

# WACA WORLD NEWS

## The Holidays Edition 2013 issue 1

### *Highlights*

*46th WACA AGM in Budapest Hungary*

*New WACA Council & Structure*

*45th AGM & Tours in Tanzania*

*2014 Calendar of Events*

*WACA Round-Up*

*Events from the past, Alaska Cruise and Tibet 2011*



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION



Dear Interliners,

After a lengthy hiatus, the WACA World News is once again back! Again, contributions from you, the WACA community, will make the WACA news more interesting and informative. Since the conclusion of the 46th AGA and Interline Celebration in Budapest last August, there have been profound changes within WACA as a new structure has been adopted. The new structure in the form of the WACA Council is created to make WACA better poised to meet new challenges, reduce costs and keep WACA on the right keel. The adoption of the new structure was backed by 18 of the 20 Clubs present, and the Council, backed by this strong mandate, will have a challenging 2 years ahead of them to instil back the WACA spirit, improve finances and establish relevancy amongst Interliners.

The WACA council consist of 4 key members, as opposed to the old count of 11 persons (including the WACA HQ Manager) and this new set-up will bring immediate benefits to WACA with reduced costs, more effective teamwork and better decision making and communication. The Council is headed by the President, Mr. Maga Ramasamy, who was directly elected from the member clubs present at the Assembly and he then proposed his team to a select group made up of Members of Honour and ex-EC Members for their concurrence. The President's team comprised of three additional members, and they are:

1. Chief of Marketing and Events, Julian Chau (Hong Kong).
2. Chief of Finance, Valerie Welling (Winnepeg).
3. WACA Administration Manager, Keith Miller (Montreal).

Each member of the team including the President will have an Associate to act as an assistant and back-up. The Regional Vice Presidents' roles have been replaced by Regional Coordinators, who were selected by the clubs (with their dues paid up) of their respective regions. The first WACA Council Meeting was held immediately after the Hungary AGA in Frankfurt, and the second meeting was held in London in November of this year.

2014 is turning out to be a promising year for WACA on the Events front, as there is an attractive line-up of packages and early indications have led us to believe they will be successful events. Some have even sold out 8 months in advance, like the Madagascar tour, and the Airline Club of Portugal have reported strong bookings for their tours associated with the Porto AGA.

The new WACA Council team wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may the coming year bring exciting new opportunities to WACA and the Interline Community!

Yours in Interlining!

*Julian Chau*



## THE PRESIDENT



Maga Ramasamy was elected as President to drive the WACA Council for the period 2013/2015. Maga is based in Mauritius and is employed by the national carrier Air Mauritius as the Human Resources Manager. Maga has more than 30 years experience in the Airline industry. He has been involved in WACA since 1984 and has occupied various functions in WACA: Asst VP Public Relations, Regional Vice President, Secretary General and President.

He is also the very active at the Paille-en Queue Social Club of Air Mauritius and the Indian Ocean islands Interline Club. Maga is appointed by the International Institute for Peace through Tourism as the President of the Chapter Indian Ocean Islands States and also forms part of the Advisory Board of the International Coalition Tourism Partners. Maga is also the chairman of the board of directors for the Airport Duty Free in Rodrigues and is a CSR\* freelance practitioner. Maga is holder of an MBA.

## CHIEF OF FINANCE



Valerie Welling is an airline retiree with 31 plus years of working in the Cargo, Revenue Accounting, Payroll and HR departments. For the last 6 years has been working in the accounts payable department at TruServ Canada.

She has been on the Winnipeg Interline Club committee for 25 years as the Events Coordinator, Waca Rep, President, and now Secretary.

Val was also an active member of the Vancouver Interline Club while she lived there for 5 years. Val has been on the EC Committee of WACA as the VP Finance and Treasurer for 8 years and in previous years as an assistant to the VP Public Relations, RVP North America, President, and VP Finance.

She received the tribute of becoming a Member of Honor in 2009. At the AGA in Budapest, was elected as one of

## CHIEF OF MARKETING & EVENTS



Julian Chau was born in Hong Kong when the territory was still a British Colony. At the age of 6, Julian's family moved to Ghana, West Africa, where Julian spent his formative years. After leaving Africa, Julian obtained a Bachelors degree from Saint Louis University in the United States. Julian returned to Hong Kong after his graduation and apprenticeship at Prov-

incetown Boston Airlines in Naples, Florida, and worked for United Airlines for a further 5 years in their Line Maintenance operation in Hong Kong. Julian joined Cathay Pacific Airways in 1994 in their Technical Services section of the Engineering Department and has served in

## WACA ADMINISTRATION MANAGER



Keith Miller spent 27 years in various positions within the International Air Transport Association (IATA) taking early retirement in 2003 when he was a Sales and Marketing Manager. For the past six years he has been a consultant in the Marketing and Sales Unit of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) specialising in the coordination of international events.

