



Aspen Airways

Aspen Airways was established in 1952 in Aspen, Colorado shuttling passengers between Aspen and Denver, Colorado using Convair 440 and Convair 580 aircraft. The carrier later moved its headquarters to Denver and expanded to other cities in the late 1970's. Aspen began serving Albuquerque and Farmington, New Mexico on March 1, 1979 using a Convair 580 with an Albuquerque-Farmington-Durango-Denver route however the service was short lived as the Albuquerque flights ended in early July and the Farmington flights ended later in 1979. Aspen planned to return to Albuquerque in late 1984 with a flight to Durango for the upcoming ski season but that plan did not materialize possibly due to the fact that America West Airlines began operating the route with a Boeing 737 during that winter. In September, 1986, Aspen teamed up with United Airlines and began operating as a United Express feeder carrier. Aspen did make another comeback to Albuquerque for the 1989/1990 ski season with a single flight to Durango, Farmington, and Denver operating as United Express.

Although Aspen's two callings at Albuquerque were rather brief, the carrier played a much larger role at Farmington through the 1980's decade. Aspen returned to Farmington in April, 1983 with three daily flights to Denver, some of which made a stop in either Durango, Gunnison, or Montrose, Colorado. The carrier was still flying the Convair 580 and competed up against Frontier Airlines in the market who was using Boeing 737 jets. Frontier ended their Farmington service in January, 1985 and Aspen introduced their new 85-seat British Aerospace BAe-146 jets to Farmington three months later. All service to Farmington began operating as United Express when the carrier became a United Express feeder airline in 1986 and at times all three flights to Denver were flown with the BAe-146 jets. During the 1989/1990 ski season, one flight from Farmington to Albuquerque with a stop in Durango was operated as United Express using a Convair 580.

Aspen ceased operations on March 25, 1990 at which time Mesa Airlines became a United Express feeder carrier picking up many of Aspen's routes from Denver including the route to Farmington. The Convair 580's were retired and the BAe-146's as well as the original and very lucrative route between Denver and Aspen were transferred to Air Wisconsin, another United Express operator.



Aspen Airways Convair 580 in the livery worn when service began to New Mexico in 1979.



Aspen Airways route map from 1979.



Aspen Airways Convair 580 in a new livery that began in 1985. Other colors were also used including blue, brown and orange.



United Express Convair 580 operated by Aspen Airways at Albuquerque.



United Express BAe-146 operated by Aspen Airways.