



Vanguard Eagle

San Diego Chapter AA TWA U-S AIR November 2017

Annual Membership Donation (per single or couple - includes newsletter subscription) ----- \$ 20.00

Please submit membership donations to Kay Bays, Vanguard Treasurer, 5038 September Street, SD, CA 92110

---The October 3rd Vanguard Meeting---

Walli Stebel was our member speaker at the October 3rd Vanguard Meeting. She gave us a recap of her recent cruise, which she and Ralph Butlin took along with Bob and Irene Garrett and Bill and Gerry Sherlock. We had a smaller attendance than usual as Irene went to her doctor and Bill Sherlock, was not able to attend due to a broken rib which was the result of another fall.

Walli told us that the cruise she and Ralph took started in Boston, where she learned about the Boston Tea Party of Dec 16, 1773. The celebrants of the party were a group of Massachusetts colonists called the Sons of Liberty who were led by Samuel Adams, and who had disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians. They boarded three British tea ships and dumped 342 cases of tea into Boston Harbor in protest of the tax the English Parliament had levied on the Tea. The purpose was to protest "No taxation without representation" The British East India company losing about \$ 18,000 appealed to parliament which then passed the intolerable acts, and that legislation brought armed revolution much closer to reality.

The cruise later went on to Canada where Walli told us a story about Halifax. In the Fairview Cemetery in Halifax there is a burial site for the Titanic victims. A family named Paulson was lost due to the sinking. The family had a little 2 year old and a 2 year old was buried it close to them. Later someone whose family also lost a 2year old had the Paulson 2 year old body exhumed to be checked and it turned out it was not the Paulson baby but was theirs. The memorial stone that was there was left standing but a new memorial was added in the cemetery with a picture of the baby along with the new family name. The cruise went further into Canada and Walli told us that she was really impressed with the city of Quebec, which was loaded with 1st class stores. The Ladies did a lot of shopping while their menfolk drank various adult beverages. We had 15 members in attendance and none of them had an October birthday. Mary Price, who again attended our meeting, was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing.

We had an offer for our members from Verne Wochnik, a Docent at the Air and Space museum, to attend a speech by retired Air Force General Bob Cardenas on Monday, October 16 at 9 am, at the upstairs boardroom of the Air and Space Museum. The presentation would be free to our members. Verne also offered to be a guest speaker at our meeting in case we could not find another speaker. He is familiar with a lot of aviation history and aircraft developments.

---The Guest Speaker for November 7---

The guest speaker for our November meeting is scheduled to be Paul Greenwood, Senior Abuse Prosecuting Attorney of the San Diego District Attorney office. Paul's presentations have always been very interesting and informative, so plan on attending.

---The Traditional Non-Rev Seat on almost-full Flights--- (Good News)

If you have traveled non-rev over your AA career you know that almost full flights usually assign you to the middle of three seats on either side of the aircraft. But now there is some good news for you. The company is now charging an extra few dollars for aisle or window seat reservations. This has resulted in some good fortune for non-rev travelers. It seems that there are now more aisle and window seats available to non-rev standbys because the revenue passengers want to avoid paying the extra amount to get an aisle or window seat. This has been a good experience for me on my most recent stand-by flights, as I got to sit in the aisle seat on a very full flight.



---Vanguard Beach Clean-up---

If you have always wanted to be a beach-comber and look for interesting items on the beach, then join us for our monthly beach clean up. Here is a chance for you to soak up a little sunshine and leave the beach a better place than you found it. We cordially invite you to the November beach clean-up. It will be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month, November 21st, at Ventura Cove. A mystery chef will provide the entree. We meet at 10 a.m. You will need to bring with you gloves and a plastic bag or bucket for trash plus a plate and silverware and a beverage of your choice. Bring your favorite treat and join us for Lunch. See you there. We also recommend getting a Pick-up Stick to avoid bending excessively while cleaning the beach. Call Irene Garrett to make sure the clean-up is still a go.

