## SIA Fall Tour, Great Falls, Montana, Oct. 8 - 11, 2015

This year's Society for Industrial Archeology Fall Tour will explore historic and active manufacturing and engineering sites in and around Great Falls, Montana. Process tours include hydroelectric generating stations, a structural-steel fabricator, a regional airliner reconditioner, and a Minuteman missile training facility. Historic sites include the Fort Benton Bridge (1889), the reconstructed Fort Benton, and the Montana State Agricultural Museum. An early-bird tour on Thursday, October 8, will travel to Montana's capital city, Helena, to tour a cement plant, a plant that makes metal-oxide chemicals, and the Western Clay Manufacturing ruins (featured in *IA*, Vol 37, nos. 1 & 2).

Located along the Missouri River, Great Falls is Montana's second-largest city. It derives its name from a major series of waterfalls along the river that presented one of the major barriers to the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1805 and then served as the basis for Paris Gibson's hope that the falls' waterpower potential would provide the foundation for the frontier city of Great Falls becoming the "Minneapolis of the West." Although the semi-aridity of the surrounding Great Plains prevented Great Falls from achieving Minneapolis' population, Great Falls did attract important smelters, flour mills, and other industrial operations.

# Schedule at-a-glance:

Thursday, October 8, Early-Bird Tour of Helena

- Ash Grove Cement
- American Chemet
- Western Clay Manufacturing Company/Archie Bray Foundation
- Tour of Reeder's Alley and Last Chance Gulch
- Opening Reception at Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls

#### Friday, October 9

- Rainbow Falls hydroelectric facility
- ADF steel fabricators
- Giant Springs Fish Hatchery
- Avmax airliner refurbishing
- Malmstrom Air Force Base, Minuteman missile training simulator
- Dinner on your own

### Saturday, October 10

- Big Stone Hutterite Colony
- Montana State Agricultural Museum in Fort Benton
- Reconstructed Fort Benton (early nineteenth-century trading post)
- Grand Union Hotel and lunch on the Fort Benton Bridge
- Tour and banquet at Ryan Dam hydroelectric facility

### Sunday, October 11

- Optional walking tour of downtown Great Falls
- Visits on your own to Charlie Russell Museum or other sites

## **SIA 2014 FALL TOUR SITES**

## Thursday, October 8 – Early-Bird Tour

**Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center** – On a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, the Interpretive Center exhibit hall conveys aspects of the expedition President Thomas Jefferson sent across the continent in 1805 to explore the Louisiana Purchase, which the United States had recently acquired from France. Administered by the U.S. Forest Service, the center includes a focus on the challenges Lewis & Clark faced portaging around the Great Falls of the Missouri.

**Ash Grove Cement, Montana City** – Headquartered in Kansas, Ash Grove Cement Company has cement plants in eight states, including the one we'll visit outside Helena.

American Chemet, East Helena – Established in 1946, American Chemet manufactures metals-based chemicals. Next to the former site of Asarco's East Helena lead smelter, it uses waste materials to derive its feedstock. Products include zinc oxide (its original product), cuprous oxide, and cupric oxide.

Western Clay Manufacturing Company/Archie Bray Foundation, Helena – The Archie Bray Foundation is a world-renowned ceramic-arts institution established by Archie Bray, who owned and managed Western Clay, a brick and tile works started by his father at the turn of the twentieth century. Now an industrial ruin, Western Clay and the Bray were featured in an article in the Montana theme issue of *IA*.

**Reeder's Alley and Last Chance Gulch, Helena** – Helena was originally a gold-rush boom town. Reeder's Alley is a collection of small houses that survive from the gold-rush era along Last Chance Gulch, Helena's Main Street.

### Friday, October 9 – Great Falls



Rainbow Falls Hydroelectric Plant – Rainbow Falls dam and power plant began operation in 1910, providing electrical power to the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's mines at Butte and smelter at Anaconda, which the company was rapidly electrifying. The original powerhouse features eight horizontal turbine-generator units, which operated until last year, when the owner built a new power house with a single vertical turbine-generator unit that has a higher generating capacity. We'll tour both powerhouses.

