OSHKOSH, B’GOSH

The IFFR gathering during and after Oshkosh was fabulous. The photos are still being gathered and sorted, but there are plenty of them already on our website. Go to www.ifframericas.org, click on “Photos”, and then on “Oshkosh” and you’ll find lots of fun photos of the events. If you were there, you’ll relive the fun. If you weren’t, check out what you missed. This was a rare gathering of over 100 of our members from around the world. And there’s more to come this year ... some of which you’ll see in the rest of this newsletter. Enjoy.

IFFR Altogether in Wisconsin

World President James Alexander proposed celebrating IFFR’s 50th anniversary at AirVenture 2015 in Oshkosh at the time he took office, and we did indeed have a special time meeting more friends than usual at “Oshkosh.”

IFFR North Central Americas Chair Mark Hagen outlined a post-convention fly about for our group, and Tim Freudenthal made our local arrangements while attending Oshkosh, then transiting Wisconsin. A lot of thought and hard work went into all the events and helping us to enjoy the places we visited, and the meticulous planning made things proceed without a hitch.

Tim lives in Wautoma, and was able to book a large room block at Boarders for our group, something which couldn’t have been done with less than 2 years notice anyplace closer to Oshkosh. Staying together is always fun and gives us a chance to know everyone better, so having a bit of a ride to get to EAA is a small price to pay for the camaraderie.
I arrived at Wautoma late Sunday afternoon, so I wouldn’t have to reposition my plane midweek. Things were pretty quiet there compared with going into Oshkosh, something I very much appreciated. After being with some of my college friends for a couple of days (after the 50 minute drive in from Wautoma), I met up with the IFFR group for lunch on Wednesday. Most of our arrivals came Tuesday night and began their stay in Wautoma, and Wednesday was their first day at AirVenture.

I did run into George Chaffey on Tuesday by the side of Lady Bird, but other than that, I joined that fun time of reunions at the joint Rotary Club meeting at the Nature Center.

It was great to see many long time friends as I arrived at the pavilion for the meeting of multiple Rotary Clubs in Oshkosh. We had a special cake to commemorate our 50th anniversary. Oshkosh Rotarians always have a special and interesting program at this event, and the presentation this year was on the Goodyear “blimp.” We were given the history of this icon, and were informed about the new generation of rigid airships replacing the blimps now. One of the new models was there for the duration of the AirVenture event. It was larger and more maneuverable than the old blimps were. However, because of the tradition, and the fact the appearance isn’t that much different than the traditional blimps, they will continue to call it a “blimp.”

Wednesday evening was the night to see the night airshow with pyrotechnics, but I needed to get checked in to the hotel in Wautoma, and besides that was pretty bushed, so along with a good many others took the early bus back to Wautoma. Some of our IFFR Americas leadership ordered some pizzas and salads and we shared in the expense of that meal. The
food was good! I also want to publically thank Tim and Linda Freudenthal for their assistance in getting me checked in to the hotel.

**Thursday morning** at Boarders in Wautoma, James presided over the annual meeting of our Board of Directors. We had a set time to get it in, and got the business done without having to delay the coach into Oshkosh.

Thursday was the big day for our 50th Anniversary Banquet in a big tent near the Nature Center on the grounds of the Oshkosh Airport (but outside the ticket area). We had several long time members make special efforts to be there, like Brian and Caryl Andersen and Adib Barsoum, and I’m leaving out many. We had a high quality buffet meal with good service, and the weather outside cooperated by being pleasant.

The formal part of our program got underway with World President James Alexander presiding, and the first thing he did was present Americas VP George Chaffey with the 2015 Flyer of the Year Award, which should be a fun award to pass around our fellowship each year. With added enthusiasm for IFFR on this side of the pond, it is a well-deserved accolade for PDG George. Next up was our formal 50th Anniversary toast to IFFR, delivered by Past World President Charles Strasser. Charles did have a “wardrobe malfunction” during his toast, but discretion being the better part of valor, I elected not to get that quick, cheap shot. Then, George Chaffey introduced our speaker, Dick Rutan.