He joined the Montreal Interline Club as IATA's Representative soon after arriving in Montreal in January 1979 and was the Director of Publications in 1982/83 and the Director of Public Relations in 1983/84. He became active in WACA following the opening of the WACA Headquarters office in the IATA building assisting with general HQ functions and eventually became Assistant to the V.P. Sports and International Events from 1986-88. This was followed from 1989-92 as the Assistant to the V.P. President Public Relations and then Assistant to the President from 1992-94. At the 27th AGA in 1994 Keith had the privilege of being elected WACA President as well as being made member of honour in 2005 Keith became the manager, WACA headquarters and at the just concluded 46th AGA was appointed as administration manager on the WACA Council a position to which he brings a great deal of experience and expertise.

various capacities during his career with Cathay. Julian's Interline experience dates from 1994 when he joined the Hong Kong Interline Club and has served as its WACA Representative for many years. Julian was also elected as the Secretary General of WACA from 2004 to 2010 and was instrumental in organising and assisting in 3 Annual General Assemblies (Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, and Zanzibar). Apart from the AGAs, Julian had also organized several successful "Discovery China" tours on behalf of the Hong Kong Interline Club.



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## The President's Message *Maga Ramasamy*

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Seasons Greetings to all Interliners of the world.

I am glad to contribute to this WWNews publication which is being revived with a view to remain in close touch with our interliners of the world and to provide the latest information to you all. We are inviting you in return to relay the news to all your members of the club, close friends at your office and to potential members joining us as member-at-large.

Year 2013 marks an important turning point in the life of our beloved Association after the assembly was prorogued and the administration was put under the responsibility of a WACA Council. I was pleased to be elected as your President by the assembly of members present at the Budapest AGA.

WACA is also blessed to have a dedicated and committed team as part of the WACA Council and duly supported by the respective Associates and Regional Coordinators for each region. As One Team and One Dream and with the support of the membership, we are turning around the situation to rescue WACA and put it back on the rail for the years to come. I would like to seize this occasion to say THANK YOU for all the support received and who have belief in our actions and vision.

On this note, my family would like to join me to wish you all and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and prosperous new year 2014 and may you all enjoy good health, peace and success in achieving all that you wish for. For those not celebrating Christmas, we wish you a great holiday and season's greetings.

*Maga Ramasamy*

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### *Who's Who of WACA*

#### *The WACA Council*

President - Maga Ramasamy (MK)  
Chief of Finance - Valerie Welling (AC retired)  
Chief of Marketing & Events - Julian Chau (CX)  
WACA Administration Manager - Keith Miller (IATA)

#### *Associates and Regional Coordinators*

Associate to the Chief of Finance - Sharon Slessor (AC)  
Associate to the Chief of Marketing & Events- Linda Lenters (AC)  
Associate to the Administration Manager - Sue Walker (BA Retd.)  
AIM Regional Coordinator - Yousef Yousef (RJ)  
Europe Regional Coordinator - Frank Miller (BA reted.)  
Far East and Australasia - Margaret Lee (QA reted.)  
Latin America and Caribbean Coordinator - Jacquie Lyseight (BW)  
North America Coordinator - Trevor Thredgold (WS reted.)

## THE 47TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INTERLINE CELEBRATION IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

The World Airlines Clubs Association held its 47th AGA in the Grand Capital of Hungary, Budapest, from the with a total attendance of 118 persons, of which 19 were delegates. The event was held in the Helia Danubius Hotel & Spa in Budapest and it was the second time an AGA has been held in the city. A quorum was achieved and important matters such as the proposed new WACA Structure were widely debated with an outcome of overwhelming support amongst member clubs present to adopt the new WACA Structure. Mr. Maga Ramasamy of the Indian Ocean Islands Interline Club was elected to head the new WACA Council.

