



**DELTA PIONEERS  
INTERMOUNTAIN CHAPTER  
DECEMBER/ 2011 JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER**

Happy Holidays to everyone. I wish you health and happiness for the coming year. May 2012 be your best year ever.

Some one once said the only thing constant in life is change . Speaking of change each of us will need to verify our dependents for pass purposes and acknowledge the rules of behavior for buddy pass riders. The current dead line is the end of January. This is to be done by computer and I understand that some of you do not have a computer so I wish to make this offer if you need assistance write me or call me include the following information PPR number (nine digits) and pass word. I just completed my verification process and it took me about five minutes. I will help you with my brand new I Pad which I purchased on black Friday. Thanks to you. Call me at home 801 4852180 and leave a message or write me at home 3456 El Serrito Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109 Understand that my time is limited but I can call you back if I do not have time when you call or write. Again I want to help those who are unable to do it for themselves. If you have a computer try it for your self first before you call. My offer is mostly for those who do not have computer access.

I will bring my computer to the next meeting and the purpose will be to help those who need assistance in verifying their information with Delta.

The meeting will be at the Golden Corral on the fourth Wednesday of December which will fall on 25th of January. We will start at 11:30 a.m. and last until everyone who needs assistance has been taken care of. Of course we will have door prizes and a speaker.

Thirdly I am sorry I was unable to attend last month's meeting. I had a medical procedure scheduled and it took longer than I anticipated. At our meeting we gave out copies of two forms. One form was a wallet copy of the prescriptions that you currently take.

When ever you go to the hospital they always want to know what drugs you are currently taking and sometimes when you take a few it is difficult to remember them all it is much easier to simply take out your form and hand it to them and they enter it into the computer.

The other form was from Delta which outlined what steps our survivors should take to notify the different departments of Delta when we pass away. No one lives forever and we need to have a papers in order to make it easier for our survivors to handle our estate.

You do not want your kids or survivors to bad mouth you after you are gone.

If you need these two forms send me a stamped self addressed envelope and I will send them to you. My home address is 3456 El Serrito Drive Salt Lake City Utah 84109.

Finally Yes we will be offering airport pick up on the morning of our meeting. Simply call me the day before with your flight information and a phone number if I have any questions. 801 485 2180

#### MY PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON THE PRICE OF FUEL

A couple of months ago a Delta Vice President stated that we were the second biggest user of fuel in the world. The biggest was the US Military.

According to an article I read the price of fuel in November was up 27% over last November.

Fuel is the most important factor if we make a profit or not. We seem unable to pass the increase on to our customers so we cut employees benefits and charge extra for things like checking luggage and meals.

An interesting article from the Salt Lake Tribune. 31 of Dec 2011 Page E1 and also USA TODAY. Guess what our number one export was in 2011? You would not believe it.(Export not import)  
Gasoline, Diesel fuel, and aviation fuel. Yes.

In my opinion there seems to be very little relationship to the price of production and the “Law of Supply and Demand.” It is a commodity that is sold around the world and the suggested price is determined by major oil producing countries (OPEC) and speculators.

A couple of years ago the chant was “Drill Baby Drill” and it was suppose to lower the price of fuel here in the United States.

I guess at that time the people did not realize if we had a surplus of gasoline, diesel fuel or aviation fuel it would not be used to lower the price of fuel consumed in the United States but it would be sold on the open market around the world to the highest bidder.

This is what is happening last year.

It is unfortunate that the airlines fall victim to political posturing. It seems to me that each time the airlines are poised to make money to replenish all the money that we have lost and government makes decisions that cause the fuel price to raise dramatically.

The current situation that will develop to negatively impact our earnings is the situation with Iran. Our Congress passed a bill that would restrict financial dealings and oil shipments from Iran.

Iran responded that they would close the Straits of Hormuth to oil shipping traffic. I read somewhere that approximately 25% of the worlds oil passes thru this point.

If we do what we say we will do with the new law and Iran does what they say they will do look for the price of fuel to go up dramatically. We know how this will impact the airline industry.

Plain and simple our profitability depends on a stable supply of fuel at a price that we can plan for.

Speculators act on the impact of political decisions. Each time there is even talk of war in the middle east the price of oil increases. It has to do with the availability of it. Oil will flow to whoever is willing to pay the highest price for it.

#### THE ABOVE WERE MY PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

QUICK! What has four poster beds, a four person Turkish Bath, a garage for a Rolls Royce and a marble-lined steam room?

Why, the world's first private Air Bus A 380 of course.  
(that is the largest commercial plane made currently)

The "Sticker Price" for the A380 is about \$327 million dollars and this one is augmented by about \$178 million in lavish modifications.

This private A380 will feature a concert hall and a boardroom with holographic screens. A "wellness room" in the planes belly will have a floor that's actually a giant multi media screen showing images of the ground below. "Scented breezes" can be wafted through the room to add to the effect. There is a three floor elevator near the front of the plane.

