

PCN Services – High Life *Newsletter, News, Events, Deaths, Illness Notices* and *PCN Calendar*. *Note: Notices from major sections are distributed by separate email address to allow our subscribers the ability to customize and block notices not desired.*

Large Web Community for World's Largest Airline

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

# High Life

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

Dear PCN,

Group Section.....

Mark's Remarks:

This issue is being finished and sent from across the pond. We are in Austria for a short time. Barb and I are doing a little traveling and work abroad. We will be serving the mission at [Haus Edelweiss](#) (near Vienna) for two weeks until July 9<sup>th</sup>. Because of that, some features at the PCN will be slightly delayed.....like signups or some notices. I will attempt to keep up with it but can't be sure I will have the good internet connections needed. Thanks for your understanding and look forward to a trip summary in July.

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I sense that summer is here and emailing is down or maybe you are taking it easy on me since I am away from home. Whatever the reason, there is less to share in this issue and actually am thankful since I have less time to put it together anyway. If it is intentional, thanks.

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I hope to share a summary report about our involvement with the Haus Edelweiss after we return. In the middle of our two week detail it has been in a word.....incredible! I have never been so culturally exposed and in such close proximity to different nationals. These students from poorer Eastern European block countries, have a deep and driven motivation to serve the Christian cause and it is simply a wonder to behold. This time here has changed Barb and I and all for the better. More to share after our return and a gathering of our thoughts.

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***I hope you have a fabulous American Fourth of July!***

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**Retraction section:**

While the Cosby forward that I published was an interesting platform to grin about, apparently it cannot be attached to Bill and has been floating around the internet for a while. Yes, I didn't check it out first. I would ask you for help. If you forward something to the PCN maybe the forwarder can help me and the PCN out and check it out first. To be honest I am currently in Austria and have barely enough time to stay up with the PCN to be able to get a HL out at all let alone verify. In addition I get so many things sent to me that the verification process would make me an old man before my time. Group membership, group responsibility.

Here is a the info on the on the inaccurate forward:

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/soapbox/platform.asp>

Thanks to a number of you guys for the corrections and keeping us straight.

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***Help me improve the toolbar --- suggest widely used links to add.***

*Now over 250 users for the Free and useful PCN browser toolbar.*

***TOOLBAR for IE: Because it took me some effort to create, I will run this for a few issues until you give it a look see. You will like it! Mark***

[Click here](#) or on the toolbar image to download and install PCN's new toolbar. Yeah, I know you're skeptical. I was too, until I saw what it can do without any real drawbacks.

*This is Great! Install a ton of useful links right at your fingertips!*



Can constantly add new features and be revised and upgraded. (Works with IE).

Tip: During installation pay attention to couple of questions it asks you to check. If you have a toolbar you do not want R-Click on the grey top and de-select ones you do not want.

News Section.....

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

## Delta looking to add 2 Japan flights

### *Delta Air Lines seeks to add flights from Japan to Honolulu and Palau*

On Friday July 2, 2010, 2:09 pm

ATLANTA (AP) -- Delta Air Lines Inc. said on Friday that it will seek to add flights between Honolulu and Nagoya, Japan, and between Tokyo and the island of Palau.

Both flights will connect Japan with popular leisure destinations in the Pacific.

Delta said it would start daily service between Nagoya and Honolulu on Dec. 22 if it gets government approval. It said it would use Boeing 767-300ER aircraft with 216 seats for the flights.

Delta said it had applied with the U.S. Transportation Department to start four-times-a-week flights between Narita airport in Tokyo, where Delta has a hub, and Palau.

Delta Air Lines shares fell 85 cents, or 7.3 percent, to \$10.87 in afternoon trading.

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## Delta-Northwest merger: One-way ticket to new unions?

By Melanie Lindner, reporter July 1, 2010: 1:42 PM ET

FORTUNE -- Since 1926 the Railway Labor Act has allowed airline and railroad employees to vote on whether to unionize. But for years there was a quirky detail that worked in management's favor: All abstentions were counted as "no" votes. That changed last fall, when the National Mediation Board, with two new members appointed by President Obama, proposed changing the rules to count only votes that were cast -- and make no assumptions about abstentions.

After a relatively rapid court skirmish, last Friday, Judge Paul Friedman upheld the rule change against the wishes of the Air Transportation Association, an industry advocate. That means that starting today, union leaders can target firms with the greatest number of non-unionized workers, and

they [have already filed this morning for a vote](#) at the most obvious target: Delta Air Lines ([DAL](#), [Fortune 500](#)).

