

A red biplane with white wings and a white star on the fuselage is flying over a forested landscape. The aircraft is a vintage model, likely a Stearman, with a high-wing configuration and a tailwheel landing gear. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a clear sky.

# RETURN TO HOOD RIVER

THE WAAAM FLY-IN IS DEVELOPING INTO AMERICA'S TOP VINTAGE AIRCRAFT GATHERING  
BY ROGER CAIN

**T**he Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM) has one of the largest collections of flying vintage aircraft and drivable automobiles on the West Coast. Located a few miles south of the town of Hood River, Oregon, the Ken Jernstedt Airfield (named after the Flying Tiger ace) has a 3040-foot paved runway that can handle everything up to small business jets,

with a shorter grass runway on the median next to it. The weekend following Labor Day in September is always their annual fundraiser and fly-in, with no shortage of aircraft flying in from around the northwest part of the USA, and a few Canadian aircraft too.

The smoke from the forest fires in the Northwest has haunted the show a bit in the past but was pretty

minimal for the 2025 event and didn't stop aircraft from flying in, often following the Columbia River that separates Washington and Oregon. With around 250 aircraft in attendance over the weekend, space was a little tight on the grass parking areas as WAAAM had an extension (one acre of land)

Grand Champion winner Summer Martell waving goodbye as she departs in her 1931 Aircraft Builders Corp. Student Prince.