February 26, 2017

**IFFR & ROTARACT HAPPENING NOW + EVENTS AND SQUADRONS REVVING UP**

After Rotary opened the doors of all Fellowships to Rotaractors, WP Svend Andersen made it a priority to encourage younger people to join us, and they are doing just that! Right now, Rotaractors and other Rotary program participants are joining IFFR. They are pilots, future pilots, people who like aviation, and those who just like the friendships and activities that comes with belonging to a Rotary Fellowship.

A main feature in this month’s edition is IFFR developments in Brazil due to a Rotaract connection. Read on and feel encouraged about our future. We plan to have an article giving more information about Rotary and Rotaract next month or very soon.

Also, we have more events planned to appeal to more members coming up as we roll out more short opportunities run by our new Squadron Leader organization around the USA. We have a post-Convention fly away that still has a few slots open and more events for non-flying members of the family … like the Open Cockpit Day for kids of all ages at the Oakland Airport Museum. Something for everyone … and we’re growing the organization.

**SPECIAL NOTICE - DUES ARE ON US! - JUST IN CASE YOU HADN’T NOTICED**

International IFFR found that due to some efficiencies which have been realized over the past few years, we had collected more dues than necessary. This amount has been rebated back to our region’s treasury. To encourage and even expand our membership, your Americas IFFR Board has voted to waive dues for 2017 and 2018 for not only current members but new members. This is an excellent recruitment tool - free membership for a couple of years - drive before you commit! Check it out on our website.

**Special News Flash -- IFFR Americas Facebook**

Hungarian Balázs Magyar, a former Rotary scholar through a special program sponsored by Rotary Districts in Georgia, USA, joined IFFR through the new provisions for participants and former participants in certain Rotary programs. He volunteered to set up our page and help us get it started, working through George Chaffey. We still have some things to finish before it’s ready for prime time. Call, email or text George Chaffey: gchaffey@littler.com or (925) 699-3343 if you have any ideas. Meanwhile Balázs has been very helpful. Let’s have some fun with this!
IFFR in Brazil

IFFR GOES TO BRAZIL; ROTARACT COMES TO IFFR

In 2015, we went to the Brazil Convention to take IFFR to South America, and to invite Brazilians and other South Americans to join us. Brazil is a long way from the established IFFR Sections (over 5,100 miles from Dallas to São Paulo, for instance), but we found a vibrant General Aviation community in Brazil and established a presence on that continent. 2017 is the year when we will diligently work to greatly expand IFFR membership in Brazil and beyond. Last month, you heard the first story from a young pilot and IFFR member in Brazil. This issue presents a surprising story from yet another Brazilian IFFR member... a Rotaract leader who is also a Rotarian. The times are changing. Read on and enjoy.

Dear Fellow IFFR members:

I will tell you some of my story in the Rotary/Rotaract family here in Brazil, as well as my background in aviation. I am really excited to be sharing this with IFFR because I will be having the chance of getting to know better the rest of this community.

I was born in 1990 in Recife, a coast city located in the northeast region of Brazil. But to follow my dreams of becoming a pilot, I decided to move to Jundiaí, in the state of São Paulo, to get my flight training. I have been living here for the last four years.

My story in the Rotary family began in Rotaract, around April 2015, when I started to visit some of the meetings of Rotaract Club Jundiaí Terra da Uva. In a couple of months later, I had the amazing opportunity to participate in the Rotary International Convention 2015, which luckily took place here in São Paulo. In this occasion, I had the pleasure to discover IFFR. I was actually amazed to find out the many different fellowships offered by Rotary, but to find one with aviation enthusiasts was particularly great news! Unfortunately, by that time, I was not a member of my current Rotaract Club yet, so I could not fill an application to join IFFR right then. In July 2015, I officially be-
came a Rotaractor and as soon as I could, I applied to a membership in IFFR. Since January 2016, due to some changes in the board of directors in my Rotaract Club, I became First Secretary, post that I maintained for the 2016-17 term. More recently, in October 2016, I was invited to become a Rotarian in the Rotary Club Jundiaí Vila Arens. And by the end of last year, I was elected President of Rotaract Club Jundiaí Terra da Uva for the 2017-18 term. Now, I divide my attentions between First Secretary demands and planning my presidency for the next Rotary year!

Regarding my interest in flying, I was always passionate about airplanes and aviation in general. I always wanted to become a pilot, even though it was not my first career choice. After high school, I saw aviation as a hobby, so I actually attended college to study international relations/affairs. After my graduation in this degree and some years of experience working with international trade and logistics, I decided to let it all go and pursue a career as a pilot. As mentioned before, I moved to Jundiaí in January 2013 to start my flight training. By May 2014, I was graduated as a certified flight instructor, rated to fly single and multi-engine aircraft under instrument flight rules as well. Unfortunately, due to the bad Brazilian economy scenario, pilot jobs have been scarce ever since, especially for young pilots with low flying experience like me (around 200 flight hours). So in order to better use my free time, I decided to continue with post graduate studies, joining an Aviation Safety and Continued Airworthiness Specialization course in the Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (ITA), one of the most prestigious aeronautical engineering universities of Brazil, graduating in November 2016. Right now I am still looking for a first job opportunity as a pilot.

