



# **VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB NEWSLETTER**

**JAN/FEB 2022**



WACA

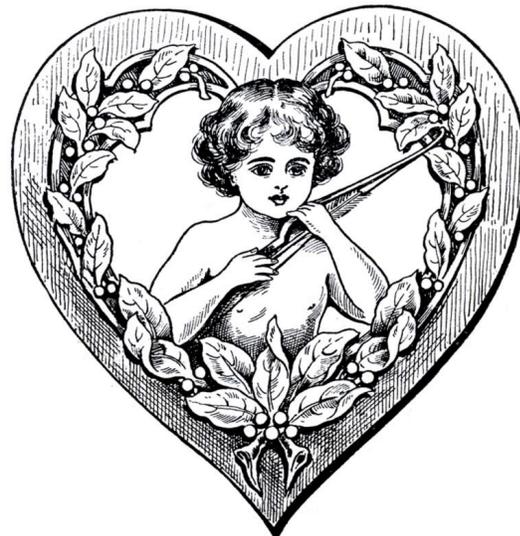
**WORLD TRAVELLERS**

## **FOR AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES**

*WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Pg 2
Board of Directors	Pg 2
Entertainment Report	Pg 3
WACA Celebration	Pg 4



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new year of the Vancouver Interline Club!

Thank you for selecting me to serve as your President for 2022. We have a great executive team in place and a full program of social and cultural events planned. Stay tuned for all the details and please come out and support the club!

Special recognition must go to Freddie Whiting for his dedication to the club for the past five years. Fred never complained about his long tenure and always has a broad smile on his face. Hard working and completely dedicated to WACA/VIC, we were very fortunate to have him at the helm. Thank you Fred for everything you've done and for remaining on the executive for yet another year.

We are looking forward to commencing our entertainment program on February 11th with another Zoom Bingo. Ann and Sue have a preliminary schedule of events in place. If you have ideas or suggestions for something new, please get in touch with them to share your thoughts.

Please remember to proudly wear your VIC name tag at all of our get togethers. It helps build friendships and promotes engagement between ourselves and potential new members.

In 2021, your executive executive focused on membership building. This year, our primary focus is on membership retention and increased participation for all members.

Optimistically thinking, we all hope that this will be the year when we can start feeling comfortable with flying internationally again. WACA have two major events planned including the AGM in Indonesia. I hope that you will consider attending either or both of these gatherings.

Yours in interlining,

Nigel Cole

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Nigel Cole	604-782-4762
VICE PRESIDENT	Freddie Whiting	604 307 - 1909
TREASURER ASSISTANT	Judith Guevara	604-603-1702
SECRETARY ASSISTANT	Pat Parsons	604-679-8025
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MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT	Pat Lindeman	604-581-6643
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TOUS & INFO ASSISTANT	Claude Hewitt	604-506-0072
PAST PRES	Freddie Whiting	604-307-1909

### FROM THE EDITOR

Wishing everyone good health and stay safe.

Please do send us your articles, jokes and interesting items that you would like to be included in the newsletter. If you send a travel article, please include pictures.

Check out the new updated WACA website. [www.waca.org](http://www.waca.org)

Our new address is: Vancouver Interline Club,  
106-15153 98th Avenue  
Surrey, B. C. V3R 9M8

or use the e-mail on our new  
<http://www.vancouverinterlineclub.ca> Our new email  
is: [yvrinterlineclub@gmail.com](mailto:yvrinterlineclub@gmail.com)

To sign up for the e-mail  
version of the newsletter, send your e-mail to  
[maxpat@telus.net](mailto:maxpat@telus.net)

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# ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

Our Silent Auction was a success again this year, with so many items, thanks to all who contributed. We made \$1, 052.00 for our charities from all our precious items.

We had a spur of the moment Christmas Light walk with 10 people in attendance. We toured Pat Quinn's lights and they were lovely.

Thanks to everyone for your support over the past year. We hope that 2022 will be better for getting together.

Ann & Sue



## LANYARDS

Do you have one?  
If you have one, don't forget to bring it to the next in-person event.  
If you don't have one, contact Freddie Whiting to have one made.  
[wushuyvr@gmail.com](mailto:wushuyvr@gmail.com)



## WACA CELEBRATION IN DUBAI

Although the “celebration” as it was called, started on Sunday evening, we left a couple of days early, arriving at the hotel Friday suppertime. Upon arrival, we were met by a member of the local company contracted to make things happen, who was waving a WACA sign as we exited immigration – it was he who drove us to our 5-star hotel, the Al Bandar Arjaan Rotana - Dubai Creek, listed at us\$200 per night (although our WACA-arranged price was us\$160/night). After our long plane journey, and it being suppertime, we were happy to order a small dinner at one of the hotel’s dining rooms, and go to bed.

Saturday morning, after breakfast (always included), we shared a mini-van to the Dubai Mall, a huge building (over a million square metres) with 200 shops on 4 floors. and every type of store imaginable, selling gold, spices, and certainly women’s clothes. There’s a huge aquarium in the centre, several stories high with many types of fish, including sharks and rays. Also interesting to see (if you knew where to look) was an “underwater zoo”, an Olympic-sized skating rink, an A380 flight simulator, and a huge dinosaur skeleton

Day 1 (Sunday Oct 17) Up until evening dinner, we simply stayed around the hotel. “Dinner” was a “meet-&-greet” stand-up finger food offering, as people arrived from various countries and reconnected with old friends from previous trips.