---Dec 5th Vanguard Christmas Party---

Yes, Christmas is just around the corner and the Vanguard Christmas party will be held Tuesday, 5 December 2017. Please Keep that date in mind and mark it on your appointment calendar. We will again be holding the party at the Holiday Inn Bayside at 4875 North Harbor Drive (not at the Embarcadero) Be sure to send in your reservation form, which is on page 3 of this newsletter. Include a check for \$ 32.00 dollars made out to **San Diego Vanguards**. Send your reservation form and check to **Kay Bays, Vanguard Treasurer, 5038 September Street, San Diego, CA. 92110**. We were told there is a parking fee in the hotel lot of \$ 5.00, payable on departure. Last year the hotel stamped papers and did not collect the \$ 5 dollar fee, but have it handy just in case. You can also park free on the neighborhood streets near the Holiday Inn and walk to the hotel. Please don't procrastinate. We would like to get some early reservations to project the number who will be coming for the Christmas party.

---Signing into the Retiree Website---

Most of you are familiar with the Retiree website sign in page at the left. It seems to require more effort to complete than the old window, but it asks for the same input: your Employee number and your password. If you forget the website, just put the following entry into your browser:

retirees.aa.com

I have found that the above entry typed into your browser will get you into the log-in page. So give it a try.

AA VANGUARD CHRISTMAS PARTY INVITATION

For Vanguard members, their family and friends, and active AA employees

Date: Tuesday, December 5th, 2017

Time: 11:00 a.m. Cocktails/Social
Noon: Luncheon

Location: Holiday Inn Bayside (NOT at the Embarcadero)

Address: 4875 North Harbor Drive (at Nimitz Boulevard) 619-224-3621

Room: Harborview Room – 5th floor of Back Tower

Menu Choices: Includes salad, rolls, potatoes/rice, fresh seasonal vegetables,
Kahlua Nut Crunch Cake plus coffee or tea.
* Macadamia Nut Chicken
* Halibut

Gift Exchange: “Give-A-Gift, Get-A-Gift” (wrapped gift)

Price: \$32.00 (includes tax & tip)

Parking: \$5.00 in Hotel Parking Lot – paid on departure

--- **ADVANCE PAYMENT ONLY - SUBMIT WITH FORM BELOW** ---

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Vanguards Christmas Party Reservation Form **December 5, 2017**

Check payable to: “San Diego Vanguards” \$32.00 per person
Mail to treasurer: Kay Bays, 5038 September Street, San Diego, CA 92110

