



RUPANEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message
Notices
About the Cover

Page 3
Page 3-15
Page 14

Letters
In Memoriam
Calendar

Page 16-42
Page 43-46
Page 48

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RUPANEWS

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The renewal date for your subscription is always printed on the address label on the back page of your most recent copy of the *RUPANEWS*.

Send a \$25 check to:

James E. Olson, PO Box 20634, Sarasota, FL 34276-3634

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A belated Happy New Year to all you Ruparians out there. It's hard to believe that we are into the second month of 2006.

You should all have received your 2006 Directory by now. Please check your information in it and send any corrections that need to be made to our new Sec/Treasurer, Jim Olson. I'm still getting a few dues checks mailed to me. Jim's mailing address and email address are listed on the prior page, so please send your checks and all other information to him.

There was an error in the December *RUPANEWS* in the *Address changes, Snowbirds & Others:* information box. Verizon in Jim's email address jimboyfl@verizon.net was spelled with an "s" instead of a "z" verison. If you had a problem sending him an email that is why!

If you have email please use it to send him any updates. If you don't have email you can always use our 800-787-2429 number for our answering machine, or the US Post Office snail mail.

Our Editor, Ted Larusson, wants me to remind you that, if you have email, please use it to send your letters. It saves him a lot of time in preparing the *RUPANEWS* for the printer.

Also, we still have a number of spaces left on "The Wall of Honor" available to our members. Rich Bouska has an article that further addresses the subject in this issue.

Bruce McLeod, our past RUPA Webmaster, has successfully turned over that job to our new Webmaster, Arvid Von Nordenflycht. The Website has a slightly different name now. It is www.rupa63.org. Check it out as Arvid has done a great job. I think you'll like it.

Our only surviving member of the 65 pilots who started RUPA, Captain Jack Holst, celebrated his century birthday on January 23. Congratulations Jack!!! Jack's son, Les, is also a member of RUPA, but he's only 72.

I plan on attending the SW Florida Luncheon this month. That's all for now. Cheers, *Cleve*

DANA POINT RUPA LUNCHEON

Ted: Weather cooperated and we were able to enjoy the Deck at the Wind and Sea. We had it almost to ourselves... regular customers and tourist must have been off doing Xmas shopping.

Most of the guys had sent in their 'BALLOT'; some just rolled it into a ball and tossed it! Kinda a last hurrah! Most of the group went along with the directions from the URBPBA Information guideline and got their ballot in. The claim amount did come under dispute.

On deck were; Park Ames Carlos Bernhard, Walt Bohl, Larry Freeman, Bob Fuhrmann, Jim Grosswiler, Pete Hansen, Rick Hoefler, Ed Judd, Bill Meyer, Bill Rollins, Ted Simmons, Bill Stewart, and Tony Testa.

Park Ames brought an article that showed a proposal that the top 400 executives with UAL should get a reward of 15% of the new stock in UAL. The USA article showed that 18.7 million shares in the new UAL would be reserved for this group at \$15 a share.

Conversation then turned to politics and airplanes and the real world!

All the Best for the NEW YEAR *TED*

ADDRESS CHANGES, SNOWBIRDS & OTHERS:

The Post Office will forward the *RUPANEWS* for only 60 days. We can keep two addresses in the database for each member. If you want your address changed, just let us know by one of the following methods:

Write: James E. Olson, PO Box 20634, Sarasota, FL 34276-3634

Or: Phone 800-787-2429

Or: E-mail jimboyfl@verizon.net

Check the RUPA Directory and make sure we have the correct information listed for you.

DEN GOOD OL' BOYS

The January convocation of DEN Good ol' Boys came on a delightful winter day, and a good turnout eventuated. Happy hour was a resounding success interrupted by the dinner bell which sounded at noon on the dot. The humble coordinator attempted to position himself strategically near the head of the buffet line, but was thwarted by the late arrival of one of our number, and had to give up the valuable position in order to extract the fee. The vittles met the expectations of most, and it was noted that there were seconds available for those who desired. The meal was followed by a recap of the known situation re: the bankruptcy and expected emergence from same, of our former employer.

Jim Krasno was present and took the floor to elucidate on the status of our pension as relates to the PBGC. The humble coordinator completely neglected to ask if there were any reports of infirmities, consequently there were none reported.

Following the repast and report by Jim K. the remainder of the meeting was devoted to socializing and fertilizer slinging, which continued with elan.

Those present included:

Bob Sannwald, Mack Connelley, Bill Hanson, Duane Searle, Bill Hoygaard, Curly Baker, Phil Spicer, Al Snook, Tom Hess, Roger DeLozier, Fritz Meyer, Dave Murtha, Pete Cecchinelli, Al Dorsey, Dick Shipman, Maury Mahoney, Bill Fife, Bill Matheny, Jack Davis, Bob Ashworth, Jim Hixon, Carl Buchanan, Jim Harris, Russ Wright, Hugh Moore, Cliff Lawson, Ray Bowman, Jack Turner, Barry Edward, Warren Mugler, Rick Madsen, Chuck Fellows, Jim Jenkins, John Allen, Hal Meyer, Ed Cutler, Stanley Boehm, A. J. Hartzler, David Horwitz, George Maize, Jim Krasno, and the humble coordinator and scribe, *Ted Wilkinson*

FL TREASURE COAST SUNBIRDS

Among the 17 of us that showed up at *Mariner Sands C.C.* were "freshman" Joe Hagan and one of my 1985 "heros", Howie Shaw, with whom I walked the picket line at JFK in June. Howie's retirement date was July 1, 1985 (Enough said!!). Thanks to Clay Grant for bringing Howie. Our next lunch will be on Tues. Feb. 14, and is co-ed!!

Most of us appeared to have received our full pension (qualified) from the PBGC and hope it will continue. Until next time, *Jim Dowd.*

THE SE FL GOLD COAST GROUP

The Gold Coast group held our December meeting on Thursday, the 8th of the month. We had a recruit that we hope to see more of in the name of Jack Dellaripa. For a small base, we had a good turnout, 25 showed up. Jim Carter is still in the hospital. He is making some improvement but has a way to go.

In attendance on the 8th were Stan Blaschke, Warren Hepler, Dan Kurt (Active Duty), Duane Harrison, Ham Oldham, Jim Good, Dick Bodner, Art Jackson, Bob Dodson, Hank Fischer, Ham Wilson, Bob Hein, Jack Dellaripa, Paul Livingway, Tom Llewellyn, Les Eaton, Lyn Wordell, Ned Rankin, Jack Wink, Dave Peat, Terry Lewis, Paul Dunne, Ed Wheeler and me, Jerry Bradley.

Next meeting will be on the 12th of January at the *Flaming Pit Restaurant* in Pompano Beach. Any questions, call me at 561 994-6103 or e-mail me at p-jbradley@msn.com.

Until next month, I am *Jerry Bradley* for the folks that run the show, Stan Blaschke and Jim Carter.

United Airlines Historical Foundation

Send donated artifacts to: United Airlines Flight Center Mail Room, Attn: Tom Angelos
7401 Martin Luther King Blvd., Denver CO 80207 Phone 303-780-5537

WILSMAN'S SWAN SONG

(1-18-2006) My job is done. I started 44 months ago to give people a vague idea of what their benefits would be if PBGC took over our beloved A-plan. Now in about 10 days, PBGC is going to mail a letter to everyone whose benefits will be reduced ----effective with the March 1st check. It's a-no-news-is-good-news situation. If you don't get a letter that means they will not be reducing your benefits.

The letters are supposed to be mailed on Friday January 27th. They will evidently contain the arithmetic PBGC used to calculate the reduced amount and a schedule of Road Show appearances starting on April 3rd, 2006. If you have difficulty understanding the reduction amount in their January letter, I am told PBGC will welcome your questions at the Road Show or in a call to their 800 number for an explanation.

They politely told me that they would not be answering any of my general questions like, for example, what method would they use to deal with participants who opted for the Level Pay Feature----except to indicate that my guess was way off base. As nearly as I can tell, when PBGC gets done, the Level Pay Feature will definitely not be level pay anymore.

I will be looking forward to hearing from my 57 early warning volunteers after they receive their PBGC letters (from those who will be reduced). The idea is to compare what PBGC says it will pay with the amount I estimated PBGC would pay. I will report in a general way how that exercise works out and then quietly fade into the woodwork. It's been interesting! *Doug*

RUPA CRUISE UPDATE

Now that the holidays are over, it is time to start thinking about fun in the sun aboard Holland America's newest ship, the MS Noordam. This years RUPA cruise will depart New York on October 14th, for an 11 day roundtrip cruise to the Southern Caribbean. The ship will depart New York City at 4:45 PM, followed by two relaxing days at sea. The first stop will be at Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. The forth day will find you at St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands for a full day of sightseeing. On the fifth day you will awake in Roseau, Dominica for another full day. On the sixth day the ship will arrive at Bridgetown, Barbados, the southernmost point of the cruise. On day seven, the MS Noordam will make it's first stop on its northbound leg at Philipsburg, St. Maarten. San Juan, Puerto Rico will be the last stop prior to two leisurely days of cruising back to New York.

The MS Noordam is scheduled to launch in February of this year, and will be the newest addition to Holland America Line's world renowned fleet of premium cruise ships that will continue the tradition of delivering the ultimate onboard experience for any cruise vacation. This ship has state-of-the-art facilities and public areas, and unparalleled services and amenities. Public rooms are located on two decks; dining rooms are in the aft section with expansive views of the sea, and the signature Crow's nest lounge and Observation Deck is forward with an unrivalled view of the surrounding scenery. There is plenty of deck space for sunning and enjoying the sea-going experience, and a classic promenade deck for strolling encircles the ship.

Now is the time to sign up and join your RUPA friends on this year's cruise. Reduced rates are available for the Oct. Cruise if booked by Feb 23rd (subject to availability).

The following early birds have already signed up for the cruise.

Ronald and Marie Jersey
Dave and Mary Lou Mackie
Dick and Aud Mitchell
Bill and Pat O'Connell

Kent and Chris O'Brien
Jerry and Sharon Poulin
Rich and Georgia Bouska
Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Smith

Mr. and Mrs. George Compton
Ned and Rae Rankin
Don and Sharon Jackley
Ed and Johanna Pogue

Sign up early to get the room of your choice. *Ron Jersey*

2006 RUPA CARIBBEAN CRUISE
Date of Cruise: October 14, 2006
11 day Roundtrip out of New York
To the Southern Caribbean
On the Brand New
Holland America MS NOORDAM

Check out deck plans and staterooms on the Internet
www.hollandamerica.com, Click on Fleet, ms Noordam,
To check out the Itinerary, go to Destinations, Caribbean,
And enter the date and ship, hit view and again on the
following page.

Depart New York with stops at: Tortola, B. V. I., St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.,
Dominica, Barbados, St. Maarten, San Juan, Puerto Rico and
Return to New York.

All prices include the \$200 port charges and fees imposed by the cruise line.
Taxes, which are \$87.85 pp, are not included and are additional.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Category K Inside Cabin | Main Deck Fwd & Aft | \$1299 |
| Category J Inside Cabin | Main Deck midship | \$1334 |
| Category G Outside Cabin | Upper Promenade Deck | \$1539 |
| Category D Outside Cabin | Main Deck midship | \$1639 |
| Category C | Main Deck Midship | \$1689 |
| Category VD | Verandah Deck Aft midship | \$1869 |
| Category VC | Verandah Deck and | |
| | Upper Promenade Fwd & Aft | \$1939 |
| Category VA | Upper Verandah Deck Fwd & Aft | \$2079 |
| Category SS | Upper Verandah Midship | \$2639 |
| Suite SA | Navigation Deck | \$4419 |

All cabins are subject to availability
A deposit of \$600 person is due at the time of booking
and is fully refundable until 76 days prior to the cruise.

**If you want verandah cabins, it is important to book early,
as they are the first to sell out.**

The above prices include at least one cocktail party
and two bottles of wine per stateroom.

Send all correspondence to:

Jerry's Travel Service
36 Mark Bradford Drive
Holden, MA 01520
1-800-309-2023 ext.33
1-508-829-3068
Gpsp@aol.com

2006 RUPA CARIBBEAN CRUISE BOOKING SHEET
October 14, 2006 Caribbean Cruise 11 Day Southern Caribbean
MS NOORDAM, HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISE LINES

NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

Telephone(s) _____

Mariner Numbers _____

Dining Preference: Early _____ Late _____

Inside Cabin Category _____ Cabin Number _____

Outside Cabin Category _____ Cabin Number _____

Price includes \$200.00 in port charges and fees. Taxes of \$87.85 pp are extra

Total Price per Person _____ Total Price per Cabin _____

Deposit \$600.00 per person _____ Due at time of reservation

Balance _____ due on or before 15 July 2006

Make check out to Jerry's Travel Service

Credit card MC VI AMEX DIS (circle one)

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Cancellation Penalties:

75-46 Days before sailing \$600 per person

45-16 Days prior to sailing %0% of gross fare

15 days or less 100% penalty

BOOKING NUMBER _____ BOOKING DATE _____

CONFIRMATION SENT _____

Other Information:

Cabin selection is based on availability at time of booking.

Prices subject to change until booked.

THE SE FLORIDA RUPA GROUP

The South Florida group met on Thursday, the 12th, for our January lunch and meeting. Jim Carter, who recently replaced a hip, broke an arm and then his other leg, was hauled in for the meeting. A good time was had by the 23 pilots that attended.

Present on Thursday were Stan Blaschke, Ed Wheeler, Lyn Wordell, Ned Rankin, Paul Livingway, Joe Jenkins, Jim Good, Tom Llewellyn, Jim Carter, Warren Hepler, Sid Sigwald, Walt Kimmey, Dave Peat, Dick Bodner, Ham Oldham, Les Eaton, Ham Wilson, Hank Fischer, Bob Smirnow, Bob Beavis, Mike Warde, Terry Lewis and me, Jerry Bradley.

Next get together will be on February 9th, 11:30 AM at the *Flaming Pit Restaurant* in Pompano Beach. If you would like to be on our e-mail list, get back to me at p-jbradley@msn.com.

Until next month, I am *Jerry Bradley*

THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA RUPA GROUP

The Northeast Florida RUPA group held their December Christmas meeting on December 15 at the *Spruce Creek Country Club*. Everyone had a good time catching up to date and exchanging stories. Steve Moddle is now arranging and running the meetings and doing an excellent job. We usually meet on the third Tuesday every other month. In 2006 it will likely be Feb, Apr, Jun, Oct, Dec. Contact Steve Moddle at Stevespiperclub@aol.com or Lowell Johnston at lej1789@aol.com for information. Anyone visiting the area is welcome to join us.

Attending the December 15 meeting (It was not on the third Tuesday for scheduling reasons) were: Anne and Lowell Johnston, Nancy and Frank Thomas, Larry and Janet Horton, Dick and Wilma Russell, Dave and Gloria Bishop, Nelson and Honey Lou Funkhouser, George and Shirley Spaniel, Ken and Lucille Poh, Don Stiff, George Norwood, Totie Myers, Bud and Karen Gammill, Steve and Lillian Moddle, Ed Stegman, Al Peterson, Murray Warren, Ed Gentry, and Curt Simpson.

Lowell Johnston

THE JOE CARNES NORTHWEST ILLINOIS RUPA GROUP

The Joe Carnes Northwest Illinois RUPA Lunch was held on Jan 10th 2006 at the *Warsaw Inn* in McHenry IL. We had 78 in attendance. Lunch was good.

Milt Jensen opened the after lunch activities again doing his usual fine job. He opened by asking how it feels to be on welfare. Bob Kelly gave a brief situation report on the Joe Carnes Scholarship Fund. It now has over \$22,000.00 and has given out two scholarships of \$1000.00.

Cliff Sanderson followed with information concerning the bankruptcy.

The following were in attendance:

Don & Joan Anderson, Leroy & Eva Bair, Ken & Muriel Bergsma, Dale & Glenys Bird, Jim & Corrinne Boyer, Tom Boyle, George Bracke, Ben & Kay Burford, Phyllis & Phil Capuzelo, Bruce Carey, Bill Cherwin, Norm Clemetsen, Jim & Mary Cook, Bob Crump, Denis & Sandy Darida, Don Dierrick, Jim Downing, Jerry & Judy Drommenhausen, Tom Fasiang, Marty Gallagher, Jim Gesler, Ed & Mary Gunderson, Vince & Dana Hammond, Dave Harris, Tom Harvey, Bob Helfferich, Mike Hepperlen, Al Herbst, Buck & Dorthy Hilbert, Jim Holbrook, Paul Hubbert, Milt & Ina Jensen, Gene Johnson, Tom Jones, George Keller, Bob & Carolyn Kelly, Les Kero, Doc & Dee Manny, George & Jacquie Mathes, Jim Mccusker, Rob Mccutcheon, Tom Mclellan, Ralph Mikulich, Bob & Shirley Moncur, Dick Murdock, Marjorie & Howard Nelson, Claude Nickell, George Pylawka, Cif Sanderson, Bernie & Rachel Sterner, Sid Tiemann, Terry True, Lyman Walter, Jerry Westfall, Ron Wilson, Gil Wogdal, Frank Zackary.

