

PCN Services – High Life *Newsletter, News, Events, Deaths, Illness Notices* and PCN Calendar

Large Web Community for World's Largest Airline

A merger on Aug 1, 2009 of RSP and Delta Retired Pilots Communication Network

# High Life

For all Delta people who have truly touched the *High Life!*

Dear PCN,

Group Section.....

Mark's Remarks:

**Getting bored? Winter too long?**

**AAAHHHHHHH, March Madness just around the corner!**

News Section.....

Delta News (Recent stories of interest): [Yahoo](#), [AJC](#)

# Delta traffic down 2.6 percent in February

## ***Weakness in domestic and Atlantic routes pushes Delta Feb. traffic down 2.6 percent***

On Thursday March 4, 2010, 3:48 pm EST

ATLANTA (AP) -- Delta Air Lines said on Thursday that February traffic fell 2.6 percent on weakness in domestic and international routes.

Delta, the world's largest airline, said paying passengers flew 12.5 billion miles last month, down from 12.8 billion miles in the same month a year ago.

Delta, which also operates regional flights, cut capacity 6.1 percent to 16.2 billion available seat miles, which is a measure of one seat flown one mile.

As a result of the capacity cuts, average occupancy or load factor increased 2.8 percentage points to 77.1 percent from February 2009.

Traffic fell 3.3 percent on domestic routes and 1.5 percent on international routes. Latin American and Pacific traffic was up 4.1 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively, but fell 7 percent on Atlantic routes.

For the first two months of the year, traffic was down 3.9 percent systemwide. Capacity dropped by 5.8 percent, and average occupancy rose by 1.6 percentage points to 76.9 percent.

Delta shares fell 17 cents to \$12.76 in afternoon trading.

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# Richard acknowledges continuing merger milestones

March 5, 2010

Delta's first joint cockpit crew flew this week, the service to Chile was restored after the earthquake there and supporting Delta's bid for service to Tokyo-Haneda Airport were all highlighted in Richard's weekly message. Richard also noted in Right from Richard that Delta was ranked No. 3 in Fortune magazine's list of most-admired airlines.

"[The joint cockpit crew] was really great, because when you think about how much work it took to get our policies aligned and our safety manuals aligned and the SOC completed, it's really a testament to the professionalism and caliber of all of the pilots here at Delta," Richard said.

Last weekend's 8.8-magnitude earthquake in Chile damaged the airport and Delta's Latin America Call Center in the capital, Santiago. Delta was able to resume service to SCL on Wednesday.

"We have more than 180 employees in Chile and all of them are safe," Richard said. "Some of them have been impacted by the earthquake and many of you have asked what you can do to help. The best way to do that is by supporting the Delta Care Fund. It's mission is to help employees in need. You can donate through the credit union, and more information is available on DeltaNet."

As a result of last year's open skies treaty with Japan, Delta has applied to the DOT for authority to serve Haneda Airport from four U.S. cities: Seattle, Detroit, Los Angeles and Honolulu. Employees have until Monday's filing deadline, to send a letter to the DOT to support Delta's bid.

"Access to Haneda is definitely something we want because it's located much closer to the city of Tokyo than Narita, but we need to get the approval from the DOT and we're asking you all to help us," Richard said. "There are only four slot pairs available, and other airlines have applied. That's why your support is important. Please go to DeltaNet and send a letter voicing your support. The deadline for comments is Monday, March 8."

Richard thanked Delta Charter coordinator Michael Lowry after receiving a letter from a Navy lieutenant who was onboard one of Delta's relief flights returning from Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, recently.

The passenger commended Michael's assistance in helping him and 50 others from the hospital ship U.S.S. Comfort return to the U.S. after a month of treating victims of last month's earthquake in Haiti. The group's military flight was canceled because of a mechanical problem, and Michael willingly agreed to help them return on Delta's relief charter flight.

"Michael, thanks for seeing the opportunity to help and doing the right thing," Richard said. "The military men and women that serve all of us deserve that treatment."

[Other Airline News](#) (Recent stories of interest):

Thursday, March 4, 2010, 2:02pm EST

## American Airlines flight attendants move closer to strike

Triangle Business Journal

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants is a significant step closer to a strike after the union and **American Airlines**, the No. 2 carrier at **Raleigh-Durham International Airport**, failed to reach an agreement by the end of a five-day bargaining session.

