



# Retired United Airlines Employees Association NEWSLETTER

[WWW.RUAFA.ORG](http://WWW.RUAFA.ORG)



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## Desert Training Center

By George Midwin



**O**n one of my many trips traveling around California, I stopped at a small service area located about 60 miles East of Palm Springs. This is desert area and midday temperature was approaching 110 degrees. As I turned off the highway, I noticed a few old military vehicles and some tanks and then a large building, which turned out to be the General Patton Memorial Museum. Who would have known, that in this remote area, in the middle of the desert, would be a museum, let alone one dedicated to such a notable figure. So I just had to go inside and I am so pleased that I did.

I asked one of the volunteers how did this museum come about in essentially the middle of nowhere. What she told me was something I never knew about California and I

thought I would share it with you.



As the US entered WWII, the military began to expand at a rapid rate, with men that were drafted or enlisted. The need for training became paramount as was the timing. Various facilities were established throughout the United States led by a number of generals. However, specialized training would need to be established, one that was similar to the harsh conditions that existed in the Northern Africa desert and was



focused on mechanized equipment. The only general at the time that had the personal experience and believed in mechanized warfare, was General George S. Patton. In 1942, he was assigned to create a training center focused on tanks. Having himself been trained in California's Mojave Desert during the 1930's, it was decided that the training facility would be located near there. Here, he could provide training, survival skills, stage battles, test and develop equipment that would be needed to fight the war.

At 18,000 square miles, this would be the largest ever training installation. It extended into the uninhabited parts of not only California, but included Nevada and Arizona. Establishing a base camp at the present site of the Patton museum, he and his team set about planning. They established 12 individual camps, scattered about the desert. Many were placed near existing roads, such as route 66, or existing railroads. Others, a bit more remote, Pat-



ton had the railroads set up spurs, thereby having the capability of providing supplies to all the camps. Additionally, water being the major necessity, the camps were set near the Bureau of Land Management aqueduct which was built during 1920's for the Colorado River. Still other camps would rely on water reservoirs holding 500K gallons, or wells. Hospitals were established, medical units assigned, supply depots built and communications and logistics put in place. Additionally, 5 airfields were constructed; very few permanent structures were erected, most camps consisted of tents. All this was accomplished at an astonishing short period of time.



# GENERAL NEWS

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## Continued from cover ....

With the training center completed, Patton began moving soldiers into the facility. They had to endure extremely harsh conditions with summer temperatures reaching 130 degrees. Temperatures inside the tanks could reach as high as 150-160 degrees. Additionally, they had to deal with sand storms, flash floods, snakes, scorpions and living in a tent. Patton insisted on Spartan conditions, so to be as realistic as actual conditions they would face in war. Water was rationed to one gallon per day for drinking and personal hygiene. Troops would endure these most hostile conditions during their 14-week training period. Those who trained here were well equipped with the skills necessary to fight. A total of 60 armored divisions, infantry and armored divisions trained here. In all, during the course of the facility's use, over one million men would be trained.

With the war in progress, Patton was not able to get all the tanks needed for training, so it became necessary to improvise. One effective idea was to build an iron structure over the top of a jeep, resembling a tank and then covering it with cloth. These were used extensively and provided the troops with an effective way to train around tanks. Patton developed war strategies using aircraft to provide a broader view of how troops were being deployed during mock battles. Live ammunition and artillery were used during the war games, while aircraft provided a realistic enemy overhead. With communications, a concern in a war environment, special training on the use of carrier pigeons was incorporated. Numerous other ideas were specially developed for use in a desert environment.

Patton was at the desert training facility less than a year when he was asked to go to Africa and take command of the war that was progressing there. There he would meet some of the same men he helped train and was proud to be their leader. Ironical as it may sound, some of the men trained by Patton to fight in the rigors of desert warfare were shipped off to Hawaii, to fight in the Pacific theater. Those who served in the military know how true that is.

With some exceptions, nothing remains of all the 12 camps. However, alongside the highway are monuments to the camps, honoring the men that trained there. Enduring rough roads through the desert, you can get out and walk around to pick up faint hints of what life was like during that time. One area, Camp Iron Mountain, the original airport runway still remains and is used by the California Aqueduct Program; also, remnants of the base chapel can still be seen. You can drive for hours on paved highways throughout this expanse and desolate area, to get but a small sense of what those who just graduated from high school endured during their training here.

## Letter From The President

Hello to all,

As our journey through 2025 begins to pick-up speed and we quickly are approaching the dreaded time for filing our income taxes, I thought it might be appropriate to share some info I received.



There are many of us that currently receive monthly annuity or pension payments from MetLife and the PBGC. A question came up recently "how do I change or begin federal tax withholding amounts?" The answer does come with the actual 1099-R forms for the plans listed below, but I am sure is often overlooked.

For the MetLife Annuity you must submit a new W-4P, this is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for download and printing, or request one by calling 1-800-829-3676. Once completed, you send the W-4P to: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, MetLife R&S – ACE, PO Box 14710, Lexington, KY 40512-4710.

For the PBGC, you have two options to update your federal income tax withholding, Email and USPS. The PBGC Email process:

1. Login or start the registration process at [www.pbgc.gov/mypba](http://www.pbgc.gov/mypba)
2. Complete the W-4P online ([www.irs.gov/pub-pdf/fw4p.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub-pdf/fw4p.pdf))

3. Print and, sign. and mail to: PBGC, PO Box 151750, Alexandria, VA 22315-1750

You can call the PBGC Customer Service to request a W-4P form be sent @ 1-800-400-7242.

There are multiple Companies involved in the various retirement venues for United retirees, be sure and check out the [ruaea.org](http://ruaea.org) website – Retiree Resource Links page for additional information and always check with your accountant or tax professional.

Hope this is helpful,

**Ruth Morabito**  
**RUAEA President**

**Letter From The Vice President - Conventions**  
**RUAEA's Golden Jubilee**



Hi Folks,

Have you made your hotel reservation yet, at the Denver Holiday Inn (East)? You can now reserve your hotel room using one of the following three options:

1. Scan the attached QR code with your smart device (phone, tablet, etc.)
2. Use the link <https://bit.ly/3VpkoNF>
3. Call the Holiday Inn Hotel reservations department at (866) 380-6850 and mention "RUAEA" or "Retired United Airlines Employees Association".



The contract is for 2 persons per room and breakfast for 2, at \$139.00 per room plus tax at 15.75%. If other accommodations are needed, i.e. more per room or a Handicapped room, please identify those needs when making reservations.

Great plans are coming together for our annual event:

- ❖ The "Colorado Country Night" theme will feature music for your dancing and listening pleasure by "Loose Change", a great country music band. This evening will also include splendid appetizers "Sliders Galore", door prizes, and cash bar.
- ❖ The "Golden Gala Night" will have music by a great band "Dizzy with A Dame". Our evening will also feature Plated Elegance sit down dinner and cash bar.

Please plan on joining us, RUAEA Members, RUPA Members, ARECA Members, along with some members of Clipped Wings and RAFA; family and friends all are welcome. However, the first step is to register at the hotel, which helps us in our planning activities.

We hope to see many of you there for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

**Hank Gosselin**  
**VP Conventions RUAEA**

**Request a refund for a prepaid (credit card) ticket United/United Express only.**

If you pre-paid with a credit card, you can cancel your booking using employeeRES or the United app, and a refund will be issued automatically within 7-10 business days. In some cases, if you cancel the same calendar day that you purchased the ticket, it will simply be voided, and the charge will drop from your card within 7-10 business days. If you weren't able to cancel your booking yourself, such as if you no-show for a flight, or when you didn't make it on a flight and you don't get rolled over to a new flight, you can request a refund by visiting the Refund page on [united.com](http://united.com). The refund process is not handled by the Employee Travel Center. Refunds are handled by [united.com](http://united.com) and can take up to seven to 10 business days to see a credit back to your credit card.

Refunds may be provided if the following situations occur:

- ❖ Pre-paid for United® Premium Plus, United First or Polaris Business and you were cleared in a lower cabin, such as economy.
- ❖ No-showed on a pre-paid booking
- ❖ Attempted to get on a flight with a pre-paid ticket and never got on and didn't get rolled over to a new flight

Steps:

1. Go to: <https://www.united.com/en/us/refunds>

2. Do not sign in to your MileagePlus account
3. Click on “Add trip”
4. Enter your confirmation number **or** ticket number and last name of traveler
5. When submitting the form to request a refund, be sure to include details in the comment about why you are requesting a refund

The screenshot shows the MileagePlus website's 'Refunds' section. A red box highlights the 'Add Trip' button in the 'Request a refund' form. Another red box highlights the 'Sign in' button in the 'Sign in to MileagePlus' section, with a callout stating 'Do not sign in to MileagePlus account'. The 'Add a flight' modal is also visible, showing fields for 'Confirmation or ticket number' and 'Last name of traveler'.

### **Important Reminder** **2025 Travel Liability Payment Calendar (Imputed Income)**

Timeline:			
2025	Travel Period	Invoice Delivered By	Payment Due By
1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr.	11/1/24 – 1/31/25	3/19/25	4/25/25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr.	2/1/25 – 4/30/25	6/6/25	7/8/25
3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.	5/1/25 – 7/31/25	9/8/25	10/10/25
4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr.	8/1/25 – 10/31/25	12/8/25	1/9/26

You can make changes to your enrolled friends for the July 1 - December 31, 2025 travel period through Saturday, June 28 (until 11:59 p.m. CT).

### **Are you ready for REAL ID?**



If you haven't already, now is the time to make sure your state-issued driver's license or identification card is compliant with the U.S. Federal Government's REAL ID Act.

Beginning May 7, 2025, TSA will require air travelers 18 years and older to present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or state identification card or another acceptable form of ID at airport security checkpoints for travel within the United States.

The REAL ID Act, which passed in 2005, set minimum security standards for license and ID card issuance and production as an added security precaution. Over the past 18 years, the law has been enforced in phases,



giving states and ID holders ample time to comply, with commercial airline passenger enforcement being the final phase.

Are you REAL ID ready? Check TSA's website <https://www.dhs.gov/real-idto>

### **What to know about UK ETA program**

As of January 8, all passport holders from visa-exempt countries (including the U.S.) traveling to the United Kingdom will be required to apply to the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) program to enter the country, whether you are visiting or have a layover.

Each application will require a nonrefundable 10 GBP (£) application fee. Most applications will be processed within three working days, so be sure to plan accordingly.

**Crew members are exempt from needing an ETA to enter the UK as they have different security access requirements than customers.**

**To apply for an ETA, you will need:**

- the passport you will travel with - not a photocopy or digital passport
- access to your emails
- a credit card, debit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay

The quickest and easiest way to apply for an ETA is by downloading the UK ETA app on your smart phone. You can also apply online.

Once approved, the ETA will electronically attach to the customers' passport. Your ETA will be valid for multiple entries for up to two years (or until your passport expires, whichever comes first).

For more information on the ETA program, please visit [gov.uk](https://gov.uk).

### **Extra Cash: Invest or Pay Off Debt?**

**By Malcolm Horn, CFP®**



#### **Question: Should I invest my extra cash or use it to pay off debt?**

**Answer:** To answer this question, you must decide how your money can work best for you. Compare the money you might earn on other investments with the money you would pay on your debt. If you would earn less on investments than you would pay on debts, you should pay off debt.

Let's assume that you have \$1,000 in a savings account that earns an annual rate of return of 4 percent. Meanwhile, your credit card balance of \$1,000 incurs annual interest at a rate of 19 percent. Your savings account thus earns \$40, while your credit card costs \$190. Your annual net loss is 15 percent, or \$150, the difference between what you earned on the savings account and what you paid in interest on the credit card balance. It's even worse when you consider the tax effect. The interest on the savings account is taxable, and you have to use after-tax dollars to pay your credit card bill.

In the above example, it would be best to use your extra cash to pay down the high-interest debt balance. The same principle would apply if you were to invest your extra cash in a certificate of deposit (CD), mutual fund, or other investment.

**Note:** All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful.

Need to talk through your choices? My team of Financial Consultants and I are available to help anytime: [aris.alliantcreditunion.com](https://aris.alliantcreditunion.com).

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### **United to restart service to Tel Aviv, Israel**

**February 4, 2025**



United is pleased to announce plans to restart New York/Newark to Tel Aviv service on March 15, with a second daily flight planned to begin March 29. This resumption follows a detailed assessment of operational considerations for the region and close work with the unions who represent our flight attendants and pilots. The flights will be operated on Boeing 787-10s.

United has a longstanding commitment to serving Tel Aviv, and this return will make United the first U.S. airline to resume service this year. United also offers connections to Tel Aviv through partners including Lufthansa Group airlines. United will continue to evaluate opportunities to restore additional flights based on demand.

### **Got the January Blues?**

### **United Reveals the Power of the “Booking Boost” to Lift Your Mood**

**January 28, 2025**

United Airlines is celebrating National Plan for Vacation Day with a way to remedy the seasonal blues by teaming up with cognitive scientist Dr. Laurie Santos, host of The Happiness Lab podcast and Ivy League professor, to analyze new research that examines the link between happiness and booking a vacation. According to a new survey\* by United, 70% of Americans say booking a plane ticket for a vacation brings them happiness and a majority of people say experiences make them feel happier than material goods.

*“Planning a vacation can give you an unexpected happiness bump because experiences matter for our well-being more than we expect,”* said Dr. Santos. *“When you book a vacation, you experience the reward of anticipating a positive experience. The happiness boost we get from travel can last long after you book your ticket - from the moments you happily anticipate your getaway, to taking the fun trip itself, to the times you recall trip high points with friends once you get back home.”*

Customers can receive bonus miles and get their booking boost today if they book a trip from the U.S. to one of 25 international destinations where United is the only U.S. airline providing service. As the world’s largest airline, United connects travelers to more than 360 destinations worldwide.

**“Booking Boost” Research** ~ United’s survey\* shows that 68% of people say January is a month where they need something to look forward to, while more than half of Americans report experiencing the winter blues. United’s findings also reveal the power of the positive mood-boost that occurs when a flight for vacation is booked, showing people are almost as happy planning their itinerary (73%) and just as happy sharing memories of the trip with others (83%) as they are experiencing the trip (82%).

