

# NEWS AND VIEWS

## DAVID BUSHY

“I am back to the joy of flying,” says Cape Air’s Chief Operating Officer (COO) Captain David Bushy, who has recently returned to his pilot roots. His aeronautical career began thirty years ago in Plymouth, Massachusetts with the aptly named Pilgrim Airlines, and his professional trajectory continued upward with Delta Airlines, where he worked his way to Chief Pilot and Senior Vice-



President of Flight Operations. After a similar position with Cape Air’s partner JetBlue Airways, Captain Bushy is now behind the controls of a Cessna 402. Asked about his experiences he says, “Flying with Cape Air you can do it all and be in total command of the aircraft. Working for one of

the major airlines, you are behind an armored door with minimal contact with the passengers. Now, with Cape Air, I love the eye contact and the chance to communicate one-on-one with the folks we fly. You raise their comfort level, find out where they live and really get a connection. When you



Photos: Michael Valenti

add the fact that I also get to fly, it is a total home run and one of the most liberating things I can do.”

As Cape Air’s COO, Captain Bushy also oversees the operations of the airline, including the hiring and training of the Cape Air pilot group. “Our standards are extraordinarily high,” says Bushy, “Cape Air’s Pilot Gateway Program, one of the most innovative in the airline industry, does not let pilots move on in their training until we know they are ready. I would say our level of safety and training is equal to, and in some cases, even more rigorous than what you find in the major airlines.”

Captain Bushy went on to say, “I realize the ‘Doogie Howser’ moment for passengers with some

of our younger pilots, but let me tell you, the grey in the hair does not necessarily equate to the quality of flying. Some of these younger pilots have so much passion and enthusiasm and they love to share new information, so it is an ongoing learning experience for all of us. I’ll admit, I did get a kick when one day I turned to the passengers to give my briefing and overheard, ‘Hey look, Gertrude, we got one of the old guys!’ I take no offense, for I am doing what I love best, flying passengers.”



Dave Bushy and Operations Manager, Captain Craig Bentley