January 17, 2020

From The Chair

WINTER 2019-2020 IFFR AMERICAS GREETINGS

Warm greetings from 2020 and our winter get away to Pine Island, Florida. Linda and I are both grateful coming into this New Year for all of the friends and friendships we have developed through our IFFR membership. This is a value added benefit of this loose knit group of flying addicts and enthusiasts.

Looking back into 2019 it was truly a flying packed year for IFFR members with fly-in events throughout the country and abroad in the Germany Fly-About. Our Section and Squadron leaders put in an all-out effort to make every opportunity to gather and fly available to all of our members. Rankin, our SE Section Chair, initiated the request for new signage with banners and flags getting printed and sent to all of the sections and squadron leaders for use at all of our events and presentations. For a small group of pilots we get a lot accomplished to further Rotary and the enjoyment of flight.

Presently, a dues structure has been reinstated to refresh our coffers for both the International and Americas. We use this

What's Coming

RI CONVENTION, HONOLULU, HAWAII

JUNE 6 - 10, 2020

The RI Convention will return to Honolulu, Hawaii after a 51 year absence. We’re planning a physical AGM there along with our annual IFFR banquet. We’ve blocked some rooms with ocean view at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, our “official” hotel, for arrivals on June 4th, 5th and 6th, blocked through the 10th. All the rooms in our block have been assigned as of the date of this newsletter. However, there can be cancellations.

IFFR Americas Treasurer Steve Henderson has found out there is a “resort facility charge” that is part of the required deposit, and he had not originally allowed for this, so he will be contacting our members who have signed up for rooms to get an additional deposit of $40 per room. If you have signed up for a room, expect an email from him about this. Also, if you want to see if there have been cancellations, you can contact him.

Banquet: Monday evening, June 8th, 6:30 arrival, 7:00 banquet at the Hale Koa Hotel next door to the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Cost is US$85 per person. You should’ve received an email from IFFR Secretary-Treasurer Ian Kerr with a link to the registration site. If not, try this link: Banquet Registration.

We’re looking forward to seeing everyone in Hawaii!
2020 GOLDEN FLYAWAY
IFFR PRE-CONVENTION FLYAWAY
MAY 29 - JUNE 4, 2020

Register NOW if you plan to attend this PRE-Convention Fly Away

Before you head to the Blue Pacific of Hawaii and the 2020 Rotary Convention in Honolulu, experience IFFR’s Golden Flyaway ... in the Golden State of California. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Golden FlyAway will feature great weather, the unique San Francisco area, Historic Gold Rush towns, picturesque Carmel & Big Sur on the coast, and lots of flying over diverse territory (Sierra Nevada mountains, foothills, valleys, and gorgeous coasts).

More Convenience & More Flying: Our hotel all week will be the Crowne Plaza on the Buchanan Field airport in Concord, California (KCCR). Your hotel room remains the same all week, so you will not have to move. All activities will be day events, leaving from the hotel and returning at night. Being right at the airport, flyers
can walk to their planes ... no delays in transportation ... which means more time for flying. There will be buses or transportation for non-flyers. However, even on the days when the pilots are out flying (most days), the destinations will often be the same so there is still a “shared experience” by everyone. E.g., one day may be in the historic Gold Rush town of Columbia, where the non-flyers may bus there directly, while the pilots may fly through parts of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and valleys (e.g., Yosemite), ultimately joining the non-flyers for time together in Columbia.

Diversity: Although these will be convenient day trips, the experiences will involve very diverse geography (from 14,000-foot mountains to scenic coasts) and very diverse architecture / culture (from urban San Francisco, to rustic Gold Rush Columbia, to the quaint Carmel-
By-The-Sea, to the agricultural Central Valley and the famed Napa Valley wine country). And much more.

How & When: If you are going to the Hawaii Convention, fly by airline into San Francisco or Oakland, spend 6 days with the IFFR Golden FlyAway (May 29, 2020 to June 4, 2020), and then fly by airline on to the Convention either June 5 or June 6. Easy. If you are not going to the Convention, then just come and join the rest of the IFFR members participating in this unique FlyAway. IF you are on the west coast, you are already here. If you are from elsewhere in the US and Canada, what a great reason to fly to beautiful California. If you are from outside California, you can rent an airplane from one of the local airports (details coming soon). Of course you can fly to California yourself and enjoy this FlyAway, and even park your plane there while attending the Convention in Honolulu.