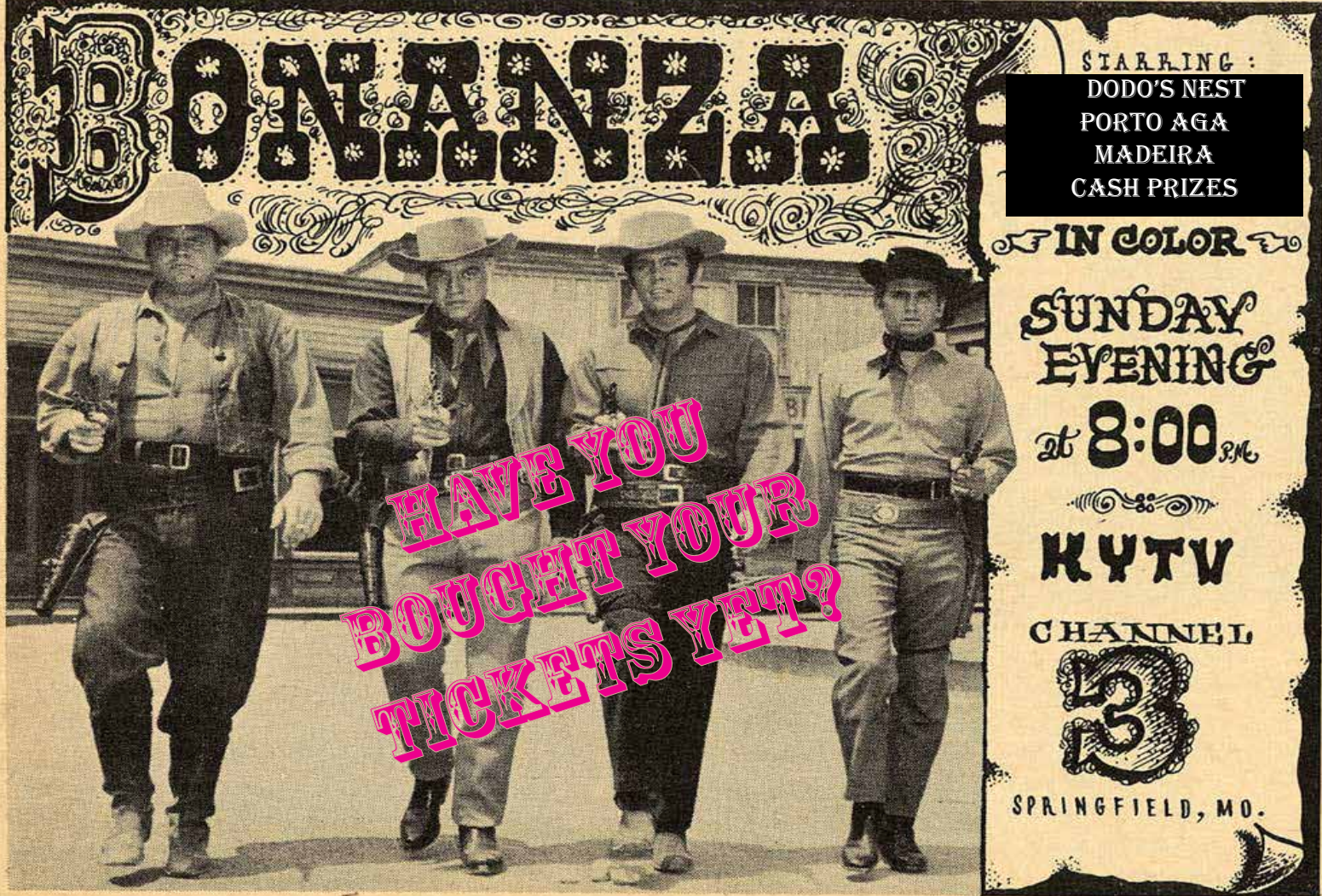
In addition to the meetings, the delegates and observers were treated to Hungarian folk dances and cultural show and all in attendance also had a chance to do a city tour of Budapest taking in the sights of the Castle District and a bus tour of the important sights. Those on the extended package visited Eger, a famous medieval fortress famous for its defence against the Ottoman Turks and to the Palace of Princess Sisi at Godollo. The group was also treated to the famous Hungarian Equestrian show. Delegates and observers also celebrated Saint Stephen's Day watching a fireworks show over the Danube River on the evening of this Hungarian National Day. The Hungarian Interline Club also hosted a pre tour to the Czech Republic (Best of Bohemia) and a post tour to Venice and Tuscany in Italy. While the Rhein Main Interline Club also hosted a well attended pre-tour to Berlin.

WACA thanks the Hungarian Interline Club for putting up the effort to host this event during turbulent times in the Hungarian Airline Industry. Special thanks go to Barna Rimoczy and his team for rising up to the occasion and hosting another memorable AGA event.

Educational material that were donated by interliners were presented by the Hungarian Interline Club to the Xanos Janos School, which specialises in Tourism subjects.





A promotional graphic for the TV show Bonanza. At the top, the word "BONANZA" is written in a large, ornate, black serif font with decorative flourishes. Below the title is a black and white photograph of the four main characters of the show, the Cartwrights, standing in a line in a Western setting. They are all wearing cowboy hats and period-appropriate clothing. Overlaid on the photograph is the text "HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR TICKETS YET?" in a large, pink, stylized font. To the right of the photograph is a black box containing white text: "STARRING : DODO'S NEST PORTO AGA MADEIRA CASH PRIZES". Below this box, the text "IN COLOR" is written in a decorative font. Further down, "SUNDAY EVENING" is written in a large, bold, serif font, followed by "at 8:00 P.M." in a smaller font. Below that, "KYTV" is written in a large, bold, serif font, followed by "CHANNEL" in a smaller font. At the bottom of this section, the number "13" is written in a large, stylized font, and "SPRINGFIELD, MO." is written in a smaller font at the very bottom right.

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY WACA**

**Contact your WACA Representatives and the WACA HQ for your Grand Venture Bonanza Tickets and not miss out on the fabulous prizes on Offer!**

**March 2014 Draw:**

**First Prize - Dodo's Nest Package in Mauritius on twin share.  
Second Prize - 100 USD Cash**

**June 2014 Draw:**

**First Prize - 46th AGA Package in Porto, Portugal  
Second Prize - Madeira Package (Pre-AGA Tour)  
Third Prize - 100 USD Cash**

**December 2014 Draw:**

**First Prize - A Tablet Device.  
Second Prize - TBD.**

**For more information, please contact [info@waca.org](mailto:info@waca.org)**



## SWAHILI COASTLINE

AFRICA is such an incredible continent. Upon arrival at our accommodations at “Tents with a View” in the Saadani National Park our luggage was promptly carried by helpers along the beach to our suites. The suitcases were of course, carried on their heads – how African is that! The rooms were exotic, stilted cabins with veiled netting over canopied beds and rich ebony furniture. The cabins themselves were wood frame, with canvas and bamboosiding and thatched roofs. Most of the suites were facing the Indian Ocean.



