



THE WINGS CLUB

Wings Club News
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Spring 2015

NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING



Suzanna Darcy-Hennemann

March 25, 2015 marked the date of a historic occasion - the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Wings Club and the First Annual Meeting of the Wings Club Foundation, Inc. Outgoing Club President, Barry Eccleston, called the meeting to order and, following the Year in Review video, thanked the officers and Board of Governors who had served alongside him. He then remarked that the past year had been truly historic. "After many years of hard work, the long-awaited merger into the Wings Club Foundation was finally approved. This has put into place the structure that will ensure the success of the Club's ongoing mission to support the advancement of aviation."



Barry Eccleston, John Plueger

Reinforcing the Foundation's mission, the evening's program followed, shining the spotlight on the best of our industry. Seven new Golden Eagles were recognized for their longtime membership, including Carol Hallett, former President of the Wings Club. John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer - Customers at Airbus, was unveiled as the Distinguished Achievement Award honoree, and in conjunction with IAWA, the Sixth Annual Outstanding Aviator Award award was presented to Suzanna Darcy-Hennemann, the first woman to captain a 747-400 and a 777.



*Carol Hallett, Barry Eccleston,
Bill Moxley*

The meeting closed with the nomination of officers and the announcement of Mr. John Plueger as the 73rd President of the Wings Club. As his first official act, John thanked outgoing President Barry Eccleston and presented him with the Wings Club's President's Chair.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - 2015

The Wings Club Foundation has announced that it will honor Mr. John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer - Customers at Airbus, with the 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award. Acknowledging outstanding accomplishments in the fields of aviation and aeronautics, the Wings Club Foundation will present this award on October 23, 2015, at the 73rd Annual Awards Gala to be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City.

John has been instrumental in Airbus' significant increase in market share over the past 30 years. Under his leadership, Airbus' market share rose from 18% in 1995 to 50% or more by 2000 - a level that has been maintained over the last 14 years. In September 2012, John was appointed as a member to the Airbus Group Executive Committee.



John Leahy



Waldorf Astoria

Leahy is a licensed multi-engine commercial pilot and a former flight instructor with more than 3,700 hours flying time. He received one of France's top civilian awards in March 2012 by being named an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur, for his services to European and French aviation.





THE WINGS CLUB

A Message From The President



Spring 2015

*D*ear Wings Club Members:

At the annual meeting in March, I was honored to be elected as the 73rd President of the Wings Club Foundation. I am honored and excited to serve the Club and its members. Thanks to the outstanding work of previous Presidents and the Board of Governors, the Club is in excellent condition.

The Wings Club is also very fortunate to have a talented group of aviation executives contributing to the leadership of the Club. Our officer slate consists of Mary Ellen Jones, Vice President and President Elect; Scott Donnelly, Vice President; Todd Kallman, Treasurer; David Davenport, Secretary and Bob Craft, Foundation Counsel.

As you know, the Wings Club was originally established by forward thinking leaders who set out to create a meeting place to discuss issues relating to the future course of aviation. We are building on that great tradition. We are enhancing the Wings Club's reputation as a venue for the presentation of views and opinions relating to the issues currently facing our industry. To that end, we have been presenting and will continue to present a schedule of top industry leaders lined up for the monthly luncheon series. We've asked each of these leaders to not only discuss their respective companies, but to address an issue, or several issues, currently facing the industry.

As the Wings Club Foundation continues its mission of promoting aviation related education, the Club is expanding the Aerospace on Campus initiative. To date, this program has been very well received. We have added several universities to the calendar, they include - the University of Virginia, Purdue University, California Polytechnic State University and Georgia Tech. The executives speaking at these schools represent a wide variety of Wings Club member companies.

In May, the Board of Governors voted to recognize Bob Craft as an Honorary Member of the Wings Club. Congratulations to Bob on this prestigious award. We are all grateful for his tireless support and contributions to the Club over the last three decades.

This fall, the 73rd Annual Gala will be held at the historic Waldorf Astoria. The Gala will be on Friday, October 23rd. We are honored to have John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer - Customers at Airbus as this year's Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient. We plan to make this an exciting evening.

Finally, with the merger approved, the Wings Club Foundation is officially a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We are now expanding our efforts to grow the Foundation's endowment and award more and larger scholarships to deserving students. The aviation industry is an extraordinary community. Each generation has built upon the successes of the previous generation. It is vital that we support the future leaders of our industry through these student programs. Our goal for this year is to, at minimum, DOUBLE the amount of aviation scholarships we provide. We can and should do more. And we will.

I look forward to your support on these important initiatives.

