

# Clear for Takeoff

A Look at January-2011 Ancillary Expenses Associated with the USM Airplane

The 23-Dec-2011 USMNEWS.net report entitled [September Skies](#) announced that USMNEWS.net has recently obtained many new official documents regarding the USM airplane. That particular report indicates that the ancillary expenses associated with the Beechcraft King Air for just the last week of Sept-2011 come to more than \$250. This figure, for such a relatively brief period, is a harbinger of even greater expenses over other periods during 2011. The present report examines similar expenses for the month of Jan-2011.

1/16/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	WAFFLE HOUSE 100017616	\$17.20
1/17/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	CRACKER BARREL #578 CONCO	\$23.46
1/16/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	APPLEBEES 980338400131	\$38.80
1/17/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	FOSTERS GRILLE OF CONCORD	\$14.28
1/18/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	TEXAS LAND & C00171306	\$62.31
1/20/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR	\$176.62
1/19/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	WINGATE INN CONCORD	\$269.58
1/19/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	WINGATE INN CONCORD	\$269.58

The insert above shows just what ancillary expenses that USM's Airplane Operations auxiliary generated during Jan-2011. Table 1 below summarizes these:

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>Some Jan-2011 Airplane Expenses</b>	
Category	Amount
<b>Food</b>	<b>\$156.05</b>
Waffle House – (16-Jan-2011)	\$17.20
Applebee's – (16-Jan-2011)	\$38.80
Cracker Barrel – (17-Jan-2011)	\$23.46
Foster's Grille – (17-Jan-2011)	\$14.28
Texas Land and Cattle Steakhouse – (18-Jan-2011)	\$62.31
<b>Lodging</b>	<b>\$539.16</b>
Wingate Inn – (19-Jan-2011)	\$269.58
Wingate Inn – (19-Jan-2011)	\$269.58
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>\$176.62</b>
Enterprise Rent-a-Car – (20-Jan-2011)	\$176.62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$871.83</b>

As Table 1 indicates, Airplane Operations incurred expenses in the food, lodging and transportation categories over the five or so days in Jan-2011 during which it appears as though members of the Saunders administration traveled to and around Concord, North Carolina. The pilot signing off on these expenditures was Kenneth Price, one of several pilots employed by/within USM's airplane auxiliary. The size of the meal expenses and the duplicate nature of the lodging sums suggest that Price was accompanied by another USM pilot, possibly Julian Allen, a prominent figure in the earlier report.

Dining by Price and another pilot at Waffle House, Applebee's, Cracker Barrel, Foster's Grille and Texas Land and Cattle Steakhouse cost Mississippi taxpayers **\$156.05**. Of course, this sum would not have been a part of Saunders' use of commercial airline services, had such occurred.



Multiple nights at Concord's Wingate Inn by multiple USM pilots added **\$539.16** to taxpayers' tab. As with the pilots' meals, this expense would have been avoided had Saunders traveled by commercial carrier. The total of "avoidable" expenses is, thus far, **\$695.21**. Lastly, Enterprise Rent-a-Car squeezed another **\$176.62** out of Mississippi's hard-working citizens so that Saunders' pilots would have transportation between their hotel, the airport and Concord's eating establishments. Given that members of the Saunders administration likely benefitted from this rental, something that would have also been necessary using commercial airlines, only a portion of this expense might have been avoidable.

The total ancillary expenses for Jan-2011 come to a whopping **\$871.83**. This sum represents most, if not all, of the allowable travel stipend for many on the academic side of the USM house. Sadly for Mississippi taxpayers and USM faculty, the story told here is only the tip of the iceberg.