

## *Hotel Updates*



*Jay Lyle (PIT)  
Chairman, Crew Accommodations Committee*

**Y**our Hotel Committee resumed hotel inspections in April following the resolution of the AFA negotiations in March. We hope to make progress in May toward completing the tremendous backlog of work that accumulated while the Company focused their resources on these negotiations.

Before I discuss the inspections, I want to bring you up to date on committee staffing changes. I appointed three new committee members and am seeking at least two more for the BOS and PHL bases. Joining the committee are: Mark Constine (BWI), Chris Minor (CLT), and Tim Anderson (DCA). I hope to train these three gentlemen by the end of May, and will update the committee list in the *US AIRWAVES* to reflect our current staffing.

What follows are the results of our recent inspections. First we made a trip to Manchester, England, to scout for a hotel for our new service starting May 25. We visited some nice hotels over there, and chose a very nice hotel for the overnights: the Renaissance Hotel, which operates under the Marriott brand. We will be the only airline in the hotel, so we will not be competing with another airline for rooms in the morning. At the moment the hotel is installing air conditioning, which will be completed before we start the service to Manchester. Hotel management promised us that there will be no waiting for our rooms in the morning when we arrive. The drive from the airport to the city takes about 25 minutes. The phone number of the hotel is 0161 835 3663.

US Airways crews will receive a 25 percent discount in the restaurant and on 24-hour room

service. The ice machine is located on the mezzanine level, and each room will contain a refrigerator. The hotel offers 0800 calls with no access fee, but local calls will cost 26 pence a unit. The hotel is also looking into building a health club in some unused storage space. The club would be large enough to sell outside memberships.

The Renaissance Hotel is located near the corner of Market and Deansgate Streets. Market Street has many shops and one mall within a five-minute walk. Included among the shops is a brand new "Marks and Sparks" store with a grocery department in the basement. Heading down Deansgate, you will find many pubs, clubs, and restaurants, as well as additional shopping, mostly located within a 10-minute walk of the hotel. I'm sure after a few trips there, most crews will find their way around quite nicely, and find many more areas we didn't have time to see. A new Harvey Nickels store is also under construction next to the hotel. Our rooms, all odd-numbered, will be located on the backside of the hotel to avoid as much street noise as possible. Initially, the hotel will exclusively reserve nonsmoking rooms for our crews. Smoking rooms will likely be located on a different floor.

We will also travel to Frankfurt to look for a second hotel. With the addition of the Charlotte flight and A330s on this route, we will require more rooms than the Crown Plaza can accommodate without triggering long waits for rooms. We will keep one crew at the Crown Plaza, and board the other two somewhere else. Since we leave for the inspection on the April 17, two days after the *US AIRWAVES* deadline, I'm not sure where the other hotel will be. We will be looking in both Mainz and Wiesbaden. Again, our goal is

*“ We hope to make progress in May toward completing the tremendous backlog of work that accumulated while the Company focused their resources on these negotiations. ”*

*“I spoke with some of the other airlines about where they stay in Las Vegas, and learned that many are on the move or looking.”*

to find a hotel that will not make us wait for rooms, and is located in a nice area. Whether we will keep the same crew in the Crown Plaza all the time, or rotate it through the bases, is still undecided. Please check the ALPA MEC website for updates on this city, as I'll put something there as soon as we make a decision.

We also sent two inspectors to Las Vegas to search for a new overnight hotel. Our management did a good job searching the city trying to drum up some interest in our business, but was unable to elicit many responses from gaming hotels. One gaming hotel, not on the strip, expressed interest in us. Unfortunately, when the inspector checked into the hotel, he didn't want to spend the night because of the condition of the hotel room.