Cost & Registration: This FlyAway is initially be limited to only 52 participants. It will be first come-first served: the first 52 who register and pay the total will be guaranteed participation. Beyond that, we will have a waiting list. The cost is: $1,100 total final payment. IFFR has arranged a block of rooms available for IFFR members. Registrants will make their room registrations directly with the hotel. NOTE: Because we make financial commitments based on registration, if a registrant withdraws for any reason, refunds of deposits or final payments will not be made until after the FlyAway has concluded and we know our financial status.

So: Email Steve that you wish to participate and particulars, or to get more information, and payment by check to IFFR, Steve Henderson, 561 Auto Center Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076; or PayPal to ifframericas@gmail.com using “send money to friends or family;” or credit card info (if you don’t mind paying transaction fee) - Fax Steve at 831-322-0004 or call/text 831-818-1488.

-- World President Elect George Chaffey

SOUTHEAST SECTION SPRING FLY-OUT
LEEWARD AIR RANCH (FD04), SUN ‘N FUN, SPACE COAST
APRIL 2 - 5, 2020

Peter and Ellen Wenks have again graciously offered to host an IFFR Fly-Out from their home near Ocala, Florida at Leeward Air Ranch. For those who have not been lucky enough to participate before, this one is not to be missed!

They will greet with sandwiches and drinks. Dine in their beautiful hangar that evening and adjourn to neighbors’ homes or to a nearby Holiday Inn Express.

April 2 – Fly in to park beside the Wenks’ home at Leeward Air Ranch, FD04.

April 3 – Light breakfast and early start by van transport to Lakeland for a busy day at SUN ‘n FUN. For spouses not wishing to go to Lakeland, Ellen has plans for a fun and interesting day. Dinner catered in the hangar that
Madera Sunrise Rotary Annual Fly In
Madera Municipal Airport (KMAE), California
April 18, 2020 - 8:00 to 11:00 A.M.

The Rotary Club of Madera, California (northwest of Fresno) will host their 6th annual Rotary Fly-In and Pancake Breakfast on April 18, 2020 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending around 11:00 a.m. There is a pancake breakfast ($5) and of course there will be a display of airplanes, maybe yours will be amongst them. There will be a parachute team exhibition jump among other things.

If you’re flying in (and why wouldn’t you?), they’d like an RSVP at this number: (559) 269-4511. This is an easy trip from the Bay area and not too far from where many IFFR members live.

April 4 – Breakfast in hangar, then fly out to Space Coast Regional, KTIX, to tour the Valiant Air Command museum. Visit www.valiantaircommand.com. It’s a first rate museum and hopefully on departure we can get clearance to fly over the space center and view the shuttle landing strip. Farewell evening dinner at restaurant in town.

April 5 – Breakfast and goodbyes at the Wenks’ hangar.

Registration and Costs: Register with Steve Henderson, 561 Auto Center Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076. Send him a check or use PayPal iffaramericas@gmail.com (friends and family) for $175 per person which covers three breakfasts and dinners, transportation to Lakeland, and museum admission. If check or PayPal are not possible, cash on arrival is another option.

Deadline is March 15. Contact Peter at pjwenk@aol.com if you’re coming. He will arrange for housing on the ranch, which is limited; otherwise you make arrangements with Holiday Inn Express in Ocala, 352 304-6111.

-- Rankin Whittington, Chair, South East Section IFFR

MADERA SUNRISE ROTARY ANNUAL FLY IN
MADERA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (KMAE), CALIFORNIA
APRIL 18, 2020 - 8:00 TO 11:00 A.M.

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GOLDEN FLY AWAY JUNE 2020 – NOTES ON CONCORD & CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

Several members report having made their reservations with our special group rate with everything going smoothly. In August we took a trip to visit friends in the Pacific Northwest and due to illness we had to delay our trip by a day when we got to northern California. I decided to fly to Concord and stay incognito at our official hotel for the Golden Fly Away while Jane recovered.

It was easy finding the airport and once on the ground we found our way to the ramp in front of the hotel. It is not very clear where to enter the hotel from the ramp; however after a short amount of bungling around we found our way to the front desk. There’s just one gate, with a combination you should make an effort to remember. The
Alaska Section Chair Al Clayton has extended an invitation to come to Alaska and experience the summer solstice while working on a joint project with 3 other aviation organizations at a remote airstrip near the Kennicott copper mine area in Alaska. More information on this is posted on our ifframericas.com website: click here for details. Al is active in the Recreational Aviation Foundation, which preserves, maintains and creates airstrips for recreational access.

Al writes: “We picked the summer solstice for our fourth annual work party in Wrangell – St. Elias National Park, our nation’s largest park. In past years, we have improved NPS airstrips at Jakes Bar, Peavine, and Glacier Creek. We are still working out details, but the Park is indicating their next priority for our volunteer labor may be Solo Creek east of the toe of the massive Russell Glacier. Abundant details of this popular event are at the bottom of this thread and in the attachment.”

