SPRINGING INTO ACTION

They say “April showers bring May flowers”, and like the flowers of Spring, IFFR is ready to burst into activity. Sun ‘n Fun was great, Seoul is just around the corner, and there’s much more coming. Read on!

What’s Happened

SUN AND FUN ... INDEED
JEKYLL ISLAND, LEEWARD AIR RANCH & SUN ‘N FUN
APRIL 7 - 10, 2016

Jekyll Island. It was a beautiful sunny day when our group arrived at Jekyll Island, GA (091), a wonderful fly in location, just 20 miles north of Jacksonville, FL on the Atlantic Ocean. Six planes in all: two Cessna 172s, a Cessna 182, a Cessna 185 Skywagon, a Cessna 317 Skymaster, and a Beech 33. We totaled six pilots and 10 passengers ... from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida, Texas, England, Norway, Hungary, including our Americas Vice President, George Chaffey, who joined us from California.

We loaded into our Red Bugs (fancy four seat golf carts), headed for the hotel and then to a great lunch.
at the Latitude restaurant on the pier. Following lunch, we had a fascinating guided tour of the homes of the very, very rich and famous for whom this was a private island and club during the late 1800s and early 1900s (e.g. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, etc.). Back at the hotel, we had typical IFFR fellowship with drinks and snacks by the pool, followed by an excellent dinner at the Driftwood Bistro.

**Flagler Beach.** Friday morning was casual: walking the gorgeous beach, driving around the island, or just lounging around the hotel. By noon, we were flying down the coast past Jacksonville, St Augustine, and into Flagler Beach for lunch.

**Leeward Air Ranch.** After lunch, on the way from Flagler Beach to Leeward Air Ranch (home of Peter and Ellen Wenk), some of our group overflew Jumbolair, the private airstrip where John Travolta lives with his Boeing 707 parked in the driveway (see photo). By late afternoon Friday, we arrived at Leeward, and settled into our rooms, graciously provided by Peter and Ellen's neighbors. We were joined by three new additions: incoming World President Svend Andersen, and new members Parker and Mala Lawrence from Gainesville,
Friday evening was a barbeque feast, along with Ellen’s freshly prepared salmon, all served in Peter and Ellen’s hangar. After a short Americas AGM, Carol Ann Garratt took the floor as our speaker for the evening. A very energetic individual, she has flown around the world three different times in her single engine Mooney. Her second trip in 2008 set a world record of 8 days, 12 hours, 20 minutes (158 flight hours and 46 hours on the ground). Incredibly inspiring!

Sun ‘n Fun. Saturday, twelve of us loaded into a large van for our day trip to Sun ‘n Fun. After six hours of incredible sights, sounds, and purchases, we headed home to Leeward. For those not going to Sun ‘n Fun, Ellen hosted a very informative tour and lunch, including a visit to the home of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book The Yearling.

Final Dinner & Home. Our entire IFFR group wrapped up Saturday evening with a wonderful Italian dinner at Florida.
Special Event Announcement - 2017

**ALASKA & THE YUKON ... COMING AT YOU!**

*Planes, Trains, Mushers & Machine Guns*

If you’re accustomed to paved stripes, flat land and mild weather, you’re in for an awesome, exhilarating surprise. Lead by Section Chair Craig Bledsoe, a group of Alaska IFFR aviators, including PDG Phil Livingston, Diana Livingston, Ruth Ann Bledsoe, DGE Harry Kieling, PDG Dick Sutliff and others, are putting the Alaska / Yukon Section on the IFFR map, and announcing, right here, a huge IFFR event for 2017. Read on!

**Fur Rendezvous & The Iditarod**

_February 24 to March 5 to End of Race 2017_
Greetings from your fellow IFFR members of the Far North. We are working on an exciting and unique Fly-In happening in early 2017 that will cover many of the most memorable events to take place each year in this part of the world. The following agenda just covers the high points, but we will personally work with each participant to provide just the right amount of the Arctic aviation experience as you would like to have.

