

Trail Advocates

of the Clackamas River Ranger District of the Mount Hood National Forest

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west coast flight 956 ???

Topic: west coast flight 956 ???

Author: sean

Topic Started: 9/22/2009; 9:09:42 AM

Last Posted: 9/23/2009; 7:55:44 AM

west coast flight 956 ???

sean : 9/22/2009; 8:09:42 AM

Reads: 101, Responses: 9 ([view responses to this item](#))

anybody else ever been out to the wreckage of west coast flight 956 that crashed october 1st 1966 me, my father and best friend went up to it this sunday we started from the gravel pit at wildcat "douglas trail" and it is a amazing sight to see the remains of a dc-9 it is a disaster just wondering if anybody knew anything about it or if anybody else has been the the crash site 18 people lost there lives in the wreck.

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Re: west coast flight 956 ???

Rob Williams : 9/22/2009; 7:37:01 PM

Reads: 67, Responses: 5 ([view responses to this item](#))

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[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Trail Index](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[Hikes](#)

Discussion

[Chronological](#)

[By Topic](#)

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That would be an interesting sight for sure. How far a hike was it from the gravel pit?

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Re: west coast flight 956 ???

Dan Butler : 9/23/2009; 6:19:23 AM

Reads: 68, Responses: 1 ([view responses to this item](#))

Yes, I've been there twice.

The reason for the crash of this virtually brand new aircraft was never explained other than the fact that they were obviously below where they should have been on their approach to PDX. The NTSB report was a mere 21 pages. The flight crew was experienced- in fact, the Capt was getting a check ride with another senior pilot.

Although the plane was destroyed by the impact and resulting fire, a lot remains; ie, landing gear, engine parts, restroom sink. Some pieces of the fuselage still have West Coast's colors of blue, black and white.

A sobering place to visit.

Dan

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Re: west coast flight 956 ???**Robert Kosciak** : 9/23/2009; 6:39:47 AMReads: 69, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

That is freaky. Would be interesting to visit, in a morbid way. Surprised they left that stuff out there. How do you get there?

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: west coast flight 956 ???****sean** : 9/23/2009; 6:55:44 AMReads: 69, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

google earth has the location marked but it is off its actually a visible bald spot on google earth i can email my google earth file if someone wants it just let me know its a fun hike definitely worth exploring

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: west coast flight 956 ???****sean** : 9/23/2009; 8:32:28 AMReads: 67, Responses: 4 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

its a little bit past coffman camp real close to the salmon mountain trail junction is what i did i went a little bit past the junction on plaza trail then i went straight up and over the ridge and walked right ontop of the wreckage sight also if u look real close you will see a peice of wreckage someone put on the plaza trail if u go straight up and over from there u will come right ontop of it

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Re: west coast flight 956 ???**Dan Butler** : 9/23/2009; 9:37:33 AMReads: 65, Responses: 3 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Taking the Salmon Mt. trail accomplishes the same thing. Once atop the 1st steep pitch there is a narrow 'campsite' atop the ridge. Leave the trail there an head roughly S. down into the drainage- the clearing will be visible shortly.

I literally stumbled upon the site after finding a piece of damaged instrument panel in the brush. It made no sense being there. I was well aware of the crash and remembered when it happened but always assumed it was further out on the end of the ridge. Curious, I started exploring and was quite shocked to actually find the site. It was a strange feeling walking through there alone on an ominously quiet, grey day. I always figured it was kind of a memorial of sorts to the folks who died there so I've never posted anything about it. But you say it's on GoogleEarth?

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: west coast flight 956 ???****sean** : 9/23/2009; 11:27:14 AMReads: 57, Responses: 2 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

yes it is on google earth been on there for over a year if u look it links the wikipedia article on it but like i said the location is not right they show it further down to the left of the drainage

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Re: west coast flight 956 ???**Donovan** : 9/23/2009; 6:14:05 PMReads: 37, Responses: 1 ([↩ view responses to this item](#))

What do you say we let Google Earth keep it's mistake and we respect the deaths of these unfortunate people by leaving it alone.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: west coast flight 956 ???****Robert Koscik** : 9/24/2009; 5:35:22 AMReads: 27, Responses: 0 ([↩ view responses to this item](#))

I agree. It is part of the history of the district, although it's difficult to find the same joy in such a tragedy. I'd rather find beautiful old trails and think about handlebar mustaches and crosscut saws.

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