



Vanguard Eagle

San Diego Chapter    October 2019

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 Columbus Day



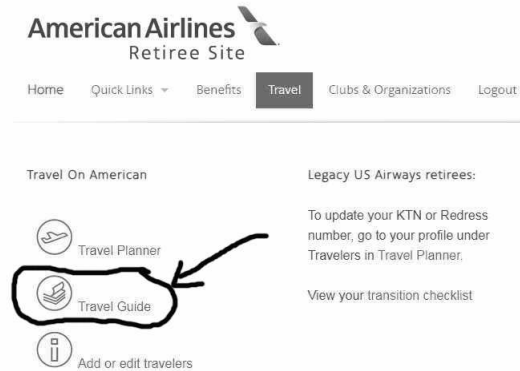
---3 September 2019 Vanguard Meeting---

We had a DVD presentation by Bob and Irene Garrett about a postal scam operation. The criminal collected a great deal of information from unaware victims which he used to defraud them of money. Because of today's lower economy (compared to the 50s and 60s) and greater joblessness, many idle minds turn to unlawful ways of getting money. In the case of the postal scam the criminal was making many times the money he would have earned in a legitimate work situation. He did it by defrauding people of their monetary resources. In this case the story had a happy ending because the Post Office caught the scammer and prosecuted him. Sadly, in today's world, not many scammers get caught and their unlawful efforts make everyday life a potential fiscal pothole if you are not on guard. In the past we have had Paul Greenwood talk to us about the current scams which are brought to the senior fraud department of San Diego County. The scams continue to proliferate and sadly law enforcement usually only records them after the victims are defrauded. The Union Tribune had an article about two scammers dressed in Water Department uniforms and ringing the doorbell of unwary victims. Two would enter the home and while one stayed with the victim appearing to test the faucets and toilets, the other one would be cleaning out the jewelry boxes and purses. They also had an article in the Union Tribune which had a man who was buying a home receiving instructions from the bank via e mail which told him to transfer his funds into a certain bank account number. When the potential victim went to the bank to have the funds (\$ 300,000) transferred, the bank clerk told him this was an account in Milwaukee Wisconsin and that California transactions are usually done via California Banks. She saved the man from losing \$ 300,000 dollars. A very tidy sum indeed. I myself have had a phony "grandchild" call from Mexico to tell me money was needed to get out of jail. I knew my grandson was only 16 and could not drive by himself yet. (especially to Mexico) So I asked him if his father knew the situation. "Oh no" said the phony grandson, he would kill me. I then told him that I would talk to his father to straighten out the situation and he hung up on me. Bruce Craig gave us two stories as well and some other hands went up to add to our scam inventory. Sadly the scam artists are becoming more plentiful and ever more ingenious. We have to be very alert. Bob and Irene offered to loan out the DVD of the postal scammer to any Vanguard who wanted to review it

We had about 16 members attend the meeting and my wife, Margaret Jahn won the 50/50 raffle. I think the last time we won was about two years ago. There was no birthday drawing as we had no one who had a September birthday present at the meeting.

---Getting an AA20 Ticket---

Most of us retirees know the pitfalls of stand-by travel. That makes many yearn for a confirmed space ticket. This ticket is known as an AA20 ticket because it is a confirmed space ticket with a 20 percent discount off the posted fare. You can find the instructions for purchase in the retiree website. After you log in, and the home page pops up you will choose **---Travel---** at the top of the page and when the new page opens you will see the following view and should choose the second option which is the **---travel guide---** .



Everything you wanted to know about travel on American Airlines by employees and retirees can be found there. The instructions for ordering an AA20 ticket are on pages **48 and 49** of that Travel Guide. If ordering more than 7 days in advance the procedure is to book it on aa.com but not to pay for it at that time. Then you must call 1-888-WE-FLY-AA. **1-888-933-5922** and let them complete the reservation for you. If you try to book less than 7 days prior to your flight plans you can skip the first part of the instructions and go directly to calling **1-888-933-5922** in order to let the agent book the AA20 reservation for you.

