

March 2023

# The Pacific Flying Club Members' Newsletter



## IN THIS EDITION:

*We've found a fresh look for our newsletter! Header photo for this edition is courtesy of Laura Johnson. Send your photos to us via [email](#) to have them featured in future newsletters!*

- Coffee and Donuts Event Details
- Recap of the PFC Maintenance Tour
- Introducing windy.com
- Update on VFR Check Points in GPS Systems
- Upcoming PFC Seminars
- A Call for Photos and Contributions
- Contest to Name the Newsletter

## COFFEE AND DONUTS EVENT WITH THE GENERAL AVIATION CLUB



**SUNDAY APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>  
9AM – 11AM @ PFC**



# RECAP OF PFC'S MAINTENANCE TOUR

*“As a PFC member who is still working towards his PPL, the maintenance tour was a valuable addition to my flight training”*

February 19<sup>th</sup> was the first Maintenance Tour organized jointly by PFC and the GA Club and I can confidently speak for everyone in saying it was a decisive success! Many thanks to PFC engineer and de facto tour guide Jeff Albinet for hosting all the PFC members who attended.

Jeff walked us around the PFC maintenance hangar to give us a rundown of what's included in the 100-hour inspection of all PFC aircraft. To illustrate this, Jeff showed us what he and the maintenance team

were currently working on: A regular inspection of GZSA as well as the first inspection of PFC's new Cessna 172, FFJK.

With an opportunity to check out the engine and engine compartment of GZSA, there was no shortage of questions directed at Jeff, from questions about oil sump operation, spark plug cleaning and firewall effectiveness to questions about the differences in maintenance issues between carbureted and fuel injected engines.



*A look at the engine off PFC's Cessna 152, GZSA, undergoing its 100-hour inspection. (Photo: Phillip Souder)*

We also had a chance to poke our heads into PFC's newest Cessna 172! In FFJK, the common features of an aircraft cabin that we're all accustomed to seeing were almost completely re-moved. Around its exterior, its wing tanks were removed along with its engine, allowing us an in-depth look at what is involved in the first inspection of any new PFC aircraft.

Speaking as a PFC member who is still working towards his PPL, the maintenance tour was a valuable addition to my flight training, giving me first-hand experience seeing the ins and outs of how PFC maintains its fleet. It was also great to see so many seasoned pilots join in on the tour, asking insightful



*PFC engineer Jeff Albinet (second from right) giving the Maintenance Tour group an in-depth look at what is involved in maintaining GZSA's engine. (Photo: Dennis Wolff)*





# RECAP OF PFC'S MAINTENANCE TOUR (continued)

Questions that I found incredibly valuable to my learning experience. I encourage everyone to sign up for a maintenance tour when they are available. If you haven't done so yet, you can add your name to the [waitlist](#) so you can be a part of the next available tour.

Thanks again to Jeff and everyone else at PFC that made this tour possible!

- Phillip Souder



*An inside look of FFJK, in the middle of its first inspection at PFC (Photo: Phillip Souder)*



*Maintenance Tour attendees inspecting PFC's new Cessna 172, FFJK (From left to right: Florian Krauthan, Dennis Wolff, Alex Binek and Derek Maroney) (Photo: Phillip Souder)*





*“Windy offers multiple different forecast models you can quickly switch between as well as different ways to present those models”*

In the last newsletter, I wrote about wxbrief.ca, a website where you can gather a wide range of information from different aviation weather reports and forecasts. For this edition, I wanted to write about another excellent general weather resource called [windy.com](https://www.windy.com). If you are a sailor, you might have already used windy.com, but it also has many features useful for aviation and is usually my go-to resource for longer weather forecasts.

The first things you see on the website is a map overlaid with four essential interactive areas:

1. You will find a search box in the top left. You can use this to find cities and even airport codes.
2. At the bottom of the screen is a timelapse bar that allows you to review the weather forecast in a timelapse over the forecasted period or as a static point within the same period.
3. On the right-hand side, you can pick the different

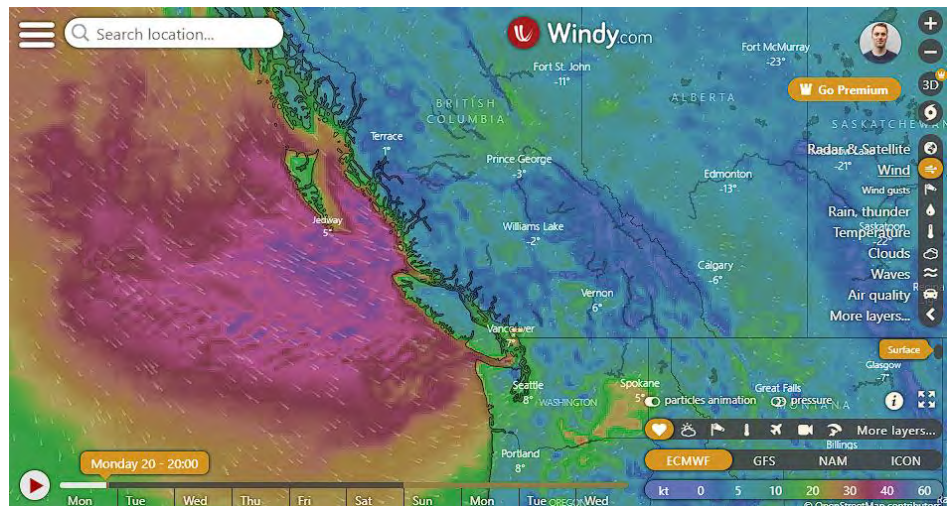


Fig 1. Screenshot from windy.com’s wind forecast, showing high winds at surface elevation off of B.C.’s coast.

