



February Meeting Highlights

Special points of interest:

- February Meeting
- New Member
- April Meeting

Twenty-two attended our first meeting of 2019. President Horn welcomed everyone and introduced new member, **BILL BENS**.



Mr. Bens retired in 2004 as Manager Airport Customer Service in STL. *Happy belated January birthday Ben!!*

- * We have reserved the Viscount once again for our Holiday luncheon. It will be Wednesday, December 11, 2019.
- ♦ At our board meeting we discussed changing the venue for our May social from the Legion and are open to suggestions.
- ♦ January, February and March birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged. As well as the recent passing of Dave Thomson and Ross Merrill.
- ♦ Jerry McPherson won the "share-the-wealth" and graciously donated it back to the Chapter. Thanks Jerry!

Our annual donation to the American Legion for giving us the opportunity to have our meetings was presented to Debbie

- ♦ John introduced our guest speaker, Doris Evans.



Doris brought the "desert to life" for us with interesting videos of the creatures amongst us.

She places tiny Polaroid Cube Cameras throughout her yard capturing a rare peek into their intimate world. We enjoyed seeing and learning about nature.



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**NEXT MEETING
APRIL 17, 2019**

~~2019 OFFICERS~~

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Please contact :

Judy Hunter, Ambassador

Email: hunterja8@gmail.com
(new email address) or call

743-3717 (if you are unable to reach Judy, please contact any officer) if you have information you wish to share regarding sickness, hospitalization or death of a Vanguard member or family member.

2019 SCHEDULE

April 17
May 15
October 16
November 20
*December 11
*Christmas Event

Any address, phone number or email changes.....please advise Karen Shudy. We would like to keep all information up-to-date

We're on the web:
www.aavanguardscities.com



****Helpful AA Telephone Contacts****

*A-9 Death/ Emergency Passes
1-888-WE-FLY-AA (888-933-5922)

*Flight listings & ZED fare PNRs
1-800-433-7300

*American Airlines Benefits Service Center
AON Hewitt 1-888-860-6178

HR Services has a new "dedicated" phone contact for retirees
844-543-5747

To access the new
RETIREE JETNET
Go To: retirees.aa.com
1-888-207-2607

In Memory of

Dave Thomson
Ross Merrill

With sincere condolences to their families



March 10 Joe Quagliata
March 26 Monica Rankin

March 4 John & Karen Shudy 47 years
March 30 Mickey & Bonnie Conway 51 years



Exclusive: A look inside the new American Airlines Airbus A321neo — and its Pittsburgh manufacturing base

The first American Airlines Airbus A321neo landed Feb. 1 at Pittsburgh International Airport, where the aircraft will undergo initial checks. American Airlines gave the Business Times an exclusive look at the aircraft and the maintenance facility.

The A321neo — 144 feet long, 38 feet tall with a wingspan of 114 feet — is a beehive of activity. Almost every door and latch is open, as are the engine cowlings. Large yellow ladders surround the aircraft, allowing the mechanics access to every part of the jet.

The jet has been the center of attention for the American Airlines Pittsburgh maintenance base ever since it arrived about 24 hours earlier from a factory in Hamburg, Germany. After a brief stop at the terminal, it was taxied to the hangar across the field and is in the midst of an intensive two-week workover.

"This is our new baby," said Bob Black, a lead mechanic at the Pittsburgh maintenance base, where about 500 maintenance workers and engineers specialize in American Airlines's Airbus fleet. American Airlines (Nasdaq: AAL) gave the Pittsburgh Business Times an exclusive look inside the maintenance facility and a closer look at the first Airbus A321neo.

American Airlines flies the Airbus A319, A320 and A321 models; it has the largest fleet of A321s in the world, more than 200. The A321neo is the latest generation of the long-range aircraft, which seats 196 passengers, 20 in first class and the rest in economy, and has more fuel-efficient engines and large winglets. It has on order 100 A321neos, and this jet, N400AN, is the first of 17 of the jets that will be delivered in 2019.

American Airlines to offer free Apple Music in-flight

Passengers flying American Airlines will be able to access their Apple Music in-flight without being charged for Wi-Fi access. Apple is teaming up with the airline for the service, which began Friday on US flights that offer Wi-Fi through Viasat satellites.

American Airlines' new jet to fly Phoenix route in April

American Airlines' new A321neo jet will be deployed on the Phoenix-Orlando route, beginning on April 2. The state-of-the-art planes will replace the Boeing 757s and come with satellite Wi-Fi and seating for 196 passengers.

KTAR-AM/KTAR-FM (Phoenix) (2/6)

American Airlines to operate direct cargo between Ireland and Texas

An American Airlines' Boeing 787-9 aircraft will fly a new direct cargo route from Dublin Airport to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport beginning June 7. "This first, direct, scheduled service from Ireland to Texas will open up a number of new markets for both Irish and multinational exporters with freight destined for Dallas and beyond," said American Airlines' Andy Cornwell.

Global Trade magazine online (2/6)

American to offer Phoenix-London service year-round

American Airlines is responding to strong bookings by expanding its daily seasonal service between London and Phoenix. The airline was set to offer the route from March 31 to Oct. 26, but will instead offer it year-round.

