

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:

PCN Manager's: ***Want to see who is currently managing the PCN?*** Click here:

<http://pcn.homestead.com/Managers.html>

I personally thank each one and remember, if you are bored, there is room for more managers!

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Online Poll: (Please share your opinion)

Poll on a Classified/Swap board: <http://pcn.homestead.com/Polling.html>

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Mark,

Whom do you include among those who have "truly touched the High Life"? What does that mean to you?

Bob Patrucco
Captain, Delta Air Lines, Retired makeloveorwar@aol.com

Editor: Thanks Bob. I didn't know people actually read some of my preliminary tag line type stuff. But since you asked, I don't really mean too much with it other than that most aviators can relate to slipping the surly bonds and flying high. I consider those who have, (or even rode as a passenger) have touched the "High Life."

News Section.....

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

Delta Employees Take Delivery of Airline's 18th Boeing 777

Press Release Source: Delta Air Lines On Thursday March 25, 2010, 2:05 pm EDT

SEATTLE, March 25 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Honorees of Delta Air Lines' (NYSE:[DAL](#) - [News](#)) annual Chairman's Club employee recognition program today are accompanying the airline's 18th Boeing 777 on its delivery flight from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to the airline's headquarters in Atlanta. The new long-haul aircraft will be used to operate Delta's new service between Detroit and Hong Kong beginning this summer.

The more than 80 Delta Chairman's Club honorees toured Boeing facilities in Seattle and participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially inducting the new Boeing 777-200LR into the Delta fleet. Each year, Delta's Chairman's Club honors 100 peer-nominated employees for consistently demonstrating dedication and determination to the highest standards of service to customers, fellow employees and the communities Delta serves worldwide.

Read More: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Delta-Employees-Take-Delivery-prnews-3172650871.html?x=0&.v=1>

Other Airline News (Recent stories of interest):

Airline Employee Pay Raise Demands: Not Just Pie in the Sky

During the depths of the credit crisis, when there were more homeowners defaulting on mortgages than lattes being sold at Starbucks, just about the only people flying were the Ryan Bingham of the world. [FYI: Bingham

was the character played by George Clooney in “Up in the Air” who worked for a downsizing firm. (You’re welcome.)]

Things have turned a bit for the flyers of big silver birds as revenue began increasing around the turn of the year with Continental ([CAL](#)) reporting in early January that its December traffic was up 6% YoY for that month and that 83% of the seats on its planes were full. Hunter Keay, an airline analyst at Stifel Nicolaus Capital Markets, remarked, “It looks like the pace of recovery is gaining momentum. The question now is whether it’s sustainable.”

Read More: <http://seekingalpha.com/article/195561-airline-employee-pay-raise-demands-not-just-pie-in-the-sky?source=yahoo>

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Families of Flight 93 say Pa. memorial is on track

Families of Flight 93 tell Congress that 9/11 memorial planned for Pennsylvania is on track

Andrew Miga, Associated Press Writer, On Thursday March 25, 2010, 12:33 pm EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Families of those who died on United Airlines Flight 93 told lawmakers Thursday that plans for a 9/11 memorial at the crash site in Pennsylvania are on track.

The memorial's first phase should open on the 10th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks, the group Families of Flight 93 told a House committee.

"Though we have made great progress, continued federal support is vital to ensuring we remain on track and reach that goal," said the group's president, Gordon Felt.

Felt's brother, Edward Felt, was one of the 40 passengers and crew who died when the plane crashed into a field near rural Shanksville, about 65 miles southwest of Pittsburgh.

A groundbreaking ceremony for a National Park Service memorial at the crash site was held last November.

Read More: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Families-of-Flight-93-say-Pa-apf-2899944476.html?x=0&.v=1>

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 Benefit Determination (FBD) 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):

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
303-772-2247
bridget@greenspointcatering.com

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Robert Dwyer
erdwyer@gmail.com

Issue Area - Travel

Comments - Looking for a **condo to rent in the Ft. Myers** area for January and Feb. of 2011. Also wondering if anyone has property to rent in the Los Cabos area of Mexico. Bob Dwyer

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RE: incident involving perx.com

Tom Merkley trmerkley@sbcglobal.net

Issue Area Non Rev

Comments

Mark,

An incident involving perx.com (interline travel site) was brought to my attention recently. After booking a river cruise for a specific date and paying in full the date was changed with out consulting the client. Even tho both perx and the client had documents confirming the original date they refused to refund the full fare unless an \$800 cx fee was levied. My thinking is the cruise line was able to sell the cabin for a higher price and shifted the client to another date. Having used interline sites for travel for quite some time I assumed a contract was formed and all parties must abide by it. Evidently not! Is anyone else aware of a similar situation? If full fare airline tickets were purchased it would have been even worse.