4. Just below that, you have a super useful feature for aviation: The altitude selector. By default, it shows you the forecast layers based on the surface, but you can quickly change that by selecting your planned cruise altitude to see what the different weather patterns are up there.

You can also click anywhere on the map to open a specific

readout (Fig. 2) for that particular weather product and location (in my case, it is the readout for wind speed at surface).



Fig 2. Click anywhere on the map to get a readout for a particular weather product in a specific location. In this specific location, the readout shows the wind speed and direction.

By clicking the yellow down arrow in the readout, you can open the full, standardized forecast for that specific location (Fig. 3).



# INTRODUCING WINDY.COM (CONTINUED)



Fig 3. The full forecast dropdown display, showing basic meteorological forecast data.

In this full forecast, the “Basic” tab will show you a general forecast. Clicking “Meteogram” on the bottom bar gives you a lot of important forecast information all in a single place, as shown in Fig. 4.

Not only do you get to see temperature and dewpoint, but also different precipitation forecasts as well as the cloud bases at the selected location.

This is also the default forecast you see when searching for an ICAO airport code as location.

I highly recommend playing around with windy.com and the many different weather forecasts. This article just scratches the surface. Windy offers multiple different forecast models you can quickly switch between as well as different ways to present those

Models. They also have a mobile app for Android and iOS that offers all these features on your mobile device to quickly check the current weather predictions on-the-go.

Let us know if you have a favourite weather tool you use to plan cross-country trips via email at

[gagroup@pacificflying.com](mailto:gagroup@pacificflying.com).

- Florian Krauthan



Fig 3. A more detailed forecast shown by clicking the ‘Meteogram’ tab in the full forecast dropdown display.

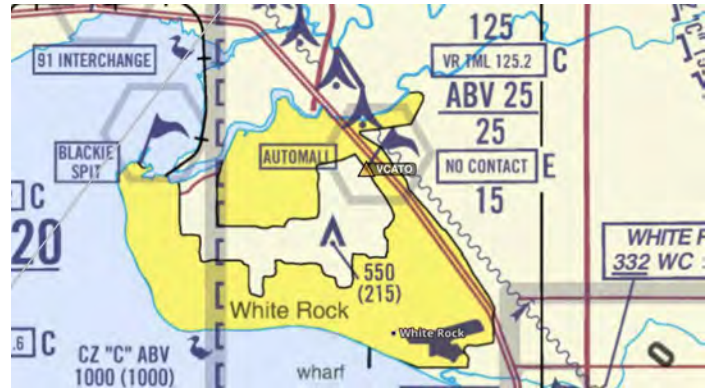




# AN UPDATE ON VFR CHECK POINTS

Gone are the days that one needed to tediously program in the Nav Canada VFR check points by their latitudes and longitudes. I was pleasantly surprised when I found the VFR check points that are on the Vancouver VTA included by default on my ForeFlight in their VC\_\_ \_ format. They were certainly not there when I first started flying cross-country in 2021. I also looked for them on GBUD and GPPV, and lo and behold – their respective G1000 and GTN650 databases also now have these check points. In fact, I needed to remove the user waypoint that I previously saved on GBUD since it is now showing up as a duplicate! The list that correlates the VC \_\_ \_ code to check point names can be found on the back of the VTA.

- Frank Wu



ForeFlight showing local VFR check points by default.

### VFR CHECKPOINT / IDENTIFIER / COORDINATES

264TH	VCXYZ	N49°06'06"	W122°29'36"
3ROAD	VCTRD	N49°05'23"	W122°07'29"
★ 91 INTERCHANGE	VCBBB	N49°05'29"	W122°53'45"
★ ACTIVE PASS	VCACT	N48°52'24"	W123°18'18"
ADMIRALS	VCADM	N48°27'30"	W123°25'13"
★ AIR CANADA HANGAR	VCHAC	N49°11'42"	W123°09'18"
ALBERT HEAD	VCAHD	N48°23'01"	W123°29'07"
ALBION	VCABN	N49°11'12"	W122°33'36"
ALDERGROVE	VCGRV	N49°03'30"	W122°28'12"
ARNOLD	VCARN	N49°01'00"	W122°09'00"
★ AUTOMALL	VCATO	N49°03'29"	W122°48'25"
BAKER	VCBKR	N48°57'42"	W122°13'24"

## UPCOMING PACIFIC FLYING CLUB SEMINARS

Pacific Flying Club is offering free seminars throughout March and April on the following subjects:

### US PROCEDURES:

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 09:00 - 11:30

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, 09:00 - 11:30

### NIGHT RATING:

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 09:00 - 11:30

### MOUNTAIN FLYING:

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 09:00 - 11:30

Check out the [PFC events calendar](#) for more information on these seminars as well as other paid seminars.



