International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians
Americas Region
Vice President George Chaffey

Newsletter - October - December 2015

December 15, 2015

50 YEARS ... AND IT’LL GET EVEN BETTER NEXT YEAR

IFFR turned 50 in 2015, with activities around the Region. We started with a New Years’ kick off (Southwest Section), Lubbock and Formula 1 fly-ins and $100 Hamburger lunch program (South Central Section), a visit by World President-Elect Svend Andersen to the Salinas IFFR/AOPA event (Southwest Section), a fun time at the São Paulo Convention where we got our first Brazilian and Chilean members (South Central Section), a 50th anniversary celebration at Oshkosh and Minnesota Fly-Away (North Central Section), and events in Washington (Northwest Section), Bar Harbor, Maine (Northeast Section), and Tullahoma (Southeast Section). And, many, many other events and activities. It’s been a fun year turning 50! And we have a lot more coming up in 2016.... including the Seoul Convention and tour, the big Berlin Fly-out in July. And events near you! We aren’t getting older...we’re getting better. Stay tuned.

What’s Coming

“THE SIREN CALL OF SEOUL”
IFFR at Rotary Convention in Seoul, Korea
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: 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.

**IFFR Booth:** Our booth in the House of Friendship is the place at the huge Convention where IFFR members can meet, congregate, hang out and feel like “Cheers”... “Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came.” A convention isn’t quite the same without our booth... and we’ll be there! Lynn Miller is again in charge of the booth, and would welcome help in staffing the booth from any of you attending the Convention. Our World President-Elect (WPE), Svend Andersen, feels the IFFR Booth is very important and has already signed up, as has Americas VP George Chaffey and a number of others. If you are interested in meeting fellow IFFR members coming by, and greeting potential members, and talking flying, and hanging with other members, then join us in staffing the booth, and let Lynn Miller know at cbrookgull@aol.com ... hey, if you are attending the Convention, you’ll be coming by the booth anyway... so join Svend, George and the cast of characters each spending a little time there.... our home away from home.

**Annual General Meeting:** While the main body of our AGM is scheduled during the special Berlin Fly-out in July, we will commence our AGM during the RI Convention in Seoul before recessing to Berlin. This will be held on Monday, May 30 at 2:30 pm in Exhibition Center 1. This will be a great opportunity to meet our WPE Svend Andersen from Denmark. More details to follow.

**IFFR Banquet:** The annual Convention IFFR Banquet will likely be held on Monday evening, May 30. The details of time and location are still being planned. Those of you who attended in São Paulo will recall the memorable churrascaria Brazilian-style banquet. And now we’ll see what Seoul has to offer. More details to follow.

**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”.

Special Prices Korean Air Tickets: At detailed in the November 28 email, and on the District 5280 Website at RI Convention Extended Trip page (or http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/SitePage/ri-convention-korea-extended-trip) District 5280 has arranged for a block of tickets through Korean Air at significant discounts for flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Honolulu. If it can meet your needs, you can check with the Travel Agents listed there.

Aviation Event at the Convention: The IFFR is trying to arrange an additional aviation-related event for us at the Convention, but that is still in the works. We’ll send out details in the future if it works out.

This should be a good Convention and IFFR gathering according to Svend and George.... the Seoul Brothers.

“THE BERLIN BASH”
IFFR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FLY OUT 2016
BERLIN, GERMANY
JULY 16 - 23, 2016

The IFFR will have a major fly-Out event in Berlin, Germany, July 16-23, 2016. This will be a biggie! The genius of this event is that, although there will be numerous fly-outs and ground tours, no one has to move from hotel to hotel. We will stay in our hotel in Berlin, and, for those wishing to fly, there will be a flying event to some destination, returning that afternoon. At the same time, for those not wishing to fly, there will be ground tours and activities to other locations, also returning in the afternoon. And people may choose to fly or go on a ground event, depending on their interest in the particular activities or destinations.