When I discovered IFFR in the Rotary International Convention 2015, I was really excited to get to know Rotarians that were using aviation as a way to reach needy communities and provide humanitarian services and help. I was also really happy to be able to join in a fellowship of people passionate about aviation as I do and particularly looking forward to participate in the so fun fly-ins events hosted by this group. Although, our community still a little weak in the South America region, with just a few members, which I totally understand that make things difficult to happen in this part of the globe. For the time being, I really would love to be able to participate in a fly-in event hosted in the United States. I think it would be an amazing opportunity to get to know this group better and, maybe, log some more few flying experiences with Rotarians that share the same passion about aviation.
What's Coming

We have a list of events that we always publish at the end of each month’s newsletter. We have even included a few events that are so early in the planning that exact dates haven’t been determined. Please check this list to see what seems interesting to you, and we’ll get more specific information and publish that as it becomes available.

This is an odd year, so we will not have a hosted fly-in and organized activities around the *Sun ‘n Fun* that takes place in Lakeland, Florida this April. We have settled into a routine of making these special plans in even years only, so expect us to have another event there in 2018. Meanwhile, we always have members at Sun ‘n Fun, so if you go, wear your IFFR wings or clothing and watch out for other Flying Rotarians. If someone decides to have a meet place there, we’ll publish that if we know about it, both in the newsletter and on our website.

We have a new leadership plan for IFFR Americas, using “squadron leaders,” a concept being rolled out first in our South West Section by chair Vicki Puliz. We hope this will bring new vitatality to our sections by making our events more accessable to our average member.

We’ll continue this month with the Atlanta RI Convention and post convention fly about and tour.

And of course, there are always those pop-up $100 hamburger opportunities, and activities in each of the sections that make up the Americas Region of IFFR.

**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. *We should have more information and cost next month.* 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:

**South Central Section $100 Hamburger Schedule**

Section Chair Jack Welge has put together a tentative schedule for $100 Hamburger flights. Of course, times and places are subject to change. If you’re interested in attending any of these please let Jack know, or any designated person hosting the event, which will come up soon. Jack’s email: welgelaw@yahoo.com

The first one was held this last Saturday at Amarillo (AMA), at the English Field House. We had announced on the website and via emails. We’ll report on this next issue.

Others to come:
- March 25 - Lancaster, TX (LNC) - Taxiway Cafe
- April 29 - Galveston, TX (GLS) - Moody Gardens
- May 27 - Walnut Ridge, AR (ARG) - Parachute Inn
- August 26 - Fredericksburg, TX (T74) - Airport Diner
- November 11 - Dallas Executive, TX (RBD) - Delta Charlie Restaurant

The South Central Section will also plan a dinner before the September AOPA Fly-in to Norman, OK (OUN), scheduled for September 8 and 9, 2017.

**Alaska Event In Progress - February 25 - March 5, 2017**

As we go to press, the Alaska event centered around the Furrrondy and Iditarod is just beginning. We should have some pictures and coverage in March and April newsletters. While Section Leader Craig Bledsoe has been shoveling plenty of snow (don’t park your car in the wrong place), we understand that there has been a dearth of snowfall on the first part of the race, so the planners will be adapting to the conditions as they are. Stay tuned for more information. George and Carol Chaffey have arrived and George is getting excited about getting to shoot a machine gun. Carol, not so much, but there are other interesting events to attend for her.

**Squadron Activities In the South West Section = Quick Planning**

South West Section Chair Vicki Puliz has rolled out the initial Squadron area designations in her section, and at least one of the Squadron Leaders has organized and hosted a quickly planned fly-in and get together, which we’ll cover further on in the newsletter.
Here’s the rollout list of squadrons as presented by Vicki and approved by IFFR Americas leadership:

To better serve our IFFR members, the Southwest Section of IFFR Americas will be organized into the following Squadrons:

**Sierras Squadron**— Sam Wilbanks (woody5190@gmail.com):
21 current members in northern-most California and northern Nevada

**Northern California Squadron**— Aleene Althouse (aleene10@gmail.com):
45 current members in area from San Francisco to Monterey

**Southern California Squadron**— Penelope Cornwall (wingsdc3@gmail.com):
33 current members in Southern California, south of the Grapevine

**Desert Squadron**— David Daniels (danielsroofelp@sbcglobal.net):
8 current members in Arizona, New Mexico and Southern Nevada

**Island Squadron**— Lori Williams (lwilliams@ctcpacepac.org):
5 current members in the Hawaiian Islands

**Rockies Squadron**— Mike Forney (mikeforney940W@gmail.com):
3 current members in Colorado

**Sacramento Valley/Delta Squadron**— TBA:
7 current members in north Sacramento Valley, Sacramento and Delta

Each Squadron will have a leader designated with the following duties and responsibilities:

- Support, and work with, the Section Chair and Americas VP on Section events, activities and membership, including participation in monthly conference calls.
- Regularly communicate with the IFFR members in the Squadron on to stay in touch with their needs and provide value to them.
- Plan, organize and conduct fly ins and other events in the Squadron area. The primary purpose of these events is (1) to provide fellowship opportunities for the members, and (2) to invite IFFR members from other Squadrons and Sections to participate to expand our friendships and fun.
- Provide leadership opportunities for members to further engage them in IFFR.
- Conduct outreach for expanding IFFR membership, including to Rotaractors and others.