# CALL FOR PHOTOS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Newsletter Team is always looking for PFC member content and both photographers and writers are in demand! If you have an aviation story, a nifty flight planning tool or photos that you want to feature in the newsletter, let us know! Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook or send us an email at [gagroup@pacificflying.com](mailto:gagroup@pacificflying.com)

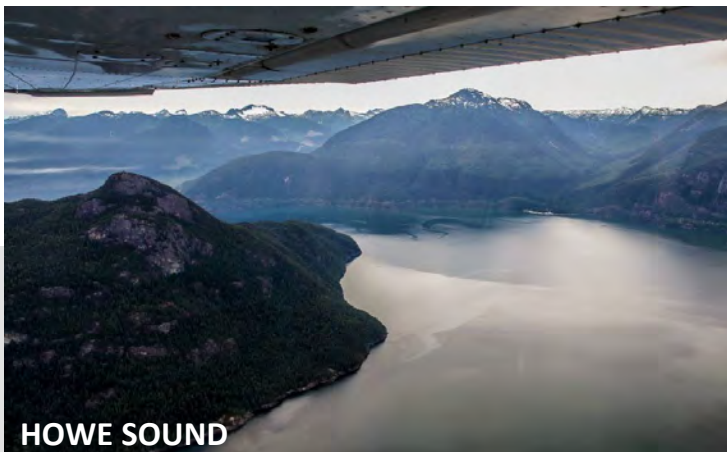
**ON THIS PAGE ARE THE FABULOUS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LAURA JOHNSON. THANK YOU, LAURA!**



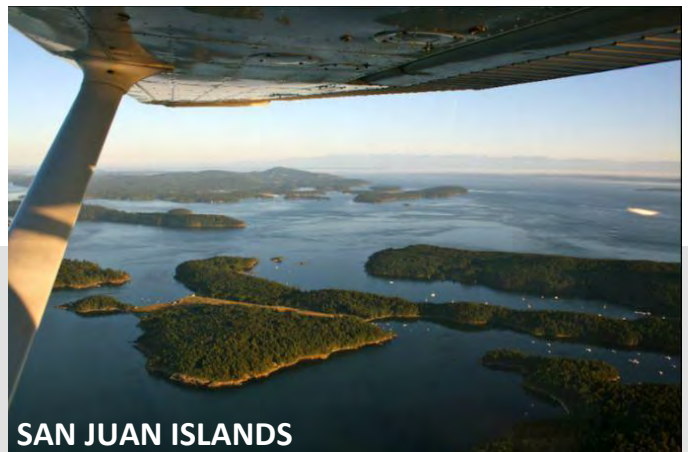
**GARIBALDI LAKE**



**DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER ORBIT**



**HOWE SOUND**



**SAN JUAN ISLANDS**





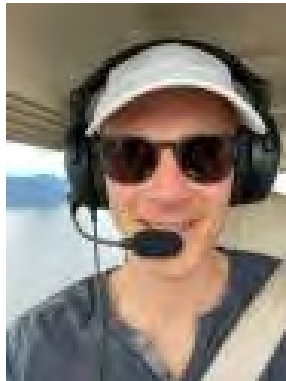
## CONTEST TO NAME THE NEWSLETTER

We think a newsletter for PFC members should be named by PFC members. Enter the contest by sending us your suggestion for a permanent name for the newsletter. Either post your suggestion on the PFC Members' Facebook page by scanning the QR code or send it to us by email at [gagroup@pacificflying.com](mailto:gagroup@pacificflying.com). The winning contestant will win some merch courtesy of PFC!

## MEET THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

### DENNIS WOLFF

Dennis earned his PPL in 2012 and has been a member of the Pacific Flying Club since 2014.



### FRANK WU

Frank started his PPL training at Boundary Bay and completed it at CYPK in 2021. He has since become an active weekend renter from PFC. His favourite destinations are CYPW and CYCD.



### FLORIAN KRAUTHAN

Florian earned his PPL in 2020 out of CYPK and joined Pacific Flying Club later that year. Florian enjoys sharing his love for aviation and the beauty of flying in the Lower Mainland with friends and family.



### PHILLIP SOUDER

Phillip joined Pacific Flying Club in early 2022 and is currently working towards his PPL. When he's not at PFC (or at work) he's out on the hiking trails or in the studio working on an oil painting.



*Have a question or comment about the newsletter? Let us know at [gagroup@pacificflying.com](mailto:gagroup@pacificflying.com)*