

**PRESIDENT**

STU ARCHER
7340 SW 132 ST
MIAMI, FL 33156-6804
(305) 238-0911

VICE-PRESIDENT

DICK VITALE
170 RANDALL FARM RD
NORTH CONWAY NH 03860
(603) 356-0136

TREASURER / EDITOR

JERRY HOLMES
192 FOURSOME DRIVE
SEQUIM, WA 98382
(360) 681-0567

Dec. 2016 - Jan. 2017 - Clipper Pioneers Newsletter

Vol 51-10 Page 1

When I grow up, I want to fly the Pacific...

By Ralph DiIullo

When I was hired by Pan Am in Nov. 1965, the chief pilot was Capt. Bob Weeks. Even though I only had two conversations with Capt. Weeks, I found him to be a fine leader, a gentleman and a great guy. I liked Capt. Weeks. I think he liked me.

It was 2 Jan 1968, I was 707 First Officer reporting for a trip to Nassau/Rocksound and back. Capt. Weeks, as most of you know, had a very large office in Hanger 14 where mostly the flight administration was done. He also had a small office right across from Operations at UTB (Pan Am Terminal). So there I was, sitting in the pilot's lounge waiting to report, smoking my breakfast cigar, when Capt. Weeks walks in, looks around and walks over to me. Capt. Weeks says, "You Ralph Dilullo?" "Uh, yes sir." He says, "I got a good deal for you...temporary assignment to San Francisco flying an over the Pacific and Vietnam. You interested?" "Uh, yes sir." "Take this trip, then call schedules and they will fix you up."

I think he likes me! How did he know who I was?

It was a good deal, 13 days and 80 hours guaranteed. I flew troops and cargo all over the Pacific where I had never flown before. We hit Hong Kong, Bankok, Taipei, Honolulu, Guam, Tokyo, Darwin, Saigon and Danang. I loved every minute of it.

I took that temporary assignment from Jan 68 to July 68. In all that flying, there were two flights worth talking about.

~ continued on next page

Please note - we have changed the access to the online newsletters so that you will need a password to access them. We're hoping this will help past members who haven't paid their dues to do so, in order to read the newsletter. This password will also give you access to the membership & phone list. GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: www.clipperpioneers.com.

Click on the "Members Only" button on the righthand side. The password will be: [captain](#).

Dues are \$20 a year or \$40 for the 2 remaining years. Make them payable to Clipper Pioneers, and mail to Jerry Holmes at 192 Foursome Dr., Sequim, WA 98382.

When I grow up, I want to fly the Pacific...

(continued from previous page)

If you remember your history, Jan '68 was the Tet Offensive in Vietnam. We pulled into Danang in a 707 freighter. The Air Force unloaded the plane, serviced and refueled us. We were all buttoned up. The pins were pulled, the chocks removed. We were waiting for a tug to push back, when everyone started to run. What the hell is going on? I called the tower. No answer. The three of us looked at each other, and together said, "Let's get out of here."

Capt. Jake (can't remember last name, but he was Branch Rickey's son-in-law), backs up the 707 about 15 yards. I swear. He backed up. We taxied out, and pulled onto the active runway behind two fully loaded (rockets and bombs) F-4 Phantoms. They took off and so did we with NO CLEARANCE.

Our next trip was troops in Taipei returning from R&R to Saigon. In the cockpit was an FAA guy going to Saigon. It was my leg. Tonsanut Airport had been hit the day before, all hell had broken out at the airport. The Pan Am terminal had been hit with a rocket, and a shack was the new terminal. Anyway, we are in a holding pattern about 4,000 feet at the outer marker, while some helos were mopping up at the end of the runway. After holding about 30 minutes on the inbound leg, the tower clears us to land. The captain looks at me, I look at the FAA guy in the jump seat. The captain says, "Can you make it?" "Gear down," I say, "Flaps full, speed brake out, check list."

