



**Item:** Fast Lane News #28 in 2023 (#175 since 2020) on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> 2023  
**From:** Peter in our office in Oldsmar, FL  
**To:** Our Fast Lane Travel Family and Friends at home in Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!  
**Subject:** Stuck on the Tarmac; 2023 Last Chance; & My Final Thoughts: Family Stories & Pictures.



## **I. Stuck on the Airport Tarmac:**

Source: WSJ, OPINION. Stuck on the Airport Tarmac

Americans are looking forward to summer vacation and included in the package: A scenic view of the tarmac at LaGuardia airport. The Federal Aviation Administration is blaming travel mayhem this week on thunderstorms, but the underlying reason you'll pay more to arrive late to the beach is decades of government mismanagement.

United Airlines CEO Scott *Kirby* said on Monday that “the FAA frankly failed us this weekend,” as staffing shortages compounded delays and cancellations from bad weather in New York. The FAA is denying staffing problems, but this air-traffic jam has been months in the making.

The FAA earlier this year predicted a 45% increase in flight delays, and the agency has been pushing airlines to cut flights in particular to and from busy New York. Airlines have staffed up as they recover from pandemic disruption and try to meet increasing consumer demand. But cutting routes means fewer choices and higher fares for the long-suffering traveling public.

The FAA acknowledges that the New York area is at about 54% of its staffing target, versus the 80% average in other parts of the country. The New York area's John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark airports weathered more than 41,000 delays related to staffing shortages in summer 2022.

The situation is “a direct result of the FAA's own failure to solve long-running staff shortages,” as Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, ranking member on the Commerce Committee, said in a letter this spring to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. The Transportation Department inspector general last week scored FAA's “limited efforts to ensure adequate controller staffing.”

The FAA years ago proposed redesigning New York's air space, to include combining facilities to make controllers more efficient. That project crashed and burned thanks to political parochialism. New York Democrat Chuck Schumer in press releases touts his “fierce advocacy” in fighting an integrated facility that might have moved air-traffic controllers from Long Island and allowed more

efficient staffing. He's pandering to the flight-controllers union, and it's too bad there's no union representing Americans sitting in seat 36B.

This illustrates why the U.S. would benefit from spinning off air-traffic control from government, as countries such as Canada have done to salutary effect. Air-traffic control could rely on user fees, instead of taxes, and not be hostage to special-interest politics.

The FAA has also struggled to upgrade technology. A classic example is controllers passing around paper strips that track a flight. An FAA plan to roll out electronic flight strips at 49 major airports isn't set to finish until 2029. Technology such as 360-degree cameras obviate the need to put every controller in a tower at the end of the runway. But the FAA has shown little interest in remote towers.

Under a private air-traffic regime, the FAA would be free to focus on its core mission: Safety regulation. That looks more urgent as near-misses happen more frequently at airports across the country. Air-traffic reform stalled in Congress under the Trump Administration thanks to opposition from hobbyist pilots and private aviation companies.

The idea dates back to Al Gore's 1990s pitch for reinventing government. Mr. Buttigieg could revive his political fortunes by working with the GOP to make it a reality. As it is, he'll take the heat for summer delays. Summer travel dysfunction doesn't have to be inevitable. It's the product of incompetent government.

**II. A very small number of spaces on our 2023 PORSCHE Tours are still available – YOU do need some relaxing, non-decision making, enjoyment this fall:**

**Reminder:** You can **still** join one of our Great 2023 Fall Trips but we are on final approach at this point. For **Tuscany CALL US immediately**. The **PCA Fall TREFFEN Plus** **still has space**.

Almost There: Final 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips - <b>DON'T MISS OUT!</b> V-175						
Down to the Wire: the remaining 2023 Fast Lane Trips - <b>Register ASAP</b> - Space is getting tight!						
Day	Date	To	Date	PCA PORSCHE Tours		Important Features & Comments:
Thu	20-Jul	Thu	27-Jul	BORDEAUX River Cruise - relaxing & h. cuisine		<b>SOLD OUT - Waiting List</b>
Wed	20-Sep	Mon	25-Sep	THE Original PCA Fall PORSCHE <b>TREFFEN</b>	1	PORSCHE Factory/Museum & Lake Constance
Wed	20-Sep	Fri	29-Sep	THE Original PCA Fall PORSCHE <b>TREFFEN PLUS</b>	2	<b>Plus</b> ADDING Lake Maggiore, Como & Bellagio
Wed	4-Oct	Sun	15-Oct	INTERALPEN PORSCHE Fest - <b>Alpine Luxury</b>	3	Hahntenn, Gerlos, Timmels & Silvretta Passes
Mon	16-Oct	Sat	28-Oct	TUSCANY Fabulous tours from our Estate	4	<b>SOLD OUT - Waiting List</b>
Fri	1-Dec	Sat	9-Dec	Christmas Markets with Peter starting in <b>Stuttgart</b>	5	<b>In product'n</b> PLUS Munich, Salzburg, & Vienna

