

North Pacific Airlines announce changes

North Pacific Airlines announced last week that the company will resume flight operations on March 25 as Alaskan Commuter Air (ACA), offering service on a newly acquired Beechcraft King Air.

The carrier, owned by Nondalton Native Corporation, also announced that its board of directors and operations staff have been restructured, including a new general manager to succeed Roy Musgrove, who has resigned.

Alaskan Commuter Air will begin providing statewide charter service with its 9-passenger Beechcraft King Air on March 25, while regularly scheduled flights between Anchorage, Soldotna and McGrath are expected to resume on April 15.

Under the new corporate structure Norman Bailey, and Anchorage financial advisor, will serve as chairman of the board and president. Harry Kuhn, a former vice president and general manager of Alaska Mutual Bank's Eagle River office, who has 15 years involvement with military and commercial aviation,

joins Bailey on the board and also will serve as chief operations officer and general manager.

The two new board members join Wassie Balluta, chairman of Nondalton Native Corp., Melvin Trefon, ACA's treasurer, and Don Anderson, Nondalton executive director and ACA's corporate secretary, as members of the board. Two other new members will be appointed to the board within the next month.

In addition to Kuhn serving as chief operations officer and general manager, Bill Rodgers, formerly chief pilot and general manager of Southcentral Airways has been named director of operations and chief pilot for Alaskan Commuter Air, while Ross Laughlin, who has 35 years experience in the aviation industry including his most recent position with Central Air, will take over as director of maintenance.

"It's a whole new ball game," Bailey said. "We've made changes that will strengthen our business and help us grow. Our new name symbolizes our desire to make this the best and safest commuter carrier in Alaska. Our

research indicated that the new name has much greater market recognition. It also says exactly what we do. We felt the time to make the change was before we resumed service, and we are confident that we can make this airline the best commuter in Alaska," Bailey said.

"I think the steps we've taken already - acquiring a new aircraft and adding some very talented and experienced aviation pros at the management and operations management levels - are an indication of our commitment to be the best," Bailey said.

Bailey said the new name has been submitted to the federal Department of Transportation, who must give their final approval to the change. However, Bailey said he did not foresee any problems in getting the approval.