This will be the first major IFFR event under new World President Svend Andersen of Denmark, who has been overseeing the development of this program. There will also be an IFFR Annual General Meeting, presided over by Svend, the first of his Presidency. Svend sent out information on
this event in September, and IFFR Secretary-Treasurer Ian Kerr will be sending a worldwide reminder sometime mid-December. Since there are a maximum of 80-spaces for this event, make your arrangements quickly. Details and registration forms are available at the IFFR main website, www.iffr.org. Over half the spaces are taken as of this writing, so hurry!

Sun ‘N Fun
Lakeland, Florida, USA
April 5 - 10, 2016

Plans are underway for an IFFR fly-in and series of events associated with the Sun ‘N Fun this coming April. Hold the dates. We'll have some other things to do and may hold our general meeting. Regardless, a great opportunity for flying and some fellowship.

IFFR Jersey Fly-In 2016
June 17 - 19, 2016
Jersey, Channel Islands

On behalf of UK Section Chair Alisma Clark, the organisers of the 2016 Jersey Fly-in Charles Strasser and Gregory Guida, are pleased to invite you join us for this great event in the Channel Island of Jersey. Full details and application form can be obtained by scrolling down to 2016 in the following link: http://www.iffr.org.uk/events.htm.

Please note that we are limited to 80 participants, 2 coaches, and clearly it will be on a first come first served prepaid basis. The programme details the cost of GBP180 pp. payable by 3 different methods and the way to book the discounted rate at the hotel. If you want to extend you weekend by arriving earlier or staying on, the hotel will offer the same discounted price.

EAA AirVenture 2016
July 25 - 31, 2016
Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA

While we won’t have the banner event with banquet and fly about we had in 2015, we will have the usual Rotary Club meeting at noon on Wednesday and some kind of fellowship event also, usually on that Wednesday evening. We'll look forward to seeing many IFFR friends at Oshkosh, and we’ll publish the specific information as it becomes available.
Oregon Shakespeare Festival  
August 13 - 16 2016  
Ashland, Oregon, USA

You won’t want to miss this! IFFR will be gathering in Ashland, Oregon, the weekend of August 13, 14 and 15 to enjoy a very special visit to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, commemorating 400 years since the death of the bard. In addition to the fabled IFFR fellowship and world-class theatrical performances, we’ll enjoy some very special private opportunities: a tour of the OSF production facility, a Backstage Tour, and potentially even the opportunity to observe a very very unique backstage view of a scene change during a live performance at the Bowmer Theater. All this amid the opulent weather and scenery of southern Oregon. And for those who can stay over, there will be a performance of Cabaret available on Monday evening.

Please express your interest in attending this weekend right away. We’re still working on special ticket prices, so don’t have final details and prices yet. You will have choices of performances, and can expect to be royally wined and dined by our local host Larry McClaskey. We may have to limit numbers for some of the special attractions, so be sure to have your name on our list. Beverly Fogle, bevfogle@gmail.com or (503) 702-5603, or Larry McClaskey (707) 484-4501.

What’s Happened

California Capital Airshow  
Sacramento, California, USA

This spectacular airshow and fly-in occurred October 2 – 4 in Sacramento. IFFR member Tim “Top Gun” Pinkney has co-led a 24-member team of volunteers for 8 consecutive years in putting on the California Capital Airshow VIP Capital Club venue. This venue hosted 1000 people per day. Friday night was the first “Airshow After Dark,” which was a huge success. Our thanks to photographer Mark E. Loper for providing some of these pictures.
Southeast Americas Section Chair Dale and Robbi Read drove to Tullahoma from the Knoxville area to help with the ground transportation on this event. They arrived on Friday before noon, and were able to attend the meeting of the Rotary Club of Tullahoma. Jane and I carried our daughter Nancy and her husband Grant so they could have a weekend with his family. Grant has immediate family in Manchester, Murfreesboro and Hixson, Tennessee and enjoys flying in the front seat of the Bonanza. We arrived in the area about 1:30.