**Fur Rendezvous.** The kickoff event next year will be the start of the famous Fur Rendezvous winter festival [http://www.furrondy.net/](http://www.furrondy.net/) in downtown Anchorage on Friday, February 24th. This multi-faceted celebration includes the (1) World Champion Sled Dog Races (sprint racing), (2) the Running of the Reindeer (look at the photos on the website!), (3) outhouse races, (4) blanket tosses, (5) fireworks, and of course (6) some incredible deals on furs to take home as souvenirs of your Alaskan adventures! Our hosts will be Buzz and Mary Rohlfing of Media Production Associates who own a block of businesses in downtown Anchorage and will offer unparalleled viewing of many of these unique activities. In addition for those who are interested, as a board member of the Alaska Machine Gun Association (AMGA), I can arrange for a day of full-auto shooting and explosives detonations at the nearby Birchwood Shooting Park adjacent to the active GA Birchwood Airport. Ground transportation will be provided (see below), or you can fly out to Birchwood and join us at the Shooting Park - a short walk from the CAP hangar.

**Iditarod.** The following Saturday, March 4th, will feature the ceremonial start of the thousand mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race - the most spectacular endurance race with the highest purse on the planet [http://iditarod.com/](http://iditarod.com/). Again, our hosts, the Rohlfings, will provide the best seats in the house to watch the finest sled dog teams in the world assemble for the ceremonial start beginning in downtown Anchorage and then heading out into the

Photo courtesy of Mike Kenney
wilderness You may find yourself being interviewed by national media personalities and getting your “15 seconds of fame” on the evening news as happened to some of our friends last year!

The next day, **Sunday, March 5th**, all the action moves out to the Restart Party in Willow where the genuine flat-out racing kicks off directly in front of Tryg and Kim Erickson’s lake home. They will be hosting a party in our honor that will make you think that you are stocking up for next thousand miles right at their buffet line. From that point on, you have a multitude of choices to consider, including following the race by air, visiting other parts of Alaska, or planning your return to the Lower 48 by overflying the Alcan Highway or flying along the gorgeous Inside Passage of Alaska’s coastal waters.

**Flying.** So let’s talk about the flying part: Most aviators heading North to Alaska will call Merrill Field home for the duration of their stay in the Anchorage Bowl. If you are ski-equipped, Lake Hood adjacent to Anchorage International Airport is the most active ski and float plane air base in the world. For the jaunt out to the Willow Restart Party, we will provide complimentary ground transportation via two 8-pax 4WD HF and VHF equipped vans. If you would like to fly out from the city to a closer feeder GA airport, both Big Lake and Willow Airports will be open, and we will plan for shuttle helicopter transfers to the Restart Party courtesy of Jerry and Diane Winchester in their Robinson R44. Finally, the lake surface will be groomed so that either wheel or ski equipped aircraft can land and tie down adjacent to the Restart Party site

These events constitute the biggest surge in tourism that Alaska experiences at any time during the year. We will do everything we can to help you have an enjoyable once-
Who’s Who

IFFR Members Leading Their Rotary Districts
- Current & Past District Governors -

IFFR members have regularly been Rotary leaders. See our complete list on the website [www.ifframericas.org](http://www.ifframericas.org).

Last month, we identified almost 70 current members of our Region who have served as Club President, and this month, we continue by recognizing over two dozen of our members who have served, are serving, or will serve as District Governor. Our thanks to....

Alaska: Harry Kieling, Phil Livingston, Dick Sutliff.
North Central: Brian Andersen, John Ockenfels.
Northeast: Dave Flinn, John Judson.
Northwest: Greg Luring
South Central: Bill Dendy, Bill Dendy (same name, different guy), Michael Graves, Mike Pinson, Dave Robinette, JB Roberts.
Southeast: Mark Crotts, Jay Lowden, Joe Saloom, Richard Storey, Dave Stovall, Kim Waters.
Southwest: George Chaffey, Mike Forney, Steve Lewis, Vicki Puliz, Phil Sammer, Sam Wilbanks.

in-a-lifetime experience, but you need to step up right now and make hotel reservations and consider renting a vehicle for the duration of your stay. We would love to pre-book a block of rooms for IFFR attendees over Fur Rondy and the Iditarod, but so would everybody else in the free world. In other words - it can’t be done! Once you’ve determined where you’ll be parking your aircraft and made arrangements with the FBO of your choice, and then when you have your personal accommodations squared away, please reach out by e-mail or by calling me at (907) 694-4730, and we’ll take it from there.

