IT’S A REALLY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year. 2017 has already begun blossoming as a banner year for IFFR Americas... more members... younger members ... more territory ... new leaders ... more flying ... post-Convention fly away ... 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 more of us to enjoy it all. Read on and look forward to 2017.

SPECIAL NOTICE - DUES ARE ON US!

International IFFR found that due to some efficiencies which have been realized over the past few years, we had collected more dues than necessary to have for our operations, promotions and contingencies. The International Board has rebated the calculated overage 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 -- Again -- IFFR Americas Facebook

We are still working to launch an IFFR Americas Facebook page to better communicate with all of you... But we need your help! If you are familiar with Facebook, please help us getting it started so we do it right! And have a little fun doing it. Call, email or text George Chaffey: gchaffey@littler.com or (925) 699-3343.

What’s Coming

We have refreshed the 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. And, oh, by the way, the deadline for the Alaska Iditarod activities is TODAY, January 31.

One thing not in the list this year is 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 in plenty of time.

We hope to increase our activities by the use of 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 have a short article on this on page 5 of this edition, and will roll out more information in the coming months.

We’ll continue this month with the Iditarod in Alaska - those activities start in less than a month - and also the Atlanta RI Convention and post convention fly about and tour. Please note that the deadline is TODAY, January 31, for Alaska, so if you want to go on that, you’d better drop what you’re doing and get it done.

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.

**Alaska: Iditarod, Mushers, Airplanes & Machine Guns**
**Anchorage, Alaska**
**February 25 - March 5, 2017**

The Alaska Section is hosting a Fly-In series of events for IFFR members, families and friends to share in the fun and excitement of the 2017 Fur Rendezvous and Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Aviation enthusiasts will converge on Anchorage from across the globe starting in late February for the start of Fur Rendezvous where they will enjoy Alaskan hospitality through at least the Iditarod Restart in Willow on March 5th. Section Chair Craig Bledsoe and his wife Ruth Ann, head of Flight Safety for Alaska Airlines in Anchorage and an experienced tour planner, are offering complimentary customized event setups for each IFFR visitor or group based on the particular specifics of their arrival and departure dates and means of transportation (commerical airlines or private aircraft.) The details below will help guide your participation decisions. After you have made your arrival and departure travel arrangements, please contact Craig and Ruth Ann Bledsoe promptly to receive your customized Alaskan travel planning assistance:
We have published details on this event in detail in the last couple of newsletters and there are many links in those to the various activities, hotels, and other hospitality considerations. Please go to www.ifframericas.org and download one of those bulletins, or check the various links published on our webpage. It’s all kinds of activities - here’s a link to the 2017 Master Schedule with events listed in alphabetical order: http://www.furroundy.net/events/events-by-title. If you go, you surely want to witness the start of the 2017 Iditarod on March 4th.

Alaskan IFFR Section member are looking forward to welcoming you to the Fur Rondy and Iditarod, and those activities start in less than a month. Deadline is TODAY (Jan. 31) so if you haven’t signed up and want to go, call or email him and see if he can give you some advice.

**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. 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: [brochure](#) [registration](#)
Who’s Who
IFFR WPN 2020-22 GEORGE CHAFFEY

A nominating committee from Americas Region of IFFR has nominated our regional VP, PDG George E. Chaffey, for the office of World President for the term 2020-22. This will be formalized to President Elect for the 2020-22 term at the IFFR International Annual General Meeting in Atlanta. George will succeed Kiwi Phil Pacey, who will take over from Dane Svend Andersen in 2018.

George is married to Carol and flies a Luscombe Silvaire that won an award at EAA a couple of decades ago and still shows good care. The name “Lady Bird” just stuck a few years back. George always identifies with the “low and slow” squadron. In Rotary, he is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise in California, and served as District Governor of District 5160 and later as an RI Training Leader, an instructor of instructors at the International Assembly. George continues working as an attorney at Littler, a firm specializing in employment law, which is his classification. Congratulations, George!

New North West Section Chair Caleb LaPlante

After many years of leading the North West Section, longtime IFFR enthusiast Bev Fogle has stepped down and we have a new chair, Caleb LaPlante. Thanks to Bev for her service and to Caleb for accepting.

Caleb and his family are active aviation enthusiasts. Caleb serves as the economic development representative on his local airport advisory board, and helps put on an annual Air Academy for middle school students to learn about flying and careers in aviation. Growing up, his wife’s family ran the FBO for the same airport, and she spent many hours in the air with her father and grandfather experiencing the joys of flight. Caleb also has experience with helicopters (U.S. Army Air Assault School) and hot air balloons (www.gpballoonfest.com). A real estate broker by trade, Caleb believes strongly in aviation as an opportunity for young and old to expand their Rotary and life experiences.

