



Vanguard Eagle

San Diego Chapter  **TWA**  **U-S AIR** **May 2018**

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



Remember our departed Service Personnel on Memorial Day



---The April 3rd Vanguard Meeting---

We had a returning speaker at our April 3rd meeting. Karen Scanlon, a freelance writer, historian and early childhood educator who writes extensively on the maritime history of San Diego and who has, along with her twin sister Kim, tended the Fresnel lenses of the lighthouses of San Diego. Karen works as a volunteer at Cabrillo National Monument as well. This month Karen gave us a brief history of San Diego's many airports.

It seems that as the age of early aviation attempts came to mankind, San Diego's mild climate provided a good opportunity for local aviation pioneers. I'm sure you have all heard the story of Icarus, a greek boy whose father tried to help him escape from Crete by taking wax and feathers and constructing wings for his son on his arms. Sadly Icarus flew too high and got too close to the sun, and lost his wing feathers when the wax melted from the sun's heat. That was the end of Icarus as he fell back to earth. Many critics, after hearing of Icarus' fate have suggested that he should have flown at night, which reminds me of the pioneering space program, which was to send a man to the sun on a rocket. Of course all the critics laughed that the ship would burn up before reaching the surface of the sun, but the head of the program said that they had already discussed that problem and had decided to make the attempt at night. (He Haw) After they dropped their plans for the solar landing, lunacy reigned in the space program and they switched to a lunar program which reached its climax when Neil Armstrong became the first earthling to walk on the Moon. (Apollo 11 - 21 July 1969)

In 1883, when San Diego was still a very small city, there was a landing field set up south of the city where glider pioneers could land and take off with their creations. That was San Diego's first air field, but many others followed and were used by the pioneering aviation buffs whose interest was roused by the dream of manned flight. In 1926 Ryan Field was constructed on Dutch Flats, just northeast of our present airport. It was constructed by the founder of Ryan Aviation, Claude Ryan. But the fact that it often flooded during rain storms made it impractical as a dependable long term airport. A 1935 San Diego City directory lists W. Arnet Speer (then age 30), as owner and manager of Speer Flying Service, located at 3330 Barnett Avenue, which did student instruction, charter trips, passenger flights, and airplane sales, and he was also listed as the manager of the San Diego Airport. (Lindbergh Field) It later became Mahoney Field which lasted until 1943. In the meantime, San Diego Airport, which was established in 1928 became the principal airport after the famous aviator, Charles Lindbergh

picked up the airplane and took off from there on his way to Roosevelt Field in New York to begin his epic solo crossing of the Atlantic. (landing 21 May 1927 in Paris)

Karen gave us the names of some of the other early airports. Madison Airport was located in National City and operated from 1937 to 1944. Carlsbad Airport, not to be confused with Palomar Airport, was a short lived airfield in Carlsbad. Karen's favorite airport was located in Clairemont and closed in 1951. It was replaced by tract housing and St Mark's Lutheran Church which is located on a site formerly used by the airport operations building. That was the San Diego Air Park.

We had 14 members attend the meeting so we did not have a 50/50 drawing at the April meeting, but Mary Price, who celebrates her birthday on April 18, won the birthday drawing.

---Bill Sherlock---

Longtime Vanguard member and volunteer Bill Sherlock has suffered a broken neck as a result of a fall. He is currently at Grossmont Post Acute Care, Rehabilitation center in La Mesa, California, 8787 Center Dr, La Mesa, CA 91942 **(619) 460-4444**. Bill has to heal slowly to have his neck bones fuse again. He would likely appreciate a phone call or visit from fellow Vanguard members..



---Vanguard Beach Clean-Up---

These past few months have featured cool weather, which are abnormal for most of us long term California residents. We normally have our Beach Clean Up on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, (**May 15th, 2018**) at Ventura Cove. We normally meet at 10 a.m. You would 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. Since the weather has been unseasonably cool, please call Irene Garrett - **619 464-1250** to make sure we will actually be meeting at Ventura Cove this month.