All of us in IFFR up here in the Far North are looking forward to welcoming you for Fur Rendezvous and the Last Great Race - Iditarod 2017. Please plan on visiting us for this fantastic series of activities happening just ten months from now. See you soon!

-- Craig Bledsoe, on behalf of the Alaska/Yukon Section.
THE AIRPLANES OF IFFR AMERICAS

We are collecting pictures of planes flown by IFFR Americas region members, along with the members and whoever is flying with them. You can take a tour by clicking on this link: IFFR Americas Fleet. Meanwhile, here is just a sampling of the fine aircraft flown by our even finer Flying Rotarians. * See “What Do You Fly.”

What’s Coming

SEOUL IS NEAR ... IT’S THE BIGGIE!
IFFR AT THE CONVENTION
MAY 28 - JUNE 1, 2016

The IFFR will be at the Seoul Convention full bore... at the IFFR hotel, at the booth in the House of Friendship, at the AGM, at the Banquet, and at the post-Convention Tour of Korea. If you haven’t registered for the Convention yet, now is the time to act. Save the dates of May 28 – June 1, 2016.

IFFR Hotel: Our official IFFR hotel (Lotte Hotel World) is a fabulous, 5-star hotel, and will be the place to meet
and gather and see one another when not at the Convention itself. A November 28 email was sent to all IFFR members worldwide with details on registering for the hotel...but you have to hurry, it’s first come, first served. Details are in that November 28 email. Or you may go to the following website for information: RI Convention Extended Trip page (or [http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/SitePage/ri-convention-korea-extended-trip](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/SitePage/ri-convention-korea-extended-trip)) and click on “Lotte Hotel Reservation Form” and “Additional Lotte Hotel Info”. For additional views of the hotel, you can go to its website [http://www.lottehotel.com/world/en/](http://www.lottehotel.com/world/en/).

**IFFR Booth:** At the huge convention, our booth in the House of Friendship will be the place where IFFR members can meet, hang out and feel like they are at “Cheers”... where “everybody knows your name and they’re always glad you came.” A Convention experience isn’t the same without our booth.

**Annual General Meeting:** We will commence or Board meeting and AGM during the RI Convention in Seoul before recessing to be continued in Berlin. This will be held on Monday, May 30 at 2:30 pm in Room 209A, Kintex Exhibition Center 1. This will be a great opportunity to meet incoming World President Svend Andersen from Denmark, who will preside. Board Agenda and AGM Agenda will include: Financial & membership Reports; Old business; New Business; Recess to be continued in Berlin.

**IFFR Banquet:**

**When & Where.** The annual Convention IFFR Banquet will be held on Monday, May 30, at 6:30 pm at the Hotel Lotte World (IFFR’s official hotel for the Convention). Hotel address is: 240 Olympic-ro, Songpa-gu (in the Jamsil section of Seoul, the center of the southern part of the city).

**Why.** If you will be going to the Convention, you’ll want to be with the rest of the IFFR at our annual Banquet. It gives you the best of all worlds....fellowship that is international, a location that is in the Far East, a menu that is western, but with a Korean flair... all held at a 5-star hotel... the best of all worlds. Those of you who attended São Paulo will recall the memorable churrascaria Brazilian-style banquet. This year, IFFR gives you food and fellowship reflecting Seoul. Enjoy!

**How Much.** All this for $100 US per person. We all know the famous “$100 hamburger” ... but this is so much more...this is your $100 banquet in exotic Seoul. Enjoy!

**How to Reserve it.** We need to have reservations and payment by Monday May 23.
Post-Convention Tour of Korea: This is an unexpected treat. District Governor DJ Sun of District 5280 (Los Angeles) has great contacts in his home country of Korea and has arranged a personalized 4-day, 3-night Tour of Korea that few Convention attendees will be able to experience. Details were in the November 28 email sent to all IFFR members worldwide. To register, you may also go directly to RI Convention Extended Trip page (or http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/SitePage/ri-convention-korea-extended-trip) and click on “Airline/Extended Trip Registration Form” and “Extended Trip Itinerary”.

