FINISHING 2018, GETTING READY FOR 2019

I have been running a great deal behind due to other commitments, and I do apologize. We do hope you enjoyed the August edition with the extended coverage of the summer’s activities. Now it’s on to 2019, and let’s start this new year by attending and supporting events where we can enjoy the special comaraderie of the Rotarians whose special interest is aviation.

--- Tony Watson, Editor

From The Chair

Greetings and a Happy New Year to you all IFFR’s, spouses and others;

It’s been cold here in the Midwest for well over 2 months and my flying has all but come to a halt as it does this time of year. I did find however, that the use of Chains has helped me maintain altitude when flying through the heaviest of snow storms. ;-)

Our IFFR events has also come to a drastically slow pace and sporadic occurrence which should allow all of us some time to start thinking of new and exciting adventures, gatherings and fellowship opportunities for the upcoming year. My goal for 2019 is for our IFFR Americas section to host at least one event each month from March through October with at least one in every section or region. I will be encouraging all of the Section Chairs and Squadron Leaders to help to make things happen. Because our only goal is to plan events and gatherings and host fellowships, this should not too daunting of a task for over 800 Americas members to handle. All ideas and potential gatherings will be considered and encouraged.

Our World group is again looking at the prospect of some type of dues structure for the upcoming 2019 year and some ideas are being passed about and considered. I personally am not opposed to dues for any club that maintains a membership and as thing progress you will be informed and kept in the loop. The proposal for now if for world dues but I am also considering some type of America’s dues also, please give us your feedback and ideas and talk with you section chairs.

The first largely attended event of the 2019 year is typically Sun N Fun in Lakeland, Florida. No special plans as of this time but keep watching at the time grows near, we will come up with something.

The International Convention is in Hamburg Germany from June 1 through June 5 which most of you already are aware of and I also encourage as many IFFR members as possible to attend as this will certainly again be a world class event and will allow many of our America’s members to meet our European counter parts and engage is some International Fellowship at its finest. Plans for the Fly-About are getting set in stone and space is limited
July also always bring about EAA AirVenture and this year we have the opportunity to help our Oshkosh Rotary Club with their volunteer commitment and serve with them as they work the Banquet of Eagles. This will allow IFFR members to help do the serving plus each volunteer gets a free meal and we get to meet several hundred EAA members and display our moto of “Service Above Self” as Rotary Members.

September and October roll into the AOPA Town Hall Meetings and I would like the IFFR members to again attend these meetings if possible once the 2019 schedule is announced.

Of course we will support all fly-in efforts and please get any event dates and times to Tony Watson for the newsletter and Peter Moore for the Website.

I look forward to meeting, greeting, seeing and fellowshipping with each and every one of the America’s membership in 2019, (or as many as possible) and please always feel free to reach out to myself or any of our Section Chairs, Squadron Leaders or Officers with ideas, concerns or suggestions.

“All complaints go to George Chaffey”

May you be blessed in the New Year and keep you wings level and attitudes up!

-- Tim and Linda Freudenthal, 2018-2020 Americas VP

**Americas Chair Charitable Cause**

Much like your District Governor and spouse or partner, Tim and Linda have a favorite charitable cause associated with Rotary that they’d like to promote during his term as Chair of Americas Region of IFFR (which is VP Americas in the IFFR International organization). Tim and Linda have chosen ShelterBox.

It could be that IFFR may have the opportunity at some point to support ShelterBox through flying, though the basic boxes used are a bit bulky for most of our aircraft. Here’s what Tim has to say:

**Helpful Thoughts**

Rotary has always been known as a “Community Support” service club type of organization and is synonymous with helping people whether in a small village or worldwide plague such as Polio Plus.

As Flying Rotarians, which is designed to be specifically a Fellowship arm of Rotary, our goal is to support and enhance the Rotary experience through flight, flying and hangar talk. Several attempts have been made to solidify our group with a cause and over the years have engaged in support to Angel Flight as well as several other flight-related organizations. Recently some ideas have been thrown around of supporting a group or cause as a Fellowship Project but the decision has been made to keep Flying Rotarians as strictly a fellowship support club and we are all good with that. However, the need to help is the glue that makes Rotarians as well as Flying Rotarians special people.
Shelter Box USA is an organization that follows and shares the Rotary mantra of “Service Above Self” and is a not for profit that supplied emergency shelter and tools to any and all people who are in need of shelter or tools due to natural or manmade disasters worldwide without prejudice. If the Flying Rotarians ever decide to support any organization this is a partnership that is worth taking a look at. **Shelter Box** is already Rotary certified as a partnership and any support that we can give them meets all Rotary guidelines and criteria.