It was a little scary, but not too bad except just as I finalized, I realized the speed brake was still extended. I hard pushed the handle forward, believe it or not, a grease job. Capt. takes over, slows down and taxis off the runway – turns around and says to FAA guy, "He does that all the time." The FAA guy never said a word.

A couple of years later at Pan Am Terminal checking in for a morning trip, Capt. Weeks saw me and signaled me to come over. He said, "Ralph, we just got authority to fly to Moscow, but you need a Russian Visa. He hands me a form, "What's this?" I say. "The form," he says. I say, "Capt. Weeks, Sir, the only way I want to see Moscow is through a gunsight."

He took back the form, gave me a strange look, and went back into his office. I really think he liked me.

P. S. God, that's almost 50 years ago.....

REMINDER - TIME TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES.

(Your envelope will denote the date through which you are paid.)

**Don't miss an issue of the Clipper Pioneers' newsletter -
send in your check today!**

**Make payable to: Clipper Pioneers c/o Jerry Holmes,
192 Foursome Drive, Sequim, WA 98382.**

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US! Email to Jerry Holmes at jerry@clipperpioneers.com

A Note from Captain John Marshall...

To the Clipper Pioneers

A few weeks ago you each received a letter from me regarding the efforts of a dedicated group of Pan Am employees who have come together to design and dedicate a museum devoted exclusively to Pan American World Airways. The museum will be located in its own wing of the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, New York. We all know that Pan Am was more than just an airline, it was a unique organization made up of a very dedicated group of individuals...a family, if you will. I believe that is why the legacy is so strong and so alive. What other organization that has not existed for over 25 years can still boast of a group of employees so dedicated that they band together in such large numbers almost annually to reunite, reminisce, and relive the memories of such a wonderful organization and wonderful people.

I believe it is imperative that the spirit and story of Pan Am be told and maintained for future generations that will never know the history of the airline, one that existed for 64 glorious years, the like of which we will never see again. Let's face it, at some point in the future the last Pan Am employee will pass away. We cannot afford to allow the airline's legacy to die too.

My wife and I recently had an opportunity to visit the Flying Boat Museum in Foynes, Ireland. It is a wonderful tribute to the golden age of the flying boats, and it was a reminder that Pan Am reached many people, all over the world. We were particularly touched by a large white banner that hung over the entry door. It was emblazoned with the Pan Am Blue Ball and in large gold letters the words "PAN AM...GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN." This in a tiny town on the west coast of Ireland! I am excited that part of Pan Am's legacy will be preserved in Garden City. There will be an inaugural Gala at the museum on December 3 to dedicate the exhibit. I would encourage you to come if you can, and if you cannot attend, please consider making a donation to this worthy cause. Please visit the museum's website at www.thepanammuseum.org.

Clair Booth Luce said it best when she stated "There is nothing so romantic as a voyage on a Pan American Clipper."

Thanks for your attention

Captain John Marshall

Treasurer's Report

Remaining balance as of Nov. 5, 2016 is \$29,770.73.

I am getting dues checks from people now for next year.

We will have enough money to take us through 2018, and leave enough for the web page after that for several years.

I just read a book – "The Albatross" by Gerry Hawes. It's about the life of an airline pilot. It's about the 737 rudder routine and the UAL 811 incident out of HNL. A novel, which can be purchased through Amazon.com.

Jerry Holmes, Treasurer

Pan Am Philadelphia Area Pilots (PAPAP)

We meet the second Tuesday of every quarter at the Continental Inn in Yardley, PA at 1200 for a bit of BS before going to our private conference room upstairs for lunch.

Been going on since 1992 and it's a great way to stay together. Contact: Chris Blaydon [215 757 6229](tel:2157576229) or cblayd@aol.com

Flying Boat Reunion clip now available for viewing

A 15-minute special that aired April 27, 2016 on Ireland's popular RTE TV show "Nationwide" is now available for viewing. China Clipper First Officer Robert Hicks (94); Merry Barton, daughter of Folger Athearn (Pan Am's station manager in Noumea, New Caledonia in 1941); Director of the Foynes Flying Boat Museum Margaret O'Shaughnessy; Ed Trippe and Mary Lou Bigelow were interviewed during the Foynes Flying Boat reunion. <http://www.rte.ie/player/us/show/nationwide-21/10566026/>

Come Join the Santa Rosa Breakfast Group!