He has been a member of the Greater Grants Pass, Oregon Rotary Club for 2 years and bases his flying out of Grants Pass Airport (3S8), one of our stops after the L.A. RI Convention in 2008. He is also a member of a RAG, the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery, and is Oregon state coordinator in that organization.

His wife’s grandfather wrote a book about flying, “Stories and Tales from an Old Flight Instructor,” available on Amazon. Here’s a link to that in case you’re interested: http://amzn.to/2jr0a5w
Squadrons

IFFR is coming to you! Because Americas is such a huge Region, the seven Section Chairs cannot get to all the local areas and members. So... under the leadership of Section Chair Vicki Puliz, the Southwest section is piloting a new idea... within the Section there are now 7 Squadrons, each with a local Squadron Leader... to meet members, to help plan very local events (flying and non-flying), to help bring IFFR right down to the local level. Most of the seven Squadron Leaders are in place; other Sections are already planning to pilot the same approach. So watch for news next month and beyond as to all the new people and activities that you’ll be seeing as a result of this Squadron Initiative.

The Southwest Section proposes these areas:
Sierras: North Eastern California and northern Nevada (21 current members)
Northern California: North Coast, to SF Bay Area to Monterey (45 current members)
Southern California: Southern California, south of the Grapevine (33 current members)
Desert: Arizona, New Mexico and Southern Nevada (8 current members)
Island: The Hawaiian Islands (5 current members)
Rockies: Colorado (3 current members)
Valley/Delta: Sacramento Valley and Delta (7 current members)

Proposed responsibilities for squadron leaders:
1. Support, and work with, the Section Chair and Americas VP on Section events, activities and membership, including participation in periodic conference calls.
2. Regularly communicate with the IFFR members in the Squadron to stay in touch with their needs and provide value to them.
3. 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.
4. Provide leadership opportunities for members to further engage them in IFFR.
5. Conduct outreach for expanding IFFR membership to Rotarians, partners, and others, including Rotaractors.

These are proposals which your leadership will proceed with in consultation with the Board.

IFFR in Brazil

We have begun to get some traction with membership in Brazil, and as we try to grow this into eventually being its own section (and region) we just want to make Brazilians and other South Americans welcome into one of the family groups of IFFR. The waiving of dues for our region will help, and we may have some other ideas for the years to come.

A Brazilian member who is a Rotaractor, Nilmar Diogo, sent this note to George recently, and I’ll
Coming Soon ...

Next month and beyond ... look for more news on Atlanta and fly about; and more events into 2017.
Tail winds to ya',

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Wing Leader, Low & Slow Squadron
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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.

Now, that’s enthusiasm!

2017
Feb. Camarillo, CA - TBA
2/24-3/5 Alaska - Iditarod, etc.
2/25 Amarillo, TX
3/19 Oakland, CA - Open Cockpit Day (OCD)
3/25 Lancaster, TX
Mar. Anchorage, AK - TBA
4/28 - 29 Camarillo, CA - AOPA
5/19 Columbia, CA
6/2 - 4 Grants Pass, OR
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
7/22 - 30 Oshkosh, WI - EAA
Jul. Cedarville, CA - TBA
7/21 Eclipse Watch - TBD
Aug./Sep. Ashland, OR - TBA
9/8 - 9 Norman, OK - AOPA
9/9 - 10 Sacramento, CA - CAS
9/24 Oakland, CA - OCD
Sep. Portland, OR - TBA
10/6 - 7 Groton, CT - AOPA
10/7 - 15 Albuquerque, NM Balloon Festival
10/20 - 22 Austin, TX (La Grange)
10/27 - 28 Tampa, FL - AOPA

I’m very happy to know that you guys want to support us to become stronger the IFFR in South America and we’ll help on this intention. Also, I like that you guys will keep us for free 2016 and 2017.

In recognizing this support and consideration, I’ll try contacting new people who like and want to become members of IFFR. I invited my fiancée to become a member (because she likes flying), and she accepted it! So, it was in one day I tried. Now, I have many things to do, but I hope in some weeks I’ll be able to invite more people!

“I think I can find some friends that have the same interests in aviation to be part of IFFR, because I’m secretary director of Airclub of my downtown (Airclub of Lavras) and every weekend we meet in the Airclub to talk and have a fun flying!

“And we are going to Atlanta Convention 2017 (my fiancée and I) and we want to participate in the banquet.”

Now, that’s enthusiasm!