Name/s: _____
Print

Telephone: _____

<u>Menu Selections:</u>	<u>Number</u>
Macadamia Nut Chicken	_____
Halibut	_____

Happy Birthday Vanguards



Vanguard Birthdays for November

Nov 4 - **Dorothy C. Lunt,
Joseph Rodriguez**

Nov 6 - **Eleanore Kusiak,
Peter Rizzo**

Nov 7 - **Eleanor Trolinger**

Nov 14 - **Fred Hefty**

Nov 16 - **Bob Smith**

Nov 17 - **Bill Sherlock**

Nov 20 - **James Scorey**

Nov 21 - **Joseph Ritacco**

Nov 22 - **Barbara Moore**

Nov 23 - **Melville Kling,**

Nov 25 - **Jim Annunziata**

Nov 26 - **Laurie Crowder**

Nov 28 - **Alice Stewart**

Nov 29 - **Mary Davis**

Nov 30 - **Jan Novak, Grace Parrish**



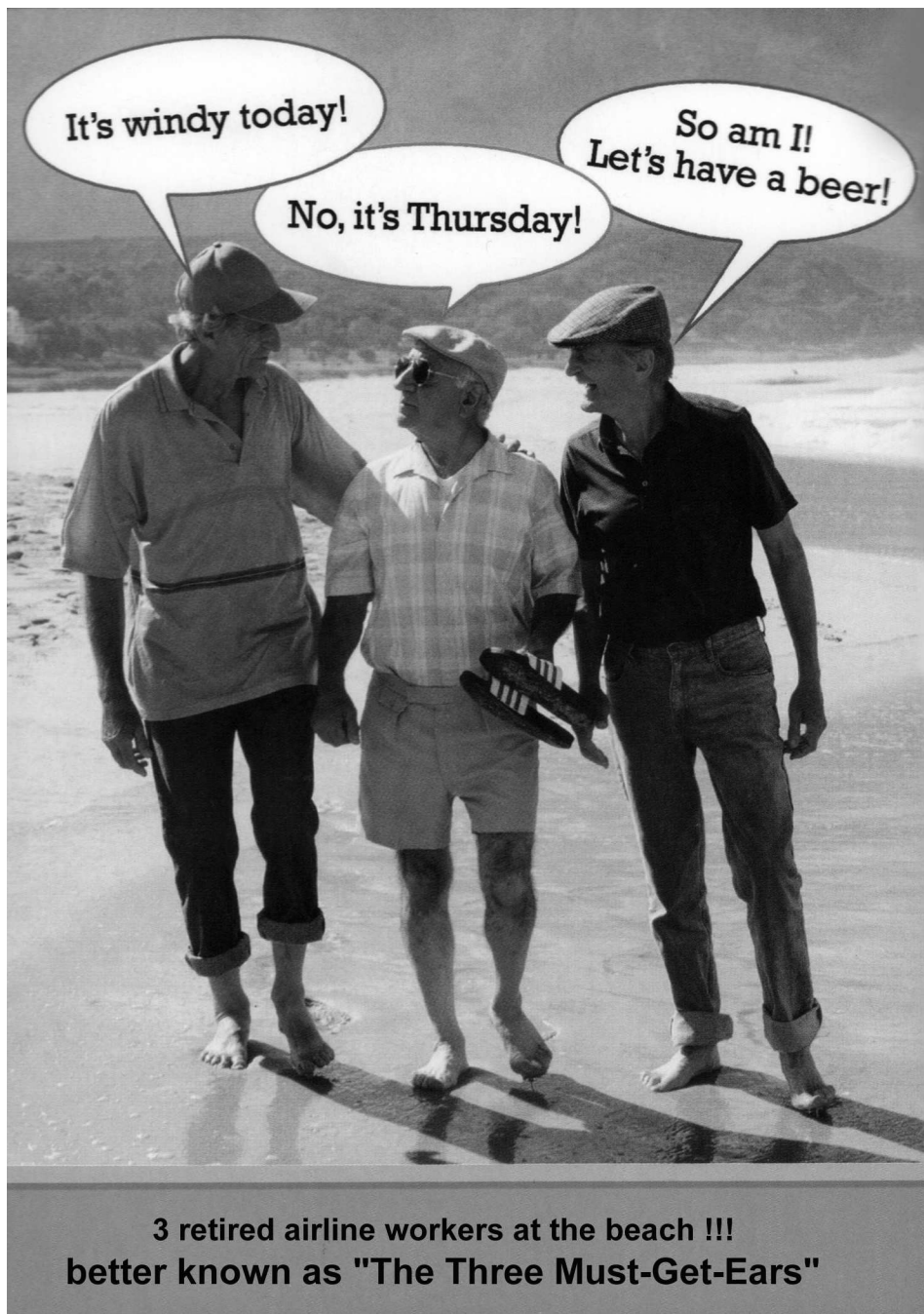
Happy Anniversary Vanguards

Vanguard Anniversaries for November

Nov 4 - **George and Sharon Crysler (1994)**

Sept 29 - **Eloise Garrity** - We were informed by her son Jim that Eloise Garrity had passed away recently on September 29, 2017. Eloise worked in Cargo Accounting in San Diego and Los Angeles, from where she retired. Her husband worked for Western Airlines. Jim wanted to let her former coworkers know of her passing. Condolences can be sent to Jim Garrity, PO Box 192, Julian, CA 92036.

Vanguards were invited to guest speaker retired Air Force General Bob Cardenas' presentation at the Air and Space museum on 16 September 2017. Bob had an illustrious aviation career with the US Air Force. His family left Mexico for San Diego in the early 30s and Bob attended school in San Diego and in his spare time took to observing and working with the glider flights at Torrey Pines. He was invited to fly because he was such a hard worker at the field. Learning the basic flying skills, he joined the Army Air Corps and his name often came up when "glider knowledge" was sought by higher authorities. Because of his flying skill and knowledge he was held back from active operations. He was often consulted for airborne glider operations toward the end of WWII and finally finagled his way to fly in a B24 bombing raid over Germany. (He was the lead aircraft) His plane was shot down over a lake on the Swiss border and a Swiss Fisherman rescued him and brought him to shore, where he had to endure captivity to the end of the war, but was then sent to Germany where he was assigned to test fly some of the German very advanced aircraft including the ME 262 Jet fighter, the Arado 234 Jet Bomber and the HO 2 Horton Flying Wing. Back in the states he continued as a test pilot and flew the YB-49 Northrop Flying Wing from Muroc Air Force Base in California to Washington in under 5 hours. When he did some flight testing on the aircraft he found that it was a death trap in a stall, tumbling over and over. He barely managed to convert the tumble into a spiral which he was able overcome. General Cardenas topped out his career when he flew the B-29 that launched the X-1 aircraft flown by Chuck Yeager as the first US aircraft to break the sound barrier. The X 1 had to return to the B-29 underside after the historic flight and Bob landed the B29 with the X 1 attached underneath. Bob flew combat aircraft in Korea and in Viet-Nam before retiring.



