

THE SEA TO SKY

British Columbia Coast 99s Chapter Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Readers,

I am pleased to release the 2021 edition of the BC Coast 99s chapter newsletter. This edition is my second release as the chapter's Newsletter Editor.

I am happy to hear last year's edition was well-received and as your editor I am glad to help contribute my skills and creativity to the chapter.

I have honestly been amazed about many of your achievements, which compelled me to share personal win with all of you as well! This April I graduated from my engineering diploma program at Langara College with Distinction. I have been accepted to the Software Engineering Undergraduate program at Arizona State University and have begun my studies there this August. I hope to combine my love of tech and use it to help design the software systems of aircrafts of tomorrow.

Hearing what our members have accomplished this year makes me proud to be a part of this chapter. You are all amazing women and I look forward to seeing what you accomplish next.

Blue Skies,

Crislana Rafael

BC Coast 99s Chapter Newsletter Editor

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER CHAIR

As we carried on with COVID and a different way of life in 2021, I look back and think about all the changes that have happened and how people were raised to a new level of community and caring. We were excited to be able to reconnect with family and friends and get back slowly to doing the things we loved. Although for some of us flying was put on the back burner, our chapter had many great accomplishments which were shared on virtual calls and our social media.

Our chapter continues to grow as we welcome in new members and it's good to see the female aviation population thriving. We have some new flying and fundraising activities in the works and I look forward to the next year of flying, friendships and all the accomplishments we'll share.

Victoria Fitchett,
Acting Chair, British Columbia Coast 99s



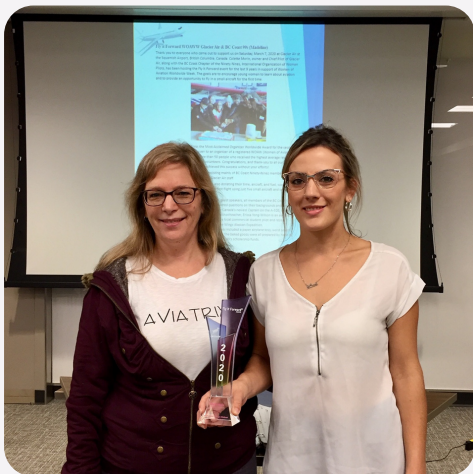
BC COAST 99S 2020 AGM RECAP

By Madeline Ungurain

The British Columbia Coast Chapter of the 99's in West Canada had a successful annual general meeting on September 26 th 2020. The meeting was held at the Vancouver International Airport in one of the boardrooms, with 10 members present in person, and 15 members joining virtually through zoom. Chapter Chair Jenna Forseth-Madrid and her husband did an excellent job of navigating the challenges of combining both a virtual and in-person meeting, by smoothly handling the technical side of things while leading an exciting meeting, which after several months of a pandemic was a welcomed breath of fresh air!



In person members in attendance at BC Coast 99's AGM (from left to right), Madeline Ungurain, Colette Morin, Marcia Strang, Michelle Podwyssocki, Margaret Coombs, Tiffany Wijepala, Cindy Pang, Jenna Forseth, Renata Nicmans.



Colette Morin (left) and Madeline Ungurain (right) present the WOAWWW award at the BC Coast 99's AGM, September 2020

After greeting attendees, chapter chair Jenna began by leading the meeting with our mission statement and chapter news. We congratulated Colette Morin, owner and Chief Pilot of Glacier Air, and host of the annual Fly It Forward Event, along with Madeline Ungurain, British Columbia Coast Chapter News Editor and coordinator of this year's Fly It Forward, on their combined efforts which resulted in another successful event! The 2020 event won Colette Morin 'Most Acclaimed Organizer Worldwide' award for the second year in a row from Women of Aviation Worldwide.

Later, members watched a beautifully put together slideshow tribute for Erissa Yong-Wilson, our fellow BC Coast 99's sister who recently passed away.

Members also had the opportunity to bring forward new ideas, and there were many excellent fundraisings and promoting ideas, which have since been successfully implemented. A few examples of these are the hand crafted 99's themed masks, and tote bags, along with an airplane wash fundraiser.

