

# **Smarter Charter**

Friday February 10, 2017 | 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### PRESENTED BY:

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SCHEDULERS & DISPATCHERS CONFERENCE

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# Why Charter?

#### **Understanding Owners**

- Balancing the wants and needs of the owner vs. Charter Sales
  - Most Owners Charter to Offset Costs NOT to Make Money
  - Safe operation of the aircraft
  - Preservation of the asset's value
  - Selling the trip twice...First the Client and then the Owner
- Understanding Sales
  - Tremendous Resources to into Securing a New Client
  - Competition is Fierce
  - Time is critical
  - No Second Chances



#### **Charter Sales**

### Vetting the Client

- Affordability Ask Questions
- Trip Type (International/Domestic), Number of Passengers, Times
- Aircraft Type
- Pets/Special Needs
- Internal or External Aircraft to Source
- Does the Trip Meet Owner Criteria



## **Trip Analysis**

### Communicating with Ops – During the Quoting Process

- Permits, Duty Times
- Crew Rest Requirements
- Stop or Non-Stop Where to Stop on the Great Circle Route
- Airport Selection Runway Lengths, Altitude, Approaches, Curfew
- Time to Accomplish Necessary Requirements
- Crew Availability, Crew Requirements, Pricing
- Safety is the Ultimate Decision Factor



### **Booking Process**

### Communicating with Flight Operation/Dispatch

- Schedule Trip When Quote is Signed
- Have Payment Terms in Place
- Gather all Passenger Information
  - Names
  - Passport Information
  - 24 Hour Contact Information
  - Transportation



### **Final Trip Check**

#### Prior to Departure

- Verbal recap of all Trip Details with both Client and Operations
- Coordinate with Ops regarding weather, NOTAMS, rest issues (if changed)
- Flight Follow all legs
- Ensure Ancillary Services are in place/delivered
- Look at upcoming legs for changes



### Working as a Team

### Understanding the Challenges of Both Groups

- Sales Keeps Client Happy and Responsible for Selling
- Operations Responsible for Safe Operation of the Trip
- Both are Responsible for the Aircraft Owner's Interests
- Cross Training Employees
- Daily Meeting with Sales & Ops to Review the Schedule
- Incentivize Operations Participate in the Commission Pool
- Debrief with Crew Address issues, formulate solutions



# **Flight Operations**

- Communication
- Lead Times
- Crew Scheduling
- Aircraft Scheduling
- Passenger Details



#### Communication

- Open communication (Charter Sales Flight Ops)
  - Flight Crews (Pilots, MX, FA)
  - Aircraft Owner
- Challenges
  - Remote working locations
  - Understanding of position/department goals and responsibilities



#### **Lead Times**

- Landing permits
- Crew/pax Visas
- Owner approval
  - Setting realistic expectations
    - Likely different for every managed aircraft
  - Ensuring everyone involved understands the process
  - Communicating any status updates
- Crew scheduling
  - Confirming qualified crew for the aircraft
  - Contract Pilots and FA Availability



## **Crew Scheduling**

- Qualified Crew for 135 Charter Flights
  - Training done under the Operator's certificate
  - 135.299 line check to be PIC qualified
- Contract Crew
  - Positioning considerations for non based crew
    - Time and cost



## **Crew Scheduling**

#### 135 Crew limitations

- Flight Time
  - 10 hours (2 pilot crew)
    - No more than 10 hours in a 24 hour period
  - 12 hours (3 pilot crew)
- Duty Time
  - 14 hours (2 pilot crew)
  - 18 hours (3 pilot crew)
- Rest
  - 10 hours minimum rest
  - Be mindful of the 10/24 regulation when scheduling/quoting minimum rest trips.