American Airlines to unveil new premium-cabin amenity kits

American Airlines will launch premium-cabin amenity kits by new and well-known brands, including leather accessories specialists This is Ground and Baxter of California.

The Business Journals (tiered subscription model) (2/6) The Arizona Republic (Phoenix) (tiered subscription model) (2/7)

Ariz. airport adds service for visually impaired travelers

Arizona's Tucson International Airport has introduced free Aira service, which connects visually impaired travelers with live agents who help them navigate the airport. The America Association of Airport Executives and Aira have partnered to make the service available at more than 30 airports since November.

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson) (2/9)

Black female pilot pushes girls to reach for their dream in aviation

Beth Powell, an American Airlines pilot, was inspired by one of her teachers at a young age to become a pilot. Today, Powell works with students, bringing awareness to the many opportunities for women in aviation and has set up a scholarship fund for more diverse pilots. "Set your goals. That passion will propel you through, and you will truly feel that you never worked a day in your life because you absolutely love what you do," Powell said.

Today (2/18)

American Airlines delivers with 5-Star Service options at LAX, JFK

Passengers taking advantage of American Airlines' exclusive Five Star Service at Los Angeles International Airport and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport enjoy an off-terminal entrance, private suites, private security screening and access to Blade, a private aviation service. "We understand the value our customers put on their time and a personalized end-to-end travel experience -- whether it is a private travel experience, a little more luxury, fine dining in the airport or getting to the gate quickly, we have them covered," said Janelle Anderson, American's vice president for global marketing.

TravelPulse (2/19)

American Airlines to increase service at N.C. airport

American Airlines will increase its average number of daily flights at North Carolina's Charlotte Douglas International Airport from 664 to 700 by the end of 2019. Additional flights are planned for destinations including Chicago, New York City, Los Angeles and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

DFW is American Airlines' most profitable hub: travelers benefit, too

Texas' Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport is American Airlines' most profitable hub and a boon for local travelers who benefit from hundreds of daily flights and low airfares. "High profitability doesn't necessarily mean it's on the backs of consumers," said John Heimlich, chief economist at Airlines for America.

American Airlines to contribute \$807M to pension plans

American Airlines in 2019 will contribute \$807 million to pension plans, up from \$467 million in 2018.

Pensions & Investments (free access for SmartBrief readers) (2/25)

American Airlines awards \$25K grant to fund museum's flight academy

American Airlines has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the USS Yorktown Foundation in support of the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum's "Take Flight to Your Future" Flight Academy program. The program features a realistic air-traffic control center and bases its curriculum on South Carolina's math, science and English language arts standards.

Patriots Point News & Events (Mount Pleasant, S.C.) (2/26)

US airlines prove strong environmental record

Nancy Young, vice president for environmental affairs for Airlines for America, writes that US airlines have improved their fuel efficiency by more than 125% since 1978 and have embraced a goal of carbon-neutral growth in international aviation. "We are driving technology, infrastructure, operations and sustainable alternative-fuel advances to responsibly and effectively limit our fuel consumption, greenhouse-gas contribution and potential climate change impacts, while allowing commercial aviation to continue to serve as a key contributor to the US economy," she writes.

Morning Consult (2/27)

Texas airport celebrates new service from American Airlines

American Airlines has launched service to Texas' Valley International Airport. "American being at Valley International Airport is great because it offers that additional connectivity not only to other cities in the United States but other cities around the world," said Harlingen Mayor Chris Boswell.

KGBT-TV (Harlingen, Texas) (3/4)

American Airlines CEO points to "strong" air travel market

American Airlines CEO Doug Parker talks to CNBC's Phil LeBeau about his company and the air travel industry.

"What we see is strong demand for travel," Parker said.

Interview with Lori Cline, chief pilot at American's N.C. hub

Lori Cline, chief pilot at American Airlines' Charlotte Douglas International hub in North Carolina, talks about her aviation career and what it's like to be a chief pilot. "The best part is the fact that in the course of a day you can dramatically and positively impact dozens of pilots by assisting them, which is immediately satisfying," she said.

FlightGlobal (U.K.) (3/7)

American updates policies for emotional support and service animals

American Airlines has updated its rules for emotional support and service animals, effective April 1. Passengers with support animals must submit a health form documenting the animal's immunizations, signed by a veterinarian. "The goal of these changes is to protect customers who have a legitimate need as well as the team members who work every day to keep all customers safe," American said.

Herald & Review (Decatur, Ill.)/Chicago Tribune (3/10)

Passenger advocate against raising the PFC tax on travelers

Charlie Leocha, passenger advocate and chairman of the consumer advocacy group Travelers United, penned an op-ed in opposition of a proposal by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., to increase the passenger facility charge on the millions of everyday Americans who take to the skies. "A tax increase, even if painful, could be justified if airports were running out of money and struggling to raise new funds. But they're not, which means there's no reason for DeFazio to make travel more expensive," Leocha writes.

RealClearPolicy (3/12)