

Wing-Air to begin service

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After nearly two years without scheduled air passenger service Door county residents will now be served by Wing-Air, a new company that will begin operations here Wednesday, March 17.

R. Howe Davis, owner of Wing-Air, has been granted an Air Carrier Operating Certificate by the Federal Aviation Administration. The new company will function as an "on demand" charter operator and will have scheduled flights to those locations where sufficient traffic can be developed. Wing-Air is approved for both passenger and cargo flights.

In a telephone interview this Tuesday, Davis told the Advocate he is excited about the new venture but wants to start small. Plans have been made to provide schedules for intra-county and interstate service on a reservation basis.

"We want to start small," Davis said. "We want to crawl before we walk and the shortest crawl will be from Sturgeon Bay to Washington Island."

Davis will begin operations Wednesday with an 8 a.m. flight to Washington Island. Wing-Air will leave Sturgeon Bay at 8 a.m. each Wednesday with a flag stop at Ephraim, arriving on the Island at 8:35 a.m. The plane will remain on the Island until noon and then will return to Sturgeon Bay.

At present Davis has a Cessna 172, single engine airplane with three passenger seats and limited baggage space.

"We will start with the Washington Island flight and if demand should arise then I can extend the flights to other locations such as Green Bay, Milwaukee and possibly Chicago."

Davis, the subject of an Advocate feature article in 1980, has extensive experience as a pilot.

He served in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years where he had experience flying everything from B 17 bombers to six engine jet bombers in the Strategic Air Command.

After retiring from the Air Force, Davis worked for Executive Jet Air as assistant chief pilot of that organization and also was the manager of the Jet Falcon Fleet in Iran.

There has been no scheduled service in Door county since Mid State Airlines pulled out in the spring of 1980.

Davis told the Advocate, "After over 30 years in aviation I'm willing to give it a try to provide air service here. We are crawling very slowly but I have some ideas which I'm hoping to implement in the future."

The Wing-Air office is at 624 N. Elgin Pl. The office phone number is 743-4346.