

## QUESTION: WHOSE PLANE IS THIS?

Why do USM students and faculty pay for N777AQ while IHL members seem to use it more than anyone else?

### To Columbus, MS (Golden Triangle)

On September 3, 2009, a USM Pilots' Trip Log reported that Martha Saunders, Ed Blakeslee—IHL member and Christine Pickering—IHL member and Pickering's spouse, Brent, flew on N777AQ to Columbus, MS. IHL personnel again outnumber USM personnel as passengers aboard the flight. The Pilots Trip Log shows two pilots flew the plane, Kilgore and Price, and the trip took 1.7 flight hours. No purpose was given for the flight. The charge for the flight according to the Interdepartmental Invoice was the "President's Office"—that is, students and faculty at USM.

King Air N777AQ Trip Log						
Date(s)	Destination(s)	Passenger Name(s)				
9-2-09	Columbus/Golden Triangle	Doug Rouse, Pam Rouse, Robin Robinson				
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Kilgore/Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng	Maintenance	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1662.1	Out 1661.6	= 0.5 hrs total			

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Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names				
9-2-09	Hattiesburg, MS					
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Kilgore/Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng	Maintenance	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1662.8	Out 1662.1	= 0.7 hrs total			

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Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names				
9-3-09	Columbus/Golden Triangle GTR	Dr. Saunders, Ed Blakeslee, Christy Pickering, Kent Pickering				
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Kilgore/Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng	Maintenance	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1663.6	Out 1662.8	= 0.8 hrs total			

King Air N777AQ Trip Log

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Name(s)</u>
9-3-09	Hattiesburg, ms	Dr. Saunders
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Kilgore/Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1664.5</u> Out <u>1663.6</u> = <u>.9</u> hrs total	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Names</u>
9-4-09	Golden Triangle, ms	
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Kilgore/Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1665.2</u> Out <u>1664.5</u> = <u>0.7</u> hrs total	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Names</u>
9-4-09	Hattiesburg, ms	Doug & Pam Kause, Brent & Kristy Ackering, Robin Robinson Ed Blakeslee, George Ross, Elizabeth Ross
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Kilgore/Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1665.8</u> Out <u>1665.2</u> = <u>0.6</u> hrs total	



IHL members seem to fly airplane N777AQ more than anyone else. Why should USM students and faculty pay for it?

### Context

If you are a new reader of this series, catch up by reviewing [A Brief History of Saunders' "Lease" of airplane N777AQ During a Recession, Part 1](#). That report provides background information concerning the actual costs for the first 17 months of an airplane N777AQ leased by President Saunders for a 60-month period. For example, USM documents report total actual cost of **\$591,231.71** during the first 17 months of airplane N777AQ operations.

Interdepartmental Invoices for 30 flights were provided in an initial response from USM to a MORA request concerning the airplane President Saunders leases and pays for with Mississippi taxpayer and student dollars. Although the MORA request was for all records related to the plane, USM's response was incomplete. When legal counsel followed up concerning the inadequate response, the University produced more documents. usmnews.net reporters are currently reviewing the additional documents and there are reasons to believe the response was again incomplete.

### **WHO'S MONITORING THESE "PUBLIC SERVANTS"?**

The incomplete response to our MORA request, as exemplified above, signals irresponsible accountability and questionable use of taxpayer, student, and faculty resources.

Is anyone holding USM and IHL administrators accountable? IHL members blessed the lease/purchase of the plane. Why not? IHL members are enjoying the use of the plane **at no cost**. So, do not expect the IHL to do its oversight responsibility and hold President Saunders accountable for this extravagant expenditure of USM student and faculty resources. **And, she's giving it away at the same time she's terminating USM academic programs and faculty.** Unless USM faculty and students take charge of their destiny, President Saunders will continue to implement her own vision which, increasingly does not include them.

Stay tuned to usmnews.net for cost analyses of the remaining flights aboard President Saunders' plane.