GETTING READY FOR 2017

We have fewer IFFR events this time of year, but there are big events coming up for 2017, featuring the special Iditarod trip to Alaska in February and our activities around the Rotary Convention in Atlanta in June. Time to get cooking and plan to be with your IFFR friends in some interesting places.

Special News Flash -- IFFR Americas Facebook and New World President Nominee

We are working to launch an IFFR Americas Facebook page to better communicate with all of you... But we need your help! If you are familiar with Facebook, please help us getting it started so we do it right! And have a little fun doing it. Call, email or text George Chaffey: gchaffey@littler.com, or (925) 699-3343. And speaking of George, our VP George Chaffey has been designated the World President Nominee for the 2020-22 term. Details in our next edition. Meanwhile, congratulations are in order to George!

What’s Happened

SOUTH CENTRAL AMERICAS IFFR FLY-IN AT LA GRANGE, TEXAS (3T5)
2016 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX
OCTOBER 21 - 23, 2016

Flying Rotarians enjoyed real Texas Hospitality as we gathered for the 2016 Formula 1 U S Grand Prix. The Best Western La Grange served as our event hotel - only 57 minutes from the Circuit of the Americas Track.
Thursday arrivals enjoyed hospitality at Bodega Wine Market then adjourned for dinner at Bistro 108.

On Friday Flying Rotarians had an option of attending the races at Circuit of the Americas or our Painted Churches Tour.

Friday evening all enjoyed fun, food, and fellowship at the planned AGM dinner at Bistro 108.

On Saturday Flying Rotarians again had an option of attending the races at Circuit of the Americas or our Round Top Tour of Festival Hill followed by lunch at Brenham Airport’s Southern Flyers Restaurant.

Dinner Saturday was at Nancy’s Seafood and Steak Restaurant in Columbus.

Restaurant in Columbus. Sunday was reserved for the Circuit of the Americas Track experience and the F1 U S Grand Prix, where we were introduced to the sport of Grand Prix racing by our own IFFR members Judge McWhorter and former driver and team owner George Alderman.
On Sunday evening Flying Rotarians enjoyed fun, food, and fellowship at Chez Zee restaurant in Austin following an exciting day at the track.

The weekend was best summed up by our Americas VP, George Chaffey, when he stated “this is a really good event. Be thinking of next year... a great time even for those not interested in Grand Prix.”

More pictures are available through our IFFR Americas picture site:

https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ale3QuaXFvC26gL-LdFGq7Ujmx1

Editor's note: I'll be leaving up all my pictures in the big folder on that site about February when I will remove them to keep from hogging storage.

OTHER OCTOBER EVENTS

After events in Sacramento, California (last edition); Albuquerque, New Mexico (last edition); and La Grange, Texas; we had a joint event with 99s at Novato, California on October 22, and a special event with World President Svend Andersen at the Santa Monica, California airport on October 30. Here are a few pictures taken in Santa Monica. All of those available at this address: https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ale3QuaXFvC27AsFcQ8_OE6QGDn2

WHAT'S COMING

TOP OF THE YEAR FELLOWSHIP EVENT
EVENT TO BE RESCHEDULED

The South West Section has hosted an event somewhere in the desert around the first of the year for a couple of years. The event coming up was scheduled for Furnace Creek in Death Valley National Park. However, the original dates (December 30 - 31) were not going to work, so Section Chair Vicki Puliz will be rescheduling. Those in and near the South West Section should pay attention to your inboxes for a possible pop up event.
The Alaska Section is hosting a Fly-In series of events for IFFR members, families and friends to share in the fun and excitement of the 2017 Fur Rendezvous and Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Aviation enthusiasts will converge on Anchorage from across the globe starting in late February for the start of Fur Rendezvous where they will enjoy Alaskan hospitality through at least the Iditarod Restart in Willow on March 5th. Section Chair Craig Bledsoe and his wife Ruth Ann, head of Flight Safety for Alaska Airlines in Anchorage and an experienced tour planner, are offering complimentary customized event setups for each IFFR visitor or group based on the particular specifics of their arrival and departure dates and means of transportation (commercial airlines or private aircraft.) The details below will help guide your participation decisions. After you have made your arrival and departure travel arrangements, please contact Craig and Ruth Ann Bledsoe promptly to receive your customized Alaskan travel planning assistance:

Craig and Ruth Ann Bledsoe
18811 Jamie Drive
Eagle River, Alaska 99577-7956
TEL: (907) 694-4730 -- FAX: (907) 696-4730
Cell: (907) 854-0052 (Craig) Or: (907) 854-3393, 92 (Ruth Ann)
E-Mail: kl4e@arrl.net; or craig_bledsoe@ak-prepared.com.

