



Go to section

Search Yellow Pages Archives

Go

ajc.com > Business > Delta

EMAIL THIS PRINT REPRINTS MOST POPULAR

Seatback telephones in planes to be pulled

By MARY C. SCHNEIDAU
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 07/05/06

You know those seatback phones on airplanes? They're going the way of pillows and hot meals in coach. They're disappearing.



(ENLARGE)

Airplane seatback telephones never really caught on.

anybody use it."

It may not have been popular because it was expensive, Trippler said. Customers paid a \$3.99 access fee and up to \$4.99 a minute. A quick check-in with the home office or a relative could easily run \$30 and up.

Roger Entner, a wireless industry analyst with the Boston-based Ovum consulting firm, said passengers are not interested in voice access alone and that any successful in-flight service has to include Internet access.

Still, Verizon is not hurt by the end of Airfone's commercial service, Entner said.

"It's a side business," he said. "Revenue-wise it should be a rounding error."

Airfone, which Verizon acquired in 2000 when it bought GTE, installed the first seatback telephone in 1987. Other companies, including AT&T, had seatback phone service, but dropped it by 2002.

There are 58 Delta planes with the phones, airline spokeswoman Gina Laughlin said.

Delta was getting rid of the phones before Airfone decided to end service. About 400 Delta planes had the phones at one time, she said, but the airline started to remove them during renovations.

There was a decreased demand for the service because Delta allows passengers to use cellphones as planes taxi to gates, Laughlin said. The airline also wanted to remove the phones because of their extra weight, which contributes to fuel consumption.

Airfone will continue its service in general aviation, where about 3,400 aircraft have the phones, Pilcher said. He would not say whether Verizon is thinking of selling Airfone, only that it "has a variety of options for that side of business." The company has not decided what will happen to Airfone's 140 employees.

Sponsored Links

Top Paid Jobs Online

Survey companies paying \$25-\$150/hr. No experience. Free to join!
www.SurveyLot.com

Cash Now for Your Annuity

Sell your annuity to J.G. Wentworth and get the cash you need now.
www.jgwffunding.com

Missing Your Family?

Start a home based business. No commute, no boss, low startup costs.
www.wealth-and-prosperity.com

Want to stop hair loss?

Check out this article "Tips on how to stop hair loss" by Jai Bains. Get the facts and myths relating to hair loss.
Restorationhair.com

Buy a link here



THE LANDING

Luxury Condominium Hotel, Shem Creek

7 Minutes from historic Charleston, SC

Prices beginning in the \$400's

MOST POPULAR STORIES

- Heavy-metal concert brawl leaves one dead
- Rockdale High football player dies after practice
- Can you dig it? 12 mighty morticians
- Braves keep A. Jones, trade Sosa
- McKinney, Johnson clash over finances, donors

search ajc archives

Search staff-written and other selected articles.
Advanced search

from 1985 to present from 1868 - 1929

Search

services

Find HVAC service that will help you keep your cool.

Brighten someone's day with flowers from a recommended florist.

Find the right people for the job:

Keyword Business Name

Enter Search Terms

Search

Powered by KUDZU.com

mundohispanico

The voice of Georgia's Hispanic community since 1979

El vocero de la comunidad hispana de Georgia desde 1979

Check out

