



# The Step

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March 2009

Greetings to all of our fellow BC Floatplane Ass'n. members! Time for another newsletter to keep you posted on what's happening.

## **BCFA Calendars:**

It's time to order the new '09-10 calendars, and we thought a change of pictures was in order. There must be lots of great floatplane pictures among our members, and we're asking you to share yours for consideration for printing on our new calendar.

Here's what we need:

- 1 - High resolution photos. (most important)
- 2 - Floatplanes, but possibly BC scenery.
- 3 - Preferable without people, but OK too.

Thanks for your submissions, please send them to: [dave@airdave.com](mailto:dave@airdave.com)

## **Membership:**

Brenda reports that we are a bit ahead of last years' total for this month with 170 paid/renewed members. January was the membership drive, and we'll get more renewals @ the AGM in July. Several new members signed up @ the Puyallup show. Thank you all for your support, there is a renewal form on the website [www.bcfloatplaneassociation.com](http://www.bcfloatplaneassociation.com) or contact our membership director [bmatas@island.net](mailto:bmatas@island.net)

## **Website:**

We're still trying to get the photo gallery with comment/tips feature established, we've had some delays but will get that resolved soon. We hope (& believe) that it will grow to be an excellent resource for flightseeing & trip ideas. Thank you for your patience, and please start thinking about what pics & tips you can share with us there too!

Some other things we're considering are: Fuel availability map, lake & park map/information, posting "BC Parks help requests" so more members have the opportunity to participate, AGM minutes for your reference, a comment box that you can leave your ideas, feedback, etc, etc. (Other ideas welcomed)

### **Rust Remover '09:**

Mark your calendars! - Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the date for our bi-annual refresher course. Pacific Rim Aviation at Pitt Meadows Airport will be our hosts and we have a great day of interesting speakers and events. Of course this will qualify for your bi-annual certification and we welcome all pilots. This year we will not only have our traditional BBQ dinner but also some live musical entertainment, so tell your spouse to come for dinner! We expect to have Transport Canada, BC Parks, Survival experts, and a very interesting keynote speaker. Stay tuned to your email for our update and hope to see everyone there.

### **AGM 2009:**

This is our 13th year and it is being held ... July 18 & 19 at Nimpo Lake. Remember, Friday the 17th will afford the best campsite selection if you don't have something reserved! :)

Saturday morning @ 10:00 will be the AGM, with many interesting & important issues for you this year. After that will be our list of fascinating & entertaining speakers, lunch & refreshments, the running silent auction, happy hour (MORE refreshments), that famous BCFA Feast (dinner tickets this year), and then a great dance band for the rest of the evening. Sunday morning your President will cook you a delicious pancake breakfast with all the trimmings, and then we'll do our fly-outs.

We will include a full itinerary in the June N-letter. This year we are working on having a van service to/from the other Nimpo area resorts for you. For accommodation or other info, just call 250 742 3239 or write to [logan@xplornet.com](mailto:logan@xplornet.com)

### **Some Heads-up Tidbits:**

If you have a Canadian license you should be aware that Transport Canada has extended the deadline for the pictures & documentation to December, 2009. If you fail to submit the necessary documentation your current license will become invalid.

If you're planning a trip into areas where DRCO or RCO communications will be used check with your briefer during your weather update to make sure of the frequency to use to contact pacific radio as some may be changing this year after review.

Be aware that with the Olympics coming to the lower mainland next year that flying there may be restricted. Your BCFA Newsletter & website will try to keep you posted on how we may be affected. If you learn something (that can be confirmed) help us to spread the word.

Satellite monitoring of the 121.5 ELT frequency has now ceased. Members that haven't upgraded their ELT's to the new 406 variety are encouraged to be even more vigilant about filing a flight plan or itinerary and sticking to the planned route. Methods for initiating SAR will now be limited to expired flight plans and reports from other aircraft monitoring 121.5 enroute. Search and Rescue will still use the 121.5 signal on old and new ELT's to locate crash sites as they have always done. If you have a 2<sup>nd</sup> COM radio available, do your fellow pilots a service and use it to monitor 121.5 whenever possible.

Did you know? 406 ELT's also transmit a continuous signal 121.5Mhz. The 121.5 signal is at a lower power than the old ELT's, and is still used by SAR for homing purposes. The 406Mhz signal is simply a short data burst at approximately 1 minute intervals.

For those that have older Cessna's you may want to pay attention to this Service Bulletin. According to a rep at Lindair, Cessna will reimburse most of the cost associated with this 'kit'. You have to pay for it (\$290 plus levy, plus tax) and have your AME install it then submit invoices to the Cessna dealer and you would get reimbursed for most of the costs (Cessna has fixed rates for installing this kit).

Note the deadline for taking advantage of this offer is May 14/09. It is a Service bulletin so as far as I know it isn't mandatory (such as an AD) however these SB's sometimes become AD's so it may be wise to take advantage of Cessna's offer. Apparently there have been a few accidents where the pilot's seat did not latch properly and it slipped back on takeoff causing the pilot to lose control of the aircraft. Regardless of this SB it is always a good idea to check to ensure your seat is properly latched before takeoff.  
[http://www.calaeromktg.com/Stop\\_Frame.htm](http://www.calaeromktg.com/Stop_Frame.htm)

### **BC Parks Preauthorization:**

A reminder to get your preauthorization done on the website before April 30. Only current members (those who have paid their dues) have access to this privilege. A brief historical recap might be useful to those not familiar with the origins of the MOU & Partnership Agreements.

Prior to 2004, all lakes in all Parks required prior authorization for access, period. BCFA's long negotiation with Government and Parks spearheaded by Director John Baker resulted in a new Parks regulation, with a reversed default position, whereby all lakes in all Parks are accessible without prior authorization, with the exception of a small number of specific lakes listed in Section 27. Section 27 and Schedule A can be found on BCFA's website under Member's Home button.

Some of the Sec 27 lakes, listed in Schedule A of our Agreement, are available for Seasonal pre authorization only to current members of the BCFA.

The MOU and Partnership Agreements provide a mechanism for us to access the Schedule A lakes. More importantly, this mechanism maintains a positive engagement with BC Parks ensuring the all important Section 27 of the Parks Regulations is not amended to the previous default scenario through pressure from activists within and outside Government.

Please keep your membership current and apply for the BC Parks Seasonal Pre-Authorization to keep this Agreement active and preserve our freedom of flight. You may send a cheque for \$40.00 to

BCFA

3753 S. Island Hwy

Campbell River BC V9H 1L7

Or

Log onto the website [www.bcfloatplaneassociation.com](http://www.bcfloatplaneassociation.com) and pay using your credit card or your PayPal account.