---Retiree Contact Number in the Event of Death---

In the event of a death of an employee or spouse the surviving member is to call **800-447-2000** in order to change the pension benefit information and to acquire the death benefit, which for most of us will be \$ 5,000 dollars. The maximum benefit is \$ 30,000 if you die within the first year of retirement and declines by \$ 5,000 each following year until the \$ 5,000 amount is reached. This is for employees who retired under the TWU contract. Some work groups will have different benefits. Also, employees of US Air, TWA and other airline retirees who are now under the American Airlines name may have differing benefit terms.

Non-Rev travel on AA continues in force for the spouse or eligible children of an AA retiree after his/her death, but they are no longer eligible for reduced rate travel on other airlines. This rule would be the same for all retiree groups who now fall under the American Airlines umbrella.



---Its Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas---

Yes, we are only in September, but we are fast approaching the holiday season and we want to remind you that the Holiday season is fast approaching. Irene Garret has been coordinating with the Holiday Inn about our Christmas party, and we hope to have it there again in December. Last year the cost was \$ 34 dollars per person. Irene hopes that there will not be an increase for this year. We should have more information for you at the October 1st Vanguard meeting.



---October Birthdays - Happy Birthday Vanguard---

Oct 3 – **Ernie Blanchard**

Oct 6 - **Lucile Huffine**

Oct 7 – **Mary Solsbak, Dennis Kaptain**

Oct 9 – **Richard Miller**

Oct 13 – **Raymond Marsh, Herbert Nelson**

Oct 15 – **Deborah Smith, Rosemarie Wosewick,**

Oct 16 –**Diane Rogers**

Oct 17 – **Frank Walkenhorst**

Oct 22 – **Bill ‘Willy’ Schumka**

Oct 24 – **Judi Cooper**

Oct 26 – **Robert Garrett, Verval Bjork**

Oct 28 – **Rita Stasio**



Oct 6 - **Bill and Arleen Billings (1979)**

Oct 8 - **Paul and Mary Jane Delaney (1969)**

Oct 12 - **Larry and Marjorie Johnson (1965)**

Oct 23 - **Mike and Marcy Davitt (1988)**

Oct 27 – **Steve and Margaret Jahn (1967)**



None - We are all still here and can attend the Vanguard meeting.

---Scoot to Add 16 Airbus A321neos---

29 July 2019

Airwise

Singapore Airlines' low cost carrier Scoot is adding 16 Airbus A321neos to its fleet, with deliveries starting this year. The budget carrier has converted six of an order of A320neos to the larger A321, and will lease a further 10 of the 236-seat aircraft. The A321neos will go into service from the fourth quarter on routes of up to six hours duration, as the airline pushes to meet a target of double-digit growth by the end of the 2020-21 financial year. "The A321neos will inject growth possibilities to our network plans for 2020 and beyond," Scoot chief executive Lee Lik Hsin said.

"We hope the process of introducing this new fleet into our Scoot family will be as exciting for our customers as it is for us." Scoot said it expects fuel cost savings of 12 percent compared to the smaller A320neo, and a 20 percent improvement over the A320ceo. It is also looking forward to the aircraft halving the noise footprint and reducing emissions from its Pratt & Whitney LEAP engines. The LCC currently operates a fleet that includes 29 Airbus A320-family aircraft, two of which are A320neos. The first Scoot A321neo will be called 'Wings of Change'.

---Embraer Commercial Jet Deliveries Slip in Q2---

30 July 2019

Airwise

Embraer's commercial jet division delivered 26 aircraft in the second quarter, down from the 28 it handed over in the same period last year, but up from Q1's 11. There were 22 E175s, one E190, two E195s and an E190-E2 handed over to customers during the second quarter. Embraer also delivered 25 executive jets - four Phenom 100s, 15 Phenom 300s, five of the smaller Legacy series, and one of the airframer's new Praetor family.

At the end of the second quarter, the company's order backlog stood at 1,890 commercial jets, 168 of which were for the new E2 family. During the quarter, Embraer received type certification for the E195-E2, the largest member of the E2 family, from Brazil's ANAC, the US FAA, and Europe's EASA civil aviation authorities.