After teasing Charles about his malfunction, admitting that was going to make this speech a little more memorable for himself, the elder Rutan brother Dick gave a spell-binding presentation about his background and
the preparation and execution of the Voyager around the world project. Even the servers were paying attention to his talk all the way through. He tells this true story very well. Some of the things he talks about, he just couldn’t have made up. At the end of his presentation, World President Elect Svend Andersen thanked him for his presentation, then WP James named Dick an honorary IFFR member for the remainder of his term of office, and Americas Southwest Section Chair PDG Vicki Puliz put a set of IFFR wings on Dick’s shirt.

Dick didn’t rush right off after the program, so any of us who wanted to get pictures with him had the opportunity. The Hagens and Freudenthals, Charles Eldridge with PE Svend and WP James, and even I got into the act.
Back in Wautoma that evening, we again pooled our resources and this time came up with some steaks and other fixings. There was a place to do grilling behind the hotel, and a picnic area there.

Our annual general meeting reconvened (from a recess in Sao Paulo) the next morning (Friday) in Wautoma, and was well attended. Reports were made, S-T Ian Kerr was his efficient self, and James kept the meeting moving right along. With the RI Convention in Seoul, Korea next year, we will again split our AGM between the formal opening during the RI Convention and our annual IFFR international fly about. In 2016 our fly about will actually be a fly out and back, staying in Berlin, Germany for several days while we visit places either by air or by coach. We had a presentation on that. Then, with formalities done, Americas Region gifted some of our new IFFR light jackets to WP James and WPE Svend. Here’s a picture of James and Svend with Vicki Puliz and George Chaffey. Then after some housekeeping remarks from our fly out chair Mark Hagen concerning that evening and the start of our fly out Saturday morning, we headed back to AirVenture.

I took the opportunity to visit with Jane’s aunt Marilyn that morning through lunch, then came back to EAA to crash a simulator. Then back to Wautoma, and an evening at the Wautoma Airport when most of us tried to wear our new blue IFFR shirts. The local media came out to do an article and take some pictures, so we have
a group of our organizers in front of MY airplane, then decided to try to get another group picture.

The meal for the evening was “cook your own steaks.” They were big ones, too. They took a while to cook, but eventually everyone had an acceptable steak and trimmings. We used a few resources of the local EAA Chapter there and appreciate their hospitality.

The next morning we separated into those going by coach and those going by light aircraft. Han
Klinkspoor flew with me from Wautoma to Tri County Regional Airport in Lone Rock, Wisconsin for what amounted to be a second breakfast for many of us. With our large group coming at once, along with some extra transients due to Oshkosh, we overwhelmed this little café on the field. However, the orders did eventually get filled and the food was worth waiting for. Han and I and the remainder of the group then flew out of Wisconsin and crossed the border into Minnesota, landing at Lake Elmo Airport.

--- Tony Watson, Editor

IFFR Altogether in Minnesota

Our first big stop on the fly-away was Lake Elmo Airport, east of Saint Paul, where we tied down to visit the nearby beautiful resort town of Stillwater, Minnesota. While housed in two different hotels, we linked up for a great fondue dinner, and I was happy that Jane joined me there and stayed for the remainder of the trip. After dinner, we again received our “marching
orders” for the next day by Ian Kerr and Sam Bishop on behalf of the amazingly organized Mark, who with Karen had to be elsewhere on Saturday.

We continued sharing our airplanes... John Dehnel (who had flown with George on the first leg) flew with me on our next leg to Detroit Lakes, while WP Elect Svend managed to get into George's tiny Luscombe for this leg. We arrived well before noon, and had a great Sunday brunch buffet. In the afternoon, we were treated to relaxing rides around the lake on pontoon boats that Mark and Karen arranged through the aid of their neighbors, before being
deposited at Mark and Karen’s lakeside home for a dinner on the lawn, overlooking the lake. During our fellowship time, WP James introduced us to the song “Rock Your Wings” (taken from what Controllers tell pilots arriving at the Oshkosh AirVenture), and we had fun singing the chorus, extending our arms like wings, and rocking them. Yes, IFFR “rocks”!