Best regards,

John Plueger
President
The Wings Club Foundation



HIGHLIGHTS FROM WINGS CLUB EVENTS

SEE WHAT YOU MISSED



Mr. William Franke
Managing Partner, Indigo Partners LLC

Mr. Franke, a former Chairman and CEO of America West, opened his remarks by noting that beneath the American Airlines' livery beats the heart of America West. The airline, which took on the US Airways name after engineering a merger with them in 2005, took on the American name after engineering the merger in 2013. "Six of the seven senior executives at American Airlines were hired during my time there...and the seventh had been interviewed." Franke continued his remarks speaking about his 25 years working with low cost carriers and the future of the ultra-low cost carrier (ULCC) model. "As costs crept up in the wake of the post 2008 consolidations, it left room for the ULCC model. As the middle class continues to grow around the world, the market for ULCCs will continue to grow."



Mr. Enrique Beltranena
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Volaris

With a brief introduction to Volaris that highlighted the progress from its founding in 2009 as the first point-to-point carrier in Mexico, to its current fleet of 51 planes serving 230 cities, which has an 18%-19% annual growth rate, Mr. Beltranena emphasized that Mexico is a big country. With a main focus of serving the VFR (visit friends and relatives) sector, he noted – to the surprise of the audience – that the bus is Volaris' major competitor. "2.8 billion bus passengers are spending an average of 17.7 hours traveling on a bus. Flying has to convert itself into a commodity. It has to convert this country to a country that flies. Volaris is an airline that was tailored to this market and not to our own ambition."



Mr. Aengus Kelly,
Chief Executive Officer, AerCap Holdings, N.V.

Following the purchase of ILFC last year, AerCap is the largest aircraft leasing company in the world with \$44 billion dollars of assets and is buying, selling or leasing an aircraft every 24 hours. From that viewpoint, he commented on the industry:

- Aviation is a true growth industry with solid demand for aircraft;
- China demographics are "unstoppable," with 100,000,000 people boarding an aircraft for the first time every year;
- Airlines don't trust fuel. While fuel cost is currently down, it will always be volatile, thus newer technology assets will always be needed;
- For the next 20 or so years there will be no competitors to Boeing and Airbus, resulting in a "rational duopoly" that doesn't cannibalize or produce whitetails;
- Order books are a guide to total future demand – "there is no order bubble out there."



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

APRIL



THE WINGS CLUB CANDIDS

WINTER-SPRING LUNCHEONS



Bob Aaronson, Marissa Jenkins, Alex de Gunter



Doug Izarra, Jon Beatty, Barry Eccleston



Barry Eccleston, Bill Franke, Allan Rowe



Bill Franke



Thomas Bosco, Dave Barger



Bianca Farmas-Griffith, John Plueger, Aengus Kelly, Michael Platt



Aengus Kelly, Hussian Gachi



Susan Wyman, Anne Lumeisky, Nick Cigantes





Todd Kallman, Howard Rubel, Steve Binder



Carlos Cirilo, Oracio Marquez, Angelika Ayala, Dennis Trerney, Lars Pottgiesser



Mike Derchin, Barry Eccleston, Enrique Beltranena



Greg Smith, Brian Foley



Enrique Beltranena, Robert Aceves and York College (CUNY) students



Doug Greco, Jerry Lundquist, John Wickoff, Bob Osieski



Seated: Mary Ellen Jones, Aengus Kelly, John Plueger, Barry Eccleston
Standing: Sharon DiVivo, Howard Rubel, Bob Craft, Gary Krauthamer, David Davenport

SIGHT LECTURE 2015

Reality and Aspirations – Building a Better Aviation System for the Future



Robert Crandall

Robert L. Crandall
Former Chairman and CEO
AMR Corporation and American Airlines

While acknowledging that the Sight Lecture historically captures hindsight, insight, and foresight, Mr. Crandall began his remarks noting that he would focus his remarks on insight. “I decided to ignore hindsight, since most of you experienced the history of the business, just as I did.” He then quoted Will Roger’s advice, “never make predictions about the future,” to explain why he would forego speaking to foresight.

What followed was a hard-hitting, issues-driven look at what the industry is today and what it should be tomorrow – reality and aspirations. He covered topics ranging from consolidation and the economics of the business, to the FAA, the TSA, deteriorating airports, inadequate, uncertain funding sources and widely dissatisfied customers.

Crandall closed with comments on the industry. “It’s a great business --- but it can deploy and utilize its assets more efficiently, satisfy more of its customers and make a larger contribution to the US economy. I hope those now running the business will achieve those aspirations – and I’ll be cheering them on as they strive to do so.



