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CFIDarren Newsletter

Lunar Old Glory, First Office Poverty, Worst Airports

Issue #52

July 31, 2012

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Quote of the Month

"The natural function of the wing is to soar upwards and carry that which is heavy up to the place where dwells the race of gods."
- Plato, Phaedrus

Hit reply and send me your favorite quote.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this safety message. We all face the challenges of flying less (due to cost) and regulatory complexity increasing. This newsletter is meant to stay in touch with those interested in general aviation, airport operations, and flight safety. I hope that it keeps you in touch with your love of aviation.

In this newsletter, Colgan3407 pops up in my mind again as I remember why first officers are so poor they can't afford hotel rooms to rest before starting duty. I've included a few odd stories, such as American Flags are still standing on the moon and an interesting photograph where plankton can be seen from space.

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Thanks for your continued support... Darren

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Quick tips for *SAFE* Winter Flying



Founded as a joint venture by NASA and the US Geological Survey, Landsat has been taking stunning shots of earth since 1972.

This stunning NASA photo puts the 'art' into 'earth' - thanks to its incredible resemblance to a Vincent van Gogh masterpiece. This picture of the Swedish island of Gotland has been named the greatest Landsat photo.

The satellite image shows massive congregations of green phytoplankton swirling in the dark water around Gotland, a Swedish island in the Baltic Sea.

It has nicknamed the picture 'Van Gogh From Space' because of its similarity to 'The Starry Night', one the Dutch artist's greatest works of art.



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Practical advice for using the NASA form when you've violated the FARs



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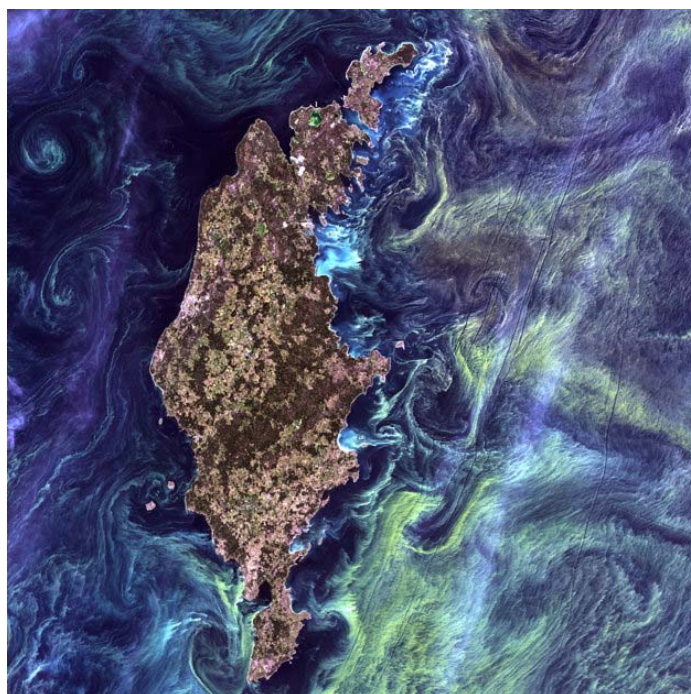
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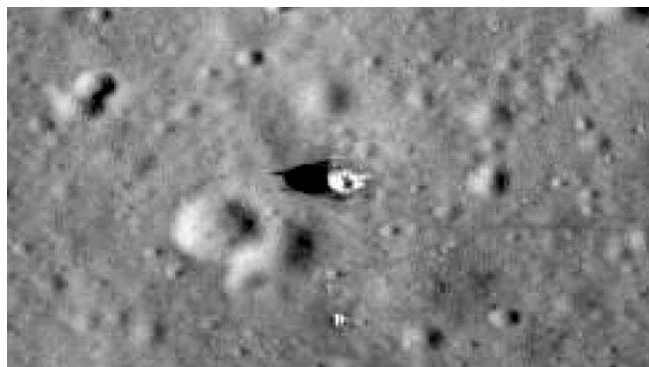
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Pilot's Radio Guide



The photograph, taken 400-miles above Earth on July 13, 2005, has been named the greatest 'Earth as Art' photograph taken by the Landsat Program.

Lunar [Old Glory](#) Still Standing



Source: Clara Moskowitz @ SPACE.com

An enduring question ever since the manned moon landings of the 1960s has been: Are the flags planted by the astronauts still standing?

Now, lunar scientists say the verdict is in from the latest photos of the moon taken by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC): Most do, in fact, still stand. "From the LROC images it is now certain that the American flags are still standing and casting shadows at all of the sites, except Apollo 11,"

Intuitively, experts mostly think it highly unlikely the Apollo flags could have endured the 42 years of exposure to vacuum, about 500 temperature swings from 242 F during



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the day to -280 F during the night, micrometeorites, radiation and ultraviolet light, some thinking the flags have all but disintegrated under such an assault of the environment," scientist James Fincannon, of the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, wrote in the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal.

In recent years, photos from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter have also shown other unprecedented details of the Apollo landing sites, such as views of the lunar landers, rovers, scientific instruments left behind on the surface, and even the astronauts' boot prints. These details are visible in photos snapped by the probe while it was skimming just 15 miles (24 kilometers) above the moon's surface.