---Yearly Vanguard Donations Overdue---

The following members have not made their \$ 20.00 dollar Vanguard donations for 2018 as of this date. After the April issue you will no longer receive the newsletter if payment is not received. We hope to keep all of you as newsletter subscribers.

Benitez	Claxton	Doremus	Hefty	Miller	Vock
Bracken	Craig	Evans	Koester	Phifer	Vreeken
Burnett	Degner	Guzman	Liakas	Steven	Wosewick

---Volunteering for the Vanguards Offices---

If you worked in an administrative position for American Airlines during your career, or if you have ever thought about doing that type of work, you may want to volunteer for an office at our Vanguards chapter in San Diego. The present officers have been in their positions several years now and would be more than happy to give you an opportunity to take their place and would be more than happy to help you along the way when or if you were to get stuck or had a problem or question. The offices of **President, First and Second Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary** are all open for your choosing. Think about serving your fellow retirees and volunteering for one of the available offices.

We hope you will give it some consideration. It could be an enjoyable experience for you. Helping your fellow retirees, is one of the best opportunities to balance your life in your twilight years. Your own background and experience might help another retiree with their questions/problems.

Happy Birthday Vanguards



May 3 – **Helen Hallack**

May 6 – **Claudette Craig**

May 7 – **Edith Kotler**

May 9 – **Margaret Jahn**

May 12 – **G. Randall Eastland**

May 14 – **Peggy Ramsing, Bonnie Benitez**

May 15 – **Bob Crowder**

May 17 – **Elsie Kling, Arlene Billings**

May 24 – **Arman Apcarian**

May 25 – **Paul Kusiak**

May 31 – **Bob Vock**



---VANGUARD ANNIVERSARIES---

May 1 – **Bob and Laurie Crowder** (1982)

May 6 – **George and Bonnie Benitez** (1984)

May 30 – **Bob and Irene Garrett** (1958)



3 Diamond Society

The 3 Diamonds Society convention will be held in Charlotte NC, May 8-10, 2018 --- Save the dates... May 8-10 in CLT! Anyone who has 30 years service with American Airlines is a member.

This year's convention will feature a trip to the nearby Carolina Aviation Museum, which now houses the actual aircraft that Sully ditched on the Hudson, in "The Miracle on the Hudson." We will also get to hear about it from some folks who were actually involved in the incident itself or the subsequent investigation.

This will be an opportunity to get together with others who hold American Airlines very dear to their hearts, and to see some great things along the way. We will send a PDF Overview of the Convention with the e mail version of our newsletter which will include Hotel information, Tour costs, Museum Visits, and Reservation forms.

---Jet Airways To Buy 75 Boeing 737 MAX---

4 April 2018

Airwise

Jet Airways has ordered 75 additional Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, doubling its order book for the upgraded 737. The Indian airline ordered 75 737 MAXs in 2015, with the first of that batch due for delivery later this year. The airline said the latest order will support its future expansion.

“Our new order for the additional 75 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft will allow us to deliver a differentiated and world class customer experience to our guests,” the airline’s chief executive Vinay Dube said. “This order underscores Jet Airways’ commitment to the growth and sustainability of the Indian aviation market.” The order is valued at \$8.8 billion dollars at current list prices.

---JetBlue Picks Pratt & Whitney For A 320neo Engine Order---

5 Apr 2018

Airwise

JetBlue has selected Pratt & Whitney geared turbofan engines to power its entire fleet of Airbus A320neo aircraft, in a deal that more than doubles the airline’s previous order. In 2012 JetBlue ordered Pratt engines to power 40 A320neos, but the amended order just announced adds power-plants for a further 45 aircraft. The value of the order was not released.

The agreement includes maintenance and 13 spare engines for JetBlue’s A320neo fleet, with deliveries starting next year. “The result of our comprehensive competitive bidding process cements a great long term partnership between JetBlue and Pratt & Whitney,” JetBlue EVP Steve Priest said. “We are confident we’ve made an excellent choice to power our Airbus neo fleet.”