Read More:

[http://money.cnn.com/2010/07/01/news/companies/delta\\_unionization\\_airlines\\_mediation.fortune/index.htm?source=yahoo\\_quote](http://money.cnn.com/2010/07/01/news/companies/delta_unionization_airlines_mediation.fortune/index.htm?source=yahoo_quote)

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## Northwest Airlines union seeks vote at Delta

### *Union covering former Northwest Airlines workers asks for vote at Delta*

**AP** Associated Press

On Thursday July 1, 2010, 10:48 am

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -- The union for thousands of ground workers at the old Northwest Airlines says it will ask for a vote at Delta, now that election rules have been changed in a way that favors the union.

The union for baggage handlers and passenger service workers is asking the National Mediation Board to find that Delta and Northwest are operating as a single carrier. The two airlines got a single operating certificate from the government on Dec. 31.

Most of the former Northwest workers are unionized. At Delta, pilots were the only large group with a union.

The old rule required a majority of the entire work force to favor unionizing. That meant workers who didn't vote were effectively counted as "no" votes. The rule change took effect on Thursday.

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Thursday, July 1, 2010, 10:00am EDT

## Delta sells Mesaba, Compass for \$83M

Atlanta Business Chronicle

**Delta Air Lines Inc.** will sell two of its regional carriers -- Mesaba and **Compass Airlines** -- for \$82.5 million.

The Atlanta-based carrier said it sold Mesaba to Memphis, Tenn.-based **Pinnacle Airlines Corp.** (NASDAQ: PNCL) for \$62 million. It sold Compass to St. Louis-based **Trans States Holdings Inc.** for \$20.5 million.

Mesaba and Compass will continue as Delta Connection carriers, serving Delta (NYSE: DAL) customers with long-term, extendable agreements, ranging from seven to 12 years depending on aircraft type.

The transactions are not expected to cause changes in flight schedules or locations served, Delta said. Compass and Mesaba's combined fleet of nearly 130 aircraft will continue to be dedicated to flying Delta routes.

Mesaba has more than 430 flights each day to 95 airports, while Compass has more than 170 flights each day to 35 airports.

Both Mesaba and Compass will keep Minneapolis-St. Paul headquarters, with current presidents John Spanjers and Tim Campbell, respectively, leading the airlines under new ownership.

"Today's announcement reflects our continued focus on streamlining the portfolio of Delta Connection carriers serving our customers to ensure each partner airline is independently positioned for success with a competitive cost structure and an

industry-leading focus on safety, reliability and customer service,” said Delta Connection Senior Vice President Don Bornhorst, in a statement. “... This transaction is another step in positioning our regional airlines for future success and we look forward to delivering even more improvements to customers in the more than 260 communities our partners serve.”

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

## American Air parent claims worker data compromised

### ***American Airlines parent: information of 79K retired, former and current workers compromised***

On Friday July 2, 2010, 2:34 pm

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) -- The parent company of American Airlines says the personal information of about 79,000 retirees, former and current employees that was held by the company's pension department has been compromised.

No customer data was affected. AMR says the breach happened when a hard drive was stolen from its headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas.

The data spans a period from 1960 to 1995. The drive contained images of historical microfilm files, which included names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and possibly some bank account information. Some health insurance information may have also been included.

AMR is offering one year of free credit monitoring for those affected.

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

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

Remaining financial items for retirees to watch:

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

1. ~~PBGC 2nd look re-calc at qualified annuity benefits~~ - completed 8/24/07

2. ~~PBGC make up lump payment for underpayments since termination~~: most reported received 1/31/08

3. Final claim distribution by DAL through BSI - **pending (now likely in '11 according to Kight)**
4. ~~Class Action suit against DAL concerning 5-yr look-back worth in excess of \$100 million - withdrawn~~
5. Final Benefit Determination Letters (BDL's) PBGC re-calc "determination" of qualified annuity (likely after claim stock sale) – **pending (only 45 days to appeal)**
6. Pension reinstatement/contribution request by DP3 representing the retired pilots. **very long shot....pending**
7. ~~Roth IRA creation as per Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 - deadline June 22nd, 2009~~
8. Expiration of HCTC 80% premium subsidy will expire on December 31, 2010. Back to 65%.

