

July 2023

# The Pacific Flying Club Members' Newsletter



## COFFEE AND DONUTS EVENT WITH THE GENERAL AVIATION CLUB



**SATURDAY AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM – 11AM @ PFC**

## IN THIS EDITION:

*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 Boundary Bay Firehall Tour
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# RECAP OF THE BOUNDARY BAY FIREHALL TOUR

On May 28, 2023, eight of us descended upon Boundary Bay Firehall #4 to learn more about the fire station that, among many other things, is responsible for Boundary Bay Airport. We were greeted by Captain Reid Martin and his crew of three additional firefighters. This was one of the first exciting things we learned: Hall #4 has a single crew of just four people per shift.

After being given a general introduction, we learned a bit about Hall #4's impressive equipment, including a big tanker fire truck as well as a heavy rescue truck. One of the most memorable points in the tour came when we were

introduced to the hydraulic rescue tools that are used to extract people from cars (and planes for that matter). The jaws of life, to which they are often referred, are actually two different tools: One tool to crush and cut metal and another to spread objects open. It was fascinating to see all the tools on display at Firehall #4.

Another fascinating fact about Hall #4 is that the area for which it is responsible is actually quite large. Not only do they respond to emergencies at the airport, but also many of the industrial buildings in the area. Additionally, since Firehall #4



(Photo: Florian Krauthan)

has that heavy rescue truck mentioned earlier, they are often relied upon all throughout Delta when specialised emergency equipment is required.

We finished the tour by taking a closer look at the trucks, then going on a quick tour of the training facility while learning more about the day-to-day life and careers of the members of Delta Fire & Emergency Services. Thank you to Captain Reid Martin and the team for sharing such great insight and information.

- Florian Krauthan



(Photo: Florian Krauthan)



# REVIEW OF MARY'S BLEUE MOON CAFÉ AT YYJ



(Photo: Frank Wu)

To the southwest of Victoria International Airport, across Canora Rd, lies Mary's Bleue Moon Café. A dependable eatery for locals and visiting pilots alike, its long history of serving the aviation community is described by a memorable excerpt from their menu:

*"Mary's originally opened as Mary's Coffee Bar in 1939. Its goal was to serve the many airport personnel, locals and wartime pilots, often with aircraft landing in the field across the street to unload their crews."*

Fellow Newsletter Team member Florian Krauthan and I had embarked on a short trip to YYJ to tour the B.C. Aviation Museum, but we decided to first make a stop at Mary's for a

bite to eat as it is conveniently located just across the street. Getting here from the Victoria Flying Club was really easy, and only took us ~5 minutes on foot.

The weather was beautiful, so naturally, we decided to sit at the café's patio where we were quickly greeted with a craft of iced water. The menu had a wide selection of burgers, seafood, sandwiches, salads and soups. As we had arrived slightly before noon, Mary's still had a breakfast menu available. Florian took the "Bush Pilot" breakfast plate while I opted for the Fish and Chips. To our surprise, the food came very quickly despite dining during Mary's lunch rush.



Florian's "Bush Pilot Breakfast" at Mary's



The fish and chips at Mary's Bleue Moon Café

My fish and chips were very well-cooked: the fish was fresh and flaky, and the batter light and crispy. Although the mayo dip was different from the traditional tartar sauce as it did not have any chunks of herbs or pickles, it went very well with the fish. Florian also enjoyed his "delicious combo of two homemade pancakes and an extremely yummy sausage" and thinks it was "perfect to fill up after a flight in the morning".

The overall service was great as expected, complete with that friendly Vancouver-Island vibe. The price was very reasonable - that full portion of fish and chips was only \$15.

