



# Vanguard Eagle

San Diego Chapter    U.S AIR January 2020

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



*Have a Happy New Year*



### ---The Vanguard Christmas Holiday Party---

There were 27 of our Vanguards at our annual Christmas party, and as always, we had lots of conversations with our fellow retirees about our Airline years, and especially of our non-rev travel experiences. Irene read us a heartwarming story of a woman and her daughter who had meager resources, which were solved all at once just before Christmas. Irene also mentioned the need for an updated Roster booklet, which would take a lot of contacting with those listed in the booklet. Many of them are no longer with us. We had a great bartender serving drinks who even bought 5 dollars worth of 50/50 raffle tickets and then won the drawing. We were all happy about that. We had two members with December birthdays, Kay Bays and Marcy Davitt. Marcy ended up winning the birthday drawing, she was born Christmas Eve. Irene had drawings for two plaques made by Gerrit Vreeken, who passed away in October of 2018. His wife Jo Ann donated them to our Vanguard Chapter. Elaine Johnson won the 30 year Plaque and Claudette Craig the 25 year plaque. Two wallets with San Diego themes were also awarded and Margaret Jahn won one and Ruth Annunziata the other. Louise Oliverio ran the gift exchange with Brad Davis and Irene Garrett and most of our members left with a gift, some opening them at our party, some taking them home to unwrap. Those who attended all seemed to have had a good time. At the luncheon, both the chicken and the fish menu choices were enjoyed by the party guests and no one left hungry.

Some pictures from our party are below and on page 2:







Preston Grant

Janet Grant



Bruce Craig

Claudette Craig



Elaine Johnson

Diane 'Cookie' Rogers

Mary Price



Marcy Davitt

Nancy Day

Keith Widdop



Steve Jahn

Bob Garrett

Margaret Jahn



Pat (Ruth's Sister)

Ruth Annunziata

Jim Annunziata

Irene Garrett

We hope you can find yourself in the pictures. We all had a good time and did some reminising. The exciting world of stand-by travel was the favorite topic.



Irene Garrett

Bob Garrett

Kay Bays



Bill Sherlock



Gerry Sherlock



Paula Landry

Deb Burroughs

## Happy Birthday Vanguards



Jan 2 - **Richard Roberson**

Jan 3 – **Richard 'Dick' Smith**

Jan 5 - **Phil Cooper**

Jan 7 - **Rose Elrod, - Bill Lunt**

Jan 11 - **Ruth Annunziata – Anthony Mitchell**

Jan 14 - **Louise Oliverio**

Jan 18 – **Edward Gibson, Virginia Goddard**

Jan 21 – **John Bjork**

Jan 22 – **Rochelle Wilson, Mary Jane Delaney**

Jan 24 – **Laura Albo**

Jan 28 – **Sam Wilson**

Jan 31 – **Steve Jahn**



Dec 5 - **Charles 'Chuck' Blasco** was born in Chicago on 17 Jan 1938, so he was 80 years old. Chuck had been a policeman in Chicago for many years. He then went to work for American Airlines in the Stores Department. When moving to California, he transferred to Los Angeles and I made his acquaintance there. Chuck always had a friendly personality and easily made friends. As I was a big History fan, he mentioned that he subscribed to the History Book Club, so we had that in common and would talk about one or another prominent event of the past. I transferred to San Diego Stores in 1984 and Chuck eventually made the same move. His wife worked for Ralph's Food Stores and as the economy started declining, the company closed some of their stores, so she had to move around from one store to another. This caused her some anxiety and she passed away while I was still working in stores, from where I retired in April 2003. Chuck was down in spirits for a while, but his attitude slowly recovered and he became his friendly outgoing self again. So he lived the bachelor's life for some 20 years since that sad event but learned to cope very well. His natural friendly attitude must have provided him with lots of friends and good neighbors after he retired. I certainly enjoyed working with Chuck very much.

### **---Spirit Airlines Signs for 100 Airbus A320s---**

23 Oct 2019

Airwise

Spirit Airlines of Miramar Florida, has signed an MOU with Airbus for the purchase of 100 A320neo family aircraft. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) includes options on a further 50 aircraft. Spirit said the order will include a mix of A319, A320 and A321 models, with deliveries scheduled out to 2027.

