



The Step

*The Official News letter of the BC Floatplane Association
July 2006 Issued quarterly Volume 2 Edition 3*

Nimpo Lake AGM July 15-16

Fire evacuation notice in Nimpo Lake Area lifted

Fire evacuation notices for the Nimpo Lake area have been lifted as firefighting authorities gain control of the Dean fire, which suggests that there will be no impact on the BCFA Annual General Meeting at Nimpo Lake.

The AGM will be held at 10:30am on Saturday, July 15th, at Terry Brandt's hangar, and Nimpo Lake Resort at the north end of the lake, at 52.22 N, 125.214 W. A luncheon is available on Saturday, and evening diner/barbecue activities are by donation. A Sunday pancake breakfast is also planned.

The Business meeting on Saturday will feature the President's Report, Financial Report, Membership Report, and Director's reports on the Toy Onley Lake Naming initiative, the Garibaldin Handicap Flyin, and the COPA Seaplane Committee and website upgrades. Elections for 2006 will also be held.

Other activities in the afternoon session include a presentation on Environmental Stewardship, aviation insurance, SASARA and the future of aviation safety, and bald eagle observations and aviation co-existence.

Product displays will include Progressive Aire, Braidner Survival, Aerocet Floats, W.L. Upholstery, and BCFA Merchandise.

For accommodations call Lise James at 250-742-3483 for central booking for you and your aircraft. You may choose to email for this service at stjam@teluus.net.

For more information contact Steve Nunn at 604-649-6320 or snunn@compuserve.com.

The BCFA website bcfloatplaneassociation.com will have current weather and event updates...and land planes are welcome, as the area features a dirt airstrip as well as a suitable airport at Anahim Lake.

President's Report

Pres report for July 'The Step'

Our 9th Annual General Meeting at Nimpo Lake will be held on July 15th. We have an interesting program lined up and look forward to seeing members and potential new members there. At the time of this writing, the Forest Fire situation seems to be under control so it is all systems go.

I trust that all members wishing to visit Parks on the pre-authorized list got there names in on time. We will review the procedure again at our AGM as I believe some are still not sure of the process. It is quite simple; on our website under the members section you can access the pre-authorization list. Simply check off the lakes you wish to visit. The important thing is the time window. It is open and available for members to use from January 1st to May 1st. After that the window closes and the information is sent in batch to BC Parks. BC Parks will then issue the pre-authorizations back to us and we will distribute to members. Of course if you miss the window, you can still apply individually to BC Parks for authorization and they will deal with you individually.

We encourage all members to use the online system (through our website www.bcfloatplaneassociation.com) as it is a much simpler process and is in keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership Agreement we signed with BC Parks. The other obligation we have is to provide a year end report back to BC Parks. Again, members can do this very easily through our website. Just go through the same process to access the pre-authorization list and

select the lakes you visited during the year and provide a brief report of your visit. It would be useful to provide the dates you visited the specific lakes, how many people were with you and any observations you made (game sighted, activities undertaken, any natural phenomenon such as wild fires, earth slides etc) At the end of December, we send this information in batch to BC Parks.

If you encounter any difficulties with this process, please contact any one of our directors.

On the preauthorization list this year, BC Parks unilaterally disallowed approval for landings at Metsantan Lake (in Spatsizi Park). The reason they have stated is 'to protect the cultural heritage values of Metsantan village. We have written to BC Parks on this issue expressing our concerns. Meetings are planned this summer to review this issue.

We are also monitoring a proposal by Parks Canada to create a National Marine Conservation Area in the Southern Strait of Georgia which could have implications on floatplane operations. Our Director Fred Glasbergen has attended a meeting on this and will continue to keep us informed.

We will be seeking new directors at our AGM this year as a number of terms expire. We look for your support and involvement in this.

We look forward to seeing you at Nimpo Lake.

Included is a photo of one of our spectacular parks in BC. This is Mt Ida and Jarvis Lake in Kakwa Park.



Transport Canada Items

New VFR Transponder Code procedures at Victoria

New VFR transponder code procedures have been introduced at a number of aerodromes across the country, but the application of the procedures appears to vary by location, which will undoubtedly create some confusion among pilots. This comes as part of the introduction of the EXCDS (Extended Computer Display System) flight progress monitoring system into various regions.

Simply put, VFR pilots cannot simply call up ground control or clearance delivery to obtain a transponder code. Victoria tower (CYYJ) has recently moved to this system, and it means that pilots departing Victoria must either file a flight plan, or call 1-888-YVR-CODE (1-888-987-2633) or 1-604-586-4595 at least 30 minutes, but not more than two hours, before departure. (Information from CFS, CYYJ PRO)

To further amplify the procedures, the CYYJ Tower Manager issued a bulletin with the following instructions:

1. Contact VR ACC (1-888-YVR-CODE). After providing aircraft ID, type, proposed departure time and destination, the ATOS (Air Traffic Operations Specialist) will issue a discrete code to the pilot for the planned flight. The code will also be sent to the CYYJ electronic system.
2. VFR Flight Plan – Kamloops FIC will forward flight plan information to VR ACC and discrete code will be generated for Victoria Tower. If using the flight plan method, a code will be issued by Victoria Clearance Delivery upon initial contact.

In either case, the pilot must still contact Clearance Delivery or Ground (outside of CD operating hours) for initial departure instructions.

The procedures indicated above are, unfortunately, not consistently applied. Some regions will only issue a code (without flight plan) by telephone, while others, such as Vancouver, can be obtained by contacting an adjacent control tower in-flight.

An up-to-date CFS and a good review of the NOTAMS may be helpful in working the procedures correctly in the flight area you intent to travel in.

New-style Pilot's License

A new style of pilots license is on the horizon. Beginning in 2007, pilot licenses will take a form similar to the Canadian passport in design and structure, with a photo of the pilot included. This will necessitate the pilot providing a passport quality photo or venturing to a TC office to have a photo taken. Because the photo will become an integral part of the license, a license will soon have an expiry date, entailing an updated photo and licence re-issue on a 5-year basis. Watch for more information about this item in coming issues of The Step, and through TC and COPA publications.

Activities and Events

Nimpo Lake BC

The British Columbia Float Plane Pilots Association annual AGM is July 15th and 16th and guests are welcome.

Nelson BC

Flightfest 2006, 60th anniversary of CZNL Nelson Airport, July 14-16. Email jrdale@netidea.com for info, or call John Dale 250-825-2235

Red Lake ON

Norseman Floatplane Festival July 21-23.
www.norsemanfestival.on.ca

Oshkosh WI

Airventure Oshkosh 2006 July 24-30. www.airventure.org Also
Oshkosh International Air Rally: Artic Challenge to Iqaluit, Nunavut.
www.airrally.com

Stillwater Landing, Montana

This Bi-annual Seaplane event is Aug. 4th-6th. Visit
www.stillwaterlanding.com

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Abbotsford BC

Abbotsford International Airshow August 11-13.
www.abbotsfordairshow.com

Salt Water Salmon Bake

The weekend of Aug. 15th and 16th. Fly into the Brown Point Salmon Bake. They start serving at noon and go until about 8PM. There's no dock or anchorage, so ground tackle is necessary. More than likely, there will be shore people around with small watercraft that would be glad to ferry you if necessary. The community is very friendly. GPS Loc. 47'10.309N 122'28.641W monitor 122.9 The Fly In has already been approved by the Browns Point Improvement Club, sponsors of the Salmon Bake.

Pitt Meadows BC

August 19-20, PM Regional Airport Days. Fly-in Saturday, hangar dance, camping under the wing. Call Michelle Pilloud or Bill Neale for more information at 604-465-8977