The sunsets were spectacular. Being on the coastline, we had the pleasure of enjoying a beach excursion, snorkelling, sun tanning and swimming in the Indian Ocean as well as go on Safari to see the wild animals in their natural habitat. It was the best of both worlds. The first giraffe I saw was a Maasai giraffe, and how majestic he was. Our guide told us that the males have barehorns, where as the horns on the female are hairy. Another delight was to experience the elephants come up so close to our jeeps. WOW!

The food was excellent. We were served a lot of fresh seafood, grilled with either African, Szechwan or Indian spices, very yummy. On our way to the Wami River to see the hippos, we spotted many hoofed animals, impalas, red duikers, reed buck, water buck, hartebeests and of course giraffes and elephants along with the monkeys and baboons.



On our way to the Wami River to see the hippos, we spotted many hoofed animals, impalas, red duikers, reed buck, water buck, hartebeests and of course giraffes and elephants along with the monkeys and baboons. A surprise to me was to view so many beautifully colored birds; lilac breasted roller, weaver birds, woolly necked storks, guinea hens, king fishers, herons and eagles to name a few. This gave me a new appreciation for our fine feathered friends.



On day 5, we were very lucky to witness approximately 60 baby green turtles break out of their shells, crawl out of the sand nest and run for their lives to the ocean's edge, hoping that a big bad crab wouldn't attack them. A German couple was running this rehabilitation centre. The people of Africa were very friendly. I loved their colorful attire. I compliment the organizers in hosting a wonderful and eventful tour.

Contributed by Deborah Rhein  
VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB

PICTURES OF THE TOUR ARE AVAILABLE ON THIS LINK

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/j\\_chau/sets/72157631939507635/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/j_chau/sets/72157631939507635/)



## IF AFRICA WERE AN ACRONYM

If AFRICA were an acronym it might stand for: Adventure Fantastic Reality Impressive Collection of Animals. For me the reason for going to Tanzania was to see the animals, and this we did, over 60 species. My favourite were the elephants; so many, so often, so close.



Our WACA tour had 3 unique components, including ZNZ. The pre-tour was the Swahili coast involved a week of bus travel on roads better suited for a 4 X 4. We learned about the “African Massage” as we bounced in and around the Saadani National Park. Our lodges were all fantastic, some right on the Indian Ocean. We snorkeled Maziwe Island; witnessed green turtle hatchlings make their escape to the ocean; were surrounded by hippos on the Wami River safari; toured Bagamoyo with the hope that it will soon be protected by UNESCO.

The post-tour was the Great Northern Safari circuit and the highlight of the trip for me. The Tarangire National Park was our first sighting of large herds of elephants, antelope, wildebeest, zebras and giraffes. We then descended into the Ngorongoro Crater under a blanket of fog to what appeared as a vast empty landscape, but far from it. Here were more herds but also Cape buffalo, ostriches and LIONS! This conservation area allows the Maasai to live within it, and we experienced this interesting culture when we visited one of their villages. The Serengeti was vaster than I had imagined. Here were more herds, more lions, leopards, hyenas, monkeys, baboons and lots of birds. Finally Lake Manyara National Park buffeting the Great Rift Valley was blanket-ed in butterflies, so different again. Here we spotted the Colobus and the blue monkeys. Tanzania was very welcoming and I thoroughly enjoyed my trip. Thank you to the Admin team and in particular Julian Chau, for making it all possible.



Inge Hansen  
VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB

YOU CAN FIND PICTURES OF  
THE TOUR IN THIS LINK:

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/j\\_chau/sets/72157631882575336/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/j_chau/sets/72157631882575336/)





## THE CRADLE OF MANKIND



Oldapai Gorge (for years mispronounced as Oldavai) is known as the “Cradle of Mankind”. Our planned trip there was canceled, but 7 of us opted to go after our visit to the Maasai Boma. As our fellow interliners went back to the lodge, we took a short side trip down a smooth dirt road to the gorge. Oldapai Gorge is about 30 miles long and 250 feet deep. There are several distinct layers from different geological eras making it fairly easy to date fossils. Over the past 40 years, there have been fossils of at least 4 different hominid species discovered there. The most famous being “Lucy”, an over 3 million year old female

hominid whose line didn’t survive. There is a great little museum at the gorge with displays of early man, including “Nutcracker Man” and Homo Habilis, two separate lines of hominids who both lived around the same time. Nutcracker Man’s line died out but Homo Habilis evolved to become Homo Sapien Sapien (that’s us!). There is also a wealth of stone tools and fossils of extinct animal. One very interesting display is a model of a trackway found at Laetoli showing that hominids walked upright 3.6 million years ago. Outside, in a covered area overlooking the gorge, a Park Ranger gave a short lecture about the gorge and the discoveries made there. Every year archaeologists and anthropologists from universities around the world work on excavations. There is a short 3 month season, then their excavations must be filled in to preserve them. If we had more time, we would have been allowed to go down into the gorge to see where they had been excavating. We learned a lot about the origins of man and returned to our lodge feeling lucky to have seen such a special place.



