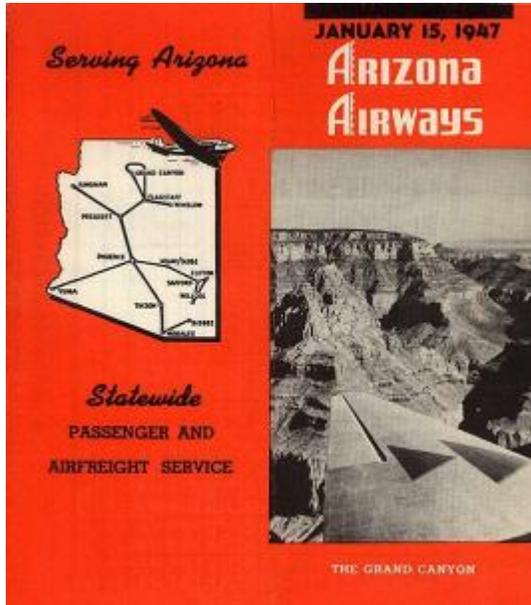


Arizona Airways



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Arizona Airways, in March, 1946, began intra-state service on three routes out of Phoenix: one east, one south, and one northwest. Their specialty was scenic tours of northern Arizona and the Grand Canyon.

The airline had three DC-3s, N-75028, N-64910, and N-57985, at the merger that formed Frontier Airlines. Their Frontier Sunliner names became Teton, Williston Basin and Yellowstone.

The Founder, Mr. Rocky Nelson:

Rocky was the president of Arizona Airways from its incorporation. He was a 1500 hour pilot, instrumental in the Arizona Airways preliminary flight school for the US Navy.

Nelson was a member of the National Aeronautic Association, president of State Development Co. from 1928-32, president of Nelson Engineering Corp, formed by him in 1932 and operated until 1941 when he formed his Navy flight school.

The two largest share holders in the new airline were Nelson (8050 shares) with \$80,000 subscribed and Vice President Johnny Bulla (4000 shares) with \$40,000 subscribed. The Goldwater family had \$21,000 invested.

Other board members of Arizona Airways were:

Bob Goldwater, JJ Glancy, JR Heron, Maurice Hackett, Bill Beatus, Jim Maffeo, JD Merrill, Bill Chamberlain, EC Lockleer, Columbus Giragi, LR Inwood, Joe Bartles, JB Van Buren Wittman and Del Webb, a local contractor.

Barry Goldwater was a "silent partner" and had a lot of input in the development. Ralph Johnson and B. Walker delivered the first DC-3 to Phoenix and were met by Barry and Bob Goldwater along with John Bulla, a local Golf Pro and new Arizona Airways Vice President and a few others.

The airplanes were purchased through the War Assets Office with Walker's company, Plains Airways, acting as the broker. The titles passed direct to Arizona Airways.

When the merger took place creating new Frontier Airlines, apparently no flight crews from Arizona Airways were part of it while the two seniority lists of Central and Monarch, the other two companies to become part of Frontier, were accepted.

The first scheduled flights were on March 17, 1946 over the circular route out of Phoenix via Bisbee to Globe / Miami, Safford, Tucson and later to Nogales, Prescott, Flagstaff Yuma, Kingman, Clifton / Morenci and the Grand Canyon.

Among its accomplishments, the company had the best rating in pilot training by the US Navy.

Baseball Spring Training began in Arizona with the Cleveland Indians and the New York Giants. The company was selected to fly the Indians and the Giants, later the San Francisco Giants, to the exhibition games held throughout the state. Records from the time state that 382 players, sportswriters and others were flown 6042 air miles during the 1947 spring season.

Kent Fortney
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