Embraer put the total value of orders outstanding at \$16.9 billion dollars, up from \$16 billion at the end of the first quarter. It said market demand, mainly for the new Praetor family of executive jets, was mainly responsible for the increase.

---Air France Orders Airbus A220s But A380s To Go---

30 July 2019

Airwise

Air France has selected the Airbus A220 to update its short-haul fleet, but the A380 won't have a future at the airline as it plans the superjumbo's retirement by 2022. Air France-KLM signed a memorandum of understanding with Airbus for 60 A220-300s to replace the French airline's A318s and A319s. The provisional deal includes options for 30 additional A220s and 30 purchase rights. Based on Airbus's most recently published list price, the orders would be valued at \$5.49 billion dollars when firmed up. First delivery is expected in September 2021.

Air France said the 149-seat A220-300 is perfectly suited to replace A318s and A319s on short- and medium-haul routes, enabling the airline to reduce its environmental footprint. "The selection of the Airbus A220-300 supports our goal of a more sustainable operation, by significantly reducing CO2 and noise emissions," Air France-KLM Group CEO Benjamin Smith said. "This is a very important next step in Air France's transformation, and this evolution in Air France's fleet underlines the Group's determination to attain European airline leadership." Air France also announced that it will retire its fleet of 10 Airbus A380s by 2022, to be replaced by new generation aircraft.

Competitive pressures limit the markets the A380 can profitably operate in, with the aircraft consuming 20-25 percent more fuel per seat than new generation long-haul aircraft.

---Air China to Increase Airbus A320neo Fleet---

6 Aug 2019

Airwise

Air China will add 10 Airbus A320neos to its fleet, with the announcement of a lease deal with BOC Aviation. Deliveries of the Pratt & Whitney-powered A320s to the Beijing-based airline are scheduled to start this year and conclude in 2020. “BOC Aviation is delighted to partner once again with Air China by leasing 10 new A320neo aircraft to assist with the airline’s fleet expansion plans,” BOC’s chief executive Robert Martin said.

“China remains an important market with its robust demand growth, and BOC Aviation is well placed to support this.” Air China already operates a fleet of 15 A320neos from a previous order. The airline’s A320neos seat 158 in a two class layout.

---Ryanair UK Pilots Vote for August, September Strikes---

7 Aug 2019

Airwise

Ryanair’s UK pilots represented by the BALPA union have voted to strike later this month and in September. Ryanair members of the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) voted for industrial action in a ballot that saw 80 percent vote to strike on a 72 percent turnout. The union said its members at Ryanair went on strike on August 22nd and 23rd, and again on September 2-4. Ryanair said the strikes were “pointless” as the industrial action had not resulted in any flight cancellations. (Because many of its pilots are not in the union) The next rounds of strikes will be: 18-19 September for 48 hours. BALPA General Secretary Brian Strutton said the union had received no formal offer from the airline and that it is “imperative that we resolve this dispute urgently to avoid strike action. No pilot wants to spoil the public’s travel plans but at the moment it seems we have no choice.”

A Ryanair statement said the airline is disappointed that BALPA is threatening to disrupt its customers’ travel plans when it has the support of “less than 30 percent” of Ryanair’s UK pilots. “BALPA have no mandate to disrupt our customers holidays and flights, particularly at a time when UK pilots are facing job losses due to the Boeing MAX delivery delays, and the threat of a no deal Brexit on October 31.

“It is notable that over 70 percent of Ryanair’s UK pilots are either not members of BALPA, or did not vote in BALPA’s ballot, or voted against industrial action.” The low cost airline has requested BALPA to return to talks, but with the union saying “Ryanair management cannot understand how to go about working with us constructively, or how to negotiate,” the parties seem as far apart as ever.