Tom Merkley

Life Section...

Misc Posts:

From: [Ken Jegen](#)

Date: 03/21/10 18:05:37

To: marksztanyo@gmail.com

Subject: HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Mark, you might note that one of the best most interesting Holocaust Museum in the U.S. is in St Pete Fl. It is downtown St. Pete about a 45 minute drive from TPA and very well done. As a resident of the area I usually suggest to my guests, if it is of interest, a visit. We find 4 hours is about the limit of time that you can continue to absorb things. It moved to the present building in I think 1998. There are some very nice downtown hotels as well as beachfront on the Gulf Beaches. Thanks for your work
Capt. Ken Jegen Ret 1996 fkjegen@mac.com

Human Interest:

(Thanks Martin) This is a good example of why we need to keep the Second Amendment as written and allow citizens to carry. If a THUG thinks you are packing heat he will stay the heck away and leave you alone. Hope he was given a medal.

Don't mess with a Helicopter Pilot

Retired Marine and former Pan Am/Delta Pilot John Lovell is top gun at Subway sandwich shop

Plantation, Florida: Last week police were called to investigate an attempted armed robbery: The 71-year-old retired Marine who opened fire on two robbers at a Plantation, Florida, Subway shop late Wednesday, killing one and critically wounding the other, is described as John Lovell, a former helicopter pilot for two presidents. He doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, and he works out every day. Mr. Lovell was a man of action Wednesday night.

According to Plantation police, two masked gunmen came into the Subway at 1949 N. Pine Rd. just after 11 p.m. There was a lone diner, Mr. Lovell, who was finishing his meal. After robbing the cashier, the two men attempted to shove Mr. Lovell into a bathroom and rob him as well. They got his money, but then Mr. Lovell pulled his handgun and opened fire. He shot one of the thieves in the head and chest and the other in the head.

When police arrived, they found one of the men in the shop, K-9 Units found the other in the bushes of a nearby business. They also found cash strewn around the front of the sandwich shop according to Detective Robert Rettig of the Plantation Police Department..

Both men were taken to the Broward General Medical Center , where one, Donicio Arrindell, 22, of North Lauderdale died. The other, 21-year-old Frederick Gadson of Fort Lauderdale is in critical but stable condition.

A longtime friend of Lovell was not surprised to hear what happened. The friend said, "He'd give you the shirt off his back, but he'd be mad as hell if someone tried to take the shirt off his back."

Mr. Lovell was a pilot in the Marine Corps, flying former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. He later worked as a pilot for Pan Am and Delta Airlines.

He is not expected to be charged authorities said. "He was in fear for his life," Detective Rettig said, "These criminals ought to realize that most men in their 70's have military backgrounds and aren't intimidated by idiots."

Something tells me this old Marine wasn't 'in fear for his life', even though his life was definitely at risk. The only thing he could be charged with is participating in an unfair fight. One 71- year young Marine against two punks. Two head shots and one center body mass shot... Outstanding shooting! That'll teach them not to get between a Marine and his meal.

Florida law allows eligible citizens to carry a concealed weapon. Don't you just love a story with a happy ending?

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Jean Marie Cinotto

Email jeancinotto@sbcglobal.net

Comments - Very interesting--I thought our military-minded would like to read it.

Jean Marie Cinotto

Maj. Mike "Sully" Sullivan, a Rockland County, NY native, is the operations officer with the Army's 5th Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, stationed at Forward Operating Base Falcon in Baghdad. He is graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Sullivan previously deployed to Iraq in 2004 and in 2007.

The following is a portion of an article in The Journal News on March 21, 2010.

(You may never complain about traffic and driving again. Most importantly, it is a sobering reminder of what our military encounters everyday and, for some, years due to multiple year-long tours.)

"FOB FALCON, BAGHDAD, March 18 —

What I'd like to share with you this week is how we move around Iraq. We have two primary means of getting places: by helicopter and by ground movement. Helicopter movement is always the preferred way to go. It is far safer than driving...Like all air travel, however, you are limited by the weather and the amount of people or equipment you can move at once. That is why we do most of our movement by ground.

Driving in Iraq is not like hopping in the car back home. Our drive today lasted 20 minutes. The preparation beforehand, however, started two hours prior to our departure. Our vehicles, heavily up-armored Humvees for this trip, are prepared in advance. Weapons are checked, radio systems tested and adjustments on where every piece of equipment within the vehicle are made. Some typical equipment includes first aid kits, stretchers, tool kits, water, GPS systems and extra ammunition.