Pratt & Whitney is recovering from a series of delays on its geared turbofan engines. As recently as mid-March the United Technologies subsidiary suffered another blow when India’s civil aviation regulator ordered 11 Airbus A320neos fitted with Pratt GTF engines to be grounded after an IndiGo aircraft suffered an engine failure. Indian carriers had three mid-air engine failures in less than a month, and the directive took the total number of P&W geared turbofan-powered A320neos grounded to 14. Pratt & Whitney said after the Indian decision that corrective action had been approved and they were already delivering upgraded production engines to airlines.

---American Goes For 787s in 12 Billion Dollar Fleet Upgrade---

6 Apr 2018

Airwise

American Airlines has chosen Boeing 787s to replace older aircraft as it doubles its Dreamliner fleet. American has ordered 47 aircraft, 22 787-8s and 25 787-9s, to add to an existing order of 42, with 35 of those already delivered. The new order is valued at \$12.3 billion dollars at current list prices.

The order includes options on a further 28 787s, and will make American the largest 787 customer in the Western Hemisphere, Boeing said. The 787-8s will be delivered from 2020 and the 787-9s from 2023. American will use the new order to replace older aircraft, with the 787-8s replacing 767-300s and the 787-9s replacing Airbus A330-300s and 777-200s. The airline also announced it had agreed with Airbus to cancel its order for 22 A350s, originally placed by US Airways.

American’s President Robert Isom said “This was a difficult decision between the Boeing 787 and the Airbus A350 and A330neo and we thank both manufacturers for their aggressive efforts to earn more of American’s business. In the end, our goal to simplify our fleet made the 787 a more compelling choice.”

The airline also reached an agreement with Boeing to defer the delivery of 40 737 MAX aircraft due to arrive between 2020 and 2022. “The revised delivery schedule will better align with planned retirements of other narrow-body aircraft,” American said in a statement.

---Qatar Airways Signs Agreement For Five 777 Freighters--- 10 April 2018 Airwise

Qatar Airways has signed a letter of intent to purchase five Boeing 777 Freighters, worth \$1.7 billion dollars at list prices when confirmed. “The addition of five 777 Freighters is a significant moment for our cargo division,” Qatar group chief executive Akbar Al Baker said. “This transaction will be a reinforcement of our confidence in Boeing to continue to deliver an outstanding product that meets our exacting standards.” Qatar air operates a fleet of eight Airbus A330-200F, two Boeing 747-8F and 13 Boeing 777F freighters to 60 cargo destinations worldwide.

---Lion Air Firms Up \$6.24 Billion 737 MAX 10 Order--- 10 April 2018 Airwise

Indonesian low cost carrier Lion Air has placed a firm order for **50** Boeing 737 MAX 10s, the largest in the upgraded MAX aircraft family. The order, which Boeing said is worth \$6.24 billion dollars at list prices, had previously been listed on its website for an unidentified customer. The deal adds to orders for 201 737 MAX aircraft the airline has already placed. Boeing’s orders website shows nine have already been delivered.

“Lion Air is very excited to be a launch customer of the latest version of the 737,” the airline’s president director Edward Sirait said. “We are proud to continue our tradition of innovation at Lion Air as we again lead the way with new airplane technology.” Lion Air’s Malaysian affiliate Malindo Air was the first airline to put the 737 MAX 8 into service, and last month, Thai Lion Air became the first to take delivery of a 737 MAX 9. The airline group has ordered just under 400 Boeing 737s, 186 of which are -800 and -900 Next Generation aircraft.

---SAS To Add 50 Airbus A320neos To Fleet--- 10 April 2018 Airwise

Scandinavian airline group SAS has signed a purchase agreement with Airbus for **35** A320neos and will lease a further **15** of the type as it transitions to an all-Airbus fleet. The 35-aircraft order, worth \$3.87 billion dollars at list prices, will be delivered by 2023, while the leased planes will be delivered between spring 2019 and 2021. The order includes options for a further five A320neos.

SAS is phasing out its short-haul fleet of Boeing 737s and older A320s, and will operate a single type, the A320neo, by 2023. “Just over one year ago, we started to phase into service brand new Airbus A320neos, and since then we have received a very positive response from our customers,” SAS chief executive Rickard Gustafson said. SAS has an existing order for 30 A320neos, with 17 delivered, according to Airbus figures. It also operates eight A330s and eight A340s, and has eight A350s on order for delivery from 2019.

