



The Step

16 December, 2014

NELSON 2015

We're going to Nelson for our 2015 AGM. July 17-19, mark your calendars! Lots of float parking right next to the airport, camping & hotels nearby. BBQ by donation & brekky to be provided by the Nelson Pilots Ass'n, so we'll need to know how many to feed. I'll ask for an RSVP & have more details in the March N-letter.

BCFA membership info.

We've had a couple of complaints about members contact information being passed on to non members & the resulting email/phone calls looking for flights. This contact info is for members only (not accessible to non members) so please don't pass on this contact info from the website.

Puyallup Aviation #Expo

Dave Qualley is again organizing this event Feb. 21 & 22 in Puyallup, Washington. He is looking for a couple volunteers to help man the BCFA booth.

Website: <http://www.washington-aviation.org/> Please email Dave: dave@airdave.com

BC Parks report

I hope you remembered to make notes about what you saw in the Parks lakes you visited this summer. Please go to our website & make a report. (same place as you made the lakes request) BC Parks really appreciates ANY info you can provide, and is a big reason we have our access to Parks lakes. Thanks! (I hope) :)

From COPA E-flight

Ottawa, Ontario — Nov. 27, 2014 — COPA's Board of Directors announced that Kevin Psutka has declared his plans for retiring from his position as COPA's president and CEO in 2015. "Kevin's extraordinary vision and leadership guided COPA through times of tremendous change," said Trekker Armstrong, Chairman of COPA's Board of Directors. Psutka, with 18 years tenure in his current position, has proven to be one of the most knowledgeable executives on general aviation matters in Canada's Personal Aviation sector.

Reminder from Membership Mike

This is a reminder that your \$40.00 annual BCFA membership entitlement is due soon. Our membership year follows the calendar year - Jan. 1 to Dec. 31st.

Payment can be made via PayPal (see below) *Lifetime members - kindly disregard this request for renewal. Also thank you to those of you who have already renewed for 2015.* We draw your attention to the place on the membership form that requests your COPA membership number. If you are a COPA member, kindly indicate this on your profile. The BCFA Flight's status, including insurance coverage, will not be valid unless by Dec. 31st each year, our status is reaffirmed and COPA HQ is notified.

The \$40.00 membership is a great deal. Membership gives you a newsletter four times a year, a beautiful BCFA calendar, eligibility to submit your requests to BC Parks regarding which locations you would like to visit during the year. The submission deadline is May 1st (midnight April 30th actually) and information pertaining to this is found on our website. We have an AGM once a year, and it will always be the third Saturday in July, a tradition that has known very few amendments. Below are directions for submitting your renewal online.

How to pay via PayPal:

- Once at the BCFA website, on the upper menu (horizontally), below the picture of all the floatplanes, there's a "member section" (to the right of "places to fly"). Click here.
- You will be taken to the log in page, where you'll type in your Login ID and password. Then click "submit".
- If you've forgotten your Login or Password, enter your email address and then "submit".
- If you need a Login ID or password, click "join now".
- Presuming you've been able to log in, you'll be returned to the page with the pictures of the floatplanes at the top; only this time there will be a vertical column on the left side of the screen. It begins with "Places to Fly, My BCFA profile, Pay membership dues, My photo album", etc.
- Click on "Pay membership dues". (The address is here too if you prefer to renew by cheque).
- You'll be taken to the next screen where you can click on "pay dues".
- At this point you'll be taken to the PayPal site. It's here that you can choose how to pay - with a PayPal account or by a credit card.

PLEASE NOTE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE A NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

If any of you have moved and have a "mail forwarding" contract with Canada Post, please know that calendars are considered parcels by Canada Post and will **NOT** be forwarded to your new mailing address, but returned to the BCFA, at a duplicate postage charge. To avoid this, if you do have a new mailing address, please email our Membership Chairman (hirshfield@shaw.ca) before he does a mass calendar mail out. Thank you.

Midnight Sun Flyin

Yellowknife, NWT... This year will be another (biannual) flyin in Yellowknife. They always put on a great bash with lots of activities. More details in spring, but pencil in July 10-12 (week before our Nelson trip) so July will be full of flyin'!

<http://www.floatplaneflyin.com>

A life saving course

So there I was, hanging upside down in an inverted C180 floatplane, water over my head and pondering my next move. First on the list was to select an available exit route. Sliding my hand along the door till I felt the handle I figured I now had it made. Moving the door lever went fine right up to the part where the door refused to open. I wasn't sure if it was bent and therefore jammed shut or if water pressure was the culprit. Either way it was not the most encouraging development and necessitated a brief suppression of severe anxiety in order to concentrate on plan "B".