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants said in a statement late Wednesday that the company left the bargaining table after the two parties were unable to reach a deal.

The union said it will now contact the National Mediation Board to request a 30-day cooling-off period. At the end of that period, APFA said it can choose to engage in a strike or seek other types of "self-help."

Read More: <http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2010/03/01/daily49.html?ana=yfcpc>

[Finance Section](#) (section containing items with financial consequence to our group):

FINANCE: CLAIMS/PBGC/HCTC/INSURANCE/PLANNING/TAX/ESTATE

Remaining financial items for retirees to watch:

After Aug 2007 these are retirement items remaining with financial consequence.

1. ~~PBGC 2nd look re-calc at qualified annuity benefits~~ - **completed 8/24/07**
2. ~~PBGC make up lump payment for underpayments since termination:~~ **most reported received 1/31/08**
3. Final claim distribution by DAL through BSI - **pending (now likely in '10 according to Kight)**
4. ~~Class Action suit against DAL concerning 5-yr look-back worth in excess of \$100 million -~~  
**withdrawn**
5. Final PBGC re-calc "determination" of qualified annuity (likely after claim stock sale) -  
**pending**
6. Pension reinstatement/contribution request by DP3 representing the retired pilots. **very long shot....pending**
7. ~~Roth IRA creation as per Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008—deadline June 22nd, 2009~~
8. Expiration of HCTC 80% premium subsidy will expire on December 31, 2010.

**Insurance** (issues about health, life or disability that are of interest):

**Pension:**

**Commercial Section.....**

**Investment** (Legitimate firms that have helped our group are encouraged to contact PCN to add articles here):

Section reserved for future content.

Travel & Non-Revving (share a quick reco):

**From:** [bridget@greenspointcatering.com](mailto:bridget@greenspointcatering.com)

**Date:** 02/22/10 14:33:11

**To:** [mark@pilotcommunication.net](mailto:mark@pilotcommunication.net)

**Subject:** From Bridget

Mark

My dad is a retired Delta Pilot. He has a beautiful 3600 sq ft. villa in Costa Rica and wanted to advertise for rental for Pilots and employees of Delta. I received your name from Golden Wings. Is there a place you would recommend we could post this??

Thank You

His name is Greg Schlutz

303-588-7370 cell

Bridget Nannen

Greens Point Catering

303-772-2247

[bridget@greenspointcatering.com](mailto:bridget@greenspointcatering.com)

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**From:** [Yorkieatl@aol.com](mailto:Yorkieatl@aol.com)

**Date:** 02/28/10 21:48:40

**To:** [mark@pilotcommunication.net](mailto:mark@pilotcommunication.net)

**Subject:** Fwd: (no subject)

Hi Mark,

Pete Heins wrote, "If a **retired** NWA employee with date of hire of 01JAN1990 non revs and an **active** DAL employee with DOH of 02JAN1990 are listed on the same flight, who will be assigned a non-rev seat first?"

This is very simple.

The active employees have a S3 class as their lowest, and all retirees are S3B as highest class. So all active Delta folks will assigned first.

Thx Paul Schmidt

CFO Delta Pioneers National Board

Editor: When the issue is active to retired I agree the boarding is straight forward. The issue the some are raising is retired NWA or retired DAL, how are they boarded?

Life Section...

**RE: Illness Post for Karl Ritz**

Help please....he (Karl) has a daughter (Nancy), she was a Northeast F/A..then Delta F/A...remember her as very close to and with her Dad (Karl)....am sure she would like to be included in any communications....but I have no contact information for Nancy...if anyone has information there, it might be nice to include her in this communication effort.

John Faunce [faunces@gmail.com](mailto:faunces@gmail.com)

Misc Posts:

**From:** [WTodd78849@aol.com](mailto:WTodd78849@aol.com)  
**Date:** 3/2/2010 9:17:17 AM  
**To:** [dickdeeds@pacbell.net](mailto:dickdeeds@pacbell.net)  
**Subject:** Military Benefits

Hi Dick. The following is a comprehensive and invaluable site for active/retired military benefits.