As a mood elevator, travel is surprisingly more effective than buying material objects. According to research\*\* reviewed by Dr. Santos, the happiness boost from a travel purchase has been shown to be over twice as large as the happiness effect from buying clothing, jewelry or home goods and more than four times as large as buying electronic goods.

*“A vacation gives you a bigger and more lasting happiness bump because as humans, we are delighted by the novelty of the unknown. The thrill of a new handbag wears off quickly since you get used to them through a trick our mind does called ‘hedonic adaptation,’ but travel brings new experiences each day that delight and engage us,”* said Dr. Santos. *“And then we build on that through social connections by traveling with other people and talking about our trip with them later.”*

United’s survey\* data also shows that 73% of Americans said they would feel happier booking a flight to a new destination rather than a destination they have already been to. With United’s expansive network, including

the most international destinations of all U.S. airlines, travelers can experience a new destination starting with a mood boost as soon as they book their flight.

United's Network: Unmatched Travel Destinations ~ As the world's largest airline, United connects travelers to more than 360 destinations worldwide, and flies to more international destinations than any other U.S. carrier. Next summer, United will offer 800 daily flights to and from 147 international destinations, giving passengers the opportunity to travel to places they've never been all around the globe.

Last fall, United announced its largest-ever international expansion and will soon inaugurate flights to eight new and highly anticipated destinations including, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Nuuk, Greenland; Palermo, Italy; Bilbao, Spain; Madeira Island and Faro, Portugal and Dakar, Senegal.\*\*\* The new destinations build on United's position as the largest Transatlantic and Transpacific carrier, with United now serving more destinations in Africa than any other U.S. airline.

In addition, United recently made its new direct flights from Tokyo-Narita to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and Kaohsiung – destinations no other U.S. airline serves – available for booking, helping to seamlessly connect United's five hub locations in the continental U.S. and transpacific services to Tokyo for unlimited adventure.

United MileagePlus: Booking Boost, Amplified ~ With so many incredible destinations, United travelers can earn miles through the airline's award-winning MileagePlus loyalty program, including through United's Chase credit cards,

As an extra booking boost on National Plan for Vacation Day, United is offering bonus miles for trips booked today from the U.S. to one of 25 international destinations that no other U.S. airline serves. The offer is available for many of the airline's most unique and off-the-beaten path destinations like Nuuk, Greenland; Palermo, Italy; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Faro, Portugal and Bilbao, Spain.\*\*\* For example, a MileagePlus member flying round trip from Newark to Palermo in June could earn 13,000 miles, and one flying from Chicago to Faro in June could earn 10,000 miles.\*\*\*\* And, MileagePlus Premier members can earn even more. A full list of destinations eligible and terms and conditions for this offer can be found on [united.com](https://united.com).

*"This research illustrates yet another reason why MileagePlus has such an engaged and loyal and happy member base – United connects travelers to unique, memorable experiences that deliver a proven, positive impact. And when they travel, MileagePlus members enjoy a booking boost – not only do they get the in-the-moment joy of their current trip, but they're earning miles to make booking that next happiness inducing adventure even easier,"* said Richard Nunn, CEO of United MileagePlus.

MileagePlus was recently rated the world's best airline loyalty program and offers customers benefits including:

- ▲ Free to join for all customers
- ▲ Miles never expire
- ▲ No blackout dates – if there's a seat open you can buy it with miles or a combination of miles and cash. Plus, it's free to change your flight on award tickets – and if you cancel your flight, you can have your award miles put back into your account with no fee
- ▲ Just about anything you can pay for with cash at United, you can also buy with miles (seats, Wi-Fi, snacks, etc.)
- ▲ And United became the first major U.S. airline to allow members of its loyalty program to pool their miles with family and friends into a joint account

\*Online survey of 1,323 nationally representative Americans fielded by YouGov on behalf of United Airlines. The survey was fielded from January 8-9, 2025, and the margin of error is +/-3%.

\*\*Kumar, A., Killingsworth, M. A., & Gilovich, T. (2020). Spending on doing promotes more moment-to-moment happiness than spending on having. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 88, 103971.

\*\*\*Subject to government approvals.

\*\*\*\*Actual amount of miles earned will vary depending on the ticket fare paid.

### **United Airlines Achieves Record Fourth Quarter Profit Well Ahead Of Expectations; Reiterates Path To Double-Digit Pre-Tax Margin January 21, 2025**

United Airlines (UAL) today reported full-year and fourth-quarter 2024 financial results. The company had full-year pre-tax earnings of \$4.2 billion, with a pre-tax margin of 7.3%; adjusted pre-tax earnings of \$4.6 billion, with an adjusted pre-tax margin of 8.1%. The company also achieved full-year diluted earnings per share of \$9.45; adjusted diluted earnings per share of \$10.61, at the better end of the 2024 guidance provided at the start of the year of \$9.00 to \$11.00.

In 2024, United continued strong execution on its United Next plan. The company's investments have set United apart and customers continue to show more preference for the United brand with strong demand for all products: In the quarter, premium revenue was up 10%, corporate revenue was up 7% and revenue from Basic Economy was up 20% year-over-year. Other revenue streams like loyalty and cargo had robust growth in the quarter with revenues up 12% and 30% year-over-year, respectively. Looking ahead to 2025, United sees robust demand trends in the first quarter with domestic RASM expected to turn solidly positive year-over-year, as well as continued improvement in international RASM.

For the full year, the company operated the most flights and carried the most customers in its history. United finished first in on-time performance at all seven of its U.S. hubs as a result of significant investments in its people, airports and technology, resulting in year-over-year improvement in customer satisfaction.

*"United had a unique strategy coming out of COVID and our people have delivered for customers leading to a structurally and permanently changed industry," said United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby. "2024 was a strong year across the board for United as we've become the leading global airline and we enter 2025 with demand trends continuing to accelerate which puts us on the path to double-digit pre-tax margins."*

#### Fourth-Quarter Financial Results:

- ▲ Capacity up 6.2% compared to fourth-quarter 2023.
- ▲ Total operating revenue of \$14.7 billion, up 7.8% compared to fourth-quarter 2023.
- ▲ TRASM up 1.6% compared to fourth-quarter 2023.
- ▲ CASM down 1.6%, and CASM-ex up 5.0%, compared to fourth-quarter 2023.
- ▲ Pre-tax earnings of \$1.3 billion, with a pre-tax margin of 8.9%; adjusted pre-tax earnings of \$1.4 billion, with an adjusted pre-tax margin of 9.7%.
- ▲ Net income of \$1.0 billion; adjusted net income of \$1.1 billion.
- ▲ Diluted earnings per share of \$2.95; adjusted diluted earnings per share of \$3.26.
- ▲ Average fuel price per gallon of \$2.40.
- ▲ Repurchased approximately \$81 million of shares; over \$1.4 billion remaining in authorization.

#### Full-Year Financial Results:

- ▲ Pre-tax earnings of \$4.2 billion, with a pre-tax margin of 7.3%; adjusted pre-tax earnings of \$4.6 billion, with an adjusted pre-tax margin of 8.1%.
- ▲ Net income of \$3.1 billion; adjusted net income of \$3.5 billion.
- ▲ Diluted earnings per share of \$9.45; adjusted diluted earnings per share of \$10.61.
- ▲ Ending available liquidity of \$17.4 billion.
- ▲ Total debt, finance lease obligations and other financial liabilities of \$28.7 billion at year end.
- ▲ Net leverage of 2.4x.
- ▲ Generated \$9.4 billion of operating cash flow.
- ▲ Generated \$3.4 billion of free cash flow.

#### Key Highlights:

- ▲ Set the company record for most customers carried in a year at nearly 174 million system wide and an average of 4,340 daily flights, operating 145 more mainline flights per day compared to 2023.
- ▲ Announced an industry-leading agreement with SpaceX to bring Starlink's Wi-Fi service to more than 1,000 of the airline's mainline and regional aircraft, providing MileagePlus® members free, fast, reliable internet connectivity on some passenger flights as soon as Spring 2025.
- ▲ Launched Kinectic Media<sup>SM</sup> by United Airlines – the first media network that uses insights from travel behaviors to connect customers to personalized advertising, experiences and offers from leading brands.
- ▲ Announced MileagePlus® pooling, making United the first major U.S. airline to allow customers to share and redeem miles in one linked account, providing additional value to loyalty members, their friends and loved ones.
- ▲ United announced the largest international expansion in the airline's history, bringing service to nine new international destinations for Summer 2025, eight of which are not served by any other U.S. carrier: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Nuuk, Greenland; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Palermo, Italy; Bilbao, Spain; Faro, Portugal; Madeira Island, Portugal; Puerto Escondido, Mexico; and Dakar, Senegal.
- ▲ Surpassed 300 new and retrofit aircraft in 2024 featuring United's signature interior with bigger bins, seatback screens at every seat and Bluetooth connectivity, resulting in a 4.5 point improvement in customer satisfaction with inflight entertainment.
- ▲ United continued to invest in its employees and facilities in 2024, with the opening of an expanded Flight Training Center at the Denver hub and work beginning for a new state-of-the-art Inflight Training Center near the airline's Washington, D.C. hub.



- ▲ United became the first airline to purchase sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. In 2024, the airline voluntarily operated with SAF at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, Los Angeles International Airport, London Heathrow, Chicago O'Hare and San Francisco International Airport.

#### Customer Experience:

- ▲ In the fourth quarter, achieved a 6% increase year-over-year of customers providing a perfect score of 10 on the customer satisfaction scale the Net Promoter Score.
- ▲ Thanks to customer enhancements like in-app Spanish translations and a new Basic Economy digital check-in experience, achieved the highest quarterly rate for digital check-ins in two years for the fourth quarter.
- ▲ Began utilizing generative AI on [united.com](https://www.united.com) to expedite customer search and in the airline's industry-leading flight status notification system, further enabling real-time flight status updates to customers.
- ▲ Over half of customers who experienced a cancellation in the fourth quarter resolved their issues via self-service or United's automated solutions.
- ▲ The United app continues to be the most downloaded airline app as adoption grows amongst customers, with an eight-point increase in day-of travel utilization year-over-year.
- ▲ United launched a new seat preference feature that automatically re-seats customers when their preferred seat becomes available.
- ▲ Announced Laurent-Perrier as United's champagne provider for the United Polaris® wine program in 2025, offering Laurent-Perrier La Cuvée in the United Polaris cabin and lounges.
- ▲ Began offering upgraded economy cabin wines, partnering with women-owned brands Just Enough Wines and Maker Wine to offer Rosé, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sparkling to customers.

#### Operations:

- ▲ In the fourth quarter, set a company record for number of passengers carried in a single quarter. In December, the airline recorded its busiest three days in company history based on customers carried.
- ▲ The airline finished the fourth quarter with the best on-time departure rate amongst major U.S. airlines in all seven of United's U.S. hub locations, making it the 31<sup>st</sup> quarter in a row leading on time departure at United's Chicago O'Hare hub and 11<sup>th</sup> in a row leading United's Denver hub.
- ▲ For the year, United was second amongst the eight largest U.S. airlines in on-time departures and on-time arrivals, setting the company record for on-time performance in February, September and October.
- ▲ The airline operated a record number of 100% completion days for United Express in a year, achieving 88 total days with no cancellations in 2024 – 13 days more than in 2023.
- ▲ In 2024, United achieved its third best year in on-time arrival.
- ▲ Opened a state-of-the-art cargo facility at the New York/Newark airport expanding the airline's cargo space at the hub to 319,000 square feet.

#### Network:

- ▲ United announced eight new international routes to existing destinations for Summer 2025 in the fourth quarter, expanding customer access to some of the most popular international destinations from more of the airline's domestic hubs.
- ▲ In the fourth quarter, United began service of its largest international winter schedule ever, flying nearly 4,600 flights per day in peak winter, beginning service to three new international destinations — Marrakesh, Morocco; Cebu, Philippines and Medellin, Colombia — and two new international routes with service from San Francisco to Monterrey, Mexico and Belize City, Belize.
- ▲ With the addition of nearly 30% more seats to popular ski markets and 1,500 additional flights to sun destinations, United operated its largest domestic schedule in fourth quarter history, at 11% more flights than last year.
- ▲ In 2024, United flew the largest international schedule of any U.S. carrier by available seat miles – 35% larger than the next largest U.S. carrier – with nearly 700 international flights per day to 133 destinations across 67 countries. This included the largest schedule to Europe in United's history.
- ▲ United operated its largest-ever domestic schedule in 2024 at 1.3 million flights to over 200 cities, including introducing service on over 30 new routes.
- ▲ United ensured customers could make memories at big events in 2024, adding over 250 flights and increasing capacity on 400 more for high-demand events like the College Football playoff and the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

- ▲ United expects to serve more international destinations across the Atlantic and Pacific than all other U.S. carriers combined in 2025, with 800 daily flights to and from 147 international destinations, including nearly 40 not served by any other U.S. airline.

#### Employees and Communities:

- ▲ United hosted its annual Fantasy Flights from 13 airports, partnering with local nonprofits and hospitals to provide a holiday experience for children and their families.
- ▲ United, along with customers, donated over five million miles to Make-A-Wish America in the airline's Giving Tuesday campaign, helping the organization to raise nearly \$650,000 in cash, and donating \$500,000 in travel certificates.
- ▲ Throughout 2024, nearly 8,000 United employees volunteered more than 64,000 hours in communities around the world, additionally upcycling close to 89,500 amenity kits with Good360 and packaging nearly 400,000 nutritious meals with Rise Against Hunger.
- ▲ United continues to attract top talent, receiving over 40,000 applications for its 2025 Summer Internship and Spring Co-Op Internship programs, in addition to hiring over 10,000 employees worldwide in 2024.
- ▲ United transported nearly 1.3 billion pounds of cargo in 2024, including approximately 43 million pounds of medical shipments and 1.1 million pounds of military shipments.
- ▲ Through the airline's Miles on a Mission<sup>SM</sup> program, United activated a donation of more than 70 million miles from MileagePlus<sup>®</sup> members in 2024 to support nearly 100 participating organizations.
- ▲ United flew approximately 157 tons of relief supplies and over 1,000 responders from 57 nonprofits to support 36 disasters and other humanitarian crises in 2024, assisting over one million people affected by disasters or humanitarian crises, including those in Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti, Sudan, and Brazil and those affected by hurricanes Beryl, Milton and Helene.
- ▲ Celebrated the five-year anniversary of United's Special Olympics Service Ambassador (SOSA) program, an employment program that hires Special Olympics athletes to support customers in four of United's hub airports.
- ▲ Launched Somos, a new employee Business Resource Group focused on supporting and championing allyship for Latino and Hispanic employees.