With so many Convention sessions and tours, other district and zone activities, and the Post-Convention tour of Korea, we have decided not to squeeze in additional IFFR activities during the Convention. There will be a lot to do. This will be one of the bigger Conventions... and IFFR will be there... your home away from home. See you there!

**“THE EAGLE FLIES”**
**EAGLE FIELD, CALIFORNIA, USA**
**JUNE 11 - 12, 2016**

The annual event at Eagle Field (CL01) in Dos Palos, California is full speed ahead this year, under the capable hands of Larry Wolfsen and Chas Eldridge. There will be lots of vintage aircraft, along with War Birds, bi-planes, general aviation, WWII vintage vehicles and motorcycles, jeeps, 50’s dress, and an old–time Dinner/Dance. This is one of those little-known, but big fun, events that we get to publicize to the IFFR world. Take a peek at the Eagle Field webpage to whet your whistle and to get into a 1940’s, WWII, old-time-flying frame of mind: http://www.eaglefield.net/

The dinner dance Saturday evening that is a part of the proceedings, and we hope to make our reservations together so we can sit as a group. Larry and Chas are collecting checks, payable to Dos Palos Lions Club, for $65 for either steak or chicken, or $55 for veggie lasagna. Be sure to mark your food choice on
the check or voucher. Also, it will be a good time to let Larry or Chas know where you’re staying. Which brings us to housing.

Larry has reserved 10 rooms in nearby Los Banos (5 at Best Western $109 and 5 at La Quinta Inn, formerly Vagabond Inn $130) for IFFR members. See the sidebar. Those attending and wanting rooms should call the motels directly and ask for the IFFR held rooms. A bus will make 2 trips from Eagle Field to both motels on the evening of arrival, and there is also a schedule for the remainder of the weekend. You can also camp by your plane if you wish. Restrooms but little else will be available at the field. On Sunday morning, a $10 breakfast is served at the site. Otherwise, there are light breakfasts available at the motels, or if you would like something more substantial, there’s Eddie’s Famous Cafe for breakfast.

Organizers for IFFR participation in the event are: Larry Wolfsen, 2301 Mission St., Suite C2, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, phone 831-429-8340, email lwolfsen@aol.com; and Charles “Chas” Eldridge, 43 South Circle Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, phone 831-425-7776. email cdehola@mac.com.
EAA AirVenture 2016
July 25 - 31, 2016
Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA

We will have the usual Rotary Club meeting at noon on Wednesday and we anticipate the annual get together hosted by Mark Hagen on Wednesday evening. We'll look forward to seeing many IFFR friends at Oshkosh, and we'll publish the specific information as it becomes available.

Mark Hagen, Dick Rutan, Karen Hagen

What Do You Fly?

Is your plane on the Americas IFFR website (like the pictures are you see a few pages back)?

We have organized the photos of the planes (or previous planes) of our Americas members. The photos are now organized by aircraft type which makes it easier for you to find a photo of your plane, and to see others who fly the same type of airplane as you. See the existing photos of planes on our website, www.iffrAmericas.org, organized by type, under “Photos” and then “Airplanes of IFFR”, or CLICK HERE. Are you there? Are any of your friends there?

It can be interesting to learn of other members who fly (or flew) the same make of airplane you fly, or to learn if you or others fly something quite unique that is not flown by other folks. In response to an email to our members, we recently received over three dozen new photos of members and their planes. These have been added to the website, and this is just the start.

If you are interested, send a photo of your plane or planes (with you in the photo if you’d like) and with details about the make and model and any other interesting information, and we will post your airplane photos on the website along with
Pop Up Events

With the use of our modern communications methods and the right circumstances a “pop up” fly in or fellowship event is always possible. $100 Hamburger pop ups could happen anywhere, especially if weather looks good and we don’t have to invest a lot of planning effort.

So, always watch for those broadcasts from IFFR – it can mean a fun flight and a fellowship event that will keep you wanting to come back for more.

Coming Soon ...

Next month and beyond ... look for more news on Bremerton, Washington; Beckwourth, California; Berlin; New Hampshire; and more.

Tail winds to ya’,

George
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