

It's mid-May already! Only two months until the BCFA AGM fly-in weekend @ Nimpo!

SPRING 2009 RUST REMOVER SEMINAR:

I'm such a noob that I thought this had something to do with RUST! I learned that it is to get rid of "rust" from pilots that haven't flown much over winter.

Several Directors arrived Friday evening & set up for the Saturday morning event. Big thanks to them, it turned out to be a very interesting & informative event, the highlight was the renewal & signing of the MOU between BC Parks & the BCFA.

Steve Nunn, Keith Monroe (both past presidents of BCFA) and Alycia Laidlaw, BC Parks



Guest speakers included:

Terry Wilshire (COPA western rep) provided some information from COPA including their active involvement in the upcoming restricted airspace during the winter olympics. He also mentioned the COPA convention this summer in Alberta.

Bill Neale (Airport Manager at Pitt Meadows) provided an overview of plans for the Pitt Meadows airport including the seaplane base.

Alycia Laidlaw (BC Parks) thanked BCFA for our continued support through the Partnership agreement and the renewed agreement was signed at this conference. This is another big milestone for BCFA and enhances our relationship with BC Parks.

Bill Yearwood (Transportation safety - accident investigation) provided a very compelling talk on his role as accident investigator. He had some very interesting slides of accident scenes.

Dave Fitzpatrick (Park Insurance) provided information on current philosophies in the aviation insurance business, indicating that insurance rates are currently very competitive. Thanks go to Dave for providing refreshments for the happy hour following the seminar.

Jeff Dawson (Nav Canada) provided an in depth review of the proposed airspace restrictions and protocol around the winter olympics in 2010. This picture is subject to changes and further updates are expected.

Doug DeVries provided an excellent slide show and narrative on his trip with a fellow Beaver pilot circumnavigating Canada with two floatplanes. They had many adventures and challenges while travelling through the high Arctic. The logistics for arranging such a trip were quite overwhelming.

Chris Georges (owner of Pacific Rim Aviation) and some fellow aviators provided some excellent music entertainment following the seminar.

The seminar wrapped up with a very delicious BBQ salmon dinner & several local aircraft were on display in the alley between the hangars.

WEBSITE:

The website is undergoing a substantial (much needed) overhaul. It has proven to be a bigger task than initially anticipated, but progress is reported to be good, and expected to be mostly complete by the end of April.

New & improved features that will benefit members include:

A "sortable" memberlist, so you can sort members by town, province/state, etc.

Email will be enhanced so email can contain attachments, rich-text, etc.

PayPal instant payment notification so you & your record are updated immediately.

Newsletters will be uploaded to the website for future reference.

Photo gallery is almost complete, the lake & comments idea will be added at a later date

There will also be a blog added so members can yack about issues/ideas/tips/whatever.

MEMBERSHIP:

I am very happy to report that we have 215 current members some of whom signed up at the excellent Spring Seminar. Some of you may not be aware that you can go the website and see an Excel List of members. If you have Excel on your computer you can download that list to your own computer and then sort according to address to find other members in your area. Or members in the area where you want to fly so you can call them and get real time information on the local area. Of course the list is only as current as I keep it and right now it is current.

Our combined voices and direct lobbying resulted in the MOU with BC Parks being renewed. That MOU gives us a Pre-Authorization to land in some of the more sensitive lakes. Many of you utilized that function on the website and will be receiving your authorization by email shortly. Be sure and fill in your report at the end of the flying season.

There are two ways to renew and to recruit new members. One is by the website through the secure PayPal using your credit card or a PayPal account; and the other is to mail a check for \$40.00 to the following address.

BCFA

3753 S. Island Hwy
Campbell River BC V9H 1L7

You can download a membership form from the website to give to your non-member friends.

For those of you who have renewed, thank you for your continued support. And thank you for taking the time to carefully choose the lakes that you may visit.

2009 BCFA AGM WEEKEND:

Always the 3rd weekend of July, this year it's the 18th & 19th. Make your plans now! The agenda has not yet been finalized, but it will follow the usual general schedule. Saturday morning will be the AGM, followed by guest speakers & presentations, then lunch & refreshments (provided). After lunch will be more presentations, the silent auction will be running, happy hour (with more serious refreshments) and then the famous BCFA Feast, followed by an evening of dancing/listening to the Late Breaking News (the great dance band from Williams Lake).

Sunday morning will be the full meal deal Pancake Breakfast prepared by your BCFA President to keep your tummy fueled up for the fly-outs (to be determined).

All the cabins at this end of the lake are booked (have been since folks left last year) but there are other accommodations in & around Nimpo & we are arranging a shuttle bus service to help you get to/from/to the action & your bed. Plenty of grass to camp on here, & you'll be in the middle of it all. Several new members this year to meet & tell lies with. One member from Tennessee is planning to come this year. Our most distant member is from Sweden! Write to logan@xplornet.com or call 250 742 3239 for accommodation information &/or help.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Nimpo Lake Resort is for sale. After 40 years here, Mary is ready to retire & play with her flowers & chickens. We're not going anywhere, we're building a new retirement house over by the (Nimpo) creek. We'll be here until the obituary! If you know anyone who may be interested in this lifestyle, @ the best place on earth, please let 'em know.

Mike C. asked: Would anyone know of some dock space that might be available on Lake Okanagan in the Kelowna area? We are looking for some seasonal dock space for our Cessna 180 to keep it at a dock throughout the floatplane season. Any info would be greatly appreciated! See you at the AGM! Write to: magnumutt@hotmail.com

Harrison Mills for Fathers Day!

EAA chapter 1477, the Fraser Valley Sport Aviation Society, is hosting a Father's Day June 21 brunch fly-in at Rowena's In on the River located in Harrison Mills. This is a gravel/grass strip with ample parking, floatplane dock, a gorgeous setting and we invite all to attend and meet your fellow aviators. In case of adverse weather, the fly-in will be held on June 28th. Further info, call 604-798-2787