---BA Computer Failure Causes London Flight Disruption---

7 Aug 2019

Airwise

British Airways said it is planning to operate its normal flight schedule on Thursday after a computer problem caused delays and disruption at London airports. The outage, which BA put down to a systems issue, affected flights from early Wednesday morning and caused knock-on delays throughout the day. Staff were unable to check-in passengers and had to use manual procedures. Several dozen flights were cancelled at Heathrow and a few at Gatwick before the system outage was rectified.

BA said there may be some residual disruption to flights as a result of the issue, and advised customers to check online for flight information before leaving for the airport. Wednesday’s issue is just the latest British Airways has suffered over the last couple of years. In 2017, a systems outage caused widespread travel disruption over a holiday weekend, with tens of thousands of people affected. A power supply problem at the carrier’s technical facilities near Heathrow was blamed for that. In July last year, another outage caused delays and cancellations, with BA’s Heathrow Terminal 5 particularly badly affected. In September, the airline suffered another IT (Information Technology) problem, with hundreds of thousands of customer details stolen from its website.

---Air Canada Ups Transat Offer Price---

13 Aug 2019

Airwise

Air Canada has increased the purchase price for its acquisition of Canadian travel company Transat to \$720 million Canadian Dollars. (current exchange rate for 1 Canadian dollar is .76 US dollar.) The airline offered \$13 Canadian dollars per share in June for all outstanding stock in the travel booker, despite a higher offer of \$14 Canadian dollars for around a fifth of Transat's shares from real estate developer **Group Mach**. Air Canada has now increased its offer to \$18 Canadian dollars per share in an all-cash transaction. The improved offer is supported by Transat's largest shareholder Letko Brosseau, who owns around 19.3 percent of the company's shares. "After extensive consultations with Letko Brosseau and several other large shareholders of Transat, we agreed to materially increase our price to ensure the transaction receives the necessary level of support," Air Canada chief executive Calin Rovinescu said.

The airline's board has approved the sweetened deal, which includes an increased break fee of \$40 million Canadian dollars payable by Transat in case of termination of the agreement under certain circumstances, including a higher offer from another party. The Transat board said in a statement that the arrangement with Air Canada "is in the best interest of Transat and its stakeholders and is fair to Transat shareholders." The board recommended that shareholders approve the Air Canada offer.

---Ryanair's Irish Pilots Agree to Mediated Talks---

14 Aug 2019

Airwise

The union representing Ryanair's Ireland-based pilots will meet the airline in mediated talks starting Wednesday. The Fórsa union (80,000 member union of government workers as well as the Irish Airline Pilots Association) said it had accepted an invitation from mediator Kieran Mulvey to attend talks on the pilots' dispute with the low cost carrier over pay and "structures that are in line with sector norms."

The union said that the Irish Airline Pilots' Association (Ialpa) had submitted a proposal to Ryanair in March on pay, pensions and working conditions, and that only a substantive and meaningful counter-proposal from the airline would prevent a strike next week. Ialpa has a mandate for industrial action following a ballot in which 94 percent of directly-employed Ryanair pilots who are members of Ialpa voted for industrial action. In a statement commenting on the pilot ballot, **Ryanair said fewer than half of its Irish pilots are members of Fórsa, and less than 60 percent of those members took part in the ballot. It said that equates to less than 25 percent of Ryanair's Irish Pilots voting for industrial action.**

---Norwegian to End Transatlantic Flights From Ireland---

14 Aug 2019

Airwise

Norwegian Air will pull out of flying between Ireland and the United States from September, citing the grounding of its 737 MAX fleet as the cause. The low cost airline's six routes between Dublin, Cork and Shannon in Ireland, and the US and Canada will end on September 15 this year. Norwegian's SVP for long-haul commercial, Matthew Wood, said: "As the airline moves from growth to profitability, we have conducted a comprehensive review of our transatlantic operations between Ireland and North America and considering the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, we have concluded that these routes are no longer commercially viable."

Wood added that the LCC constantly evaluates route performance, with the grounding of the 737 MAX and the continuing uncertainty over its return to service date leading to the decision to end the Ireland-North America routes. The airline said it will reroute passengers onto other Norwegian services to ensure they reach their destinations, or offer refunds if they no longer want to travel. Norwegian's 80 Dublin-based group admin staff will not be affected by the route closures, but pilots and cabin crew may not fair as well, with reductions remaining "a last resort."