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

**Pension:**

**From:** [Jim Ehmer](#)  
**Date:** 07/02/10 14:58:55  
**To:** [Jim Ehmer](#)  
**Subject:** Possible Social Security future changes - Fairmark.com

Possible Social Security future changes - Fairmark.com  
<http://fairmark.com/2010/06/29/boehner-suggests-social-security-cuts/>

**Summary:**

**Boehner Suggests Social Security Cuts**

- 1) Now, *no one* has to wait until age 70 to receive their full benefit, but...
- 2) House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, suggested ways to reform Social Security...
  - (a) Raise the retirement age to 70 for people who are still at least 20 years away from retirement.
  - (b) Replacing the wage inflation adjustment with the more slowly-growing price inflation adjustment.
  - (c) Imposing ***means testing***. People with other sources of income in retirement would see their Social Security retirement benefits reduced.
- 3) Now, full benefits are available to retirees before age 70.
- 4) Boehner's statement is not a formal proposal, yet, but may indicate a future move in that direction.

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To PCN subscribers these links are “hot” and will take you directly to the DP3 resource page or checklist for filing an appeal concerning your PBGC benefits.

Click for [PBGC Appeals Resource Page](#)

*Or*

[Appeal Checklist](#)

*DP3 (login required)*

Click to appeal your PBGC benefit

(Note: Must know your DP3 assigned passwords which cannot be shared in our newsletter!)

Commercial Section.....

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

Section reserved for future content.

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

## New yield fare calculator available on TravelNet

Delta’s Pass Travel team has introduced a new yield fare calculator for travel companions, nondependent children and some furloughed employees and their family members who travel on these fares.

The new self-service tool, available on TravelNet, can more accurately display the total fare, which includes the base fare and applicable taxes based on the planned itinerary, compared to the previous calculator that provided only point-to-point base fares.

Similar to the buddy pass fare calculator on TravelNet, users now will be able to use the yield fare calculator to choose exact flight routings, including stopovers, to provide the base fare and approximate taxes.

**See Also:**

[Get more details in the fact sheet.](#) **must be signed into DLNet**

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

**Date:** 6/29/2010 4:54:12 PM

**Subject:** Subj: Fly Confirmed for Even Less Program EXPANDED

Subj: Fly Confirmed for Even Less Program EXPANDED

DLNET/ RETIREE Connection

More Delta people will soon be eligible for the popular Fly Confirmed for Even Less Program

June 25, 2010

Eligibility for the popular Fly Confirmed for Even Less Program is expanding. Pass-eligible retirees and survivors, as well as parents of eligible employees and retirees, will be able to purchase confirmed tickets with an even greater discount than the 20% offered through the standard Fly Confirmed program once technology upgrades are implemented later this year. Additional restrictions and penalties apply to the Even Less program for everyone who uses it.

“When we reinstated the Fly Confirmed for Even Less program in January, we used the same eligibility criteria of the former Northwest program which, unfortunately, excluded retirees and survivors. It was not our intention to exclude these groups and once we were alerted of this omission we began looking at a technology solution to open up this program to more Delta people,” said Rob Kight, v.p. - Compensation, Benefits & Services. “Retirees told us that having an additional, confirmed travel program to help them fly during peak holiday periods or to important family events without worrying about passenger bookings was important to them.”

For more information on Delta pass travel policy, including the Fly Confirmed programs, Delta people can review the Pass Travel site on Employee Connection.

Blue Side Up  
George

**Life Section...**

Misc Posts:

Human Interest:



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

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

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

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

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

Political (food for thought):

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

**Thanks John:**

Subject: A Dog with a Ball and a Deer

This went around before, but it's still fun to watch again

Notice that there are 2 cats sitting on the porch just watching what's going on.  
Also the dog is well behaved, the minute he's told no or not to bite he leaves the deer alone and go on to play.

I don't know who is having more fun; the dog, the deer or the person videoing?

<http://www.wimp.com/oneball/>

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*I want to thank Bruce for sending this sobering piece in. To all I wish the most meaningful and wonderful Fourth of July. We live in the greatest country on the planet. Mark*

**From:** [Bruce Cullen](#)

**Date:** 6/30/2010 2:55:26 PM

**Subject:** Terrific 4th of July Message

Share this with all. Some need to be continually reminded. Many don't. Their duty never ends, our respect and our loyalty to them shall never end either - *that is OUR promise!*

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/32960/i-fought-for-you>

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## Mark

Mark Sztanyo, PCN Dir & HL Editor

[Pilot Communication Net](#)

[Contact the Net](#)

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

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

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

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