

AIRPAC updates airlines

AIRPAC, an airline that provides scheduled service between Anchorage, Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, and seasonal service to Dillingham, will put a new four-enging British Aerospace 146-100 jetliner into service in March, according to Dick Maloney, the firm's president and chairman of the board.

The aircraft, which seats 76, is designed to operate out of existing short gravel runways at Dutch Harbor and other communities now inaccessible to commercial jetliners, Maloney said.

"It's a revolutionary aircraft for Alaska," Maloney said. "It's fast, economical and because it can take off from a 3,500-foot runway, it will be

particularly useful in rural Alaska."

The BAe 146, which cruises at 450 miles per hour — close to the speed of a Boeing 727 — will cut transportation time between Anchorage and Dutch Harbor from three hours, 15 minutes to one hour, 55 minutes. At the same time it consumes 3,600 pounds of fuel an hour, compared to 9,000 pounds of fuel an hour burned by the 727.

AIRPAC, which has its own ticket counter at Anchorage International Airport, will continue to coordinate its schedule with Alaska Airlines. AIRPAC began scheduled service in 1981 after Maloney transferred the firm's corporate headquarters from Akutan to Anchorage.