#### Awards:

- ▲ Throughout 2024, United and its employees were recognized with over 50 awards including TIME's 100 Most Influential Companies 2024, Newsweek America's Best Loyalty Programs 2024, Forbes Best Large Employers 2024, and Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies.

### **Torgy's Travel Tips - March 2025**

#### **Heads-up On New Travel Documentation Requirements**



**Kathie Torgison**

Congress passed the REAL-ID act in 2005 to enhance security standards due to the 9/11 attacks. All states were notified that driver licenses and ID cards must meet a set standard nationwide that federal agencies may accept for the purpose of boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft, accessing certain federal facilities, or entering nuclear power plants. The deadline to implement these set standards has been delayed several times over, but **now** the delay is over. Effective May 7, 2025, travelers must present either a passport or a REAL-ID compliant driver's license/ID card.

You may have seen TV commercials or newspaper ads informing the public about the May 7, 2025, deadline along with information on how to know if your ID is already REAL-ID. Most often, the sample cards shown all have a gold star, either at the top right corner or in the center of the card. However, please be aware that several states have opted to use a different symbol and/or color. Some states that border Canada issue Enhanced Driver Licenses which show a small American flag instead of a gold star. If you live in California, there will be a golden bear (the state symbol) instead. These licenses are all REAL-ID compliant. If your license has the statement Federal Limits Apply at the top right corner, this is **not** compliant with the REAL-ID act, and you must present a passport in order to board an aircraft or upgrade your driver's license to a compliant one. Basically, you must prove you are legally a US resident. For more information consult the Department of Homeland Security at <https://www.dhs.gov>

Another topic concerning travel documentation involves air travel to the United Kingdom. Effective January 8, 2025, all travelers landing in the UK who are exempt from obtaining a UK visa in their passport must

obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization before their departure to the UK. If you are connecting in the UK to another destination inside the UK, you must have the electronic UK-ETA. If you are connecting to a destination outside of the UK you do not need the UK-ETA as long as you will not pass through UK Border Control, using air-side transfer protocol. Think of it this way: If you want to visit the UK you must have an ETA. This applies to children and infants as well.

The UK-ETA is obtained online or via the UK ETA app. It is valid for 2 years, allows multiple entries, six-month maximum stay per visit, and remains associated with your passport. If your passport expires you must obtain a new UK-ETA.

Requirements to obtain the UK-ETA:

- ❖ A valid passport from an eligible country, ideally with at least 2 years of remaining validity
- ❖ Digital personal photo, portrait style (passport type photo)
- ❖ Credit or debit card, or access to Google Pay or Apple Pay for the £10 fee
- ❖ Valid email address
- ❖ Minimum 72-hours lead time
- ❖

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk>

### So Simple From Sheryl



In August of 2014, I became your recipe correspondent, “So Simple By Sheryl”. That was 10 years and 3 months ago and 63 recipes! I have enjoyed coming up with a new recipe every other month, but I believe it is time to throw in my apron.

I wish to thank all of you for your comments and help, but it is time for retirement and to let someone else take over my position. I want to extend a very special “Thank You” to **John Chu** and **Veronica & Francis Domaratius** who have been on this journey with me.

### Rules For Submitting Articles To The Newsletter

All articles submitted for publishing in the Newsletter are due in the Denver Office on **the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month**. This includes chapter reports, letters for the “Letters” Column, obituary listings (***Note:** Rules for submitting an obituary notice is listed in the Obits section of this Newsletter*), and in general, any item for inclusion into the current Newsletter. All items received after the 7<sup>th</sup> are subject to be considered for the next Newsletter.

Newsletter articles may be sent by e-mail to John Chu at [johnqchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johnqchu@hotmail.com) and [ruaeatl@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaeatl@qwestoffice.net). If sent by U.S. Mail, address to RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd, Denver, CO 80207-2433. Please allow for postal delay. We cannot extend the deadline!

*Please note that all submitted articles are subject to editing and approval by the Newsletter Manager.* Once they are published in the RUAEA Newsletter, they become the property of RUAEA. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is listed in the Newsletter.

**John Chu**  
Newsletter Manager - [johnqchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johnqchu@hotmail.com)

# LOCAL NEWS

## ALABAMA



### SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Joe E. Jones, Ret. ORDFO  
12115 County Road 29  
Clanton, AL 35045  
(205) 646-3825  
[autiger@centurytel.net](mailto:autiger@centurytel.net)

We meet every three months for lunch at various restaurants in Birmingham and invite all retired United employees and their families to join us. For more information, you may call me at the above phone number.

## ARIZONA

### PHOENIX RE-UNITED'S

Matalynne Wandel  
Phoenix, AZ  
Correspondent  
[matalynne@hotmail.com](mailto:matalynne@hotmail.com)



### Submitted by Dakota Morris

Lunch at the Buca di Beppo was enjoyed by a high percentage of our members yesterday, "Survey Shows".

Please be honest about your experience at the restaurants where we ask for your critique. This is the only mean for me and Mitch to gauge the places you like or dislike. And that can only be determined by your honesty. We only care about your rating of that establishment.

Our next luncheon, arranged by Mitch, will be held at Riga Tony's on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. the location is 1850 E. Warner Rd., Tempe, AZ 85284. Please mark your calendars as we need your RSVP by February 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a ticket drawing at all of the luncheons starting at that luncheon. So bring extra cash, no credit cards accepted, ha-ha.

I want to fill you in on the results of the restaurants we have critiqued thus far. Overall, the restaurants have been given excellent grades. Of course there have been some negative ratings, such as "too far to drive, atmosphere too noisy, disliked the food, or bang for your buck". Two to four people do not want to return to those restaurants. These are the main issues those few do not want to return to that restaurant. This is the reason for the critique. Not everyone will always like everything, and we understand that. This is what I look for when selecting a restaurant; a private room, if possible so the noise is just from us, separate checks, I do not wish to get involved in collecting checks from people and then doing refunds if they can't come; menu prices, but as you know prices are not what they used to be; locale and if I or someone else has eaten there and thinks it as good, clean, easy place to get to.

Please email me [dctdmt03@cox.net](mailto:dctdmt03@cox.net), text or phone me at (602) 920-7785, please leave a message if I don't answer.

**From JoAnn Griffin** ~ Happy February everyone! Just a quick reminder that I still have a few tickets left for the Silver Star Theater on March 8. The final count and final payment is on February 28 so if you are interested in attending, please let me know. Several Members have already paid, so don't miss out!

The matinee is on Saturday, March 8, doors open at 1130AM. The buffet is served at 12PM and the Juke Box Hits of the 50's and 60's show starts at 1:30PM. The SilverStar is located at the corner of Brown Rd. & Higley Rd in Mesa. Check out their website at [silverstartheater.com](http://silverstartheater.com).

Please let me know before February 28 if you'd like to join us and we'll save you a spot. Please feel free to email me or text me if you have any questions, (815) 404-7979, [jjgriffual@gmail.com](mailto:jjgriffual@gmail.com).

## TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

Pat Sommer Di Lallo, Treasurer  
14740 N. Palmwood Dr.  
Oro Valley, AZ 85755  
(520) 825-7370  
[rpdgarlic41@comcast.net](mailto:rpdgarlic41@comcast.net)



We are the Tucson Roadrunners, an active chapter. We meet for lunch at various Tucson restaurants on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month except in November and December, when it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. All retirees are welcome to join us.

If you would like to attend our luncheons, you can e-mail **Pat Sommer Di Lallo** at [rpdgarlic41@comcast.net](mailto:rpdgarlic41@comcast.net) or call either **Pat Di Lallo** (520) 825-7370 or **Sandy Lawyer** (847) 826-2640 for information.

We look forward to seeing you.

## CALIFORNIA

### CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATERS

Chico, California  
Sharon Simonton, Secretary  
P.O. Box 2257  
Paradise, CA 95967  
(530) 990-0936  
[sbsimonton@comcast.net](mailto:sbsimonton@comcast.net)



It's raining, it's pouring. The ole man is snoring! The old song is true for Northern California for the last two weeks. January was great weather and now rain has saturated us. We also send our condolences to the people in the Los Angeles area as they are recovering from their serious fire tragedy. Northern California has had their share of this tragedy and we keep everyone in our thoughts and hearts.

**Merritt Odor**, our President, called a meeting to order and thanked **Vreny Grundherr** for arranging the restaurant. Seventeen members, spouses and guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Vittles Restaurant in Anderson, CA. Sharon also welcomed the **Eslingers**, **Gaylen** and **Katherine** back as well as **Ray Herrick** whom we have not seen in a while; it's great to see Ray again.

Merritt asked if there were any birthdays or anniversaries coming up. **Billie Jorgensen** had a birthday in January. **John & Katie Innocenti** will be celebrating 59 years of marriage in February.

Merritt read a very funny limo driver story. The RUAEA Reunion/Convention was mentioned as it will be held in Denver this year.

Merritt mentioned that if anyone has a trip or story to share, please do so at the next meeting. Also, **Billie Jorgensen**, our Treasurer, suggested we all think about a donation to be made as we have extra money in our treasury. Sharon said she would check into the Flight 93 Memorial and come back to the next meeting with information.

There was lots of discussion on where to have our next meeting in March. Sharon offered to look at some restaurants in the Corning or Orland area which is between Redding and Chico.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was **Merritt Odor**. The lunch certificate was won by **Vreny Grundherr**.

Our next meeting/luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM and the place TBD. Information on where the luncheon will be held will be in the next news article.

### Calendar:

**March 26** - Wednesday, 11:30 AM, location TBD.





### CENTRAL COASTERS

Mike Zoldak  
President  
537 Morning Rise Lane  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
(805) 473-2908 (H)  
(408) 396-5605 (C)

There is no report this month from the Central Coasters chapter of RUAEA.

### DESERT SUNBIRDS

Palm Springs Area  
Thomas Sabo  
[sabo.thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:sabo.thomas@yahoo.com)



There is no report this month from the Desert Sunbirds chapter of RUAEA.

We try to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month; if you are visiting the Palm Springs area, we would love to have you join us. Email [sabo.thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:sabo.thomas@yahoo.com) for details.



### EAST BAY DIABLOS

Contra Costa County  
Jan Soderstrom  
30 San Piedras Place  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
(925) 833-9184

Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone from the East Bay Diablos group! As I write this on February 7, we in California have just had another week of several atmospheric rivers. As usual, the North Bay and Santa Cruz areas had the most rainfall, up to 17 inches in some areas and wind gusts up to 70MPH. Sadly, lives were lost when trees were uprooted in the wind and fell on people, and landslides on the Russian River washed away homes. In Marin County, a sheriff's deputy saved a lady's life when she lost control of her car and ended up in a ditch. Her car was halfway submerged when he arrived. He smashed in the rear window and pulled her out just before the car was swept downstream. First responders are constantly warning people not to underestimate the force of even a few inches of rapidly flowing water. I carry a tool in my car to break windows in an emergency. I hope I never have to use it, but I will in a heartbeat if it saves the life of a human or animal in distress.

Our group holds in person monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month all year long. The restaurants are still dealing with staff shortages, so we have to give them a count beforehand for our meetings. If you are going to attend our meetings, you must RSVP prior to the meeting. I have put the dates of our upcoming meetings and the RSVP deadlines below. We alternate between the Old Spaghetti Factory in Concord and the Lazy Dog Restaurant in Concord. We like The Old Spaghetti Factory because they have both a regular and a senior menu with reduced portions and soup or salad, ice cream and beverage included. They also reserve a room for us. We went to the Lazy Dog for the first time last September. Everyone enjoyed it so that is now our other "go to" restaurant. We average about 14 people at our meetings throughout the year, but more members come to our summer picnic meeting which is a catered BBQ luncheon at a member's home. Social hour starts at 11:30 and our meal is typically served an hour later.

Our president **Russ Kennedy** starts our meetings by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. At every meeting we have a raffle for money and door prizes. We pay two dollars for three tickets. The door prizes are whatever people are inspired to bring.

Our February meeting was held on February 3 at the Old Spaghetti Factory Restaurant in Concord with 12 members and guests in attendance: **Rich & Georgia Bouska** and guest, **Nancy Boyle, Barbara Cunningham, Russ & Glenda Kennedy, Joe & Wilma Leather** and daughter Linda from Boise, **Russell Schleske** and **Jan Soderstrom**. We were missing some of our regulars for various reasons. **Diane Griego** was visiting her friend Jamie in Oregon as he recuperates from surgery. Diane reports that the recovery has been "tough" but he's

doing better now. **Tracey Blanchard** was still soaking up the sun and Vitamin D in Maui. **Arnold Hansen, Jr., Jack & Judi Smith** and **Carol Parks** planned to come but had to cancel at the last minute. **Barbara Cunningham** could not attend in January because she was helping take care of her daughter who had a horrible accident at SFO. Her daughter fell at the top of an escalator and fell all the way to the bottom. She broke her knee and ankle in the process. She had surgery on January 3<sup>rd</sup> on her ankle and is now in a full leg cast. Barb and her son in law are taking care of her. As of our luncheon on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, her daughter was still waiting to have surgery on her knee. Understandably, all three of them are very frustrated and want to see her daughter's care progress as rapidly as possible. Please keep Barbara and her daughter in your thoughts and prayers.

**Wilma Leather** conducted the raffle. We had \$20.00 in the kitty and decided to split it into two prizes of ten dollars each. **Nancy Boyle's** ticket was the first one drawn and mine was the second one! Subsequent winners chose from wine and a gnome in a St. Patrick's costume. **Wilma Leather** brought heart-shaped sugar cookies for everyone. **Russ Kennedy** celebrated his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on February 5 and **Joe & Wilma Leather** celebrated their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 9. Congratulations Joe, Wilma & Russ!

