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Changing planes: Sawyer's new summer schedule good news for economy, travelers

By JOHN PEPIN Journal Staff Writer and LISA HOFFMANN Iron Mountain Daily News

POSTED: June 7, 2010

MARQUETTE - Summer flight schedules announced for Sawyer International Airport are offering some positive changes for area passengers -business and vacationers alike - making it easier to fly to and from the Marquette county airport.

On April 6, Delta Airlines began offering all regional jet service for passengers, concluding the long-time era of turbo-prop planes at the airport.

The new Delta service also included the return of flights to Minneapolis-St. Paul, which had been discontinued previously by Northwest Airlines, before it became Delta.

"Since Delta Airlines implemented regional jet aircraft, along with the return of daily west-bound service to Minneapolis, the response has been very well-received by the traveling public," said Keither Kaspari, airport manager at Sawyer.

The new summer flight schedules, which take effect Friday, offer additional changes from Delta and American Eagle Airlines, which provides Chicago service from Sawyer.

Delta Airlines has reconfigured its flight schedules to provide all flights to Detroit and Minneapolis-St. Paul on a daily basis. Previously, the schedule had arrival and departure times which contrasted from Monday through Friday and flights which were scheduled over the weekends.

For July and August, Delta is adding a third daily flight to Detroit Metro Airport. Flight 3790 will arrive at 2:06 p.m. and depart at 2:50 p.m.

American Eagle is bringing back a third departure to Chicago's O'Hare Airport, with an intermediate stop in Green Bay, beginning Friday. On July 1, American Eagle will adjust its flight schedule to allow Flight 4026 to arrive at 10:35 p.m. from Chicago, allowing passengers in Marquette County and throughout the Upper Peninsula to make additional connections into Chicago prior to making their connection to Sawyer, Kaspari said.

Airport officials said they are very pleased with the changes, especially given the current economy.

"In these continuing difficult economic times in the U.P., Michigan and nationwide, and with the cost of aviation fuel still at a significant pricing point for all airlines, Marquette County and Sawyer airport officials appreciate the confidence of officials at both Delta and American Eagle Airlines to supplement the current flight schedule with additional flights to both Detroit and Chicago," Kaspari said.

Sawyer officials said the jet service is making travel more comfortable, faster and far less likely to encounter over-booked and weight-restricted flights. The regional jets have 50 seats.

The new service may also result in reduced costs for travelers with less chance of cancelled flights, resulting in increased costs for travel layovers and other delays.

Officials with several local businesses who use the service frequently have said they are pleased with the new jet service and the new schedules should work to make summertime vacation travel easier.

John Pepin can be reached at 906-228-2500, ext. 206. His e-mail address is jpepin@miningjournal.net.

Article Photos



A new Delta regional jet at Sawyer International. (Journal file photo)

Fact Box

Flying high:

New Sawyer Flight Schedule Beginning June 11:

FLIGHT # DEPARTURE DESTINATION FREQUENCY

3348 7:15 a.m. Minneapolis-St. Paul Daily

3231 11:15 a.m. Detroit Daily

3347 3:50 p.m. Minneapolis-St. Paul Daily

3054 5:15 p.m. Detroit Daily

FLIGHT # ARRIVAL ARRIVING FROM FREQUENCY

3383 10:31 a.m. Detroit Daily

3351 3:25 p.m. Minneapolis-St. Paul Daily

3039 4:46 p.m. Detroit Daily

3323 9:15 p.m. Minneapolis-St. Paul Daily

FLIGHT # DEPARTURE DESTINATION FREQUENCY

4093 6:50 a.m. Chicago via Green Bay Sun-Fri

3972 7:40 a.m. Chicago via Traverse City Sun-Fri

4179 9:45 a.m. Chicago Daily

FLIGHT # ARRIVAL ARRIVING FROM FREQUENCY

4035 8:55 p.m. Chicago Daily

4327 9:25 p.m. Traverse City via Chicago Sun-Fri

4026 9:30 p.m. Green Bay via Chicago Sun-Fri

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