

Delta Golden Wings



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GUESS WHAT?

COVER: Join DGW and Find Out!

Come to Chicago and See For Yourself!

Chicago Chicago That wonderful town, that wonderful town

OH, I WISH I WAS IN(please fill in)..... OLE
TIMES THERE AM NOT FORGOTTEN, LOOK AWAY.... LOOK
AWAY.... LOOK AWAY DELTA PILOTS

Most of us Golden Wingers can fill in those blank spots without scratching another raw spot into our already bald heads, or thinking about it too long. I always could(it's also one of the things I still can)..... but lately I've been changing it a bit. I put in THE WINDY CITY (may Robert E. please forgive me!) and changed "am not forgotten" to "were not all s_____ ". "Look way back" instead of look away ,,,, fits nicely, too. I'm blaming this treasonous conduct on DGW because they voted to hold the 2008 Convention right there in that warm cozy spot nestled alongside the Michigan/ Arctic Ocean..... and as a result I've been remembering my early impressions of that place. I'll tell you about my first visit there in a minute, but first I have to propose a motion that we have a tour of the Congress Hotel as our first order of business on Sept 25th.

The lobby of the Congress Hotel should have been rebuilt and enshrined as part of the Delta Heritage Museum. It would look great right there across from the Monroe terminal building. In 1957 Delta had quite a large number of layover crews booked into the Congress (I think we "owned" a couple of floors) and every evening about "quitting time" there was in the south end of the lobby an impressive assemblage of Delta's finest - larger than most ALPA meetings.

There , they engaged in long, short, serious, hilarious, whispered, shouted discussions/debates/gossip about any and/or everything:
from aerology to zoology;
from daring aeronautic maneuvers to naughty maneuvers of the daring,
from real estate deals to poker deals
from weather to whether,
from where are we gonna eat tonight to how do we get outta here without him



from his stem to her stern.
and they were all simultaneous.

That was where I learned to find the best steaks/martinis in Chicago, the biggest cheapest edible steaks and nontoxic martinis, how to walk six blocks to (what's the name of that German restaurant?) without having to go outside into the blizzard except to cross one street, how many days you could spend in the Art Museum/ Fields Museum/Museum of Science and Industry/Shedd Aquarium and other institutions of learning (some higher... some not) and still never see all of them..... and all kinds of other info - some repeatable/ some not. It was a great place!

Some years later our layovers were moved uptown - two and a half blocks from the Playboy Mansion- but a discrete young pilot could learn lots more from few sessions at the Congress than at the Mansion. A couple of trips into and out of Midway Airport in the wintertime would also help inure yourself to the shock of terror which climaxed a 200 & 1/2 ILS approach where the first (maybe only) lights you saw before touchdown were in the apartment buildings you were flying between..... and you looked UP to see them!!! My only thought after the first real close one into MDW was "ain't no way this can be legal!!!!" Routine airline operations at Midway were the only close rival to the wonder and beauty of a well trained Naval aircraft carrier crew.

In those days ORD was nothing but a large expanse of open land with a couple of WW2 military runways hidden under several square miles of grass and a NG detachment Quonset hut somewhere on the property. A few short years of airline growth changed all that. I'll bet that half the airplanes in the US could be put on the ground in ORD if they were packed in the way we used to pack MDW a plane had to takeoff to make space on the taxiway so a plane could exit the ramp to make room for an incoming flight to move up and make room for a landing aircraft to turn off the runway. Since you had to see it to believe it, I'll show ya.... It looked like this:
aplanehadtotakeofftomakespaceonthetaxiwaysoaplanecouldexitthe

ramptomakeroomforanincomingflighttomoveup andmakeroomfora-
landingaircrafttoturnofftherunway.

Now you know? That space you see right after the incoming flight moving up is the only vacant place on the whole field It's there only because it was snowing so hard the pilot didn't see the guy in front of him move. Now you know why they moved to ORD.

I liked ORD but it sure made for a long ride to the hotel. We used to stop and get a bagful of burgers to get us to town where we could stuff ourselves on pizzas and suds and sleep all day amongst the hammering, sawing, and profane conversations of the Polish construction crews rebuilding the hotel. I understand that's a high rent section of Chicago now..... so I guess the layovers have been moved.

Oh yeah, I said I'd tell you about my first trip to Chicago. Thought you'd never ask! Well, back in 1953 The Navy loaned me one of their airplanes and I took it up to NAS Glenview to make a surprise visit to a cute little Delta flight attendant who somehow got a few days off to recuperate after Christmas/ New Year rush. Flew through a blinding snowstorm to get there (VFR, of course), it was about 40 below while I was there, and I burned up 3 APUs cranking that 3350 radial iceberg in order to get home for school. But it was all worth it I sat on their steam radiator for an hour, we ate a bunch of hot pizza, snuggled cozily in the back seat of her brother's car under a dozen blankets while he looked at all the Christmas lights and got married few months later. Her father never did believe that the Navy actually gave me the use of an airplane just to come up there and see her.

