

February's Friendly Skies

A Look at February-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 Feb-2011.

2/7/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	APPLEBEES 423063742308	\$38.35
2/7/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	ST JOHNS SUITES	\$62.15
2/7/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	ST JOHNS SUITES	\$62.15
2/8/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	CRAIG AIR CENTER INC	\$657.80
2/8/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	SONNY'S REAL PIT BAR-B-Q	\$25.04
2/8/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR	\$46.60
2/8/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	AUTOZONE #3821	\$13.35
2/8/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	SANDALWOOD AMOCO	\$6.13
2/8/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	SINGLETONS SEAFOOD SHA	\$25.21
2/8/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	WAL-MART #1960	\$2.97
2/9/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	ARAMARK@MD BAYSHORE	\$24.00
2/9/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	AAFES MAC DILL GAS PUMPS	\$12.23
2/10/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	WM SUPERCENTER	\$10.17
2/10/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	DENNY'S #6929	\$25.36
2/11/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR	\$84.84
2/10/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	CITGO KWIK STOP #38	\$4.52
2/14/2011	KENNETH G PRICE, JR.	ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR	\$80.51
2/19/2011	JOHN J BYXBE	SIRIUSXM.COM*	\$593.89

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

Category	Amount
Food	\$137.96
Applebee's – (7-Feb-2011)	\$38.35
Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q – (8-Feb-2011)	\$25.04
Singleton's Seafood Shack – (8-Feb-2011)	\$25.21
Aramark @MD Bayshore – (9-Feb-2011)	\$24.00
Denny's – (10-Feb-2011)	\$25.36
Lodging	\$124.30
St. John's Suites – (7-Feb-2011)	\$62.15
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Miscellaneous	\$643.26
Autozone – (8-Feb-2011)	\$13.35
Sandalwood Amaco – (8-Feb-2011)	\$6.13
Wal-Mart – (8-Feb-2011)	\$2.97
Aafes Mac Dill Gas Pumps – (9-Feb-2011)	\$12.23
Wal-Mart Supercenter – (10-Feb-2011)	\$10.17
Citgo Kwik Stop – (10-Feb-2011)	\$4.52
Sirius-XM – (19-Feb-2011)	\$593.89

Transportation	\$867.75
Enterprise Rent-a-Car – (8-Feb-2011)	\$46.60
Craig Air Center Inc. – (8-Feb-2011)	\$657.80
Enterprise Rent-a-Car – (11-Feb-2011)	\$84.84
Enterprise Rent-a-Car – (14-Feb-2011)	\$80.51
TOTAL	\$1,773.27

As Table 1 indicates, Airplane Operations incurred expenses in the food, lodging, miscellaneous and transportation categories over just a few days in Feb-2011 during which it appears as though members of the Saunders administration traveled to and around Jacksonville, Florida. 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 Applebee's, Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q, Singleton's Seafood Shack and other eateries cost Mississippi taxpayers **\$137.96**. Of course, this sum would not have been a part of Saunders' use of commercial airline services, had such occurred.

At least one night in Jacksonville's St. John's Suites by multiple USM pilots added **\$124.30** 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, **\$262.26**. Enterprise Rent-a-Car squeezed another **\$211.95** out of Mississippi's hard-working citizens so that Saunders' pilots would have transportation between their hotel, the airport and Jacksonville'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. Added to this sum, however, is a \$657.80 charge by Jacksonville's Craig Air Center, Inc., a charge presumably accounted for by the need for airplane fuel. This is certainly a charge that would have been avoided with the use of commercial air, raising the total of avoidable expenses to *at least* **\$920.06**.



Expenses in the miscellaneous column include two trips to Wal-Mart, a trip to Autozone and three visits to services stations of one brand or another. These total only **\$49.37**. This column also includes what appears to be a subscription payment to Sirius-XM of \$593.89, raising the miscellaneous total to a whopping **\$643.26**, all of which would have been avoided had Saunders never leased a Beechcraft King Air and, instead, used commercial air service for university-related travel. The Sirius-XM fee payment was authorized by [John Byxbe](#), the associate director of contract services at USM. At the time, Byxbe reported to Mike Herndon, the USM director of contract services who was recently placed on administrative leave as a result of his association with the "Tabletgate" scandal at USM.

The total ancillary expenses for Jan-2011 come to a whopping **\$1,773.27**. Sadly for Mississippi taxpayers and USM faculty, the story told here is only the tip of the iceberg.