On Monday. A smaller group of pilots flew to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to tour the huge aviation program at the University of North Dakota (as large as Emory), while a larger group went by coach to visit the
headwaters of the Mississippi River. I went with the bus and share a few pictures of that trip here. Both groups enjoyed their trips, and all returned that evening for pizza, beer and nachos at Zorba’s.

On Tuesday, due to MVFR weather, we eliminated one stopover and flew direct to East Gull Lake, with a beautiful grass strip next to Madden’s Resort. Most pilots (including George Chaffey, whose 1948 taildragger particularly loves grass) landed there (the tall trees were enough to disrupt the crosswind down low, as Mark had predicted). However, due to those cross winds, a few of us elected to go to the hard-surfaced runways at Brainerd, a few miles away. Since we had plenty of time now before heading to the Gull Lake area, there was organized activity at the airport to get airplanes fueled and ready to go, and I got pictures of planes and IFFR members – Barbara & Dan Nalven with their A36 Bonanza, Ian Hope with Emedio DelConte and his A36 Bonanza, Bev Fogle flying with Sam Bishop in his Cherokee 235, Han Klinkspoor with George Chaffey in his Luscombe, Linda & Tim Freudenthal as he refueled his Cessna.... and a “power shot” of WP James, WPE Svend, Americas VP George, and European VP Han, all together in front of demur “Lady Bird.”
Madden’s Resort was absolutely charming. We had a lovely, enormous room with a view of the lake... a very nice place to enjoy relaxation. Madden’s had a freak wind storm just a few weeks before our visit, with heavy damage (some of which we could still see), and our arrival marked the reopening of the resort. That evening we had a reception, and a fine buffet meal, including a roast pig. And then.... we had a campfire by the lake, with graham crackers, small Hershey bars, and marshmallows. Yes, we introduced folks to “s’mores”... so very messy to eat, making folks look like they’re foaming at the mouth – just ask Angus, or Han, or anyone there.

Although the sun goes down late that far north, we still got to see a beautiful full moon over the lake.

Wednesday was a day for many activities (including some who went fishing), or doing nothing, or just walking or getting a massage (many did). Our final dinner at Madden’s started with an appetizer of some of the fish caught that day in the lake. We then inducted a local seaplane pilot into our fellowship, and had another great buffet meal.
Thursday morning, we loaded up the coach, caught rides to whichever airport we had our plane, and headed to our final destination ... Duluth. We toured the Cirrus factory in Duluth --- the plane with a built-in parachute --, and afterwards had lunch and a Q&A session with the Cirrus rep. Then it was on to our hotel on the waterfront in Duluth... The Inn on Lake Superior. We had the afternoon to relax, walk around (there were carriage rides, bicycles, foot-operated surreys), and figure out how we were going to spend our gift certificates for dinner (many of us ended up at a nice Italian restaurant close to the hotel).

Friday morning—our last day-- we had a coach tour up the western side of Lake Superior north of Duluth, visiting the beautiful Gooseberry Falls State Park and the historic Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. Our Friday night Farewell Banquet was part of our Duluth Harbor Sunset Cruise, so we enjoyed a relaxing time on the water, cruising in the harbor before crossing into Lake Superior.
proper and then reentering the harbor. After our meal, President James acknowledged help from the committee members, Sam Bishop, George Chaffey, Ian Kerr, and gave special recognition to organizer Mark and Karen Hagen and his right hand for the early part of the event, Tim and Linda Freudenthal. A job well done, indeed! As we entered the harbor under the bridge, fireworks went off ahead of us, making for a special arrival at the end of a wonderful time together stretching to nearly a fortnight.

What a wonderful trip! We discovered some very nice areas in Minnesota that help us understand why many in the upper Midwest like to take summer vacations there. The weather was nearly perfect, and of course, we had that wonderful IFFR fellowship.

--- Tony Watson, Editor
Spend a weekend with fellow Flying Rotarians on Mount Desert Island ("MDI"), Maine. Cadillac Mountain here is the first spot on the coast of New England to see the rising sun.

This event is this weekend, starting Friday the 28th of August. It is a joint fly in with the Northeast American Bonanza Society. While the event registration is closed, if you haven’t made plans yet and decide to participate, you can contact NE Section Chair Tom Johnston (tomjohnston@verizon.net, 717-761-0195), or IFFR member Liz Graves, (lizgraves@gmail.com, 207-266-3109) to see if somehow you can join the group.