“This new order represents another milestone for Spirit,” the airline’s chief executive Ted Christie said. “The additional aircraft will be used to support Spirit’s growth as we add new destinations and expand our network across the US, Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Spirit currently operates 138 Airbus A320-family aircraft, with another seven due for delivery by the end of the year. The ultra-low-cost carrier expects to receive another 48 A320neos during 2020 and 2021. Spirit is planning to upgrade its cabins over the next few months, with details due to be released in December.

### **---Bamboo Airways' First A320neo Arrives Next Month---**

29 Oct 2019

Airwise Vietnam’s

Bamboo Airways will receive its first Airbus A320neo next month, as the new airline transitions from a small leased fleet to purchased aircraft. Bamboo, a subsidiary of Vietnamese travel and property company FLC, placed an order for 24 Airbus A320neo-family aircraft in March last year. **The airline also has 20 787-9s on order with Boeing.**

“New aircraft have been continuously joining Bamboo Airways’ modern fleet recently,” the airline said in a statement. “Which helps improve both the quantity and quality of the airline’s fleet, increases the operational capacity and achieves its goal of offering 5-star service on every flight.” The airline currently operates 28 domestic and international routes and intends to expand the network to 37-40 routes by the end of 2019. The plan includes new routes to South Korea, Taiwan (China) and other southeast Asian destinations. Bamboo styles itself as a ‘hybrid’ airline, combining traditional and low cost models. It plans to offer five-star service on all flights.

### **---Air Premia Commits to Five Boeing 787s ---**

29 Oct 2019

Airwise South

Korean startup airline Air Premia has committed to order five Boeing 787-9s, worth \$1.4 billion dollars at list prices when the sale is firmed up. Air Premia has already agreed a lease deal with Air Lease for three 787-9s as it moves towards the ten it said earlier this year it would acquire.

“This is an exciting decision for Air Premia as we look to deliver a world-class experience to our customers,” the airline’s chief executive Peter Sim said. Seoul Incheon-based Air Premia plans to launch in September 2020, initially operating regional flights within Asia. Its expansion plans include long-haul routes to Los Angeles and San Jose by the following year.

### **---IndiGo Orders 300 Airbus A320-Family Planes---**

29 Oct 2019

Airwise Indian

airline IndiGo has placed an order for 300 A320neo family aircraft, in one of Airbus’s largest single aircraft orders. The low cost airline’s firm order takes its total tally to 730 A320neo family jets. The latest order would be worth at least USD\$33 billion at last year’s list prices. Airbus no longer publishes list prices. IndiGo’s order is a mix of A320neo, A321neo and A321XLR aircraft.

“This order is an important milestone, as it reiterates our mission of strengthening air connectivity in India,” the airline’s chief executive Ronojoy Dutta said. “India is expected to continue with its strong aviation growth and we are well on our way to build the world’s best air transportation system, to serve more customers and deliver on our promise of providing low fares and a courteous, hassle free experience to them.” IndiGo’s fleet currently includes 97 A320neos and 128 A320ceo aircraft.



### **---Vietjet Adds to Airbus Fleet Wirth 20 A321XLRs**

31 Oct 2019

Airwise

Vietjet announced an order for 20 Airbus A321XLRs, 15 are new orders, and five converted from a previous A321neo deal. The Vietnamese low cost carrier said the first of the extra long range aircraft will be delivered in 2023.

The new aircraft will allow Vietjet to expand its network across Asia, and on longer routes to Australia and Russia, the airline said in a statement. “Vietjet has always been a pioneer in operating new, modern, advanced and fuel-efficient aircraft... Following the signing of this contract, the new A321XLR will be the perfect upgrade to Vietjet’s fleet as we look to grow our international flight network,” the airline’s chief executive Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao said.

The airline has also signed a training agreement, with Airbus supplying two new A320-family full flight simulators, and providing a range of training services. Vietjet has now ordered a total of 186 A320-family aircraft, 60 of which have already been delivered.