# **Aircraft Scheduling**

- Parking limited at some airports
  - May require repositioning to/from
    - Adds time
    - Adds cost
- Potential security risks to consider
  - Aircraft security at the airport
  - Crew security
  - No Go situations



## **Passenger Details**

- Document copies are always best if possible
  - Lessens chance of input error
    - Errors risk possible fines or worse
  - Copy on file in case of issue while on trip
- APIS/eAPIS Requirements
  - 135 v. 91
    - Main differences to note: pax home address and US border crossing needed for 91
    - Must be accurate



### **COMMUNICATION IS KEY**



Roger Murdock: We have clearance,

Clarence.

Captain Oveur: Roger, Roger. What's

our vector, Victor?

**Tower voice:** Tower's radio clearance,

over!

Captain Oveur: That's Clarence

Oveur. Over.

Tower voice: Over.

Captain Oveur: Roger. Roger Murdock: Huh?

Tower voice: Roger, over! Roger Murdock: What?

Captain Oveur: Huh?

Victor Basta: Who?



## Flight Department Resources

- Trusted vendors
- Other flight departments
- FBOs
- Air Charter Guide
- S & D Conference



## **Selecting Charter Operator**

- Vetted
  - ARGUS (Gold, Gold Plus and Platinum)
  - Wyvern (Registered Operator and Wingman Standard)
  - IS-BAO (Stages 1,2 and 3)
  - Air Charter Safety Foundation audit registration



# **Charter Operator Review Form**

Charter Operator Review Form								Operational Questions				
Da	Date: Next Compliance Review Date:							1.	Brief description, including dates, of any modifications or refurbishments for aircraft listed a		ments for aircraft listed above:	
No	te: Con	npletion	of this form may	be repeated every 24	-calendar m	onths or as deemed nec	essary.	1				
Name of Operator:								1				
Point of Contact: Email:								1				
Ad	dress:	9						1	101 - 1 - 1			
City: State:						Zip:	1 2	. What is the number of flight crewmembers currently employed?  . Have there been any enforcement actions against the operator or any currently employed crewmembers:				
Tel: Fax:								3.	Have there been any enforcement actions against the operator or any currently employed crewmembe     If so, please explain:			
Years as an Approved Charter Operator: Certificate #:					e #:		2000 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C					
Aircraft Make/Model:			- 4				1					
Date of Manufacture:			10									
The following documents have been examined:								4.	What is the current safety record of the operator?	Accidents:	Reportable Incidents:	
Operating Certificate							□ Yes □ No	5	What is the current customer satisf	faction rating?		
Insurance Certificate							□ Yes □ No	1	6. Comments:			
Independent Third Party Audit By:							□ Yes □ No	]				
Training Records							□ Yes □ No					
Operational Requirements								1				
1.	IS-BAO Certified/Registered (or validated Safety Management System)					rstem)	☐ Yes ☐ No	1				
	A. Training Program						☐ Yes ☐ No					
	B.	Fatigue Program					□ Yes □ No					
	C. Security Program						☐ Yes ☐ No					
	D. Maintenance Control Program						☐ Yes ☐ No	1.0	I certify that the above statements are true (responsible person for this charter operator signs):			
2.	Inter	ternational Operations Experience □ Yes □ No					□ Yes □ No	Na Na	ime	Signature	Date	
3.	Use o	f Substit	ute Charter Opera	ators			□ Yes □ No	⊩	esult of the Charter Operator Compliance Audit:			
4.	Flightcrew Qualifications:											
	PIC	т	Time in Type	ATP 🗆 Yes 🗆 N	o Type	Rating 🗆 Yes 🗆 No	Medical  1st 2nd		□ The above Charter Operator is qualified and certified for □ International, and □ Domestic substitute charter operations.  □ The above Charter Operator is NOT qualified and certified to do the substitute charter operations.			
	SIC	TT	Time in Type	ATP 🗆 Yes 🗆 N	о Туре	Rating 🗆 Yes 🗆 No	Medical  1st 2nd	_				
5. Flight Attendants (Current and qualified) ☐ Yes ☐ No								Na	ime	Signature	Date	



## **Aircraft Charter Pre-Screening Questions**

#### Appendix A: Aircraft Charter Pre-Screening Questions

Charter consumers are best served when the pre-screening of several charter operators and/or charter brokers is conducted in advance of a charter flight. Use the following questions as a basis to determine which charter operator or charter broker might be the best match for your needs.