We asked our retired pilot **Rich Bouska** for his insight into the accident at DCA on January 29. I really learned a lot from his comments. His opening statement was that the accident should never have happened; only time will tell why the two aircraft were at the same altitude. Pilots have been voicing concerns over safety at DCA for years, and he explained the factors that make landing and taking off at DCA problematic. Since the accident, on February 7, the FAA announced that they are reducing arrivals at DCA. It will be interesting to see what safety standards will be implemented and if air traffic controller staffing will be improved as a result of this tragic accident.

**Barbara Cunningham** is collecting both new and used Christmas cards. She donates them to a local special education teacher who uses them in his classroom. He has told Barbara he can use "all the cards he can get." The students make gift cards, which they sell at the school fundraiser. If you have cards you'd like to donate, please contact Barbara at (925) 846-8123 or [barbjc1943@gmail.com](mailto:barbjc1943@gmail.com) for more information, or mail them to her directly at 1782 Calle Del Rey, Livermore, CA 94551-3985. This teacher needs just the cards, no envelopes. The money they raise is for special outings like field trips and other enrichment activities for the special needs students.

**Jan Soderstrom** is collecting coupons for the charity Support our Troops. This is a service project of her Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. I would like to renew my request to have you cut out coupons and mail them to me at 30 San Piedras Place, San Ramon, CA 94583-3018. One thing we can all agree on is that the cost of groceries has skyrocketed in the last year or so. Unfortunately, manufacturers are cutting back on the coupons they are issuing, especially on food items, just when people need help the most. So anything we can send to the troops is greatly appreciated—food, nonfood, baby and pet; and both current and expired. This is such an easy thing to do to support our troops. For the price of a first class stamp, you can get about 90 coupons in an envelope. The coupons have to say Manufacturer's Coupon. If they come in a strip, please cut them into separate coupons. The collected coupons are then distributed to overseas military personnel for use in their commissaries. The commissaries honor them for six months after the published expiration date so expired coupons can be sent too. However, please send me coupons at least every other month so the troops have a longer time to use them. Please help me spread the word about this worthwhile project. The number of coupons in the newspapers has dropped dramatically so the only way we can maintain our level of support is if more people send me coupons. Ask your friends and neighbors, and the people at your RUAEA meetings, to send me coupons as well.

I am so grateful for the kindness of all the RUAEA members who are helping me with this project. I have been turning in coupons every month since May 2022. On February 1, I turned in 935 coupons worth \$3504.35! Thank you so much to the members in my local RUAEA chapter and to members from all over the country who are sending coupons. If it weren't for the RUAEA folks sending me coupons, my chapter would have very few coupons. This month I received coupons from **Mary Brennan** in MN, **Glenda Kennedy** in CA, **Margie Klaus** in NV, **Carol Koslosky** in NY, **Samantha Koslosky** in MD, **Betty Ogburn** in NJ, **Russell Schleske** in CA and **Jim Taylor** in FL.

Our meetings are the first Monday of the month and we meet all 12 months of the year. Upcoming Meetings: Please join us!

- ▲ Monday, March 3, 2025 at 11:30. Lazy Dog Restaurant, 1961 Diamond Blvd in the Willows Shopping Center, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:30. Separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, February 28.

- ▲ Monday, April 7, 2025 at 11:30. The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1955 Mount Diablo Street, Concord. Social hour starts at 11:30 and we eat around 12:30. Separate checks. Must RSVP to **Jan Soderstrom** at [janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.soderstrom@yahoo.com) or (925) 833-9184 by Friday, March 28.  
Until next month, take care and do everything you can to stay healthy!

### **GOLDEN GATERS**

SFO – Bay Area  
Ginger Dahlberg  
821 Magellan Lane  
Foster City, CA 94404  
(650) 224-1865  
[gingersfo@aol.com](mailto:gingersfo@aol.com)



Chilly mornings and sunny afternoons and, finally, some rain in our West Coast drop-off point. We have needed the rain but not all at once; all at once produced some flooding, mud slides and houses sliding down the hill that they were built on. Streets flooded quickly but that didn't deter those speeders thinking that they could go through the water that didn't look very deep. Wrong ... sitting on the top of your car, hoping someone would come by in their boat to rescue you. Not a good idea folks!

Our January meeting, with 20 brave souls, was a nice start for the New Year with only one glitch! Our meeting room is upstairs in the Library building and the elevator was kaput this time and 25, steep, stairs are daunting for many of us. We were able to finagle the meeting room in the actual Library (where the 2 and 3 year olds meet for their book reading sessions and no stairs,) we had to keep schussing people to be quiet (a challenging feat) as most of us have (or need) hearing aids in order to look intelligent. Ain't it fun getting old!

President **Ginger Dahlberg** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a few moments of silence to remember those who need our prayers. Special thoughts go out to those First Responders, Fire Fighters, and Medical teams as they have been working overtime these days.

Please remember that our May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting is a National Holiday – everything is closed so we have had to move the meeting back a week to May 19, same times and lunch will be announced later. Our meeting times are: 10:00am to 12:00 noon – we leave for the restaurant at 11:30am.

- ❖ February 24 – Meeting (hopefully) in the Wind Room above Foster City Library/Lunch at BJ's in Bridgepoint, **John Garis** is filling in as President-Pro-Tem Ginger is sailing away to Hawaii.
- ❖ March 24 — Meet in the Wind Room above Foster City Library/Lunch at Jack's, El Camino and Hwy. 92 in San Mateo.
- ❖ April 28 – Meet in the Wind Room above Foster City Library/ Lunch TBA (to be announced).
- ❖ Christmas luncheon was discussed and members decided that we will meet December 8<sup>th</sup> at Bellinis' Restaurant in Foster City – where we met last year (more about this later in the year.) Save the date.

As we had to have a short meeting, we combined the Board meeting with the member meeting then off to lunch. We enjoyed the local Lazy Dog Restaurant. One would think that they would have Hot Dogs on the menu but ... nope, only saw Mini Corn Dogs. The wait-staff was great and got our food out quickly. This is an interesting place to eat—they have an extensive menu, even a Dog Menu! The four-legged menu features Chicken or Beef with rice and vegetables – it is \$5.00 per dish and a complimentary **free** bowl of water! Wow, what more could you ask (and, yes, they have a list of things your dog can't do whilst dining there—pooch on a leash at all times, can't sit on your lap or the table, no barking or running loose.) Check it out ... good food and good for a few laughs!

**Eliza Vargas**, our newly commandeered Secretary, read the minutes and recap of last year – they were - approved as read. Hooray for Eliza - thank you for “volunteering.” **John Garis**, our intrepid Treasurer, reported that we are solvent and a reminder to send in your dues (\$15 per member, check made out to **John Garis**, Treasurer, 550 Compass Circle, Redwood City, CA 94065 or bring cash at the next meeting.). He needs your money so that the roster can be brought up to date after our March meeting. **Barbara Underhill**, our Membership Secretary, sang birthday greetings to **Pat Ortega**, no anniversaries or members needing some TLC. **Bob Goetz** brought a guest, **Henry Sickles** who worked for UAL at SFO in SFOMM, transferred to IND and is now retired and living in the San Diego area. **Vera Kina**, Auditor, **Carol Slater**, Jill-of-all-trades reported all's well and our thanks to those who brought nice things to raffle off. Our Jack-of-all-trades, **Andy King**, was feeling under the weather and stayed home to recoup.

Running off to the Bank with their Raffle winnings: **John Bogdanoff** and **Bill Heinrich** – they did not require a Brinks Van to take their loot to the vaults. Other winners included **Frank Minnick, Dee Peters, Diane Heinrich** and **Bob Goetz** just to name a few.

\*\*\*\* If the elevator is not fixed by the next meeting, look for a sign on the door where we will meet – Ginger did ask the Library if our meeting could meet in the Library alcove, they agreed. Dusty Landwehr, our Recreation Coordinator, will advise **John Garis** if a different area will be used. We will try to contact those of you who attend the meetings on a regular basis as to our meeting place.

Conundrum of the Day: “*Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They’re both dogs!*”

Come join us if you are in town, all United and Continental retirees are welcome - we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 10:00am in the Wind Room at the Foster City Library, corner of Hillsdale Blvd., and Shell Blvd, Foster City, CA 94404. Note: Our mailing address is UAL-SFO Bay Area Retirees, c/o **Ginger Dahlberg**, 821 Magellan Lane, Foster City, CA 94404.



### **HANGTOWN MINERS**

Jane Gibson  
Placerville, CA  
Secretary

What a great way to begin a brand new year; getting together with dear friends, enjoying good food and conversation. I think there was about 30 Miners who were able to attend our first luncheon for 2025. **Rudy & Cindy Blazius** arranged our luncheon with Mimi’s Cafe in Folsom which was a really good choice. Our (very patient) server took our orders for drinks and meals, had them delivered to us in no time at all and kept track of who ordered what! That alone was worth a big tip! Once we all had time to finish eating, Rudy brought our monthly meeting to order. He gave a big “Thank You” to Cindy and, of course, himself for the luncheon. Birthdays? For the members present, **Bill Gibson** and both **Peggy & Chuck Trebnik** get the cake with candles this month. Happy Birthday to each of you! It seems no one celebrates an anniversary in January and we did not have any guests either. Rudy got right to business and started with our officer reports.

*President ~ **Rudy Blazius*** brought to our meeting a copy of the last issue on UAL flights of the magazine Hemisphere. The magazine had been a regular feature on UAL flights for many years. It is/was a beautifully done production and it will be strange to not have it in that pocket of the seat in front of you any longer. We passed the copy around to cruise thru its pages one last time.

*Vice President ~ **JR Heier*** was not present at the beginning of our meeting. He and **Rosemary** were able to join us at the end, however. He graciously “let” **Roy Martin** continue with the ticket draws for our raffle!

*Secretary ~ **Jane Gibson*** did have a couple things to report this month. Last month, we found that **Irv & Sherrie Wolfram** did not come to our December luncheon even tho they had said they would be there. Bill & I took their lunches (delicious salmon) home and I tried repeatedly to call them. I sent them a check to cover the meals they didn’t get to enjoy and had a note to please call me as we were worried about them. It took quite some time, but, Irv did call. Seems at the beginning of December he started retaining fluids. The medical folks were concerned; Irv wound up in the hospital; with big wounds on his feet which are still being treated. Their sons “took charge” and found them a nice apartment at Brookdale Retirement and Assisted Living in Folsom. They are adjusting to their new lifestyle. It doesn’t look like they will be able to return to their home in Georgetown. The best part is that they are safe, getting better and settling in at Brookdale. At the time I talked to them, Irv was not able to drive, in part because they found he had diabetes and the medicine they started him on could make him dizzy so driving is on hold for now. The upside to this is, Irv says he has lost about 60 pounds and says that we wouldn’t recognize him! So, please change the info on your rosters to reflect their new numbers: **Irv & Sherrie Wolfram**, 780 Harrington Way #236; Folsom, CA 95630; new phone # (530) 334-0187. If you’re out and about and in that area, stop by and say “Hi!”

We have a new member; **Tom Miehle** – **Pat Guinn**’s long time friend – is now a member of his own right! Tom’s info is 860 Wagon Wheel Lane; Lincoln, CA 95648; (916) 718-6780; [tommiehle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tommiehle@sbcglobal.net). Please add this info to your roster as well.

And, many of you remember **Joe & Lynda Lima**! They moved to Grants Pass, Oregon several years ago. I heard from them recently and they asked me to send their “Hellos” to all of you.

*Treasurer ~* **Tom Kenny**, our ever vigilant Treasurer, brings us the news that we have a nice balance in our checking. This is after we subsidized our December luncheon so that number is actually looking quite good. Tom likes to have a minimum of \$500 or more so this makes him/us happy.

Tom reported on our Tool Collection Project. Due to circumstances, he was not able to deliver the tools we collected right after our meeting. He and Rudy were planning to take them to the school but it turned out that the school was off for the month. They will bring them once the classes resume. It was asked if we are going to continue with this project. Well, our local resources are getting depleted and even tho a generous mechanic shipped a bunch of tools and filled out the kits nicely, it was over \$150 for the shipping! So, If anyone has any tools they come across and wish to donate, get hold of Tom and he will help you take care of them! We want to say “Thank You”, Tom, and your helpers as well. This has been a long, but productive undertaking, your efforts have helped quite a number of students get a great start in airplane maintenance. To all who contributed, you have made a difference.

*Sunshine ~* Our delightful Sunshine lady, **Suzanne Kenny**, caught us up on how **Linda Dinette** is doing. Well, Linda’s son, Kevin, was at the meeting too so could fill in some info. As you heard, Linda fell and cracked her neck. At the hospital they discovered that she also had a perforation in her intestines that was leaking into the body cavity. Long and short of it: they operated to fix the leak; a few days later, she underwent an operation to brace and set her neck with rods and bolts. Linda has been in a convalescent hospital to get better and to get therapy. After a brief setback, she should be home now with Kevin there to take care of her along with some outside help. We sent a ton of well wishes with Kevin and the offers of help if they need it. We are looking forward to seeing you back at our luncheons, Linda.

*Old Business ~* Rudy extended a big “Thank You” to **Tom & Suzanne Kenny** for all their efforts to get our “special” December luncheon set up. We have been able to enjoy this meal at the Smith Flat House for about 3 years now. They do a great job with our meals and serving them. Suzanne makes sure that the room is ready and things are in proper order for us to enjoy this meal.

Rudy delivered all the food you all brought to our luncheon. He reported that we sent 172 lbs of goods to be shared with people in our county. You brought your toy donations to the November meeting as we needed to have your donations to the Marines before the end of November so they could be distributed in time for Christmas. Pat yourselves on the back and keep up the good work!

Hangtown Miners 2025 dues are due! If you haven’t paid your 2025 dues yet, please do so right away. Only 16 out of the 38 members have a “PD” next to their name; if you’re not sure if you have already paid or not, contact Tom and he will check your status. (**Tom Kenny**, (530) 626-5660. Please make your check for \$15.00 out to Hangtown Miners and mail it to **Tom Kenny**; 3481 Parleys Canyon; Placerville, CA 95667.