I spoke with some of the other airlines about where they stay in Las Vegas, and learned that many are on the move or looking. For example, Caesars, before closing a tower for renovation, asked NWA to leave. NWA ended up at Bally's, but crews have been relocated quite a few times since the move. NWA is not happy about the moves. Now Bally's is planning to close down 500 rooms for renovation, thus marking the end for NWA at this hotel. Delta moved some crews from Circus Circus to the Alexis Park, and is

receiving mixed reviews. Some like the rooms better than Circus Circus rooms, but not the exterior entrances to the rooms, the off-strip location, and the lack of a shuttle to get to the strip. We inspected one full service hotel located close to the strip. This hotel had four separate buildings, and access to each building was very easy. Unfortunately, hotel management wouldn't provide shuttle service to the strip. Having our crews walking back late at night didn't seem like a good idea when we have a hotel willing to provide shuttle service.

Despite its less-than-ideal location, the LaQuinta is the front runner to retain our business for the following reasons: 1) Hotel management will continue to provide the shuttle service to the strip. 2) This hotel seems to be more secure in the evenings than the other hotels we inspected. 3) Although there is no restaurant at the LaQuinta, the area around the hotel has been cleaned up, and has a good variety of restaurants. While some crews were recently relocated, the new general manager assured us that this practice is now a thing of the past. We booked additional rooms over the past month, and the hotel is hiring additional maids and keeping a supervisor on later to ensure that our crews will not wait for rooms upon check in. To

### *Disapproval List*

- EWR Long**—Contract is up at the Holiday Inn. We should have a trip to EWR for inspections in May.
- CLE short Ramada**—A quick trip should solve the problem, as the Sheraton is willing to accept more rooms from us.
- IND short Quality and Ramada**—We plan a trip in May to search for a better location and quality room product.
- TPA long**—This is the last month this should be on the list. Thought we had this solved but got distracted with the AFA contract.
- Off the list is DTW long, as we now have a new hotel for the long overnights.

### *Watch List*

- CHS long**—It appears that we are starting to have enough long overnights to use a second hotel. In the mean time, the van service that was available to go to town no longer operates, and we are seeking alternatives.
  - CHM long transportation**—Many problems in March, but nothing reported to date in April. Seems the new general manager solved the problems.
- We received fewer OF-310 forms this month than ever before. I answered 24, and still have about 10 on my desk. I hope you will begin filling these forms out again, soon.



move now to another hotel would involve trading one set of problems for another. We would not get into a gaming hotel or a full service hotel at this time. Las Vegas continues to amaze me. With the number of new rooms being added to the market, hotels still fill these rooms with alarming regularity.

One change you will see in May involves the long Detroit overnight. We finally succeeded in moving from the St. Regis to the Holiday Inn Livonia. This change will shorten the drive time by about 10 minutes each way. In addition, the area around this hotel is 1,000 percent better! The Holiday Inn is located in a mall's parking lot. The mall contains restaurants and a movie theater, with additional restaurants located nearby. NWA and Airborne already stay at the hotel. The Holiday Inn offers a 10 percent discount in the restaurant, a small work-out room, free local and 800 calls, and bikes for crewmember use. Tremors nightclub, which is attached to the hotel, has a free buffet in the evenings. For a \$5 fee, crewmembers may also exercise at the health club located in the mall.

We are planning future trips to CAE for the short overnight; IND for the short overnight;

CLE to get rid of the short Ramada; EWR to replace the Holiday Inn for our long overnights; Tampa to finish a move for our long overnights; PHX to replace the downtown Ramada, and MYR to move from the Landmark to the Hampton for all of our overnights. I spoke with the folks at the Hampton, and the hang-up is at their corporate office. They are not sure they want to take the additional rooms until they add on to the hotel. We also plan to visit CHA to find a replacement for the Howard Johnson's, and explore MCI to see what is available for the short overnight.

That's it for this month. Please carry a few OF-310 forms with you, and fill them out, which helps all of us. Also please look for the Crew Accommodations or Hotel Committee boxes in the bases. Using our boxes will get the forms to the committee quickly.

*Thanks and have a good overnight!*



*“To move now to another hotel would involve trading one set of problems for another. We would not get into a gaming hotel or a full service hotel at this time.”*