Janet Glowacki

VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB





## PICTURES OF THE 45TH AGA AND INTERLINE CELEBRATION IN ZANZIBAR 2012





# *Journey to the Roof of the World - Tibet*

Set high in the world's tallest plateau, Tibet evokes the legend of Shangri La, a place of unparalleled beauty, and visions of mystical landscapes and people. In 2011, the Hong Kong Interline Club set out to organize an ambitious trip to the Himalayas and Tibet. The response was overwhelming and 58 people signed up for the trip immediately after the package was published. The trip took place in late October, where the skies are mostly clear and just before the snows arrive to close the high passes.



Amongst the 58 of us, the Canadians from Vancouver and Calgary made up more than half the contingent and the rest came from Trinidad, Jamaica, Lebanon, Switzerland, Jordan, Norway, America, Sweden, Australia and Germany. We set out from Beijing, taking the famous Beijing to Lhasa train, which takes about 2 days. The train passed through the plains of Northern China, before crossing the Yellow River and ascending into the Tibetan Plateau. As we climbed, the train compartment's display flashed the current altitude. You can sense the heights, with ears popping and a slight sensation of breathlessness and dizziness, mild symptoms of reactions to the high altitude. The train passed through the Tanggula Pass at over 5000 meters (over 16,000 feet) and you could see the sheets of ice on both sides of the rail tracks, and for many, this was the highest elevation they had experienced with their feet to the earth's ground.

It was in the late afternoon when our train chugged into the grand station of Lhasa, where we were met on the platform with our tour buses literally just meters away from our train.



What a welcome as our Tibetan guides quickly have us settled on our buses and we were on our way to the historical heart of the city of the Dalai Lamas, with the imposing silhouette of the Potala Palace ever omnipresent. We arrived at our unique hotels, one of which was the former house of the 11th Dalai Lama's family. Every room in the Yabshi Phunkang was decorated in the Tibetan style and the hotel was just a stone's throw from the Barkhor Square, epicentre of Lhasa. After the hard long ride on the train, everyone was relieved to have a normal bathroom, and a hot shower!



Our sightseeing started the next day and our first stop was at the Norbulingka, an expansive ground consisting of several summer palaces of past Dalai Lamas. The sky was as azure as one would expect and the warm sunshine made the high altitude symptoms seem mild.

Our sightseeing started the next day and our first stop was at the Norbulingka, an expansive ground consisting of several summer palaces of past Dalai Lamas. The sky was as azure as one would expect and the warm sunshine made the high altitude symptoms seem mild. Afterwards we visited the Drepung Monastery, Tibet's largest monastery which at its height held tens of thousands of monks. Our next day's sightseeing included the Jokhang, Tibet's holiest shrine, and the monastery of Sera to see debating monks. Of course, the highlight of our trip in Lhasa is to visit the Potala Palace, its grandeur and imposing architecture having few rivals in the world. If there was a man made wonder, this will be the 8th! The Potala Palace is the official residence of the Dalai Lamas and was successively built up over the centuries. Visit to the place is regulated and we had to accomplish our tour within a specified time, which was challenging as we would have to climb the long steep steps in a moderately quick pace, not easy at 12,000 feet altitude but everyone made it to the top, and were rewarded with the views from above and the interesting rooms of the Palace.

With our sightseeing over in Lhasa, we departed for Eastern Tibet the next day. After crossing another high pass, we descended into a region of Tibet quite different from the area around Lhasa, instead of the desert like conditions; we drove along the fast moving Nyang River flanked on both sides by green coniferous forests. After a comfortable night's sleep at the Hotel in Bayi Town, we woke up very early in the morning to watch the sunset over the Namche Barwa peak, which at over 25,000 feet, is the tallest peak in the Eastern Himalayas.

Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and the dense fog and snow did not lift during the sun rise. With our spirits still high, we descended into the next valley where we trekked to a local Tibetan village and sampled the famous local chicken hotpot! After lunch, we drove to our next destination, Draksum Lake. Situated at over 3000 meters in altitude, the clear glacial lake is surrounded by sparkling snow capped mountains and we spent a cold night in port cabin accommodation.



After our return to Lhasa, we did a day excursion to Nam Tso Lake, one of the highest big lakes in the world at over 16,000 feet altitude. The stunning lake has a turquoise tint that is hard to describe until you have actually seen it in person. Many of us walked the banks of the lake, blasted by ice cold winds, enjoying photo ops with local nomads and their Yaks, or climbing a nearby Hill for even better vistas. That night, after we returned to Lhasa, we spent our last night there by watching a Tibetan Cultural Show at another Hotel.



After saying goodbye to Lhasa in the morning, we started our long drive along the Friendship Highway between Lhasa and Kathmandu. Our first stop was the turquoise coloured Lake Yamdrok, and the 22,000 feet peak next to it. After driving through a couple of 16,000 feet passes, we descended into Gyantse Town, which hosts the famous Palchor monastery with its giant Kumbum and a fort which resisted a British Invasion in 1900.