BOYS NIGHT OUT

Friday, April 7th, 2006
at the
Sheraton Gateway Hotel
600 Airport Boulevard
Burlingame, California

Reception from 5:00 to 7:00, Dinner to follow.
Entrée choices are Chicken with Scampi, Prime Rib or Salmon.
Dinner is \$39.00.
Rooms are available at \$89.00. Call the hotel at 1-800-827-0880
for reservations and mention RUPA for this rate.

Surprise Speaker

RSVP dead line: Wednesday, April 5th, 2006
Make check payable to **RUPA** and mail reservation to:
Bob Lawrence, 1624 Candace Way, Los Altos, CA 94024

name

guest name

Indicate entrée choice:

_____ Chicken Breast with Scampi

_____ Roast Prime Rib of Beef, au Jus & Horseradish

_____ Filet of Salmon with Herb Butter Sauce

Check enclosed for: \$ _____

LOS ANGELES CHRISTMAS 2005 LUNCHEON

Our luncheon was held on December 8th at the *Hacienda Hotel* just south of LAX. By the time it was time to sit down to lunch all the tables were full with 80 of us in attendance. After we had finished eating Rex May came to the podium. At this time I need to say thanks to Rex for all the hard work he and Linda did in putting our luncheon together. He started by introducing visiting active flight attendants, followed by the widows of our RUPA members that had flown west. They are always welcome at our luncheons. Next, who was the oldest one there? No one claimed to be older than Jack Hansen who was 88 last June. There were no prizes for any of the categories; the next was, who came the farthest, and it was Bob & Judy Gillette from northern Wisconsin.

Others that came to the podium to amuse us with jokes and stories out of the past were Bob Gillette, Bill Meyers, Mr. Mitchell, Shirley Hansen, John Joyce, Tom Wright, Jack Moore, Chuck Raphael, and Helene Denton who was a stewardess in the days of the DC-4. As we get older there are those who are unable to attend like Jackie Abel who is fighting cancer and is on oxygen, but would like visitors. We were also told that Jack DeCamp has had 2 heart attacks which has affected his memory and sight, and Dave Tank is having leg circulation problems.

Bo Ellis, the new LAX Chief Pilot, and Assistant Chief Pilot Bob Howard stopped by to update us on what is new on the airline. Bo is 46 years old and told a story on himself when he was a new 26 yr old DC-10 S/O in LAX. I think he said the year was 1985; anyway the flight attendant came to the cockpit to ask if the crew would like anything to drink. He said he would like milk and her reply was "in a bottle?" Bo went on to say he is working to get the airline back like it used to be. As for the LA domicile there are 750 pilots. There are no 737's based in LA and at this time United has 1700 pilots on furlough. Also United still has Pan Am Routes they haven't exercised. I think I am right in saying he said the Senate passed out of committee legislation raising the age 60 rule to 65. One final note he said the airport is planning to move runway 25 Left 50 feet to the south and add a middle taxiway. This added room is needed for the new Airbus 380.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all and to all, goodbye till next year.

Doug Rankin

LOS ANGELES VALLEY LUNCHEON

The year 2006 is a new year in more than one way. The newest thing in most of our lives is that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation has taken over the responsibility of paying our pension. However that is not true for all of our RUPA members. Our older members' pension has been paid by an annuity so they are not involved with the PBGC. Some of us arrived at *Mimi's* early and there was some discussion regarding the latest pension information.

Those present were Jack Moore, Bob Mosher, Herb Goodrich, Rex May, Mike Herriott, Dennis Fendelander, Don McDermott, Butch Trembly, Marv Jeffers, Russell Maddox, Doug Bielanski, Walt Albright, Ray Engel, Jack Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Ken Williams, John Joyce, Doug Rankin, Marcene Rankin.

After Don McDermott welcomed everyone, Rex May asked if we had seen the story on the previous nights TV news of a murder here in the Los Angeles area when a nurse was murdered and the gun was thrown in a pond, then the murderer tried to set himself on fire. Rex May told of this unfortunate incident which happened near where he lives. Rex also dug into the memory banks to tell of a flight with Jack Hanson when they landed in a blizzard at O'Hare and took out several landing lights. Shirley Hanson added that when they played back the Cockpit recorder tape there were several "Oh S--t's" as the lights were lopped off.

Bob Mosher told of the latest UAL Bankruptcy Hearing. He quoted a letter from Doug Wilsman saying that letters from the PBGC are to be mailed out January 27th showing the amount of reduction in the pension. For those who do not receive a letter, it's good news as there is no reduction.

Doug Bielanski noted that everything seems to be a done deal, but not necessarily as there are still some appeals that may be heard. He also said to check to see if the right amount of medical insurance premiums was deducted from your bank account because the premium is greater in 2006.

Butch Trembly told a horror story about a clerical error which could have been disastrous, regarding a withdrawal from his Russell account. He also said that the PBGC keeps mixing him up with his dad, who was also a United pilot.

Bob Mosher informed us that Perry Brown had "flown west".

That's all from *Mimi's* until March 16th. Till then, *Doug Rankin*

NORTH BAY RUPA LUNCHEON

Despite the cold and rainy weather, a good group gathered for the monthly lunch at the Petaluma Sheraton Hotel's *Tolay* room on December 7th, the first Wednesday of the month.

A brief report on our ailing friend, Kel Carson was given, and then the talk turned to the many questions regarding our pensions (or lack of). George Hise gave a report on his, and Bill McGuire's, visit with local Congressman Thompson, and the latest from Pete Sofman was passed around the tables. Several old friends, but new faces to the lunch were noted.

On the sign-in sheet were: Ken and Shirley Corbin, Tom Grey, Jim Mansfield, Sam Anderson, Dan Bargar, Jim Reinemer, Leon Scarbrough, George Hise, Bill Greene, Herb Ermolik, Buddy DeCosterd, Norm DeBack, Al Milotich, Cliff Terry, Dick Hanna, Dave Stolp, Bill McGuire, John Loughran, John Reed, Al Fink, Bob and Doris Donegan.

NORTHBAY RUPA JANUARY LUNCHEON

After several days of heavy rain, widespread flooding, and road closures due to slipping hillsides, the skies parted, and the sun shone on the Petaluma Sheraton for those hardy enough to attempt to attempt finding a safe route to the lunch site. Preliminary remarks included the latest update on Captain Kel Carson's health, (not too good), and a comparison of "Eye-on-UA", which reported in glowing terms the state of the airline, followed by a few random E-notes from various sources, (still working), that sharply contradicted the picture drawn by some mgt figures. Captain Rick Saber (Emperor Norton) was missing, as he was in charge of a crab feed that had over 300 paid attendees signed up...and, due to the weather, there were none of the little crustaceans to be found in the markets of the entire Bay Area!

We'll look forward to hearing just how he pulled that one off next month.

Attending were: Linda and Al Fink, Dee and Larry Whyman, Ken and Shirley Corbin, John and Sharon Candelo, Jim Mansfield, Buddy and Alice DeCosterd, Sam and Mickie Orchard, Bill Royall, Leon Scarbrough, Audrey and Ron Perry, Dick Smith, Bruce Milan, Barney Hagen, Gardner and Sheila Bride, Dick Hanna, John Bacynski, Dwight Daley, Bill Greene, Doris and Bob Donegan.

Anyone in the area is invited to join us on the first Wednesday of each month...12:30pm till ?..

Petaluma Sheraton, 745 Baywood Drive...

and a Happy Valentines Day to all..!

Bob D. fatherdon@aol.com

United Airlines Retired Pilots Foundation, Inc.

Send all donations for the United Pilots Foundation to: Capt. T. S. "Ted" Bochniarz, Treasurer
11165 Regency Dr., Westchester, IL 60154-5638

RUPA WEBSITE

By Pete Sofman

Bruce McLeod has turned over the stewardship of the RUPA website to the new webmaster, Capt. Arvid von Nordenflycht. Bruce did a great job, and Arvid is off to a good start.

The new RUPA website can be seen at: www.rupa63.org.

The website's Home Page contains a list of new links, and is worth visiting.

Here are some of those links and a brief description of what they offer you, all for free. (actually, paid for by RUPA members)

RUPA WEBSITE LINKS:

1. **Newsreal:** United's recent Newsreals, also found at United Employees' Skynet (<https://united/intranet.ual.com>)
2. **Industry News:** Links to current news articles
3. **More Industry News:** Current full articles (not links)
4. **UAL MEC Updates:** Current full articles from the UAL-MEC
5. **Other Interest Items:** A comprehensive collection of links to aviation-related websites
6. **Human Interests:** Current announcements of pilots' deaths and illnesses
7. **News Flash:** Latest News Items about UAL
8. **Medical Insurance:** emails from retirees regarding Medical Insurance issues
9. **Link to the latest URPBPA updates:** takes you directly to the URPBPA website
10. **Congressional Updates:** So far, Jim Hosking's notices
11. **Congressional Actions:** Link to the website Congress.org, which leads you to many sources of congressional information
12. **Termination Updates and Doug's Update:** Info from Doug Wilsman
13. **Wilsman Calculator II and the original Wilsman Pension Calculator:** Doug's Pension calculators

THE PHX ROADRUNNERS

The Phoenix Roadrunners met for lunch at our usual place (*Best Western Scottsdale Airpark Suites*) on Jan. FRIDAY 13th, 06. After a very enjoyable lunch, Ginny Coleman's friend Bob Larson gave a report on Boeing 777 and 787 supplied by his son who works for Boeing. Ken Killmon brought in a very interesting video of Charles Lindberg's preparation for his N.Y. to Paris Flight in 1927. Lois Scroggs read some old Memories all of us really enjoyed and a lot of laughter. Now for a sad part. We were missing some of our members due to illness. Lillian phoned to say Bill Bay fell around Christmas and broke his hip, we hope to report next time he will be doing better. Phil McDonald had surgery at Mayo Hospital the day before our meeting so naturally we don't have anything to report on his health at the present. We missed he & Pat as they always attend our meetings. We know the flu bug hit Phyllis & Ed Nelson very bad as they canceled their reservations and that never happens.

Attending: Fred Anderson, Frenchy & Millie Bourgeois, Mike Carlin, Ginny Coleman, Don Eiken & Delta Pilot friend Morie Legare, Ken & P.J. Killmon, Clay Klabo, Bob & Marlyn Larson friends of Ginny Coleman, Cory Liston, Don & Sharon Jackley, Gene Paquette, J.O. & Arlene Martin, Ralph & Ruth Johnson & friend Billy Walker, Roy & Lois Scroggs, Charlie Schwob, R.R. & Jinny Robinson, Lynn & Linday Smith & son Scott, Jerry Smith, Don & Mary Toeppen, and last but not least Ralph Wright.

We hope to see you at our next luncheon on Feb. 10th, any one in town please give us a call would like to hear from you. Phone # 480-948-1612 Frenchy & Millie e-mail fbourgeois@earthlink.net; Or Ken Killmon flyawayk@cox.net.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RUPA MEETING

December 12, 2005. The monthly gathering of the intrepid retired flyers and wives of the SWFRUPA group was held at our old stomping grounds, the Fort Myers *Olive Garden*. Thirty-nine members turned out for the holiday gift exchange and guest speaker Capt. Roger Hall, President of the United Retired Pilots Benefit Protection Association.

A round of mimosa's, started the meeting as a warm up for the coming holiday season.

Our host T.J. Sobota, then introduced our guest speaker Capt. Hall. Capt. Hall explained several aspects of the current situation with the bankruptcy proceedings. He spoke about legislative efforts, and how our government and the bankruptcy laws work, which in general, do not favor the employees.

He then explained the position of the URPBPA on the ballot we received from the bankruptcy court. Relatively, we, the retirees represent a small portion of the creditors and regardless of how we vote the approval or disapproval of the reorganization plan will most likely be decided by others.

Capt. Hall further mentioned that there are still efforts to preserve our benefits by continuing to file legal proceedings with the bankruptcy court.

On a happier note, Santa showed up and with the help of elves, handed out gifts to all the attendees. There was no Daisy Red Rider air rifle as we did not want anyone to shoot their eye out. With a shout of *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year* to all, the meeting was adjourned.

Attending: R. Boyer, J. Good, H. Hallberg, D.& S. Wait, J. Ralph, D. Kyte, R.&T. White, E. Chrisman, A. Cavallard, L.&C. Brubaker, J. Taylor, R.&J. Hall, N.&C. Cudnowski, J. Urban, D.&C. Smith, A. May, R. Snyder, R. Travis, T. Sobota, E.&R. Riehl, M. Jones, B. Leiding, E.&K. Walsa, J. Sutton, G. Chapman, D. Sullivan, H. Long,

and yours truly, *Gary & Janice Crittenden.*

SW FLA RUPA LUNCHEON

A record number of members turned out for our January luncheon, and the mood was spirited, as indicated by the enthusiasm and volume of the conversations.

The meeting was started by your host relating his latest "adventure in aviation" on a recent return flight from Chicago to Fort Myers on New Year's eve. Quick summary: Left ORD on time and in first class, yea! Oops, return to gate, mechanical. Two hours to lock out reverser, ooh well, have a drink. Celebrate New Year over Tampa, Happy New Year everybody, have another drink. Uh oh, shoot missed approach to RSW, fog, divert to alternate, West Palm Beach, Where? We don't have anybody there and anyone else had gone home to celebrate! Two and half hours later (3am) they obtained fuel and departed to make another attempt to land at Fort Myers. Have another drink, we might make it after all! Oh no! still below minimums we're going to Orlando. It's 4am in Orlando and we (I think "we" was Mickey, also think that might be who "they" is) are going to put you on ground transportation to Fort Myers, 200 miles, 4 hour drive, except SA's (35), your on your own. Don't really know what the SA's did as I rented car and drove home, arriving at 9am. A 16 hour familiarization of the B757, could have used 5 more drinks.

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by our own Captain Don Kyte relating his experience flying sight seeing trips in Alaska. Don owned a Seabee and arranged with smaller tour boats to give the guests aerial tours of the Southeast Alaska scene. As Don says "glaciers, whales and bears from one man's vintage amphibian." Don has written a delightful book, complete with pictures, about his adventure. Recommend you contact him for details care of Seabee Publishing, 257 Ostego Dr. Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931-2830.

In attendance: Don Kyte, Jim Good, Rip Curtiss, Tom Willman, Harvey Hallberg, Will & Sally Collins, Earl & Kathy Walsh, Tom Tiedemann, Norb Cudnowski, King Purton, Lyle Burhans, Faith Osborn, Duncan Fleming, Ray & Twila White, Mamie Thompson, Jim & Susan Goodson, Jim & Maryann Huemann, Ray Hill, Ellis Van Alstine, Cary & Bob Hitt, Jim Sutton, Gene Chapman, Don Sullivan, Jack Sodergren, Lou Brubaker, Edgar & Ruth Riehl, Don Wichelt, Al May, Bill Mils, Jim Ralph, and yours truly, *Gary and Janice Crittenden.*

SAN DIEGO RUPA LUNCHEON

Ted; we had good turnout for our last luncheon. So many, it was hard to talk to everyone. Present were faithful Bob Harrell, Paul Whitby, Pete Moyer, Roy Holmes, Don Trunick, Bill Pauling, Brad Green and wife Rhoda visiting from CO, guests Bill Sparks and wife E mae. Bill was a Naval Aviator prior to WWII; he had some interesting stories.

Bob Bowman

SEATTLE GOONEY BIRDS LUNCHEON

The Seattle Gooney Birds gathered for lunch at the SEATAC Marriott on Thursday, Dec. 15th. After lunch we discussed (no surprise) the latest pension information and pending legislation. We talked about the status of our airline and Herb Marks opined that since he had retired the whole thing had gone to Hell. A couple of jokes, a few shared experiences and we called it a day 'til next month. Present were: Fred Sindlinger, Gerry Pryde, John Bley, Bud Granley, Mac McFarlin, Herb Marks, Jeff Roberts, Ivory Brummet, Al Haynes, Chuck Westpfahl, Rex Joseph, Ray Dapp, Don Andersen, Ken Case, Tom Smith, Jim Barber, George Nicolai, Ron Huffman, Gary Sakuma, Jack Brown, Dick Wiesner, Ed Williams, Howard Holder, Ray Hanson, Ray Hull, Vince Evans, Pat Williams, and Bill Brett.

TUCSON JAVELINAS DECEMBER LUNCHEON

OK, our previously unnamed group at last has a name.

On December 8th we got together at the *Tucson Country Club* about 11 o'clock and, after an informal cocktail/social hour, sat down to lunch promptly at noon. When dessert was cleared away we were treated to an interesting presentation by Cyndy Wicker, a representative of the Tucson Botanical Gardens, the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, and the Tucson Herpetological Society. Cyndy educated us on "Living with Urban Wildlife" and gave numerous examples of how we can, even with the best of intentions, create major problems for the wildlife living in and around our communities. She said, for example, that even our birdbaths can, if not kept clean, become a breeding site for diseases that will be carried by the very birds we are trying to attract. She also showed how certain pesticides can work their way through the food chain with deadly results.