---Jet Airways To Lease 12 Boeing 737 MAX 8s--- 11 April 2018 Airwise

India’s Jet Airways has committed to lease twelve Boeing 737 MAX 8s from GECAS, with deliveries starting in June 2018. Six of the aircraft will be delivered from orders GECAS has with Boeing, and the other six supplied on a sale and lease back agreement from an existing Jet Air order. All 12 will be delivered by 2020.

The airline’s chief executive Vinay Dube said the GECAS agreement “has enabled us to introduce these modern, fuel efficient aircraft into our fleet.” He said they will be the first of their kind in India. Jet announced a second 75-plane order earlier this month for Boeing 737 MAXs, bringing its order book to 150 before today’s sale and lease back agreement.

The Jet Airways Group operates a fleet of 120 aircraft on flights to 65 destinations in India and overseas.

---Southwest, Mechanics Union Agree On Tentative Deal--- 11 April 2018 Airwise

Southwest Airlines and the union representing its aircraft maintenance technicians have reached an agreement in principle on a five year pay and conditions deal. The agreement between Southwest and the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) is the result of over five years of negotiations, recently with the involvement of the US National Mediation Board.

Southwest said the agreement includes updated work rules, improved wages and benefits, plus a ratification bonus. The agreement is still subject to final document language being agreed before it goes to union members for a ballot. “After nearly six years of negotiations, the parties have reached the stage where it is time for our members at Southwest to review and vote on a package produced by this protracted process,” AMFA National Director Bret Oestreich said. AMFA represents 2,400 Southwest mechanics and related employees.

---Qantas To Sell Catering Business To dnata--- 11 April 2018 Airwise

Qantas has agreed to sell its catering business to dnata, as the Emirates Group unit continues its expansion into Australia. Financial terms of the agreement were not released, but the deal includes 1,200 Qantas employees moving over to dnata following the completion of the sale. Dnata will supply catering on Qantas flights for an initial period of ten years.

The agreement is subject to the approval of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. “We’ve always said that we would explore the sale of certain assets where it makes sense,” Andrew David, chief executive of Qantas Domestic said. “The catering businesses will benefit significantly from dnata’s global footprint.”

Qantas’s catering businesses include Q Catering and Snap Fresh. Q Catering operates food preparation centers in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Snap Fresh, based in Queensland, produces frozen meals for a number of airlines and other industries.

dnata provides catering, cargo and ground handling services in 84 countries and employs over 4000 people in Australia and 39,000 worldwide. It currently supplies catering for Qantas flights from Adelaide, Canberra, London and Johannesburg.

---Rolls-Royce To Increase Inspections On some 787 Engines--- 13 Apr 2018 Airwise

Rolls-Royce said it needs to increase inspections on the Trent 1000 engine that powers some Boeing 787 Dreamliners. Rolls said the problem affects the Trent 1000 Package C compressor, with the increased inspection frequency driven by its “further understanding of the durability” of the engine. There are 380 Package C engines currently in service it said.

The company said the increased inspections don’t apply to its Trent 1000 Package B engines or Trent 1000 TEN engines, but expects additional disruption for airlines operating the affected Package C engines. Rolls-Royce chief executive Warren East said “We sincerely regret the disruption this will cause to our customers... We will be working closely with Boeing and affected airlines to minimize disruption wherever possible.”

Boeing said an existing European Aviation Safety Agency Airworthiness Directive for the Package C engine requires inspections of an intermediate pressure compressor blade at certain flight cycles. If a durability issue is found, the blade has to be replaced. The required maintenance of some Trent 1000s has led to a shortage of the engine type while the affected parts are replaced and returned to service.

---BA Parent IAG Considering Offer For Norwegian---

12 April 2018

Airwise

Airline group IAG has bought a 4.61 percent stake in Norwegian Air Shuttle as a precursor to talks that may lead to an offer for the low cost Scandinavian airline. IAG said in a statement that it considers Norwegian to be an attractive investment, and the minority investment “is intended to establish a position from which to initiate discussions.” IAG confirmed that no discussions have taken place to date, but future talks could include the possibility of a full offer for Norwegian.