As many of you know, the airline industry has a lot of retirees who have a hearing loss. That loss could be caused by normal aging, but the constant noise at busy airports contributes to a higher than normal percentage of hearing loss to workers.

I recently found out that our AA medical insurance covers up to 80 percent of the cost of a hearing aid. **Jorge Benitez** gave me a run-down of his experience with insurance coverage applicable to the purchase price of a new aid. When I went to a local Hearing Aid Dealer they called United Health Care and were told that American covers up to 80 percent of the price of an aid, but only one ear per year can be covered. So if you need both left and right ears aided, you can get one ear done in 2017 and then the other in 2018.

Previously all military veterans were covered for hearing loss and many of our fellow employees who

had some years of military service were provided with hearing aids by the Veterans Administration. But as funding tightened for the VA the requirements for getting hearing aids were raised and as in my case, coverage was denied due to income amounts. Under Trump, VA funding has increased and some of us may now qualify. For the non military retirees there is good news as well. American Airlines now has good coverage for purchasing a hearing aid and I wanted to share that with you. Do some research on hearing aids to see which ones offer the best clarity. There are many companies producing hearing aids and you can also research which ones had the greatest customer satisfaction. Most companies offer a 30 to 45 day trial period to see if you are able to tolerate a hearing aid. Some people can't stand them and stop wearing them after a while. That is a big waste of money, which most of us can't afford. The trial period therefore gives you a good idea of your own tolerance as well as the possible improvement of your hearing to see if it is worth the cost to you. Remember, you still have to pay at least 20 percent of the cost yourself.

---Boeing Rolls Out Singapore Airlines' First 787-10---

3 Oct 2017

Airwise

Boeing has rolled out the first 787-10 Dreamliner for launch customer Singapore Airlines at its North Charleston assembly plant. The 787-10, the first of Singapore's order for 30 of the type, is due to be delivered in the first half of 2018. It will be used on SIA's medium-haul routes. In addition to the firm order, Singapore earlier in the year signed a letter of intent to purchase 19 more 787-10s. The 787-10 is the largest member of the Dreamliner family, seating up to 330 in a two class layout. Boeing had taken orders for 177 787-10s by the end of August.

---Boeing Third Quarter Deliveries Rise 7.4 Percent---

5 Oct 2017

Airwise

Boeing delivered 7.4 percent more commercial aircraft in the third quarter than the same period last year as it ramped up deliveries of the 737 MAX. Third quarter deliveries of 202 beat 3Q16's total of 188 and the second quarter of 2017's total of 183 aircraft. Boeing best seller, the 737, saw 145 aircraft handed over to airlines and lessors in Q3, up from 120 last year, and bringing 2017's total to 381.

Deliveries of larger aircraft were a bit softer during the quarter, with the 777 continuing to fall as Boeing prepares for the switch to 777X production. The 787 Dreamliner saw a small drop in planes handed over, but deliveries of the slow selling 747 looked a little better with four during the quarter against the same number for the first and second quarter combined. Total deliveries for the three months to end September were 554 as Boeing heads towards its forecast for 2017 of between 760 and 765 commercial aircraft deliveries.

---US Adds Import Duty To Bombardier C Series ---

6 Oct 2017

Airwise

The US Commerce Department has added to Canadian plane maker Bombardier's problems with the announcement of a further import duty on its CSeries aircraft. The department proposed a duty of **79.82 percent** in a preliminary determination in its antidumping investigation of 100- to 150-seat large civil aircraft imported from Canada. The duty comes **on top of a 219.63 percent duty announced last week** for "countervailing subsidies" in financing the C Series aircraft. Bombardier "strongly disagreed" with the preliminary decision saying it "represents an egregious overreach and misapplication of the US trade laws in an apparent attempt to block the C Series aircraft from entering the US market."

