Pacific Ocean and Pacific Rim National Park  
Run by the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre www.bms.bc.ca

Dates:                 Sunday, 19 – Tuesday 21 August, 2011
Departure:            08:00 Sunday;  Return 15:00 Tuesday
Cost:                 $1116.07 plus 12% HST
Min & max #s:         10 or 16 participants required
Transport:            Bus/Taxi from UBC to Vancouver Harbour, from where you will take a floatplane to Bamfield, returning in the same way.
Accommodation:        Two nights in shared bunk bed-style accommodation; other local options may be available, at an extra cost for those not comfortable with sharing.
Meals:                All meals catered at Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, except breakfast on Day 1, and evening meal on Day 3.
Tips:                 Weather can be variable, and even on warm days, it can be cool (and wet) on the water; bring layers and a waterproof, sunscreen and a sunhat.

Description:

Come and explore the wild side of Vancouver Island on a field trip to the famous Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island. Relax in a fabulous facility owned by five western Canadian universities, and enjoy an introduction to the terrestrial and marine ecosystems of the Pacific North-West. Onshore we will explore the hyper-maritime rainforest and its distinctive bird community, with the chance of finding Black Bears and other mammals, and the incredibly diverse and productive marine life of local beaches and reefs. There may be opportunities to use the facilities labs to view marine invertebrates and micro-organisms. Inshore we should see Black Oystercatchers, a variety of local alcids and migrants in Barkley Sound. Offshore birding will take us to the Amphitrite and Swiftsure Banks and a world of seabird possibilities, with regional seabird diversity nearing its annual peak in late August. There is also the potential for encounters with Orca, Humpback and Grey Whales, Harbour Porpoises, Steller and California Sea Lions, and Sea Otters.

To cap this wonderful west coast adventure, you will experience the thrill of a 1 hr float plane ride each way, a popular type of coastal marine transport that will enable you to spend an extra day at Bamfield and get a bird’s eye view of the coastal BC. During the flights you will become the NAOC-V logo personified: "from sea to sky". One of the most spectacular float plane flights in the world; after taking-off from the inner harbor of downtown Vancouver, the route crosses the Fraser River Estuary, Strait of Georgia and the Gulf Islands, then over the majestic Vancouver Island Ranges and down into the lush temperate rainforest of the rugged Pacific coast.