

# **Virtual Airline CEO Questionnaire**

Thank you for participating in our VA CEO interview for the Virtual Airline List. Depending on the editor this word document it will be published on the social network and our website:

Please take your time answering the questions.

Respectively

## **1. Can you tell us a bit about yourself? For example; how old you are, what your background with flying in general is and what brought you to creating your own Virtual Airline.**

Lynx Airways Worldwide is the second oldest virtual airline in the World. Geoff Bergey, founder and first CEO, opened the Lynx hangar doors on July 1, 1992 on AOL Message Boards. For myself I started flying with Lynx on February 19, 1998 when I stumbled upon them on the AOL message boards. My background in flying comes from my years in the Navy from 1973 through 1999. I was what was referred to as an In-Flight Tech onboard the Orion P-3 Sub-hunter aircraft. I would sit on the forward radar cabinet just behind the Pilot's seat during many flights, especially on night flights, to watch the cockpit gauges, switches, and controls. My job, as an In-flight Tech (IFT) was to attempt to fix anything avionics that stops working while in flight. Sort of like the Mr. Spock of the time. So, I gained a fondness for aviation and understood the principles of flight well. When one day I went to my Warrants house, he showed me this new game called Microsoft Flight Simulator on his Commodore 64: the rest is history.

Also, as a young boy I loved visiting airports. When my parents would pick a visiting relative at JFK, I would run up to the observation deck to watch the airplanes land and takeoff and to hear them as well. I would then come home that day with a stack of flight timetable pamphlets and play airport with my other brothers. Then as a teenager, I would drive to JFK and Newark where I would park for hours at the approach end of their runways. I could almost touch the landing gear if I jumped a little higher.

## **2. When did you start your Virtual Airline?**

Well, I didn't start it. As I mentioned above, it was originally started by Geoff Bergey on July 1, 1992 on AOL Message Boards. When he left, and AOL stopped hosting message boards, I moved Lynx to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as a WEB based Virtual Airline. We've gone through some upgrades since and still continue to provide services to our pilots and keep the lights on the best I can.

## **3. Do you consider your Virtual Airline successful?**

We are very small, only because it's more about the Story than the actual flying. While the flying is important, the story you tell is primary. That is why pilots can fly any flight simulator, because it's not about the simulator it's more of what happened on your flight and what adventures you experienced, or was it just a routine flight. Of course, if the pilot doesn't want to tell a story, that's fine, then you log in the hours in the Pirep format. The pilot doesn't have to mention what flight simulator program they used, unless they want to of course. So, are we a successful? I would think Lynx Airways Worldwide around for 28 years is pretty successful.

**4. What is your most interesting experience with your Virtual Airline, what has happened that makes you think so?**

Interesting question for sure. I have to say how long we've been around. Think about: Sunair, the first virtual Airline and Lynx Airways Worldwide were born at practically the same time. At the time, Sunair went to Pro-Flight and Lynx to Microsoft Flight Simulator; they went one way and we went another way. But in the end, to my surprise we are both still around. Our InfoPak has a nice history of those events back in 199

**5. Did you have any bad experiences with your Virtual Airline?**

Bad experiences: no, I can't think of any unless it's techy. When we moved the second time in 2008 to another Forum, we almost lost our history of stories. But thanks to some outstanding Geeks, we got everything back. That was pretty bad for about a month or so.

**6. What do you think of your Virtual Airline's flow of new and leaving VA pilots? Is there something you do to attract more pilots? And why do you think some pilots leave your Virtual Airline?**

It is very difficult to attract new Pilots. Lynx Airways is not a typical virtual airline. If you join Lynx, you join mainly to tell stories. Not in the actual playing of any version of any Flight Simulation program. That is why it's immaterial what brand of flight simulation you use: it's not about the game exactly, it's about the story you tell after you fly to where ever you are flying and turn off the game. That is when you log into Lynx Airways Worldwide and begin the second part of your flight simulation experience; the story. So young and old toady don't want to do that; spend time writing a story, or filing a Pirep, they just want to turn off flight sim when they are done and that's it, game over. I understand that, as do our pilots. So, I'm working to transform Lynx into maybe providing some sort of FSCARS so those pilots who wish to use that for their Pireps can. Those who wish to write will continue to do so. That is a big task, and while it may not happen before the last Lynx Pilot turns off the lights, we sure will keep trying. Why, because t' its fun.

**7. What types of planes does your Virtual Airline use and do you have all the custom liveries available for your VA?**

Lynx has several Boeings of all varieties. We have our own paint scheme and applied it to FS8 and FS9, plus a few for FSX aircraft. In our fleet we also include an FSX C-17A for special operations flights...if you need such an aircraft for your story.

**8. Does your VA fly on a network? If so, what do you think about it? Do you feel it supplements the general flying experience, what do you think of the network in general and is it required for your pilots to fly on this network?**

Some of our pilots, like myself, fly occasionally on VATSIM. And it's pretty good if you want that kind of airline flying structure. It all depends on the story the Pilot is thinking about as to whether or not they fly in this network structured environment. For Lynx, I'm looking to supplement that experience with a Freelance environment for those Pilots who don't want to follow the ATC

structure but do want to share their flying real-time with other Lynx Pilots or other pilots from different virtual airlines.

**9. Do you use any flight tracking software? If so, which one, and are you happy about the service it provides? Would you like to improve it for example?**

Currently, I am building a new web site for Lynx due to come out in July 2020. One of the features I would love to have is a flight tracking map. Other Virtual airline do this but I have no idea how to get this going. I do have smartCARS as I thought that would do the trick. But unfortunately, they are not very responsive nor I think that far ahead in how to do that. Anyway, flight tracking is on my bucket list.

**10. Do you make use of the offers some developers / distributors have for Virtual Airlines? Do you think these developers / distributors have good offers? And does it fit your Virtual Airline policy?**

A few years back we partnered with Abacus and they chose Lynx, among others of course, to have our paint scheme on their 787 series. It was pretty exciting and it went well.

**11. Does your Virtual Airline have a custom-made internet web page or do you use, for example, PHPVMS and equivalents? Are you happy about your VA's web page?**

Yes, we have a custom web site and Forum. We are in the process, as I said earlier, of updating our web site. So far so good. But always looking for web builders who understand the virtual aviation hobby and can build to that. I once went to a web building site, actually several, I asked them to read about Lynx and see what they could come up with. Well, that didn't go well. Within an hour I had five bids for more than \$1,000 dollars and knew off the bat they never read anything. Not our InfoPak, SOPs, or even visited and roamed around our site as I asked them too. The price was reasonable, I thought, but only if they truly knew what a virtual airline was all about. So, I'm using Goggle Sites and building my own. That is going well. [www.lynxairways.com](http://www.lynxairways.com)

**12. And lastly, what are your expectations for your Virtual Airline in the coming twelve months?**

Well, right now we are going through what I call a Transformation. New Web Site, hopefully flight tracking, and new flight schedules to start off with. Go to [www.lynxairways.com/HQ](http://www.lynxairways.com/HQ) and visit our transformation section in the Plots lounge for details and progress reports. Other than that, well, we don't have many members left so as we get old and retire someday, we might have Lynx. But for now, we'll keep telling our story until the lights go out.

Please send this questionnaire to [admin@va-list.com](mailto:admin@va-list.com) so we can review it and post it on the Virtual Airline List and social network.

Kind regards,  
The Virtual Airline List team