The Santa Rosa Breakfast group meets about every six weeks. They have 17 pilots, FA's and FEO's that get together to discuss the old days. Anyone in the Sonoma, Napa, and Marin county areas north of San Francisco who would like to join them should email Dave Criley at davecriley@comcast.net, and send your email contact. They started out with 5 and have grown to 17. ~from Dave Criley

Pan Am Historical Society has a Facebook page. You can view it here:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pan-Am-Historical-Foundation/226994925218>

Layovers for Pan Am

Check out Pan American layovers at www.paacrewlayover.com, where some 81 cities and over 161 hotels are shown in photos.

Keep the stories coming...

Thanks to the guys who have sent us stories! Have you come across an interesting article that you'd like to share with us? Send that along, so others can enjoy! We'd love to hear from you! Please send them to Jerry or Sue by email to: sue@clipperpioneers.com.

***Please update your email address and phone number if it's been changed!
Email or write to Jerry Holmes - 192 Foursome Drive, Sequim, WA 98382
or email to: jerryholmes747@gmail.com***

Having trouble viewing the membership list online? When you open the list, go to the top of your screen - you should see that it is set at a percentage. Click on that to make it larger.

PAN AM REUNION - MARCH 17, 2017

10 Night Southern Caribbean on Serenade of the Seas r/t Fort Lauderdale

To: Tortola, St. Kitts & Nevis, Dominica, Antigua, St. Maarten

We at Interline Travels and Royal Caribbean would like to extend our sincerest welcome back to all Pan Am families as we once again host your next reunion cruise aboard this beautiful luxury liner. Indeed, our ultimate goal of exceeding your expectations will make this cruise not just a vacation but, an adventure at sea. This wonderful ten day cruise visits the Caribbean's most scenic ports each displaying an unmistakable charm, history and natural beauty all their own. The stories are captivating, the beaches mesmerizing and the carefree charm intoxicating and we want you to experience it all.

While onboard indulge in the spa, build a scrapbook of memories or simply relax poolside. Dine on gourmet food as well as twenty four hour room service. Be entertained by world-class performers from across the globe that keep you busy morning to night. Socialize with Pan Am friends in our complimentary cocktail parties, customized amenities and select meeting areas. Enjoy Broadway musicals, spectacular shows, thrilling casino action, live comedy and music, bars, dancing and much more. It's going to be a great cruise, come join us. Call in your Crown & Anchor number and dining selection.

Cabins: Inside (from) **\$799** / Ocean view (from) **\$959** / Balcony(from) **\$1389/** (No Jr. Suites presently)

Rates are per person, cruise only, double occupancy and based on availability at time of booking. Port charges/tax are_ additional at \$370.97 per person. Deposit \$450 each; final is due 12/5/2016. Cabins are capacity controlled; once our allotment is gone new prices take effect. Singles pay 200% of cruise fare and port charge. Insurance will be added according to category.

Tortola and the other British Virgin Islands were long the haunts of pirates of the Caribbean. The hidden coves of pearl-white beaches now shelter sailboats, yachts and sunbathers but the island's buccaneering spirit lives on.

St. Kitts was a tropical prize over which the European powers fought for more than a century. Discover French and British heritage in Basseterre and the complex colonial legacy amongst the ruins of fortresses and once-grand estates

The famed nature island, **Dominica** is home to bubbling seas, lush rainforest, black-sand beaches and volcanic terrain. In its capital you'll find a unique architectural style and friendly culture shaped by English, French, Africans and Caribs.

Antigua boasts 365 white-sand beaches, world-class sailing and lush nature. Culture buffs can explore the colorful capital of St. John's or visit the former British imperial naval base of Nelson's Dockyard on the south coast

One island, two cultures: welcome to **St. Maarten**. Experience Dutch and French culture and enjoy gorgeous coastline, lush tropical landscapes, great selection of restaurants and plenty of duty-free shopping.

