HAPPY NEW YEAR!

IFFR TURNS 50 ... ALL YEAR LONG !!!

In 2015, IFFR celebrates its 50th Anniversary ... all year long! Americas Region kicked off that yearlong celebration with the now traditional New Year’s Fly-In Event. And the yearlong celebrations will continue in sections around the world, including at the Convention in Sao Paulo, and the gathering / Fly Away in Oshkosh. Plan to enjoy the year ... wherever you are. This is the year to celebrate and enjoy the company of fellow IFFR members around the world. There will be a lot happening this year.

What’s Happened

2015 OPENS WITH A BANG – HOME & HANGAR EVENT

LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA - JANUARY 2-3, 2015

IFFR Americas kicked off the New Year, and started the year-long 50th anniversary IFFR celebrations, with its now-traditional New Year’s Event....this year a memorable fly in and drive in to Livermore, California, located in the eastern part of the San Francisco Bay area. Twenty six members from four states (California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas) arrived for what became known as the “Home and Hangar” Fly-In, with hospitality provided by local IFFR members on both Friday and Saturday night.

Americas VP George Chaffey and Carol opened their home to the group on Friday evening, with a fabulous dinner and fellowship...all around one huge table. After dinner, each person at the table gave a self introduction and shared their enthusiasm for aviation and experience with IFFR. What a great way to learn more about each other!

Who was there for the Event? They include:

• Six new members attending their first IFFR event: Buddy & Holly Burke from Walnut Creek, CA; John & Jenny Kallio from Lafayette, CA; and Dave & Janna Daniels from East El Paso, New Mexico.
• Three Past World Presidents: Peter & Shirley More, up from Los Angeles; Sam & Elena Bishop; and
Michael Graves and Karen Hicks, who traveled the farthest, flying in from Plainview, Texas.

- Four couples from the Santa Cruz Rotary Club: PWP Sam Bishop & Elena; Past Americas VP Larry Wolfsen and Diane, Bob Davidson and Char, and Charles Eldridge and Sandy (the most from any one club).
- Long-time members Bruce & Ronda Christensen, from nearby Martinez, CA; Tim “Top Gun” Pinkney, Sacramento, who brought incredible homemade toffee and who (along with Peter More) took many of the photos that you will find here and on the IFFR Americas website; SW Section Chair Vicki Puliz and Tim from Reno, Nevada; Home hosts George Chaffey & Carol, and Saturday night Hangar host, Bob Tucknott.

In addition to hosting Saturday night, Bob Tucknott also arranged a motorhome for the group to allow those staying at the hotel and others to travel together to all our Saturday activities, and even drove for us, with a little help from Mack-a-Doodle. Thank you, Bob, for all the extra effort to make the event so enjoyable!

Saturday morning found the group at the Blackhawk
Automotive Museum at the base of Mount Diablo in Danville to tour the exhibit of more than 50 perfectly restored vehicles as individual works of art-- from the very earliest to contemporary ... highlighting cars of special artistic and historic significance and illustrating ideas of different ages of style, engineering and performance. The museum also included a European model train exhibit, antique jukebox exhibit, and a museum for the Wheelchair Foundation, which was started in 2000 by Blackhawk developer, Ken Behring, and whose son is a local Rotarian.

After a walk through the upscale shopping center (with a few purchases) and delicious lunch at the Blackhawk Grille, we visited two of the more than 30 wineries in the Livermore area, including The Singing Winemaker, who is a Rotarian, and serenades patrons as they taste sparkling or traditional wines.

The day was not done! For dinner on Saturday, Bob Tucknott hosted us all at his 2 ½ hangar “Man Cave” at the Livermore Airport. There was a cold snap in the area (OK, cold for us in California), so Bob provided extra heaters to make sure we were all comfortable in his immaculate hangar as we ate, drank, talked ... and enjoyed looking at Bob’s plane (that he also uses in the Angel Flight program), and examining a beautifully restored 1940 Tiger Moth, with the chance to trade stories and information with the owner of that classic aircraft. Bob cooked up an amazing spread of steak, potatoes and his famous green beans. In true “man cave” fashion, a few cigars were enjoyed at the end of the evening.
What a great way to start the New Year.... connecting with old friends and making new ones... all with a passion for Rotary and for aviation!

Be sure and visit the IFFR Americas website at [www.iffrAmericas.org](http://www.iffrAmericas.org) to see all the photos of the Home and Hangar Fly In, or [click here](http://www.iffrAmericas.org). More importantly, keep checking the website for other great events scheduled for IFFR members around the world. We look forward to seeing YOU at an IFFR event soon!

**What’s Coming**

Save the Dates — We’re Just Beginning ...

