

RED EAGLES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 31, 2016

VOLUME 28

FELLOW RED EAGLES:

SPRING ISSUE



Reunion 2016

We are down to 5 months to go until Reunion 2016 at the National Museum of the Air Force, Dayton, OH. The dates are 8-11 September 2016 and the host hotel is the Holiday Inn Fairborn. Don't forget to make your reservations and send your "landing fee" to John Nelson at his new address: PO Box 910564, St George, UT 84791-0564. Also make the checks payable to Red Eagles Alumni Association or REAA. The April Reunion Update e-mail will be out in a few days with more and detailed information. Some pictures and current Update information are available on www.4477REAA.com. Click the "2016 Reunion" link on the left side for pictures and then click the "Click Here For More Information" link for the current update. This is shaping up to be a great event. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Ted Drake, 2016 Reunion Planner



Red Eagles Shirts

We have ordered 54 shirts in various sizes, based on the sizes purchased in previous years. Each size will have an equal amount of Red, Gray, and black shirts - again based on previous preferences. They will be available for purchase at the reunion. We will have them sent to Neena (thanks for volunteering!) and she will transport them to the reunion. We have been queried about the ability for folks to buy a shirt head of time - we chose not to get in the mail-order shirt business for a variety of reasons. If not all purchased, they will go into the store inventory. If we don't have enough, we will take orders and have them mailed to the purchaser after the reunion.

Smokey Sundell Retires From SWA



On 22 February, Chuck 'Smokey' Sundell ended his Southwest Airlines career with a short flight from Reno to Las Vegas. Smokey was a Red Eagle pilot from 1986 until the 4477th closed in Spring 1988. Joining him in the pilots' lounge to help him celebrate his SWA retirement were fellow Red Eagles, Tom Boma, Tony Mahoney and Mike Scott.

Editor's Spring Column:

Spring is here, time to start moving:

- Time to dust off winter's cobwebs and start caring for the outside of the house.
- Prep the flower beds and fertilize the lawn.
- Spring cleaning is always a pain but necessary to clear away the stale smell of winter in a closed-up house.
- Time to take off the snow tires and have the car serviced for the warm weather ahead.
- It's never too early to clean the grill and start cooking outside. Cook some ribs for me.
- You can submit your stories or roster updates by emailing them to: 4477redeagles@gmail.com
- Or, mail to:
Ben Galloway
3732 Bar 10 Road
Calhan, CO 80808

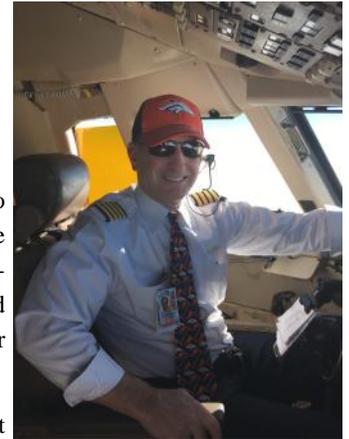
January 31, 2016

Rob "Z-Man" Zettel

Bandit 39



Occasionally in the course of an airline career you get an opportunity to do something special, a whole lot of fun, and outside the realm of the typical flights, whether they be domestic or international. Sunday, January 31, was one of those occasions. A couple days earlier I'd been asked by the management of United Airlines to fly the AFC Champion Denver Broncos to San Jose, CA (SJC) for Super Bowl 50.



Apparently the line Captain who'd bid for the trip wasn't exactly the most current on the chartered Boeing 767-400 and the people in United's Charter Division weren't too thrilled with the prospect of someone flying such a high visibility flight who hadn't had thousands of hours in one. That's when the phone rang on the Friday afternoon prior asking me what I was doing Sunday. "Nothing" was my reply and then the question was asked if I'd be willing to give up one of my days off to fly the Broncos to SJC. "Yeah, why not" was my simple reply.



So after picking up the specially adorned aircraft (complete with Bronco livery) in Houston and ferrying it to Denver Sunday morning, it was just a matter of time (about 2 hours) before the AFC Champs arrived, boarded and we were off to San Jose. While the assembled media frenzy was a bit bazaar in Denver, it was nothing compared to what awaited us upon arrival in SJC.



I had a great First Officer and the Flight Attendants were the same ones that flew the Broncos throughout the whole season. By the time the players and Bronco staff arrived the flight attendants had transformed the interior of the airplane into a superbly decorated private Bronco corporate jet. Now I'm sure everyone wants to know if I got to meet Peyton and the rest of the players. Actually no. They

entered at the aft stairs and I never got to even see them. After all it was a fairly short flight (2:13hrs) and we had other things to occupy our time such as coordinating the arrival and special parking arrangements at the Signature Executive ramp at SJC which was a bit tight for a 767-400.



Ironically the one item we spent the most time briefing was how we were going to hoist the Bronco flag which one of the Bronco front office staff brought up to us about 30 minutes prior to takeoff and asked if we'd fly it upon landing. Without it being said I wasn't about to have someone drop it in front of all those cameras. I

jokingly told the United Ramp Supervisor who was tasked to hold it that if he dropped it he was going out with it! Needless to say it came off without a hitch and was prominently featured on ESPN and live on the NFL Channel.



Once on the ground in SJC I stood at the cockpit door and wished Gary Kubiak and John Elway the best. Elway shook my hand and thanked me for the flight and smooth landing. And as I tell everyone, the Super Bowl win started with a smooth arrival. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Cheers,

Z