Those attending were: Helge Carson, Bill and Marjory Tyndall, Barbara Dunlap (Mac was sick,) Tom and Bobby Jean Green, Angela Wallace, Mike Allum, Woody Morgan, George and Diana Raymond, Bob Steeneck, Jim and Jan Guest, Don and Joyce Sutherland, Rod Gilstrap, Tom and Bev Workinger, and Pam and Randy Ryan.

Our next luncheon is Thursday, March 30, 11:00 am, at the *Tucson CC*. If you are not on our e-mailing list and might like to attend send an e-note to: randyryan40@msn.com, or call (520) 797-3912. Wives are invited to all of our get togethers and newcomers are always welcome.

ABOUT THE COVER: MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS DC-10-10, N1832U

A late afternoon in November, 1985, she makes her way to 25R for departure.

She was later sold to FedEx as N397FE

Photographer: Frank C. Duarte, Jr

WASHINGTON AREA RUPA, EDDIE O'DONNELL LUNCHEON

January 18, 2006 Standing in silence, we remembered those who have preceded us in the Flight West. Today, we thought of those departed since we met in July: Mrs. Ann Rainbow, Mr. Ed Payne, Mr. John Dodge, Mr. Bill Arnett, Capt. Dick Wiley, Capt. Bob Ashley, Capt. Ralph Sewell and Capt. Bob Patterson. We remembered the pleasure of their company and the part they played in our lives and our profession.

Mr. Bob O'Roark is a Design Task Manager for Parsons Management Consultants at Dulles International Airport. Bob retired from UAL where he managed United's facilities through all the expansion of C and D Concourse. Mr. O'Roark presented the planned development of Dulles through 2025. The third N/S runway will be in operation by the end of 2008 and runway separation will allow for three simultaneous ILS approaches. By 2012 the C/D Concourse will be replaced with a new C Concourse located south of the old employee parking area and will be serviced by the underground train system. At that time the Security Check will be at the entry to the trains and have 36 lanes. Taxi lanes and gates will accommodate the new Airbus Behemoth. Currently, Fuel usage at Dulles is about 1.4 million gallons per day and by 2025, they expect it to be in the range of 2.3 million gallons. In order to supply this amount of fuel, a new 20-inch supply line will be connected to the N/S 30-inch Eastcoast Supply line that passes just 2 miles east of the airport. The presentation was well received and there were many questions.

For our luncheon, Jerry Goebel and Ed Miller handled reservation tasks. Hal Cockerill and Bud Ruddy staffed the check-in table. Herb Petitt arranged for our speaker. Fred Streb is our sponsor at *Westwood CC*. Thanks to each one of them for their contribution to the success of the occasion.

It was reported that Chuck Pierce and Bob Reich were honored with the 2005 Brodigan Forsythe Award by Council 11. Congratulations Gentlemen!

Amongst our attendees, we were happy to see Revered Elder Ralph Pasley (88). George Elliott was present and it appeared that the cane was more a precaution than a necessity. Dave Bulger was our sole first-timer and we look forward to seeing him in the future.

Jerry Goebel reported on those with medical problems. Jerry administers our 'Memorial Fund' that is used to make memorial donations to the Retired Pilots Foundation at the death of any of our members. A hybrid 50/50 drawing was conducted to resupply the Memorial Fund. Donations to the fund may be sent to Jerry. Sim Stidham, Bud Ruddy and Fred Streb divided the 50%.

For the Door Prize drawing, Ab Rainbow hesitated noticeably before putting his hand into the Golden Vessel to draw a ticket for Dub Crawford. Dub then drew a ticket for Larry Shulte. Each received a sample of Loudoun's finest grape. After the drawing there was discussion of the latest news surrounding the Bankruptcy and the industry.

Attending: Bob Aldridge, Jon Beckett, Dave Bulger, Chet Cassel, John Cerisano, Hal Cockerill, Tom Coffey, Gary Cook, Gil Coshland, Dub Crawford, Ed Crowther, George Elliott, Jack Evans, Jim Foster, Denis Getman, Paul Gilson, Jerry Goebel, Larry Grube, Chuck Heid, John Linderman, Dave Malone, Troy Mashburn, Frank McKenzie, Jim Meadows, Ward O'Brien, Bob O'Roark, Ralph Pasley, Herb Petitt, Ab Rainbow, Joe Rozic, Bud Ruddy, Larry Schulte, Bernie Schwartzman, Sim Stidham, Fred Streb, E.K. Williams and Tom Williamson.

Gentlemen, we need your help in keeping the mailing list up to date. Please send to me any changes to your address, postal or email. Also remember, that if you do not keep Jerry Goebel informed of illness and death in the group, he will not be able to pass the information to the phone tree in a timely manner.

Our luncheons are quarterly, the 3rd Wednesday of Jan, Apr, July and Oct, at the *Westwood Country Club* on Rte. 123 in Vienna barely a mile south of Tyson's. We invite any of RUPA to join us. Social time begins at 1115 with lunch served at noon. Next luncheon is COED, (with the widows of our friends as our Guests) ON APRIL 19. Capt. Walt Clark, Chief Pilot IADFO, will be our speaker. Contact Jerry Goebel @ 703-719-6353, or E.K. Williams 540-338-4574 (EKWJR@earthlink.net) to ensure a place at the table and a bean in the pot.

E.K. Williams, Jr.

LETTERS

JAIME P. ALEXANDER—Council Bluffs, IA

Hello Jim,

My postage fee is enclosed. Actually I am penalizing myself for tardiness and sending \$50 for two years. That should get me to Sept. '07. As soon as I was late enough to be out of my short term memory it came to me! Thanks for taking on Secretary/Treasurer.

Yours,

Jaime

LEROY BAIR—Gurnee, IL

Another year and the check is in the mail. Time seems to march faster the older I get. I still have an occasional dream about flying but when I get on an airplane, I don't miss the hassle.

Eva and I have had another great year. We again went to Maui in March to Jim Naze's condo in Kahana. This year our oldest son brought his two children over and stayed in another condo in the complex. It was fun doing the "tourist things" again.

April, I was back to Mayo and had a new PSA test that the doctors didn't like the results but went back in July for another and everything was fine.

June was graduation time for our oldest grandson and July found the family back to the Wisconsin Dells for our annual long-weekend.

August and into September we went back to Alaska on a cruise and this time went inland. It had been 12 years since we had been inland so it was fun to see how things had changed and a few places we had missed before. The color change was nice and we saw the first snows.

This fall we didn't leave hockey for too long. Our oldest grandson is playing for the Northern Illinois University hockey team. He's doing a lot of "bench warming" now but the other goalies are a senior and a grad student so I'm sure he'll get his turn later.

A great deal of the rest of our time had been going to doctors with our oldest son (42). He has been diagnosed with cancer in the spleen. He doesn't hit enough markers to declare that he has LGL leukemia or T-cell lymphoma. After two tests, his bone marrow is clear. Doctors want to wait and monitor him. That's the hardest part for Eva and I – I'm used to making a decision and living with it. Anybody else who has had a similar care, we'd greatly appreciate your insight. We can be reached at ELBair62@aol.com.

Thanks for all the work that it takes to keep us informed with the *RUPANEWS*. It's a great read. We both read it from cover to cover.

Till next year. *LeRoy*

REX BALES—Greensboro, GA

Captain Olson,

Thanks for all the work that you and all our guys and gals have done for us retiree's.

It has been a few tough years for me health wise but thanks to a procedure called an "ablation", I think I will make it. Ablation is described on the WEB if anyone is interested in heart surgery. I have been on the leading edge of cardiac care and technique for about twenty years. Ruth has not kicked me out yet and we have been able to travel and see family and enjoy a new grandson.

We went to Europe last month and have made several trips to the west coast. I gave our daughter her oath for her promotion to Commander in the Navy. She is now a civilian and practicing in Mountain View in the bay area. Our son is still into commercial real estate in San Francisco and is doing well.

I just returned from Oklahoma for my Mom's ninety seventh birthday. She lives alone, drives a car, and communicates on e-mail. I plan on doing as well...

I have not moved since last year but just in case...

Rex

ROBERT BECK—West Palm Beach, FL

Dear Jim,

Thanks for all you do to make *RUPANEWS* a success. In spite of all the ups and downs, retirement is very under-rated. One year completed and many more to go!

(Hopefully)

Cheers, *Bob*

MURIEL BERGSMA—Mc Henry, IL

Dear Cleve: Well, here it is that time of year again — my renewal was due 12/1/05, and here it is the 30th. Well I'm 2 days later than last year, so I hope I get my January 2006 *RUPANEWS* in the mail.

Truly enjoy all the news items appearing in the monthly editions. Continue to enjoy the input from pilots I knew back prior to my Feb. 1999 retirement.

Dale Dopkins nominated me to serve as a board member for the United Airlines' Historical Foundation this past June, and I was quite honored to be voted in by the members. I'm hoping to serve the Foundation well.

We all pray and hope United will make a drastic turnaround and be there for us. Who would ever have thought such a wonderful, large company could have taken such a tumultuous negative turn.

My best to you in the New Year.

Sincerely, *Muriel*

JOHN B. BIRMINGHAM—Anacortes, WA

Gentlemen-Please accept my apologies; I wrote this check almost 3 months ago and then set it aside until I could write a newsy letter to accompany it. As it turned out, my summer really heated up with more visitors, more places to go in the boat and more good weather to exploit, so the check lay buried somewhere under a pile of other deferred stuff on my desk. It has now been exhumed will go in today's mail without the newsy letter.

Life is good here in Anacortes especially with the boat parked year-round right at the foot of our street, and always ready to visit Canada or the San Juan Islands, or do some activity with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. With all the bad stuff happening

at UAL, we are good candidates for a more frugal lifestyle. We are taking off tomorrow for the month of November for the Eastern legs of the grandkid circuit. The other grandkids are in Long Beach and we will probably see them in January.

Thanks to all the folders and stuffers, and the RUPA officers who give so freely of their time. I also enjoy seeing the names of many whom I have flown with who are still staying healthy and active after being retired for so many years already. Gotta run and get packed and listed for the flight to ORD. Next time, I'll write the letter first and then the check and be more on time.

Best to all,

J.B. Birmingham

MONTY BLATT—Sycamore, IL

Hi Jim,

Thanks for all your efforts and a special thanks to all those "invisible" people that support you and make this fine newsletter possible. I swore that I would never join the ranks of being late with the check. The check's in the mail and now I belong to the majority. There must be some truth in the old saying that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Looks like I'm on my way. :-))

Joane and I moved into our new house in Sycamore, IL in May. I wasn't feeling very good during the process and wound up in the hospital for a gall bladder operation. At the same time the good doctors discovered that I had double pneumonia. What a surprise.

After two weeks of recovery at home, Joane started feeling pretty bad. Yup, she came down with viral pneumonia also. It took almost two months before both of us really began to feel half way decent again. Needless to say we didn't get done nearly as much during the summer as we had intended. After Christmas we both looked forward to finishing our "recovery" in Bonita Springs, FL. Weather has been great. We will stick around until about the middle of May before venturing back north.

I read the letter from Tom Helms and thought it was excellent. It really is very nice to hear from someone with a positive, upbeat attitude during this most disagreeable situation. While I and all the rest of the retirees will take it on the chin, I have no

doubt the UAL will survive and become a better airline. It is just too bad that internal and external forces had to combine to produce this situation.

Take care, *Monty*

HOWARD R. BLOMSTROM—Sun City, AZ

Cleve, Jim, et al,

December brings another birthday, my 87th, so more of my contemporaries are missing than are still here. At any rate, greetings to all.

Pauline is in the near-by care center in the damnable clutches of Alzheimer's. This of course dominates my life too.

Really no other news, *Howard*

FRENCHY AND MILLIE BOURGEOIS—

Scottsdale, AZ

Well I guess another yr. just slipped by as it is time for me to have another Birthday. I would like to Thank Ted, Cleve, & all of you caring people for keeping all of us up to date. We are aware of the time one spends in making things happen, as I am the Pilots Rep. for AZ. Without the help of my wife Millie, P.J. & Ken Killmon I don't think we could continue. We had to sell our place in Prescott just too difficult for Millie at that altitude with her COPD. So this past yr. was our first summer in the valley. Really wasn't as bad as I expected. The rest of the yr. it is so nice you forget about those real hot days.

Well we can't expect to have all good times so will give the other side of the coin. Starting in Feb. with Kidney Stones; next Ruptured Disc in Oct., followed by Lamincetomy/Diskectomy, which was successful.

Now I am waiting for Mayo to make decision on how they will handle my Squamous Cell Cancer on my Scalp. In the meantime we Thank God every day for another beautiful day here in Scottsdale, Az. We have never regretted our move. When you are in the area give us a call. *Frenchy*

P.S. I would like to hear from anyone that is flying with oxygen 24/7. Thanks, *Millie*

JERRY BRADLEY—Boca Raton, FL

Our household had a very good year in 2005. We took a driving trip through the West in early September. Saw all those places that I pointed out to the passengers on the PA for years. They were as pretty as I said they were.

This Christmas the kids, grandkids and other assorted relatives were all staying at home so we did something that we have wanted to do for years, we took a cruise over the holidays. What a wonderful Christmas, no decorating, no cooking and people waiting on us hand a foot. I would recommend it.

So Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Have a good holiday, Happy New Year and Seasons Greetings. If I still said something to offend, then screw you.

Jerry

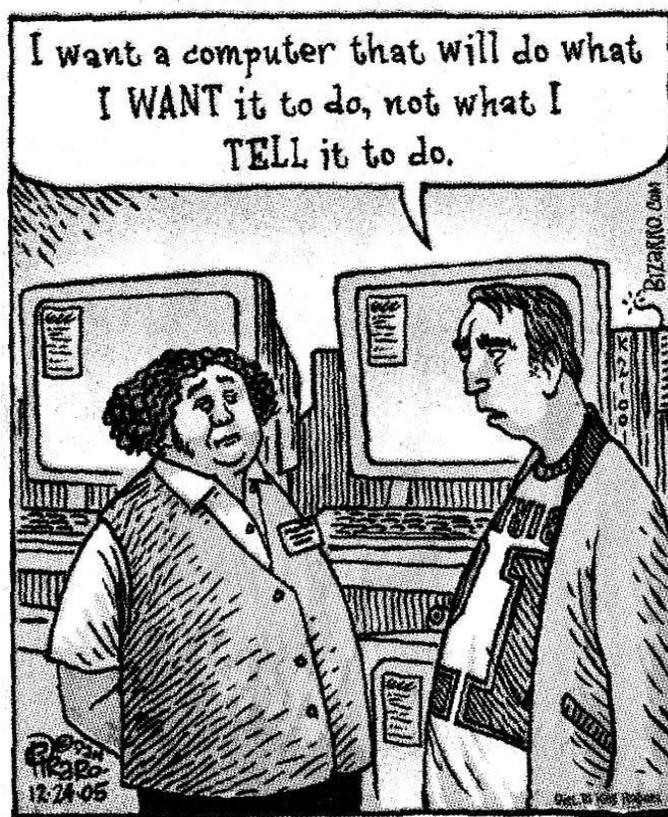
ALBERT F. BRAGG—Longmont, CO

Dear James,

Check enclosed for another year. I was out of the country for my birthday, so I am late again. What else is new?

Sincerely, *Sunny*

BIZARRO *Piraro*



THE ASTHMA TREATMENT THAT ALSO WORKS GREAT FOR EMPHYSEMA

By Robert J. Rowen, MD

If you have asthma, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis, you know how it is to literally have your breath taken from you. One man once told me it's like the feeling of getting winded in a marathon, but without the exercise. Those of us fortunate to have a good set of lungs take it for granted.

While smoking is a major cause of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), many sufferers of the disease never lit up even once. That's because there are genetic causes of emphysema. One is caused by a deficiency of alpha-1 antitrypsin. Chronic bronchitis is a result of a series of lung infections causing destruction to the architecture of the airway. It could be triggered by smoke or toxin inhalation, allergies, weakened immune system, passive exposure to smoke, and many other causes.

Several years ago, a well-known naturopath, Davis Lamson, ND, and a colleague reported on a 95-year-old man with emphysema in a wheelchair hooked to an oxygen tank. After three days of twice daily-inhaled glutathione, he returned to the doctors without his oxygen tank or wheelchair reporting he could breathe better than he had in years. That's pretty impressive.

My wife, Terri, and I have used it sporadically with positive results, but nothing this dramatic. However, new research is breathing life into this intriguing therapy.

Glutathione is a premier antioxidant and heavy metal scavenger (remover). Dramatic research has linked lower or declining levels of glutathione to HIV infection progressing to AIDS, advancement of hepatitis damage, and even heart attacks. It's has been known for many years that providing nutrients with "thiol" (sulfur-based) chemical groups would loosen thick lung secretions. These tenacious secretions often lie at the distress of COPD, obstructing compromised airways.