**ADF Steel Fabricators** – ADF International, Inc., part of the ADF Group, a Canadian company based in Quebec, has U.S. facilities in Miami, Florida, and Great Falls. ADF specializes in the design, engineering, and fabrication of large steel superstructures for transportation and non-residential construction. Its Great Falls facility serves western Canada and western and southwestern United States.

**Giant Springs/Fish Hatchery/Montana Smelter Ruins** – Giant Springs is a natural spring next to the Missouri River that constantly feeds 144 million gallons/day into the river.

**Malmstrom Air Force Base** – Malmstrom AFB is the home of the 341<sup>st</sup> Missile Wing. Established during World War II as a training facility for bomber crews, the base transitioned to the Strategic Air Command during the Cold War. With the development of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles in the 1950s, the Air Force chose Montana for an array of Minuteman missile silos, and Malmstrom was designated as the command base. Our tour will include a replica of a Minuteman silo that is used as a training facility.

**AvMax Montana, Inc.** – In 2006, a Canadian avionics company, the Avmax Group, opened a facility at the Great Falls Airport to perform heavy maintenance and paint refurbishing on turbo prop and regional jet airliners. Some of the airplanes are reconditioned for private owners, but many are for Russian, African, and South American airlines. Avmax occupies two hangars built for the U.S. Air National Guard during the World War II era.

## Saturday, October 10 - Great Falls and Fort Benton

**Big Stone Colony, Ulm** – Hutterites are a Christian religious sect derived from the Reformation in Europe and who live in significant numbers in rural areas of Montana, South Dakota, and Alberta, Canada. Like the Amish and Mennonites, they are part of the Anabaptist tradition and wear simple clothing. Unlike the Amish and the Mennonites, however, they live in colonies rather than on single-family farms, and distinct from the Amish and some Mennonites, they do not eschew electricity, internal-combustion engines, or other modern farm technologies.

Historic Old Fort Benton – The American Fur Company established Fort Benton in 1846 with a few log buildings. In 1848, the company began rebuilding some structures with adobe brick. The fort was abandoned in 1881; by 1900 only one of its adobe corner bastions survived. The Daughters of the American Revolution began preserving the bastion in 1908. In recent years, the River & Plains Society has reconstructed the Trade Store, Warehouse, Blacksmith and Carpenter's Shop, the "Sally Port" Gate, the compound walls, and the Agents Quarters/Bourgeois House as a heritage complex interpreting the Blackfeet Indians and the Fur Trade era.

Museum of the Northern Great Plains, Fort Benton – Montana has designated this The State of Montana's Museum of Agriculture. It features exhibits depicting the Homestead Era and the developments of dry-land farming, an impressive collection of farm implements, and a Homestead Village. The museum also includes the Smithsonian's Hornaday Bison, a once iconic display at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. The six mounts were restored before they were put back on display at the Fort Benton museum in 1996.



Fort Benton Bridge – In 1888, the Benton Bridge Company contracted with the Milwaukee Bridge and Iron Works to construct what would be the first bridge in Montana to cross the Missouri River. It originally had a swing span, because the Corps of Engineers considered the Missouri River navigable. The swing span was destroyed by flood and replaced in 1908. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic in 1963, and restored in the 1980s as a pedestrian bridge as part of Fort Benton's riverside attractions. Weather permitting, we will have lunch on the bridge.

Ryan Hydroelectric Plant – Ryan Dam and power plant went into operation in 1915, built by the Montana Power Company in order to provide electrical power to the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's mines at Butte, the smelter at Anaconda, and the recently electrified Butte, Anaconda & Pacific Railroad. Unlike Rainbow, this power house features vertical turbine-generator units. Remotely located, the facility included a nearby "camp" of houses for operators and their families. The camp also features a community center, where we'll have our Saturday night banquet following a tour of the plant.