Linda and I will personally support Shelter Box and encourage our local club to also sponsor them at one level or another. Check out their web site at ShelterboxUSA.com and give this organization some consideration as a potential project for yourself, your club or for the Flying Rotarians should we ever be looking for an outreach.

-- Tim Freudenthal

**What’s Coming**

**Rotary International Convention**
**Including IFFR Booth in House of Friendship**
**June 1 – 5, 2019**

**IFFR Annual General Meeting**
**June 3, 2019 - Afternoon - Time TBA**

**IFFR Annual Banquet**
**June 3, 2019 - 1800 Fellowship - 1900 Dinner**

**Hamburg, Germany**

There’s still time to plan to travel to Germany to enjoy the RI Convention this June in Hamburg. Besides the plenary sessions, you can spend hours chatting with many interesting people at the House of Friendship, especially if you help staff the IFFR Booth there, and we sure hope you’ll help there if you attend the Convention.

The big day during the Convention for Flying Rotarians will be Monday, June 3rd. The Annual General Meeting of
the membership of IFFR will happen during the afternoon (at the Convention Center) and the prestigious Annual Banquet will take place that evening.

The German – Austrian Section will be hosting a fly about beginning on Thursday, June 6th and continuing until June 15th.

**Hotel**

Our IFFR hotel for the Convention will be the Scandic Hamburg Emporio. The rates we were quoted for the block were €239 (single) and €261 (double) plus city tax. Our room block expired in October. There may be some rooms available via waiting list, which IPWP Svend Andersen is keeping, email him at ska@hiflux.dk, asking the question and giving your arrival date. Otherwise, try Rotary’s housing site, and have in mind some alternative lodging nearby.

Other details are available on the www.iffr.org website.

**Banquet**

The Annual Banquet will be held Monday, June 3rd, with a reception and drinks beginning at 6:00 pm and seating at 7:00 pm. Location is the Hotel Hafen Hamburg, which is on the harbor a short distance from the IFFR Hotel.

As of this writing, cost of the Banquet has not been published, and reservations are not yet being taken.

**Special Tour during Convention**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2019**

A special visit and tour of the Airbus factory at nearby Finkenwerder has been arranged for Tuesday, June 4th. Expect details for that outing later. Here’s some know before you go information from Trip Advisor.
Hamburg Post Convention Fly Away
June 6 – 15, 2019

An email with the mostly finalized plans and registration went out to all members on November 4, 2018. Organizers plan on limiting participation to 52 persons due to the coach size. Deadline for submission and initial payment is January 31, 2019.

The latest plans were included in the World Newsletter of December 2018, available at www.iffr.org. We’ve included a link to the fly away information below.

The tour will begin in Braunschweig, not all that far from Hamburg, on June 6th. A visit to the VW Auto City in Wolfsburg is in the plans.

Next hop is to Erfurt and Weimar (7 – 9), then on to Giebelstadt (9-10) to visit Würzburg. Old towns, historic sites, and castles will be visited.

Speyer will be next for a couple of nights (10-12) and there’s a renowned technical museum there, along with another interesting “old town.”

Final stop on the trip is Koblenz, and that will be for 3 nights (12 – 15). A cruise on the Rhine River, and a farewell party the final night will finish up this outstanding tour.

For those not in their own or rental aircraft, there are train connections from Koblenz to the Frankfurt Airport, and you should be able to find your way home from there.

Cost is €1,310 per person in a double room, €1,610 per person in a single room.

Here’s a link to the latest Fly Away information: Fly Away Information

Here’s a link to Fly Away Registration: Fly Away Registration
This is an odd year, so we don’t plan to have any special multi-day IFFR events associated with Sun ‘N Fun. However, we have a number of members who attend most years, so there’s an opportunity to meet for lunch or to arrange a dinner or breakfast together. There are even some Rotary Clubs that meet for breakfast in the area.

Rankin Whittington is the Section Chair for the South East Section. Drop him an email if you are going to SNF with your plans. You may even have some suggestions.

Rankin’s email is: rankinwhittington@gmail.com

IFFR AT DAYTON AIR SHOW?
JUNE 22 - 23, 2019

We’ve not had IFFR events surrounding the Dayton Air Show before, but it’s possible that may change this year.

The 45th annual Dayton Air Show will be held June 22nd and 23rd this year. Generally the same show and format is followed each day.

If things work out we will plan on having more information in the next newsletter, or watch for an email announcement.