There will also be available about 20 miles west a lake (Long Lake) where floatplanes can land and where there’s a grass strip adjacent. Standard remote GA logistics will apply: that is, fly by Fireweed at low altitude, call on 122.9, and raise someone to fly over to pick up.

While this is a camping event, Al will provide other nearby options at lodges and B&Bs. Again, click above for details, or give him a call on his cell: (907) 250-1649.

We may have a couple of planes coming up from the lower 48 for this event. Al will know about this and give you contact information if you’d like. And there’s more than this going on this summer in the Alaskan Section.

-- Tony Watson, Editor
What’s Happened
HAMBURG RI CONVENTION ACTIVITIES AND FLY ABOUT

World President Phil Pacey has been keeping us all informed on a monthly basis about events around the world, and we’ve already seen more than one report on the Convention and Fly About. Rather than duplicate that coverage, since we weren’t able to attend this year, I’ll publish a few pictures sent my way by World Webmaster PWP Peter More. I’ll put some information here ... and let you figure it out.

IFFR At AirVenture 2019
Oshkosh, Wisconsin - July 22 – 28, 2019

With all the things to do and see and enjoy at Oshkosh every year, a few of us still look forward to getting together as Flying Rotarians during the event. We usually have a social / light dinner one evening and also plan on attending the Rotary Club meeting held right on the grounds of Wittman Airport during the event.

I meet some non-Rotarian non-pilot friends of mine and stay with them in the UWO dorm. I had another non-Rotarian non-pilot friend fly up with me this year. We have a traditional trip on the Tri-Motor, so I’m sneaking the picture in to show our happy group on Tuesday morning.

We just had a few people at our social on Tuesday night. Tim and Linda Freudenthal hosted, along with John Ockenfels. We also had a visit from immediate Past World President Svend Andersen, and of course WP Elect George Chaffey was there along with yours truly. We enjoyed a couple of hours at the outside bar area of the Hilton Garden Inn (roof was closed).

On Wednesday we attended the noon meeting of the Rotary Club of Oshkosh Southwest, moved to the Nature Pavilion on the airport property for this meeting as it has done for many years. A meal of brats and burgers with fresh corn on the cob awaits visitors each year, along with Rotary fellowship and an excellent program. The club has made a special IFFR cake each year since at least our IFFR 50th celebration was held during AirVenture. I failed to get a picture of the cake before it was cut, but Karlene Leatherman, secretary of the Rotary Club, send me a picture of it before it was cut – thanks, Karlene!

Todd Slagter, President of Oshkosh Southwest Rotary, presided over the meeting. The program this year was a member of their Club who was a Captain with Air America, Neil...
Hansen. He told of the many adventures, close calls, and heart-wrenching moments he had while serving in this organization during the 70s. He has written a book about his adventures, and did host a book signing after the meeting. IFFR PE George Chaffey shown here with Neil after the meeting. After the meeting, George and Tim visited with a few IFFR members who stuck around to talk for a bit.

My practice has been to leave Oshkosh on Thursday, with all Rotary activities past us, which I did with my dorm roommate. However, this year, we had a special request from Oshkosh Southwest Rotary and EAA administration to help put in some volunteer hours to justify the use of the pavilion for the Rotary meeting. So, a few Rotarians, mostly local, helped with a few designated things before AirVenture started, and some volunteers helped with taking care of service during The Eagles Banquet on Thursday night. *This may be a standing request in the future so we may all need to make allowances in our schedules to do this at future AirVentures if we want to keep that special Rotary presence there.*

Meanwhile, as mentioned, we headed toward Fond du Lac Thursday morning, where we’d diverted on Sunday afternoon, but first we had breakfast with my wife’s aunt, Marilyn Sherron, and her son Bob (Jane’s cousin) and his wife Ann at a local restaurant. I always try to make some kind of connection with her while at Oshkosh.

**WORK PARTY FOR BOLD AIRSTRIP (A13) NEAR ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**IFFR AND RECREATIONAL AVIATION FOUNDATION**

**AUGUST 31, 2019**

Volunteers associated with the Recreational Aviation Foundation and the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians achieved substantial improvements to Bold Airstrip (A13), located at the southeast end of Eklutna Lake, near Anchorage, Alaska at a work party held Saturday, August 31, 2019. With the cooperation and approval of Chugach State Park officials, a small but intrepid band of aviators used a brush mower, weed whackers, chainsaws and hand tools to clear the airstrip of encroaching aspen and other brush. RAF State Liaison/IFFR Section Leader Al Clayton used his diesel powered GMC to tow a riding grader under the control of volunteer David Karalunas, to smooth and fill ruts in the gravel surface of the strip. The formidable grader was nicknamed “FuManChu,” after the bull made famous by Tim McGraw’s song “Live Like You Were Dying,” even before it caught a snag and tossed David off into the gravel.