Our night's final stop was at Shigatse, the second most important town in Tibet after Lhasa. Next morning, we proceeded to see the Tashilhunpo Monastery, which is the seat of the Panchen Lama, the second most important lama in the Gelug order of Tibetan Buddhism. This monastery has been refurbished over the last decade and contains some impressive prayer halls where many of the past Panchens have been laid to rest. After lunch, we bid farewell to 3 of our group, who have selected package B and would head back to Lhasa while we continued on our way to the Everest Region and beyond.



To get to Everest base camp, we had to climb a series of steep hairpin loops to the Pang La Pass situated at over 16,000 feet. As our buses neared the pass, we were filled with anticipation of one of the most dramatic panoramas in the world. Standing before us were the massive peaks of the Himalayas, with Mount Everest being the tallest in the world. After reaching the base camp of Everest's North face and awe struck by its sight, the group

hiked back to our spartan accommodation at Rongbuk Monastery. We stayed in Rongbuk for the night feeling very cold and breathless in the thin rarefied air of the high Himalayas.

We finally crossed the China/Nepal border the next morning and proceeded to our next stop, the Last Resort. There was reluctance and gratitude, as we said our final goodbyes to our excellent Tibetan team of guides and drivers. Set across the raging Bhote Kosi River, the Last resort can only be reached by a long and narrow suspension bridge built 500 feet above the river.





Having spent 10 days in the desolate and icy plateau of Tibet, the Last Resort seemed like a paradise and oasis combined. After arrival, we drank copious amounts of cold beer, listened to the chirps of birds, ate delicious food, and hiked around the villages nearby, while soaking in the warm sunshine. That night, we had a great party where everyone was dancing and having the time of their lives. The accommodation at the Last Resort is made up of tented camps and our group took up the whole resort. The night's sleep was blissful, among beautiful surroundings and the sounds of nature.



Bungee!!! Yes, the Last Resort is famous for its bungee jump, which is the second highest commercial jump in the world. A few brave souls including me decided to tackle it. Just looking down into the river from the bridge was terrifying enough, and jumping down into it was insane. I garnered all my courage and jumped down, thinking if I don't do this, I will regret the rest of my life.

There was a general sense of disappointment to leave the wonderful Last Resort since many of us enjoyed the stay and would have liked to stay longer but we had a schedule to catch. So we boarded our buses and set off for our final destination, Kathmandu!



There was a general sense of disappointment to leave the wonderful Last Resort since many of us enjoyed the stay and would have liked to stay longer but we had a schedule to catch. So we boarded our buses and set off for our final destination, Kathmandu!

As we crossed the foothills of the Himalayas, we could see the race of people changing, from the Oriental looking Tibetans to the Indian looking Nepalis and we passed through bustling markets, saw loaded buses with passengers sitting on the roof, and farmers tending to their verdant terraced fields.



In contrast to Lhasa, Kathmandu is chaotic, dusty, and oozes its own unique charm. We would spend our last 2 nights in the luxury Crown Plaza Hotel Kathmandu and soak in the atmosphere and sights of the ancient Nepali Capital.

This trip perfectly encapsulated the phrase "Journey of a Lifetime". Indeed, it felt like a lifetime, as the memory of Beijing seemed so distant. **CONTRIBUTED BY JULIAN CHAU - HONG KONG IC**



You can find pictures of the tour in this link:  
[http://www.flickr.com/photos/j\\_chau/sets/72157628131698246/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/j_chau/sets/72157628131698246/)



# GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN REMEMBRANCE - ISADORE HNYBIDA 1942-2013



Isadore (Izy) Hnybida left us after a short illness on the 14th of November of this year. Izy was elected as the Secretary General to serve WACA at the 1988 Annual General Assembly in Jerusalem and was an active member of both the Winnipeg and Montreal Interline Clubs, where he also served as the Treasurer in the latter. Izy was a veteran of Air Canada for 33 years and he will be missed by everyone in WACA who remembered him fondly as an avid traveller and a contributor to our interline movement. Rest in Peace, Izy.

## WACA INITIATIVES

The new WACA Council is working with various travel, travel related educational institutions and hotel organizations to bring benefits to WACA members, such as negotiating discount codes with major hotel chains and travel related companies etc. Here you can see the first deal we have negotiated:

WACA Council is pleased to inform you that the CSR Financial Institute (CSRFI), through MHCInternational Ltd, has enlisted WACA to offer its 10 hour online course at \$US99.00 and/or a 20% discount to all WACA members willing to follow the various modules offered in locations across the world.

The CSRFI also invites you to visit its web site [www.csrfi.com](http://www.csrfi.com) where you may join its various workshops organized. You may wish to pass this information onto your colleagues at their respective workplace - do quote WACA when downloading information and we can then point you to a special website for WACA members.

Also, WACA encourage you to spread the word in your network to vote for Airline Ambassadors in the UA Charity Mileage Campaign. Every click can be worth a lot of miles to us to support our work. Click this LINK <http://www.10millioncharitymiles.com/charity/1> You can vote every day until Dec. 31st.