We held our elections and voted in the new executive board and standing committee positions. We welcomed Renata Nicmans as our new Chapter Chair, Tiffany Wijepela as our treasurer, Chioma Onyedikachi Okoro as our secretary, and Victoria Fitchett as vice chair.

2021 has been a tough year with our chapter meetings and fundraising events mostly being limited to virtual gatherings or postponed altogether- as in the case of the plane wash our chapter had been planning for some time since the idea was born at our AGM. We have had much success still with our Fly It Forward event, our production, marketing, and distribution of 99s themed apparel, and many of our members celebrating personal achievements, too!

March 7th of this year marked the 10th anniversary of Colette hosting the annual Fly It Forward event. Together as a chapter, we were able to host a virtual zoom event which despite the restrictions of the pandemic was still a huge success! Congratulations, and thank-you to all our amazing volunteers, as we could not have achieved this success without your efforts!

We have also been participating as a chapter in social 'cocktail hour' zoom gatherings on a monthly basis to stay connected during these unprecedented times as we await the hopeful resumption of in person gatherings soon. To purchase our 99s themed masks and tote bags, please email bccoast99s@gmail.com. Proceeds go towards supporting women and girls to obtain their wings!



MEMBER UPDATES

We are excited to celebrate your achievements and be a part of your journey. More member updates can be found on our facebook and instagram!



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Welcome to our new member **Diana Jeliaskova!**

She is student pilot training for her PPL at Pacific Flying Club and recently finished up her solo cross-country flight. Diana is also accepted into the 2021 BCAC Mentorship Program where she looks forward to connect with others in aviation, share her passion for flying, and learn from each other's experiences.



Welcome to **Sanjana Saini**, a new chapter member! She has just finished her first solo on the 16th June, 2021. Congratulations Sanjana!

Congratulations to **Angela Tanton** who now flies the C130 Hercules as a fire fighting pilot with COULSON Aviation. She has been with COULSON since May and enjoying every minute of it. Knowing that she's helping save structures/homes, the forests and sensitive habitats has been super rewarding for her so far.



Congratulations to our former chapter chair **Jenna Forseth** on obtaining her Multi-IFR rating on a DA-42 at Chinook Helicopters with instructor Wayne Cave (see left). She has also completed Commercial License in the J3 Piper Cub and Cessna 172. Way to go Jenna!

Congratulations to **Anna Serbinenko** for being admitted to a university in Russia for a second doctorate program in Astronautics. Anna is a Transport Canada Pilot Examiner, Authorized Person, and aerobatics. Feel free to connect with her at anna@cfc.aero regarding flight testing, license processing, and instruction.





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Rene Kassie completed her first solo on April 26th in Pitt Meadows, British Columbia, Canada. Keep it up Rene!



Congratulations to our awe-inspiring chapter News Coordinator **Madeline Ungurain** for completing her Commercial Pilot License on April 11. She was awarded the I Hart Flying Foundation's 'Seal Your Future in Flight' 2021 Scholarship towards her Flight Instructor Rating in April of 2021. Madeline was also featured on Global News BC television (in British Columbia, Canada) to share her aviation story which was aired on Mother's Day, (May 9, 2021) to inspire other women/moms and females interested in aviation.

Tiffany Wijepala completed her Private Pilot License on April 23rd in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada. We're excited about what you'll accomplish next Tiffany!



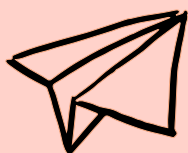
Rebecca Jean-Peric of the British Columbia Coast 99s was awarded the Vicky Cruise Memorial Scholarship for Emergency Maneuver and Aerobatic Training in May of this year. Great work Rebecca!

Member Updates from **Colette Morin**, owner of [Glacier Air](#) (pictured right):

- **Rachel Kusumoto** has completed her First Solo flight
- **Raphael Larouche** has obtained her Private Pilot Licence
- **Shannon Sorg** has completed her Commercial Pilot Flight Test

Let's also celebrate a happy 25 years to **Colette Morin**, who has been involved as a 99s member since 3 Sept 1996! Now that's dedication!





CHAPTER UPDATES

We are excited to celebrate your achievements and be a part of your journey. More member updates can be found on our facebook and instagram!