Rocky and Lynn Miller were en route to Tullahoma where he was planning a long delayed reunion with his cousin John Miller, who was in charge of the airplane parking operation at Tullahoma and serves as chair of the airport board – and of course a Rotarian. However, a mechanical issue occurred shortly into their flight, and they had to return to base.

So, as far as IFFR visitors to the event, it was just the Reads and us. Dale and Robbi picked us up at the airport at the same time Grant’s mom was waiting for him and Nancy at the FBO, and all of us went on our way. We drove to a nearby smaller town where the President of Tullahoma Rotary and his wife hosted us in their guest house. John and Violet Nauseef were wonderful hosts, and we felt quite pampered.

The rains came by late afternoon, and by the time we returned to KTHA the rain was coming down in buckets. We found the location for the opening barbecue dinner, then Dale and I slipped over to a reception being sponsored by Cirrus. The serving line in the big hangar at the Beechcraft Heritage Museum opened right on time, and we enjoyed barbecued chicken and pulled pork. Even the poor pig had on flight goggles (you’ll find that picture). There was a short welcome, then musical entertainment. I’m sure many enjoyed that but it was a bit loud for my tastes, and also the PA system had not yet been balanced so that we could understand many words at the back of the seating area.

Despite the weather Friday evening and early morning IMC on Saturday, the fly-in was well attended. The rush happened a little earlier than anticipated on Friday, I suspect because people were paying attention to the
Saturday morning we all went back for the pancake and sausage breakfast until mid-morning. Dale and I enjoyed a few presentations and lunch, and Jane and Robbi left the airport and visited a few places in the vicinity. Lunch was from food trucks – the meal ticket from AOPA gave you one free item plus a soft drink voucher. One unforgettable presentation was on Risk Mitigation and Accident Prevention, given by general aviation pilot and former Captain of the USS Cole when it was bombed in port, Kirk Lippold. Things ended with some humor from Rod Machado and a Town Hall Meeting moderated by AOPA President Mark Baker. Then there was ice cream.

We had a wonderful group meal Saturday night with many Tullahoma Rotary members / IFFR members at probably the best restaurant in town, with an owner-chef who is also a member of Tullahoma Rotary. It was interesting to note Sunday afternoon as we prepared to depart that some of their names were on the plaque at the airport. We also realized we had maybe 3 retired generals in the room. Wow. It is a hot area for military brass to come to retire.

The next morning, the Nauseefs invited us over for breakfast. We had a wonderful and leisurely breakfast as we enjoyed the beautiful view of the lake from their screened in porch. Dale and Robbi then took us back to the airport. We then had lunch with Grant, Nancy, Grant’s mom and grandfather before heading back for the 4 hour flight to Lancaster.
Our spur of the moment gathering in La Grange, Texas for an IFFR presence at the Formula 1 Circuit of the Americas U. S. Grand Prix event was a tremendous success!

IFFR member and veteran race car developer and driver George Alderman of Alderman Racing flew into La Grange, Texas on Thursday the 22nd of October for the Formula 1 Grand Prix race on the Circuit of the Americas, which itself is just southeast of Austin. He was accompanied by veteran pilot and new IFFR member Judge McWhorter III, and 600 hour combat veteran pilot Leslie Clarke. George arrived in his Trinidad with his entourage from Delaware, Pennsylvania and Florida.

South central section chairman and event host Jack Welge arrived later on Thursday, driving five hours in rain from Longview to treat us all to tours of his ancestral home town. Also arriving from Seabrook, Texas on Thursday was ATP IFFR member Rocky Miller with his beautiful spouse, well known as our past world secretary-treasurer and 2013 IFFR pilot-of-the-year Lynn Miller.

Weather affected the event and the ability to fly in to the area, but Karen Hicks from Amarillo and PWP Michael Graves were able to fly in on Thursday evening, greeted at the La Grange airport by Judge and racing driver George, who treated them to a memorable race-like drive to the event hotel in a Ford rental car.
From our newest IFFR Americas’ Member, Judge McWhorter, pinned by PWP Michael Graves, to the superb small town hospitality experienced and the great meal at Bistro 108 in downtown La Grange Texas, a fun time was had by all in spite of the torrential downpours experienced at the track.