*New Business ~* Rudy wanted to remind all who receive the RUAEA monthly Newsletter that in the back of each issue, there is a list of “Important Numbers”. These numbers will come in very handy should you run into a difficulty with your retirement. I also included a list like this with your new roster for 2025. If you would like me to mail or email you this info, just let me know.

Also shared, a bit of information Rudy received from **Mike Zoldak**, president of the Central Coasters. I’ll copy his email: *“Greetings, We had our local UAL retiree luncheon today and I want to pass on some info. If any of the following is incorrect, please let me know. If the employee passes away, the spouse still has pass privileges. However, the spouse is now classified as a “survivor”. That means he or she cannot add, subtract, or change the two companion riders. (No companion riders.) The December window for changing the two persons on your passes is November 18<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup>. Grandkids, brother, sister, etc. Try as I might I could not find the dates of the midsummer window to make the change. Send me an email if you know the dates. Also, I found the so-called UAL retiree costumer service “Help Hub” for pass questions totally worthless.”* (Too much AI) So, if you have had any experiences that could help these two chapter presidents, Rudy and Mike, guide all of us thru the maze of the cooperation world, share it with them: Rudy: [rudy.blazius@gmail.com](mailto:rudy.blazius@gmail.com); Mike: [zoldak1@msn.com](mailto:zoldak1@msn.com))

*FYI ~* This was shared with us: Some of you will remember **Joe and Jeanette D’Amico**, long time members of the Hangtown Miners who moved to Hawaii several years ago to be close(r) to their son. Well, guess what? They are now back on the mainland and living in Fortuna! Joe ^ Jeanette, if you’re reading this – a big “Hello” to you two.

Rudy closed our meeting with this observation: You need only two tools in life. WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn’t move and should, use WD-40. If it moves and shouldn’t, use duct tape. Great words of wisdom and advice.

Our February Luncheon 2025 will be hosted by **Chuck & Peggy Trebnik** who have made arrangements with Bennett’s in the Blue Oaks Town Center, Rocklin.



Rudy put Roy in charge of the raffle (!) and the donator's prize went to **Tom Kenny**! A big "Thank You" to all who brought these great prizes: **Gibson** – bread mix; **Martin** – wine and socks; **Blazius** – towel set; **Kenney** – serving tray and fresh lemons; **Trebnik** – cheese board and towel; **Fitzpatrick** – cookies; **Kozelka** – dog figure; **Delfino** – wine, hard cider, pie; **Kenny** – wine.

Alrighty, folks, I think that's it for this month. If I forgot anything, let me know. Sometimes it's hard to hear and catch all that is said/contributed.

You all be sure to stay safe when you are out and about. Keep an eye out for each other. Take each day at a comfortable pace so your "tomorrow" is there to experience.



### RESANS

San Diego, CA

Barbara Drews

Secretary

[sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsailorgirl@yahoo.com)

At our last breakfast, we had 16 attendees. There are still quite a few retirees out visiting with family and cruising. I have not heard of any health concerns and that is always good.

Everyone had a good time at the meeting, talking about the Holidays and good time with their families and they all agreed that time with grandchildren is always very special.

The Birthday Celebrants are **Louie Semon** (2/2), **Paul Zadrozny** (2/15), **Calvin Iida** (2/25). We wish them a year of fun travels, good health and many laughs and happiness!

**Paul & Joan Zadrozny** have moved into a Senior Assisted Living Facility in Bonsall. Unfortunately, it is a longer drive for them so they will not be at Breakfast as often but they are closer to their family and that makes them happy. Joan is not in the best of health and the family support means a lot to them.

The cool, rainy weather has been keeping many of us inside, warm and with a good book, something warm to drink, and your furry family member curled up in your lap.

I just read an article that says practice in a task strengthens your ability to concentrate and develop new interests, think deeply to improve concentration. To develop your skills in this, progress slowly and your brain will enter a special state of concentration; as you progress you find that you will feel better about problem solving, your sense of concentration, and will improve your interest in things that you may not have noticed before. This is called quantitative thinking and it will stimulate activity in the frontal and parietal regions of the brain. Give this some thought and think about how this can improve your work on crosswords, puzzles, reading, etc.

### Calendar:

**March 6** - Breakfast at the Pt Loma Cafe, San Diego; 10:00AM. If you are going to be in town, send me an RSVP and we would love to have you visit us!

### SACRAMENTO GOLD DIGGERS

Sacramento, CA

Ron Bertacini

Secretary

[sgd@surewest.net](mailto:sgd@surewest.net)

### SACRAMENTO



Twenty-two Gold Diggers gathered at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville on Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup>. We always have a good time; the pasta dishes are very good and then there is the Spumoni ice cream to finish the lunch. President **Francis Domaratus** greeted the members including new member **Joyce Spivey**. He then thanked his wife **Veronica** and himself for setting up the lunch. VP **Barbara Bertacini** was unable to attend but **Ron Bertacini** covered the upcoming lunch venues: February will be at Lucille's BBQ in Rocklin; this is our annual Presidents' lunch and all Past Presidents' tab will be covered by the chapter's treasury; the February date is Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup>. March 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting at Café del Lago in Granite Bay. We are looking at Season 52 for the April lunch/meeting; this place is in the Arden Mall on Arden Way, Sacramento. They have a private room and do separate checks.

Then Secretary **Ron Bertacini** reported that there were no anniversaries for the month of January.

Treasurer **Robin Garland** reported the chapter is solvent and she will collect dues from anyone who did not pay at the last lunch/meeting, \$10 per family.

Sunshine Lady **Angie Dellinger** reported that **Irv Wolfram** has experienced several medical issues; Irv has lost over 50 pounds and with other issue, has stopped driving. Irv & Sherrie have moved to the Brookdale Retirement Center in Folsom. Their new address is 780 Harrington Way #236, Folsom, CA 95630 and their phone is (530) 334-1089. They would love to hear from any of the Gold Diggers. Since neither one of them are driving, they would be very appreciative if someone might be able to bring them to a Gold Diggers lunch in the future.

Historian **Francis Domaratus** reminded us that the February lunch/meeting is when we honor the Past Presidents. Francis gave us a little history on the chapter ... that we have had 40 Presidents. Also, there have been three that served two consecutive terms and two that served three consecutive terms. There also have been four people that have served a second time sometime after their first term and one couple that served as co-presidents. Francis also advised that he would be contacting past presidents to invite them and that they would be treated to their lunch at the February gathering; a good reason to be president. There were two birthdays in January, **Rose Rheam** and **Angie Dellinger** with Rose winning the roll off.

**Rose Rheam** mentioned that they were encountering difficulties with Sutter Health and Aetna. It appears that some parts of Sutter Health are no longer accepting Aetna Medicare through United, Ed is in need of infusion treatment and that is being refused by Sutter. **Barbara & Ron Bertacini** are encountering some of the same problems. Both the Rheams and Bertacinis had dealt with Alight about what the coverage would be for 2025 and it was implied that there should not be any changes. **Ron Bertacini** has been in touch with both Sutter and Aetna. The representative at Sutter said that some Sutter locations would accept the Aetna coverage while others will not ... didn't sound very rational. Checking with Aetna, he was advised that the imaging services would be covered by Mercy Dignity Health. There also seems to be an issue with Silver Scripts part of Aetna and CVS Pharmacy that some medications are either not covered anymore or need to be re-authorized by ones doctor. This is very frustrating to say the least.

There were a few happenings in aviation history on January 29<sup>th</sup>. 1920 ~ President Woodrow Wilson appointed Orville Wright to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, 1926 ~ John Macready set a U.S. altitude record over Dayton, Ohio at 38,704 feet, and American Airlines is first to begin schedule jet passenger service across the country, Los Angeles to New York in Boeing 707.

The Gold Diggers February Past Presidents Lunch/Meeting will be hosted by **Jim Simon** on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at Lucille's BBQ, 6628 Lonetree, Rocklin; 11:30 a.m. Please let Jim know if you plan to attend by Monday, February 24, as the restaurant needs a count. Contact Jim at [jimmyinc823@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyinc823@gmail.com) or (715) 296-2074.



### **SAN JOAQUINERS**

Rosie Walls

Secretary

(209) 984-5672

[jawrmw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jawrmw@sbcglobal.net)

### **Submitted by Bob Scoble**

Hello All,

Pat and I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Years. We had a great and enjoyable holiday season; our cruise through the Panama Canal was very educational to say the least.

So, our next luncheon is set for February 13<sup>th</sup>. I have set us up to meet at Huckleberry's in Oakdale, at 11 am. The address is 1214 W. F St. Oakdale.

As always, please give **Bob Scoble**, (209) 626 5308 or (925) 642 2465 a call to let him know if you are able to join us.

Thank you and see you on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

## SFO/SJC SOUTHBAY

San Jose, CA

[www.southbayruaea.org](http://www.southbayruaea.org)

George Midwin

1879 Foxworthy Ave.

San Jose, CA 95124

[midwin5u@hotmail.com](mailto:midwin5u@hotmail.com)



Yours truly missed this well-attended meeting due to a health issue; however, I was pleased to hear so many members attend. **Chuck Clayborn**, in the midst's of moving, found the time to be at the gathering. **Greg Caster**, **Marianne Johnson** and **Susan Rocha**, sister of **Bob Mattscheck** all the way from Portugal, attended. Many topics were discussed throughout the get-together and some of the world's problems were resolved. Despite all the talking and problem resolution, the issue of someone taking over the presidency of our chapter was not resolved.

The Bill of Fare had to take down their outside tent due to the city requirement to pay a significant fee. This will have an impact in the summer months on their business; however, if we continue to provide the restaurant in advance, some idea as to our numbers showing up, we can continue to use the space inside.

The next gathering is Monday, March 3 at 1000. The Bill of Fare is located at 1069 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, a bit over a mile south of highway 280, everyone is invited.

SOLANO FLYERS



## SOLANO FLYERS

Larry Jackson

President

(707) 624-0030

[larry-cindy@comcast.net](mailto:larry-cindy@comcast.net)

**Submitted by Allan Pochop, [apochop@aol.com](mailto:apochop@aol.com).**

The Solano Flyers met on January 20 at Denny's Restaurant in Cordelia. In attendance were President **Larry Jackson**, Treasurer **Joanne Blizzard**, **Bill Blizzard**, **Frank Uhl**, **Rudy Arsaga**, **Richard Cox**, **Chauncy Blaine**, **Eileen & Pad Gardner**, **Stewart McCale** and **Gerald Williams**.

**Birthday ~ Padric Gardner.**

Winner of the 50/50 was **Rudy Arsaga**.

Next month's luncheon will be on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Black Bear Restaurant in Vacaville.

The doctor gave me three days to quit drinking. I picked July 5, August 10, & November 15.

## COLORADO

### DENVER MILE HIGHERS

Rich & Cleora Conner  
(970) 660-7040  
[richcleora@gmail.com](mailto:richcleora@gmail.com)



Chapter President **Paul Goodyear** opened the meeting, which 24 attended. Joining us for the first time was **Bill Johnson** and **Diana Molden**. We had guest from **Gary Trujillo's** ski club and **Virgil Gooselaw's** family.

The RUAEA Reunion is September 27<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Holiday Inn East in Denver. We are looking forward to hosting the Reunion and need volunteers for setup. RUAEA Board members will attend our March luncheon.

February birthday was mentioned with **Cleora Conner** on the 29<sup>th</sup> and she is 20 years old.

50/50 winners were: **Gary Trujillo**, **Rich Conner**, **Virginia Hansen**, and **Tami Thompson** (2x).

Our next meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at Ted's Place in Commerce City. Address: 5271 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Commerce City, (303) 287-7544.

## FLORIDA

### THE CITRUS GROUPEERS

#### THE VILLAGES

Julius "Joe" DiStaso  
(941) 661-2215  
[wopahofl@gmail.com](mailto:wopahofl@gmail.com)



There is no report this month from the Citrus Groupers chapter of RUAEA.

If anyone has questions or would like to join our group, please contact our president **Joe DiStaso** at [wopahofl@comcast.net](mailto:wopahofl@comcast.net).

### THE ORLANDO

#### REAL McCOYS

Elaine Tillman-Mannella  
7307 Everleigh Court  
Orlando, FL 32819  
(321) 287-4055  
[emt6250@yahoo.com](mailto:emt6250@yahoo.com)



A small crowd attended our meeting this month: **Loretta Finn**, **Linda Agnello**, **Patti Clark**, **Howard Peterson**, **Al Fields**, **Tom Cannata**, **Ed DiCicco**, **Mack Chandler** and **Angel Montalvo**.

Treasurer **Linda Agnello** reported that we sent Russell Home a donation of \$300.00 as voted on and approved. Linda also gave Pres Al the \$37.50 deposit for Cypress Grove for the April 1<sup>st</sup> (no foolin!) Picnic; always fun!

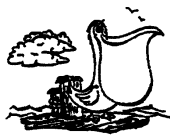
In the interest of keeping it short, I want to update everyone on our past-President, **Ernie Vosges**: Ernie has been in the hospital since December 10<sup>th</sup> and will soon be moving to a rehab center. He is doing well under the circumstances but is not able to go straight home. McCoy's members have visited him but honestly, even talking wears him out right now. Cheery cards and notes would be wonderful, says wife, Cheryl! Address: 2904 Birmingham Blvd., Orlando, FL. 32829. Cheryl will show his texts to him (407) 797-7527.

**Diane Lewis** is now living at 9682 Lake Nona Village Place, Lake Nona, FL. 32827. Got another cheery card?

Continued prayers for all in our UA Family in need of them for comfort and strength. Thanks!

### **SW PELICANS DROP-INS**

Ray Jensen  
(239) 888-2744  
[rmmjensen@msn.com](mailto:rmmjensen@msn.com)



We had a good turnout with 14 folks attending our monthly meeting, which three of the attendees were guests. Our guests were from Phoenix and the local area. The couple from PHX were originally from ORD where he was an AC mechanic at ORD.

Our next meeting is on March 7. Same venue, LYNQ Restaurant in Ft. Myers; all are welcome. If anyone needs directions, please e-mail me at the above email address.