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MARCH 8-14: WOMEN OF AVIATION WEEK

By Colette Morin

Overall WOAW21 virtual event on March 13, 2021 went well with the help of Marcia and all the others who really stepped up when I had to leave town last minute. THANKS EVERYONE!!!

Due to the global pandemic we were unable to offer an in-person flying event but we had a great online ZOOM event that included photo slide shows, guest speakers, breakout rooms to ask a pilot questions and short videos from so many amazing women pilots and student pilots with such diverse and compelling stories! We even had a short video from the two female controllers from Vancouver Harbour Tower!

Although we didn't fly we were able to join Cynthia and Max online while they flew over Vancouver Harbour. Technology can be pretty amazing!

We made a Pink Paper Airplane Mural and had a draw to offer flights for participants but as the pandemic moved into the 3rd wave I don't think these flights were followed up and/or flown. Honestly, I forgot to follow up when I returned home and then my busy flying season started :-)

We were not able to get many non-pilots to participate but the event did help to promote the BC Coast 99s and bring us some new members! I think we had about 40 participants in our ZOOM event.

We are looking forward to hosting an actual flying event in 2022! I expect there will still be some COVID restrictions in place and we may have to limit flights to only those who are fully vaccinated as the pilots and passengers are in such close proximity. We may even be able to combine some online events with an in person event and utilize all the new technology we learned!

Thanks again to everyone who helped make the event such a success!

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Help support our fundraising efforts for a good cause!

The BC Coast 99s chapter now has a team committed dedicated to creating fundraising ideas!

Their first fundraiser was the mask project, which surpassed expectations with beautiful products and fantastic financials. The airplane themed face masks made by the BC Coast 99s are available in a variety of sizes for a minimum donation of \$20 and an extra \$2 for shipping.

To place an order, email bccoast99s@gmail.com





A CONVERSATION WITH BRITTANI BALLANTYNE



“ I started working on the dock at Georgian Bay Airways in Parry Sound, ON last summer a few months into the pandemic. I came out to get my float rating and they needed an extra person on the dock which was perfect because I had just been laid off from my other job due to the pandemic.

Working on the dock was awesome because I learned a ton about floatplanes, I got to fly empty legs and build hours and I got a killer tan. After the summer I went back to Whistler to ski patrol for the winter and busted out the rest of my CPL in my free time.

The timing was tight but I managed to squeak through just in time for float season back in Ontario. Georgian Bay Airways needed another pilot for the season and it worked out perfectly having worked on the dock the summer before so I was lucky enough to move on up.

I started the season on the C180 doing half hour sightseeing tours and giving float ratings and as things started to pick up I got checked out on the 185 and 206 and started doing charter flights to customer's cottages. The job has been unreal so far and I'm having an absolute blast working here...to the point where I look forward to the weekend ending.

Flying floats is such a cowgirl operation and it puts your pilot skills to the test constantly which is fun and stressful all at the same time. But I've been incredibly lucky to have an awesome group of pilots and dockhands to work with here. They have been such great mentors and friends, it's been awesome getting to learn from them. And they're young and killing it! One of the other pilots, Kelcey Grant, is 23 years old, she's worked here for 3 years and she's an absolute prodigy. She flies the beaver here and will likely be the boss next summer. She's a badass. So the girls are killing it here!



”

PATRICK'S WINGS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

By Jenna Forseth on behalf of the Patrick's Wings Memorial
Scholarship Committee



Larry Forseth (left) with scholarship recipient
and new chapter member Alejandra Rodas (right)



Patrick's Wings Memorial Scholarship was created in
honor of Jenna Forseth's (past chapter chair) brother
Patrick Daniel Forseth (top)

We are delighted to be a part of the bright future ahead of Alejandra Rodas! This week my father was able to meet with Alejandra to congratulate her in person.

Alejandra was selected by the scholarship committee as the recipient of the Patrick's Wings Memorial Scholarship award. This award will allow Alejandra to complete her Private Pilot License with full financial support. Alejandra has started her training, completed six flight hours so far, and is clearly passionate about aviation and her training. She is also one of our newest members of the 99s.

