

ADVERTISEMENT

# Flight from Des Moines delayed after passenger's suggestion of crew drinking

8:27 PM, Jun 30, 2012 | by James Heggen | [Comments](#)

Categories: [News](#)

[Recommend](#) Confirm [9](#) [Tweet](#) [0](#) [+1](#) [0](#) [Email](#) [Print](#) [Share](#) [A](#) [A+](#)

## James Heggen



James Heggen writes for the Des Moines Register. He can be reached at [jheggen@dmreg.com](mailto:jheggen@dmreg.com).

A U.S. Airways flight out of Des Moines was delayed four hours Saturday after a passenger made a comment that the crew had been drinking.

Glenn Clark of Waterloo was supposed to be in Miami this afternoon at about 2 p.m. Eastern time. Instead, he and his wife arrived there about 9:15 p.m.

"It turned out to be a heck of a long day for us," he said.

Tina Swail, spokeswoman for U.S. Airways, said the flight to Charlotte, N.C., scheduled to leave at 7 a.m. was originally delayed for two hours because the inbound flight from the night before the crew had been on arrived late. The crew's rest contract and other rules required the two-hour delay, she said.

Clark and his wife arrived at the Des Moines Airport about 5:15 a.m. for their early morning flight. They even spent the night here in Des Moines. At about 7:30 this morning, they received word their flight had been delayed.

As they were boarding, he heard one of the passengers ask the crew if they had partied too much the night before. The passengers laughed, and they continued boarding.

"He said it jokingly, and I didn't really think much of it, personally," he said.

When they got on the flight, the pilot made an announcement that the crew would be taking a drug test because of what the passenger had said. Then they waited, for an hour and a half, and eventually deplaned while the test was administered.

It wasn't until the afternoon that the plane finally took off, and it was minus the man who had made the original comment, Clark said. He had heard the man was told to stay in the terminal and not board the plane. Clark saw him sitting outside the gate as he boarded.

Swail confirmed the reason fro the drug test.

The crew passed the drug test and took off just after 1 p.m., six hours after the original flight time.

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

"Any accusation of this sort is taken very seriously and out of an abundance of caution the crew was administered a drug test," Swail said in a statement.

For Clark and his wife, the delays didn't stop in central time. Clark and his wife were held up in Charlotte, too.

And he'll have to wait until tomorrow morning to see his daughter. She was supposed to meet them at the airport, but had to go into work when their flight was delayed.

Clark admitted the man shouldn't have made the comment. But he wasn't happy with the way the airline handled it, either.

"It was bad experience for us today," he said.

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

[Best friend's killing leaves teenager at a loss](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Des Moines police arrest alleged ringleader of prostitution ring](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Man in critical condition after Friday night accident](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Police: Man stabs another man at a bar, both flee](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Man arrested on slew of charges, including assaulting an officer](#) (Des Moines Register)

[Man tells Des Moines police he was robbed at gunpoint](#) (Des Moines Register)

SPONSORED LINKS

[Billionaires Dump Stocks – 100% Chance of Global Recession](#) (Newsmax.com)

[First Look at the Amazing Cabins in This New Cruise Ship](#) (Vacation Cruises Info)

[10 Worst Cars of All Time](#) (TheStreet)

[Heidi Klum and Seal's Unusual Marriage, Revealed](#) (StyleBistro)

[The 9 youngest billionaires in the world](#) (Bankrate)

[Amelia Earhart Distress Call Details Emerge](#) (redOrbit)

[?]

6 comments ▾

[Add a comment](#)



Post to Facebook

Posting as Rick Murray ([Change](#))



**Alan Roth** · Pilot at USA Jet Airlines

you folks brought this on to yourselves..... zero tolerance on everything these days, so what do you expect.... kudos to the airline. absolutely no doubt they were fit to fly.

Reply · 4 · Like · [Follow Post](#) · 12 hours ago



Posting as Rick Murray ([Change](#))



**Larry Nelson** · John H. Beveridge

I guess I missed the "funny" part....I will read it again...

Reply · 1 · Like · [Follow Post](#) · 16 hours ago



Posting as Rick Murray ([Change](#))



**Sue Morris** · Top Commenter · DMACC

That was just a joke and taken so seriously. I know safety is a big concern, but that was too much, just because of one simple statement. And why was the guy who said it kept off the plane? He was joking and got punished? He's a grown man for goodness sake. If I were him, I'd never use that airline again. It is really a shame, that such little things can cause such a big chain reaction.

Reply · · Like · [Follow Post](#) · 15 hours ago

ADVERTISEMENT

## NEWS

Politics  
Crime & Courts  
Education  
Kyle Munson  
Nation & World  
Weather  
Archive  
Investigations & Watchdog Reports  
Reader's Watchdog

## OPINION

Editorials  
Rekha Basu  
Kathie Obradovich  
Guest Essays  
Letters to the Editor  
Your 2 Cents' Worth  
Blogs

## SPORTS

HawkCentral  
Cyclone Insider  
High School Insider  
Drake Bulldogs  
Golf  
National Sports  
Auto Racing  
History & Databases  
Photos

## LIFE

Mike Kilen  
Juice  
Health  
Dating  
Milestones

## BUSINESS

Agriculture  
Central Iowa Networking  
Green Fields  
Biz Buzz  
Finance & Insurance  
New in the Neighborhood  
Iowa's Top Workplaces  
Iowa Innovation

## COMMUNITIES

Altoona  
Ankeny  
Clive  
Des Moines  
Indianola  
Johnston  
Urbandale  
Waukee  
West Des Moines

## ENTERTAINMENT

Metromix  
Restaurant Guide  
Datebook  
Events  
Dining  
Music  
Theater  
Movies  
TV Listings  
Comics







## OBITUARIES

Submit an obituary  
Submit a memorial

## HELP

Subscriber Solutions  
Advertising Solutions  
Reader Solutions  
About Des Moines Register Media  
Contact us  
Media Kit

## FOLLOW US

 Twitter  
 Facebook  
 Mobile  
 RSS  
 E-mail Alerts  
 Text Alerts

[News](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars for Sale](#) | [Homes for Sale](#) | [Apartments for Rent](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Shopping](#)



## GANNETT

Copyright © 2012 www.DesMoinesRegister.com. All rights reserved.

Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights](#), and [Ad Choices](#)