### **TAMPA BAY CHAPTER**

Trinity, FL  
Janis Lindstrom  
587 Waterford Circle W.  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688  
(727) 934-1862  
[LindeKatz@aol.com](mailto:LindeKatz@aol.com)

Our meeting on February 3 had 6 members in attendance. We talked about all the plane accidents. We had breakfast served and a nice sociable meeting afterward.

We wished everyone in attendance a Happy Valentine's Day.

### **Calendar:**

**March 3** – IHOP, 10:30

**April 7** - IHOP, 10:30

### **TREASURE COAST**

Mary K. Wetherington  
(561) 345-6373  
[mwether700@gmail.com](mailto:mwether700@gmail.com)



There is no report this month from the Treasure Coast chapter of RUAEA.

### **IDAHO**



### **BOISE GEMS**

Shirley Dempsey  
[rickshirley.dempsey@gmail.com](mailto:rickshirley.dempsey@gmail.com)

There is no report this month from the Boise Gems chapter of RUAEA.



## ILLINOIS

### CHICAGO SKYLINERS

[www.chicagoskyliners.org](http://www.chicagoskyliners.org)

[Chicagomainliner.com](http://Chicagomainliner.com)

Jan Gawenda

(847) 917-9586

[jawenda@gmail.com](mailto:jawenda@gmail.com)



March—Here come those cute little crocuses and daffodils tip-toeing up between the tulips! Just love watching those pink, yellow, white little blossoms popping up from the frozen ground. **Yes!** Spring is right around the corner; but don't put your boots away, yet! Even the air feels differently, doesn't it? Even in the snow! This winter has not been that bad, really; cold and windy, but no 18 inches of snow. Oops, I should keep my mouth shut, it's not March yet! I think there's an El Niño in the air, or is it La Niña? Oh boy, I just read it and got confused. It all depends on the buoys measuring the temperature in the Pacific Ocean and Peru, the winds in Asia, and the fires in Australia. See? Confusing. Keep your hat and gloves handy until April.

Holidays this month are March 4, Paczki Day, the 5<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, Daylight Savings time begins, move your clocks forward, the 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day, the 20<sup>th</sup>, Spring begins, see, I told you it was around the corner! Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The sky is really busy and beautiful this month, the full moon is on the 13-15 of March. It's called the Blood Moon because it turns a reddish color as it passes through Earth's shadow. This is also known as the total lunar eclipse. This will be seen in almost all parts of the earth. Over 3 billion people will witness this. Then a partial solar eclipse will be seen two weeks later, on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This is the one that you need eye protection. Never look directly into the sun, it's very dangerous, try to get a solar filter or solar glasses. We didn't live this long to go losing our sight over that big orange circle in the sky! Be careful and warn your little grandchildren also. Both events are a good reason to have a party, too. Bring moon pies, snowballs, croissants, crescent moon cookies, Swiss cheese, shrimp, crabs, even cut your veggies and fruit in half-moons. There is even something called moon milk made with tea from India, you can add red or pink roses for the Blood Moon. Or instead of all that work, get some pink or red wine, I'll drink to that! Some of us will drink to anything! Full moon is a time to manifest your dreams and goals, too. The next eclipses will be this September. We'll remind you in August so you can get prepared. Save those glasses.

United is on the move again! They are requesting to get six more gates at O'Hare from Chicago. Last year, United operated 52% of ORD departures but only had 48% of gates. Not sure about that arithmetic, but something sounds off. Six more gates would bring our total from 88 to 94. The airline says that triggers a clause in its lease for more gate space. The extra space will allow flights to at least two new long-haul International destinations from Chicago. The gates would be reassigned from ones being used by other airlines with hub connectivity being a major factor in the decision. Hope it's close to Terminal 1, that walking any further away will kill our passengers, (and us), unless they take one of those buses or the train; that's a long walk, too. United hopes to get these gates by October 1. The Chicago Department of Aviation will assess each airline's market share at ORD, over 2024 based on departing flights. Initial determination will be made by April 1. Stay tuned for further developments.

United has also been renamed the official airline of the Turner Classic Movie Classic Film Festival. They will offer special rates to customers wanting to attend it in LAX between April 17 to May 4. Watch your NRSA flying during that time. You're welcome!

Other news is the possibility our Executive Offices moving to Denver. United has mentioned it before, but they did give a new filing with the City of Denver. They may eventually build more than 1 million square feet of office space to accommodate more than 6,000 employees on land it purchased in 2023 near the DEN airport. There are 5,000 corporate employees in Chicago. Right now, UAL'S first priority for development of the DEN land is for a new flight simulator training center. Future growth and pilot training will create demand for 60 more simulator bays than we have now.

The Northside breakfast was attended by **Jerry Tipperreiter, Ginny Vlach, Dona Nefczyk, Dave Dunham, Cesar & Elena Guerra, and Charlie Lewis.** Lots of lively conversation about our mild winter.

The Skyliner Club is still looking for a President and Vice President. This is not that hard of a job. If I could do it, anybody can. We have a great Board that will help you. Please don't make us close down. Dues are still only \$10.00 per person/per couple.

The ORDMM mechanics breakfast welcomed **Jim Vitte, Ron Geibel, Rich Protsman, Paul Skrudland, Walt Chornomaz, Frank Wenig, Jim Kraft, Harry Kargenian, Bob Palm, Bill Durr, and Bob Palm.** Guys are still talking about motors, engine changes and good guys who have gone to Mechanics Heaven. Too many gone, too early.

The IAM 1487 had 48 members at their February Brown Bag meeting. Bad weather in Chicago accounted for the low attendance; but those that trudged through the wind and ice had a great time. There were two games of Bingo, and three raffles. Winning money is always a happy day. Even Georgie, the son of **Dave Roderick** and **Rick Kulovits** made it in, although I've never seen him walking on all fours in two years. He's a cutie and we're always happy to see him in attendance. Next month's meeting, on March 6, will be a Chinese Lunch. You must contact Dave before February 20 if you plan on attending. The cost is \$5.00 to offset the cost. Memberships are still accepted with a \$5.00 late fee. New members are always welcomed.

The RUPA meeting in January had 56 members at the Golf Club of Illinois. Their speaker was Captain **Greg Hammes**, who gave a five star program on his days with SFO Engineering. He spoke of a 747 engine-out ferry from Pago Pago to Honolulu, how the company orders new aircraft from the manufacturer, and the then-new Shuttle paint job. He also ferried the 747 on flight 811 in the 80's, from SFO to HNL, after the structural damage was repaired. That was a terrible accident; some people were pulled out of the plane after the cargo door opened in flight. The next lunch will be Tuesday, March 11, at Nick's Pizza in Crystal Lake. The speaker will be the ORD Chief Pilot, **Jim Bono**, who will do a Power Point program about the ORD expansion program and company plans, which includes staffing and hiring. Yeay! See, I told you we were expanding! Sounds interesting.

Our fellow workers that flew West last month include: **Jim Conner, Rich Bundy and Michael De Brock**, from ORD Ramp, **Kathy Mayerhofer, Eduardo Rodriguez Pagan**, ORD Customer Service, **George Prince**, Manager ORDHK Kitchen and other departments, **Dennis Miazga**, ORD Freight supervisor, **Gene Vegeais**, ORDMM Aircraft Maintenance, **Barb Cohen**, SEA/ATLRR, **Bill Kenney**, IT/ISD manager in EXO/OPC.

Also gone from our world, singers, Sam Moore (Soul Man), Wayne Osmond (Osmond Brothers), Marianne Faithful (As Tears Go By), actors, Leslie Charleston (General Hospital), Joan Plowright (The Entertainer and Equus), Robert Machray (Cheers), Tony Roberts (Annie Hall), director David Lynch, (Blue Velvet), Sports, Bob Uecher (Brewers player and broadcaster), Don Secrist (White Sox), Olympics skater, Dick Button, Virginia Halas McCaskey, 102, the beloved owner of the Bears; she hated losing, but supported her team 100% every day. Also, the 67 people and families in the crash at the DCA Reagan Airport, the six people in the Medivac crash in Philadelphia, and 29 people killed and the thousands affected from the disastrous California fires. The devastation from all has been beyond heartbreaking.

Being retired airline employees, our hearts are in the industry, always, any airline. We're forever tied to it, in mind and spirit, we live and breathe airplanes and all airlines. What happened the last few weeks to American, the Blackhawk helicopter, with 67 people killed, then two days later, a Medvac jet falling to the ground after take off in Philadelphia with six dead. A week later, American plane hit our tug on the taxiway at ORD, causing the tug vehicle to flip over, pinning the United Ramp driver underneath. He has been stabilized and is OK. In Seattle, a Japan Airliner clipped the tail of a Delta plane, no injuries reported. Days before the Washington tragedy, our flight coming out of Lagos, fell a couple of hundred feet unexpectedly, hurting 38 passengers and crew. They returned to the airport and were hospitalized. All of these incidents are so sad, especially the fatal crashes. We all are affected because it's our industry, our love. Hearing about these events leave us speechless, beyond words. Thousands of flights take off and land every day, nothing happens and nobody is hurt. It's safer than

driving a car. But when there's one crash, then another, it seems every mishap, crashes to tails colliding, everything, is reported. So many people affected, their families, friends, the industry, it's just so overwhelming. I'm praying for everyone and thanking all of those first responders for doing their jobs and the recoveries. It can't be easy.

#### Calendar:

Northside Breakfast - Rose Garden Restaurant, 9:00AM, 800 E. Higgins Rd., corner of Higgins and Scott St., Elk Grove, (**March 13**), second Thursday of the month.

IAM 1487 Lunch - 1487 Lodge, 11:00 A.M., 50 W Oakton St, Des Plaines (**March 6**) First Thursday.

ORDMM Breakfast - Maxfield's, 9:00AM, Plum Grove & Schaumburg Rds. (**March 20**). Third Thursday.

RUPA Lunch – Nick's Pizza, 11:00 AM, 856 Pyott Rd., Crystal Lake (**March 11**).

### INDIANA



#### INDY RACERS

Indianapolis, IN

Frank N. Ingegno

(317) 428-7741

[figenius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figenius@sbcglobal.net)

Unfortunately, our January chapter meeting was canceled due to a winter storm. Unsafe walking and driving conditions prompted the cancellation. Weather permitting; we will have our February meeting as scheduled on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The RUAEA Indy Racers chapter is always open for new participants/members. Any United/CO retirees living in the Indianapolis area are welcome to join. Come check us out at one of our monthly meetings. We always enjoy meeting new United friends. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon. Location of our meeting is Emmy's Pancake House and Grill, 7508 Beechwood Center Road, Avon, IN 46123, (317) 272-7200.

Our future meetings schedule:

- **March 11** at Emmy's
- **April 8** at Emmy's
- **May 13** at Emmy's

For more information, please contact **Frank Ingegno**, (317) 428-7741, [figenius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:figenius@sbcglobal.net).

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### NOR'EASTERS

New England

Dick Vee Vecchione

107 Bunker Hill Road

Auburn, NH 03032-3521

(603) 264-3430

[NH4Vee@aol.com](mailto:NH4Vee@aol.com)



Well, it looks like Mother Nature is finally getting even with New Englanders for the mild winter that we've had until 2025. It seems like we are now getting snow every four or five days, 3 to 6 inches at a time. However, I would rather deal with snow and cold than the nasty weather the rest of the country has been having!

I have been talking with fellow Nor'Easters about finally having a luncheon meeting, which we have not done for over a year. I have contacted **Mercedes Hersom**, **Louise Shackley**, **Ron Heisler**, and **Moose Humbly**, with many more to go.

It looks like everyone is interested and in favor of a luncheon meeting. We are planning on March or April at the earliest, hoping that the weather will be more cooperative. Until then, stay healthy and think happy thoughts!

## MICHIGAN



### GREAT LAKES ESCAPEES

Detroit, MI  
Gwen Dyc-Schwendenmann  
(248) 667-9258  
[bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigwheel1981@sbcglobal.net)

The Detroit Tigers have lost a great fan; **Ruth Short** passed away on January 30, 2025. She worked for United for 30 years and retired from the Red Carpet Room at Detroit Metro. Ruth was always friendly, always smiling; she was a great ambassador for United. Please remember her and all our United friends in your prayers.

Thought for the month: *“When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile.”*

## NEBRASKA



### OMAHA GOLDENEARS

Jan Cornish  
4602 N. 134<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Omaha, NE 68164  
(402) 619-9927  
[kcornish6031@msn.com](mailto:kcornish6031@msn.com)

There is no report this month from the Omaha Golden Ears chapter of RUAEA.

## NEVADA

### LAS VEGAS SILVER LINERS

Arlene McCroy  
[apolloguy@aol.com](mailto:apolloguy@aol.com)



There is no report this month from the Las Vegas Silver Liners chapter of RUAEA.

The Silverliners extend an invitation to all Nevada UA/CO retirees to join us. For more information, please contact either **Arlene McCroy**, [apolloguys@aol.com](mailto:apolloguys@aol.com) or **Mary Chandler**, [honolulumary06@yahoo.com](mailto:honolulumary06@yahoo.com).



### RENO SIERRA ROUNDUP

Pat Zoboli  
5860 Lone Horse Drive  
Reno, NV 89502  
(775) 856-2044  
[zobolilady@aol.com](mailto:zobolilady@aol.com)

There were 13 members at our January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at The Black Bear Diner, including guest **Marti Dean**, a friend of **Kathy Robinson**.

Looking ahead, the October meeting has been rescheduled from Monday to Tuesday. As Kathy, the Black Bear Manager, pointed out, Monday is a day off for most because of Columbus – or Indigenous Peoples – Day and they get really busy. We are happy to accommodate that request. We will also continue with our September outing to Murrieta's Mexican Restaurant. Our December Christmas Luncheon will be scheduled for the first Monday of the week on December 1. Cards with the yearly schedule were presented to everyone at the meeting.

Kathy updated the Treasury news. She collected money for our 2025 dues. The cost remains the same at \$5/person or \$10/couple.

John pointed out that many countries in Europe now require travel visas from Americans. The January issue of the (Reno) Senior Spectrum magazine lists the countries and requirements.