Call Carmen for reservations Toll Free (1-888-592-7245),

Cell (786-252-7838) preferred), Office (305-598-0363)

Call Stu for information (305-238-0911)

INTERLINE TRAVELS 456 Merlin Ct., Tallahassee, FL 32301.

December 3 Inaugural Clipper Gala!

Taking Flight Pan Am's Legacy Lives Again

The Gala Opening of Phase 1 of the Pan Am Museum Pan Am's storied past will become a present-day reality at the Inaugural Clipper Gala that will open the Pan Am Museum on December 3, 2016 at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, Long Island. In just a year, the founders of this exceptional project raised just over \$100,000 and put together the first phase of the museum exhibit, The B-314 Flying Boat, one of many pioneering Pan Am accomplishments. We know you will want to be there to celebrate the launch of the first of four exhibits. Once completed, the B-314 Flying Boat Exhibit will be joined by three legendary Boeing aircraft, the Stratocruiser, the B-707 and the B-747.

Captain John Marshall, esteemed Pan Am Pilot and Manager of Flight Standards who brought in Pan Am's last flight on December 4, 1991 from Sao Paulo, will be honored representing the Pan Am Pilots. Captain Marshall is also a prolific aviation author and has been published often in AIRWAYS magazine. You can read an excerpt of his *Memories of a Last Flight* on James Patrick Baldwin's website under The Pan Am Series – Part XVII: Death of a Grand Lady.

Mary Higgins Clark, #1 international and New York Times bestselling author and former Pan Am Stewardess will join us for the evening and be honored representing the Pan Am Stewardesses. She has written thirty-four suspense novels; three collections of short stories; a historical novel; two children's books; and a memoir. Her books have sold more than 100 million copies in the United States alone. You can read more about Mary, known as the "Queen of Suspense," at the Mary Higgins Clark Website.

Former Pan Am employees from other divisions will also be honored.

The legendary Boeing 314 will be featured in Phase I of the museum exhibit and open to guests at the Inaugural Gala.

Our Place In History We all are privileged to have been part of Pan Am's history. Many of us were flying when Pan Am ushered in the Jet Age with the first 707 and pioneered the launch of the 747. Thanks to World Wings, we have remained a part of the Pan Am Family. Now, with this singular new project, spearheaded by a group of dedicated Pan Am employees, including several leading members of World Wings, we can again celebrate our beloved airline's achievements that changed the world forever. Eight World Wings Chapters have each donated at least \$1000 to become Founding Members of the Pan Am Museum and many individual World Wingers have supported our efforts with generous donations. To date, we have 62 founding members who have donated \$1000 or more to the Foundation.

Everything You Need To Know About The Inaugural Gala *Saturday, December 3, 2016 6:30 pm - 11:30 pm* Cradle of Aviation Museum, Long Island, New York. Full article is posted on www.clipperpioneers.com.

**Wishing you a happy, healthy
and prosperous holiday season
and a Happy New Year!**

*...and God will lift you up on Eagle's Wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

IN MEMORIAM

James A. McNally passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at age 84 on October 2, 2016. After 11 years of serving as a Navy pilot, he joined Pan American World Airways. Jim is survived by his adoring wife of 48 years Dorothy, his daughters Cindy Mauri (Phil), Christy Camerino (Ernie), Cathy Lidsky, and predeceased by daughter Kelly. He is also survived by 9 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren and his loving brother Lowell (Billie) of Texas. Predeceased by parents Howard and Pearl and sister Patricia Ritchlin. Mass October 10, 2016 at 1100 at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church with Military honors to follow. Burial will be Tuesday at South Florida National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate Mass offerings.

Robert "Bobby" Lang, 707/747 Captain, passed away peacefully at his home in Bluffton, SC on July 20th, 2016 surrounded by his wife of over 60 Years Annie and his 5 children. Bobby was also the proud grandfather of 7 grandchildren and 2 great grand children. He loved Pam Am and the people he worked with for over 26 years. He was laid to rest on his 90th Birthday.