Now researchers have linked lower glutathione to COPD. They found that COPD patients had a lack of glutathione in their sputum (the matter coughed up and spit out). In the study, 25 healthy individuals were compared to 25 people with COPD. The healthy individuals had an average level of glutathione that was 40 greater than the COPD participants.

The problem with trying to orally increase glutathione is that your stomach breaks much of it down in the digestion process. So nutritionists have been working with ways to get your body to increase its own production of this awesome substance. Directly inhaling glutathione into your lungs is a great way to beat the digestive problems associated with this nutrient.

If you have COPD, consider asking your preventive medical doctor to try this simple procedure. The protocol calls for 300 mg (tell your doctor it requires 1.5 cc of standard compounded solution of 200 mg/cc) glutathione plus one-tenth of an ounce (3.5 cc) saline solution in a nebulizer. Inhale this over 5-10 minutes. Nebulizers mist the solution into an aerosol for easy entry directly into your lungs. There, glutathione can work locally or be absorbed through the lining of your lungs. Nebulizers are relatively inexpensive as far as medical equipment goes, often less than \$200.

Many, but not all, of our patients who have tried it have seen improvement in their breathing and respiratory well being. We have not seen any negative effects, nor would I expect to. Remember, your body needs this nutrient. There also have been reports of significant benefit in cystic fibrosis. On rare occasion, some very severely compromised patients have been irritated by the nebulized solution. But for routine COPD use, it's very safe.

Ref: *Chest*, October 2004; *Altern Med Rev.*, 2000;5(5):429-431.

Looking for an integrative physician near you? These organizations can help:

- International Oxidative Medicine Association — For a free list, please call my publisher at 800-728-2288.
- International College of Integrative Medicine — 866-464-5226 or www.icimed.com
- American College for Advancement in Medicine — 800-532-3688 or www.acam.org.

Dr. Rowen has a practice in Santa Rosa, CA—Ed.

RAY BRICE—Honolulu, HI

"The circle, it goes round and round, the painted ponies go up and down, welcome to the carousel of life..." Joni Mitchell

Aloha All,

In anticipation of the loss of about 90% of my pension I decided to return to the world of the working. However, imprinted on my mind, and thus affecting my job search criteria, was the overriding desire to work for yet another Bankrupt Airline. I was not disappointed and immediately found a job with Aloha Airlines. The first thing that happened after my arrival was a 10% pay reduction. This was quickly followed by an additional (compounded) 10% reduction and a nice form letter notifying me that they were terminating my (And my fellow employees') pensions. I informed them that they could NOT terminate my pension because my previous employer and Union had taken care of that already.

Well, I feel right at home now!

I sold my prized 1956 D-50 Twin Bonanza last year (\$4.00 per gallon fuel, and 30 gallons per hour!) so I can no longer convert fuel into noise. Of all the things I have been getting rid of ... that is what I will miss most. Moving to Hawaii has its perks in the weather department but it is not "home". As soon as we can sell our retirement home in San Rafael, CA we will have to decide what to do with our residences. Hawaii is a choice but only one of many. Foreign locations ... away from the US government, lawyers and corporate world ... somehow seems very inviting.

Sitting inside watching 'airline management' at work is not something that instills hope or pride in what I am doing or have done. However, I have been 'accepted' by the Aloha Pilots which was very heartening. We'll keep on keeping on as long as we can.

In just a few weeks Jan and I will celebrate (limited celebration!) our 40th anniversary. We hope to be able to spend some time with our kids who have turned out to be our best friends. One is a computer programmer and music composer and the other, despite my warnings, became an American Eagle Pilot. Both are doing well but dealing with

the ratcheting down of wages and benefits at both their jobs.

Well, as M. Scott Peck said in his book "A Road Less Traveled" ... "Life is difficult!"

I resemble that remark.

Aloha, *Ray*

raybrice@aol.com

RICHARD BROMWICH—Middletown, NJ

Hi Ted

A miracle! I actually remembered to send the note a day after my birthday.

Well I hope United survives but unless they find good management I have my doubts.

It's unfortunate that while the ESOP was in place that the United Pilots reps didn't do a better job of looking after the pilots and retiree's long term interests.

Letting the company do away with annuities was a big mistake, but at the time not many were concerned about it. I was the only pilot at the road show in Newark who questioned it. The response was "More chance of the annuity company going bankrupt than United" - Live and learn. It seems like a conspiracy by all companies to screw the employees and retirees while incompetent management gets rich at their expense.

I am thankful for my family's good health and that I am not retiring now or for that matter still working. From what I hear it's not too much fun anymore. Thanks to all who put out the *RUPANEWS*. By the way I used to enjoy deliberately stepping on P.G.'s shoes when I flew with him. *Dick*

JEAN (MRS. JACK) BROWN—Pacific Palisades, CA

Sorry for the delay. I've been in the hospital for a month and I still trying to get my strength back. Hope you can read this, I'm a little shakey-maybe a lot!

Jean

BRU BRUBAKER—Farmington, ME

Dear Jim,

Sorry this is late. Retirement to the woods of Maine is still great. I keep busy hunting, fishing and boating. Melinda makes sure my honey-do list is always full. Thanks to all who work at getting the *RUPANEWS* published. I always look forward to finding it in my mailbox so that I can catch up on everyone I shared a cockpit with and the latest skullduggery as EXO.

Bru

LYLE BURHANS—LaFollette, TN

Greetings to all,

Three years in retirement has been wonderful. Judy & I are still doing fine and on the move with our RV. We only spent 2 months in our home in TN in 2005, but a lot of that was helping with our "absolutely beautiful" TRIPLET grandchildren! Yes, 3 of them, 2 girls and a boy. All are doing great and just had their first birthday. When we heard that there were going to be 3 of them we said, "Three of EVERYTHING". And it is a lot of work, but they are wonderful. Better them than us!

We had great time on a cruise to Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize in December, 3 days after the official end of the hurricane season! Wonderful weather and very interesting.

Thank You to you and all of the RUPA leadership for what you all do for us. Wishing all of us good luck on having a pension.

Lyle

LJBURHANS66@AOL.COM 423-566-0081

ROBERT L. BURNS—Fairfield, CT

Greetings to All! Thanks for 'Stepping Up to the Plate' Ted & keeping us in the loop. And many "Thanks" to the rest of the RUPA Staff for all they do for us – you guys & gals are great!

Well here it is -- January 2006 – a brand "New Year"! It is also my birthday month as well as the first month that the PBGC started making pension payments. What a way to start the New Year! The good news is that they got the amount right & did successfully deposit the payment. Hopefully the

PBGC won't make the same mistakes in the coming months as they did with the USAIR workers.

We did go on a Holland America Alaskan Cruise from Seattle this summer. We flew full fare on Alaska Airlines non-stop from Boston to Seattle RT; which by the way gave us an opportunity to visit our daughter in Seattle. Pass travel is almost a thing of the past for us, since it is easier & not that much more expensive to buy a ticket and get a confirmed seat etc. But then again, you lose all that fun waiting at the podium till the last minute to see if you are going to make it. Unless of course, you are one of "The Anointed Ones", that has granted themselves positive first class space.

This was the first cruise for my wife & me. The cruise was great – nice ship, comfortable cabin with pleasant staff & unbelievable food with eloquent dining at night. We were also very fortunate in having excellent weather most days. The weather in Ketchikan was beautiful & the locals told us that they get 214 days of rain per year so the "Gods" were shining on us there. We particularly enjoyed Glacier Bay & seeing (and hearing) huge walls of the glaciers break off and fall into the sea. We took a helicopter flight and landed on the Mendenhall Glacier outside of Juneau. It was kind of neat, in that six or eight choppers form a circle on the tarmac and then lift off and hover about twenty feet. Then they peel off and fly in trail up over the mountains and on to the glacier where you disembark and get to walk around on the glacier for thirty minutes or so wearing ice cleats. The flight had a little bit of a "pucker factor", in that it seems like the choppers are really straining to gain altitude to just barely make it over the extremely rugged ridges – wouldn't be a great location for an engine failure. Spent two years in the Air Force in Alaska but never got any further south than King Salmon or Kodiak Island. The southern part of Alaska is quite beautiful and was very enjoyable to see.

On a sadder note; I was very sorry to hear about the passing of Captain Ralph Sewell – Capital's Chief Pilot when I hired on in 1957. As I stated recently on the RUPA RETUP site: After applying for a job with Capital in 1957, Captain Sewell phoned me at Seymour Johnson AFB in NC & asked if I could

get released from active duty a little earlier as he had a vacancy in a new hire class. I told him that I couldn't & that I was no longer interested in the job as I was hired by TWA. He said fine -- good luck young man!

A few weeks later after my job with TWA vanished I called Captain Sewell (with my hat in my hand) & asked him if the job was still available -- he responded "Can you be here next Monday?"

He could have just as easily said "We only ask you once, ace" -- but he didn't -- that's the kind of gentleman he was.

Compare that to the current scene at United. I think the following just about says it all.

IAM'S objection to United's reorganization plan that was posted on the RUPA Web Site for those that might not have seen it.

"After foisting the major share of the burden of this reorganization upon the shoulders of their represented employees, one would expect the Debtors to avoid even the appearance of paying bonuses to management employees and directors. Yet incredibly, the Debtors' management and board have taken an entirely different tact: they have proposed a Plan that will pay insiders between \$285 million and \$525 million in equity upon emerging from bankruptcy or within a short time thereafter. Moreover, the timing of the proposed bonuses is deceitful coming on the heels of ratified wage and benefit cuts and other sacrifices by IAM - represented employees and other labor groups who were unaware when they voted to approve those sacrifices that management intended to reward itself with a huge and unjustified financial windfall."

Hard to believe -- no shame -- no guilt -- just unadulterated greed!

Fortunately I was privileged to work under some very honorable gentlemen in my 37 plus years -- people that actually cared about aviation -- those are the ones I choose to remember.

Check is in the mail to Jim. (He already has it.)

Wishing everyone the "Best" in the coming New Year

Bob

JACQUELYN CLARK—Greenwood Village, CO

Mr. Olson,

Many thanks to you and the others that make the publication of *RUPANEWS* possible. Folks who volunteer in any place are the givers of our world! My late husband John "JP" was an active volunteer of Meals on Wheels and Project Learn.

Best Wishes to All,

Jacquelyn Clark

WILLIAM E. (BILL) CORNICK—Thousand Oaks, CA

Hi Jim - It's that time of the year again, I just had that birthday # 73 and my check is enclosed. Wow, it sure seems like the months fly by a lot quicker any more. I'm just thankful that Nancy and I have been able to stay in pretty good shape and no major health problems.

I've been staying busy instructing in the Socata TBM 700 about 350 hours a year, teaching aerobatics in my Pitts S-2C, and flying 8 to 12 air shows per year.

It's always fun to run into old United friends at air shows around the country. I also enjoy reading the *RUPANEWS* and seeing what all of my old friends are doing.

With the United bankruptcy and the erosion of our benefits I guess that we are indeed "living in interesting times". I guess that we should be grateful when compared to 75% of the rest of the world population. "May the wind on your back always be your own"!

Bill

BOB CROWELL—Aurora, CO

Dear Ruparians,

I've been waiting for something to come in the mail to which I have to reply so PBGC will know I'm still here. I probably won't get serious to know what they will do with our retirement unless something bad happens.

We should all be thankful to Doug Wilsman and staff for all they are doing.

Marj and I are still up and about, and occasionally drive close to 400 miles on a fishing trip.

Next week I should close a townhouse which involves a seller in Arizona, a buyer from LA whom I represent as Realtor, and a lender who is in San Diego. You should see all the faxes, e-mails, etc. But it's fun.

After the big 20 inch snow October 9, we have missed most of the precipitation here in the Denver area, although I-70 was closed east of here November 28. If you ski in Colorado, be sure you don't get buried in the snow! It should be wonderful skiing right now.

Last week I discovered some posts with chains near the top and a wire basket below the chains. I wondered if they were charted devices easily picked up by radar for GPS satellites to give accurate readings. Then I saw some people throwing discs into the wire baskets. I asked one of them what they were doing. The reply was "Disk Golf". I had been getting my exercise on a disk golf course and didn't know it. That disk golf course is at Expo Park in Aurora, and is the only one in town. There are a total of 4 in the Denver area, and 1800 plus in the world. I haven't quit playing golf, (I just haven't played for 40 years) and now I will have to take up *disk* golf so I won't be robbed of exercise on golf carts.

It seems that "Christmas" is being attacked by some segment of the population who don't believe in terrorists nor even give thought to Him for whom Christmas was named. Keep up the faith. We will win the war!

Sincerely, *Bob*

J. J. CUNNINGHAM—Lititz, PA

Finally, the check has been sent. Seems I fell behind a while back and am now back in the fold. Way too much to cover in this short note but will start with summer 04 when my aortic valve which has been under study for some time finally started to give me trouble. Realized it when I was unable to walk the Shinnecock course with my two sons during the Open. Tried to talk the Doc into waiting until the end of golf season, no luck. Had double

by-pass and aortic valve replaced with a bovine valve? All is well, no coumadin etc. just Zocor. Back on the course in 6 weeks, didn't help my game.

We stayed home until our annual trip to Florida and some warmer weather golf and returned to a wet spring. In May we headed to Europe to spend 6 weeks celebrating our 50th. Started in Munich with my brother and his wife and toured Prague, Vienna, and Venice before taking a villa in Umbria for three weeks. The only way to see Italy. Our Children and grandchildren joined us for parts of the time and we had a grand celebration on the day. Can certainly recommend Parker Villas for the villa. www.parkervillas.com.

When not playing golf I'm busy with the Lancaster Airport Authority, just completed a 5 year term and reappointed for five more. Interesting work looking at the operation from the other side. Will complete a \$16 Million runway extension this month (7,000ft) and working feverishly to maintain and improve our air service after it was restored in 03.

Will attempt to make more timely communications in the future. *gg*

LOUIS E. DA HARB—Longmont, CO

Jim,

Thanks for taking over the Secretary/Treasurer job for RUPA.

Peggy and I have been traveling a lot last year. A couple of special road trips to visit friends and family in the SE USA and a family get together in OR. We continue to enjoy various jazz festivals, Sun Valley and Chandler, AZ with long time friends. Great Dixieland music and dancing. A trip to the NE with a group of 13 high school friends was a real hoot.

Hope UAL can keep it together. Working with the PBGC will be a new experience for all of us.

The check is coming via snail mail.

Once again thanks to you and all those working to keep the RUPA moving along.

Lou

MORE ON THE WALL OF HONOR

When we first started this program, RUPA committed to a quarter panel, (252 names), with the hope of filling a full panel of 1008 names on the Wall of Honor. You greatly exceeded our expectations, as we now have over 1300 names for the Wall of Honor.

The question has occasionally been asked, “why do we deserve honor....we are not heroes”. Keep in mind that this is a fund raising program for the Smithsonian Museum. Early on, when the program first started, one of our members called me several times and said he wished to make a donation to the Wall of Honor, but he did not think his name should be on it since he was not a hero; that was for the likes of Lindbergh and Doolittle. Finally, after about the third call, I convinced him that the wall of Honor was about thanking him, thus honoring him, for his donation to the museum, and also honoring his accomplishments to the field of aviation and commercial air transportation. He finally agreed to submit his name.

After talking with him a while, I found out he was an early Air Mail Pilot; flying wood and fabric planes: delivering mail through sleet and snow, with only the lights on the ground and railroad tracks to guide him. He really was a hero. He and others like him, and you, are all heroes.

You brought commercial aviation from its infancy, to the modern transportation system it is today. You participated in the development of airborne weather avoidance radar, pressurized cabins, the introduction of jet engines and computer operated in flight systems, just to name a few. And, you were operational test pilots. Every time Douglas, Boeing, or Air Bus introduced a new airplane, you were there to make it successful. Every time a manufacturer introduced a new model variant, a 100, 200, or 300, you were partially responsible due to your suggestions and inputs. Every time you emerged from a raging snow storm to land on an ice incusted runway, you were a hero to all those people riding behind you. Yes you are all heroes and every one of you deserves to be on the RUPA Wall of Honor.

Many of the individuals named on that panel are no longer with us. They have Flown West as have the crew members we honored lost on 9/11, on flights 93 and 175. We also honored the 65 charter members who formed our organization.

RUPA has by far, more participants involved in this program than any other group. We are the only airline to honor our members. There are less then 200 spaces left. If you wish to include your name or the name of a fellow RUPA member, contact me for the necessary forms. You may contact me at 925-443-4339 or by email at rbouska1@comcast.net. Submitted by *Richard C. Bouska*

Pickles/Brian Crane



F.V. "CORT" DE PEYSTER—Lopez Island, WA

Hello Jim,

Once again thanks to you and all the volunteers for making this fine publication a reality. I faithfully read it cover to cover and love to hear the exploits of old friends.

It has been a bitter sweet year. Loss of my best friend, and fellow Marine, Capt. Mike Melin (SFOFO ret), loss of my father-in-law, and the illness or death of many former colleagues. This paired with the demise of our defined benefit and the lack of support by our formerly beloved Union for our retired pilots has made it a bit of a rough year.

