NEW THINGS ARE COMING IN 2016

After turning 50 in 2015, IFFR will see some new faces, new events and new activities in 2016. We have two new section chairs to add to the accumulating leadership pool in our Region. We’ll have our IFFR Booth at the first RI Convention in Korea since 1989. We’ll be welcoming our first IFFR World President from Denmark, whom many of you have already met during his visits to this Region over the years. We will have our Region’s Annual General Meeting in Florida, and a World AGM in Seoul and Berlin. There will be flying activities in every section during the year. There will be new membership initiatives. This will be a fun year. They are predicting a lot of rain this winter in California... but after our 4-year drought, even rain is good news to California pilots. Rain or shine, it’s going to be a fun year.

What’s Coming

SOUTHEAST FLY-IN CELEBRATING SUN ‘N FUN
PLUS IFFR AMERICAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA AND LEEWARD AIR RANCH, OCALA, FLORIDA
APRIL 7 - 10, 2016

Return to Ocala for our third Bi-annual Sun n Fun adventure. Join your IFFR Friends for a great three night event, beginning on Jekyll Island, Georgia followed by two nights at Leeward Air Ranch in Ocala, Florida. We’ll also plan our regional annual meeting (AGM) during this event, more details later.

Beginning Thursday, April 7th, we arrive for fellowship and relaxation at Jekyll Island (09J), where we plan to enjoy the island and have a happy hour and dinner together, staying at the Hampton Inn there. Late morning on Friday the 8th, we’ll depart for lunch at Flagler County Airport (KFIN), following the coastline south. After lunch, we’ll head for Leeward Air Ranch (FD04). We’ll have a happy
hour, then a dinner in Peter and Ellen Wenk’s hangar. Saturday the 9th we’ll plan on spending 6 hours at Sun ‘n Fun, using a rental van to get there and avoid the air traffic hassle. That evening, another group dinner, then depart for home after breakfast Sunday morning the 10th.

Peter Wenk’s neighbors in Leeward Air Ranch are once again offering lodging accommodations in their homes for the first six registrants. Additional accommodations available at Holiday Inn Express, Silver Springs, Florida, 800-HOLIDAY or 352-304-6111.

Southeast Americas IFFR Chair Dale Read has circulated a flyer with more detailed information, which includes the registration sheet, and this sheet is also available on our website. Basic registration for the event is $60 per person if you have your own vehicle, but with the ground transportation for dinner and getting to Sun ‘n Fun, the registration is $85 per person. For more information, download the flyer, or contact Dale: daleread@readwindow.com. Flyer: SunNFun Flyer 2015

MODAERO NextGen AVIATION FESTIVAL
LONE STAR EXECUTIVE AIRPORT, HOUSTON (CONROE), TEXAS (KCXO)
MARCH 16 - 19, 2016

South Central IFFR Americas Chair Jack Welge welcomes all back to Conroe, Texas, site of our May 2015 $100 Hamburger fly in, to experience the inauguration of what is hoped will be a regular event. This will start with an aviation job fair but continue with exhibits, static displays, seminars, and musical performances. This runs Wednesday through Saturday. Website: http://www.modaero.net.

IFFR will likely have a fellowship dinner on the Friday night and some of us may want to do some of the events together. We’ll have more information as it becomes available on our IFFR website, email blast, and next month’s newsletter.

“THE SIREN CALL OF SEOUL”
IFFR AT ROTARY CONVENTION IN SEOUL, KOREA
MAY 28 - JUNE 1, 2016

The IFFR will be at the Seoul Convention full bore... at the IFFR hotel, at the booth in the House of Friendship, at the AGM, at the Banquet, and at the post-Convention Tour of Korea. If you haven’t registered for the Convention
yet, now is the time to act. Save the dates of May 28 – June 1, 2016.

**IFFR Hotel:** Our official IFFR hotel (Lotte Hotel World) is a fabulous, 5-star hotel, and will be the place to meet and gather and see one another when not at the Convention itself. A November 28 email was sent to all IFFR members worldwide with details on registering for the hotel...but you have to hurry, it’s first come, first served. Details are in that November 28 email. Or you may go to the following website for information: [RI Convention Extended Trip page](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/SitePage/ri-convention-korea-extended-trip) and click on “Lotte Hotel Reservation Form” and “Additional Lotte Hotel Info”. For additional views of the hotel, you can go to its website [http://www.lottehotel.com/world/en/](http://www.lottehotel.com/world/en/).

**IFFR Booth:** Our booth in the House of Friendship is the place at the huge Convention where IFFR members can meet, congregate, hang out and feel like “Cheers”... “Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came.” A convention isn’t quite the same without our booth... and we’ll be there! Lynn Miller is again in charge of the booth, and would welcome help in staffing the booth from any of you attending the Convention. Our World President-Elect (WPE), Svend Andersen, feels the IFFR Booth is very important and has already signed up, as has Americas VP George Chaffey and a number of others. If you are interested in meeting fellow IFFR members coming by, and greeting potential members, and talking flying, and hanging with other members, then join us in staffing the booth, and let Lynn Miller know at cbrookgull@aol.com... hey, if you are attending the Convention, you’ll be coming by the booth anyway... so join Svend, George and the cast of characters each spending a little time there.... our home away from home.