Regards and best wishes. Bill Todd

[http://www.militarybenefits.com/military\\_retired.html](http://www.militarybenefits.com/military_retired.html)

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Duane Kalember  
Email [t28cdkmk@aol.com](mailto:t28cdkmk@aol.com)

Issue Area - General

Comments - Thanks for al your good work and news. As for me, still living in the great Northern part of lower Michigan. Snowmobiling, quite a bit, even with a replaced knee from doing something stupid several years ago( trying not to spill milk on the floor). Bad news is that it never quite has been right so will be going to Cleveland Clinic for a redue very soon to start the process all over again. When it is back in the 40's, will start fly the N T-28c and J-3 piper cub just to stay busy. Keep up the good work.Capt D. D. Kalember RET MD-11 Int 1997

*Editor: From one Michigander to another, spring is a long treasured arrival. Flying the J-3 makes me sad to have sold the ole super cub. Maybe time to get another. Stay warm.*

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2/22/2010 7:45PM

Mark-

Thank you for sending notifications like this. I know some on your list complain about getting bad news even though you provide instructions on how to remove themselves from these notices. I knew Rich Naert at both PAA and DAL. He was one of the good guys, one who seldom complained, did his job and remained low key. I will be commenting and signing his guest book for his family. I would not have known of his passing in a timely way were it not for your PCN.

Steve Mills [smills47@bellsouth.net](mailto:smills47@bellsouth.net)

*Editor: Steve, I thank you for your comments. I feel that continuing the service that Dave Roberts started is extremely important. We are part of a large family filled with fine aviators. Occasionally, one of our mentors, friends, or comrades takes their final flight west. I think it is a way to honor them but sharing their passing with the group. I know that inundation with notices gets a bit heavy and for that I have offered a number of solutions, as you suggest. But many of us appreciate learning the news of fellow aviators that we had personal contact with and held them with high esteem. Thanks again. Carol Ann Faulkner is doing a magnificent job as our notice manager researching and generating these notices. This service is definitely a labor and hopefully appreciated.*

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**From:** [Larry Carter](#)

**Date:** 02/28/10 22:41:14

**To:** [PCN Dir](#)

**Subject:** Delta under Ron Allen and Leo

Mark, the attached link is four years old but it gives the details of Allen's and Mullen's tenure; severance, perks, options, etc. I just found it and thought, since many of us retirees are victims of these greedy \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank), people would like to know some of the details. Captain Carter (ret).

[http://www.law.harvard.edu/programs/olin\\_center/corporate\\_governance/MediaMentions/AtlJournal-Constitution\\_7.27.05.pdf](http://www.law.harvard.edu/programs/olin_center/corporate_governance/MediaMentions/AtlJournal-Constitution_7.27.05.pdf)

## Human Interest:

Please pass this on to all you know. American soldiers are being shot at today in Afghanistan.

Bard

The teacher wrote the song! Amazing!! After all the bad press over a few teachers who stepped out of line teaching songs with a political persuasion to our children, this one is one you will be so proud to hear!

At the end of the song you can even order the sheet music!! Awesome! I hope this sweeps our Country and gets sung in all our schools! The music teacher wrote the song and had all the third graders sing. Click & enjoy; great message. (Third graders from Tussing Elementary in Colonial Heights on You Tube)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pfBUUZNbFM>

Blue Side Up  
George

Good Read (Good book recommendation & [Community Author's](#) blurbs):

If any of you have comments, questions, or would like to talk, I will look forward to hearing from you. My cell number is 404 680 7000, and my e mail is [gene@wehall.com](mailto:gene@wehall.com). The intro is below, and 13 is attached. If you can't open it, and want to, I will send it in a different format.

Gene

**Introduction to HISTORY 13 (For Gene's #13 visit [http://pcn.homestead.com/Gene\\_Hall.html](http://pcn.homestead.com/Gene_Hall.html) )**

Up to this installment, I've been writing mostly about my airline experiences and have omitted lots of the personal stuff that my grandchildren will get. Last year, I said that I would tell you about my accepting Jesus Christ. Several of you have asked when I would be doing that, and the time is now. The first 12 chapters were easy. (We are up to 35,002 words here and 26,241 words in the blogs.) This one has been hard. Not the writing part, the starting part. I thought a warning in the form of this introduction might be in order. And one more thing; several of you have asked why I don't publish a book. There are two main reasons. The first is that most things about the part I played in the airline's "golden years" that would cause a book to sell are X-rated. Secondly, Mark Sztanyo has a list of books written by people with some connection to Delta. There are about 45 of them, and I don't think most have sold very well. Apparently, they are not all that interesting to non-airline folks.