The January birthdays are **Mary Withers, Duncan Scaife, Kathy Robinson** and guest **Marti Dean**. The 50/50 was won by **Dottie Robbins**.

## NEW JERSEY

### THE GARDEN STATERS

Newark, New Jersey  
Marty Etler  
Brandywine Room 115  
814 Wyckoff Ave., Mahwah, NJ 07430  
(551) 795-7266  
[MartyEtler@outlook.com](mailto:MartyEtler@outlook.com)



Some time ago, I was stationed near the large city of Manchester in England. While exploring the city, I came across a place called Lincoln Square, and on it, there were written letters from Manchester to President Lincoln and Lincoln's answered letter. To me, this is a masterpiece in written history. I thought you might like this:

#### **Abraham Lincoln's letter to the city of Manchester, England (January 19, 1863)**

*I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the address and resolutions which you sent me on the eve of the new year. When I came on March 4, 1861 from a free and constitutional election to preside over the government of the United States, the country was found at the verge of a Civil War. Whatever might have been the whomsoever the fault, one duty, paramount above all others was before me, mainly to maintain and preserve the Constitution and integrity of the federal government. A conscientious purpose to perform this duty was the key to all of my administration, which has been now in here after be pursued. Under our frame of government and my official oath, I could not depart from this purpose. It is not always in the power of governments to enlarge or restrict the moral results which follow the policies that they may find it necessary for the public safety from time to time to adopt.*

*I have understood well that the duty of self-preservation rests solely with the people, but I have at the same time been aware that favor or disfavor of foreign interest which might have a material influence in enlarging or prolonging the struggle with which this country is now engaged. A fair examination of history served to a belief that the past actions and influences of the United States were generally as having been beneficial toward mankind. I have, therefore, reckoned the forbearance of nations. Circumstances to some of which you kindly allude I especially come to expect, that if justice in good faith shall be practiced by the United States, they would encounter no hostile influence on the part of Great Britain. A pleasant duty to acknowledge the demonstration you have given of your spirit of amity and peace toward this country, may prevail in the councils of those who are respected and esteemed in your own country, only more so than a kindred nation which has its home on this side of the Atlantic.*

*I know and deeply deplore the sufferings which the working men of Manchester and all of Europe, a call to endure in this crisis. It has been often and studiously represented that the attempt to overthrow this government, which was built on the foundation of human rights, and to substitute it for one, which should rest exclusively on the basis of human slavery, was not likely to obtain the favor of Europe or of Great Britain. Through the action of our disloyal citizens, the working men of Europe and of Great Britain have been subjected to severe trials for the purpose of forcing their sanction to the United States. Under the circumstances, I cannot but regard your decisive utterances upon the question as an instance of sublime Christian heroism which has not been surpassed in any age or in any country, and is indeed an energetic and re-inspiring assurance that the inherent power of truth and of the ultimate universal triumph of justice, humanity and freedom. I don't doubt that these sentiments you have expressed will be sustained by your great nation. On the other hand I have no hesitation in assuring you that they will excite admiration, esteem and the most reciprocal feelings of friendship among the American people that this interchange of sentiment, therefore as an augury of whatever else may happen and whatever misfortune may befall your country or my own, the peace and friendship that now exist between the two nations will be as it shall be my desire to make them perpetual.*



## NEW YORK

### BUFFALO CHIPS

Jerry Stevens  
130 Countryside Lane  
Williamsville, NY 14221-1308  
(716) 418-6887  
[jerstel30@msn.com](mailto:jerstel30@msn.com)



**BUFFALO CHIPS**

There is no report this month from the Buffalo Chips chapter of RUAEA.

Any one visiting or planning a visit to Buffalo/Niagara Falls can contact me for information on our lunch meetings. We meet four times a year, usually the first week of March, June, September and December.



NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA

### NEW YORK METROS

Donna Feingold  
(516) 679-9152  
[djf509@aol.com](mailto:djf509@aol.com)

We gathered once again on February 5 at The Davenport Press. After the Pledge of Allegiance, **Ed Pozzi** gave us sad news that **Mike Schroeder** passed away. Condolence to his family and friends; he will be missed.

**Gerry & Dominick Rizzo** and **Clair & Arthur Wilsdorf** are celebrating their anniversaries this month.

Happy Birthday to **Kenneth Kleinhaut**, **Evelyn Schroeder**, **Helena Darmstadt**, **Vicki Petrick**, **RoseAnn Vascellaro**, and **Ronald Feingold**.

50/50 winners were **Nick Manfredo**, **Suzanne Lagasi**, and **Bobbie Lee**. Winner of the restaurant gift certificate was **Bobbie Lee**.

### Calendar:

**March 5** – Meeting.

## OHIO

### OHIO BUCKEYES

Cleveland, OH  
Susan Broderick  
President  
[broderickual62@aol.com](mailto:broderickual62@aol.com)



We will not meet again until March 5, 2025; we are taking January and February off and based on the weather, it was a good choice.

Our next meeting will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Sully's Irish Pub at 117 W. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio; starting the St. Patrick's Day month in a good way. We will meet at 11:30AM with lunch at 12:30PM. 50/50 tickets will be available.

Please note that we normally meet on the first Wednesday of the month but in March, that date is Ash Wednesday so we moved our meeting to the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## OREGON

### OREGON DEW-ER'S

Portland  
Terry Hotchkin  
(360) 907-3868  
[tthotchkin@gmail.com](mailto:tthotchkin@gmail.com)



We had another great turnout for our luncheon in January. **Bob Pfeifer** won the free lunch for the men's birthday drawing. There were no women in attendance celebrating birthdays in January. **Bruce & Carol DeFord** celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January and **Paul Russell** won the door prize free lunch. **Chrys Korbe** won the door prize but turned around and donated it back to the chapter. Thank you Chrys!

And now for a little humor, with some philosophy thrown in occasionally, to make your day pass with a little more fun! But first a winter tip to pass along:

- ☺ Having plans sounds like a good idea ... until you have to put clothes on and leave the house.
- ☺ Per my nutritionist's instructions, I have been eating a lot of nuts. But recently I learned that "you are what you eat" and realized I really was nuts!
- ☺ My ancestors navigated the ocean using the moon and stars and I'm over here missing exits with a GPS.
- ☺ I hate people who go to sleep as soon as they close their eyes. It takes me 4 hours, 7 pillow flips, 11 positions, 2 trips to the bathroom and a partridge in a pear tree.
- ☺ If a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a mild dud or an udder failure?
- ☺ The new diet trend is to wear winter mittens to make it harder to eat. It's called "inter-mitten-fasting". You're welcome.
- ☺ My mom used to say, "If you didn't hear it with you own ears or see it with your own eyes, don't invent it with your small mind or share it with your big mouth". Still good advice today.
- ☺ I can't believe that I forgot to go to the gym again today. That's five years in a row now.
- ☺ "I can't wait until I'm all grown up", is probably the dumbest thing I think I've ever said.
- ☺ Never make snow angels in a dog park!
- ☺ Cleaning is just putting stuff in less obvious places and then wondering where you put them.
- ☺ Some people should carry a plant around to replace the oxygen they waste.
- ☺ At my age, a trail of clothes leading to the bedroom means I dropped them on the way from the dryer.
- ☺ Old age used to be all in my head, now it's in my joints too.
- ☺ I'm on a Tequila diet. So far I've lost 2 days.
- ☺ I'm so jealous of people who know how to shut up. I shut up and subtitles come out my face!
- ☺ Back in my day there was so much toilet paper and eggs that we would throw them at the houses of our enemies.
- ☺ By replacing your morning coffee with green tea, you can lose up to 89% of what little joy you still have left in your life.
- ☺ "It takes two years to learn to speak, and sixty to learn to keep quiet" ~ Ernest Hemingway
- ☺ Nothing refreshes my memory of what I need at the grocery store like coming home from the grocery store.
- ☺ What's the best part of aging? Realizing that pajamas are perfectly acceptable at 4PM.
- ☺ Why does a milking stool only have 3 legs? Because the cow has the udder (groan!)
- ☺ I'll be inside with my wine until April!
- ☺ I'm proud to announce that I have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> item on my bucket list. I have the bucket!
- ☺ Amazonas: When you forget what you ordered.
- ☺ All of us older folks know all about living on the edge. We used to answer the phone without knowing who it was!
- ☺ Those extra holiday pounds come in handy when you are sliding down the driveway on you butt.
- ☺ When you can't think of a word say, "I forget the English word for it." That way people will think you are bilingual instead of getting old.
- ☺ There are two levels of clean in my house. 1) Not clean. 2) It's better than it was.
- ☺ I love bacon because you can wrap it around everything. It's basically the duct tape of food!
- ☺ For my age, I have a lot going for me. My eyes are going, my knees are going, and my back is going ...
- ☺ Instead of water, I put Redbull in the back of my coffee maker this morning. I was halfway to work before I realized that I forgot my car.
- ☺ I could definitely go for a couple mosquito bites and a sunburn right about now.
- ☺ You don't have to be crazy to be my friend. I'll train you!
- ☺ Before the crowbar was invented, crows had to drink at home.
- ☺ What do you get when you run into a duck and a cow? Milk and quackers of course!
- ☺ The secret to surviving the cold is to put on enough layers you can't fit through the door to go outside. Problem solved.
- ☺ Noses are red, fingers are blue; I'm sick and tired of winter, how about you?
- ☺ Don't worry about not having a Valentine on Valentine's day. You probably didn't have a groundhog

on Groundhog's day either.  
Until next month!

Calendar:

Meetings at Colwood Golf Center Grill – Social Hour 11:00AM, Lunch served at noon

**March 13**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**THE INDEPENDENTS**

Gail Bradley  
225 Elm Avenue.  
Media, PA 19063-5740.  
(610) 358-3498  
[gailpbrad@icloud.com](mailto:gailpbrad@icloud.com)



Hi again from Philly:

A lot has been going on since last month. Our prayers and thoughts are going out to all the Californians with all the fires that are causing heartaches to so many.

Now we're praying for all the people that were killed in plane crashes in Washington DC, and Philadelphia. This is all so sad. We are so lucky in many ways.

It's nice to continue to keep in touch with so many friends of UAL.

I'll close for now. Stay safe and we will see you again next month.

**PITTSBURGH**  
**PIT-STOPPERS**

Bill Chicots  
2419 Rochester Road  
Sewickley, PA. 15143  
(412) 352-7375  
[firechief158@gmail.com](mailto:firechief158@gmail.com)



Winter has finally hit the burgh, at one time we had 11 straight days of snow followed by three days of sub-zero temperatures, Punxsutawney Phil just told us six more weeks of winter, but we did hit 60 degrees the other day, now freezing rain and snow forecast!

**Mary Jane Stewart** reported **Dale Bates** who started with Capital at the airport in 1958 has passed away; he also worked in reservations in PIT, CLE and DEN.

*January Birthdays ~ Betty Musko, Steve Moliterno and Betty Tinney.*

*February Birthday ~ Bob Frye.*

**UTAH**

**SALT LAKE RETIREES**

Rich Papworth  
[pappys72@hotmail.com](mailto:pappys72@hotmail.com)



There is no report this month from the Salt Lake Retirees chapter of RUAEA.

## WASHINGTON

### EMERALD CITY SLICKERS

Seattle, WA  
Ken Storey  
(206) 244-9026



31 members RSVP'ed to our Christmas luncheon on December 11 but only 24 showed up. We had a wonderful time; the food was delicious. The Chapter paid for the luncheon even though we have not collected dues for 5 years.

We are in the process of planning a Summer get-together. We will keep the members informed when more information is available.

As for myself, after paying premium for health insurance all these years and never used it; now that I turned 90, all the doctors I know are either retired, moved or flew West.

Our Mechanic meeting on January 9 was attended by 9 members and 4 spouses. Have a great 2025!

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### THE DULLES LOUNGERS

Washington, D.C.  
Mari McColl  
Past President  
[marimccoll@aol.com](mailto:marimccoll@aol.com)



Like all of you, we were shocked and saddened by the tragic incident which took place above our beloved Potomac River January 29<sup>th</sup>. With so many of our members having worked at National Airport, it hit us especially hard. We hold the victims and their families, many of whom are our neighbors, close in our hearts and minds.

Unfortunately, due to snow, the Dulles Loungers' January meeting was canceled. Except for July and August, we meet monthly in Manassas in Prince William County, Virginia. To be consistent and avoid any confusion, our "snow day" policy mirrors that of the county's schools. On January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the DC Metro area experienced its largest single snow event in three years, with up to 11 inches falling in some areas. Happily, the kids, both big and little, made the best of this somewhat rare opportunity to break out their sleds and throw some snowballs!

If you are in the DC area on the second Wednesday of the month, please come join us at the Golden Corral in Manassas at 11:30am. We welcome all UA family and friends.

## NATIONAL

### CLIPPED WINGS®

Kathleen A. Freeman  
Clipped Wings  
National Vice President  
EWRSW - Active  
[cwkfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:cwkfreeman@gmail.com)  
<https://unitedclippedwingsinc.org>  
(732) 300-7638



A Heartfelt Call to Action: Supporting Our United Family in Times of Need: Dear Fellow Retirees and Active United Employees,

As we begin 2025, our hearts are heavy with the recent tragedies that have struck our United family. The devastating Los Angeles fires, the heartbreaking DCA plane crash, and the emergency involving a Jet Rescue Air Ambulance in Philadelphia have all brought sorrow and loss. In these difficult times, it's more important than ever to come together and support one another.

Many of us have experienced the close bonds and camaraderie that come with being part of the United

Airlines family. We know that when one of us is hurting, we all feel it. That's why I want to share a simple yet powerful way we can make a difference: The United Airlines Deed Program.

What is the Deed Program? Deed is an online platform that makes it easy to donate to charities, including the United Airlines Employee Relief Fund. It allows you to set up recurring payroll deductions (if you're still working) or make one-time donations via credit or debit card. It also connects you with volunteering and fundraising opportunities in your community.

Importantly, all United Airlines employees and retirees have Deed profiles, whether you're based domestically or internationally. This means we all have access to this valuable resource.