I have to say that I am very disheartened by ALPA's lack of compassion and support for the very people who stood the line in "85" for future generations of pilots. As a result I now find it most difficult, in my last year at UAL, to wear my ALPA pin. In fact I have replaced it with a "golden screw" (actually brass) which I do wear with pride, as are many of my colleagues.

Enough to politics and whining. The good news is Nancy and I are in good health (still unrestricted 1st class) as are my kids, Alexandra 16 , sophomore in high school and my son Brooks 18, a freshman at University of Washington in Seattle.

Nancy and I spend about half our time on Lopez Island WA (retirement digs) and the rest in Reno. Still ski every chance I get and enjoy seeing some of the retired UAL guys around Reno at the monthly lunches.

Currently, still flying the 747 (mostly SFO-FRA-IAD-FRA-SFO) with an occasional SYD or PVG trip, where I have run in to some of the gang traveling on passes, Larry Fritz, Bob Meloche, Barry Edward, Bob Lang and Rod Violette to name a few, and fly with a few spouse F/As, Annie Blalock (Jerry) and Sharon Nelson (Barrie).

The mood on the line is that we will make it as an airline but still not a lot of smiling faces out there.

My yearly stipend is in the mail.

Until my next writing, as a genuine RUPA member, all the best.

Cort

(Writing from a cyber cafe in FRA on a CRAF mission to Kuwait)

BOB DUCKWORTH—Rowayton, CT

Hi Folks,

I'm still flying light planes and gliders, and enjoy our weekends camping on our club's airport in Freehold, NY. We operate April through early Nov, then shut down for the winter. I enjoyed seeing the gang at the NY Skyscrapers' luncheon in October. Pete Sofman does an excellent job of coordinating that.

My first payment from PBGC arrived by direct deposit, and was for the full amount of the qualified portion. I wonder how long that will last.

Thank you to Cleve Spring and all officers of RUPA, to Ted Larusson, and to all the volunteer helpers.

Cheers, *Bob*

ALEX M. DUNN—Kirkland, WA

Hello All,

Another year has passed quickly, eight already!

I made a trip around the world in February and March visiting battlefield areas of the former South Vietnam. From Hue and Khe Sanh I crossed Laos by bus on highway 9 to Savannakhet. I then crossed the Mekong River into Thailand and went to the beach island of Ko Chang for a week before flying from Bangkok to Calcutta. I took the train to Delhi to see the countryside and make stops. Although India is a challenging place to travel, the highlight of the trip was viewing tigers from the back of an elephant in Jim Corbett National Park, located about 200 miles northeast of Delhi in the foothills of the Himalayas. I then flew to London and spent a few days visiting favorite places before returning home.

I was tired of losing at golf, so I took a job flying a Cessna 337 on a US Forest Service contract for the summer. Enjoyed the flying, but the operation was not up to airline standards to say the least.

We went to France for 2 weeks in October and spent a week of that on a barge trip in Burgundy. It's now great to be home for a while!

Finally got high speed internet service, so my email address is now VmcVmo@comcast.net

For those that are upset over their pension, all I can say is life only goes around once, make the best of it and don't dwell on the things you can't change. Happy holidays and all the best for the coming year!

Alex

TED ELDER—Issaquah, WA

Thanks to everyone who keeps RUPA functioning, from the Officers to the Folders 'n Stuffers to the Area Representatives. Your work is appreciated by all of us.

My annual routine stays much the same. Shirley and I go to three Dixieland jazz festivals a year, stay in our place on Maui for a month or so and cruise Washington and British Columbia in our boat four to six weeks in the summer. Our trip to Maui was in May and June this past year, a little later than usual due to lack of planning on our part. We took a four-day trip to New Orleans in March with another jazz couple for some hot jazz and great food and got lots of both. Our friend was formerly the leader of Hot Cotton Jazz Band in Memphis and knew all the good places in N.O. for us to go. He had his cornet along and sat in with some of the bands. We also toured the D-Day Museum, which shouldn't be missed. (If it's still there). I feel fortunate that we made that trip before so much of the city was devastated. Part of our family joins us when we're in Hawaii or on the boat. That always makes it more enjoyable for us.

Ted Elder

GEORGE W. ELLIOTT—Falls Church, Virginia
Time Flies By

In the mid-'80's I purchased a 28" open cockpit single seat Schwinn for exercise and fun while based in San Francisco. Upon retirement, Schwinn was hangared in garage for 14 years collecting dust. I decided to give to Salvation Army.

Cleaned off dust, oiled chain, and set power to high thrust 10-speed. Took off down runway, climbing to cruise altitude; and just before reaching cruise altitude, ran out of thrust, stalled, and went into

spin. Crashed on asphalt, breaking left landing gear at hip joint.

Carried to repair and overhaul station at Fairfax Hospital by rescue squad. In repair station for four days, then sent to testing ground at rehab center for three weeks.

During this time the annual national meeting of the RUPA Organization was being held in Washington. I had to miss two dinner meetings, and planned to miss the dedication at Dulles Airport on Sunday; but E.K. Williams talked me into double time at repair and offered to carry me to the airport at 8:30 Sunday morning for dedication ceremony. I was chauffeured to the airport and wheel-chaired throughout the morning by E.K. and family, where I met many friends of past fifty years and was able to attend the dedication ceremony.

Many thanks to all RUPA Organization members for their contributions to the memorial for our four pilots that were lost on 9/11/01. Many thanks to *RUPANEWS* for its contribution, as well as to each member responsible for the success of this dedication. And, a special thanks to E.K. and family for their friendship and help.

George

P.S. Check included.

KENNETH ELLIS—Carmel, CA

[Ken's letter fell out of my computer and so it is even later. Apologies to all.—Ed.]

Hey Ted; I'm late this year. Seems as though things kinda snowballed. The year started off good with a nice RV trip to Fla. in Nov. to go on a cruise out of Ft. Lauderdale on the Sun Princess to the southeastern Caribbean. Then a dash across country to Palm Desert for Dorothy Bellville's forum for 3 days and nights. Really a first class affair. Saw lots of RUPA members there. Then back home to have Thanksgiving here with all the family. Was great. Sure fortunate that all our kids and their families are close by. Now the year starts to get a bit challenging. Discovered my prostate cancer had come back after 10 years. Not a good Christmas present...Had Christmas at our Son Bob's house in Acampo, Ca. All the family there also. In

January took an RV trip to Puerto Peñasco on the Sea of Cortez just 60 miles in from Lukeville Az. Had a caravan of 5 RV's. Brett Morris and his friend Sandy; Bob and Jill Ebenhahn; Norm and Barb Marshall; Billy and Evalyn Lucius plus Diane and myself. Great time was had by all. Billy brought his boat so got out on the Sea of Cortez. I had made an appointment to see Dr. Bahn of The Prostate Institute of America in Ventura, Ca. Recommended by the folks at Loma Linda. They specialize in cryosurgery. Had the appointment on Feb. 2nd. He did a high powered ultrasound and a biopsy to confirm it. He recommended that I go on lupron for 6 months to a year to bring the PSA down and shrink the tumor to facilitate freezing the thing. My PSA is down to 0.19 now so that's under control. Lot's of Rving to Oregon, San Diego and points in between. Now it really gets challenging. Had my yearly physical the 1st. of Sept. and mentioned that I had a bit of pain in my chest when I coughed, so the Doc set me up for a chest x-ray which showed something suspicious. This led to CAT scan which led to a PET scan and then a bronchoscopy and a biopsy. This confirmed that I had lung cancer. YUK!! Now the good news. I have an outstanding group of Doctors working their butts off getting this thing treated. The results of the biopsy came in on Fri. the 29th. of Sept. and I was under treatment with Chemo and radiation on Wed. the 5th. of Oct. At times like this you really understand how important a loving family is and above all a loving, caring and strong partner. My Darling Diane Our attitude is great and we have a great group of friends supporting us. I'm off chemo now until the 31st. of Oct. Happy Halloween!! The radiation goes 5 days a week until the 4th. of Nov. They will then schedule more chemo down the line. Appreciate all your thoughts and prayers. Sorry to see you leave Cleve, but you have done an outstanding job and deserve a break. Regards, *Ken and Diane*

BILL AND MITZI FIFE—Littleton, CO

No matter what you, call this season, we, send our Greetings for good cheer and a good year. And we, also like, to hear from you.

Life is definitely only simmering on the back burner but we, surely enjoy it. The family is a huge joy and the extended family a great blessing. We've been doing a little travel, a bit of socializing (guess if doctor's visits were considered socializing, we'd have to change, THAT phrase,). The grandchildren keep us from total ignorance of how the, world is changing and, we've both had opportunities to be, involved at their schools. Bill still speaks to classes about World War II and a career in flying. Mitzi experienced a great fanfare, at the performance of one of her choral compositions at the high school in which her grandson is a senior.

God Bless and Merry Christmas.

Thanks to all,

Bill and Mitzi



DAVE FORBES—Atherton, CA & Trinity Center, CA

Hard to believe I'm retired 7 years. Still working on the Lancair 360. Wife, Pat, says it will be an antique by the time it is finished.

Am still judging homebuilt aircraft at the Golden West Fly-in in Marysville, CA where I'm also Chief Homebuilt judge, and at the EAA Convention in Oshkosh. Last year, helped to ferry EAA's B-17 from Oshkosh to San Diego and crewed on it for three weeks.

Bought a motorhome last year, and drove it back to Reston, VA for the RUPA Convention.

After 42 1/2 years with UAL, It is sad to see what has happened.

Dave

AL GAINNEY—San Jose, CA

Dear Jim,

No significant happenings in the Gainney household this last year. Still alive and kicking. Many thanks to you and all the others who keep our organization on an even keel. Check enclosed.

Best regards, *Al*

WILLIAM E. GREENE—Santa Rosa, CA

Not much excitement this past year unless you consider having some S.O.B. driving an 18 wheeler try to kill you. Major damage to my ribs, chest and heart. Nine days in Intensive care before the Drs. could get my heart out of atrial fibrillation.

Apparently I surprised them by surviving which they attribute to my being in good health. I guess it pays to exercise after all. Pretty much back to normal now, and my outlook on life has sure changed. UAL's bankruptcy doesn't seem so important now, there are a lot more important things in life.

I've taken on a new project at the Pacific Coast Air Museum, the restoration of the cockpit of a DC-6B. A fun project trying to locate parts and tracing the history of the aircraft.

My best to all.

Bill

Glad to still have you around—Ed.

ED GRIFFITH—Macedonia, OH

Big improvement from last year! Barb getting stronger and does more each day. The infection affected every organ in her body and most are all back to normal. Thanks for all your prayers and concern. We were able to travel to NJ in August to see our newest grandson, Joshua David, (number 8 boy, 15th grandchild) born July 2, 2005 to our youngest son, David and his wife Margot. Dave had also bought tickets for the US Open at Baltusrol, so he and I sweltered together as we watched the best golfers in the world in the hope of some of it rubbing off - -didn't happen! Tom, our eldest is still a Colonel and head of the SASS training school at Maxwell AFB, AL. The other boys are all well and were able to come home last year for our 50th and also this Thanksgiving for the Baptism of Joshua, in Hudson. We had a very nice visit and are so lucky to have 5 great daughters-in-law. Fortunate too, to have Greg and his wife in Hudson with room for us all to dine together, and rooms for the out of towners that we can't put up! Planning trips to GA for granddaughter Rachel's H.S. graduation and to MI where our grandson Joe will graduate from Michigan State, before heading off to graduate school for a degree in Dentistry. His Dad J, now is the Sr. mortgage manager for 5/3rd Bank in Muskegon, and has his daughter at Michigan. The two pennants in his office create lots of conversation, makes for great dinner talk too!! Still taking hormone shots to keep the prostate cancer in check, good so far! Thanks to all you guys that keep this organization going - you make it easy for us to keep in touch. Check to Jim Olson, thanks again, *Ed*

JIM HAENI—Huntington, NY

Dear Jim, Enclosed is my \$50 for last year and next year. I guess it's better to be ahead than behind.

Retirement is treating me well and I stay pretty busy. I am trying to build up my Farm and Hay business but it has a long way to go to make up for what we are going to lose. I still do a lot of hunting and fishing and enjoy spending time with my kids and grandchildren. Been thinking about getting a flying job but nothing has come up that looks interesting.

We all greatly appreciate all the hard work that you guys do in putting the newspaper together.

Jim jhaeni@optonline.net

GLENN HALL—Sebastian, FL

After the two hurricanes last year, we were about through with the repairs, maybe 95% complete. Along came Wilma, the boat next to us was not properly secured, got loose and caused our boat to sink. We were watching the salvage operation. Beverly my wife of 43 years was sitting on the grass joking with the dockmaster when without a sound she fell over and died instantly. I was with her within 30 seconds. She had a complete physical 2 months before and was in good health. With all the crap I had with United nothing has ever prepared me for this. Our sons, grandchildren, friends and Bev's sister have helped through this. I guess the stresses were just too much for her. I miss her so. My soulmate, lover, friend, buddy and mother of our sons.

Hopefully next year will be better.

Thank all you guys who do all the work for RUPA.

Glenn

QUENTIN HANSON—Toquerville, UT

We still live in beautiful southern Utah. The weather is perfect for us. We are too old to be shoveling snow. We spend most of our time building on our house and doing genealogy. It's really rewarding to find out about our ancestors. Our health is still good and we enjoy life and each other. We try not to worry about our retirement but are adjusting and cutting back. Our best to the staff of *RUPANEWS*. They do a tremendous job.

Quentin & JoAnn Hanson

DEKE HOLMAN—Napa, CA

I'm only a month late this time. It's been a good year so far with a couple trips to Hawaii and a couple golf trips and a trip to LA for our son's wedding and I was asked to be best man, I really felt honored.

I think my winery flying has come to a halt, the insurance company feels I am too old and I can't complain as I have had the best of everything. I still fly my Christen Eagle. Had another great year at Oshkosh, number 29.

Other than more aches and pains our health has been good. Hope United stays in business and our retirement pay continues and you guys keep the *RUPANEWS* coming, it is really appreciated. 21 years in retirement. *Deke*

GEORGE F. HUNTER—Somonauk IL

Hi Cleve, I am usually late but not this late. It completely slipped my mind but better late than never.

I am waiting for my January first paycheck to show up, got a letter from the PBGC, but nothing has been put in my account, at least not yet. Guess next month is the surprise.

Off to Hawaii for three months to enjoy the warm weather and lots of golf. Chicago has not been cold, had a thunderstorm this morning. I think it is January but the snow is all gone.

Miss the old 747 on flight one to Honolulu; at least we have a nonstop back.

Have a Happy New Year.

Sincerely, *Fred*

PHIL AND LINDA JACH—Hudson, Ohio

Dear Ted,

I am about to turn 64 and I can't believe I have almost forgotten to send in my yearly dues for the first time. If it hadn't been for the latest *RUPANEWS* arriving today I would most certainly be late this year.

2005 was a good year for us even with the pending pension loss. Our family increased by two this year. Our daughter and her husband had their second child, a boy, on July 5, 2005. And our son and his wife had their second child, a girl on November 15, 2005. This brings the grandchild count to four. The entire family will be together for the holidays. It will certainly be interesting with four little ones in the house.

Keep up the good work with the newsletter. I look forward to reading it every month. I also appreciate the good work being done by all the people working to save our pensions. And lastly, the check is in the mail!

Sincerely,

Phil and Linda

GLEN JEWETT—Bellvue, WA

Dear Jim,

Busy year for us, remodeling both houses (Sammanish and Palm Springs). We are spending more and more time in Sedona and Puerto Peñasco (Mexico). I am healthy for an old guy, only taking fish oil and vitamins. Louise needs another hip otherwise ok. We are at home in Palm Springs until April. We have Ken and Connie Case for neighbors, Feb Mar enjoy seeing them. Checks in the mail early.

Glen and Louise Jewett

ROBERT T. JOCZ—Ormand Beach, FL

Jim,

17 years since I went out the door and finally on time!!

Jo Ann and I are well (with pills) and pretty busy with golf and family. Still spending summers at Lake Anna and the rest of the year in Florida.

Son Mike is flying 757's and 767 out of IAD and son Doug flying the Airbus out of IAD. Both are Captains and happy to have a job with UAL.

Thanks to the folders and stuffers.

Good health and good luck to all. *Bob*

DON JOHNSON—Centennial, CO

Greetings:

It's hard to believe that year eleven of retirement is beginning. Time seems to pass rapidly as we get older. The wife and I spent most of the month of November cruising to England, flying to Portugal, and then another cruise back to the US by way of Spain, Morocco, Canary Islands, Madera, and the Azores. We don't know where travel will take us next but look forward to it.

I'm still involved with the Civil Air Patrol and our two grandsons. My son is a F/O on the 737 so hope United can keep the blue side up. Have a great year.

