A Big Year Ends... A Bigger Year Awaits

It’s been one heck of a year for IFFR Americas ... New events (Fur Rondy in Alaska), rapid growth (now over 750 members), huge Convention (over 40,000 in Atlanta), great fly away through the South to Washington D.C., the emergence of Squadrons and all the promise they hold for the future. And, it’ll keep getting better in 2018. Stay tuned.

What’s Coming

RI Convention 2018 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada
June 23 - 27, 2018

New England Fly About - Registration Deadline January 31, 2018
June 28 - July 6, 2018

We continue to publicize the Rotary Convention in 2018 and the IFFR activities happening there and afterwards. This is something you won’t want to miss, and is definitely the highlight of the year. The IFFR Hotel for the Toronto Convention is the fabulous Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, just across from the stunning Billy Bishop Island Airport.

All of the 40 rooms we blocked, were spoken for by October, so we now have a waiting list if you want to stay at our “official” IFFR hotel. If you want to get on the waitlist, email or call George Chaffey (gchaffey@littler.com 925-699-3343) and tell him you want a room, and give your arrival date. He’ll put you on the standby list. Should we have a cancellation, you’ll be contacted with additional information and payment instructions.

Otherwise, staying at another RI Hotel other than our IFFR “official” hotel will not keep you from enjoying the IFFR activities during the Convention.
New England Fly About

The Fly About after the Convention will take place entirely in the USA, with those in the USA planning to assemble in Buffalo, New York, and those at the Convention at Toronto before joining up for the tour. Beautiful parts of New York, New Hampshire, and other states will be visited. The outline of the trip can be seen in this brochure: [click for brochure]. Gary Dehnel is the primary organizer, contact him at gcdehnel@verizon.net. There has been a recent tweak in the planned itinerary due to a runway project closing an airport we’d intended to use, so with no other suitable airport nearby, a different stop with different activities was needed.

Registration fee totals US$900 per person, with a US$100 deposit due by January 31, 2018, just over a month from now, and the remainder due by March 31, 2018. Maximum of 50 participants - one full coach - so put your deposit in now to reserve a place. The registration includes the bus (and all costs associated with that), at least 5 dinners of various kinds, 2 or 3 lunches, and the fees for several tours. Registration form: [register].

Meanwhile, get excited! Flying into Toronto’s Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (CYTZ), formerly known as Downtown Island, is one of the most memorable things you can do in personal aviation. And clearing incoming Canadian customs there is a snap. (If flying into Canada and back to the USA with other than citizens of the USA, please check US Customs regulations having to do with light aircraft).

What’s Happened

IFFR & Grand Prix “Formula One” Racing in Austin, Texas
Do Fast Cars & Airplanes go Together? .... You Bet!

Thanks to South Central Section Chair, Jack Welge, the second (and now-annual) IFFR gathering at the U.S. Grand Prix “Formula One” races in Austin, Texas, based out of La Grange October 19 - 22, was a big hit. “Formula One” is the 800-pound gorilla of racing .... And it has many things in common with flying and with IFFR.

One of the IFFR members in attendance was George Alderman, a quiet, mild mannered member from Delaware (who flies a Trinidad and has attended many IFFR fly ins and post-Convention Fly Outs). However, unbeknownst to most, George was a well-known race car driver for three decades, from the late 1950s through the 1980s. He was national champion of sports car and Formula III racing numerous times, driving many types of cars (including Lotus, McLaren, Mustang, Alfa Romeo, Datsun), and competing at racecourses across the
country (including Daytona, Laguna Seca, Sebring, Indianapolis, Watkins Glen, Lime Rock). Our group included IFFR member Judge McWhorter, a racing-knowledgeable friend who drove George to Austin in his Porsche, and as we walked about the paddock (pit areas), we marveled at how many Formula One event leaders knew George and traded stories of the old racing days. It was eye-opening to watch one of the legends of sports car racing, made us proud he was one of “us”, and caused us to appreciate the bonds between flying and racing. Wings & wheels!

There’s more. While going through the paddock to see some of the “grand masters” (Formula 1 race cars from the 1955-82 era), our VP George Chaffey was invited to sit in the Tyrrell racecar driven by the famed British Formula 1 driver, Jackie Stewart. The head of the team maintaining the Tyrrell race car, Scott Drnek (owner of Virtuoso Performance, which provides support, preparation and restoration of vintage and racing cars) revealed he not only loves cars and racing, but also owns 3 airplanes, including ... a Luscombe, as does VP George. And each has a Luscombe that is unique .... George’s “Lady Bird” is a Past Grand Champion Classic at Oshkosh, and Scott’s was previously owned by the famous Moody Larsen, with a rare combination of refinements including a 150-hp Lycoming. Learning that Scott wants to buy an AT-6 warbird, George put him in contact with North Central Section Chair, John Ockenfels, who owns an AT-6 which he flies at Oshkosh during the WWII reenactments. All of this information and passion about flying and airplanes was being shared by two pilots who were enjoying, or participating in, a weekend of intense Formula 1 car racing. Yes, the bond between racecars and airplanes is real. Wings and wheels!

With over 300,000 people attending, the “Formula 1” event was exciting, with ten “Formula 1” teams (led by Mercedes and Ferrari), each with two drivers.... most being world famous. In addition, we saw Formula 4 racing (smaller cars featuring future Formula 1 drivers), a race of the historic Grand Masters, lots of Formula 1 practice sessions, exciting qualifying races, and for the first time ever, public access to the paddocks ... so we could see and meet some of the race cars, drivers and team members. For those interested, there were on-
site concerts by Justin Timberlake and Stevie Wonder. And lots of IFFR camaraderie.