The Americas 2015 Calendar is just beginning to be filled out. Watch each month as additional events are added. See the initial list at the end of this Newsletter. The following events are already on the Americas Website, and many more will be following.

**ON TO BRAZIL ... PRE CONVENTION TOUR & IFFR GATHERING**

The IFFR will have a 6-day Tour before the Brazil Convention. This is a chance for pre-Convention IFFR fellowship .... as we visit the two most sought-after attractions in Brazil .... pulsating Rio de Janeiro and the spectacular Iguacu Falls on the Brazil - Argentina border.

There are only 40 places available on this tour ... First Come - First Served. So if you are interested in joining us and being part of this IFFR event, make your reservations immediately. Non-IFFR Rotarians around the world can also apply for this tour, so if you are interested, act quickly to secure one of the 40 places. Now would be a good time. Check out the information at [www.ifframericas.org](http://www.ifframericas.org).

There are 4 things you need to do:

1.) Complete the application form downloadable from our website: [http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2015BrazilTour.PDF](http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2015BrazilTour.PDF)
2.) Write “IFFR” somewhere on the application 
3.) Photocopy the personal info page of each person (as directed by instructions) 
4.) Send all in with your $500 per person deposit.

This is just the first step. The documents direct you to Howard Tours for answering questions about this pre-convention tour. [http://www.howardtours.net]

You may also contact me (George Chaffey) or webmaster Peter More (peter@petermore.com, (310) 474-1328).

Housing: It was not possible to get a satisfactory “official” IFFR hotel this year. So everyone who is going to the Rotary Convention in Brazil (from the Americas and around the world) should make their own individual arrangements for housing. Go to the Rotary International Website, where you can find lists of RI-approved hotels, and alternative hotels, and check on availability. [http://www.riconvention.org/en/2015/Pages/ridefault.aspx] . You can book online HELPFUL TIP: For those of you going on the pre-Convention Tour, the Tour Company has a small block of rooms at the Staybridge Suites and you may easily and quickly get a reservation for any remaining rooms by contacting Howard Tours directly (Jolene Bortz at 510-834-2260 or toll free at 800-475-2260). However, the block of rooms are only available to those going on the Tour, and only available until the small block of rooms are used up. FURTHER TIP: If you wish to seek a hotel in the general vicinity of the Staybridge Suites, the following hotels are clustered somewhat close (this list gives the name of the hotel, and its number on the RI Reservation Form): (1) Clarion Faria Lima; (26) Radisson Faria Lima, (29) Staybridge Suites, (39) Melia Jardim Europa, (48) Adagio Sao Paulo Itaim Bibi, (58) Mercure Vila Olimpia, (65) Tryp Sao Paulo Iguatemi, (66) Tryp Sao Paulo Itaim, (67) Tryp Sao Paulo Jesuino Arruda. The foregoing is just for your information, and it is not necessary to stay in this area or any of these hotels. We don’t know availability in these or other specific hotels, so you should check on them as quickly as possible. You may also check availability of hotels at www.onpeak.co/rotary.

IFFR Booth: Lynn Miller is in charge and she has been working with the IFFR Secretary and they have reserved our traditional IFFR Booth for the House of Friendship. So, IFFR members will again have their traditional gathering place at this Convention. Lynn Miller will have more information to report as we get nearer to the Convention.

Banquet & AGM: We will have information on the Banquet & Annual General Meeting shortly. Stay tuned.

THE $100 HAMBURGER IS COMING BACK! - STARTING JANUARY 31, 2015

The South Central Section is bringing back the “$100 Hamburger” lunch. Section Chair Jack Welge announced that they are planning to have a Fly-In lunch somewhere in the Section on the last Saturday of each month. He anticipates that the first “$100 Hamburger” gathering will be in the Amarillo area on January 31st (he’ll be providing details shortly, and we’ll be reporting in each Newsletter). Every month, on the last Saturday of the month, South Central members will have a lunch gathering being held somewhere in the section. Every month. And if members from other sections can attend, by all means! Easy, quick, regular opportunities to get in your plane ... or car ... and go to lunch with fellow members somewhere.

The South Central section is the first one to institute such regular gatherings for its
members, but we anticipate that other sections will also be making plans to facilitate member getting together on a regular basis.... just for lunch.

**SHAKE OFF THE FROST 2015**

**JANUARY 24, 2015 – LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA (LNS)**

The Northeast Section of IFFR and the Northeast Bonanza Group will jointly sponsor with the Northeast Bonanza Group a January fly-in to Lancaster in south central Pennsylvania to “shake off the frost” for a luncheon, fellowship and a presentation (weather permitting).