**Annual General Meeting:** While the main body of our AGM is scheduled during the special Berlin Fly-out in July, we will commence our AGM during the RI Convention in Seoul before recessing to Berlin. This will be held on Monday, May 30 at 2:30 pm in Exhibition Center 1. This will be a great opportunity to meet our WPE Svend Andersen from Denmark. More details to follow.
IFFR Banquet: The annual Convention IFFR Banquet will likely be held on Monday evening, May 30. The details of time and location are still being planned. Those of you who attended in São Paulo will recall the memorable churrascaria Brazilian-style banquet. And now we’ll see what Seoul has to offer. More details to follow.

Post-Convention Tour of Korea: This is an unexpected treat. District Governor DJ Sun of District 5280 (Los Angeles) has great contacts in his home country of Korea and has arranged a personalized 4-day, 3-night Tour of Korea that few Convention attendees will be able to experience. Details were in the November 28 email sent to all IFFR members worldwide. To register, you may also go directly to the RI Convention Extended Trip page (or http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/SitePage/ri-convention-korea-extended-trip) and click on “Airline/Extended Trip Registration Form” and “Extended Trip Itinerary”.

Special Prices Korean Air Tickets: At detailed in the November 28 email, and on the District 5280 Website at the RI Convention Extended Trip page (or http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50010/SitePage/ri-convention-korea-extended-trip) District 5280 has arranged for a block of tickets through Korean Air at significant discounts for flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Honolulu. If it can meet your needs, you can check with the Travel Agents listed there.

Aviation Event at the Convention: The IFFR is trying to arrange an additional aviation-related event for us at the Convention, but that is still in the works. We’ll send out details in the future if it works out.

This should be a good Convention and IFFR gathering according to Svend and George.... the Seoul Brothers.

“THE BERLIN BASH”
IFFR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FLY OUT 2016
BERLIN, GERMANY
JULY 16 - 23, 2016

The IFFR will have a major fly-Out event in Berlin, Germany, July 16-23, 2016. This will be a biggie! The genius of this event is that, although there will be numerous fly-outs and ground tours, no one has to move from hotel to hotel. We will stay in our hotel in Berlin, and, for those wishing to fly, there will be a flying event to some destination, returning that afternoon. At the same time, for those not wishing to fly, there will be ground tours and activities to other locations, also returning in
the afternoon. And people may choose to fly or go on a ground event, depending on their interest in the particular activities or destinations.

This will be the first major IFFR event under new World President Svend Andersen of Denmark, who has been overseeing the development of this program. There will also be an IFFR Annual General Meeting, presided over by Svend, the first of his Presidency. Svend sent out information on this event in September, and IFFR Secretary-Treasurer Ian Kerr will be sending a worldwide reminder sometime mid-December. Since there are a maximum of 80-spaces for this event, make your arrangements quickly. Details and registration forms are available at the IFFR main website, www.iffr.org. Over half the spaces are taken as of the end of 2015, so hurry!

EAA AirVenture 2016
July 25 - 31, 2016
Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA

While we won’t have the banner event with banquet and fly about we had in 2015, we will have the usual Rotary Club meeting at noon on Wednesday and some kind of fellowship event also, usually on that Wednesday evening. We’ll look forward to seeing many IFFR friends at Oshkosh, and we’ll publish the specific information as it becomes available.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival
August 13 - 16, 2016
Ashland, Oregon, USA

You won’t want to miss this! IFFR will be gathering in Ashland, Oregon, the weekend of August 13, 14 and 15 to enjoy a very special visit to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, commemorating 400 years since the death of the bard. In addition to the fabled IFFR fellowship and world-class theatrical performances, we’ll enjoy some very special private opportunities: a tour of the OSF production facility, a Backstage Tour, and potentially even the opportunity to observe a very very unique backstage view of a scene change during a live performance at the Bowmer Theater. All this amid the opulent weather and scenery of southern Oregon. And for those who can stay over, there will be a performance of Cabaret available on Monday evening.

Please express your interest in attending this weekend right away. We’re still working on special ticket prices, so don’t have final details and prices yet. You will have choices of performances, and can expect to be royally wined and dined by our local host Larry McClaskey. We may have to limit numbers for some of the special attractions, so be sure to have your name on our list. Beverly Fogle, bevfogle@gmail.com, or (503) 702-5603, or Larry McClaskey (707) 484-4501. Check out the event at: https://www.osfashland.org.
Gary Dehnel is planning an event in this beautiful area of New Hampshire, on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee.