As we mentioned, the first activity has occurred, planned and arranged by Penelope Cornwall at El Monte Airport on February 11, 2017. So we’re off and running!

**What’s Happened**

**EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA - SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AIRPORT (EMT)**
**MEET AND HOST WORLD PRESIDENT SVEND**
**FIRST SQUADRON EVENT - FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

Squadron Leader Penelope Cornwall (Southern California) did a fabulous job of setting up the event to host WP Svend. She arranged the event, which included the luncheon and a tour of the tower. She had 3 antique planes brought in by a friend for us to see and discuss. She inducted that friend into IFFR at the luncheon. She had huge banners hung in the terminal, poster boards on easels arranged in the terminal, and table tents made for the luncheon, all welcoming Svend. Finally, she had the electronic sign at the airport entrance arranged to welcome IFFR. And a great time was had by all! Here’s a few pictures, more are available through our ifframericas.org website. And she did this on short notice.
Drone Encounter Flight Safety Briefing
February 21, 2017 - Petroleum Club of Anchorage, Alaska

The Alaska section held a luncheon meeting in Anchorage last Tuesday, co-hosting this event with the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). This involved sharing the latest information on flight safety with commercial, military and recreational drones sharing Alaskan airspace.

Buzz Rohlfing, the CEO of Media Production Associates - one of the major commercial drone operators in Alaska - spoke on aircraft accident prevention in the commercial UAV arena. Within the same presentation, he tag-teamed with Dan O’Barr, KL7DR, a well known amateur drone pilot and ham radio satellite operator from the Mat-Su, who spoke on recent FAA unmanned flight safety initiatives. Both of these presenters had state-of-the-art UAVs on scene for inspection and demonstration.

The pictures here were taken with those demonstration drones. Helpful feedback came from this group to help with future presentations through FAA Safety and other sponsors.
Growing IFFR in Americas Region

IFFR Booths at Regional Rotary Meetings

South Central Chair Jack Welge was able to get space at a regional Rotary meeting to promote fellowships and in particular IFFR. These can be PETS, multi-district events, and even Rotary Zone meetings. This event was District 5890’s (Houston area) “Fall In Love With Rotary” All Club Dinner on Valentine’s Day, and past IFFR World Secretary Lynn Miller joined Jack and Ava Welge in setting up and staffing this display.

District Newsletter Write Ups

You can help your District Governor by writing up something about fellowships and IFFR in particular. Perhaps you can even serve as Fellowships Chair for your Rotary District. Here’s a letter Tom Johnston wrote for his District:

Rotary Fellowships and the International Convention

Fellowships are groups of Rotarians, spouses, and Rotaractors with similar recreation or vocational interests. The RI Board officially recognizes them but Fellowships operate independently with their own rules, dues and administrative structure. They offer opportunities to make lasting friendships outside of one’s own club, district and country.

They have a prominent role at Rotary’s International Conventions.

- The House of Friendship is where convention attendee first go to feel welcome, meet friends and see displays of the many Rotary International Fellowships and Action Groups.
- Fellowships often designate a convention hotel for members to stay together.
- Fellowships plan meals and social events all during the convention.
- Fellowships often plan activities for their members before and following the convention.

RI now recognizes 73 Fellowships with interests as varied as yachting, flying, home exchanges, cycling and wine appreciation. They have members from at least three countries and find creative opportunities for service, fun, and advancing world understanding. They serve to promote fellowship and enhance a Rotarian’s experience beyond relationships with those in one’s own club.

I joined my first Fellowship when I sought a way to enrich my experience while attending an RI Convention in Australia. I wanted a way to extend my visit in the host country and link up with other Rotarians with my vocational or recreational interests that wished to do so as well. My investigation led to my wife and my joining the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians and taking part in their ten-day flying adventure all around Queensland. What a marvelous indulgence in the hospitality and friendship of Rotarians! After the Atlanta RI Convention the Flying Rotarians have planned a ten day fly-away to significant destinations throughout the southeast. So too have many of the other fellowships.

June is designated Rotary Fellowship month. Seize on this time to become acquainted with Rotary Fellowships, make Rotary friends who share your vocation, avocation, recreation or social passion, or plan a club meeting about Fellowships.
For a listing of all the Fellowships and contact information for joining, go to www.rotary.org/fellowships. For a program on Rotary Fellowships to your club, contact the District Fellowship Chair, Thomas Johnston (tomjohnston@verizon.net).

**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 more news on Atlanta events, IFFR Dinner, and fly about; and more events into 2017.

Tail winds to ya’,

George Chaffey

**George Chaffey**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Camarillo, CA</td>
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