The program is a presentation by Karen Davis, widow of Vietnam POW Ed Davis, which is delivered in a most interesting way. Ed was a well-known pilot in the Lancaster area for many years.

For more information, see the IFFR Americas home page, [www.ifframericas.org](http://www.ifframericas.org).

Plan to arrive at LNS by 11:00 January 19 and ask the tower to direct you to the West Ramp. Take the walkway into the terminal, noting the door code on the way in. We shall have lunch followed by the address by Karen Davis in Fiorentinos Restaurant in the terminal in its back meeting room(s).

**JOINT LUNCH WITH LOCAL 99S**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2015 - HALF MOON BAY, CALIFORNIA (HAF)**

Southwest section chair Vicki Puliz has accepted an invitation from the local chapter of the 99s to a joint fly-in to Half Moon Bay for lunch on Saturday, February 21st. See updates on our website as more information is available. [www.ifframericas.org](http://www.ifframericas.org).

**SPECIAL CHALLENGE AIR EVENT - AS PART OF DISTRICT 5810 CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 18, 2015 - KERRVILLE, TEXAS (ERV)**

Current DG Bill Dendy (an IFFR member) is asking for participation from pilots outside his district as he helps host a “mini” Challenge Air Fly Day on April 18, 2015 at Schreiner Field in Kerrville, Texas. The Challenge Air organization has about 20 disabled (in various ways) kids lined up to get rides with their families during this event. We’ll need at least another 4 aircraft to help besides those already committed to keep the per pilot workload down.

Pilots flying in the event will need to be vetted along with their aircraft by the Challenge Air organization. More information will be on the [www.ifframericas.org](http://www.ifframericas.org) website. For more information or to sign up, please contact Tony Watson, tony.watson@mac.com, cell (214) 354-2060.

[www.challengeair.com](http://www.challengeair.com)
IFFR at AOPA Regional Fly-Ins
May 16, 2015 - Salinas, California (SNS)
October 10, 2015 - Tullahoma, Tennessee (THA)

IFFR Americas regions will plan on some kind of event at many of the Fly-ins recently announced by AOPA. Southwest chair Vicki Puliz wants to put something together for the event in Salinas. You can expect at least a fellowship dinner. Southeast chair Dale Read will do something similar with the fall event in Tullahoma. Watch for more here in this newsletter and on our website: www.ifframericas.org. Expect that most of the AOPA Fly-ins will have an IFFR presence and some kind of event like a fellowship dinner.

IFFR Northwest Section at Arlington Fly-In
July 10 – 12, 2015

More details later, but section chair Bev Fogle is planning to have some IFFR participation at the Arlington, Washington Fly-In this summer. Now’s the time to get this on your calendar.

More information will be coming as the event gets closer. Check out our homepage at: www.ifframericas.org

OSHKOSH 2015 ... IFFR’s 50th Anniversary Celebration

IFFR World President James Alexander (devoted husband of Lady Catherine) has planned both a single destination fly-in to a town near Oshkosh (Wautoma) followed by a weeklong fly about, with a great time to be had at EAA Airventure in Oshkosh and then a visit heading west from Wisconsin into Minnesota.

The details and sign up information are available at the IFFR International website, www.iffr.org. At the very least, plan on joining with fellow IFFRs while you attend the greatest fly-in of all at AirVenture.

Who’s Who

During 2014, we’ve introduced all of the section leaders and leadership in each of the IFFR Regions. Next month, we’ll introduce the world IFFR leadership... These are the folks around the world who are responsible for coordinating the worldwide activities of IFFR ... and for helping put “International” in IFFR. These are your fellow pilots, aviation enthusiasts, and just plain nice folks ... in Europe, Australia / New Zealand, Asia, Africa, North & South America, and everywhere in between ... who work to make IFFR what it is. So, stay tuned.
SOARING WITH PWP MIKE

Immediate Past World President PDG Michael Graves, MD, was featured by an article in the New York Times recently, and that article was published online. In fact, the online article also has a link to a video that our members should enjoy. It certainly brought a smile to my face.

The article is titled: “Finding Serenity in a Ride on the Wind” and is by Rick Rojas with a dateline of December 22, 2014. The link (hope it still works):


WOLFSEN HONORED

The current leadership of Americas Region of IFFR made a special presentation to the immediate past chair of the region, Larry Wolfsen, during the Livermore first in 2015 event. Current chair George Chaffey did the honors.

Larry helped light the fire that got things going again with IFFR membership in our Americas region, particularly the USA. We are all grateful for his leadership, and the continued work he does moderating our Americas leadership during monthly conference calls.

Congratulations, Larry!

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

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