First Officer Poverty

About five years ago, I came across a video on youtube detailing first officer pay. I wrote about it on my website in May of 2008 and was just recently reminded about the topic from a newsletter subscriber who complained that I didn't talk much about professional aviation in the newsletter. Well, he's right, I do tend to focus on General Aviation, but his point is well intentioned for those subscribers who yearn to be in an airliner flightdeck.

In my time at bat, as an airline pilot, I did pick up a few tips on surviving the experience. I am reminded about the CO3407 crew who died in Buffalo along with 45 passengers. Much was spoken about crew fatigue and while its a valid discussion, not many talked about the real issue of pilot salary and why those pilots could not afford a hotel prior to arriving for duty.

Here's a quick snapshot of first officer salaries:

Ameriflight - \$1973.00/mo

ASA - \$1725.00/mo

Air Wisconsin - \$1950.00/mo

PSA - \$1973.00/mo

GoJet - \$1750.00/mo

Skywest - \$1584.00/mo

Compass - \$1680.00/mo

Great Lakes - \$1200.00/mo (yes! \$16/hr)

Peidmont - \$1944.00/mo

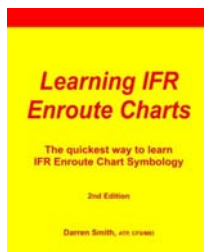
Republic - \$1725.00/mo

Holy Crap Dude, You're Poor!

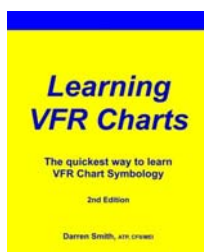
Well if that weren't the most obvious statement you've seen in your life... To make you feel better, I pass along my series of tips on surviving poverty until you make it to 2nd year pay or that quick upgrade to ATP mins and Captainship. This article could just as well serve as money management advice for struggling flight students. I feel

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Examples:

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Guaranteed Pass

your pain regardless of which position you're in. I've been there. So let's get started.

Eating

The most important task is eating. You could end up taking a whole suit case of food if you're not careful. But if you do take food with you on your trips, organize it in terms of refrigeration required.

Day 1

- Frozen Microwave Meals
- Fresh Sandwiches
- Airplane snacks

Day 2

- Carrots
- PB&J Sandwiches
- Salami, prosciutto, hot-smoked salmon
- Airplane snacks

Day 3 - 5

- Canned Tuna (Sandwiches)
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Energy and granola bars
- Cups of noodles
- Trail mix: Raisins, Capn Crunch, Peanuts, etc
- Salted cured or smoked meats
- Hard cheeses - cheddars, swiss
- Bread, crackers, etc.
- Little Miss Chef entrees
- Beef jerky
- Airplane snacks

Day 6

You're on your own here! I haven't figured out how to eat on the cheap after day 3 food is gone. Luckily, most trips for a regional pilot are 3-5 days. But if you're stuck, remember you can always make tomato soup from dairy creamer and ketchup.

Airplane Food

There are a variety of options for airplane food. Sometimes, full blown crew meals are available. That option is rare. Sometimes you can get creative with first class food. For example, some creative flight attendants can make apple smores out of the Delta Biscoff cookies, apple slices, and twix bars.

And if you haven't heard, those Delta Biscoff cookies can be turned into Key Lime pie by just squeezing a Lime over the top. Let it soak. Enjoy your pie. Lemon works great too.

Helicopter Flashcards



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Bargain Hunter

If you're in the market for a printed PTS, I found a bargain for you on Amazon. Instead of paying \$6, Amazon has these listed for \$3.99 and if you are a Prime member, you get free shipping. Also of note is their **4-for-3 Promotion** where if you purchase 3 books, the 4th one is free. Here are the links:

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Send me your suggestions...

This isn't the most exhaustive dissertation on regional pilot food sources. I'd be interested in your ideas, hit reply and let me know what you've done.

One final tip.

If you do find yourself in a crew hotel, NEVER use the in-room coffee maker. Flight attendants love to wash their delicacies in those things.

World's Worst Airports

If for some reason you do find yourself sleeping in an airport, there is a website devoted to the this endeavor. Just try to avoid getting stuck in these!



1. Manila International Airport (Philippines) - as a traveler in this part of the world, I have often found myself here. And I agree, its pretty awful.
2. PARIS BEAUVAIS - probably wont ever go here.
3. REYKJAVIK KEFLAVIK - When I was here, there was renovation underway. It was very clear they wanted you to pay and get out as soon as possible. Not very friendly.
4. BERGAMO ORIO AL SERIO - not going here ever.
5. KIEV BORYSPIL- personal review coming soon.
6. FRANKFURT HAHN- personal review coming soon.
7. LONDON LUTON - I was shocked that I was still within the gentle boundary of the Queen's land. I thought I was at a GA airport, but I was flying one of the world's crappiest airlines (that's for another newsletter).
8. PISA - personal review coming soon.
9. PARIS CDG (Terminals 3 and 2A,B,C,D) - I was sure I was in a 3rd world airport when I went through this one.
10. LOS ANGELES - I just had the opportunity to go through LAX on Delta. 1980's chic was over in 1990 and they haven't figured it out. Thankfully, I was only stuck there 6 hours.

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