WACA is supporting [thecode.org](http://thecode.org)

The Code is an industry-driven, multi-stakeholder initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry in order to combat the sexual exploitation of children in contexts related to travel and tourism.



Barna Rimoczy of the Hungarian Interline Club presenting donated books by Interliners to the Xanos Janos School specialising in Tourism. The reading materials were collected during the AGA in Budapest during August this year.

## VIC ALASKAN CRUISE 2012

Ship ahoy maties....and away we sailed out of Vancouver Harbour, under the Lion's Gate Bridge and on to Alaska. 17 interliners of the North America region....from Houston, Kansas city, Detroit, San Diego, North Dakota, Edmonton and Vancouver.

What fun, what fantastic weather, what sights. Some took tours, some had adventures like zip lining or fishing...others took painting or dance lessons (of course Mario taught them a few moves of his own). We had gamblers within our group...slots of course (one interliner winning \$780.00), Texas holdem poker...our very own Marie Kosick and Donald Graham playing against the ship's officers...sadly the officers won that one, but Marie came in second and in another bout Donald came in second..well done gang!!!



We had a couple of cocktail get togethers in our stateroom...17 people squeezed in for drinks ...it was fun....but we had to rush to get to "bingo"...where we also had a few winners... Marie always seemed to be standing for

'one more number to win' and she did!! So did Ron Shackelly and Marilyn Koeppen. We were all winners when we went to bingo in our bathrobes to participate in "bathrobe bingo". Some won, some lost but we had a good time. The entertainment onboard was outstanding....3 gala shows.... wonderful dancers and singers....and most popular were the 2 Russian acrobats who performed an amazing Cirque de Soleil routine which earned them the loudest applause. The cruise director, John Grantham, is the best in the business.....keeping us thoroughly entertained at all times. There always seemed to be wonderful musicians playing all the time in different areas of the ship.

There were 4 fabulous stops on this cruise. The first one was at "icy strait point" ..50 miles west of Juneau at the mouth of Glacier Bay. We were tendered to the dock where we were able to explore the Honah native village, shop, and watch the whales putting on a show for us in the harbour, or even do the "zip line". 2 of our group zipped...Ron Shackelly of Vancouver and Donald Graham of San Diego. We had fun trying to photo them flying down the largest zip line in the world in just 90 seconds...not that easy.

Our 2nd stop was Hubbard glacier where we had beautiful weather and conditions were perfect for us to get up close and personal with this phenomenal icy mass that is the largest tidewater glacier on the North American continent. Words cannot describe it and pictures don't do it justice. Everyone was awed by the enormity of the glacier..... the ship's captain did a 360 degree turn in the bay so everyone on the packed decks and cabin balconies could get a perfect view of the whole area and of the glacial calving (breaking off of ice from the glacier).

Our next 2 stops were Juneau & Ketchikan where we were able to see the early ways of the glorious mining era in Juneau (especially at the red dog saloon). In Ketchikan 4 of our troupe took a fishing trip..again Marie was the ring leader...they caught a few, but after the fishing boat had some "problems" our friends made it back the ship with just 15 minutes before sailing.... pheuw!!! On our last night, at a "finish the wine" party in our stateroom, I did a survey of the group, asking them what their favourite thing about the cruise was. I had to change it to 3 things....but to my surprise everyone said that it was "the friendship, fellowship and fun of being with our group". That made me very happy and the experience so worthwhile....interlining at its best. Thank you !!!!!

Sharon Revel, Vancouver Interline Club

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## WACA PANAMA CRUISE 2013



Ex-Secretary General Angela Stone organized a wonderful Panama Cruise on behalf of WACA. Her story will be published in the next issue of WACA World News. Keep Posted!



### SYDNEY INTERLINE CLUB

The Sydney Interline club had a wonderful gathering at "99 on York" their Christmas Party, it was a family celebration of which many have not experienced for the past 55 years, with much laughter and chatter. There was so much fun most of the members had to move downstairs because they had overstayed for so long. MOST have accepted the new SIC led by Club President, Malcolm , who is doing an enthusiastic and great job. The Club is successful in getting more of the old members to come back. The SIC'sr next big event will be AUSTRALIA DAY on 26th Jan and the numbers are looking good.

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### MONTREAL INTERLINE CLUB

The Montreal Interline Club have continued with their dinners every month and the first dinner of the fall season was held at the Chez Lien restaurant which is always popular with our members. Vietnamese food was enjoyed by the interliners who also were able to bring their own wine.

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### INTERAIRLINE CLUB ZURICH

Interairline Club Zurich is donated a prize for 2 persons for the weekend of 6-7 September 2014 (2 nights) when IACZ celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

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### DODO'S NEST 2013

The event was again hosted this year by the Indian Ocean Islands Interline Club. The event was based in the Longbeach Resort on the East coast of Mauritius. Instead of the usual catamaran cruises of past Dodo's Nest, the organisers used a Pirate Ship this time around. Activities such as hiking and shopping were organised for the approximately 30 participants. The AIM Regional meeting was held in conjunction with the event. Member Clubs from Gatwick , Vancouver and Hong Kong also attended the meetings.

