Rankin Whittington, South East Section Chair

Rankin grew up on a farm in Amelia, Virginia, USA. He has a degree in English from Guilford College, a Quaker school in Greensboro, North Carolina. He met Sandra Shansky there and they were married in 1970. Rankin was a public welfare social worker and has a master’s degree in social work administration from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He was a county director of social services for seventeen years. In 1994 he founded a company to provide services to people who have mental or physical disabilities so that they may remain at home and not have to live in institutions. The company had more than six hundred employees working from eight offices when it was sold in 2015 to a New York hedge fund.

In semi-retirement, Rankin leases out office space from four buildings and sings in a men’s chorus. One of Sandy and Rankin’s daughters lives in New York City and the other is in Chapel Hill, where her husband is on the faculty of the UNC medical school.

Rankin is a Paul Harris Fellow and Major Donor. He has been a Rotarian since 1977 and has been president of two Rotary clubs. Rankin soloed a J-3 Cub when he was seventeen and flew hang gliders. He has owned a C-150, a C-172, and a Starduster Too. He currently owns a C-182 and a Super Decathlon. Rankin has been a member of IFFR since 2000 and has been on most of the convention fly-outs since then.

Rankin and Sandra Whittington
Lenoir, NC, USA
rankinwhittington@gmail.com