Alaska State Parks Director Kurt Hensel and Ranger Keith Wilson were instrumental in providing special permits to allow the equipment to move over the rugged access road to the strip on days normally closed to vehicles and providing the brush mower and grader in support of the work. Special thanks to the hardworking team of David and Pam Karalunas, Tim and Michele McLain, David Baldwin and Sam Warner for all of the hard work on the ground. Local pilots are expressing thanks for the “job well done” with comments like it “never looked better.”

-- Alaska Section Chair Al Clayton
Engines roaring, crowds cheering and hearts pounding was exactly what we got and it was a place where everyone spoke “aviation”. Twenty-six IFFR members either drove or flew into the fastest motorsport event on earth, The Reno Air Races.

Our World President Phil Pacey and his wife Judy (New Zealand) attended and were hosted by Tim and Vicki Puliz who also hosted several of our members including myself. Steve Lewis owner of an FBO at Carson City (KCXP) hosted tie-downs for our attending flyers.

On Friday evening to cap off an amazing 2 days the Puliz’s, who live in Reno, held a BBQ which was augmented by fresh Alaskan salmon brought in by IFFR member Mike Moran.

Superb fun, fellowship and the Rotary spirit were shared by all.

-- Southwest Section Chair Penelope Cornwall
Southwest Section Chair Penelope Cornwall planned a fly-in at Flabob Airport in Riverside, California, on September 21, including tours of many vintage aircraft hangars and lunch at the Flabob Airport Cafe. I’ll share a few pictures that have come my way. WP Phil stayed for this event after attending the Reno event just a few days before.

The Tom Wathen Foundation bought the airport in 2000 to preserve its history and purpose, and EAA Chapter 1 is located at the airport. Penelope worked closely with airport manager Beth Larock to assure a great experience for all.
U.S. Formula 1 Gran Prix 2019
Poe Halloween Presentation - Painted Churches
La Grange Fayette Airport (3T5), Texas
October 31 – November 2, 2019

It was a jam packed weekend beginning with the presentation on Rotary Fellowships specifically IFFR to the La Grange Rotary Club on Wednesday, followed by arrivals of Flying Rotarians from Delaware to Texas to Florida on Thursday.

Thursday evening all enjoyed a welcoming dinner at Chez Zee in Austin followed by the Lucien Douglas presentation of Edgar Allan Poe with renditions of *The Telltale Heart* and *The Raven*.

Friday night we had a full complement of 8 for the AGM at Bistro 108 and began working on plans for next year’s events.

George Alderman, Judge McWhorter and WPE George Chaffey were at the Circuit of the Americas throughout the weekend cheering on their favorite team. Meanwhile, the rest of the group enjoyed touring several painted churches in the area not far from La Grange. Also the group found a shop that sold “homemade” meade.

As Past World Secretary Lynn Miller put it, this event was the best to date! This has become a beloved event for a few of us in Texas (and Delaware and Florida, too), and we hope we’ll see increased participation in this fun weekend.

--South Central Chair Jack Welge
Marco Island Sunshine IFFR Gathering

Snowbirds from 2 continents enjoyed a little fellowship on January 15th, 2020 in Marco, Florida as Karen and Mark Hagen hosted IFFR Past World President Charles Strasser, who resides on Marco Island during the winter and is a resident of the Bailiwick of Jersey (Channel Islands, protectorate of UK near Normandy). Americas VP Tim and Linda Freudenthal also joined for this “Sunshine IFFR Gathering.” Charles only recently gave up piloting his trusty Seneca, and is one of the more senior members of our fellowship at 92 years of age. In fact, he’s the most senior PWP, having served 1986 - 88, back when the office was “Chairman” of IFFR.

In the picture seated is Charles and Linda, with Karen, Mark and Tim standing behind. Thanks to Tim for sending the picture.

Charles was responsible for either revitalizing or helping to start several of our IFFR sections in Europe, and with AOPA-UK was the author of “The Strasser Plan,” an agreement that helps make general aviation safer due to availability of more airports for precautionary landings when weather forecasts err.

Flight to End Polio
IFFR Pilots Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels
March 24 – May 13, 2020 Eastbound

North Central Section Chair John Ockenfels will back up Peter Teahen in Peter’s Piper Lance for this special flight to raise more money for the End Polio Now campaign of The Rotary Foundation. This will also be used to raise awareness of the devastation polio has brought to the world and why it is so important to eradicate it.