A manifest confirms who is travelling on the convoy, along with weapon serial number and their blood type in case someone is injured during the journey. The leader gives a convoy brief, sort of an itinerary for the movement. Next, the convoy leader reviews what to do if something happens. The crews then rehearse what to do if 1) the Humvee rolls over (hang on tight!), 2) if the Humvee is hit by an improvised explosive device, 3) how to load a wounded soldier into one of the Humvees, and 4) what to do if a fire breaks out in the Humvee.

Personal equipment includes a helmet, fireproof uniforms, body armor with four heavy bulletproof plates, fire resistant gloves, and protective eye wear. Finally, equipment carrying gear holding everything from first-aid kits to ammunition is put on over the body armor. Soldiers climb into their assigned seats within the cramped vehicle.

Heavily armored doors, each weighing a few hundred pounds, are pulled shut and the vehicles start to move. One last stop before you leave the heavily guarded gate: test fire your machine guns to make sure you can defend yourself. After a burst of fire and a shower of empty shell casings into the Humvee through the turret, we venture into the dangerous world of Iraq.

I have yet to have a leisurely ride in Iraq. Every person from the gunner sticking out of the Humvee to the passenger in the back seat (usually me), is looking for signs of a potential attacker. You peer warily through inch thick bulletproof glass scanning for any potential threats. The trash-strewn buildings and rubble-filled streets offer an infinite amount of places to hide explosives or an attacker.

Many questions go back and forth between the crew headsets, and through your own mind. Is that rock an IED? What is taped up onto that light pole? Does that vehicle look heavily weighed down because of explosives ... a possible car bomb? No, there are three people in the car so chances are it is not a car bomb. Why did that man in the black robe look at our Humvee twice? Is he holding prayer beads in his hand? What about that trash on the side of the road ... is there something hidden under there?

Heads up, we are passing under an overpass. Look up to make sure there is no one on it, ready to throw a grenade down on top of us. Be sure to swerve while under the bridge to confuse a potential attacker as we come out on the other side. Look up, there are our two Apache helicopters providing us support ... phew. I feel a little better knowing those heavily armed helicopters are with us.

Only when we enter into the gates of JSS Doura, safely behind guarded walls, do we all breathe easier. But in the back of your mind, you know you'll do the same thing to get back to FOB Falcon in just a few hours.

Imagine the above sequence on every drive you make into Iraq. The moment you stop acting paranoid is the moment something deadly may happen. Something as simple as a 20-minute drive takes literally hours of preparation and drains you physically and mentally.

Years ago, you rarely saw Iraqi civilian vehicles on the road, now the streets are packed. The traffic is almost at the density of the West Side Highway midday.

We have over 2 million people living in our area, and the majority of them drive. The huge increase of Iraqi traffic on the roads is a positive sign. It indicates the Iraqi people feel more secure and safe enough to venture out. For us, however, it makes any sort of traveling an adventure, and a potentially dangerous one.

Yet the soldiers go through this every day, for an entire year. Some of them are on their third or even fourth tour in Iraq. The soldiers put their helmets on and continue to venture outside the wire.

I watch patrol after patrol go out to conduct missions ranging from delivering humanitarian supplies, to meeting with local business leaders to plan on rebuilding communities to hunting for terrorists in the deep of the Baghdad night.

Please keep these soldiers and their families in your thoughts, dear reader, as you go through your day today. We ask for nothing more than that. Until next week, give my regards to Rockland."

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20103210358>

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

Event Announcements (Click here for [PCN Org & Groups Page](#)): to post pcn.calendar@gmail.com

A TRIBUTE TO FREDDIE TAPPAN FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010, 4:00 P.M. AT THE HILLTOP RESTAURANT

855 Broadway, Route US 1 South, Saugus, MA, Voice: (781) 233-7700

You are all invited to join us at the Hilltop Steak House to show our appreciation for all that Freddie accomplished for the Yellowbird Chapter of the Delta Pioneers. It will also give us an opportunity to say thank you to Joan Wenzel, Ruth Rice & Chris Watson-Byrne for all of the work they have done in support of the chapter since the beginning.

SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS. DINNER AT HILLTOP AT 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010.

Baked Stuffed Breast of Chicken, incl tax, gratuity & gift \$25.00+ per person **Hand Cut Boneless Sirloin**, incl tax, gratuity & gift \$28.50+ per person

Checks to be made payable to: Yellowbird Chapter, Delta Pioneers and mailed to Yellowbird Chapter, Delta Pioneers, P O Box 35975, Brighton, MA 02135-0017

Full payment is due by May 01, 2010.

Please fill in the coupon below or indicate on the face of your check your meal choice. Mail to address above.

I thank JJ Maynard for sharing jjmaynard@usa.net

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

If anyone has current info on Dick (Dixon) Carter would you please send to me and Ed Madigan:

madigan21@hotmail.com

Thanks,

Dick

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From: [Gerald Burnett](#)

Date: 03/22/10 15:44:20

To: dickdeeds@pacbell.net

Subject: Can you help find Sterling "Ben" Bennett.