### **---Qantas Grounds Three 737-800s Due to Hairline Cracks---**

1 Nov 2019

Airwise

Qantas has removed three Boeing 737-800s from service after the Australian airline found structural cracks during inspections. The US Federal Aviation Administration requires operators of older 737NG aircraft to inspect the ‘pickle fork’, a structural part that connects the wings to the fuselage.

Aircraft with over 22,600 flight cycles were required to be inspected over the next few months, but Qantas brought forward the process on the 33 737s that were in that age bracket. Of the aircraft inspected, the airline found three with hairline cracks in the pickle forks and removed the planes from service. “We would never fly an aircraft that wasn’t safe. Even where these hairline cracks are present they’re not an immediate risk,” the CEO of Qantas’ domestic division, Andrew David said.

The three aircraft are expected to return to service before the end of the year. The FAA directive requires airlines to inspect aircraft with more than 30,000 flight cycles within seven days, and those between 22,600 and 29,999 cycles to be inspected within the next 1,000 cycles. Aviation regulators generally follow FAA directives for US built aircraft.

### **---Hong Kong Airlines Drops LA as It Trims Operations---**

4 Nov 2019

Airwise

Hong Kong Airlines will reduce its flight schedule and suspend service to Los Angeles, blaming a challenging business environment. Strong competition, overcapacity in the market and the protests in Hong Kong have affected travel demand, impacting revenue, the company said.

The carrier will trim its operations by about 6 percent, and adjust frequencies to some destinations. It will end its single remaining US flight in February next year, after dropping San Francisco in August.

“The airline has been making operational adjustments from time to time to respond to the changing market conditions. Cost-savings measures were also concurrently implemented to mitigate the financial impact on the airline,” a statement said. “However, as challenges in the market continue to escalate, Hong Kong Airlines will further consolidate its network to respond to the current situation.”

The airline flagged further changes, warning that if market demand continues to weaken, the LAX flight suspension may need to be implemented earlier. Further consolidation may also be necessary.

**---IAG Looks to Latin America With Air Europa Purchase---** 4 Nov 2019 Airwise

Iberia parent IAG has agreed to buy Spanish carrier Air Europa for €1 billionEuros (\$1.1 billion dollars) to boost its presence on Latin American and Caribbean routes. IAG said the acquisition will also transform Madrid's Barajas airport into a rival to Europe's four largest hubs - Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London Heathrow and Paris Charles De Gaulle.

The all-cash offer is expected to complete in the second half of 2020, subject to approvals. IAG chief executive Willie Walsh said of the deal, "Acquiring Air Europa would add a new competitive, cost effective airline to IAG, consolidating Madrid as a leading European hub and resulting in IAG achieving South Atlantic leadership." The Air Europa brand will be retained initially as a standalone entity within Iberia and run by CEO Luis Gallego.

"Following this agreement, Madrid will be able to compete with other European hubs on equal terms with a better position on Europe to Latin America routes and the possibility to become a gateway between Asia and Latin America," Iberia's Gallego said. Air Europa operates scheduled domestic and international flights to 69 destinations in Europe, Latin America, the United States, the Caribbean and North Africa. It carried 11.8 million passengers in 2018 on a fleet of 66 aircraft.

**---Cebu Air Orders 16 Airbus A330neos---** 4 Nov 2019 Airwise

Philippines budget airline Cebu Pacific has firmed up an order for 16 Airbus A330-900 aircraft in a \$4.74 billion dollar list price deal. The order converts a memorandum of understanding the airline signed at this year's Paris Airshow for the A330neos, plus 10 A321XLRs and five A320neos. The firm order only covers the A330s.

The Manila-based LCC said it will use the A330s to increase seat capacity and more effectively use airport slots in Manila and other Asian cities. "With this purchase, we aim to reduce our fuel emission and build a more sustainable operation," the airline's chief executive Lance Gokongwei said in a statement.

The new aircraft will fly trunk domestic routes in the Philippines and regionally, and longer range services to Australia and the Middle East. Delivery is scheduled to start in 2021, with the last due in 2024.