A flyer with the particulars can be downloaded at the IFFR Americas site. Activities will be centered in Meredith, New Hampshire. Basic plans are for a dinner on Friday the 16th to start the event, and breakfast and dinner on the 17th to bracket the day’s activities, and a final breakfast on Sunday morning the 18th before other activities or heading home. Accommodations will be either home stay with Rotarians or at B&Bs in the Meredith area. Early arrival or extensions are also possible.

Contact Gary Dehnel GCDehnel@verizon.net or phone 603-677-7910. Information flyer download is at [http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2016%20Lakes%20Region%20Fly%20In%20Details.docx](http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2016%20Lakes%20Region%20Fly%20In%20Details.docx) and you can register at this URL: [http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2016%20Lakes%20Region%20Fly%20In%20Registration.doc](http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2016%20Lakes%20Region%20Fly%20In%20Registration.doc).

What’s Happened

Pahrump, Nevada Fly-in. Not just a funny name, but a great place.

World President-Elect Visit. Svend Andersen was in Los Angeles and conferred on RI Convention activities.

Training Rotary Leaders. Americas VP George Chaffey was a Training Leader at Rotary’s recent International Assembly in San Diego. At least 4 IFFR members were there as incoming District Governors! Wow!

Details on these happenings in our next newsletter!

New Section Leadership

CRAIG BLEDSOE
CHAIR, ALASKA & YUKON SECTION, IFFR AMERICAS

Craig Bledsoe learned to fly as a college student at the University of the South by swapping airfield and aircraft radio repair work for flight instruction hours at the local Sewanee, Tennessee airport. Upon graduation Craig entered the Air Force and served his country as a pilot on active duty, in the Air National Guard as a KC-135 unit commander and as the State of Alaska’s Director of Operations, in the Air Force Reserve at Eielson AFB, and in the Alaska State Defense Force) during 3 major conflicts with 40+ years of military service. Following completion of graduate school at the University of Southern California, Craig flew heavy transport aircraft worldwide for 28 years with the Flying Tiger Line and subsequently with Federal Express (1989 merger). Craig is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) and a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and is president of the Alaska Regional Chapter of the International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI.) Craig and his family have lived for
Craig’s wife, Ruth Ann, is the head of Flight Safety for the Anchorage crew base for the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) in the service of Alaska Airlines. Craig and Ruth Ann provide accident investigation services worldwide on behalf of multiple major organizations and professional unions. They have 4 college-age and young adult children, one of whom is now a 23-year-old Rotarian in Seattle who markets the pet supply division for Amazon. Craig is a Past President of the Fairbanks Sunrisers Rotary Club and now is a member of Anchorage East Rotary Club.

Craig and Ruth Ann have hosted 4 traditional Youth Exchange Students plus 1 Ambassadorial Student from Siberia. Craig belongs to many Rotary Fellowships besides IFFR including the Rotarians of Amateur Radio (ROAR) under his callsign KL4E, and the motorcycle organization, the Rotacyclists. Craig and his family have a vacation home in Pahrump, Nevada - a town west of Las Vegas that is full of pilots and ham radio operators. Pahrump is also famous for its wineries, so Craig and Ruth Ann would welcome IFFR members and friends to fly into the Calvada Aeropark and ride around with them on a local wine tasting tour. Hope to see you soon in either location.

PDG JOHN OCKENFELS
CHAIR, NORTH CENTRAL SECTION, IFFR AMERICAS

Mark Hagen has stepped down as chair of this section after leading it many years, and after our fly about last summer, will be a tough act to follow. VP George has chosen John Ockenfels of Iowa City, Iowa as his replacement.

John grew up in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, attended the University of Iowa, and served in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1970s as a gunner on an AC-130 “Spectre” Gunship, based in Thailand. After his discharge, he joined his family’s business in trucking and paper recycling, and retired in 2010.

He joined Rotary in 1986 as a member of the Rotary Club of Iowa City, and a couple of years later as a part of that club’s extension committee was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Iowa City AM (which started with 72 members!). In 1998 he became president of that club and also joined IFFR the first time after flying his Cessna 210 to the RI Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Like several of our members, he allowed membership to lapse for a few years, but did rejoin our ranks in 2012.

John was Governor of District 6000 (southern Iowa) in 2014-15 and through conventions and other Rotary activities has met a number of IFFR members. He reported on his experience with general aviation in Brazil in this newsletter.
after the Sao Paulo RI Convention last year.

Aviation-wise, John enjoys warbirds and has been flying in the AirVenture warbird airshow at Oshkosh for over 15 years, originally in a Stearman, and the last 5 years in a North American T-6 “Texan” (Yellow – Iowa ANG). He joined us at AirVenture last year but due to other commitments was unable to join us on our fly about.

He is married to Deb, who is also a Rotarian. “Together we look forward to making more friends and enjoying more adventures through IFFR in the years to come.”

**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, like the small but successful one in La Grange, Texas recently.

$100 Hamburger pop ups could happen anywhere, especially if weather looks good and we don’t have to invest a lot of planning effort.

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.

Tail winds to ya’,

George

George Chaffey
IFFR Vice President, Americas Region
Wing Leader, Low & Slow Squadron
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