

Community

CONNECTION



SPRING 2013



Frontier lands at New Castle Airport with low-fare scheduled service



NEW CASTLE—In April, Frontier Airlines announced it will bring its friendly brand of low-fare air service to Wilmington-Philadelphia

New Castle Airport beginning July 1. The airline will offer five new nonstop routes on 168-seat Airbus A320 aircraft to Chicago Midway, Tampa, Denver, Houston, and Orlando, as well as providing connecting service via Denver to destinations across the western part of the country.

“Bringing this new business to our state is a welcomed economic opportunity to provide new travel options for Delawareans,” noted Gov. Jack Markell. Daniel Shurz, Frontier’s senior vice president, commercial, added “Customers

who fly Frontier from Wilmington/Philadelphia can skip congested and expensive alternative hubs in the region and enjoy quick, convenient, low-fare travel to great destinations.”



Gov. Markell, DRBA Executive Director Scott Green, DRBA Airport Director Steve Williams, and Congressman John Carney (DE) at the announcement of Frontier’s new local service.

This expansion follows Frontier’s recent entry into the Trenton, NJ, market from which Frontier now offers ten destinations. Frontier notes that its customers traveling on these new routes from Wilmington / Philadelphia will find the best fares, more choice and better perks when booking on the airline’s website FlyFrontier.com, including triple award frequent flyer miles in July or double award miles in August and September. ■

1 billion customers have crossed the Twin Spans



NEW CASTLE—On December 18, 2012 at 11:59 AM, Delaware Governor Jack Markell and Delaware

River and Bay Authority Commissioners congratulated Jeff Wright of Wildwood, New Jersey, on being the one billionth customer at the Delaware Memorial Bridge. The 51-year-old computer consultant was headed to Wilmington when he was asked to participate in a ceremony in his honor. DRBA staff had estimated ahead of time when the billionth customer would pass through the toll lanes so the ceremony could be planned and the governor could take part. Gov. Markell presented Mr. Wright with a framed photo of the Twin Spans; a copy of William Miller’s *Crossing the Delaware*, a book that chronicles the history of the Delaware Memorial Bridge; and a souvenir commemorative silver token. In addition, the Authority loaded \$250 on Mr. Wright’s E-ZPass account. ■

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3 CMLF vessels get interior seating makeover Goal was to “wow” customers



CAPE MAY—With customers’ wishes in mind and with improved passenger comfort as a goal, DRBA employees completed a four-month long project to update the Cape May-Lewes Ferry vessels with enhanced and modernized seating.

The installation project of new interior seating began last fall and was phased in to the three vessels, the MV Cape Henlopen, the MV New Jersey and the MV Delaware.

Old seating, furniture and carpeting were removed and new carpeting and other flooring were installed prior to the new seating arrangements being put in place. The renovations took about three weeks for each vessel and was done by Cape May-Lewes Ferry employees at the Cape May Terminal.

“We always look for ways to create ever more enjoyable travel experiences for our customers,” explained Jim Gillespie, the CMLF Port Engineer. “The salon seats have numerous improvements such as tray tables, drink holders, and arm rests, and they are arranged to accommodate individual as well as various

sized groups. Some seats even recline for additional relaxation during the crossing.”

With the installation of the new seating completed, each vessel’s passenger salon has significantly more seats available for customers. Gillespie noted the additional inside seating capacity will help ensure that more passengers have a seat even when the boat is full. Gillespie added “the new fabrics and modern seat construction are very comfortable and are specifically made for the harsh marine environment, which will reduce seat maintenance costs.”

Director of Ferry Operations Heath Gehrke noted that when the new seating was unveiled in February 2013 to customers, it was the time of year when the locals, the ferry’s regular customers, are on the boats more often.

“We have been thrilled with their response to the new seats. Our goal is to wow our customers in everything we do. They asked for better seating, we listened and we are pleased to provide it!”

And the Cape May-Lewes Ferry’s customers are pleased with the comfort, the new look and the fact that their requests were fulfilled. ■



CUTTING THE RIBBON—Delaware River and Bay Authority officials joined with New Jersey and Delaware representatives to cut the ribbon for the re-named ferry service.

SIGNING THE SERVICE—A new name means new signage for the ferry service.