And that's a little bit of what I think about when somebody says "Chicago".

Well, I enjoyed it..... hope you did..... I'm going back in September to refresh old memories..... hope you will, too.

See ya there,
John McDonald

Chicago – September 25 through 28, 2008

The Hilton Northbrook is the host hotel for the DGW 40TH reunion. We have negotiated a great rate of \$109 per night, INCLUDING FREE breakfast buffet at the renowned Allgauer's Restaurant, original home of "The Rat Pack." The DGW preferred rate is offered five days prior and five days post reunion dates. The reunion start date is September 25 and ends September 28 with normal check out on September 29. To book your reservations, please call Hilton Northbrook at 800-525-2849. If you prefer, you may call the hotel directly at 847-480-7500 ext. 2280, or you may also make your reservations via email: marcela.rosillo@hilton.com. Identify yourself as a DGW member; state your intended arrival date, and departure date if different than normal checkout date September 29. You should be quoted our preferred rate of \$109 for your entire stay and be given a CONFIRMATION NUMBER, which you will need if you must cancel your reservation at a later date. Reservations must be cancelled 24 hours prior to your reserved check in date to avoid one-night room and tax charges. I recommend you make your reservation as soon as possible, don't wait until the last minute or you may have to wait until the St. Louis reunion. WE WANT TO SEE YOU IN CHICAGO!

Annual Dues

Mail to: Delta Golden Wings, Inc.
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1931 Village Creek Ct., Dunwoody, GA 30338-5117
jublack@mindspring.com
770-396-5997

Regular: \$20 _____ Widow: \$10 _____ (check one)
Social: \$15 _____ (widow of deceased non-member pilot)

You may pay for multiple years in advance. Some members have paid out five years in advance. (Widows and Social: Please list husband's name)

NAME _____

Nickname _____

Check if: NO CHANGES _____ CHANGES _____

Spouse's Name _____

Spouse's Nickname _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary phone: () - - if Cell or Fax, circle one

2nd phone: () - - if Cell or Fax, circle one

E-mail Address: _____

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Final Flight West



Don't know whether you noticed it or not, but in the last newsletter it was pointed out that in the past year we lost 86 members. It took three pages to list them all. As usual, before our business meeting got underway we stood in silent tribute to our fellow pilots who made their last takeoffs and are sorely missed by families, friends, and former working buddies. We will miss them all but we who have attended almost all of the Golden Wings reunions have an enlarged empty spot in our hearts because Mouldy Sherrill can no longer be there to liven things up. He and Candy truly added a cheerful taste to every annual gathering..... and they never missed one until his

health problems began piling up. Guarantee you though, his name and memory will still be a part of every DFW gettogether for years to come. At our conventions, a trip on the bus with Mouldy and Dave Reno was always a riot. The professional tour guides sent along by the bus companies never had a chance. As his good buddy Dave Reno put it, the "Johnny Carson" of Delta Air Lines left us in September of 2007. He livened up the atmosphere everywhere he went and was known and welcomed all over Delta from right after WW2 until he retired off the Stretch 8. Truly an ambassador of good humor and comic comment, he took his "Groucho" routines and "Mouldyisms" on the road around their retirement home in Arizona to cheer up the days of people restricted by poor health and disabilities. A day with him was a day in the sunshine of life.

05 Feb.2004	Capt. Warner Farrell Lee (ret.)
12 Dec. 2007	Capt. Joe D. Bourn (ret.)
26 Dec. 2007	Mrs. Janette B. Harber wife of Capt. W. E. Harber (ret.)
01 Jan. 2008	Capt. Beverly C. Dickerson (ret.)
05 Jan. 2008	Capt. Phillip B. Layman (ret.)
17 Jan. 2008	Capt David A Carte (ret.)
18 Jan. 2008	Capt Roland Scott Dodson (ret.)
19 Jan. 2008	Capt. L. P. McGree (ret.)
21 Jan. 2008	Mrs. Barbara L. Mohrmann wife of the late Capt. David T. Mohrmann (ret.)
21 Jan. 2008	Capt. Patrick D. "Pat" Whitehouse (ret.)
21 Jan.2008	Mrs. Elizabeth L. Stevens wife of the late Capt. Bob Stevens
22 Jan. 2008	Capt. Robert J. "Bob" Meehan (ret.)
23 Jan. 2008	Mrs. Marie H. Janes wife of Capt. John L. Janes (ret.)
25 Jan. 2008	Mrs. Katherine Mangum Wife of Capt. Joe O. Mangum Jr. (ret.)
26 Jan. 2008	Capt. Raymond F. Gosselin Jr. (ret.)
03 Feb 2008	Capt. Robert E. Davis (ret.)
13 Feb 2008	Capt. Robert A. "Bentley" Snider (ret.)
21 Feb 2008	Mrs LaVoe Taylor Smith wife of Capt. Jack P. Smith (ret.)
24 Feb 2008	Capt Richard "Rick" Smith (ret.)
05 Mar 2008	Capt. Harry C. McIntire (ret.)