<b>Note:</b>	1.	This is the traditional pilgrimage to THE "Source" that each PCA member MUST make once.
	2.	This the same as #1. but with some awesome additional driving to the Italian Lake District.
	3.	By far the only 6-star hotel in Europe with amazing luxury and drives from our base.
	4.	TUSCANY is THE favorite with excursions from our private estate.- cooking class, wine tasting
	5.	<b>In production</b> , finalizing reservations, events and theater performances

After you have registered on [www.fastlanetravel.com](http://www.fastlanetravel.com) for one of our exciting tours, you will need to book your **flights** and **travel protection**. To assist you with these plans, please call our **Luxury Travel Manager, Susan Sheridan** at **813-475-5989**. We ensure the best experience for our clients; our 24/7 emergency support desk is expertly serviced by in-house air specialists. Travel with ease as we have you covered in all locations, at all times. Susan can also counsel you on any pre- or post- private or small group tours, river, or Mediterranean cruises. Also, we highly recommend securing a travel insurance plan. Protecting your trip will give you peace of mind for any medical emergencies, cancellations, delays, or baggage issues.

**NOTE: LAST CALL** The **Fall PCA TREFFEN Plus** which is similar to the Spring PCA TREFFEN Plus trip we just completed. The **PCA Fall TREFFEN Plus** **still has space**. Please check out the photobook video links below to get the full flavor of the Fall TREFFEN PLUS.

Please go to <https://fastlanetravel.com/video-gallery/> or <https://www.youtube.com/user/fastlanetravelinc>

**III.THE BEST of Fast Lane Travel in 2024.** We've had so many requests for another spectacular, amazing and truly unique experience, like **THE BEST of Fast Lane in 2019**. **OK, you win** – we are designing another one for **2024**, including a **Zeppelin Flight** over Lake Constance, a **helicopter** up to the **Jungfrau Glacier** for a champagne brunch





Champagne at about 11,300 ft. in Switzerland.



**IV. ADDENDUM:** Falling into the **Fast Lane Unique Experience Category** would be some wonderfully spectacular trips **that we have done in the past.** Just to whet your appetite: there will be a lot more for you to experience and enjoy in 2024. As the chairman of a FF500 company said to me: “Peter the reason we love your trips is that we don’t have to think!” **A trip down MEMORY LANE:**

1. **We have done:** Empire Capitals of Europe: Berlin, Leipzig, Hamburg, Prague, Budapest & Vienna.





2. **We have done:** Unknown Austria: Mürzzuschlag, Graz, Spielberg, Red Bull Ring, Gmünd, Malta Valley, Grossglockner & Felbertauern.



3. **We have driven PORSCHEs through China** into the foothills of the **Himalayas** to Songtsam, Shangri La and enjoying a never-been-done-before **Champagne Brunch** on top of the **Great Wall of China**.



4. **We have teed off** at 10,170 ft. on the par 72 Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Golf Course in Lijang, China. You can almost drive a ball all the way to Nepal since you are up that high.

5. **We have driven** from Havana to Salto de Sorao and Viñales in Cuba.



III. **My Final Thoughts: 4<sup>th</sup> of July . . . I hope you all had a wonderful celebration of our FREEDOM, but remember it wasn't FREE!**

Source: Gregg Eisenhardt –

**Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Their story. . .**

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

**What kind of men were they?**

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

Eleven were merchants.

Nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated.

But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free. **Happy Birthday America!!**



Please stay healthy and stay young; be happy and take good care of yourself...Let's look forward to the great times we will have together again on one of our fabulous PORSCHE Tours this year and let's look forward to 2024. **I will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. Peter**