The Patrick's Wings Memorial Scholarship was formed two years ago when my brother was tragically taken from us in a plane accident. Patrick (Danny) was a dedicated aviator and an advocate and encourager to his fellow aviators.

Thank you to the many friends, family, and brothers and sisters in aviation for their support of this meaningful scholarship.

Alejandra, congratulations on being one step closer to earning your wings.

Member Update:

As of September 22, 2021 Alejandra has completed 14 flight hours and will do her first solo flight in 2 weeks' time. Keep it up Alejandra!

CROSS-COUNTRY FLYING TALES

By Clare Brooks



Paul and I have been married for over 40 years. We have had many flying adventures both alone and together. We've wanted to do a long cross-country flying trip together, BC to PEI, so we are.

We departed YXX in the third week of August and here we are in Hanover Ontario, Westbound after several days in The Maritimes, and yes we did get to PEI!

Why Hanover? Because ...

our first flying adventure was purchasing a 1950 Cessna 140A. We put about 700 hours on it before selling it in 1978. I have fond memories of that plane and I've kept track of it as it has sold and resold over the years.

Yesterday, we refueled in Brampton Ontario and I cold-called the man who has owned and flown it since 1995, Dave Schmidt. "Hi! I used to own FPS and my husband and I would love to meet you!"

Now I dive in to the theme of this trip: "The kindness of strangers." Many times.

"I hope you will stay with me - I have a big comfortable house and you'd be welcome!" And here we are, waiting out as a Cold Front passes over us.

This afternoon we will spend in his hangar, out of the record breaking torrential rain, seeing the changes in the 140 over the years. See photo and, no that isn't Paul, it's Dave, the owner.

We'll be homeward bound in a few days and it'll take us a week or two, anticipating headwinds and Autumn weather delays. If you'd like to hear more about this trip, find me the next time we enjoy a cup of coffee at an in-person 99s chapter meeting. Happy flying!



MEMBER BIO:

CHIOMA ONYEDIKACHI OKORO

Since joining the BC Coast 99s chapter in April 2020 and especially getting a Mentor, I have made tremendous progress towards my flight training and doctorate program. Indeed, the journey is a gift as quoted by Beyonce the American singer in "The Lion King: The Gift" album and I am immensely grateful to the ladies in my chapter for all the support.

Growing up in Owerri, Nigeria, only once, as a child, did I visit the local airport during an excursion, but I have childhood memories of being fascinated whenever I saw aircraft on TV. Fast forward to when I turned 19, and because of my outstanding academic performance, I became a recipient of the Ukrainian-Nigerian bilateral education agreement full scholarship. There were many courses on the list, but the aviation courses caught my attention, so I opted to enroll in the aerospace faculty's bachelor of aircraft maintenance program. During this program, courses in aerodynamics further solidified my aviation interests and I decided on also becoming an airline pilot.

I contacted many schools worldwide and was accepted for immediate intake at an aviation school in Manitoba, Canada. Unfortunately, my instructor there was discouraging and demeaning and told me I will never be a pilot. Therefore, I moved my training to the Langley Flying School in British Columbia where I passed the PPL flight test in April 2021 and have commenced training towards a Commercial Pilot License (CPL) with Multi-Engine ratings. At the same time, I am a Doctorate Candidate at the National Aviation University in Kyiv, Ukraine where I obtained a bachelor's degree with honors in aircraft maintenance and a master's degree with honors in maintenance of aircraft and their engines in 2016 and 2018, respectively. I commenced a doctorate program in July 2018 and completed all course works before moving to an online format in September 2019 to enable me to complete flight training in Canada. My doctoral research studies the optimization of maintenance processes for the continuous airworthiness of aircraft and so far, I have presented my research at 4 international conferences; I am on track to submit my dissertation by the end of this year - my long-term career goal is to combine my strengths as an airline pilot and an aviation researcher. When I'm not studying or flying, I enjoy taking long walks, photographing nature, visiting art museums, and lending my voice online/offline to social causes.