I will share very personal stories of my successes and failures as I have walked with Christ. I have more flying stories that I plan on adding to the blogs in hopes that, in turn, we can receive some more stories from you. But many of you may not be interested in this installment or the next, which will be my last. I don't have a clue about how many people have been reading this stuff. I know it's more than 100 because I have received at least that many e-mails from all of you. I'm going to be dropping names here and there. Some you will recognize, which may lead you to label me a "name dropper." That's okay. God created the delete button for a reason. It's the little one at the top right of the keyboard.

I want to be very clear. My failures have far outnumbered my successes in most areas of life, and those of you who know me well will attest that there is no false modesty in that statement. I'm talking about business, spiritual, personal relationships, etc. Barry Thrasher was an Atlanta ophthalmologist who passed away about five years ago. We didn't meet until he and I were in our early 60s, and we quickly became best friends. One day, we were on the golf course in Highlands, North Carolina. It was one of the many times that Barry was irritated with me, and he said, "It's not easy being Gene, but it's a lot easier than being Gene's friend." Barry had a very inquiring mind, and he loved conversing on many subjects. I learned early on that if I brought up something that he didn't know much about, I better have my facts right. Because the next time we met, he would have the facts. I had the incredible privilege of leading him to Christ shortly before he passed away.

It was at least 25 years after my conversion when I found a copy of the letter that my youngest daughter wrote as part of her college application. She wrote that she knew God was real because of the change in her father's life after he accepted Jesus Christ. Reading through tears, I was slightly amazed that she was accepted by that Ivy-League school.

**For Gene's #13 visit [http://pcn.homestead.com/Gene\\_Hall.html](http://pcn.homestead.com/Gene_Hall.html)**

*From:* [Jon Waller](#)

*Date:* 3/3/2010 10:10:27 PM

*To:* [David Skjerven](#)

*Subject:* ORD REunion

Dave,

Hea! This is Jon Waller. I've got a Green Slip for you.

I changed email address. Could you put me back on your list?

For your info. An old ORD Gate Agent/Ramp Person by the name of Bob Penney is trying to put together an ORD Reunion on April 16-17 2011 here in ATL. He is in the process of investigating this possibility. Could you "pass the word" up there in the ORD area. Deadline for registration is April 15 2010. The schedule of events, parties, etc. is not yet carved in stone. Special room rates will be available at Atlanta Airport Hilton where the reunion activities will be held.

Bob worked in ORD for many years and ended up in GSO or RDU, I think.

Bob's email is [DLbob@aol.com](mailto:DLbob@aol.com). for information.

Thanks, Dave

Jon

P.S. Short call at midnight.

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*From:* [Bean, Judy M](#)

*Date:* 3/1/2010 9:15:20 AM

*Subject:* **70 Years of Delta Flight Attendants**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delta Flight Attendant service.** In celebration of this milestone, the Museum Store will highlight flight attendants through the years with special merchandise and photographs. Stop by today and see what is available. How tough would it be to fly without flight attendants??!!

The Museum Store is located in Historic Hangar 1 at Delta's General Office Complex. Store hours are Monday – Thursday, 9a-4p.

Hope to see you soon,

Judy

Judy Bean | Heritage Museum Store Manager | 404-773-1219 | [Judy.M.Bean@Delta.com](mailto:Judy.M.Bean@Delta.com)

Hangar Flying (Share a bit of ole hangar flying with the net) :

**From:** [George Chaudoin](#)

**Date:** 3/7/2010 4:30:29 PM

**Subject:** Try this for WX

Roll your mouse over any airport for the current conditions. Pretty Neat. That's more than pretty neat. That's unbelievable! Click on the locations and get even more wx info.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/zoa/mwmap3.php?map=usa>

Blue Side Up  
George

"I am looking for....." (Share a post of who you are seeking, if one sought answers....wallah):

Al,

Your know your suggestion and also one from David Roberts has turned a light on. Why don't I do just as you suggest?

I have been handling these personally as a 3rd party to protect privacy but why? Sometimes it takes this old country boy a little longer than normal to see daylight. At least my wife has reminded me of that on occasion. If I post it in this new section, then the sought can reply if he/she gets it. Great idea! And as of this High Life DONE! This is an example of how you PCN members keep us on the onward and upward line.

Mark

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Al Lee](#)

**Date:** 03/01/10 14:02:26

**To:** [mark@pilotcommunication.net](mailto:mark@pilotcommunication.net)

**Subject:** Lost Friends

Hello Mark:

For the past several weeks, I have been thinking about a "I am looking for" section in your PCN High Life.