Norwegian said it had no prior knowledge of IAG’s acquisition in the company, nor had it been in any discussions with IAG about it. Norwegian has been expanding rapidly, following up its successful entry into a number of European markets with an increasing push into low cost long-haul operations. The rapid roll out and low ticket prices it has offered to establish itself, particularly in the trans-Atlantic market, has stressed its balance sheet leading to a share sale last month. IAG, parent of Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia and Vueling, has been feeling the heat of Norwegian’s competition on its profitable trans-Atlantic routes. It launched its own low cost long-haul airline LEVEL last year to compete in that segment. British Airways, one of the dominant airlines across the Atlantic, this week launched a new lower cost ‘Basic’ fare on some long-haul international routes, alongside its partner airlines American, Finnair and Iberia.

---AirAsia's Fernandes Says A350 Too Expensive---

16 April 2018

Airwise

Malaysian budget long-haul airline AirAsia X may cancel or convert its order for Airbus A350s after chief executive Tony Fernandes said the aircraft is too expensive. Fernandes said on a video posted on Facebook that “The A350 is not an aircraft we will buy.” He said it is too expensive and fares would go up. AirAsia X has 10 A350-900s on order from Airbus, with deliveries due to start next year. The aircraft’s ticket price of \$317.4 million dollars appears to be too much for Fernandes, who said in February the airline is also looking at Boeing 787s and Airbus’s updated A330neo for its future fleet needs.

The long-haul LCC already has 66 A330neos on order at the slightly lower list price of \$296.4 million dollars, but AirAsia X is likely to have received significant discounts on an order of that size.

---Southwest Engine Explodes Mid-Flight - One Dead---

17 April 2018

Airwise

A passenger was killed on a Southwest Airlines flight on Tuesday when an engine exploded, damaging the aircraft’s fuselage. Southwest flight WN1380, a Boeing 737-700 carrying 143 passengers and five crew, was on a flight from New York’s La Guardia airport to Dallas Love Field when the left engine exploded, sending parts into the aircraft, causing cabin depressurization. One passenger died after she was partially sucked out of the cabin as it depressurized. Passengers were able to grab the woman and pull her back into the cabin, but she later died of her injuries.

The aircraft diverted to Philadelphia where one passenger was taken to hospital in a critical condition, and seven others were treated at the scene. The Philadelphia Fire department said that when emergency responders arrived at the aircraft there was a fuel leak and a small fire in one of the engines. “Southwest is in the process of gathering additional information regarding flight 1380 and will fully cooperate in an investigative process.”

---FAA To Order Inspections After Southwest Engine Failure---

18 Apr 2018

Airwise

The US Federal Aviation Administration said it will issue an airworthiness directive within the next two weeks requiring inspections of CFM56 engines of the type involved in the Southwest Airlines flight WN1380 explosion on Wednesday. The directive will require airlines operating some older CFM56-7B engines to perform ultrasonic inspections of engine fan blades after they reach a specific number of takeoffs and landings. Fan blades that fail the inspection will need to be replaced, the FAA said. The National Transportation Safety Board sent investigators to Philadelphia Airport, and its chairman Robert Sumwalt said later that an initial inspection of the damaged engine showed a fan blade was missing.

He said there was evidence of metal fatigue in the fractured blade. Southwest’s chief executive Gary Kelly said that the airline will immediately start “enhanced inspections”, including ultrasonic inspection of engines on its entire 737 fleet. The NTSB investigation is expected to take 12-15 months. Another of Southwest’s 737-700s suffered a similar uncontained engine failure in 2016 on a flight to Orlando. The NTSB said a fan blade separated from the fan disk and showed evidence consistent with fatigue crack growth. The FAA issued an airworthiness directive requiring ultrasonic inspections after that event. The CFM56 engine is manufactured by CFM International, a joint venture between GE Aviation and Safran Aircraft Engines of France.

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

**Next Meeting
May 1st, 2018
10:15 AM
SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE
MUSEUM**