#### Background and Experience

- Who is the FAA-certificated charter operator that will conduct our charter flights? What experience does the operator have? How long has the operator been in business: In aviation? As an air charter operator?
- What type of aircraft is on the charter certificate? What year(s) were the aircraft manufactured? What, if any, major refurbishments (interior, flight equipment, paint, etc.) were completed on the aircraft, and when?
- How many aircraft and crew does the charter operator have? Has the FAA ever taken enforcement action against the operator or one of its flightcrew members?
- What experience does the crew have? How many flight hours total time? How many hours in make/model of each aircraft?
- If special operations (e.g., mountain airports, extended over water) will be conducted, what experience (initial and recurrent) does the crew have with these operations?

#### Aircraft Maintenance

- Who maintains the aircraft? If it is not maintained by a factory service center, how often is/are the maintenance technician(s) sent for training specific to that make/model aircraft?
- How does the operator handle maintenance situations that, on a rare occasion, might arise during a trip you have booked?

#### International Operations

- If you are planning an international flight, what experience does the operator have flying to/from/within the countries you wish to visit?
- What specific safety and security measures does the operator implement when conducting operations in that region?
- Will the charter operator or authorized ground handler assist with immigration and customs logistics, such as visas and customs forms?

#### Safety and Security

- What is the operator's safety record? Has the charter operator had any aircraft accidents or incidents? If so, what measures has the operator implemented to ensure increased safety?
- Has the charter operator been audited by an independent third-party organization? What were the audit findings, and how does the charter operator compare to other charter companies?
- What security screening procedures are in-place (e.g., to identify passengers)! (Note: Appropriately, charter operators will be hesitant to describe their security procedures/ plans; your questions should focus on what passengers need to do to comply with the operator's security program.)
- How often is training provided to the crew and what is covered in the training? (e.g., does the charter operator provide training above and beyond the minimum training requirements established by the FAAI?
- Where is the training conducted? Is the initial and recurrent training provided in a simulator or the aircraft?
- What is the charter operator's policy on crew flight time and duty limits? If a possible customer trip goes beyond the crew flight/duty times, how would the charter operator conduct the mission and maintain their policies?
- Will there be a flight attendant on board the flight? Is the flight attendant assigned to your flight egress trained for the specific make/model of aircraft you are flying on?
- Is the aircraft equipped with a defibrillator and are the crew trained in its use? Does the aircraft have a subscription to an in-flight medical assistance program in case of medical emergency?

#### **Customer Service**

- Do the pilots, flight attendants and other employees receive customer service training? Are service standards in place; what are they and how are they measured?
- What is the customer satisfaction rating: low, average, good, excellent? What documentation does the operator have to support that?
- How soon prior to the scheduled flight will the aircraft be at the airport, ready for departure?
- To whom should concerns/complaints regarding flight irregularities, safety, or customer service be directed?
   Is there someone available 24/7 in case you have any of these concerns?

#### Aviation Insurance

- What company issues the aviation insurance policy? What are the charter operator's insurance coverage and limits?
- Will the charter operator name you as an additional insured?
- Will the charter operator provide you with a waiver of subrogation and a certificate of insurance confirming the coverage and aircraft that will be used for the flight?

#### Problem Resolution

- How will the charter company accommodate you if there is a problem encountered with the flight arrangements?
   (E.g., charter operator's aircraft is unavailable either prior to booking the trip or the aircraft becomes unavailable after the trip is booked.) Will the operator find another charter operator to conduct the flight?
- If a problem is encountered and a substitute charter operator is to be used, who is that operator and what are the substitute's answers to these pre-screening questions?

