



Vanguard Eagle

San Diego Chapter    March 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



Happy St. Patrick's Day



---The 7 February 2017 Vanguard Meeting---

We had no guest speaker at the 7 February Vanguard meeting. Irene gave us some information on members and Willy Schumka came to the meeting and told us that the stewardesses who had to retire early, had been promised that there would be no change to their pass privileges. Since the change of status from D2 to D2R for retirees, they have decided to dispute the change in court. I gave the members a rundown on the Free Cell Phone program from Assurance Wireless. I will detail it further for you on **page 4** of this newsletter. The program is valid for all Social Security recipients, and in California also features unlimited minutes of domestic calling. Ruth Annunziata won the 50/50 drawing and June Caldwell won 2 free Air and Space Museum admissions. Irene Garrett will celebrate her birthday on 15 Feb 2017. Bill Sherlock was not able to attend due to a foot pain problem, but his wife Gerry came and was there to man our break table, which she has done for many years now. Willy Schumka also informed us that aircraft mechanic Larry Costanza had no feeling in one arm due to pinched nerve in his neck. He has not been working the past year. We had a drawing to get guest speakers for our meetings and I pulled March 2017 from the bin. Paul Greenwood is scheduled for April. June Caldwell drew June 2017, Kay Bays drew July 2017, Walli Stebel drew Sept 2017, Bruce Craig drew October 2017 and Nancy Day drew Nov 2017. August is the month of our picnic and December features our Christmas party.

---Saint Patrick---

March 17 is the feast of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is traditionally venerated as the date of his death. It is also supposed to be the day the swallows return to the mission of Capistrano. The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty but there is broad agreement that he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century. Early medieval tradition credits him with being the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, and they regard him as the founder of Christianity in Ireland, converting a society practicing a form of Celtic polytheism. He has been generally so regarded ever since, despite evidence of some earlier Christian presence in Ireland.

Alcatraz

Alcatraz, was the temporary home of many famous or infamous people (such as Al Capone and George 'Machine Gun' Kelly,) It was also the family home of Dick Fisher, our guest speaker, who spent many years of his youth on the "rock". Come and hear his story at the March 7th, Vanguard Meeting. See his Biography on next page. We meet at 10:15 AM at the Air and Space Museum in Balboa Park. Free Admission and Free Parking. Come join us.



You grew up where?

ALCATRAZ

Dick Fisher

Historian-Lecturer

I was introduced to Alcatraz Island when my father was hired as a Jr. Correctional Officer in 1934. Dad moved the family of 4 from San Francisco to an apartment on the island in 1937 and stayed until 1939. A few years later Dad reapplied to Civil Service to work on Alcatraz. He was accepted and he and mom moved back in 1951.

After I finished my two year tour of duty in the Army I went back to school at San Jose State College. During many weekends, holidays and summer vacations Alcatraz was home. I like to relate what it was like growing up on the Rock during the two different periods of my life.

I have been doing my presentations for some 15 years. Some of the people that I have spoken to are: Masonic groups, Senior Centers, retirement homes, Rotary clubs, "Oasis", gatherings, as a volunteer ranger. Hear the full story at the March 7th Vanguard Meeting.

---It's Renewal Time---

In order for the Vanguards to pay for their meeting facility at the Air and Space museum, they depend on your yearly membership contribution of \$ 20.00 dollars per person or family. We hope that most of you will choose to contribute, so that we can continue to have our meetings there. You can send your \$20 dollar renewal check made out to **San Diego Vanguards, to Kay Bays, Vanguard Treasurer, 5038 September Street, San Diego, California 92110.** Or you can bring your check to the next Vanguard meeting and give it to Kay personally or to one of the other Vanguard officers.

---Roster Changes/Additions---

 Please cut and paste or write in these addresses into your roster booklet:

Marion Bracken
989 NW Spruce Ave. # 101
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Mr and Mrs William Larsen
3045 Mason Street
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Debby 'Deb' Buroughs
29115 Valley Center Rd. St K-164.
Valley Center CA 92082

e-mail: Bkamaaina@aol.com



---Vanguard Beach Clean-Up---Our monthly beach clean-up at Ventura Cove is scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month, March 21st 2017. 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 recommend getting a Pick-up Stick to avoid bending excessively while cleaning the beach. Call Irene Garrett on Monday before you come out – **619 464-1250 (in case of cancellation)**



Happy Birthday Vanguards

March 2 **Lonna Hefty, Molly Manning**
March 5 **Charlotte Larsen**
March 6 **James Paige, Julia Banchard**
March 7 **Joanne Espinosa**
March 8 **Anna Hansen, Walli Stebel**
March 9 **Thelma Ballard**
March 11 **Lawrence Bartolo, Bruce Craig**
March 12 **Karl Ramsing, Mary Jane Scholl**
March 22 **George Benitez**
March 23 **Warren Stanley**
March 24 **Joseph Albo**
March 26 **LaMont DeCol**
March 27 **Eleanor Lancey, Shirley Griffin**
March 28 **Roberta Swanson**
March 29 **Mary Kezon, Isabel Vanderpot**



---March Anniversaries---Congratulations Vanguards

March 4th **Hank and Dorothy Stey (1949)**
March 23 **Bob and Mary Solsbak (1961)**

Assurance Wireless Free Cell Phones

IN CALIFORNIA: Unlimited Talk and Text, plus 500MB data!