Three Forts Ferry transformed into a new, re-named bi-state tourist attraction



The DRBA's Three Forts Ferry is no more! Its ports of call have been revised and a new name reflects its changed destinations —the Delaware City-Salem Ferry.

Representatives from both New Jersey and Delaware as well as from the DRBA announced the relocation and renaming of the service in April. Reflecting the ferry's new ports of call, the renamed Delaware City-Salem Ferry service operates between Delaware City, Delaware; Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island, and Barber's Basin at the Port of Salem, New Jersey. The passenger ferry service began its new schedule on May 4, 2013.

The Three Forts ferry operated between Delaware City, Fort Delaware, and Fort Mott in New Jersey under the DRBA's management since 1997. Last October, Superstorm Sandy severely damaged the pier facility at Fort Mott. Because the timetable for repairs to this pier were uncertain, the relocation of the ferry service to another New Jersey port was necessary.

Damages to the Delaware docks were less extensive and were able to be repaired in a timely fashion.

"We're really excited to bring the service to the City of Salem," said Ceil Smith, DRBA Commissioner from Salem County. "Although Superstorm Sandy dealt the ferry service a blow, we had the ability to turn a negative situation into a positive one. The opportunity to relocate the dock closer to the City of Salem offers visitors more opportunities to enjoy the heritage and ecotourism that the City of Salem has to offer."

Delaware City and Salem are gateways to incredible recreational opportunities, from exploring military history at Fort Delaware, to great bike trails and some of the best birding and hunting in the world. The new ferry service will introduce these resources to thousands of new visitors every year.

Charles Washington, Jr., Mayor of the City of Salem, noted that "We are looking forward to helping increase ridership from the New Jersey side for the ferry and even more so to receive riders who can experience the history, architecture and fine business establishments of Salem City."

Mayor Stanley Green of Delaware City hopes to establish closer ties with Salem officials. "We're going to get together to talk about each one of our towns," the mayor said referring to Washington. "I want to go

through Salem and see what they have to offer."

Scott Green, Executive Director of the DRBA, noted that because the City of Salem was a key stop on the Underground Railroad, visitors can now experience another slice of history from that era.

The Delaware City-Salem Ferry began public service in May, operating on some weekend days. Beginning June 12, the ferry service will operate up to five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday (and holidays) through September 2. For details and group reservations, visit [http:// www.destate-parks.com/park/fort-delaware/ferry.asp](http://www.destate-parks.com/park/fort-delaware/ferry.asp) or call 877-98-PARKS.

The schedule will include two dockings at Barber's Basin, one at 9:30 a.m. departing for Delaware City and a 3:00 p.m. arriving back at Barber's Basin. Limited visitor parking is available at Barber's Basin for customers using the ferry service. Biking is permitted in Delaware City and in Salem City but not at Pea Patch Island. ■

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CEREMONY—Jimmy Wilson's family members view the plaque in their relative's memory.

DRBA names building for Jimmy Wilson



Shortly after the new year, the Authority dedicated its main Maintenance Building at the DMB complex as "The James G. Wilson Maintenance Building."

The dedication ceremony, which took place on Jimmy Wilson's birthday, was held inside the building that will forever bear his name.

James (Jimmy) G. Wilson was hired on March 2, 1981 as maintenance employee. He transferred to be a toll collector three months

later. On October 22, 1984, Jimmy transferred back to the maintenance department so he could attend college at night.

On April 17, 1985, Jimmy was cleaning Toll Booth 8 at the Bridge's westbound toll plaza when he was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer. Jimmy Wilson is the only maintenance employee to have lost his life in the line of duty at the Delaware River and Bay Authority. He spent his entire career at the Delaware Memorial Bridge. ■



Triathletes to jump off CMLF in June



An historic sporting event, *The Inaugural Escape the Cape Triathlon & Aquabike*,

will take place along the Jersey shore on June 2. Jointly sponsored by the DRBA, Lower Township, NJ, and DelMoSports, the event will host 1,000 triathletes, their families and friends for the endurance event.

An exciting twist to this triathlon is that the event will start aboard a Cape May-Lewes ferry vessel in the Delaware Bay. Athletes will board the ferry and sail out into the Bay where they will jump off into the waters to begin the race. For more information please visit www.escapethecape.com. ■