Robert Hill Farrington died Oct. 24, 2016, at his home in Center Harbor. He was born Nov. 5, 1929, in Redlands, California, the son of Eugenia and Wilbur Ernest Farrington. He was a graduate of Pomona College, and served in the Navy as a fighter pilot, reaching the rank of commander, and flew DC-3s in Antarctica for scientific research.

Larry Pendlebury, Pan Am Pilot and long time friend passed away on Saturday October 8th, 2016. Inez, Larry's wife of 74 years had passed away just the previous day. Larry would have been 98 on his next birthday. His flying career dated back to the flying boats during World War II. Services are planned in early November.

For more information about each of these friends who will be missed, click on "In Memory Of..." at our website: www.clipperpioneers.com. Know of someone from Pan Am who has passed? Email the obit to Jerry Holmes at jerryholmes747@gmail.com

Third Class Medical Reform Signed into Law

President Obama signed the 2016 FAA funding extension into law with third class medical reform attached. Pilots will finally see relief from the constant hassle and expense associated with third class medical renewals.

The legislation allows most pilots who have held a valid medical certificate since July 2006 to fly without needing another FAA medical exam. Instead, pilots can be examined by their personal physician every four years and take an online acromedical factors course every two years to remain medically qualified to fly.
(From Aug. 2016 RUPANEWS)

**REMINDER: CLIPPER PIONEERS NEWSLETTER'S
LAST PRINT EDITION WILL BE DEC. 2018**

To Find Cheap Flights, the Day (Kind of) Matters

Is there a best day to get the lowest price on a flight? Many travelers think the magic day is Tuesday, long lauded by travel deal sites for its fare sales. Other travelers may have heard pundits declare Wednesday the ideal day. In December, Expedia and the Airlines Report Corporation, which processes ticket transactions for airlines and travel agencies, announced that weekends are the new best time. But is there really a preferred day to buy?

There are too many variables at play for there to be a universally ideal day to buy an airline ticket. Price depends on a variety of factors, including the route; the level of competition on the route; surrounding holidays and events (like a convention or the Super Bowl); and the days of the week you plan to fly.

During a single week in March, for example, a recent search for a round-trip flight between New York and Miami turned up ticket prices as low as \$174 and as high as \$314. Besides, nowadays we have fare calendars at our fingertips and websites such as Kayak and Travelzoo that alert us to low fares and sales – and those sales don't always take place on the same day of the week.

Airlines are perpetually tweaking prices, making predictions difficult. Expedia said as much in its report. If you spot a good deal on Thursday, don't wait until Saturday hoping for a better one – grab it, their report says.

In addition to recommending the best times of the week to book, Expedia and other sites such as FareCompare publish suggestions about how far in advance of a trip to book to score the lowest fare. For instance, Expedia reported in December that the optimal time to buy an economy ticket for travel in North America is 57 days in advance, resulting in a potential savings of about 10 percent versus the average fare. International destinations should be booked further in advance.

To search multiple airlines at once, there's Google Flights, which has simple calendars that allow users to easily see if they can save by flying a day or two earlier or later. To keep abreast of private sales and low fares (as well as hotel deals), you can search or sign up for alerts on airfarewatchdog.com.

Even after you buy a ticket, you still have a chance to save. If you go to my.yapta.com/airline-refunds, you can sign up to receive free notifications if your ticket price drops. (Tript Pro has a similar service though it's part of an annual \$49 membership.)

With Yapta, if the price drop is greater than the cost of your airline's change fee, you can call the airline and pocket the difference. If the price drops and you booked your ticket within 24 hours, you can simply cancel the ticket free of charge and rebook at the new, lower rate.

(From Sept. 2016 RUPANEWS; excerpts from article by Stephanie Rosenbloom/The New York Times)

Do you have an upcoming event that would be of interest to the other members? Please forward the information to sue@clipperpioneers.com.