Assurance Wireless, a Sprint/Nextel company, is currently available in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. And, as with their competitors, they'll be coming soon to other states across the country.

THE CALIFORNIA FREEDOM PLAN: UNLIMITED TALK & TEXT — Residents of the nation's most populous state get the best deal of all: unlimited minutes and unlimited texts, 500MB of data, and a free Android smartphone of course. Unbelievable, but true. The only other companies that provide unlimited voice and text is [Budget Mobile](#) and [Tag Mobile](#), so be sure to check them out as well.

Assurance Wireless is one of the biggest and fastest growing companies offering free cell phones through the federal Lifeline Assistance program, and it continues to grow rapidly because it is a subsidiary of Virgin Mobile, which itself is a subsidiary of Sprint/Nextel. They are the second largest company, behind Safelink Wireless. Although with their aggressive plans they've recently released, Safelink needs to be looking over their shoulder.

Are You Eligible?

Eligibility requirements for an Assurance phone and minutes often vary slightly from state to state, but you probably qualify for a phone from the company if you participate in any of the following government aid programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension and Survivor's Benefit.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA)
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Tribal Head Start (only those households meeting its income qualifying standard)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

If you are not on a government assistance program that is Lifeline-approved for your state, you can still qualify if your household income meets certain government guidelines in your area — namely, if it is at or below 135-150% (may vary upon state) of the federal poverty level. Submit your Assurance Wireless application online or via mail, or call the Assurance Wireless phone number to see if you qualify.

I was able to apply for one at a 99cent only store in Mira Mesa. You can check if there is one close to you. Getting one at a store means they set it up for you as well - including your new telephone number. If you apply on-line you have to set it up yourself. Some of us might work up a sweat doing that.

Steve Jahn

---Embraer Delivered 255 Aircraft in 2016---

13 Jan 2017

Airwise

Embraer delivered 32 commercial and 43 executive aircraft in the fourth quarter of 2016. The Brazilian airframer made 225 deliveries for the full year, of which 108 were commercial aircraft and 117 were executive jets. Embraer's order backlog was worth \$19.6 billion dollars at the end of 2016.

---Spicejet Adds To Boeing 737 MAX Order---

13 Jan 2017

Airwise

India's SpiceJet has announced an order with Boeing for 100 737 MAX 8s in a deal worth \$11 billion dollars at current list prices. The order, made at the end of last year, is in addition to a 2014 order for 42 737 MAX 8s and a previously unidentified order for another 13 MAX 8s. SpiceJet's total 737 MAX orders now stand at 155. The newly announced deal also includes options for a further 50 737s. If all options are converted, the total list price for the 205 jets is \$22.5 billion dollars. "The economics of the 737 MAXs will allow SpiceJet to profitably open new markets, expand connectivity within India and beyond," Boeing Vice Chairman Ray Conner said in a statement. SpiceJet chairman Ajay Singh said the order will allow the low cost carrier to reduce costs in an extremely competitive market.

---Flynnas Signs \$8.67 Bln Dollar Airbus A320neo Order---

16 Jan 2017

Airwise

Saudi Arabian low cost carrier flynnas has ordered 60 A320neo aircraft, and upgraded a previous order for 20 A320neos. The total order for 80 A320neos is worth USD\$8.67 billion at list prices. Deliveries will start from 2018.

"We have operated exceptionally well with our existing Airbus A320 fleet... and the new A320neo order will further support our plans to be a leading low-cost carrier," Bander Al Mohanna chief executive of Flynnas parent NAS Holding Group said in a statement. Flynnas flew 6.3 million passengers in 2016 on domestic and regional routes. It currently operates a fleet of 26 Airbus A320s.

---Cityjet, Bombardier Agree CRJ900 Order---

24 Jan 2017

Airwise

Irish regional carrier CityJet has signed an agreement for six Bombardier CRJ900 aircraft, worth \$280 million dollars at list prices. The conditional agreement includes options for an additional four aircraft. The CRJ900s will be operated on a wet lease basis for Scandinavian Airlines (SAS). "We have been very satisfied with the performance of the CRJ900 regional jets which have proven themselves to be the ideal and most efficient aircraft for our contract flying with Scandinavian Airlines," CityJet chairman Pat Byrne said. CityJet currently operates eight CRJ900s and will take delivery of four additional aircraft this year from a previous order. The airline will also operate 11 CRJ900s for SAS as part of its takeover of Cimber, a Danish regional airline.