Don

AL W. JOHNSTON—Salem, SC

Dear Cleve, & to all a happy thanksgiving, and a happy birthday to "ME". Today 11/24/05 is my birthday, so right on time for a change. All's quiet and well at Keowee Key, and like it that way. 81 today and lucky to still be in good health, playing golf a couple times a week, still not getting any better, but also not getting any worse.

Only five more weeks and we're off to Hawaii for three months R&R.

Happy Holidays to all. Famous last words, "The check's in the mail, snail mail"

Al & JoLee

LOWELL JOHNSTON—Port Orange, FL

Dear Ted:

Another year has gone by and I almost missed it. Check is on the way to Jim Olson. Anne and I are enjoying good health and the good life here at Spruce Creek. Many thanks to the folks who keep this organization going. I enjoy the newsletter and look forward to receiving it every month. By the way I "retired" from doing the NE Florida luncheons. Steve Moddle is now doing that and doing a fine job. You might want to show that in the newsletter.

Lowell.

DAVE & BETTY JONES—Nokomis, FL

Year 2005 was kinder to us than some past years. We are in relative good health and had no major medical events during the year.

We sold our home in Waynesville, NC. We will surely miss the mountains of NC in the summer, but we plan to do some travel and visit some places we have always wanted to see.

The big event of the year was the arrival of a great grandson (Mason) December 19. Mason has a big sister, Lacey who is 1 and 1/2 yrs old. They are the grandchildren of our daughter Linda. We took a driving trip to North Carolina over the holidays and got to see many of our family, including the great grandkids.

Another highlight was the trip to Washington for the RUPA Convention. The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center was a great opportunity to see a wonderful array of air and space vehicles. The "Wall of Honor" was impressive. Many thanks go to Rich Bouska for his efforts on behalf of RUPA members for giving us an opportunity to be listed on the wall.

Thanks to all who make *RUPANEWS* happen each month.

May 2006, be a great year for all. *Dave*

TIMOTHY A. JOSLIN SR.—Redondo, WA

The seat belt sign is off, ladies and gentlemen. If you look out the window, and slightly behind, you can see our promised pensions fading off into the sunset!

The box carriers (Fed Ex. and UPS) seem to be doing just fine; the people carriers (United, Delta, and Northwest), not so good. Defined benefit pension programs are under siege, and Congress is just now starting to take notice (too late for United)!

OK. Enough with the whining! Cheril and I very much enjoy living in our home on Puget Sound. We have been here for 7 years, with no intention of ever moving.

This year is the big 65 for me and the Medicare card goes into the wallet.

My youngest daughter, Jaala, got married this past February after spending the better part of 3 years in the Peace Corps. Her husband, Rob, is a firefighter for the U.S. Govt., based in the Los Padres Natl. Forest District. Although Jaala spent the past Summer employed as a firefighter, she just received her teaching certificate from California, plus got accepted to the Masters Program at the Monterrey Institute for International Studies, starting next Fall. Chinese is her second language.

My Mother passed away on June 9th of this year at age 90. My Father still survives at age 93 and seems to be adjusting to life without his wife of 67 years. I also lost two good friends this past Spring. Erling Larsen, who I had known since college days at Univ. of Washington, lost his battle with recurring cancer.

Captain Tim Starks perished in a tragic climbing accident on Mount Rainier. Tim was an active United Pilot, Air Force Veteran, and an outstanding person!

My son, Tim Jr., still persists with his medical career, now being a First Year Resident in Family Practice Medicine at OHSU in Portland.

One of our favorite cities to visit, New Orleans, suffered grievous damage from flooding and recovery to normal looks to be many months down the road. Very Sad!!

Pension is big question in everyone's mind. Checked to see if we could keep a roof over our heads and food on the table. Yes, it can be done! Hopefully 2006 will bring better news.

Tim

GEORGE KANE—Tequesta, FL

Dear Jim,

A little tardy this year, didn't get back from up north till Oct 18th and then had a hurricane pass overhead (lame excuses). I've got a Grandson that wears the same shoe size as I do and for some reason I don't feel any older. Thanks to you and Cleve and all the other volunteers that keep us in touch. Did get to go to a NY Area RUPA luncheon early in the summer and it was great to see so many familiar faces especially Jack Smith and Rip Munger. Keep the faith.

George

MICHAEL J. KENDEL—Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Hello Jim,

It's about time for me to send you the \$25 for my yearly membership fee/dues/subscription (take your pick!). However, I suspect that there is a mistake in the ZIP code of the address as shown in *RUPANEWS*.

The address shown is P.O. Box 2034, Sarasota, FL 34276-36346. I question the last part of the ZIP because all others have only 4 digits instead of the 5 digits shown in the *RUPANEWS*. Please verify and correct the address in newsletter if necessary because if there is only the slightest error in the address, the damn USPS will return the letter (I know from experience!).

By the way, this is now January 3, 2006 and I have not yet received the December 2005 issue of *RUPANEWS*. I suppose the snail mail is late again but if I don't get it because it was lost, I hope that our web site is up with some kind of link that will let me read it. I'll check up on that later.

Thanks Jim,

Fraternally yours,

Mike

JOE AND MARCEE KENNEY—Denver, CO

We celebrated birthdays....mine, 84 years. Also, Thanksgiving, Anniversary, 60 years, and 23 years retired.

We are doing fine. It's not as much fun to be miserable, anymore. We travel by car, walk slower, no ice fishing, drink before dinner, and plenty of rest.

Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year!

Joe Kenney

DON KRULL—Boulder, CO

Just a tad late this year. Anyway here is the annual check and to you who keep the publication in circulation, thanks.

I moved back to Boulder, CO this past Sept., I'll use that as an excuse for my tardiness. I decided I didn't want another Seattle winter. I had a mild stroke in April and total knee replacement in May. I seem to be recovering from both, with usual lingering effects. Nothing else new. So long for another year. *Don*

KENNETH C. KUECKER—Torrance, CA

James E Olson

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a check for my subscription to the *RUPANEWS*.

I was a Flight Engineer who flew out of Los Angeles, California for thirty-five years. I retired in 1985. Just had my 87th birthday on 12/2005. I still enjoy reading the *RUPANEWS*.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C Kuecker

STEVE & BARB LAURANCE—Redmond, OR

Dear Jim,

I just sent my check by snailmail. I thank you for taking over for Cleve. We all appreciate the fine work he has done for so many years.

I was sorry to hear that UAL managed to get everything they wanted from the bankruptcy court. I was surprised that we didn't get enough votes to reject our settlement. It amazes me that our contract & pension carry so little weight.

We are staying healthy so can be thankful for that. We have always wanted to do an Alaska cruise so on May 28th we are going on the Sun Princess out of SEA. If any fellow Ruparians would care to join us, Aero-Marine has some great deals.

Life is good in Central Oregon. Come and visit anytime but don't move here. We are living in the fastest growing town in the state & it doesn't need to grow anymore.

Steve & Barb oldualer@win4co.com

MARK LUND—Carson City, NV

Hi Ted;

My hat is off to you FOLKS at *RUPANEWS*- job well done.

I truly enjoy your magazine every month and find it about the most informative.

5 years into retirement now, and starting Medicare-sounds "Old"- But life is good.

DJ and I Enjoy traveling in the RV and the "Old Time" fiddlin Music.

Check is in the mail.

Sincerely, *Mark*

fiddlin10@netscape.com

CLARK E. LUTHER—Stuart, FL

Dear Cleve: Another December and I am celebrating my 20th Anniversary from retirement. Time does fly but I don't want to miss my annual contribution to RUPA so you will find my check enclosed.

Not much has changed this year and actually I am feeling much better except that my legs get tired after even a little walking. I guess that isn't too bad for someone who is about to reach his 81st birthday.

I am not playing golf anymore and I do miss it but I still manage to keep busy with all kinds of not so meaningful projects. Our biggest problem has been getting our roof replaced following an accumulation of damage sustained after a series of hurricanes. It has been a real chore to find a contractor and to find the kind and color of our roofing tile. We are in the final phase of the actual tile replacement now and in a week or so it will be completed, and then we have a few more repair projects to complete before we put our house on the market.

My wife and I are on a waiting list for a retirement community in Hilton Head S.C. and we have no idea as to when a unit will become available but we hope we make it to the top of the list while we can meet the physical requirements for admission. This site is nice in that they have assisted living and skilled nursing accommodations should they be needed. Actually this should be our last move.

It looks like United will be exiting bankruptcy early next year so hopefully the unsettled and uncertainties will be a thing of the past. With the support of Medicare and Blue Cross/Blue Shield we have made out ok even considering the many problems that have come our way.

Thanks to all of you who keep us informed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Sincerely, *Clark*

DR. JOHN P MC CANN—San Antonio, TX

Dear Jim,

We are finally getting settled into our new apartment in retirement community at the USAA Towers.

Sorry to be late in my dues payment. I am enclosing my check for \$50 to cover current and next year fees.

Have a great Christmas and New Years. Let me know if I can help. *John*

CHUCK MELBOURN—Jupiter, FL

Lots of travel this past year and we were always treated well by United. Our trip to China was terrific, we used "United Vacations". We met our guide on arrival in Beijing and she was with our group of 12 for our entire 16 day trip. I still marvel at departing Shanghai for Chicago on two engines.

My prostate cancer has returned two years after my surgery at the Mayo Clinic. I am now on a hormonal regimen and will start radiation treatments at Sloan-Kettering in NYC in March. This regimen will make the cancer cells more "vulnerable" to the radiation. My PSA started to rise about 6 months ago and the reading is now 0.38.

Take care, *Chuck* 800-990-6284

www.MauiBeachCondo.com

MICHAEL SEVERSON—Bayport, NY

I have been a bad boy and let my membership expire. Enclosed is \$50 for last year and this one. I'll try not to forget this time-no guarantees however.

All is well just trying to cope with all the uncertainty at UAL with our pensions and medical.

Mike

AL MITCHELL—Riveredge, NJ

Dear Jim,

Here's my dues money. Seasons Greetings to all!

Hope the cruise is a pleasant one. On my last cruise I had to chip paint and stand watch.

Best wishes for the future,

Al

ROBERT NICHOLS—Marietta, GA

Dear Jim,

Thanks for your reminder card. I apologize for being tardy with my dues. Please find dues for 2005 and 2006 enclosed.

Have a great holiday and thanks to all those who put in the time putting out the newsletter.

Kindest Regards,

Bob

PAUL NIBUR—Fresno, CA

Hi Ted

This is my first letter to *RUPANEWS* since I retired a little over a year ago.

I must say that I am glad to be done with commuting, leaving home behind, not getting enough sleep, bidding, security screening, and just about everything that went along with United Airlines except for all the great PEOPLE that I got to fly with. Male bonding at a bar watching Monday Night Football on a layover is just really hard to duplicate at home!! Here in Fresno we've got a decent number of retired guys, but not enough to have a regular get together like they do in the domiciles. We do have breakfast occasionally and have some fun conversation.

But what I really want to pass on to anyone who cares is how important I think URBPBA is, and specifically Jim Hosking's efforts at getting us all on the same page as far as trying to get the bums in Congress to help us fight the termination of our pensions. It may never bear fruit, but if we don't try, we'll never know. Anyone wanting to join the fight who hasn't yet contacted Jim should do so at j.hosking@verizon.net.

I'd also like to preach about mental health - not that I'm any professional. I know a few retired pilots who are taking this pension issue very hard. One may be nearing full blown depression. I myself went through a tough spell - it was a combination of pension worries and caring for an elderly parent and a few other things that got to be too much. Stress is a killer, but exercise is a great reliever. **DON'T LET THE BASTARDS GET YOU DOWN!** Go to the gym, play golf, get rid of those pent up emotions. But don't sit around and let this thing consume you.

Paul

FRED OLDHAM—Redondo Beach, CA

Dear Jim,

Only one trip around the first of the year through the Panama Canal, plus a couple of visits to Beth's daughter & grandkids in Folsom, CA. Since the

end of March, the rest of the year has been a little down-hill. Had a triple bypass and mitral valve replacement, but I'm recovering and exercising now on the mend.

Congratulations on your new job of Sec/Treas (or perhaps it's condolences)!

Doesn't seem possible it's been 16 years since I retired.

Annual stipend is in the "snail mail" and a little extra for the mailers & stuffers. We all greatly appreciate your efforts.

Fred - - - oldhiflyr1@aol.com

JOHN ORGANTINI—Homewood, IL

Dear Jim,

Sorry I'm late with this so I'll include enough to carry into 2007.

The Federal Vacationer also known as my postman tells me if I get this posted by today, he will deliver it for a sticky picture of Ronald Reagan, otherwise they are putting another 2 cent penalty on us.

Really enjoy the healthcare gleanings you include, very interesting. My guess is that most prostate owners found Dr. Rowen's article quite interesting.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

John

WESLEY PAGET—Boca Raton, FL

Jim,

Sorry to be so late with my check. Have been very busy finishing up my new house. Took three years to build, doing most of the work myself. That with an 80 acre farm with 20 cows seems to take up most of my time. Sorry about the sad state of the new UAL. U ARE LOSERS. Well life goes on. Will do better next year.

Wesley

WILLIAM D. PORTER—Livingston, TX

Dear Cleve and Jim:

Another B-Day check (70th) and repeated thanks to you and all the other Ruparians who generously give of their time and effort to get out the RUPA newsletter. Joy and I have now been cruising for two years aboard our motor cat "Chandelle" logging thousands of miles up and down the eastern seaboard, the Chesapeake, the Bahamas, Florida Keys and West Coast, the Ten-Tom Waterway and Tenn. River.....Sometimes relaxing, sometimes challenging, but always entertaining and great memory bank stuff! Now looking forward to wintering in Keys and summers on the Tennessee.

We feel true despair for all UALers smitten by the gross stomping of their pensions and the destruction of their retirement expectations. But we continue to trust in the Lord and try to refrain from playing the blame game lest the poison of hatred cloud our own remaining years.

Best, *Bill*

JOHN PRESTEGAARD

Hi Ted,

My 80th birthday was Nov. 23rd and since this is Nov. 30th today, I thought I'd better get this in the mail. My check is in the snail mail to James Olson, so I think I am set for another year of the Newsletter.

This has been a slow year with not much to report. I played a lot of golf and it's more fun when I play from the yellow tees. Now I can get on the greens in regulation again only I can't brag when I shoot my age or have a low score because everyone says " Oh, but you hit from the senior tees!" That's okay, as long as I enjoy the game.

We've had several trips to Denver to visit the kids and grandkids, and that's been enjoyable. We drive most of the time though as we both hate the hassle of going thru security and sweating out getting on a flight even with my seniority. Remember the "good old days" when you got a drink or two; a good meal and could get up and go to the blue room without upsetting the whole row?!!!

We will be going back to AZ after the Holidays (That's the Christmas Holidays, in case everyone has forgotten the reason for the season) and will stay there until the first part of May.

I'm still getting my pension every month, but like the rest of you, I'm anxious as to how long it will keep coming. I'd hate to have to go back to work again. Not too many jobs out there for an 80 year old retired pilot. I could still sweep floors I guess.

Wishing you all a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New year"

John

TOM PURRINGTON—New York, NY

January is upon us, the Christmas decorations are put away and it is time to write the annual missive to RUPA

This year was undistinguished in many ways. There were the usual family and friend oriented activities, visiting or being visited. Operas and concerts and shows were attended and the Yankees lost out despite my attendance at several games. Some of the wrong people got elected and some didn't. The volume of email remained about the same.

I did notice a drop off in Spam due, I think, to the use of Norton and the internal AOL programs. I didn't receive a virus. I did get many calls about mortgages and eldercare schemes etc. but my stock answer, "I don't take any solicitation on the telephone, thank you and good bye", seemed to do away with even that annoyance.

The annual treks to move my boat from its winter berth in Shelburne, VT to the 79th St. Boat Basin here in New York and back to Vermont went smoothly.

I would like to thank Bruce McLeod for all his hard work taking care of the RUPA website these many years. His dedication to the task and good humor in dealing with the pilot group will be a difficult act to follow. Helping to keep every one in the loop is an invaluable service. I nominate him for RUPArian of the year and think we should put together a commemorative plaque of some sort. What think all ye?

I am in great health. I am back running and going to the gym and eating a diet mostly of fruits, vegetables, and fish. This has resulted in dropping 25 pounds, getting off blood pressure and cholesterol medication and generally feeling good. The bad news is I had to buy new clothes to accommodate the slimmer me. A new lady, Marzia, is in my life. Her history of having been a dispatcher for Alitalia helps in our communications. Life continues to be good, mostly. So, until next year, be well, stay happy, and don't let the bastards get you down!

Fraternally, *Tom*

CHUCK RANEY—Amissville, VA

Dear Ted, My check is off to James this AM, a little late, but the same month which I think is marvelous. I hope you had a Good Christmas.

I have little to report since last year, except that I have lived a year since my diagnosis with pulmonary fibrosis, an ailment that has only just in the last 10 years been named. Neither I or the tribe of doctors know where it came from. There is no pain involved but lung capacity is reduced, mine is roughly 47 percent. There is much information on the Web about it but nothing about a cure. If anyone has had any experience with it, drop me an email.