Robert Crandall, John Plueger and the Republic Raiders



Robert Crandall, Ivy Papas, Peter Papas, Peter Izzo



Willie Walsh

DUBLIN, IRELAND

Ninth Aviation Leader Series Luncheon

Willie Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
International Airlines Group

In the midst of IAG’s takeover bid for Aer Lingus, Willie Walsh addressed the Wings Club European Chapter in Dublin. Prefacing his remarks with the explanation that he normally doesn’t use a slide presentation, however “given a lot of interest in IAG, I thought I would just do a few charts here to give you a better feel for what we are doing.”

He outlined the 2011 creation of IAG through the merger of British Airways and Iberia based on the belief that consolidation is good for the industry when it is based on a structure where “strong brands can continue to exist.” He emphasized IAG’s belief in retaining the brand equity and brand promise of the distinct brands; managing their fuel costs; constantly striving to improve cost control and cost performance, “while exploiting all the advantages of being part of a big group.”

He concluded, “We believe we can bring more to Aer Lingus to de-risk the growth plan that Aer Lingus has already come up with, and to accelerate that growth plan to make Aer Lingus an even stronger company under the IAG umbrella. It will be a great company brought to even greater levels as part of IAG.”



Willie Walsh



Seated: Paula Doherty, Willie Walsh, Marlin Dailey, David Power, Standing: Karl Griffin, Mark Hegarty, Tom Fitzsimmons



AEROSPACE ON CAMPUS SERIES

Launched in winter 2013, the “Aerospace on Campus Series” in partnership with *Aviation Week*, continues to engage university level students and faculty as the program expands and more members of the Foundation volunteer to share their experiences.

Earlier this year, Jim Guyette, President and CEO, Rolls Royce North America, visited the University of Virginia to speak to students studying for a career in aviation. In March, Barry Eccleston returned to his alma mater and spoke to juniors and seniors on the Aerospace Bachelors Course at Loughborough University in the UK. This coming September, a presentation at Purdue University is planned by Phil Burkholder, President, Defense Aerospace, North America from Rolls Royce.

Through this sharing of leadership experience, dedication to the expansion of the industry and vision for the future, The Wings Club Foundation is contributing to the shaping of the next generation of aviation professionals.



Jim Guyette, Greg Hamilton, Jim Good and University of Virginia Group



Barry Eccleston, Dr. Adian Spencer

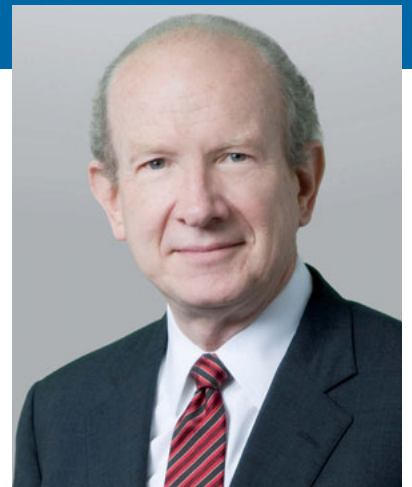


Jim Guyette Speaking to University of Virginia Students

Bob Craft Awarded Honorary Membership

Recognizing his 25 years of unselfish and devoted service to the Club, culminating in his unwavering support of the five-year effort to bring the Club’s merger into the Wings Club Foundation to fruition, the Board of Governors voted to recognize Bob with an Honorary Membership in the Wings Club. Bob joins an elite list of other outstanding aviation leaders who have received this distinction. Other Honorary Member recipients include: George H. W. Bush, Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Chuck Yeager, Herb Kelleher, Bob Crandall, Fred Smith, and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.

Bob is a Partner at Holland & Knight and provides his pro bono services to the Wings Club Foundation Board of Governors as Counsel.



Randal Robert Craft, Jr.



THE WINGS CLUB
NEWSLETTER

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SAVE THE DATE

July Luncheon

July 30, 2015
The Yale Club
Speaker: Jeff Smisek
Chairman, President & CEO
United Airlines

September Luncheon

September 24, 2015
The Yale Club
Speaker: Ray Conner
President & CEO
Boeing Commercial Airplanes

Annual Awards Gala

October 23, 2015
Waldorf Astoria
Distinguished Achievement Award
Recipient: John Leahy, COO –
Customers at Airbus

November Luncheon

November 19, 2015
The Yale Club
Speaker: Fabrice Bregier
President & CEO
Airbus

The December Luncheon

December 10, 2015
The Yale Club
Speaker: Gary Kelly
Chairman, President & CEO
Southwest Airlines