And now for the details:

This is a preliminary agenda with prices for various activities that visiting IFFR members and families can participate in while they are in the Anchorage vicinity starting with the 2017 Fur Rendezvous commencing on Friday, February 24th, and concluding with the start of the Iditarod on Saturday, March 4th, and the restart in Willow on Sunday, March 5th. Probably the most important document to summarize all of the various activities is the referenced 2016 Fur Rendezvous Master Schedule [click here]. There won’t be a 2017 Master Schedule published until mid-December, however the events occurring on each of the days of the week and both weekends should be substantially the same.

Here is current information on hotels which the attendees can pick and choose at [http://www.anchorage.net/places-to-stay/hotels-motels-and-inns/](http://www.anchorage.net/places-to-stay/hotels-motels-and-inns/) Most of our IFFR members who bring their own aircraft will want to fly in and out of Merrill Field. As you can see in the following link: [http://](http://)
there are 51 transient parking spaces available at five dollars per aircraft per day, and there is specific tiedown information available at [http://www.muni.org/Departments/merrill_field/Pages/Rates.asp](http://www.muni.org/Departments/merrill_field/Pages/Rates.asp). The best alternate choice is Birchwood Airport in Chugiak (link: [http://www.airnav.com/airport/PABY](http://www.airnav.com/airport/PABY)). Our visitors may wish to rent a car, but that won’t be necessary as we will provide ground transportation via two 4WD vans as needed to all scheduled events (see attached photo.) It is important to note that this period is the most significant tourist draw for the entire year, so hotel and airfield accommodations need to be locked in as soon as possible.

Now to address prices for the specific activities shown in the Master Schedule [link]. For those who arrive on or prior to the official start on Friday, February 24th, our kickoff event will be the Jim Beam Jam starting at 2100L in the Egan Center (big downtown convention center) for bourbon and dancing at a cost of $25 per person (link: [http://www.furrondy.net/events/jim-beam-jam](http://www.furrondy.net/events/jim-beam-jam)) Saturday, February 25th, and Sunday, February 26th, are full of fun activities (see the Master Schedule) and we will attend all of them! Note that for the entire first weekend, the World Champion Sled Dog Races will be underway on the streets of Anchorage (link: [http://www.furrondy.net/events/world-championship-sled-dog-races](http://www.furrondy.net/events/world-championship-sled-dog-races)).

For Monday, February 27th, through Friday, March 3rd, we will provide transportation to specific off-site events that our guests would like to visit. The Fur Rondy Melodrama (see link: [http://www.furrondy.net/events/rondy-melodrama](http://www.furrondy.net/events/rondy-melodrama)) is really funny - we go every year and it is very well done. It runs every night of the week, and tickets are between $18 and $23 per person depending on seat location. I will survey the attendees shortly before the Fly-In and purchase a block of seats for the evening that the majority wish to attend. The souvenir shoppers will want to visit the Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market (link: [http://www.furrondy.net/events/the-charlotte-jensen-native-arts-market](http://www.furrondy.net/events/the-charlotte-jensen-native-arts-market)) with a lunchtime side trip to the Alaska Native Medical Center (link: [http://anmc.org/patients-visitors/craft-shop](http://anmc.org/patients-visitors/craft-shop)) for the museum-grade creations. I have made arrangements with Alaska Machine Gun Association (AMGA) President Dave Arieno to reserve a range at Birchwood Shooting Park (a short walk from the Birchwood Airport mentioned above) for a day of full-auto fun and excitement. The basic cost for our group will be a $200 range rental fee plus the cost of the ammunition expended. Weapons will range from military combat rifles to submachine guns to large caliber crew-served belt-fed weapons (see photos), and again I will canvas our participants for their preferred day of industrial-scale mayhem.

So now we get to the grand finale on Saturday, March 4th: the commencement of the 2017 Iditarod - the Last Great Race on Earth. Our hosts will be Buzz and Mary Rohlffing of Media Production Associates who own a block of businesses in downtown Anchorage and will offer unparalleled rooftop viewing of the entire starting
process. Here is a slideshow of Ceremonial Start photos similar to what our IFFR visitors will see in the streets of Anchorage (link: http://www.adn.com/multimedia/slideshow/photos-iditarod-2016-ceremonial-start-kicks-44th-race/2016/03/05/)

Once the mushers are on their way, the next big event will be the Running of the Reindeer at 1600L (link: http://www.furrondy.net/events/running-reindeer). For a paltry $25 per person, our IFFR sprinters can blend right in with the rest of the lunatic Alaskans and charge down 4th Avenue in the midst of a herd of allegedly tame reindeer thus ending up in a video clip on the national evening news for everyone back home to enjoy. After recovering from all of the above, our whole group will stagger off to the Egan Center for the wrapup party - the Miner’s and Trapper’s Charity Ball (link: http://www.minersandtrappersball.org and http://www.furrondy.net/events/miners-trappers-ball) for $30 per person. As you can see, if you have a particularly furry face or extravagant moustache, you could win some big bucks at this event!