Ninth Annual Triple Tree Aerodrome (SC00), South Carolina Fly-In
Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU), South Carolina
September 11 – 13, 2015

South East Section Chair Dale Read has invited all IFFR members to this event, coming up in a couple of weeks. Registrations have not been forthcoming from our members, however. As of press time he was considering cancelling IFFR organizational participation in this event.

Greg Bowers and Richard Wallace from North Carolina had assisted Dale in putting together activities around Greenville and Triple Tree, and we all thank them for their efforts.
Triple Tree Details: [http://www.tripletreeaerodrome.com/](http://www.tripletreeaerodrome.com/)

To find out the status of this event or attempt to register, contact South East Chair Dale Read: phone 865-250-1882, email [dread@readwindow.com](mailto:dread@readwindow.com)

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**ROTARY CLUB OF PORTOLA, CALIFORNIA**
**ANNUAL FLY-IN BREAKFAST**
**BECKWOURTH NERVINO AIRPORT (O02)**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 -- 8 TO 11 A.M.**

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This is billed as a family fun event, with not only pancakes but a bounce house and an EAA Young Eagles kids plane rides event. Contact the Rotary Club of Portola - website [www.RotaryClubofPortola.com](http://www.RotaryClubofPortola.com) - Phone (530)249-1121 - Email [PortolaRotary@psln.com](mailto:PortolaRotary@psln.com)

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**CALIFORNIA CAPITAL AIRSHOW**
**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA (MHR)**
**OCTOBER 2 – 4, 2015**

For the second straight year, IFFR will be at the California Capital Airshow (CCA), one of the fastest growing and most successful airshows in the country ... now rated 5th best in the country. Last Year was great, and this year (its 10th Anniversary) will be even better ... we’ll be enjoying warbirds, Snowbirds, fighters and Falcons, plus a Raptor or two. And great IFFR fellowship. SAVE THE DATE.

Friday will be a NIGHT AIR SHOW. If you’ve never seen this (I hadn’t) check it out on YouTube as ‘Aircraft Night Aerial Ballet’.
Saturday and Sunday there are TWO flight demonstration teams!! The US Air Force THUNDERBIRDS and the Canadian 9-plane SNOWBIRDS!!

THUNDERBIRDS: “America’s Ambassadors in Blue,” the USAF Thunderbirds are internationally known for their hard-charging demonstration of precision formation flying while pushing their F-16 Fighting Falcons to the limit.

SNOWBIRDS: All the way from Moosejaw, Canada... the Snowbirds, a nine-ship jet demonstration team! Check out the view from the ‘TankCam’ for a glimpse of what you’ll see and experience! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTnTEvKC-s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTnTEvKC-s)

Our IFFR Fly-in! Watch for details. For info in the meantime, contact IFFR members Tim Pickney (TIM.PINKNEY@ME.COM) or John Massey (JOHN@FLYLUXEAVIATION.COM).

**IFFR at AOPA Regional Fly-In**

**OCTOBER 9-11, 2015 - TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE (THA)**

Southeast chair Dale Read will do something with the fall event in Tullahoma. Rotary Clubs in the Tullahoma, Tennessee area are offering home hosting to Flying Rotarians coming to this event on October 10th.

Tentative plan will be for IFFR members to arrive around 11:00 on Friday the 9th. We would drive into town for lunch with the Tullahoma Rotary club. We could have later arrivals, too. We would then be driven to the member homes to get settled in and relax. We would return to the airport around 5:00 for evening activities.

Our group would be housed in Rotarian homes and returned to the airport Saturday for AOPA activities. We should have more information by the end of the summer. Dale is planning for us to have a tour of the Beech Museum at Tullahoma as well as a trip to Lynchburg to tour the Jack Daniels Distillery (no samples, it’s a dry county). More details on that later.

More to share - Seoul, Korea for RI Convention and Berlin, Germany for our 2016 IFFR International Fly About - in coming editions. Stay tuned, and Tail winds to ya’,

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**George Chaffey**

IFFR Vice President, Americas Region Wing Leader, Low & Slow Squadron

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