### INTERLINE CLUB OF GREECE

Due to the whole airline situation/crisis PLUS the economic situation of Greece, the Club is making big efforts to maintain the existence of the Interline Club and its spirit, by meeting from time to time with all colleagues and going out altogether at a local restaurant, tavern..etc..and once or twice a year the Club organizes either a one day excursion or , if possible, a longer one ( 2-3 days). Of course most of the Club's members are now retired and since the last few years VERY...VERY..few airlines ( if still existing ) are hiring people. So it is quite evident that no new airline staff are joining the Club, but the Club is trying its best to keep itself active.

*\*We in WACA Salute the ICG for fighting on despite the odds stacked against them in these difficult times!*

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The Airline Club of Singapore held their Bollywood Night earlier this year.

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**I NEED YOU to contribute  
to the WACA World News.  
Please send your photos, sto-  
ries, club activities to me!**  
**[waca.travel@gmail.com](mailto:waca.travel@gmail.com)**



# COMING UP EVENTS

## BALI - ISLAND OF THE GODS

This tour is organised by WACA and takes in the essence of Bali with stays in Legian on the West Coast to the cultural hub of Ubud



## MADAGASCAR - AN ISLAND LIKE NO OTHER

FIRST TIME WACA EVENT TAKES YOU ON A 10 DAY TOUR OF THIS FASCINATING ISLAND



## DODO's NEST

THIS YEAR'S EVENT IS HELD FOLLOWING THE MADAGASCAR PACKAGE AND BASED IN THE SUPERB SUGAR BEACH RESORT!



## THE GREAT CIRCLE TOUR

THIS TOUR ORGANIZED BY THE VANCOUVER INTER-LINE CLUB, AND TAKES YOU TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF EASTERN BC TO THE RUGGED PACIFIC WEST COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.



## PORTO AGA AND ITS TOURS

THE ANNUAL AGA IS HELD IN PORTO FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE PRE AND POST TOURS WILL TAKE YOU TO MADEIRA AND THE AZORES ISLANDS

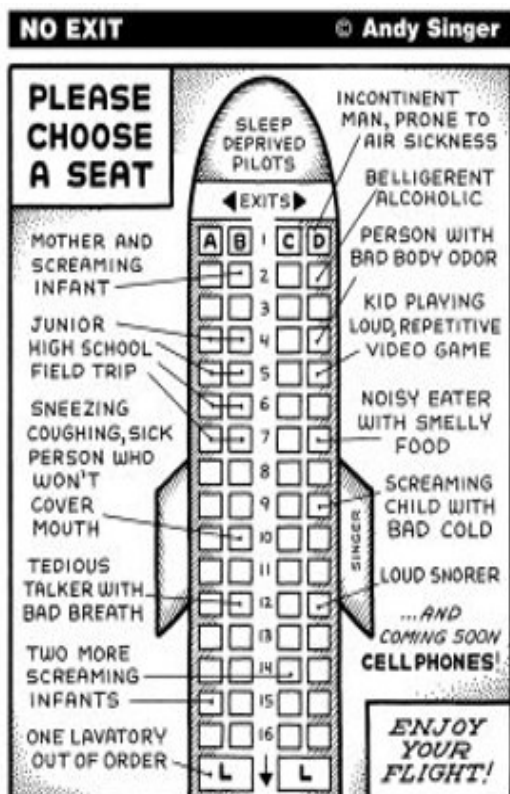




# Calendar of Events

Event Name	Hosting Club	Dates	Package Cost Based on twin share	Registration Deadline	Contact Details	Remarks	Availability
Passarola Tennis Cup	Portugal	April 08-12	410 EUR	Mar 20 2014	geral@interline.pt	Sports Tournament	Good
Passarola Golf Cup	Portugal	April 08-12	585 EUR		geral@interline.pt	Sports Tournament	Good
Bali Island of the Gods Indonesia	WACA	April 07 -13 2014	570 USD 5 nights 670 USD 6 nights	Feb 02 2014	waca.travel@gmail.com		Good
Madagascar	AIM/IOIC	May 25 - June 02 2014	1580 USD inclusive of waca fee	Feb 25 2014	waca.zanzibar@gmail.com		Poor
Dodo's Nest	IOIC	June 3- 8 2014	875 USD	Mar 30 2014	maga@intnet.mu		Good
Great Circle Tour	Vancouver	June 19-28 2014	1995 CAD	Jan 14 2014			Good
Pre AGA Tour to Madeira	Portugal	October 1-5 2014	540 EUR	June 1 2014	waca2014porto@interline.pt		Fair
47th AGA Porto Portugal	Portugal	October 5-10 2014	654 EUR	June 1 2014	waca2014porto@interline.pt		Good
Post Tour to Azores Islands	Portugal	October 10-15 2014	720 EUR	June 1 2014	waca2014porto@interline.pt		Fair

## ID TRAVEL



The WACA Council met for the second time since the Budapest AGA in London. Here the Council is pictured with Frank Miller and Sue Walker of the Gatwick Interline Club. Also with them is David Cianfarani, one of the founders of WACA.

For any queries with regards to this issue of WACA World News, please contact the editor at [waca.travel@gmail.com](mailto:waca.travel@gmail.com)