- Frank Wu

# RECAP OF THE HARBOUR AIR HANGAR TOUR

On a hot Wednesday evening early last month, 10 of us from PFC headed out to Vancouver International Airport to visit Harbour Air's Maintenance Hangar on a field trip organized by PFC's General Aviation Club. After an initial safety briefing provided by our host, Mike, we entered Harbour Air's huge main hangar. We learned that it previously belonged to Boeing, which, during World War II, used to manufacture planes right here in Vancouver. We quickly noticed the many planes inside the hangar: There was a DHC-3 DeHavilland Turbine Single Otter, a DHC-6 DeHavilland Twin Otter and the famous DHC-2 DeHavilland Electric Beaver. We had a blast learning about the engines that keep Harbour Air's fleet flying. We even learned how their floatplanes get to the water from the hangar.

Shawn (VP of Maintenance) accompanied us during the tour. Not only is Shawn an expert in maintaining planes, he's also a pilot of many types



*Harbour Air's innovative ePlane in flight (Photo Courtesy of Harbour Air)*

of aircraft (including floatplanes). He provided a lot of detail about floatplane operations such as the structure of the floats, maintaining float planes in the highly corrosive environments like the ocean as well as what goes into VFR operation (especially on a commercial level like at Harbour Air). We learned many other things, including some officially certified changes Harbour Air is making to their fleet. For example, they've installed bigger windows so passengers can fully enjoy the stunning views along their scenic coastal routes and they've stripped down a lot of

systems that are made redundant by the environment in which Harbour Air operates, thus reducing weight and saving fuel. Here's yet another fun fact about Harbour Air: they even have their own manufacturing licence that allows them to build some of the airplane parts in-house!

Of course, a trip to Harbour Air's hangar would not be complete without seeing their famous lime green electric ePlane! We learned a lot about the battery it uses, the rigorous testing that was performed by Harbour Air as well as their



## RECAP OF THE HARBOUR AIR HANGAR TOUR (CONTINUED)



*Harbour Air's famous ePlane on display (Photo Courtesy of Harbour Air)*

future plans for this one-of-a-kind aircraft. Our visit then ended with a closer look at the Twin Otter followed by a general Q&A session in which we discussed learning float flying, working at Harbour Air as a pilot and everything in between. Visiting the Harbour Air hangar was a reminder of the innovation that's happening in the aviation industry right here in the skies

above Vancouver and the Salish Sea. Even if our visit was just for one afternoon, it was exciting to be a part of what's going on at Harbour Air!

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to our two great hosts, Mike and Shawn, for taking time out of their busy schedules to give us such an in-depth look into Harbour Air and the world of floatplanes.

- Florian Krauthan



*Harbour Air's ePlane over the Strait of Georgia (Photo Courtesy of Harbour Air)*

# UPCOMING PACIFIC FLYING CLUB SEMINARS

Pacific Flying Club is offering free seminars throughout August and September on the following subjects:

## **MOUNTAIN FLYING:**

Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 09:00 - 11:30

Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 09:00 - 11:30

## **NIGHT RATING:**

Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, 09:00 - 11:30

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

## LAST CHANCE TO HELP NAME THE NEWSLETTER AND WIN A PRIZE!

The Newsletter Team has received many creative suggestions for an official name for our PFC Members Newsletter. This is your last chance to participate before a name is chosen! Enter the naming contest by sending us your suggestion for a permanent name for the newsletter. Simply 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!

## CHECK OUT ZBB'S NEWSLETTER: "SQUAWK IDENT"

Did you know that Boundary Bay Airport has a newsletter? For the latest news, safety tips and everything else ZBB, check out [www.czbb.com](http://www.czbb.com) and scroll down to the "News" section on their homepage. Here, you'll find all the latest editions of their newsletter as well as other interesting content! Check out their latest newsletter [here](#).

## 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)



# 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.



## ALEX BINEK

Alex became a PFC member in 2015. Since then, he has earned his CPL as well as his Multi-Engine and IFR ratings. His most memorable flight to date was a 300 nautical mile cross-country trip to Vanderhoof in virtually empty airspace in May 2020.



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