

American horror story flying from Monterey CA to Beckley WV, both small regional airports.

The short story is Monterey was shorthanded, a thousand people going wherever on August 1st. We were second to last in line. I thought there would be ample time.

The guy they pulled from baggage, to handle check-ins, didn't know how to release a lock on a "charter flight", which is what these regional flights are.

SNAFU

We missed our flight that what have taken us to WV, where my sister is waiting for us. We had to spend the night in Phoenix and fly out on Sunday. One little problem with that: The regional airport in Beckley is closed on Sunday. We finally made it to Charlotte, collect our baggage, head over to the car rental building and encountered our second SNAFU in consecutive days: No one way car rentals anymore from airport to airport, so to get to Beckley became a second nightmare. We considered all possible methods, from hiring a personal driver to renting a small U-Haul truck, a la "Planes, Trains and Automobiles". We thought, "okay, rent a car here in Charlotte, clip the return from Beckley (4 hour drive) to return the car in Charlotte, so that was our plan. We got a car and headed out for Beckley at around 4pm.

We arrived at our "yesterday's" planned stay over a day late. After a good night's sleep, we decided to keep our original travel plans, pay a penalty fee for hijacking a car from NC and get a new car at the Beckley airport.

A couple of lessons learned: No more trips on the weekends and don't fly American.

One kid cost us because he didn't know the system and his supervisor wasn't there when he needed her.

From there on, our trip was great.