How Can You Help? Contributing through Deed is simple. You can access it in two ways:

❖ Through Flying Together: Go to FlyingTogether >Employee Services >Get Involved >Deed.

❖ Direct Link: Visit <https://rest.joindeed.org/auth/saml/united>

Once there, you can choose to donate to the United Airlines Employee Relief Fund, which provides critical assistance to our colleagues and their families during times of hardship.

Even a small contribution can make a significant impact when combined with the generosity of others. Together, we can provide a lifeline of support to those in our United family who need it most.

Let's Show Our United Spirit ~ As retirees, we understand the value of community and the importance of giving back. Let's rally together and show our United spirit by supporting our colleagues during these challenging times. Through the Deed program, we can extend a helping hand and offer a beacon of hope to those who are facing unimaginable difficulties.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity. Together, we can make a difference.

Regards to All and Stay Safe,

Check us out: Facebook: [Clipped Wings® Chat Corner](#). [www.unitedclippedwingsinc.org](http://www.unitedclippedwingsinc.org). Instagram: [clippedwingsual](#).

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined RUAEA during the month of **January 2025**:

Madonna Adelson, Beverly Hills, CA  
Laurie Crocker, Centennial, CO  
Tim Hervey, Punt Gords, FL  
Gary Matthews, Neptune, NJ  
Rick Melahn, Okemos, MI  
Thomas Obluda, Arvada, CO  
Ernest Obregon, Oakley, CA  
Harry Pierson, Hermitage, PA  
Todd Vanderwerken, Lyons, CO

## CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciated monetary contributions from the following members during the month of **January 2025**:

Ruven Alvarez, Bruce A. Aten, Gary W. Bartlett, Betty S. Bryant, Cathryn I. Catelain, Donald E. Clark, William Courtney, Stephen R. Davis, Gabrielle I. Dentraygues, Stephanie Eustaquio, Dewitt T. Ferrell, Matthew Gauss, Travis E. Glass, Flora B. Grimmering, William D. Hamilton, Charlene Hardee, G. Joseph Heinen, Barrie Hooley, Darlene Ikeya, Harlen J. Jesser, Jean M. Kerman, Mimi C. Lee, Charles Lewis, John M. Lyon, Judith Macklin, Rick Melahn, Alan Morishita, Jerry W. Munger, Marjorie M. Nelson, Harry Pierson, Ronald E. Pryer, Edward J. Reap, Patricia J. Schultz, Janet Soderstrom, Wing Soohoo, Ginger Spate, Ernest A. Stuke, Patricia Watson, Gary H. Wendland, Maurice Wilson, and Larry R. Zerwas.



# OBITUARIES

**Obit Notice Policy:** *Death notices sent to the Denver Office for publication in the Newsletter Obituary Column will be accepted only from a family member or personal representative in writing. The notice sent concerning the deceased must include:*

- 1) Deceased's First and Last Name & Date of Death
- 2) File Number (if the deceased was an employee)
- 3) Last Station worked
- 4) Surviving Spouse or Next of Kin (if applicable)
- 5) Address
- 6)

In addition, contact information must be included for one sending the information. If the obituary is received hand written and it is not legible, it will not be published until a clear and readable document is received in the Denver Office. The information may be sent by email (preferred) at [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net), or US Mail. Sorry, the information will not be accepted over the phone.

***Please note that the above policy only applies to death notices submitted to be published in this section of the RUAEA Newsletter.***

Retiree - **Toovey, Randy**, on 2/2/2025, DENMM, husband of Cindie Toovey, 4201 W. Wagontrail Dr., Littleton, CO 80123.

Retiree - **Allen, Larry**, on 1/24/25, DENMM, husband of Madeline Allen, father of Mike Allen (recently retired) DENMM, 1942 Lakewood Dr., Loveland, CO 80538.



## **Melanie Founé Hoeffner**

Sunrise: August 19, 1940 – Sunset: December 22, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of **Melanie Founé Hoeffner**, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, on December 22, 2024. Melanie is survived by her two loving daughters, Heather Braglia and Noelle Hoeffner, and her five grandchildren, Isabella Braglia, Nia Bridgeman, Serena Braglia, Leo Bridgeman, and Raphael Braglia.

A long-time resident of Hoffman Estates, Melanie raised her daughters while working at United Airlines (she was in rates and reservations at Touhy and Wolf). She was deeply committed to her faith and served with dedication at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington for many years.

Melanie will be remembered for her kindness, her joyful spirit, and her great sense of humor. She touched the lives of all who knew her with her warmth and generosity. She will be forever cherished and missed by her family and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

We love you, Mom. You will always be in our hearts!

## Letters & Notes



We appreciate your letters & notes. Please keep them coming. Send them to:  
**RUAEA, 7401 MLK Blvd., Denver, CO 80207**  
-or- [johnqchu@hotmail.com](mailto:johnqchu@hotmail.com).

### **WE HAVE RECEIVED GREETINGS & THANKS FOR THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

Barbara Anable, Gary Bartlett, Gerda L. Biglin, Margaret Buske, Carol Cersosimo, Phyllis M. Easley, Marilyn Evans, Clevan A. Gibson, Margarete Keil, Les Kero, Mimi C. Lee, John M. Lyon, Marjorie M. Nelson, Patricia Schultz, and Margaret S. Schmitt.

### **WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM:**

*(Although we welcome the statements expressed in the many letters submitted, the comments & opinions expressed are not necessarily the convictions of the organization.)*

#### **Leonard Blodgett, 765 Florence Ave., Astoria, OR 97103-5832**

Thanks for the label reminder, I'm happy to send my dues for the RUAEA Newsletter. Jerri and I read the General News and most of the Local News articles plus the Letters and Contact Columns. Many thanks.

On 5/13/84, my 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with United Airlines; I opted for the men's Bulova Accutron Quartz Medallion Dial Watch, plus I paid \$35 extra for the watch strap medallion with my engraved name. The medallion strap has held up well, my commemorative watch has failed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time (first in 7/8/2010 and 3/18/13), they weren't a battery issue.

I promised my treasured watch to a grandson. My request is if a male retiree or spouse has a United Airlines man's commemorative watch that they are not too attached to, and still run and they are willing to part with at a reasonable cost, I'd be forever grateful.

After 9/11/2001, I elected to retire after 42 plus years seniority and so far, 23 years in retirement. I still volunteer as a motorman on the Astoria River Front Trolley.

I truly loved working for UAL, so if you are interested about the watch, please contact me.

P.S. "Hi" to my Union brothers **Scotty Thomas** and **Ken Storey**; I miss **Ken Thiede** (RIP).

#### **Darlene Ikeya, 925 Carson Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086**

Enclosed is a check for my annual dues and donation to the Newsletter fund. I appreciate the time and energy that goes into compiling all the information and reports from all the chapters across the country.

Each month, I skim the paper looking for familiar names and sometimes, even faces! Then, I go back and read the happenings and interesting articles included in the issue. Thanks to all those who work to get the news out each month and also, to those who contribute those interesting stories.

**Charles L. Lewis, 801 E. Thomas St., Arlington Heights, IL 60004-4923, clewis1929@gmail.com**

The RUAEA Newsletter arrived last week and I noticed that my dues are up for renewal. So, I thought, I'd better get busy and write out a check before my membership gets dumped.

I started to recall how much fantastic times I had when I was an active member. My wife and I had so much fun at the various annual conventions, regardless of where they were held.

I joined shortly after I retired from United, which was June 30, 1992. So, I've been retired for 32 years; 1 year less than the years I worked at UAL – all at one location, EXO. I started out as an accountant, but wound up spending most of my years as a programmer/designer and analyst for Unimatic.

Using my accounting background, I was RUAEA's Treasurer for 4 years from 2002-2006. I have a very nice Certificate of Appreciation from **Martin Lade**, RUAEA's President at the time, and also by **Mort Wax**, RUAEA's Vice President.

Then I was treasurer for our convention here in the Chicagoland area and also for the convention in Washington, D.C.

And afterward, Mort and I audited the books of a few conventions, once they were over. But those were the days when I was "young" and active. But not anymore; last November, I hit 95, but I still go to a gym 3 mornings a week as often as possible.

But I don't fly anymore; last time I was in an airplane for any length of time was when my wife and I, along with 2 other couples, flew from ORD to Budapest, via FRA, to go on a Danube River Cruise. That was a disaster, as our UA flight was over 2 hours late in departing; so we missed our connection in Frankfurt and our luggage got lost. Some of us got it back; my wife's is still "lost".

So here's a check for the annual dues plus some postage donation.

*Notes*

**Janet Soderstrom**

I worked for United from 1968-1984, first in DTWRR and then in SFORR. When I started in 1968, reservations were booked by reducing seat inventory, and handwritten on reservation cards. It was a **big deal** when we went to a nationwide computer system that stored passenger names, itineraries, ticketing info, and special service requests such as wheelchairs. After I left, personal computers, email and the internet changed our lives forever. Now, my old job as a "Res Agent" is practically obsolete and most of the Res offices have closed.

I am the correspondent for the East Bay Diablos RUAEA chapter in CA. I have reconnected with several people I used to work with, and have also made many new dear friends. We meet all twelve months of the year.

**Rick Melahn**

I want to reconnect with other UAL retirees. Thanks.

**Patricia J. Snyder**

I miss hearing about my former company and hearing about the old days. I retired from SFOSW in 2000. I am now 78.

**James A. Kinzler**

I am having a terrible year. My wife Connie passed away on March 5, 2024. I am still trying to get through life without my partner of 60 years. United was my job for 42 years, and RUAEA keeps me up to date on what is going on with United.

**Madonna Adelson**

I was a flight attendant for United Airlines from 1960-2000.

**Penny Mabe**

I am planning a trip to Zimbabwe in 3 weeks! First time to Africa, doing a volunteer project through IVQH. I'm enjoying retirement.

**John Hamre**

I am trying to obtain a Retiree Badge.

**Raul Murillo, Jr.**

I'm looking for flight and reservation info for retirees? I retired in 2020, and have not yet listed or traveled under retired status? I tried to log on to "Employee Res" and got blocked out. Thank You and God Bless.

**Burt Zastera**

July 2025 marked my 5 year Retirement Anniversary with United, it has been the fastest 5 years of my life.

**Stephen R. Davis**

It's hard to believe that it's been 22 years since I set the parking brake in HNL on my retirement flight. What a great career I had at good old United Airlines. I started on 12/12/1966 as a Ramp Rat in FWA and then to ORD as a Friendship Service Director/ISS then a Crew Desk Supervisor. From there to DENTK as an Emergency Procedure Instructor, B737 Technical writer, FOI and then finally a new hire flight officer in 1988. I retired as a Captain on the B767-300 on 03/01/2003. I could not have planned nor imagined this career. I had the privilege of working and flying with some great men and women at UAL. I sure miss the "Good Old Days".

**DON'T MISS IMPORTANT PHONE  
NUMBERS ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

# The Contact Column



## **United Airlines Benefits Center (Central Time)**

1-800-651-1007 (M-F 7AM - 7PM).

<https://flyingtogether.ual.com>

For Traditional Medical, HMO or Insurance questions;  
report death of retiree or spouse; change of address & other  
forms.

## **United Employee Service Center**

1-877-825-3729

1-847-825-3729 - International Use

## **United Pass Line (1-866-359-3727)**

For flight information and to list or change listing

Password for Pass Line –your birthday, mmddyy

\$25 fee to create new booking

## **Employee Travel Center**

- ▲ Visit Flying Together for travel policies at  
<https://ft.ual.com/travel/passriderslandingpage/retiree>
- ▲ Submit questions using Help Hub at  
<https://helphub.ual.com>
- ▲ Search “Employee Travel Inquiry”
- ▲ Chat with a team member using a virtual chat assistant  
from any Travel page on Flying Together

## **United Airlines Technical Service Desk**

**1-800-255-5801**

For Flying Together password assistance

*\*Do not use for pass travel questions\**

## **Insurance Questions-see number on back of your insurance card**

## **PBGC - for all retiree pension questions**

1-800-400-7242, <http://www.pbgc.gov>

## **Social Security Administration**

1-800-772-1213, <http://www.ssa.gov>

## **Alliant Credit Union**

(800) 328-1935 or (773) 462-2000 (24-hours, 7-days-a-week except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day)

<http://www.alliantcreditunion.org>

Malcolm Horn, CFP®, Financial Consultant

Alliant Retirement & Investment Services

(O) (773) 462-3669; (C) (720) 249-8050

(F) (773) 462-3669, [mhorn@alliantcreditunion.com](mailto:mhorn@alliantcreditunion.com)

## **Medicare Hotline** 1-800-633-4227

## **CVS/Caremark (Pharmacy)**

1-844-635-3401

## **VSP Vision Care (Pacific Time)** 1-800-877-7195

(M-F 6AM-8PM, Sat 7AM-8PM, Sun 7AM-7PM)



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**INCLUDE FILE NUMBER IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE**

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Email: [ruaea@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ruaea@qwestoffice.net)

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United Airlines  
Historical Foundation

"Preserving the Past,  
Inspiring the Future"

## Denver Stapleton Airport Transformation

Because Denver Mayor Benjamin Stapleton had been a member of the KKK in the 1930's, the Stapleton area was renamed "Central Park" in 2020 following a vote by the local community. The new name draws inspiration from its namesake; which is the 80 acre flagship park named "Central Park" within the neighborhood.

This is now a thriving area with the largest residential neighborhood within the city of Denver. It is home to many parks and open spaces, a haven for dogs and outdoor enthusiasts. It also features many shops and restaurants and is close to many Denver Area Attractions.

However, the Stapleton Airport Tower remains as FlyteCo Brewing featuring a brewery, bar, restaurant, and entertainment venue. Visitors can take a Tour to the Top of the Tower for a 360-degree view of Denver and the Front Range.



If you are interested in donating United or Continental memorabilia for the Historical Exhibit in rooms A102-A104 at the Training Center, please submit to **Judy Schweppe**, UAHF Secretary at 7401 E. Martin Luther King Blvd., Denver, CO 80207. Aviation Scholarship Donations can be made directly to S.I.U: Southern Illinois University Foundation – Colyer Hall – Mail Code 6805 – 1235 Douglas Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901.■