Boeing petitioned the Commerce Department earlier this year alleging that Bombardier had sold 75 CSeries aircraft to Delta Air Lines at a cost that amounted to dumping. The total list price value of the order is \$5.38 billion dollars, or **\$71.8 million dollars** per aircraft, but Boeing said the price paid was **\$19.6 million per aircraft**. The Commerce Department said it based its preliminary ruling partly because Bombardier had failed to provide information requested by the department. Bombardier disputed that saying "Commerce's statement that Bombardier is not cooperating with the investigation is a disingenuous attempt to distract from the agency's misguided focus on hypothetical production costs and sales prices for aircraft that will be imported into the United States far in the future."

Bombardier said aircraft programs cost billions of dollars and take years to provide a financial return on the investment. "By limiting its antidumping investigation to a short 12-month period at the very beginning of the CSeries programme, Commerce has taken a path that inevitably would result in a deeply distorted finding."

The Commerce Department's import duties apply not just to Bombardier, but all aircraft of that size imported into the US from Canada. The duties will only take effect if the US International Trade Commission rules in favor of Boeing in a final decision due next year.

---Norwegian Air Passenger Numbers Jump 14 Percent---

5 Oct 2017

Airwise

Norwegian Air reported a 14 percent increase in passengers carried in September as it continues its rapid expansion. A total of 3.16 million flew with the low cost carrier during the month, up from the previous year's 2.78 million. Norwegian added capacity in September, up 28 percent in available seat km (ASK) terms. Passenger traffic in revenue passenger kms (RPK) rose by 29 percent, with passenger load factor edging up 0.3 of a percentage point to 89.7 percent.

On a negative note, unit revenue (RASK) and yield both fell by 7 percent, to 0.35 and 0.39 Norwegian kroner respectively as the cost of the rapid expansion becomes evident. "We're very pleased to see that more passengers are choosing Norwegian when they travel, not the least business travelers," Norwegian's chief executive Bjørn Kjos said. "The demand is good and stable in Scandinavia, and the growth is highest on our intercontinental routes." Norwegian, the world's sixth largest low-cost airline, added new long-haul routes from London to Singapore, Denver and Seattle during the month, and launched a ticketing and transfer agreement with the UK's easyJet. "Global expansion is important to position ourselves in a market with such strong competition, but also for creating economic value in the markets we operate," Kjos said.

---Air Berlin To Stop Flying This Month---

9 Oct 2017

Airwise

Air Berlin will stop flying by **October 28** at the latest as the administrators for the insolvent airline continue discussions with prospective buyers. The airline had already announced the end of its long-haul routes as aircraft lessors started taking back planes from the bankrupt carrier, now all Air Berlin flights will cease, although subsidiaries Niki and LG Walter will continue flying. The airline's administrators are negotiating with Lufthansa and easyJet for the takeover of parts of the business, with Lufthansa interested in German regional unit LG Walter, Austrian leisure airline Niki, and some aircraft. easyJet has made an offer for part of the Air Berlin fleet, including crew. The talks are scheduled to last until Thursday.

A deal with easyJet is looking less certain after it was reported to have reduced its Air Berlin offer. easyJet may see more value in grabbing parts of UK airline Monarch which collapsed last week. Landing slots at London's Gatwick Airport could be a target for the low cost carrier. Air Berlin has continued operations only because of a German government loan, but that money will run out soon and it will have to cease operations before the end of the month.

---Alaska Air Passenger Traffic Growth Continues---

12 Oct 2017

Airwise

Alaska Air Group airlines flew 5 percent more passengers in September and for the year-to-date period. The Seattle based airline carried 3.54 million passengers in September and a total of 33.06 million for the year to end September, both periods up 4.7 percent from the previous year.

September's passenger traffic grew 8.4 percent in revenue passenger miles (RPM) terms on an available seat miles (ASM) capacity increase of 10.1 percent. Load factor dropped 1.3 percentage points to 82.9 percent as a result.

For the first nine months of the year Alaska Air Group airlines' RPM traffic rose 6.6 percent, and with ASM capacity increasing by 6.0 percent, passenger load factor edged up 0.4 of a percentage point to 84.6 percent. Alaska Air Group airlines include Alaska Airlines, Virgin America, and regional carriers Horizon Air, SkyWest Airlines and Peninsula Airlines. Alaska Air bought Virgin America in December 2016.

**San Diego Vanguards
c/o Kay Bays
5038 September Street
San Diego, California 92110**

**Next Vanguard Meeting
7 November 2017, 10:15 am
San Diego Air and
Space Museum**