Over the course of my studies, I have won numerous awards including the Dean's Award for academic excellence and participation in community events, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Award for Outstanding Solutions for an aviation security case study, the African Council in Ukraine Award for outstanding students, the 2020 British Columbia Aviation Council (BCAC) career training scholarship, the Fall 2020 Ninety-Nines Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Fly Now (now First Wings) award, the first prize for the 2021 Urban Pilot Network/Dream Never Dies Foundation scholarship and the 2021 BCAC John and Michelle Ward Memorial scholarship. In May 2021, I also won the second prize for the Royal Aeronautical Society Young Persons Lecture Competition; winning this prize made me the first female to represent Canada at the International N.E. Rowe Young Persons Lecture Competition. Immediately upon joining the BC Coast 99s chapter, I became involved in our activities.

As a member of the BC Coast 99s chapter fundraising committee, I have helped in facilitating our \$2000 facemask fundraiser by helping with packaging the masks, promoting sales of the mask online and helping set up sales in pilot stores, and distributing to customers. I am also planning a plane wash fundraiser which we are hoping to host in Fall 2021. I was elected as Secretary in September 2020, and, alongside my mentor, we are currently designing a mentorship program for pilots in training, and we are hoping to officially start before the end of 2021. I am very active in the Canadian aviation community. I volunteer as a speaker for the BCAC Speakers bureau, co-organizer of the Canadian Women in Aviation (CWIA) Approaching Finals initiative and the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals in Canada. I also serve as board member of Young Scientist Association in Ukraine, treasurer, and demographics committee chairperson for the Nigeria-Canada Association of BC.

In the nearest future, I hope to contribute to the continuous development of aviation and to motivate young girls to develop an interest in this rewarding industry.

MARRYING FLYING WITH 'FUN'DRAISING

By Lise Ash

WHAT CAN BE BETTER THAN A 12 DAY EXPEDITION FLYING OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, DOWN INTO THE PRE-HISTORIC BADLANDS OF DRUMHELLER, VIEWING POLAR BEARS ALONG THE 100NM OF COASTLINE UP THE HUDSON BAY TO CHURCHILL WHERE THE BELUGA WHALES SING?



Amazing aerial shots of wildlife during our expedition!
Photo Credit: Don Bradshaw

Then there's the Prairie flying, with its high towers, windmills and lakes (so many lakes). What a totally different and awesome landscape for this mountain loving gal.

Take offs, landings and some formation flying was all part of our daily fun as the 15 aircraft with more than 30 participants chatted "Wings 5 to Wings 2" over the airways checking in with one another and sharing PIREPs.

With only a few more overnights we fly to Flin Flon and Saskatoon where COPA and local flying club members meet us. Finally homeward bound we descend onto Cranbrook where we enter those magnificent rocks inviting us to follow the well travelled VFR route to Nelson, beautiful and inspiring!

But why would a group of pilots from BC, AB, SK, MB and Ont. do all this random flying? Hope Air, a Canadian Charity has been the focus for several pilots these last 4 years and we've been committed to bringing awareness and raising needed money to sponsor free medical flights for patients mostly living in rural areas far from the big hospitals and treatment centers. We fly and our family, friends, local businesses and even corporations get on the band wagon sponsoring our efforts. It's a win-win kind of thing, having 'fun' while 'fun'draising and all the while making new like minded friends from all over Canada!

Give Hope Wings or GHW keeps growing. In 2018 three pilots started this 'giving back' mission by flying around South America. In 2019 I joined as PIC flying the chief pilot's RV6 tail dragger and again three aircrafts flew The NW Passage through Yukon, NWT and Alaska. Last year in 2020 several aircrafts from Eastern Canada picked up the torch and flew Sault to Saguenay where I was a co-pilot in a DA-40. This year, as Hope Air's first female Expedition Captain flying my own Cessna we flew Boundary Bay to Hudson Bay & back.

In the last 4 expeditions GA pilots in single engine aircrafts have raised over \$900,000 translating to over 3600 free medical flights for Canadians in need. That's a feel good charity that lets us exercise our passion! Along the trip, we sometimes get an opportunity to meet some of the clients that our efforts help, which is always rewarding and a big highlight for me personally.

Next year GHW plans to fly from Victoria, BC to Saint John's NFLD. and back. A one month itinerary with as many as 50 aircrafts signing up for legs.

If you are interested in fundraising and adventure feel free to contact [Hope Air](#) for more information.

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