pick up my car for a 400 mile tow return to Pennsylvania to begin my Fall inspection program for clients in that state and adjacent West Virginia. This decision will save me 4 days of unproductive driving and well over \$500 in fuel costs. The downside is that I will now have to find a way to fit all of these projects in and around my travels with **both** my bus and trailer. Thursday was a good example of what I have in store over the next 3 weeks. I arrived in the Uniontown, PA. area for one of my sawmill clients. This is a typical small city with a compact downtown mix of offices and homes. Its main claim to fame is that it was the hometown of [George C. Marshall](#), the Army's 5 Star General, who became its Chief of Staff, and designer of "The Marshall Plan", which gave both economic and military assistance to our WWII allies.

The mill is actually located in the adjacent suburb of Hopwood, and it was a large enough complex to allow me to bring my 65 foot long train onto their grounds. After I completed my day's work I proceeded with my drive up Route 40, the old historic [National Road](#). This was the first "national" roadway established and funded by the US Congress back in 1806. It ran for 600 miles from Cambridge, MD almost to St. Louis, MO. On my bus travel of this road, it quickly begins a climb from the 1,000 foot elevation of Hopwood, to almost 2,500 feet as it passes through the small town of Summit, whose primary building [The Summit Inn](#) is a beautiful resort and spa complex. As I began my decent on the other side of the summit, I passed through [Fort Necessity](#), which was a major stopover point for the Conestoga wagons that originally hauled freight over this route, and which played a major role in the French and Indian wars during the mid 1700's. Just up the road from Fort Necessity is [Benner's Meadow Run](#) campground that I stay at when I work in this area. However, before I checked in, I drove the additional mile to the upscale [Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort](#) and its interesting 4,000 foot long private airport. I had cleared my arrival in advance, and received permission to bring my trailer and plane onto their ramp. The thing that makes this particular runway so interesting is that it is located less than 200 feet from the resort's large 5 story hotel. In fact, on lift off to the West, you can be eyeball to eyeball with guests sitting out on their room's balcony's.

This luxurious resort has absolutely every amenity that you can think of for their guests. Whether it is golfing, tennis, skeet shooting, flying fishing, hunting, swimming, or attending conferences and holding meetings, this is truly a 5 star resort. And the buzz is that a gambling casino is going to be added soon. Its upscale restaurants provide gourmet style cuisine and you will never lack for something to do. For me it was a early evening flight over the area just before sunset. The air was still, the winds calm and the visibility 10 miles, plus. I flew over the adjacent 3,000 foot rolling hills... which by the standards that I became used to with the 12,000 foot mountains of the far West, these were relatively sublime. Known as the [Laurel Highlands](#), there are numerous State Parks, national Forests and other public lands offering hiking, camping, canoe and kayaking, horseback riding, four wheeling and almost every other kind of outdoor activity that you may want to indulge in.



Aerial view of downtown Uniontown, PA



This is the sawmill that I worked at for 2 days



The Summit Inn at the top of the mountain road



The Nemaocolin resort's runway is adjacent to the complex's grand hotel and its golf course

On this page are some of the sights that I was able to enjoy during my 4 days in the Highlands. After work each day I would take the plane up for a 30 to 45 minute flight of the area to wind down and relax. I even got to fly over a Civil War fire fight re-enactment and saw the muzzle flashes and puffs of smoke from the soldiers muskets. On Saturday I spent the entire day traveling on my motor scooter to enjoy some of the local sights from ground level. If I had any regrets about this stopover, it would be that because I am one month earlier than usual, the trees had not yet begun to turn color. When I am here during my normal mid-October time frame the hills are alive with fall foliage and it would have been great to have been able to do some flying over those beautiful gold, orange and red colored hardwoods. Oh well, maybe when I get into West Virginia.



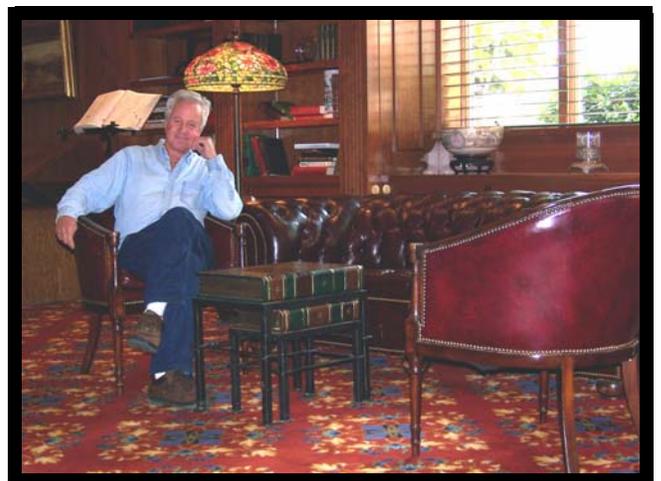
The golf course at Nemaquin is world class



Here we are looking down into the main plaza



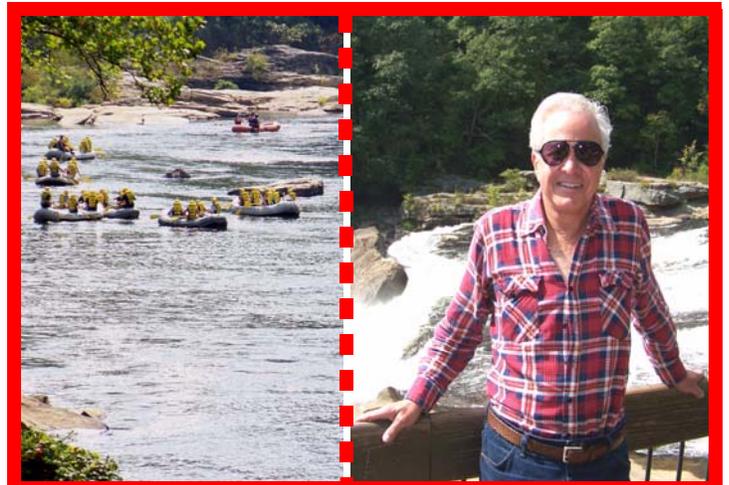
Strolling the grounds in front of that main plaza



Relaxing in the Hotel's library after lunch



My National Park Service tour of Fort Necessity included inside of the Mount Washington Tavern



The Ohiopyle river is known for its white water rafting and competition kayak racing over the falls. Only the rafting was going on during my Saturday visit.