Best regards, *Chuck*

DOUG RANKIN—Woodland Hills, CA

My birthday was December 26th, but as I did with my annual United physical I never took it until January, so after 16 years of retirement why change now, so letter time is January.

I am happy to say that since the PBGC took over paying my pension January 1st the amount that was direct deposited was the same as I was getting from Northern Trust Company. So I can still pay the hangar rent and continue flying my 1956 Cessna 182.

Enjoyed the RUPA convention in Virginia last October. The two highlights were first, the trip to Arlington National Cemetery where, after watching the Changing of the Guard, four RUPA members

participated with the Sergeant of the Guard in a special RUPA Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns, honoring departed RUPA members. The second was going to the Air & Space Museum at Dulles Airport and seeing the completed RUPA wing at the Wall of Honor.

The big event of the year for Marcene & me was November 6th when we took two companions and the four of us flew to London. We flew on United, by way of Chicago. There we spent a couple of days and even saw the Queen welcome the President of China and watched as they drove away in her horse drawn Gilded Carriage. We then flew to Barcelona, Spain on Easyjet Airline who operates B-737's. It is a similar operation to Southwest. After spending a couple of days in Barcelona we boarded the Royal Caribbean ship "Splendor of the Seas" for a cruise across the Atlantic. The ship left Barcelona on Nov 12th for a 15 day cruise, stopping at Alicante and Malaga, Spain; then through the Straits of Gibraltar to Tenerife, in the Canary Islands. From there it was on the high seas with no land in sight until we reached Nassau in the Bahamas. Final destination was Galveston, Texas.

Till next January, *Doug*

ED RIPPER—Southport, NC

Hi Ted,

The "big 65" flew by so quickly that I almost forgot my annual contribution, so the check is in the mail to Jim even as we speak. Haven't had an opportunity to try out the new Medicare card yet, and hope that when I do, it is only for routine office visits.

We're still enjoying life in Southport, NC, but due to pension income uncertainties, we decided to take advantage of a hot real estate market here and make some lifestyle changes. We sold our home (too big and way too much yard work), plus a couple of other investment properties, and moved into a rental while awaiting the completion of a much smaller house in a nearby subdivision. It's really amazing to discover how much stuff one can accumulate in just ten years, so it looks like one really big garage sale coming up in a few weeks!

We would also like to travel more so I've been doing quite a bit of research about RV'ing, and in particular about fifth wheel types. If anyone has any tips or suggestions to offer, I would sure like to hear them. Just email me at eripper@ec.rr.com. Thanks.

So once again, my sincere thanks to all of you who are involved in RUPA and in publishing and sending out the *RUPANEWS*. It is truly a most valuable publication, and one which I look forward to receiving each month. I'm also thankful for: the work that URBPBA is doing in the legal arena, Doug Wilsman for his insight and countless hours of number crunching, and Jim Hosking for his untiring efforts to enlist legions of us to try and convince our legislators to do the right thing about our pensions. Who knows...at this time of the year, it's still good to believe in miracles.

Ed

J. T. RYAN—Las Vegas, NV

Hi James. Here is the check, little late, but within the plus or minus limits.

Sold our summer home in the white mts of Arizona i.e. show low. A realtor knocked on the door and said he had a buyer, thought I would get out when the getting is good.

That is the money to build my boat. Live aboard in the summer in new Zealand and cruise the south pacific in the winter.

I think it is time to get out; there is going to be another attack. the government will over- react. I don't want to live in a police state. There is a lesson from Wilma they knew it was coming but didn't prepare I think there is a crisis coming but that is just me.

The fact is I like to live aboard and love new Zealand and want to salt water fly fish in new Caledonia. Your dollar goes further in NZ and a lot further in new Caledonia the last I checked it was 100 to 1.

I must go down to the sea again,
to the lonely sea and the sky,
and all I need is a tall ship,
and a star to steer her by.
now it is a 40 foot fiberglass catamaran and gps.

DONALD SCHILTZ—San Jose, CA

Jim,

I have enclosed my dues for 2006. Thanks for your efforts on our behalf for RUPA!

Happy Holidays (Merry Christmas) to you and your family.

Donald

JACK SCHLEMER—McMinnville, OR

Dear James,

I am Jack Schlemer, have been retired for 25 years. I have sent yearly check. Maybe a few days late. Not anything new from me, except the usual things that happen at 85.

Jack

EDWARD SCHNEPEL—Lexington, SC

Dear Jim,

\$25 renewal enclosed for me. Sure is sad all this Chapter 11 stuff. I sure hope the Akaka Amendment makes it without a veto from the White House.

Don't hold your breath.

Ed



PBGC VS USAIR RETIRED PILOTS

This article, a late submission, is an exchange of letters between Capt. Doug Wilsman, UAL Ret., and Capt. Tom Davis, USAir Ret. Tom is the leader of the US Airways Retired Pilots dealing with lawyers, fund raising and communications—Ed.

Tom,

Yesterday our bankruptcy judge signed an order blessing United's Plan of reorganization. Roger Hall's attorneys wrote today on the web that "As a result of this order, United will no longer be operating as a bankrupt company."

It occurs to me that my audience of about 3,200 pilot retirees and widows would really benefit from reading an account of what has transpired on US Airways with your interface with PBGC after your defined benefit plan was terminated on 3-31-03---almost three years now. I am wondering if such a history has already been written which you could share with us or if not, whether you would do us a big favor and write one we could publish.

I would have it published in an edition of our monthly newsletter and put on our Web site.

What do you say?

Doug Wilsman

Dear Doug,

We are very grateful for the UAL pension reports that we had somehow obtained by the time we first learned that our pension would be terminated. Your insightful analyses gave us an invaluable head start and continue to be a rich resource. In fact, I quoted you in my very first email update to our group. So, of course, I am happy to honor your request for a synopsis of our first three years before the PBGC. Maybe it will repay you in small part for all you have done for us. I believe we've copied you on all of our email updates so you already know most everything our members know.

Basically, we've approached the PBGC issues as matters of law, not of public opinion. The relief we seek can only be found in a court of law. More on this later. Initially, US Airways and its actuary, Towers and Perrin, estimated PC-3 to be 85% funded. PBGC, as is its customary practice, used US Airways' PC-3 estimates to reduce every retiree's benefit to 85% of its original value, in total disregard of its own Maximum Guarantee, which increases actuarially with age. In general, the up-sloping guarantee line begins to cross above the actual benefit line at about age 69 so that a 69 or 70 year old or older should have received his full pre-termination benefit. In addition, US Airways and PBGC had a dust up over the amount of compensation PBGC should receive for its takeover of the under funded pension. This resulted in PBGC's own actuary testifying, not once but twice, that PC-3 was 98.5% funded. We had already filed suit in US District Court and when we raised these issues PBGC reluctantly corrected the benefits being paid. The basic pre-termination benefit was increased to no less than 98% of the original benefit and those who were about 69 or older were restored to 100% of the original benefit.

However, as they say, the devil is in the details. So, while the gross issues described above were a huge step forward, the overall matter remains in a state of flux. Various rules severely impact the benefit of a majority of our members. These include the 5-year look back rule that disallows pension enhancements enacted within the five years immediately preceding plan termination. We have 326 retirees who received an enhanced early retirement benefit pursuant to a letter of agreement with an effective date more than five years pre-termination. PBGC is disallowing this enhancement based on a specious interpretation that substitutes an open enrollment period that ends within the five year period for the effective date on the face

of the agreement. We are also severely impacted by the three-year rollback rule that calculates PBGC benefits at the levels they would have been had the retiree retired three years or more prior to plan termination. In the case of partial lump sum settlements, PBGC is inappropriately deducting the annuity value of the lump sum, which has already been paid, from the maximum guarantee that is applicable only to annuities that are in pay status. There are other significant issues that I prefer not to articulate at this point since we need to preserve flexibility in our litigation strategy.

Aside from the more or less global issues, such as the above, there are a multitude of parochial issues affecting subgroups of our membership. Former Piedmont pilots have a normal retirement COLA that is unique to them which PBGC is not fully honoring even though it has been in effect at least 20 years. There are issues unique to former PSA pilots and to pre-1973 Allegheny pilots to be resolved. There are also issues of significance to those who were disabled when they retired—both totally and permanently and otherwise.

So the big picture is that there are a myriad of issues that create a tender box of competing interests with a huge potential for trouble. One of our handicaps is that we don't have a finely tuned political structure with local councils, master councils and numerous committees. Our greatest strength is that we *don't* have local councils, master councils and committees (and crew rooms). PBGC has attempted to ignite this tender box by overtly reminding those attending regional meetings that our success in the early retirement issue would come at the expense of everyone else. It is manifestly in our interest not to allow them to succeed.

My overall impression of the first three years of our mission is that ERISA which governs many of our issues is a very complex and specialized corner of the law. It requires attorneys who specialize entirely or almost entirely in this field. Consequently they are expensive. Therefore, our first challenge is to raise the necessary financial resources. Given the fact that our source for these funds is a group of folks whose lone common characteristic is the financial challenge they are experiencing due to the termination of their pension plan, their financial support has been truly remarkable.

The second challenge is to somehow maintain the cohesion and unity of our group when so much of what we do is governed by arcane law with which we are unfamiliar and which is so often counterintuitive. A central dispute now before the Court of Appeals, for example, is whether or not PBGC is a fiduciary when it acts as trustee of the Pilots Pension Plan. If PBGC is found to be a fiduciary, its failure to pay benefits in accordance with the statutes and the terms of our collectively bargained pension would constitute a breach of its duty and, therefore, be litigable. Whereas, if it is not found to be a fiduciary, the exhaustion clause of the Railway Labor Act may require that we arbitrate the disputes at the Retirement Board before litigating the issue in court. ALPA, which appoints two of the members of the Board has consistently maintained that it doesn't represent retirees. Moreover, recovery of benefits by the retirees may come at the expense of the two non-retirees on the Board, their constituents and their sponsor, the MEC, whose agreements we are challenging, in many cases. It is a conspicuous conflict of interests but that argument has not been successful in skipping arbitration in the past, with courts ruling that if such a conflict results in a bad arbitration award you can then go to court, having exhausted your administrative remedies.

In summary, money is the mother's milk of pension litigation. Without it, and lots of it, the cause is hopeless. PBGC openly boasts that it has more money than we and that it can outlast us. Unity and cohesion are necessary conditions for raising sufficient funds to dissuade PBGC from that belief. We constantly remind ourselves that we are diminished when we castigate PBGC, US Airways, ALPA, the political environment or other things about which passions run high but over which we have no control. In the end, this will be resolved in a court of law, not in the court of public opinion. My aunt, a surrogate mother in many ways, told me years ago that "who the gods would destroy, first they make angry." How much worse would it be to make ourselves angry?

Best regards,

Tom Davis

MICHAEL SEVERSON—Bayport, NY

I have been a bad boy and let my membership expire. Enclosed is \$50 for last year and this one. I'll try not to forget this time-no guarantees however.

All is well just trying to cope with all the uncertainty at UAL with our pensions and medical.

Mike

OLE SINDBERG—Cary, IL

Hi Ted. Since retiring in 1994, I really have not had much of a chance to be bored. As many of you may know, I had started building a Prescott Pusher in 1987; I thought it would take me 3-5 years – it took eleven. First flight was in 1998 and I now have over 550 hours on the airplane. You can see a picture of it on www.sindber.com. I started doing some flight instruction in 1996 and that continues to this day. This has included instructing in the new high tech SR-22.

Then in the fall of 2002 a friend called and asked if I would be interested in flying a 747SP, as an unpaid volunteer for a humanitarian and mission oriented organization. I had flown the 747 only as an engineer back in 1978-79, so I would have to go back to school and get the type rating. It would be a lot of work, but the organization paid for the training and I agreed to join the party.

This has led to some very interesting trips, primarily to India and Africa. On one trip we delivered supplies to Tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka and had a chance to view the devastation. Unfortunately, the organization has lost some of its financial contributors and does not have adequate funding anymore. Consequently, I think my days as a very senior (72) 747 driver are over.

Back in 1937-38 my half-brother Bernhard Sindberg became quite a hero in China. He was overseeing a newly built cement factory in Nanking, and when the Japanese army invaded the area around Nanking, he sheltered thousands of Chinese citizens from the atrocities committed by the Japanese. Year 2005 was the 60th anniversary of the end of hostilities and the Chinese wanted to celebrate that. Hence they invited as many of the foreigners, who had been helpful during that horrible period, as they could locate (or their relatives), to China to help them celebrate.

Bernhard died in 1983, so instead my sister, some of her kids, and Eva and I went to China as guests of the Chinese government. That was a trip of a lifetime – we were treated like royalty and had some very interesting days.

On the home front, my three kids and their eight kids are doing well; son Paul is flying for American Eagle, but is making more money doing computer work on the side. Health wise, we have been very lucky, oh sure we have the usual aches and pains; at my last physical I had trouble passing the eye test; I suppose a lens replacement is in store for me.

I always enjoy reading the letters from my ex-colleagues – well here is my update.

Best regard to you all, *Ole Sindberg*

JIM AND CORKY SORENSEN—Honolulu, HI

Ted, it is the first night of the year, and I have just read Capt. Carl's wonderful website. My mother used to say, do not say anything unless you can say something nice. This has been bothering me for the past few days, musing what to write or not. So let me just observe that after reading Chairman M's letter on Carl's web page, the nicest thing I can say is that Myopia is not limited to just United Management.

Hau'ole Makahiki Hou from Hawai'i, Jim the check will be mailed tomorrow.

Jim and Corky

ORVIN STEINMETZ—Rockford, IL

I never received a RUPA Letter on recommended voting for the ballot.

Orvin

JOEL "BUCK" STRATTON-FRANJOIES—
Lake, BC, CANADA

Enclosed \$40 US funds

Temp here today is 45° F. Snow melted, 17 white trumpeter swans swimming in front of our house with 40 to 50 ducks; we feed about 50 lbs grain a day. Pleasant living; we like it.

Best wishes for all of you putting out the *RUPANEWS*.

Buck

ANTONE J TESTA—Monarch Beach, CA

Dear Cleve,

Health wise this has not been one of my better years. I am being treated for both prostate cancer and melanoma skin cancer. I am being treated at the melanoma clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital in the city of Orange. It has test equipment that is unavailable elsewhere in Orange County.

I am deeply saddened by the news of Paul Fidders death. I flew with many excellent captains during my career, however I shall always remember Paul as being one of the very finest in every respect, as a pilot, mentor and as a person. Thanks Cleve and the many others who produce *RUPANEWS* and also to Doug Wilsman.

Regards,

Tony

BARRY THOMPSON—Pleasanton, CA

Hi Ted: Golf is about making choices and timing and so is the piloting business. Those who chose to work for Braniff, TWA, Pan Am, Eastern were not so fortunate. As for timing, those who were hired by UAL prior to 1967 made co-pilot in 1-2 years. Being hired in 1968-69 led to a 7 year furlough for some as did those in 1978 who were out for 3 years. If you retired in 1997 and early 1998 you were able to sell your ESOP stock for 85-100 dollars per share. UAL ALPA dumped our A plan but we still have a great B plan. So keep your head down and don't swing too hard. Happy New Year,

Barry

T.W. TURNER—Greenbank, WA

Dear Jim,

Find enclosed a check for \$50 for 2 years subscription.

Kit and I are well despite my diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease. I am keeping well with medication, sinamet. I have no tremors, yet.

All the best.

Yours truly,

Tom

JIM WALKER—Safety Harbor, FL

Dear Cleve, the *RUPANEWS* has certainly been helpful in keeping me current with people and events. Thank you for your efforts. A year has gone by so quickly enclosed is my check for this coming year.

This year has been a new beginning we have traded flying for motorhome travel. The one consternation is I can't ever get anyone else to service the Lavs. Joanne and I look forward to seeing friends and making new ones all over the country.

We enjoy living in an uncrowded area of MN for the warmer months. We deploy from there on our mini adventures in the motorhome. So far we have explored the Boundary Waters, Lake Superior's coastline and various other locations in the Midwest. Winter takes us to FL where our kids live. Visiting with family and our snowbird friends keeps us busy. On the odd occasion I have nothing to do, I jump on the Harley for a ride. I certainly have enjoyed catching up on the guys I used to fly with and I look forward to hearing from them as well.

Best wishes for a good year to come for all. *Jim*

TOM WILLMAN—Sarasota, FL

Dear Jim,

It pleases me, as retired pilots, and RUPA members, that we both now reside in the Sarasota area.

On the past November the 27th, I reached 2 milestones. I turned 75, and figured out that I've taken approximately 40,000 shots of insulin since 1959. While the shots haven't been the most pleasant experience, they sure beat the alternative.

When I turned 50, my wife invited 50 of my closest friends over to celebrate with us. On my 75th, she surprised me again with a party. This time around, she found it impossible to locate 75 of my friends, so we invited 16 complete strangers; or perhaps I just didn't recognize them.