The new plane is to replace his old B747. You want to know who the owner will be? Come to our next meeting and I will tell you.

It is not me I drive a Toyota Pryus and I fly non rev.

#### DELTA TRYING SOMETHING NEW

News releases advise us that Delta is going to have two major hubs 12 miles apart. Yes it is true. Delta is building up LaGuardia. By the summer it will be providing 264 daily departures to more than 60 cities. They swapped landing slots with US Airways at Washington for their slots at LaGuardia.

In the past it was not deemed wise to have hubs close together but perhaps that logic will change.

The New York area will soon rival Atlanta with the number of combined daily departures counting JFK LGA and other area airports. It is a huge population center with great potential for travel. Personally I do not like to connect in JFK.

Does that mean I will have to talk to the voice response system with a New York accent rather than a Southern accent?

DON'T YOU JUST MISS IT? (just a bunch of the normal stuff)

I am saving the best for our meeting in January. It is from the London Globe and Mail titled "The best of the worst travel behavior in 2011". It is fantastic. It will bring back memories.

Yahoo News  
Sunday Jan 1, 2012

### FAMILY KICKED OFF PLANE FOR TOO MANY KIDS

A family with the mother and father and a three year old and a pair of twins 20 months and an 8 month old baby.

They had three tickets two for the parents and one for the three year old. They planed to have an under two year old in each of the three seats. Why were they denied travel? I know because I am the father of twins and many times I was faced with the same situation traveling with my children.

It wasn't the airline was anti family which the family claimed.

How about a prize worth dollars for the first person to call me or e mail me with the answer. rodneyvogel@comcast.net or my phone 801 485 2180.

### SNAKES ON THE PLANE

Poisonous snakes in luggage at Argentinean airport.(Last month)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina A man tried to board a plane in Argentina with almost 250 poisonous snakes and endangered reptiles in his baggage, each meticulous labeled with its Latin name.

Airport officials made him open his baggage after police spotted the reptiles in the X-ray scanner. They found the exotic and endanger species inside plastic containers, bags and even socks.

The police believe the boa constrictors, poisonous pit vipers and coral snakes, lizards and spiders could have escaped the cloth suitcase and perhaps attacked people on board the flight or at his final destination in Prague where antidotes for South American snakes aren't common.

### RELATIONSHIP WOES PROMPT TWO BOMB THREATS AT LAX

USA TODAY

Two women have been charged with making unrelated false bomb threats against passenger aircraft departing LAX. Authorities say both cases involved frayed romantic relationships.

Both women were having relationship problems with different men on board the different flights. (the average traveling public does not understand the problems and costs associated with bomb threats.)

Personally I hope they do not get off with probation. I had to work a flight with a bomb threat once and it was scary.

(My mother told me I should get a real job instead of the airline)

#### NORMAL STUFF

We had a recent case of a man trying to open the door of an aircraft in flight and he told the fellow passengers not to worry they were only flying in a simulator.

Yesterday the police found 130 pounds of cocaine at the Philadelphia airport. It was found in a suitcase. You would think the drug smugglers would understand that luggage is X Rayed.

Across the nation four people each day are caught trying to carry loaded firearms in their carry on luggage. When will they ever learn.

We had a couple of cases of passengers assaulting flight attendants. Most of these cases involved alcohol. My feeling is that the airlines and authorities ought to vigorously prosecute people who assault flight attendants! Don't you agree?

We also had a couple of fights on board one within a family and another involving one family against other passengers.

I have something positive to say about TSA. There has been lot of bad publicity about things disappearing from peoples luggage lately. A TSA employee found \$5000 in cash on the floor of the airport. He turned it into authorities. What a good guy.

All I can say is that the times are changing. I remember when people dressed up to travel, and were on their good behavior, were respectful to airline employees and did not use card board boxes for luggage.

#### STEALS AND DEALS

PERX 1 800 200 7170

These generally fall in to our rule of the only good cruise is a cruise under \$ 50 a night.

MSC Splendia

7 night Europe Marseille round trip

Feb 17 \$299

Marseille, Genoa, Barcelona, At Sea, Valletta, La Goulette, Civitavecchia, Marseille

Monarch of the Seas

4 nights Bahamas Port Canaveral round trip

Jan 23 \$174 (\$43 a night)

Port Canaveral, Coccoy, Nassau, Cruising, Port Canaveral

Holland America Line

Zaandam

14 night Hong Kong round trip

Feb 19 \$699

Hong Kong, At Sea, At Sea, Shanghai, Shanghai, At Sea, At Sea, Xingang, Zingang, At Sea, Incheon, Jeju, At Sea, At Sea, Hong Kong.

Hope to see you all at our January meeting. We will have some real nice door prizes. We have a speaker lined up.