Dick,

Hope your recovery is going well. I was wondering if you have the ability to find an original Delta guy for my neighbor here in Scottsdale. They were classmates in Pensacola in 66-68 timeframe. His name is: Sterling "Ben" Bennett.

Thanks,
Jerry

+++++

Does anyone have contact info for Gary Beck?
Dick dickdeeds@pacbell.net

Good Deal/Bad Deal (Share a quick good deal or bad deal you have found – no commercials here!)

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

Place all your bets on the FltOps.com [Global Pilot Career Conference and Job Fair](#) at the Las Vegas Marriott Renaissance. Book your hotel before April 3 to receive a special rate.

Where air carriers, aviation flight schools, universities and more meet hundreds of qualified and aspiring pilots.

Sign up early. Our new [Boarding Zone](#) system eliminates the big rush. Boarding Zone 1 is currently available - seniority still rules.

Roll over the dice and click to get the details.

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RE: B777 Job
IAC is recruiting for KAL B777 Capts. Check it out. Mark

+++++

A taste of Navy flying. Here is a very good video on flying with the Blue Angels. Also enclosed are links to the double Youtube on landing on a pitching carrier deck--this is an oldie, but goodie, in case you haven't seen it before.

Subject: Blue Angels

Amazing Photography! (Shared before but bottom 2 are new.....seasick?)

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=W6tB8Lf7YoU

PITCHING CARRIER DECK STORY--2 parts and lasts about 10 min.

Carrier - Landing on a Pitching Deck PART 1

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=4gGMI8d3vLs

Carrier - Landing on a Pitching Deck PART 2

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=S0yj70QbBzg

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Joel Payne

flyplayne@bellsouth.net

Issue Area - General

Comments - From an email friend. Joel Payne B-767A[ret.]

Subject: Vietnam Wall

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam war

with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that timeframe, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site. Pass the link on to others if you like.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

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From: Ralph Godwin

Date: 3/21/2010 7:41:32 PM

To: mark@pilotcommunication.net

Subject: wouldn't this make for an interesting job interview?

Mark:

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

Happened to hear on the radio where the two F-18 pilots from last year's GT/Wake Forest game fly-over have been permanently grounded. I can just hear Plato and the guys now.....

Somehow, I just have to hope that they would never have made it to the face-to-face portion of the process for a major carrier! And, on second thought, knowing the "underground", the news is already out there!

Thanks for doing such a great job – you make Dave Roberts (and the rest of us) proud!

Kindest regards,

Sheila

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

Subject: Official Statement by U.S. Navy Retirees (*Thanks Ernie and David*)

Official Statement by U.S. Navy Retirees

Memorandum from: Retired U.S. Navy personnel

To: The American Public

Subject: Position Statement of the U.S. Economy

1. We in retirement take exception to everyone saying that Bernanke, Obama, Reid and Pelosi are spending like drunken sailors. When we were drunken sailors, we quit when we ran out of money.

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Thanks Marlene;

Subject: Ukraine's Got Talent,,

This is so odd. I have never seen anything like it. It takes awhile to watch, but it is , to me, so very moving.

This video shows the winner of 2009's " Ukraine 's Got Talent," Kseniya Simonova, 24, drawing a series of pictures on an illuminated sand table showing how ordinary people were affected by the German invasion during World War II. Her talent, which admittedly is a strange one, is mesmerizing to watch.

The images, projected onto a large screen, moved many in the audience to tears and she won the top prize of about \$75,000.

She begins by creating a scene showing a couple sitting holding hands on a bench under a starry sky, but then warplanes appear and the happy scene is obliterated.

It is replaced by a woman's face crying, but then a baby arrives and the woman smiles again. Once again war returns and Miss Simonova throws the sand into chaos from which a young woman's face appears.

She quickly becomes an old widow, her face wrinkled and sad, before the image turns into a monument to an Unknown Soldier.

This outdoor scene becomes framed by a window as if the viewer is looking out on the monument from within a house.

In the final scene, a mother and child appear inside and a man standing outside, with his hands pressed against the glass, saying good-bye.

The Great Patriotic War, as it is called in Ukraine , resulted in one in four of the population being killed with eight to 11 million deaths out of a population of 42 million.

Kseniya Simonova says:

"I find it difficult enough to create art using paper and pencils or paintbrushes, but using sand and fingers is beyond me. The art, especially when the war is used as the subject matter, even brings some audience members to tears. And there's surely no bigger compliment."

See this amazing piece of art at below link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=vOhf3OvRXKg#t=00

Mark

Mark Sztanyo, PCN Dir & HL Editor

[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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