In response to Joe Fabbo's request for information on our sons and daughters who may be serving in Iraq, my daughter, Carrie, is not in the military, but she has been to Kuwait several times. She works as

a flight attendant for United Airlines, and has volunteered to take Military Air Charters to and from Kuwait.

This has proved to be a rewarding experience for her. It also makes me proud, as I was a marine jet pilot during the Korean War. However, I must admit that my daughter has been closer to a war zone than myself. I spent my military career in lovely Puerto Rico playing volleyball, and occasionally training troops.

My wife Jackie and I had the pleasure of taking a Baltic cruise this past summer, which was unforgettable. Unfortunately it coincided with the RUPA cruise, which also sounded great. We visited 8 countries, but Sweden was by far the most memorable. Jackie could not understand why my ancestors decided to leave Sweden and move to Moline.

In spite of all the hardships within the airline industry over the past few years, I can still recall the good times that I had, and the good friends that I shared them with.

I appreciate all the hard work that the RUPA staff does on our behalf. Thank you!

Sincerely, *Tom*

JAMES F. WILSON—Clearwater, FL

Hi Jim.

Thanks for taking on the Secretary/Treasurer job for all our benefit. You have some distinguished predecessors. I just cleared the # 84 hurdle and hope to hang around for a little while longer. Betty is still improving from her 2 hip fractures about 18 months ago so we have been able to resume traveling if we don't schedule anything too strenuous.

The tribe is thriving. Some of the 30 grandkids are starting to scatter out to various colleges but, so far, no weddings to attend.

Like everyone else, I'm starting to get lots of mail from our new pension supplier. It will be interesting to see how everything works out.

I'm still cooking at the Soup Kitchen 1 day a week. We are serving over 200 on a daily basis; a few more since Katrina. I guess we got some of the

refugees... My Doc is suggesting that I should retire from it after 18 years and I may do so before long.

Life is good. Our best wishes for Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year to the RUPA Family. Check by snail. *Jim.*

CYNTHIA M. WOOD—Hilton Head Island, SC

Dear RUPA members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the wonderful notes, e mails, cards and phone calls after Ray's death. The expression of kindness and sympathy during this very sad time will always remain in my heart.

I wish you all the best in the New Year.

Cindy Wood

JAMES W. WRIGHT—East Brunswick, N.J.

We are finally down to the wire and I would like to thank the RUPA staff and especially Doug Wilsman for his research keeping us well informed about our pensions.

No traveling this year except to the Amvets' state convention in Atlantic City in June. We had a good sailing season this year.

My health has been going down hill this year especially my eyesight. I have macular degeneration and it is very frustrating trying to read and write. The dues check and foundation check are in the mail. We wish everyone a healthy, happy and a better New Year.

Jim

NANCY L. YERDON—Wicomico Church, VA

Dear Jim,

RUPANEWS is tops and I look forward to receiving it each month. You all do a superb job, keeping me informed.

Jerry loved United and flew her proudly.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Yerdon (Mrs. Gerald Y Yerdon)

IN MEMORIAM

M. KEL CARSON

M. Kel Carson, UAL Captain (Retired), died January 12, 2006 from cancer at age 66.

He was born in Iowa and at age 11 his family moved to the Los Altos/Mountain View area of California, where he remained until he passed away.

Kel had a passion for flying and a clear vision of what he wanted. When he went to the Palo Alto Airport to take flying lessons he told them "I'm here to be an airline pilot". He started with United Airlines on November 29, 1965, and retired on September 6, 1999. As a pilot with United, he flew the Boeing 727, 737, and 747. After his retirement he was able to work for a charter airline, flying 737's which brought great joy to him to be able to fly again. He flew various sports teams around the U.S. (including our San Jose Sharks) and was the pilot for Tina Turner for her final European tour. He was part owner of a C-182, and a Bonanza Debonair.

Kel was on the board of the United Airlines Retired Pilots Foundation, a member of the Retired United Pilots Association and the Los Altos Golf and Country Club.

He is survived by his wife Julie Anne and stepdaughter Kelly of San Diego.

A celebration of his life will be announced at a later date.

DONALD F. CUNNINGHAM

I would like to inform the members of my Dad's Passing. He was born in 1920 in Little Falls Minnesota -- a small town boy. Tough times that those were, he traveled the country with his parents wherever the jobs were. He never started and finished any one grade in the same school. This kind of childhood would have had a negative impact on many, but not him ... He had the best sense of humor always... and he thoroughly enjoyed everyone he met.

In 1941 he joined the Army Air Corps, and went to England with the 305th Bomb Group. There, based in Sheveston, he flew his 25 missions as Captain on a B-17. When the war ended, he married his sweetheart, Cress, and began his career with United - based in Seattle.

From the DC-3 to the 727, he probably "white-knuckled" it more than a few times over the years, - - but except for DEMO, we never heard a discouraging word. He loved his job and loved to tell us stories about the guys he flew with.

He was definitely NOT ready to retire in 1980. Probably like a lot of guys, he was at his peak, professionally -- and enjoying his job more than ever.

We lost him November 3 -- He was 85. In spite of increasing "mechanicals", he was bushy-tailed and fun-loving to the very end. I was definitely NOT ready to have him go.

Thank you,

Jean Hays

BOB DUSAIR

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our father Bob DuSair. He departed Westbound on September 10th after battling congestive heart failure for the last several years.

His flying career began in 1956 at Hondo TX where he entered the Air Force Flight Cadet program. After slaying the T-6 and T-33, He went on to command a B-47 crew based at Little Rock AFB. As kids, we remember the story about him sitting in his jet at the end of the runway, bombs loaded, and engines running and ready to launch during the Cuban Missile Crises. He left active duty in 1963 and joined the Air Force Reserve at March AFB flying the C-119 Boxcar.

In 1967, he joined United Airlines and was based for most of his career in Los Angeles and San Francisco. He flew the B-727, DC-8, DC-10 and B-747. Again our memories recall him telling us that his favorite plane was the B-727.

He and our mother, Carmie, were married for 48 years before her passing last year. Now he joins her and we three kids are now the surviving members of our family. We have all been inspired by the airline lifestyle and airline family...so much so, that we have each chosen the airlines as our careers as well.

Thank you dad...we will miss you.

Sheri, Bob Jr. and Kip

GEORGE B. FERGUSON

Dear Friends of George, Jan 11 -06

I hate to have to write this note to tell you that George passed away Christmas morning.

He had been in the hospital or rehab, clinic since Nov. 1. The last couple weeks then, he had been in a private care home on hospice care. I still kept thinking he was going to rally as he was such a strong man. But his body just had too many problems in the end and it just was not meant to be.

We had a lovely memorial for him on Dec. 31, at our church here in Sun City where he and I attended. Many of his friends came to celebrate his life and the man he was to us. His son Scott from Seattle area came down along with his friend Shelly. Also his friend Bill Toomey.

I still find it hard to believe he is gone. I think it will hit me more once all the busy work is done. We got his apt. cleaned out and furniture and belongings all given away to family, friends and charities.

Our family was his family down here and we tried to support in every way we could and visited him daily. He was very good to us that is for sure.

I know he enjoyed so much hearing from you all. I sent out Christmas notes but am not sending out to everyone so hopefully some of you will pass this information on to others.

His brother Bob from Kalamazoo, Michigan came to visit him in the hospital the day before George broke his hip. What a great gesture that was and

George so appreciated that.

He will be missed greatly. God bless you all,

Marcia Lynk
19011 N. Sombrero Circle
Sun City, AZ 85373

ADRIAN S. KALE

Adrian passed away on December 2, 2005 at Charlotte Regional Medical Center in Punta Gorda, FL.

Adrian was born November 14, 1918 in Le Mars, Iowa. He attended Western Union College for one year, and then transferred to the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He learned to fly in the CPT program there. Between 1941 and 1943, he served as a flight instructor for civilian and military programs. He joined United Air Lines as a First Officer August 1943 and was promoted to Captain January 12, 1947. After flying a wide range of aircraft, he retired from United on December 1, 1978.

Survivors include his wife Helen, a stepson and several cousins.

DAVE LAUBHAN

Captain Dave Laubhan passed away on Thanksgiving Day after a long battle with cancer.

My thoughts and sympathies go out to Dave's wife Kathy, their children, and family. I talked to Dave about a week ago and I could tell he was slowing down. I believe Dave was 59 and GOD chose to take back one of his best children a little early.

I've spoken with Kathy and she requests that in lieu of flowers that any you may give to the place of your choice. She also told me that they plan to have the Dave Laubhan Friends Care group which she intends to begin after they can organize a bank account to accept contributions. The purpose of the fund is to help those in need who lost a home through a natural disaster, someone who might be homeless or in need, or any other good cause which they can help those who need help.

I also told her about the scholarships and Dave and I talked about them over the years. Any contributions are welcome for the Whitney Morehead Aviation Scholarship C/O Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 100 County Road, Big Pine Key, FL 33043 or the other one is active at Medina City Schools, Medina High School, Medina, OH 44256. It is awarded every year in May for two graduating seniors to attend college in the field of aviation, science, or medicine.

I always loved Dave for his honesty and friendship He was a fine man and friend.

Cards and letters may be sent to his family at 2686 Wabash Court, Naperville, IL 60065

Jim Morehead

Needless to say, I was shocked to read Jim Morehead's notice about our friend Dave Laubhan. I guess that everyone who knew Dave well is probably feeling the same range of emotions that I have been experiencing: Anger that his life was taken from us, sadness for Kathy and their family at their loss, thanks that I had the privilege to know this fine man and work with him and emptiness that he is gone.

I had the privilege of serving the pilots of Council 12 as their MEC Security Committee Chairman for a number of years. In that capacity, I worked with Dave Laubhan, our MEC Hotel Committee Chairman on hotel security issues, particularly at international locations. I don't think I'll ever forget the week that we spent in Caracas during local insurrections, trying to obtain a secure layover hotel for our crews.

It afforded me an opportunity to get to know this ALPA servant who dispatched his duties with honesty and integrity and who constantly reminded me that we serve the line pilots when we perform our respective duties. I guess that was the real foundation of our friendship.

Both Dave and Kathy are avid golfers, she perhaps even more so that Dave, and I cherish the memories of their visits to North Carolina to play golf and go to several professional tournaments. Dave never lost that smile, even when a shot didn't go exactly where he wanted it to go.

I could go on and on but he was a true gentleman if ever there was one and a man who served us all with honesty, integrity and passion.

Smooth skies and calm winds for your trip West Dave...and thanks from all of us. We will not forget you or the contributions that you've made.

Ellis Nelson

ALEX MERRICK

After losing Virg Nolte (Mgr of Crew Scheduling LAX) 12/16 and F/N-S/O Alex Merrick 11/25, Don and I wanted to write something as a tribute to these dear people:

I met Alex Merrick when he flew out of LAX as a Flight Navigator. Before a trip he would stop in the Flight Office (where I worked) for "inspection" and remind me that he had his 2 hankies with him, "one for show and one for blow". With his slight British accent and quick wit he would always make me laugh. Anyone who flew HNL knew of him and the Crown Players, a group of "thespians" I only heard about, but was never fortunate enough to witness any of their HNL productions. I do have a script of one of the plays he wrote and it's true Alex wit. When the Flight Navigators were phased out, Alex became a S/O and then instructed at DENTK where he "twisted new S/O minds" as he would say. His lovely wife Mikiko said he never lost his sense of humor during his long illness, passing away from prostate cancer November 25, 2005.

He was one of those "one of a kind" fine people you feel you were so fortunate to have known.

VIRG NOLTE

Anyone who's ever flown out of LAX would know Virg Nolte. He was famous. If you were passing thru and had a few hours (even minutes), you'd know Virg. Gales of laughter were always vibrating his office walls. I was fortunate enough to be exposed to his special brand of "insane" humor 8 hours a day, everyday - and it was great! He always made work a joy and ran a very efficient, and zany crew desk. The crew men who worked with him developed a warped sense of humor. Talk about a "fun zone"! Virg had a knack for making his job look easy, as a true professional. He was dealing with the coordination of crews (both Flight and Inflight and later only Flight), crewmen, trip trades, vacations, and many personalities, pulling them all together to make things run smoothly. He had a can-do attitude that permeated the whole of Flight Ops. You might go into his office mad or upset, but you'd come out smiling and laughing.

He was a master juggler and tried to keep things light and in perspective and the operation on an even keel. I know a lot of the pilots stopped in just to exchange jokes and pleasantries.

I wish I could put down all the wild things that went on - but, maybe just imagining would be better. Besides, I promised! He always made my day and anyone else's who crossed his threshold.

Retiring after 40 years with UAL, Virg was Tour Director for the Gadabouts, a retired group in La Mirada, Cal., that he coordinated and organized (again) to take bus trips to casinos, National parks, etc.

He was a very good person and a good friend and every time we spoke on the phone he would tell of the funny things that happened on his tours, and, of course, a joke. Thinking of him now still brings a smile. He will truly be missed.

Donette Wright (LAXFO)

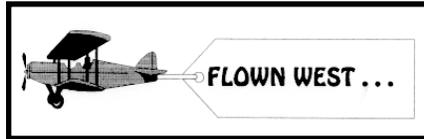
RALPH W. SEWELL

Ralph died at his daughter's home in Boyds, MD on December 2, 2005, at the age of 95. He was born in Chipman, New Brunswick, Canada on February 11, 1910 and his family moved to Pittsburg, PA in 1918. Ralph graduated from Pittsburg University with a Bachelors Degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1934. In 1935, he began his aviation career with Central Airlines, which later became Capital Airlines and then eventually a part of United Airlines. He retired from United Airlines in 1970, however he continued to be involved in aviation until March 31, 1991 when he finally retired at the age of 81.

Ralph held various positions with the airlines from line positions as an airline pilot/co-pilot to management positions as System Chief Pilot, Director of Engineering, and Director of Operations for Capital Airlines, and Vice President of Training and Re-Training for Federal Express. He also held numerous elected offices in the Air Lines Pilot Association (ALPA), and was instrumental in establishing pilot training programs and standards for the FAA.

Ralph was married for 54 years to his wife, Alice, who passed away in 1988, and is survived by his daughter and granddaughter.





| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| ROBERT T. DUSAIR | 9/10/2005 |
| DONALD F. CUNNINGHAM | 11/3/2005 |
| JAMES H. STOWELL | 11/5/2005 |
| DAVE LAUBHAN | 11/24/2005 |
| ALEX MERRICK | 11/25/2005 |
| ADRIAN S. KALE | 12/2/2005 |
| RALPH W. SEWELL | 12/2/2005 |
| VIRGIL D. NOLTE | 12/16/2005 |
| GEORGE B. FERGUSON | 12/25/2005 |
| M. KEL CARSON | 1/12/2006 |

* *Indicates Non-Member*



HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air....

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr., September 3, 1941

RUPA'S SOCIAL CALENDAR

Monthly Scheduled Lunches

1st Wed. SFO North Bay—*Petaluma Sheraton*
2nd Mon. SW FL—*Olive Garden, Ft. Myers* - 239-417-8462
2nd Tue. San Diego Co—*San Marcos CC*- 760-723-9008
2nd Tue. Nov-Apr Treasure Coast Sunbirds—*Mariner Sands CC* - 772-286-6667
2nd Thu. Oct-Apr. SE FL Gold Coast— *Flaming Pit* - 561-272-1860
2nd Fri. PHX Roadrunners—*Best Western En Suites Scottsdale Airport, AZ* - 480-948-1612
3rd Tue. DEN Good Ole Boys— *11:30am American Legion Post 1* - 303-364-1565
3rd Tue. LAS High Rollers—*Memphis Barbecue* - 702-558-9422 or 702-565-7175
3rd Tue. NE FL—*Spruce Creek CC* - 386-760-9736
3rd Tue. Dana Point CA— *Wind & Sea Restaurant* - 949-496-2691
3rd Thu. LAX—(Even Mo.) *Hacienda* - 310-821-6207;
3rd Thu. LAXV—(Odd Mo.) *Mimi's, Chatsworth* - 818-992-8908
3rd Thu. Ohio Northcoasters—*TJ's Wooster* (Always coed.) - 440-235-7595
3rd Thu. SEA Gooneybirds—*Airport Marriott* - 425-702-0989
3rd Thu. So. Oregon (MFR)—*Pony Express, Jacksonville* - 541-245-6896
3rd Thu. TPA Sundowners—*Daddy's Grill* - 727-787-5550
Last Thu. Hawaii Ono Nenes—*Mid Pacific Country Club*

Bi-Monthly Scheduled Lunches

1st Wed Mar, Jul, Nov. Chicago Area—*Itasca CC* – 630-832-3002
2nd Tue Jan, May, Sep. McHenry (ORD)—*Warsaw Inn* – 815-459-5314

Quarterly Scheduled Lunches

3rd Wed. Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct. Washington Area—*Westwood CC* - 540-338-4574

Semi-Annually Scheduled Lunches

March 30, 11am,---*Tucson Country Club*—520-797-3912

Deadline: February 15, 2006

Mailing: March 1, 2006



PERIODICALS

RUPANEWS

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