---Boeing Fourth Quarter Profit Up 59 Percent---

25 Jan 2017

Airwise

Boeing reported a fourth quarter net earnings increase of 59 percent as costs fell by \$1.2 billion dollars. Net earnings for the quarter to end December came in at \$1.63 billion dollars on total revenue of \$23.3 billion dollars, which was a slight revenue drop of 1 percent from 4Q15. Net earnings for the full year fell 5 percent to \$4.89 billion dollars on a revenue drop of 2 percent to \$94.57 billion dollars. Boeing delivered three more commercial aircraft in the fourth quarter at 185, but full year deliveries dropped from 762 to 748. That was still enough to easily beat rival Airbus who delivered 688 planes. Revenue from commercial aircraft was \$65.1 billion dollars for 2016, one percent lower than the previous year. "We led the industry in commercial airplane deliveries for the fifth consecutive year," chief executive Dennis Muilenburg said. For 2017, Boeing said revenue should come in between \$90.5 billion and \$92.5 billion dollars, with an expected increase in commercial deliveries to between 760 and 765. "Looking forward, our team is intent on accelerating productivity and program execution to deliver increasing cash and profitability from our large and diverse order backlog of nearly \$500 billion dollars, and capturing an even greater share of the growing global aerospace market," Muilenburg said in a company release.

---American Airlines Makes 2016 Net Profit of \$ 2.7 Bln Dollars--- 27 Jan 17 Airwise

American Airlines reported fourth quarter and 2016 full year results on Friday showing a \$2.7 billion dollar net profit for the year. Fourth quarter net income was \$289 million dollars, down from the same period in 2015's \$3.28 billion dollars. The prior quarter's headline profit was due to a one-off tax benefit. For comparison, income before tax for Q4 was \$500 million dollars in 2016, against \$244 million dollars in 2015. Operating revenue for the quarter to end December 2016 was \$9.79 billion dollars, up 1.7 percent from the prior year's \$9.63 billion, but expenses hit \$9.02 billion dollars from \$8.56 billion in 2015, a rise of 5.4 percent. For the full year 2016, American made a \$2.68 billion net profit on income of \$40.18 billion. Expenses for the year were \$34.9 billion, a 0.3 percent increase. The mainline cost per available seat mile (CASM) in 2016 was down 0.8 percent on a 1.0 percent capacity increase in available seat mile (ASM) terms. Mainline passenger load factor dropped one percentage point to 82.3 percent. American said it **added 55 new mainline and 42 new regional aircraft to its fleet** during the year at a cost of \$4.4 billion dollars.

---SkyWest Swings To Full Year Loss---

2 Feb 2017

Airwise

SkyWest announced its fourth quarter and full year results on Thursday showing a loss for both periods. The parent of SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet reported a \$270.2 million dollar net loss for the fourth quarter to end December 2016, from a \$40.4 million profit in the previous year period. The loss was due to a one-off \$465.6 million dollar aircraft asset impairment charge during the quarter. Operating revenue for the quarter rose slightly to \$758 million dollars from 4Q15's \$752.7 million dollars, but expenses were up at \$1.16 billion dollars. Without the special items, operating expenses would have been \$696.8 million dollars, against 2015's \$700.5 million dollars. For the full year 2016, SkyWest's net loss was \$161.6 million dollars on revenue of \$3.12 billion dollars.

During the year SkyWest carried 53.5 million passengers, a 4.8 percent drop from the previous year. Revenue (in revenue passenger miles) was down 5.6 percent on a capacity drop of 5 percent in available seat miles. Resulting load factor was down 0.5 of a percentage point at 82.1 percent. Cost per available seat mile ballooned 76.8 percent in the fourth quarter and 20.7 percent for the full year because of the charge. "Our improved 2016 results were largely due to the addition, removal or redeployment of over 125 aircraft across our base fleet of 652 aircraft," SkyWest chief executive Chip Childs said in a statement. "The evolution of our fleet continues to reduce our risk, improve our capital flexibility and ensure we adapt to our major partners' long and short-term needs." SkyWest Airlines operates services under contract to several major US airlines including American, (**American Eagle**) Delta and United.

---2016 Saw Strong Passenger Demand Growth - IATA---

2 Feb 2017

Airwise

Global passenger traffic demand was up 8.8 percent in December on strong growth in the Middle East, Asia Pacific and Europe regions. IATA said in its monthly market report that the Middle East again topped the regional list with an 11.6 percent increase in route passenger km (RPK). Asia Pacific was second on an 11.2 percent increase, and Europe third with a 10.7 percent lift.