Checking weather was not for the flight out so much as it was to see what the conditions would be at the track. LaGrange was about an hour’s drive southeast of the track, southeast of the Austin area. Saturday racing was called off because or rain, allowing extra fellowship for the IFFR group.

This gave an opportunity to explore downtown LaGrange and places nearby. The group ran into Norma Webb, famous as a Delta flight attendant for over 50 years. Then moving next door, they visited The Green Door gallery run by pilot Hiram Walker and his wife Grace.

Of course, before leaving LaGrange, the group enjoyed kolaches at Weikel’s Bakery.

Racing pictures at the Formula 1 courtesy of Keith Douglas. The Formula One race concluded Sunday with first and second place finishes by the Mercedes Petronius team members Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg. We hope to return next year and have an even bigger IFFR event!

-- from reports by South Central Section Chair Jack Welge and IPWP Michael Graves
PWP (90-92) PDG Federico Compean Melendez has passed away in San Luis Potosi, SLP, Mexico at the age of 93 after an extended illness. “Freddy” Compean was a second generation Rotarian and the 3rd in his family to be a Rotary District Governor, preceded by his father and his son. He was a spice merchant by classification. He and Lucy attended most RI Conventions and attended our IFFR AGMs and spent time chatting at our House of Friendship booth each year.

Freddy wanted to share the warm hospitality of Rotarians in Mexico, so almost on the spur of the moment at the end of our IFFR AGM at the 1986 RI Convention in Las Vegas, he invited as many as could come to a fly-in to his hometown. Shortly he had planned dates in November 1986, and arranged for anyone coming down to enjoy homestay in Rotarians’ homes. So, several of us converged at MMSP on November 18, 1986. This included our then current WP (known as Chairman at the time) Charles Strasser. I flew down with PWP Victor Stanford in his C-210. We had tours of the city, and enjoyed a fine dinner and other hospitality there, spending a couple of nights. Then, we flew to Monterrey for some more hospitality and an overnight. Freddy and his wife Lucy flew with Vac and me from MMSP to MMAN. I remember he pointed out some roads that he had surveyed and even landed on as we were en route. This was a happy and successful fly-in. Freddy repeated the hospitality while IFFR WP on May 31, 1991, hosting many of us in SLP on the way to the RI Convention in Mexico City (by way of Toluca). Freddy served IFFR as World President from 1990-92, and later had his arm twisted to serve as DG when the DGN had to abruptly resign due to health. I mean, 2 RI presidents ganging up on you is no fair (Carlos Canseco and Frank Devlin). The Compean family was featured in an article in the December 2005 issue of The Rotarian Magazine.

A past IFFR Southeast Section Chair, and long-time Rotarian, PDG J. Barry Smith, died of myeloid leukemia on November 29, 2015. Born in Manchester, England, Barry was, like many good IFFR members, an active Rotary leader. A member of the Sandy Springs Rotary Club, with 37-years perfect attendance, he served as 1995-96 District Governor of District 6900 in Georgia (greater Atlanta area). A recipient of the “Service Above Self” Award, a Chairman of the Past Officers Reunion, Chairman of the Literacy Action Group, and Co-Chairman of the Rotary Literacy campaign worldwide, Barry attended 24 International Conventions, the last being this year in São Paulo. He was passionate about flying, being both a glider pilot and an instrument-rated private pilot. He planned and participated in many IFFR fly-aways over the decades, including one of his favorites, the 1992 Australian Fly-away to the normally-arid Alice Springs, where the rain delay produced a once-in-a-decade sight... the Todd “River” actually flowing. Great IFFR leaders are those who have also stepped up to serve Rotary. Barry did that in spades.
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, like the small but successful one in La Grange, Texas recently.

There will likely be some kind of event in California around the first of the year.

In other parts of the country we may get a $100 Hamburger pop up, 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.

Tail winds to ya’,

George

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