What’s Happened

ANOTHER HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP PICTURE – JUNE 2018

We still are occasionally sent a picture taken near the IFFR Booth at the Rotary Convention. I thought I’d post this one with our then brand new World President, Phil Pacey, and our World Secretary-Treasurer, Ian Kerr, being bookends to Mike Milward (Watsonville, California) and Chris Walker (Santa Cruz, California). These 2 Rotary Clubs have a high number of active IFFR members.

CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS FORMULA 1 EVENT
LA GRANGE AND AUSTIN, TEXAS
OCTOBER 18 – 21, 2018

Section Chair Jack Welge put together another nice event, with fly-in airport and lodging in La Grange. Jane and I arrived in time for a late dinner on Thursday night, and it was good to see George Alderman, Lynn Miller, Karen Hicks and Michael Graves. A good start to what promised to be a fun weekend. We did miss both
Judge McWhorter and George Chaffey, who had both bought tickets to the event and planned to come from east and west but couldn’t make it.

George Alderman had Judge’s tickets, so we made plans about who would go when after ruling out getting George Chaffey’s tickets overnighted. Since Jane and I would need to head home Saturday, Michael and I agreed that I’d go to the races on Friday, and he’d use the other tickets.

Alas, for us, it was not to be. An emergency call Friday morning from Jane’s 92 year-old dad brought about a complete change of plans for us, so we checked out after breakfast and headed to Wichita Falls to check on him.

We did get pictures of most of us, first before George and Mike left for the races and Jack left for his District Conference, and later after the ladies drove us to the airport.

While missing the activities for us was a bummer, the time we spent with our friends was worth the quick trip, as anyone who has attended an IFFR function will testify.

I’ll look forward to hearing how much fun the races were. Maybe.

--- Tony Watson, Editor

A SPECIAL STORY FROM KINGSBURY AERODROME, TEXAS
FALL WINGS & WHEELS FLY-IN – NOVEMBER 10, 2018

(We keep trying to add the annual fly in to Kingsbury as one of our South Central events. This story helps to explain why. Yours truly tends to have family birthday celebrations on Veterans Day weekend. – Editor)

Four men stood together in front of the hangar at the Kingsbury Aerodrome. Two wore veteran hats for service in Vietnam, one with Korea, and one with World War II. As I do with any veteran, I thanked them for their service. I asked the WWII veteran, Gideon Jones, about his service. He was a pilot in a B-24, the plane that Ford Motor Company made at the Willow Run plant. His plane was shot down over Italy. He made sure that each one of his crew bailed out and then he jumped last. He was 19 years old, captured by the Germans and spent seven months in a POW camp.

He looked at my jacket where I had a prancing horse symbol and he began to tell a story. It was the story of World War I ace, Count Francesco Baracca, an Italian hero with 34 aerial victories. Baracca was a passionate equestrian and was initially a cavalryman. As a tribute to his equestrian roots he painted a black prancing horse on the side of his airplanes. He was killed in combat on June 19, 1918 at the same site where Gideon Jones’s B24 was shot down.
In later years, Baracca’s mother presented his prancing stallion emblem, the Cavallino Rampante, to Enzo Ferrari. The prancing horse has been the official symbol of the Scuderia Ferrari racing team since 1929, and of Ferrari automobiles since they began being manufactured. The roller coaster at Ferrari World on Yas Island Flying Aces, is named after him and themed to him.

But that’s not the entire story. We talked about my father who was a flight instructor during WWII. Before the Army Air Corps realized that my father had “fudged” on his age and was actually a year younger, he was scheduled to ferry a group of bombers from Florida to North Africa. On the evening before they were to depart, he was playing a pick-up basketball game, fell, and broke his wrist. His CO pulled him from the flight line for the following morning. His squadron left with the bombers, headed for Brazil where they would refuel and make the hop to North Africa. Every single bomber ran out of fuel and crashed somewhere in the ocean before arriving in Brazil and were never found. My dad was the only survivor of that squadron. What was the connection? The bombers were to be delivered to Gideon Jones.

Life is an amazing adventure if you reach out and embrace it. I stood next to a grass strip in nowhere central Texas with a 94 year old veteran and I learned. Gideon Jones? He’s still a flight instructor in La Porte but he knows so much more. And all I did was thank a veteran.

-- Andy Fish (friend of Jack and Ava Welge)

DEADLY CALIFORNIA FIRES AFFECT IFFR - NOVEMBER 2018

The deadliest fire in California history has touched IFFR. The Camp Fire in Northern California destroyed over 14,000 homes, the death toll is 87, with over 500 people still missing. There is little left of the beautiful forest town of Paradise, as the fast-moving fire caught people by surprise and cut off many from escape.