Capacity rose at a similar rate, 6.2 percent, with the same three regions adding the most. The Middle East increased capacity by 13.5 percent (in ASK terms), Asia Pacific was second with 8.1 percent and Africa third on 6.3 percent. Load factor for the year eased up just 0.1 of a percentage point to 80.5 percent. During the year, connectivity increased with the addition of more than 700 new routes, and a record 3.7 billion passengers flew with IATA carriers, Director General Alexandre de Juniac said. "The challenge for governments is to work with the industry to meet [the] demand with infrastructure that can accommodate the growth, regulation that facilitates growth and taxes that don't choke growth," de Juniac said.

---Ryanair Profit Drops As It Lowers Fares---

6 Feb 2017

Airwise

Ryanair's third quarter profit fell 8 percent as it dropped ticket prices to add market share. In the quarter to December 31, net profit was €95 million euros (\$102 million dollars), down from the previous year's €103 million euros. The average fare fell by 17 percent to €33 euros (\$35.40 dollars).

"Our fares this winter have fallen sharply as Ryanair continues to grow traffic and load factors strongly in many European markets. These falling yields were exacerbated by the sharp decline in Sterling following the Brexit vote," chief executive Michael O'Leary said. The number of passengers flown was up 16 percent to 29 million as the Irish airline added routes and bases. During the quarter it launched 95 new routes, opened five bases and added 10 Boeing 737-800s to its fleet. Despite the capacity increase, Q3 load factor rose 2 percentage points to 95 percent. Unit costs were down 6 percent overall, or 12 percent if fuel is excluded.

Looking forward, Ryanair expects "the uncertainty post Brexit, weaker Sterling and the switch of charter capacity from Turkey, Egypt and North Africa into Spain and Portugal, will continue to put downward pressure on pricing for the remainder of this year and FY18." Ryanair said it will open two new bases in March - Naples and Frankfurt - as it continues its move into major markets and away from regional, but lower cost, airports. A new deal with London Stansted Airport will allow the addition of nine new routes and additional capacity on others. It is targeting 20 million passengers to fly on its Stansted services next year.

---Alaska Air Q4 Full Year Profit Down---

8 Feb 2017

Airwise

Alaska Air reported its fourth quarter and full year 2016 results, with net profit falling in both periods. In the quarter to end December 2016, net income fell 40 percent to \$114 million dollars, with operating revenue up 11 percent at \$1.52 billion dollars, but expenses were up 14 percent to \$1.28 billion dollars. Major cost increases were wages and benefits, up 13 percent, and aircraft fuel costs which rose 12 percent in the quarter.

Alaska Air Group carried 8.75 million passengers in Q4, a 10.4 percent increase from the prior year period. Traffic in revenue passenger miles rose 13.1 percent on an ASM (available seat miles) capacity increase of 10.3 percent. Load factor came in at 84.5 percent, a 2 percentage point increase. For the full year 2016, net income dropped 4 percent to \$814 million dollars on an operating revenue increase of 6 percent at \$5.93 billion dollars. Expenses came in at \$4.58 billion dollars, a 7 percent rise. Alaska Air spent \$123 million dollars less on fuel and hedging costs in 2016, a 13 percent drop to \$831 million dollars, but wages grew 10 percent to \$1.38 billion dollars. The group flew 34.3 million passengers during the year, a 7.5 percent increase from 2015. The takeover of Virgin America on December 14 accounted for only a negligible increase in passengers carried. "2016 was an incredible year for Alaska in almost every way, and we are even more excited as we look forward to 2017 and beyond," Alaska Air chief executive Brad Tilden said in a statement. During the year, Alaska Air added 19 Boeing 737-900ERs to its fleet, bringing the total to 155 aircraft. Virgin America operated 63 aircraft at the end of 2016.

---Singapore Chooses Boeing In \$ 13.8 Billion Dollar Deal---

12 Feb 2017

Airwise

Singapore Airlines announced its intent to place orders for 39 Boeing aircraft in a deal worth up to \$13.8 billion dollars at current list prices. The provisional order for 20 777-9s and 19 787-10s will allow it to update its fleet and provide additional growth over the next decade, the airline said.

Included in the deal are options for a further six of each of the aircraft types. The 777-9s are powered by General Electric GE9X engines, and SIA will order Rolls-Royce Trent 1000s to power the 787-10s. Singapore is the launch customer for the 787-10 with 30 already on order. Entry into service of the first of that order is expected in 2018/19. SIA is the second biggest operator of Boeing 777s, with 54 currently in service. It now has a total of 20 777s and 49 787s on order. Low cost unit Scoot has eight 787s on order.

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

**Next Meeting
March 7th, 2017
10:15 AM
SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE
MUSEUM**