



The Latest Airport Information

INSIDE **MSY**

SPRING 2009, VOL. 6 NO. 1 - A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AT LOUIS ARMSTRONG NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Newlyweds John & Flora Lyon aboard their unusual wedding chapel - a Continental 737 - Photo and story: Courtesy of Gina Giarelli

Unique Nuptials for NOAB Communications Manager

On May 9, 2009, John Lyon and Flora Williams were married. What made their wedding special is where they were married; aboard a Continental 737. They met on board a Continental flight from Cleveland to New Orleans at the end of December 2002. Each had been visiting

relatives in Ohio for the Christmas holiday. Flora sat in 8A and John sat in 8C. They talked to each other on the flight home, but only shared basic information – where they worked and what they did. When the plane landed at MSY, they departed from each other thinking they would never meet each

other again. Little did they know that fate and a very good friend would bring them back together. All through January, Flora’s friend, unbeknownst to Flora, was busy tracking John down through various contacts he had at the Airport. By the end of January 2003, John and Flora had their first date at the Airport. The rest, as they say, is history. When they decided to get married, they knew that they wanted a nontraditional wedding. John called Darrel North, MSY Station Manager for Continental, and asked if a wedding could be held on a plane. Darrel agreed to the request and quickly began contacting Continental officials to make the arrangements. John called his fellow NOAB employee Reed Barnes to officiate the wedding. Reed had already performed 4 weddings and was looking forward to this one because it would be unique. Gina Giarelli and Michelle Wilcut, both of the NOAB Public Relations office, became the photographer and videographer, respectively.

On Saturday, May 9, 2009 John Lyon once again met Flora Williams at row 8 on a Continental 737.

John says “If I had to do it all again, I would not change a thing. I couldn’t ask for anything more. My wife was so beautiful, she left me breathless. I am very grateful to everyone who assisted in the wedding.” Flora says “I am incredibly lucky to have John in my life, and we are both lucky to have had such a memorable wedding. It was very romantic and symbolic, but also a lot of fun! I am so grateful to everyone involved who helped to make it happen.” By the way, they still have their boarding passes from that memorable day in December 2002. ✈

A Word from Sean Hunter



Spring is ending and summer will soon be here. If you live in the Gulf South region as we do, that means get prepared for Hurricane Season that officially begins June 1. I hope you are prepared. I encourage everyone to review your emergency plans with your family. A terrific website to visit for preparedness is: <http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/hurricanerelated/hurricaneindex.htm>. It has a wealth of information.

I want to thank everyone for the job you do in making this airport fly. We live in a unique place and it takes special people to make MSY what it is. These are difficult times for everyone with serious challenges but difficult times often present us with opportunities to show who we are, both as a person and as a professional. I encourage everyone to continue to strive to do your very best every day. MSY is you.!

DID YOU KNOW?

Check out this airport information and more at www.flymsy.com

Armstrong 2008 Passenger Numbers

Armstrong International Airport served 7,944,397 in 2008 or 82% of the all time high of 9,733,179 passengers in 2004. The forecast for this year is hopefully to hit 8 million.

Airport Alive

Be sure to watch Airport Alive, the 30 minute television program highlighting the latest news at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The program airs in all of the surrounding parishes on government access stations and cable networks. Check your local listings for time and day. It can also be seen on the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport website - www.flymsy.com. To view it, go to the home page and click on [Airport Alive](#). ←



CONGRATS TO LOUISIANA TAX FREE ON 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program (LTFS) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2009. Louisiana was the first state to initiate a program of this type, offering international visitors tax-free shopping while traveling within the state. ←

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

LAURA MORGAN-Aviation Board Communications employee has retired. She worked for the City of New Orleans for 28 years and had been at the NOAB for 22 of those years, which is a testament to her dedication.

MICHAEL PLEAS - Supervisor for Long Term Parking was recently commended by stranded Tennessee travelers for his assistance. They said, "We believe that Mr. Pleas is a representation of the spirit of New Orleans and its hospitality." Good job Michael! ←



AEROMEXICO SERVICE TO RETURN

AeroMexico will once again fly from MSY with service scheduled to begin on July 6. Mexico's largest airline will provide scheduled non-stop service to Mexico City and will continue the service to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Service is scheduled for 6 days a week. ←



SILVERBACK SOCIETY TOURS MSY

The Silverback Society® recently toured MSY and presented honorary member caps to Aviation Director Sean Hunter and NOAB Marketing Manager Gary Roulston. The organization was created to ensure that boys in elementary school have an opportunity to meet their future. The goal of the Society is to train and supply volunteer mentors whose motto is "Generations depend on me." Be sure to visit their website at www.silverbacksociety.com. ←

MARCH OF DIMES SUPPORT

Kudos to all of the employees who donated to the March of Dimes March for Babies and to the employees who participated in the March. The April event was sponsored through the City of New Orleans. ←

NOAB 2009 APRIL CRAWFISH BOIL



Thanks to everyone that helped with the planning, set-up and clean-up. It is a team effort that makes this a success. ←