## Sunday, October 11 - Optional Walking Tour of Great Falls

**Getting to Great Falls:** (see www. genuinemontana.com) Great Falls is Montana's second largest city and is located along Interstate 15 near the geographical center of the state. Great Falls International Airport is served by Delta, United, Alaska, and Allegiant airlines. The nearest Amtrak service is to Shelby by means of the Empire Builder, which runs daily trains in each direction, linking Chicago and Seattle/Portland. Members contemplating the beautiful Amtrak trip across the High Plains should be aware the west-bound trains often run late because of the high volume of railroad traffic through Williston, which is at the heart of North Dakota's Bakken oil field.

**Conference Inn:** (www.ohairemotorinn.com) The O'Haire Motor Inn (406-454-2141), conference inn for the 2015 Fall Tour, was built in 1962. Located on the edge of the downtown business district, it is a classic motor inn from the era of muscle cars and station wagons, when Americans were developing new accommodations to the post-war mobility made possible by inexpensive gasoline and improved highway systems. One of its features is the upstairs Sip 'n Dip Lounge, which features live mermaids swimming in a glass-sided pool behind the bar. The Sip n' Dip also features Piano Pat Spoonheim performing Wednesdays through Fridays.

Alternative lodging will be available at the Econo Lodge Ponderosa (formerly the Quality Inn) 406-761-3410 in downtown Great Falls, about four blocks from the O'Haire. Another option is the La Quinta Motel (406-761-2600), near downtown and the river, about eleven blocks from the O'Haire.

Registration and Additional Information: Participation in the tours will require walking over surfaces that may be uneven and/or slippery, and climbing steps. You may be required to wear protective equipment including safety glasses, ear plugs, and hard hats. All needed safety equipment will be provided. Tour attire must include long trousers, sleeved shirts and fully enclosed, conventional heeled shoes. We appreciate the willingness of the businesses we visit to permit and facilitate our visit. We expect all tour registrants to remain with the group and to follow all directions regarding visit expectations. Tour sites may change without notification depending on changes in tour site availability or other factors. See the web site for the latest details

Online registration begins on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, at www.sia-web.org. The site will contain links to additional information about the tour, tour sites, and other area sites of interest. There is a \$40 late registration fee for registrations made on or after Tuesday, September 8. Registration for housing (see Conference Inn above) and transportation to and from Great Falls (See Getting to Great Falls) is on your own.

**Registrants must be current members of the SIA.** If you have not renewed for 2015, you can do so on the enclosed registration form or online at www.sia-web.org.

Capacity is limited for some tours. Register online for the most up-to-date information on availability.

# SIA 2015 Great Falls, Montana Fall Tour Mail-in Registration

Name	·	Item	QTY	Cost	TOTAL
		Fall Tour		@\$250	
		Registration		each	
Affiliation (for name badge)		Optional		@50	
		Thursday tour		each	
		Optional		@15	
		Sunday tour		each	
Joint Name		Late Fee After		@40	
		9/7/2015		each	
		EVENT SUBTOTAL			
Address					
City	State/Province	SIA MEMBERSHIP DUES  Renewal or New Member ONLY if you have not paid your 2015 dues. International members (excluding Canada) require an additional \$10 mailing fee.			
Postal Code	Country				
Cell Phone	Other Phone	Individual Member	ship	\$50	
		Joint Membership		\$55	
		Upgrade to Joint Membership \$ 5			
Email		International Mailing Fee \$10			
		MEMBERSHIP SUBTOTAL			
I do NOT wish to share contact info with other attendees.					
☐ I require special meals (spec	ify):				
		TOTAL AMOU	NT EN	CLOSED	

Registrants must be current members of the SIA.

Registration fees include one day of tours on Friday, one day of tours on Saturday, two breakfasts, two lunches, and two evening meals.

Student registration with documentation of full-time student status is \$150 for the Fall Tour. **Students must register online**. Documentation of full-time student status must be provided.

Capacity for the Fall Tour is limited to 100, including a maximum of 10 students. The optional Thursday tour is limited to 50 registrants, Sunday's to 30 registrants.

If you have questions about the Fall Tour, call Julie 906-487-1889 or email sia@siahq.org.