The next day, Sunday, March 5th, all the action moves out to the Restart Party in Willow where the genuine flat-out racing to Nome 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.

So let’s get back to 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 (link: http://www.airnav.com/airport/PALH). For the jaunt out to the Willow Restart Party, we will provide complimentary ground transportation via those 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.

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 four months from now. See you soon!

**ATLANTA RI CONVENTION ACTIVITIES AND POST CONVENTION FLY-AWAY SET CONVENTION JUNE 10 – 14, FLY AWAY JUNE 15 – 24, 2017**

South East Section Chair Dale Read, Americas VP George Chaffey and others have been working on our AGM, Banquet, and the details of our fellowship trip together after the convention.

Official IFFR Airport for the Convention is Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport at Gainesville, Georgia (KGVL). This is where IFFR members will be accommodated the best while the convention occurs, and it is the starting point for the southeast tour.

Monday the 12th of June will be the day for the IFFR Board Meeting (2:30 pm EDT) and the IFFR Annual General Meeting (4:00 pm). The always popular IFFR Banquet will be Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our IFFR booth is to be staffed daily at the House of Friendship at the Convention site.

Thursday morning the 15th the tour leaves from Gainesville, whether taking the coach or flying in private aircraft. Stops on the tour will include Chattanooga, Tennessee; Lexington, Kentucky; Charlottesville, Virginia; Williamsburg, Virginia; and Manassas, Virginia. The last stop will allow time to visit the many museums in Washington, DC.

The maximum number of participants in the fly away is 50, so if you are interested, you need to register and put down the deposit sooner rather than later. We expect this to sell out quickly.

A brochure and registration is available on the IFFR Americas site on the home page (scroll down to find) or you can click on either of these: [brochure](#) [registration](#)

**Report from the Safety Committee**

Assisting an accident pilot with a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) report recently, gave the opportunity to reflect on statistical probabilities that an airman might be involved in a safety related incident.

The Nall Report put out by Joseph T. Nall through AOPA, identifies the number of non-commercial fixed-wing accidents and gives us a safety trend in General Aviation (GA) flying.

A review of the most recent (25th) Joseph T Nall Report shows the rate of non-commercial fixed-wing accidents fell 12 percent in 2013, including an 18 percent decrease in the rate of fatal accidents. It is a dramatic improve-
ment in the 25-year history of the report, but the third greatest area of safety concern for those of us flying GA aircraft continues to be fuel exhaustion.

With flight planning the greatest culprit, it pays to spend a little more time on fuel management. All of us have our stories, but one of the saddest recently involved the airman who rented the hangar facing mine.

Although almost retirement age, he was recently married and had the complete support of his spouse in his flying and she had accompanied him on this last trip. His plane, an older Cessna 172, was well maintained and competed for his affections and available time.

Yet last January following his attempted return to his home airport, his aircraft was found in the woods only 1/2 mile from the end of the runway with substantial damage to wings, fuselage, and empennage. Only his wife survived.

The rest of the story appears that prior to his return flight of only 44 nm, he did not add fuel at the later departure airport, stopped only once for fuel, and finding none pressed on only to experience the unthinkable.

There were no doubt other factors, but regardless where we begin the accident chain, it was fuel management that turned his 172 into a glider.

All of us have minimum fuel requirements for our aircraft based on time of day that are reviewed at the time of the initial flight planning. We sometimes are tempted to rush through to get into the air, but that lack of planning can be disastrous.

Until next time, enjoy safe flying.

Jack Welge

Jack Welge is an attorney in private practice and a member attorney with the AOPA Legal Services Plan (Pilot Protection Services). He is a Past Chair of the Aviation Law Section of the State Bar Of Texas. He currently serves as IFFR Safety Committee Chair and as the South Central Americas Chair of IFFR. He has practiced law now for 39 years and has 37 years perfect attendance in Rotary.
Tail winds to ya’,

George Chaffey  
IFFR Vice President, Americas Region  
Wing Leader, Low & Slow Squadron  
925.927.4502 direct  925.699.3343 mobile  925.946.9809 fax  
GChaffey@Littler.com  
Treat Towers, 1255 Treat Blvd, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Webmaster: PWP  
Peter More  
Newsletter Editor:  
PWP Tony Watson