

is with the Everett Youth Hockey Booster Club which helps enhance hockey programs for youth in the Greater Snohomish area. We love the name of the divisions; mites, squirts, and peewees. Finally we saw the Snohomish County Sports Hall of Fame on the concourse. One of the higher profile players held in high esteem is Earl Averill who is known as The Earl of Snohomish. An elite baseball player that is also in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown. Others honored from Snohomish County are Rosalynn Summer (won silver medal in figure skating- not hockey), and three of University of Washington coaches. There are many more.

After the game it was time to head for home with plans to return the next day. However the thought of staying overnight seemed very appealing. We wished we had made arrangements at The Inn at Port Gardner, a short five minute drive, located on the waterfront. However, we will need to do that next time since our cat was home and waiting for her dinner.

After Missy, our cat, was fed, we went back the next day to Everett to visit the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour, located at the Boeing Everett Plant. From the very entrance, the Center is filled with exhibits and displays that teach about the history and technology of commercial flight. Numerous aircraft are suspended from the ceiling showing how they would have looked in flight. Videos and mockups took us through the progression of Boeing aircraft to the jet age. From the famed 707 all the way up to the state of the art 787. We were able to compare the differences between the fuselages of the 707 to the sleek and super smooth 787. From sheet metal, rivets and welds to carbon fiber, the changes are amazing to see and feel. Feel like taking the controls? Then climb into the full size cockpit of a 727 triple engine aircraft. The controls and switches function and you quickly gain admiration for the men and women who pilot us across the country and around the world.

The next stop was the tour of the Everett Plant where 747, 767, 777 and 787 aircraft are assembled. This is the largest building in the world (as measured by volume). How large? This building is so large that before adequate air circulation systems were installed it would actually cloud up and rain inside. We were lucky since it did not rain inside or outside.

This 90-minute tour shows the assembly of these huge aircraft including a drive by the flightline where the completed aircraft are waiting for test flights. The walking tour covers about a third of a mile. For anyone who flies, this is a fascinating look behind the scenes showing the care and effort built into all the Boeing aircraft flying today. We are sure William Boeing who started the first Boeing airline plant in Seattle in 1910 would be impressed with the progress that his airplane company has made.



Boeing 777 Assembly Line / Future of Flight



Boeing Dreamliner Assembly Plant / Future of Flight

We really enjoyed the tour and it was time to have a snack before our evening plans to see a play at The Village Theatre so we retreated back to downtown to check out one of the brew pubs for the happy hour snacks. Burgers and beers hit the spot. Two days of arts, food and entertainment in the winter made Everett a great winter vacation retreat. We look forward to visiting Everett again (and maybe enjoy some summer boat rides).

—Article contributed by Michael and Elizabeth Fagin

WHERE TO GO

Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour
8415 Paine Field Blvd • Mukilteo, WA 98275
888-467-4777 • www.futureofflight.org