The latest one (#29) has the following:

From: "mark detwiler" <[mdetwiler@me.com](mailto:mdetwiler@me.com)>

*As a former Navy, Western and Delta pilot, there are many good friends that I have lost track of over the years because we all "got hired" by different carriers, had mergers etc. Is there a way to post contact info for the pilots of the different carriers that are now Delta?*

*Just a thought,  
Mark Detwiler*

Your answer followed, which I can appreciate. However, if you had a section like that, the individual's privacy could be protected because whoever knows "joe blow" would send him my email address. (like your answer stated) "joe blow's" data would not be displayed in High Life.

That being said, here is who I am looking for:

**Robert A. Simmons**

**Hired by Southern in late 1969 or early 1970**

**Retired at age 50 from NWA around 1990.**

**Naval Reserve Captain**

**Lived in Washington, GA until divorced - year ?**

We were best friends, and then one day, he disappeared!  
If he is in your data base, I would appreciate you contacting him for me.

Thanks a million,

Al Lee

B-767 ER retired 2000

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*From:* [Debra Conway](#)

*Date:* 3/4/2010 4:36:16 PM

*To:* [mark@pilotcommunication.net](mailto:mark@pilotcommunication.net)

*Subject:* **Delta Pilot Paul Leddy**

Dear Mr Sztanyo ,

I am trying to locate an old friend that was a pilot for Western and then Delta . The pilot in question is Paul F. Leddy . During a recent conversation with Augie DeAugustinis he made me aware of a possible way to accomplish that mission and forwarded your e-mail information . My hope is that you can be of assistance through your data base . Enclosed please find my contact information and thank you in advance for your assistance .

Sincerely , Debra Conway

E-Mail : [debra.conway@yahoo.com](mailto:debra.conway@yahoo.com)

Cellular : 770-519-8997

**Humor/Sobering or Fun** (Share some "vulgarity free" humor with the net):

**Very Sobering! Thanks Mom.**

**Subject:** THE ONLY SURVIVING PHOTO ALBUM FROM AUSCHWITZ...

THE AUSCHWITZ ALBUM

This Album memorializes the arrival of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz in May of 1944. It is the only one of its kind, and it is solely due to this album that we have a visual history of what occurred in the Auschwitz-Birchenu death camp.

The album was discovered after the war by an Auschwitz survivor, Lily Jacob, who donated it to Yad Vashem in 1980.

Now, with the aid of the Internet, it can be viewed by millions of people, anywhere in the world.

Please pass this around, to help assure that people will continue to bear witness to this evil legacy.

[Click here to view the Auschwitz Album](#)

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Thanks Quinn

**Shortly after a British Airways flight had reached its cruising altitude, the captain announced:**

**'Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your Captain. Welcome to Flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to Toronto . The weather ahead is good, so we should have a smooth uneventful flight. So sit back, relax and..... OH, MY GOD !'**

**Silence followed!**

Some moments later the captain came back on the intercom.

**'Ladies and gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you . While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!'**

One Irish passenger yelled, **'be jezis you should see the back of mine! '**

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**From:** [David Bina](#)  
**Date:** 3/1/2010 3:49:13 PM  
**Subject:** How to clean fish

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjTIFwQb7D0>

This is a interesting way to clean a perch fish.

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## Mark

Mark Sztanyo, PCN Dir  
[Pilot Communication Net](#)  
[Contact the Net](#)

*Life on earth will soon be past, only what 's done for Christ will last!*

Serving the Delta community, and pilots (active and retired) and their families, *including original Delta, and former:* Northeast, Pan-Am, Western, NWA, Republic, North-Central, Southern Airways, Hughes- Airwest, and all the Delta Connection carriers.

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**Delta Pilots Pension Preservation Organization - <http://www.dp3.org>**  
Delta Museum & Fly-in information - <http://www.deltamuseum.org>  
Delta Pioneers - <http://www.deltapioneersinc.com/>  
Delta Golden Wings - <http://www.deltagoldenwings.com/>  
Delta Retiree Connection - <http://www.dlretiree.info>  
Delta Retirement Committee - <http://www.dalrc.org/>  
DAL Pilots DDPSA - <http://www.ddpsa.com/>  
Delta Extra Net Portal - <http://dlnet.delta.com/>

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