---Pilots Land Plane in Field After Bird Strike---

15 Aug 2019

Airwise

A Ural Airlines Airbus A321 landed in a Russian cornfield on Thursday after it lost power to both its engines after a bird strike. The flight from Moscow's Zhukovsky airport to Simferopol was struck by seagulls shortly after takeoff, losing one engine almost immediately, and suffering reduced power from the other. The pilots landed the aircraft successfully in a field southeast of Moscow. All 233 on board evacuated the aircraft via safety slides with no fatalities, but several dozen people sustained minor injuries during the landing and evacuation.

The flight crew elected to put down in the field after shutting down both engines to reduce the possibility of a fire. The undercarriage was not deployed and the pilots carried out a successful belly landing. Russian media praised the pilots, comparing the landing to a similar incident in 2009 when a US Airways Airbus landed on the Hudson River in New York, also after a bird strike.

---Cathay CEO Hogg Resigns as Airline Limits Brand Damage---

16 Aug 2019

Airwise

Cathay Pacific's chief executive and chief commercial officer have resigned as the Hong Kong airline attempts to extricate itself from the controversy over its attitude to staff taking part in city-wide democracy protests. CEO Rupert Hogg and CCO Paul Loo resigned and take "responsibility as leaders of the company." The airline said it is "the right time for new leadership to take Cathay Pacific forward."

The resignations come after Cathay was forced to change its position on staff members taking part in the democracy protests that have become increasingly violent. The airline initially tried to stay away from expressing views on staff protesters but after receiving explicit instructions from China via its Civil Aviation Administration, Cathay issued a statement "strongly supporting" the Hong Kong SAR government in their efforts to restore law and order. The CAA said employees involved in the protests had to be suspended from operating flights on mainland China routes. Additionally, the airline has to inform the CAA of all staff members working on China flights, including those that fly over the country to other destinations. Cathay chairman John Slosar in a statement said Hogg had executed an important three-year transformation process that provides a strong platform for the airline's continued development.

"However, recent events have called into question Cathay Pacific's commitment to flight safety and security and put our reputation and brand under pressure. This is regrettable as we have always made safety and security our highest priority. We therefore think it is time to put a new management team in place who can reset confidence and lead the airline to new heights. Rupert Hogg has been replaced by Augustus Tang as CEO with immediate effect. Prior to his appointment, Tang was chief executive of aviation maintenance company Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company. The board's pick as chief commercial officer is Ronald Lam, current chief executive of Cathay's low cost airline Hong Kong Express.

---Mesa Air Signs Memo for 100 Mitsubishi Spacejets---

5 Sept 2019

Airwise

Mesa Airlines has signed a memorandum of understanding with Mitsubishi Aircraft to discuss the purchase of up to 100 SpaceJet M100 aircraft. The announcement between the emerging Japanese commercial aircraft builder and the US regional airline was made at the Regional Airline Association's annual meet up in Nashville. The memorandum "targets" 50 firm orders and purchase rights for an additional 50, Mitsubishi said in a statement from the convention. If the orders are firmed up, deliveries will begin in 2024. The SpaceJet range of regional jets consists of two aircraft sizes, the M90 which seats up to 92 in a single class layout, and the M100 with up to 88 seats. The M100 is designed principally for US markets to meet airline scope clauses. A scope clause is a contractual agreement between airlines and pilot unions limiting the size of aircraft that can be flown by regional affiliates. (commuter airlines) "With its large cabin, comfort, new technology and low operating costs, the Mitsubishi SpaceJet M100 can deliver this premium experience within US scope clause." "Mesa Airlines' selection of the SpaceJet M100 confirms that our aircraft fulfills current and future needs in this industry," Mitsubishi Aircraft president Hisakazu Mizutani said.

San Diego Vikings
c/o Kay Bays
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San Diego, California 92110

Next Vanguard Meeting
1 October 2019, 10:15 am
San Diego Air and
Space Museum