Of the 20 “Formula 1” races around the world during the season, there’s only one in the US (Austin), one in Canada, one in Mexico, and one in Brazil ... few opportunities in this part of the world. So, if you’ve never been to one, do yourself a favor and go. And if you can go to the races in Austin with the IFFR, you might learn a lot from IFFR members Judge McWhorter and former race car champion George Alderman. How cool is that! We’ll see many of you next year.

“Tailwinds to ya’” .... “Gentlemen, start your engines.” Wings & wheels!

--- George Chaffey

**Squadron Reports**

**NEW HONG KONG SQUADRON**

Hong Kong became the newest IFFR Squadron, and the first one outside of the Americas Region. Led by IPDG and Squadron Leader Eric Chin, the Hong Kong group burst on the IFFR scene with 87 charter members.

At the Charter night banquet, IFFR was represented by World President Svend & Carina Andersen, World President-Elect Phil & Judy Pacey, and AustralAsia Region Vice President Ian Jenner and Marlene Marsden. Also
present helping celebrate the new Squadron was the current District Governor, several Past District Governors and the District Governor Nominee. It was a gala event for the new Squadron.

And there was an unexpected treat ... during the visit, WP Svend and Carina were whisked away for a tour of Hong Kong by helicopter ... flown by Rotary Club Past President, Lily Fen, who is also Vice Squadron Leader.

SQUADRONS HAVE ARRIVED

The Squadron Concept (creating subdivisions of each Section, each led by a Squadron Leader) was first proposed over 20 years ago by then-Americas Vice President, Phil Livingston of Alaska ... the godfather of Squadrons. Although his concept was not implemented, it resonated with Angus Clark of UK (and later World President), who repeatedly suggested in recent years that Americas leaders adopt the idea to help recruit members in the huge, far-flung Region. Americas leadership considered the approach, and Southwest Section Chair, Vicki Puliz, led the way in 2017 by appointing Squadron Leaders throughout her Section and introducing monthly conference calls among them. Other Sections gradually began implementing the concept, and it should be fully in place during 2018. It already holds great promise for the future of this Region.

Watch for news as Squadron Leader positions are filled during 2018. And let your Section Chair or other leader know if you’d be interested in being a Squadron Leader for your area. As this unfolds, we’ll remember the three individuals responsible for this idea becoming a reality ....

Editor’s Musings

ELECTRIC CARS AND FERRARIS

Seeing the mention of a Ferrari sponsored race team at the Austin Formula 1 event in our article above reminded me of my one and only foray into true sports cars, the Ferrari Bimbo Racer V12 shown in the accompanying picture. This was actually an electric car, which made me think of PWP Peter More and his new Tesla, also. I’m driving the car with Miss Texas next to me. We are all smiles. This picture was taken around 1958.

My experiences with that car, its lack of reliability, steered me
away from both pure electric cars and sports cars in general. Closest I got was a Mustang (a rather abused one) to the sports cars and my hybrid Prius to the electric ones.

This is not fake news. Everything I said was true. However, time passage may have distorted a few things.

**SEASON’S GREETINGS**

I’m working on this as I personally prepare to celebrate Christmas. Whatever you celebrate this time of year, whether it’s celebrating Jesus’ birth, the miracle of the oil lamps of Hanukkah, or just the fact we’re past the winter solstice, peace and goodwill to you from your IFFR friends. And as for me, I’m wishing you a Merry Christmas.

**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. You’ll probably see more of these as our new Squadron Leaders become more active and plan things closer to home. 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 continuing news on a 2018 full of events - starting early in the year (especially watch for pop ups).

**2017**

- 2/24-3/5 Alaska - Iditarod, etc.
- 2/25 Amarillo, TX
- 3/19 Oakland, CA - OCD
- 3/25 Lancaster, TX
- Mar. Anchorage, AK
- 4/28 - 29 Camarillo, CA - AOPA
- 5/19 Columbia, CA
- 5/19 - 20 Talkeetna, AK
- 6/10-14 Atlanta, GA - RI Conv.
- 6/12 - 13 Atlanta - AGM, Dinner
- 6/13 Eagle Field, CA
- 6/15-25 Post Convention Tour
- 6/18 Oakland, CA - OCD
- Jun. Harrisburg, PA - TBA
- 7/23 - 30 Oshkosh, WI - EAA
- 7/25 IFFR Social @ OSH
- 7/26 Noon Rotary Mtg @ OSH
- Jul. Cedarville, CA - TBA
- 7/28 - 30 Longview, TX (KGGG)
- 8/21 Solar Eclipse !!!
- 8/31 - 9/3 Grants Pass, OR
- 9/8 - 9 Norman, OK - AOPA
- 9/9 - 10 Sacramento, CA - CAS
- 9/24 Oakland, CA - OCD
- 9/30 Walnut Ridge, AR
- Sep. Portland, OR - TBA
- 10/6 - 7 Groton, CT - AOPA
- 10/7 - 15 Albuquerque, NM
- 10/20 - 22 Austin, TX (La Grange)
- 10/27 - 28 Tampa, FL - AOPA
- 11/11 Old Kingsbury Aerodrome, TX
- 12/1 - 3 Galveston, TX

**2018**

- Jan. Ft. Lauderdale, FL - TBA
- 6/23 - 27 RI Convention, Toronto
- 6/27 - 7/6 Post Convention Fly Out New England, USA

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