**Source: Aircraft Charter Consumer Guide** 



# **Selecting Aircraft**

- Number of people
- Distance traveled
- Airports requested
- Where is aircraft originating from?
- Aircraft Size, Age and Condition
- Cost
- Baggage / Cargo space
- Necessities / Amenities



### **Aircraft Comparison**



Source: Executive Jet Management - https://www.executivejetmanagement.com/Global/PDFs/PJCH.pdf



### **Request for Proposals**

#### Appendix B: Request for Proposals - Aircraft Charter Part B: General Questions About the Operator (for Charter Company or Broker to Complete): Use this form to obtain quotes for specific aircraft charter trips, Complete answers for Parts B and C 1. What is the name that appears on the charter company's air carrier or commercial operating FAA certificate? on separate sheet. Return charter quotes to: 2. What is the charter company's air camer or commercial operating certificate number? 3. Which FAA FSDO, and which principal operations inspector (POI) oversees your charter certificate? NAME 4. What, if any, limitations has the FAA placed on the charter operator's operations specifications? (e.g., no international flights, no flights under instrument flight rules) ADDRESS 5. Which aircraft (make, model and, if available, tail number) will be used for the flight? 6. Who are the crew members who will be conducting the flight and what is their experience level? (e.g., total number of flight hours experience, number of hours in make/model aircraft, recent training provided) PHONE/E-MAIL 2 Under what conditions would you substitute crew members and what are your policies with regard to using substitute Part A: Information About Your Trip (for Charter Customer to Complete): (List catering requirements, customer preferences and any other trip notes on a separate sheet, as needed.) 8. If you substitute grew members, when will I be notified of the change and receive information about the crew Number of Departure **Arrival City** Desired members' experience and training? Date Passengers Time City **Arrival Time** If you are an air charter broker. Leg 1 . Are you receiving compensation from the charter operator to arrange this flight? (If so, please state separately on the invoice your commission.) Leg 2 . Are you acting as an agent of the customer? An agent of the air carrier? An agent of both the customer and Leg 3 the air carrier? As an indirect air carrier? Leg 4 Leg 5 Part C: Aircraft Logistics and Pricing (for Charter Company or Broker to Complete): Leg 6 (This information may be provided in the form of a charter quote attached to the Part B responses.) 1. What is the hourly rate for the aircraft? 2. What additional costs will/might be charged? What are the costs? · Catering? · Overnight fees? · Crew charges? · One-way surcharge? Landing fees? · Other? 3. Are discounts provided for block charter? What hour increments are required and what is the discount? 4. What is your cancellation policy? What, if any, fees are charged? 5. What are your refund terms if the trip is not conducted as agreed upon? 6. What is the total estimated price for the trip, inclusive of all taxes and fees? NBAA Arough Chamer Consumer Guide 11

Source: Aircraft Charter Consumer Guide



## **Presenting Options**

- Be sure to get the information from the representative that you know your passengers will want
- A picture says a thousand words
- Manage expectations
- More than one option



## **Presenting Options**

Short and sweet

The 2 below flights would depart from Addison

- 2004 Sovereign Citation \$23k (cabin height 5.7'), with wi-fi
- 2009 Lear 45XR \$17k (cabin height 4.9'), with wi-fi, NOT available to depart before 1200

The 2 below flights would depart from Dallas Love Field

- 2004 Falcon 900EX \$29k (cabin height 6.2'), NO wi-fi
- 2000 Hawker 800XP \$16k (cabin height 5.7'), with wi-fi

Please see the attached flyers for each aircraft



### Communication

- Convey expectations
  - Who handles which items?
- Communicate needs to the charter company representative
  - Advise them of any passenger dietary restrictions and/or medical conditions
  - Ensure they are aware of passenger expectations
  - Keep them updated with trip changes



# **Post-Trip**

- Recap what went right and what needs improvement
- Compare quote and invoice