**---Airbus Took 415 Aircraft Orders In October---** 7 Nov 2019 Airwise

Airbus reported a strong October with orders for 415 commercial aircraft taken during the month, including its biggest ever deal with a single airline. India's IndiGo added an order for 300 more A320neo-family aircraft, pushing its overall order tally for the type to 730.

The bumper order took Airbus's order total for the January to end October period to 718, or 542 net of cancellations. The extended range A321XLR also proved popular in October, with Malaysia AirAsia X ordering 30, Wizz Air 20, and JetSMART 12. Two unidentified customers also ordered a total of 15 A321XLRs.

Other A320-family orders included 11 A321neos for China Airlines, and seven A320neos for Tigerair Taiwan. October pushed the A320neo series overall order total to over 7,000 from 113 customers. The A220 also added orders during the month, with Air Austral going for three A220s and Air Tanzania another two.

The backlog of ordered aircraft still to be delivered stood at 7,471 at the end of October, including 6,107 from the A320-family, 436 A220s, 593 A350s, 284 A330s and 51 A380s. Airbus delivered 77 commercial aircraft in October, taking its 2019 total to 648.

## ---Boeing Is Halting Production of the 737 MAX. What It Means for GE and Honeywell.---

By Al Root

Barrons

Dec. 16, 2019 6:06 pm ET

Boeing will temporarily halt production of the 737 MAX jet in January, adding to industry turmoil caused by the commercial aerospace giant's newest single-aisle plane. The additional delay and production reduction will ripple through the aerospace industry, impacting suppliers as well as airlines.

"We believe this decision is least disruptive to maintaining long-term production system and supply chain health," reads the company's Monday evening News release "This decision is driven by a number of factors, including the extension of certification into 2020, the uncertainty about the timing and conditions of return to service and global training approvals, and the importance of ensuring that we can prioritize the delivery of stored aircraft." There is nothing in the release that suggests Boeing doesn't expect the plane to return in 2020, which should limit the fallout from the production halt. The MAX has been grounded world-wide since mid-March after the tragic crash of an Ethiopian airlines jet, the second crash of a MAX model jet over the span of a few months. In April, Boeing decided to reduce MAX production from 52 a month to 42 a month. Since the grounding, more than 300 MAX jets have been made and parked. That represents tens of billions in sales for Boeing and payments to Boeing suppliers.

Boeing shares slipped more than \$14, or 4.3%, to \$327 a share Monday after the Seattle Times reported a production halt was imminent. That's at the low end of a trading range shares have been stuck in since the Ethiopian Airlines crash. Since that accident Boeing shares are down about 22%.

Investors can expect commercial aerospace suppliers such as Honeywell (HON), General Electric (GE) and United Technologies (UTX) shares to move Tuesday, but not by all that much. Boeing, again, still believes can bring the plane back into service soon. "We're working closely with Boeing and our airline customers to ensure the safe return to service of the 737 MAX," a GE spokesperson told Barron's. "We are partnering with our customers and suppliers to mitigate the impact of the temporary slowdown of the 737 MAX production, while protecting the company's ability to accelerate production as needed in the future." United Technologies and Honeywell were not immediately available for comment.

Airlines that fly the MAX will also be affected. Stock in American Airlines (AAL) and Southwest Airlines (LUV) could fall Tuesday. Both have MAX jets in their fleets. And both have said a lack of capacity and operating higher cost jets have cost them hundreds of millions of dollars in 2019. More delays means more losses. At least, the offset of less airplane capacity is higher airfares which helps all airlines. Of course, there is an impact on Boeing employees. Boeing has more than 150,000 employees and about 12,000 work in Renton Washington, where Boeing assembles the MAX jet. "During this time, it is our plan that affected employees will continue 737-related work, or be temporarily assigned to other teams in Puget Sound," reads the company news release.

Next up for investors will be questions about the dividend. Boeing declared a \$2.055 quarterly dividend Monday, and it's unlikely that Boeing would consider a cut. That would signal deeper problems for the MAX. Even if a cut is unlikely, investors will look for reassurance from company management in coming months. Boeing wasn't immediately available to respond to questions about the dividend.



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**Next Meeting  
JANUARY 7th, 2020  
10:15 AM  
SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE  
MUSEUM**