IFFR members Pam Gray (Past District Governor) and her husband Brian (president of the Paradise Rotary Club) lost their home, Brian lost his business, and Pam’s Paradise business was damaged. They got out in time, with their dog, but with few personal belongings. Ironically, one personal item that survived was Pam’s IFFR badge.

Surviving Paradise residents have been camping out in tents, or staying with friends, in nearby towns. Pam and Brian are helping coordinate efforts to support victims of the fires. Rotarians around the country are rallying to help.

You can join in helping the fire victims by sending donations to “The Paradise Rotary Foundation” (the non-profit Foundation of the Rotary Club of Paradise) which will oversee the use of funds to assist people in the short term and long term. Donations should be mailed c/o Scheer Memorial Chapel, 2410 Foothill Blvd, Oroville, California 95966, which is the address of Pam’s business in that town. For more information and details, see the Paradise Rotary Club’s “Paradise Strong Fire Relief” website at https://www.gofundme.com/paradisestrong-fire-relief.

IFFR Strong!

--- George Chaffey
**Alaska Earthquake Damage - November 2018**

We heard from several of our Alaskan IFFR members after the major quake of November 30th. None of our members reported being badly hurt. There were actually no fatalities from this earthquake, amazingly enough.

Immediate past chair Craig and Ruth Ann Bledsoe had some fairly significant damage to their home, and current chair Al Clayton was also dealing with property damage. Past VP Phil and past S-T Diana Livingston didn’t report any significant damage, but they were quite a bit further away from the epicenter.

The damage will take some time to rebuild, and like the California fire victims, a lot of time spent with insurance adjustors.

**Ringing The Bell – Who Said We Couldn’t Have Fun - December 2018**

Many if not most Rotary Clubs in the USA have participated in staffing a “bell ringer” or two for a Salvation Army kettle. And many of us remember the small brass ensembles the Salvation Army itself used to post near a kettle in a high traffic area, in hopes of increasing the generosity of passers-by.

Looks like the Santa Cruz Rotary Club was involved at some kettle location, and somebody (think PWP Sam Bishop) decided to play some music rather than just ring a bell for a few hours. Not only that, but this particular shift on December 15, 2018 involved 4 IFFR members. Looks like they had a bunch of fun. They called themselves, “The Archbishop, Three Sams and a Stan.” Or maybe not. So we have Sam and Elena Bishop (IFFR), Arch Bennett Bishop, Sam Bishop, Stan Meidinger (IFFR) and Sam Nigh (IFFR). Taking the picture was Bob Davidson (IFFR). Let’s see – a harmonica, triangle, trombone, tuba, violin and guitar. Hmmmm.... That’s an unusual ensemble.

**Meet Tim and Linda Event**
**Los Angeles, California - December 15, 2018**

Americas Chief Tim Freudenthal and his wife Linda travelled to southern California in mid-December, and the South West Section hosted a luncheon in their honor.

Here’s a picture of Tim & Linda, Shirley & Peter More, and hosts Jeanie and Alan Dias. Looks like a fun time was had by all! SW Chair Penelope Cornwall helped plan but had to miss.

**Breaking Records with an IFFR Connection**

Jim Payne is associated with the Perlan Project, which is involved with high altitude record-setting glider projects. Jim is a former member of the Rotary Club of Rosamond, California and was a regular member of IFFR at that time. PWP Michael Graves designated Jim an honorary IFFR member during his tenure as World President.

On August 26, 2018, near El Calafate in Argentina, Jim Payne and Tim Gardner set a new
altitude record of 65,605 feet pressure altitude, beating their own old record of 60,000. Not being satisfied with that, on September 2, 2018, they rode the glider to 76,000 feet, higher than Lockheed Martin’s U2.

So congratulations to Jim. He’s also spoken to our Americas AGM before, back in 2010. The picture here shows Peter More, Michael Graves and Jim Payne and a picture given him after his presentation.

### IFFR MEMBER OLDEST MAN IN USA

Speaking of breaking records, Peter More’s Rotary mentor, Henry Tseng, a past president of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (1969-70, announced Apollo 11 (Neil Armstrong et al.) landing on the moon at his first board meeting) and IFFR 9423, is now the oldest living man in the United States. He is 111 years old, was born in 1907.

### NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

We have just learned from her daughter Dona that Lorena Bymaster passed away last summer. Don Bymaster and Lorena were active in IFFR from the time Don joined in 1975 until his passing in 2002. Don was IFFR World President in 1992-94. If you went to about any IFFR function in the 80s and 90s, Don and Lorena were there. Don even flew his Mooney to Europe twice in the 80s to attend Rotary Conventions and IFFR events. Lorena died on July 24, 2018. Email me if you would like more information. Keep Dona in your prayers – it’s been a tough couple of years.