Knowing that the window latch was nearby, I slid my hand along to it and with a quick twist and push was greeted with a deluge of seawater flooding into the cockpit. It was at that point that I'd just about had enough excitement and pulled the seatbelt latch with one hand while keeping my other firmly grasping the exit window so as not to get lost on the way out.

Half way out the window while partly blind, totally immersed and still holding my breath, came the last challenge!

My headset was still attached and although it kept my ears warm, the cords were still plugged in and didn't want to let go. One final rush of adrenaline, a pull on the headset, a kick against the seat and I was out the window and suddenly paddling above water between the inverted floats.

The float spreader bar offered a nice place to sit while waiting for a nearby boater to pick me up and although I was wearing a life jacket, I realized that I'd never inflated it!

The moral of this story is that I owe my life to Bryan Webster and his team of egress training experts along with the installation of shoulder harnesses in the airplane.

Without the harnesses, serious impact injury might have hindered the physical

ability to escape and without the egress training, there would have been no routine to follow and panic would most certainly have become the order of the day, followed by drowning. !

Respectfully Submitted to TSB and pilots who fly over water.

Unleaded avgas coming

The FAA has launched Phase I testing of four unleaded aviation fuels at its William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey, officially beginning aviation's much heralded transition away from low lead avgas.

Two fuels developed by Swift Fuels and one fuel each developed by Shell and Total are now undergoing laboratory and rig testing, which is expected to continue for the next year as the FAA seeks to start phasing out 100LL avgas as early as 2018.

The potential replacement fuels were submitted for testing under the Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI), a joint industry-government effort to facilitate the development and deployment of a new unleaded avgas that will meet the needs of the existing piston-engine aircraft fleet, totaling around 167,000 airplanes. The PAFI steering group consists of the FAA, AOPA, the American Petroleum Institute, the Experimental Aircraft Association, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, the National Air Transportation Association, and the National Business Aviation Association.

The tests underway now seek to determine whether the unleaded replacement fuels are compatible with aircraft systems such as fuel bladders, hoses, pumps, gauges and more. Two or three of the candidate fuels will be selected for Phase II testing, which will involve flight trials of the unleaded fuels, including flying with mixtures of 100LL and unleaded avgas.

Read more at <http://www.flyingmag.com/news/faa-testing-100ll-replacement-fuels-begins#t6sF1KJVfIc3odAo.99>

Pinecone Burke Park management plan workshop

Mike Thompson & Wendy Boyes participated in a Parks use management workshop in November, following is their report:

Please see the response from Parks after last night's meeting.

Wendy and I attended the meeting, which lasted from about 6 pm to after 9 pm. The group represented a wide range of interests, from cabin lease holders, two gun clubs, parks reps from local parks, hiking clubs etc.

The meeting was a fact finding mission. The meeting started with introductions to the BC Parks staff there were attending the meeting as well as introductions to the first nations group the Katzi Nation.

After the first introductions, we all had a chance to introduce ourselves and summarize our main hope for the park and also our main concern about the park. My submission was that we wanted to see continued access to the lakes in the park and that our concern was we would be denied access.

We then broke into groups at each table and looked over a map of the park, marking up the map with areas that are of interest. For our table I marked all of the lakes that would be of interest to a floatplane pilot, using 2000' as the minimum size of a useable lake. The others added notes on the fools gold trail and mountain biking. Each table had a chance to summarize what they had done to the entire group. The next step was for each of the parks employees to go to a table with specific questions. We all spent some time at each table to get a good cross section of concerns.

Please note that there is an on-line survey and it would be worth each of you taking the time to look at the survey and voice your thoughts.

Mike

...and the response from Parks planning head:

Hello Workshop Participants. Thanks again for all your effort last night! I think it was a very productive, worthwhile session. Your engagement in each of the exercises was great, and we received a lot of good input. As we discussed, this is only one step in a long process, and I anticipate having more discussions with many of you. I will be following up with some of you in this regard over the coming weeks and months. But if you have not heard from me and have something else you would like to say, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Some stakeholders requested an extension to the deadline for completing the on-line survey. The deadline has been changed to November 30, so please get the word out to your constituents to provide their input. This survey is primarily about getting a better idea of how people are using the park, and what areas are most heavily used, as well as providing an opportunity for people to indicate what activities they hope to see provided (or not) in the future. I do, however, want to emphasize that *the survey process is not a vote* for deciding on management issues.

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/pinecone-burke/pinecone-burke-mp.html>

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/>

If I do not speak with you directly again in the next few months, I hope to hear from you again at the next stage in the process. I hope to have a draft plan available for public review in the spring of 2015.

Sincerely,

Vicki Haberl

Planning Section Head

We all wish You all a very merry Christmas, & a Happy New Year!!

That means Aviation gifts later this month, & tailwinds next year! :)

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