

# New aircraft begins service to Ft. Yukon, Galena

Arctic Circle Air, a business subsidiary of Gwitchyaa Zhee, the Fort Yukon profit corporation, has subcontracted with Wien Air Alaska to provide commuter services in the Fairbanks, Fort Yukon area, and will inaugurate service on December 15, with a sleek new \$1.4 million turboprop Bandierante. This new aircraft (*pictured in the Wien ad on page seven*) will carry up to 19 passengers at

a time and a full load of cargo between Fairbanks and Fort Yukon twice a day and between Fairbanks and Galena once a day. The Fort Yukon schedule will allow the first flight to arrive in that northern city early enough to depart for Fairbanks at 9:50 a.m. and return to Ft. Yukon at 5 in the evening. This commuter special schedule will allow Ft. Yukoners to spend a day in the city shopping, visiting, doing business, or completing medical appointments, and be home for dinner.

In addition, two Cessna 207's based in Fairbanks, and one based in Ft. Yukon will serve all of the surrounding villages and towns including Arctic Village, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Eagle, Central, Circle City, Circle Hot Springs, Beaver, Stevens Village, Rampart, and Galena.

Under the new agreement, Arctic Circle Air is providing five planes, pilots, a terminal at Ft. Yukon, and turnaround services, as well as housing for Wien's manager and storage for mail and cargo.

Wien is providing the manager at Ft. Yukon, two ticket people, computer terminettes and printers, and terminals in Galena and Fairbanks.

Named by Wien as station manager at Ft. Yukon is Grafton Bergman, who was born and raised in that community. As manager for the N.C. Company there for the last 15 years, Grafton had worked for Wien for the previous ten years. A man of many talents including trader, fur buyer, prospector, fisherman, pilot, and businessman, Mr. Bergman is an excellent choice to head up this new partnership between Arctic Circle Air and Wien Air Alaska.

Arctic Circle Air was formed about six years ago by Doug Butler as a small air taxi service based in Ft. Yukon, and it has progressed to a many-plane fleet during the last two years under its new owner, Gwitchyaa Zhee.

Wien Air serves many points in rural Alaska with larger jets, and in many cases subcontracts service to places with smaller air strips to local air operators. This benefits local communities by supporting these businesses, as well as bringing badly-needed air service to smaller way points. Most runways do not have the 5,000-foot black-top air strip required to land a jet, as well as other limiting factors.

The new Bandierante will be able to get in and out of the 3,000-foot field at Galena, Ft. Yukon and Fairbanks comfortably with a full load of pas-

sengers and freight.

Fort Yukon was founded by the Hudson Bay Company as a trading post in 1847, and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited villages in the interior of Alaska. It is north of the Arctic Circle, so visitors flying on the new Bandierante can receive one of Wien's Arctic Circle certificates for crossing that line.