Day 2 (Monday Oct 18) was a late afternoon foray into a desert area near Dubai. We, 60 of us, were put into 4x4 vans and (after the drivers let some air out of their tires) we caravanned across rolling sand dunes with no civilization in sight in any direction (except 4x4 tracks) until we got the designated area where we were let out to climb (barefoot) a small hill of sand to watch and take pictures of the sunset. The drivers then used generators to refill their tires, and then took us to the outdoor supper place, called a “Bedouin Camp” in the brochure, where we had a buffet supper under the stars, accompanied by a small show with a “Whirling Dervish” dancer (very dizzying), a belly-dancer (very tame), and a fire-eater. Of interest to me was a falcon trainer who wandered around, soliciting customers to take pictures with the (unidentified) falcon on their outstretched arm. Then we had a fairly-long drive in the dark, back to the hotel.

Day 3 (Tues Oct 19) was listed as “city tour” and it was certainly that, and what a city! On the western side of a peninsula jutting out into the Arabian Gulf, it is essentially a north-south city along the coast. Our hotel was toward the extreme north, along what’s called “The Creek”, with the City Centre to the south (containing the Burj Khalifa) a good half-hour drive. The Creek was dredged in the 1958-1961 time period to make a shipping port available, allowing Dubai to become one of the Gulf area’s most important commercial centres. Then it’s another 25 km south to the exclusive area called “The Marina”, where the Palm Jumeira (7-star hotel) is located. In between these two (the Creek and the Marina)



are miles of sky scrapers, one right beside the other. All the big hotels have spots on the beach (Hilton, Sheraton, Ritz-Carlton) but surrounding them are high-rises, cheek-to-jowl, all over. In 20 years, all this was built on the desert shore of the Persian Gulf and it must have been pre-planned by some deity, with mostly round-a-bouts rather than red lights, gardens, fountains, sky scrapers everywhere and side-by-side, and 6-lane highways across, and exiting from, the city itself. And the buildings themselves were impressive too, all different and “modern”, and tall! One even “twisted” 90 degrees from bottom to top. Part of our tour was to go to the top of the **Burj Khalifa** itself, with the same sort of view of the city below like ascending the Eiffel Tower, or looking down from an airplane. Afterwards there was a “dancing waters” show at the bottom, in a vast expanse of water, also interesting but not mesmerizing. However, seeing the city, being clean and modern and fascinating really, was a good spending of time. This is really what Dubai is known for (rather than oil), that being “extravagance”.

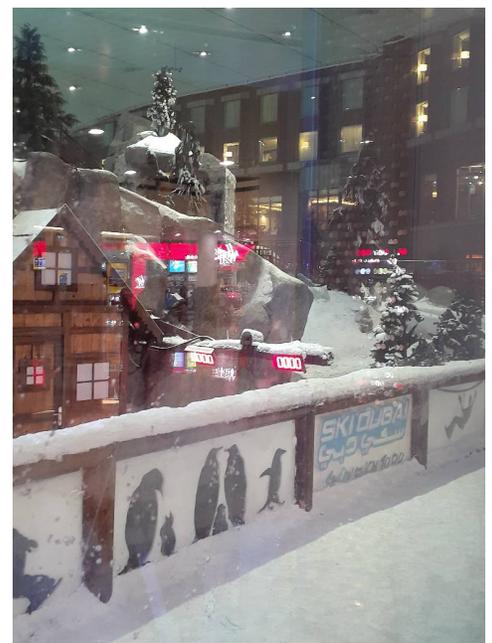
One of our stops was to actually visit (ie drive along) the Palm Jumeira to see the miles and miles of accommodations, also crammed in on each frond next to each other, ending up at the extravagant-looking Atlantis resort, at the very tip of the palm tree. This hotel looks like the others (eg in Florida and in the Bahamas), wide, garish, and pink.

Another stop (18 km south of our hotel – Dubai is really spread out) was to get a view of one of Dubai’s better-known icons, the hotel known as the **Burj al Arab**, a “7-star hotel” built on its own man-made island, connected to the mainland via a causeway. Only guests or those with dinner reservations (\$300 and up) or tea-time reservations (\$100) are allowed in, so we simply admired its shape from a nearby vantage point, that of a sail from an old-fashioned wooden dhow.

One of our last “stops” before going back to the hotel was to see the largest Ferris wheel in the world, the “Dubai Eye”, called “Ain Dubai” in Arabic, which was scheduled to open the weekend after we left. It is larger than the London eye – each cabin holds 40 people (1750 total), where advertising says each cabin is the size of 2 double-decker buses strapped side by side. But one can “rent” a cabin for a private function. A complete revolution is half an hour – no washrooms available that I’ve heard of.

Our city tour was impressive. Physical Dubai and its grandeur are really amazing!

Day 4 (Wed Oct 20) Included in the “celebration” cost was a day visiting Expo 2020 (delayed because of Covid). There were 200 pavilions, mostly from countries advertising itself. The location of this vast area was quite a bit south of town (where the new airport, DWC, will be built) and although it was a 6-lane highway back into the city (the Sheik Zayed Road that cuts all the way through the city proper), the traffic was already stop-start at 5 pm!!! Although we were late getting back to the hotel, one stop on the itinerary, and a compulsory one, was to briefly visit “Ski Dubai”, 3000 square



meters of snow-covered slopes and a chairlift in a gigantic temperature-controlled building, the only one in the Middle East.

Day 5 (Thursday Oct 21) – Here was our traditional (and final) “Regional Night”, beginning with a dinner on an evening boat cruise (all included) along the “Marina” area. This area was originally a small inlet but it was dug out and deepened, and cruising along, looking at both sides with their tall buildings, it was an impressive view, perhaps only challenged elsewhere by the harbour of Shanghai. Most were apartment buildings and condos, but many of the big industrial companies were there too. And a few mosques. Our flight home was uneventful as WACA had arranged for everyone to get the 72-hour PCR test the day before.

Steve Charlton