They have established a website at [www.flighttoenedpolio.com](http://www.flighttoenedpolio.com). The Gates Foundation will be matching all donations two-to-one.

There’s a brochure PDF you can look at: [brochure](#). Also, a newspaper article that gives more information is here: [article](#)

John writes, “We can really use the Support of IFFR worldwide to help take this message to Rotary Clubs, and other interested venues, in their areas.

“If you know, or know of someone who has had a personal experience with Polio, either through infection or through relationship, we are collecting short stories about their experiences and will make a book to take with us on the flight. If it is easier to get an audio recording, we will happily accept that as well.”

More Alaska IFFR Events with Recreational Aviation Foundation

In addition to the work at Fireweed mentioned earlier in the newsletter, Section Chair Al Clayton is putting out requests for help a couple of other places. These are more work sessions than fly-ins, but still may appeal to a few of our members in the rest of North America. **June 25 - 28 at Paxson (PAXK),** which will be a road trip since the strip needs to be fixed up to be usable. **July 18 - 19 Bold (A13),** finish up some work started in fall 2019. If you’re in Alaska, consider helping. Al’s contact information in the earlier article on page 6.

Marco Island Sunshine IFFR Gathering
**News of our Family**

**VICKI PULIZ TO BE RI DIRECTOR**

IFFR member (and past IFFR Southwest Section Chair) Vicki Puliz has been chosen to be Director of Rotary International representing Zones 26 & 27. Her term will be July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. She is the sole nominee at this point for that position and will be confirmed by election at the Rotary Convention this coming June in Honolulu.

Vicki is passionate about Rotary and all the good it does throughout the world. She spent the past several years as a Rotary Public Image Coordinator, Education Chair of Far West PETS and Education Chair of Zone 26/27 Governor Elect Training.

Vicki and her husband Tim reside in Reno, Nevada and have a blended family of 7 children and 9 grandchildren.

Vicki & Tim enjoy flying around the country in their Piper Twin Comanche and look forward to joining our IFFR friends at the Golden Fly-away in June, 2020.

Join me in congratulating Vicki on her selection to this important position.

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**Special Announcement**

**IFFR DUES BEING REINSTATED**

As many of you are aware, we have not charged membership dues since 2016. We now need to begin charging a nominal amount in order to maintain the best possible service to our members.

“Standard” members, whose memberships expired in 2019, will be invoiced $25 annually, beginning January 1, 2020. A 5-year membership is available for $100, a 20% discount. As always, “Partner” and “Rotaractors” memberships will continue to be free. We truly believe the value received with an IFFR Americas membership is much greater than the nominal dues to be charged. We hope you feel the same.

Please note: Only memberships expiring in 2019 were invoiced in 2019 for January 1, 2020 payment. Members paid through a later year will not be invoiced until their membership year expires.

Membership dues invoices began being emailed in December. **Dues are payable January 1. Please understand that Americas IFFR memberships not renewing by January 31, 2020 will be deleted from our membership rolls.**

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming IFFR Americas event.

If you have questions about this, please contact:

Steve Henderson, Secretary/Treasurer IFFR Americas
831-818-1488 (cell) Email: ifframericas@gmail.com
PayPal: ifframericas@gmail.com
money to fund web page costs, printing, banners and advertising as well as some travel expenses for the World President, but, typically the World President has not used any or much of these funds so you fees are used for the purpose of furthering IFFR and Rotary. We do anticipate the loss of some members but at this point retention has been very positive. We thank all of you for your support and memberships and by the way, please renew your membership and pay your 2020 dues or better yet, take the 5 year deal for 4 years of dues for $100.00.

Looking forward into 2020, we are again in the process of arranging events and working to enhance the existing reoccurring events such and Sun ’N Fun, AirVenture and Reno Air Races. Our section leaders are also lining up local and regional fly-in events and our Webmaster, Peter More does a great job of getting them on our web site.

Hawaii and the Golden Fly-about are also coming together nicely and incoming World President, Honorable George Chaffey, is planning a great Hawaiian experience. Sam and the California group are in the thick of getting the final licks on the pre-convention fly about. This is sure to be one of the most event packed fly-abouts because the home airport will be the launching point for all fly-outs and there are no hotel changes.

It takes a lot of members and time to put on the events, web page and newsletter so when you see these individuals, please offer your thank-you’s and support. Don’t forget to volunteer to help us out and an event coordinator, squadron leader or section leader. If there is anybody out there that has some time and Web page experience, let us know because Peter More would like to spend more time with his grandchildren and family.

Have a great flying season and keep your wings level and attitude up.