International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians
Americas Region
Vice President George Chaffey

Newsletter - July 2015

July 9, 2015

THE BIG ONE IS COMING - OSHKOSH!!

All across the Americas Region, activities are in full swing. The vibrancy of the Brazil experience lingers. And now, Oshkosh beckons...the grand daddy of them all. If you can’t make it to Oshkosh, get to one of the many other activities that will be going on across our Region.... Arlington, Washington; Sunrise Valley, California; Bar Harbor, Maine; Sacramento, California; Greenville, South Carolina and much, much more. Get out there and fly somewhere!

What’s Looming

WE’RE SPRY AT 50 ... OSHKOSH, HERE WE COME!

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

IFFR World President James Alexander (devoted husband of Lady Catherine) has planned both a single destination fly-in to Wautoma (near Oshkosh) to really enjoy the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, and a following week-long fly about through Minnesota.

During Oshkosh, on the EAA Grounds, plan to attend (1) the annual Joint luncheon meeting of Rotary clubs on Wednesday July 22, hosted by the Rotary Club of Oshkosh, and then (2) IFFR's Gala 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Nature Center on the Oshkosh grounds on Thursday, July 23, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

We've been around for 50 years, and this is where almost 10% of the entire worldwide membership of IFFR will be gathering for great fellowship.

IFFR 50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON, JULY 23RD

The IFFR organizing team of Mark Hagen & Tim Freudenthal are excited to announce that Dick Rutan will be the main speaker at the IFFR 50th Anniversary Luncheon on Thursday, July 23, 2015 during the Oshkosh AirVenture.
Dick Rutan made history in December 1986 after completing a nine day, three minute and forty-four second non-stop and non-refueled flight around the world, setting records that remain unchallenged today. He was awarded the Presidential Citizen’s Medal of Honor by President Ronald Reagan four days after the epic landing.

Dick Rutan was elected to serve on the board of the Mojave Air & SpacePort in Mojave, CA. In July of 2002, he was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio.

Dick received his solo pilot’s license and driver’s license on his 16th birthday. He flew 325 missions in Vietnam, 105 of them as a member of the Super Sabre Forward Air Control, a high-risk operation commonly known as the “MISTYs.” He was hit by enemy ground fire on his last mission and was forced to eject from his burning F-100, to be rescued later. Before retiring from the Air Force in 1978, Lt. Col. Rutan was awarded the Silver Star, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, 16 Air Medals and a Purple Heart.

In 1997, the “Around the World In 80 Nights” tour was successfully completed in two small experimental Long-EZ aircraft. In 1998, his attempt at a third around-the-world record ended dramatically with an emergency parachute jump from a pressurized capsule suspended under a 110’ hot air/helium balloon after experiencing a dangerous fabric tear.

In 2000, Dick went on a sightseeing tour of the North Pole, but after the airplane, a Russian Antonov AN2, fell through the ice, the pleasure trip quickly turned into a rescue mission. He set a world distance record in the EZ Rocket in 2005, is currently flying a Berkut homebuilt, experimental airplane and plans to set more world records in the future, and even break some of his standing world records.

The IFFR 50th Anniversary Celebration will be conducted in conjunction with the four day IFFR get together at Oshkosh followed by the Minnesota Flyout. These two IFFR events are sold out but there is the possibly a few seats will still be available for the luncheon. Contact Ian Kerr at secretary@iffr.org if you are interested in one of the few remaining luncheon only tickets which are $75.00 each.

**Meeting On the Field in Oshkosh**

Mark Hagen is distributing a detailed itinerary to those who have indicated they will be at Oshkosh. On Thursday July 23, there will be an IFFR Board meeting at the Boarders Motel in Wautoma, and the following morning, July
24, there will be a world Annual General Meeting there.

But how do you meet up with fellow IFFR members during the fabulous days on Wittman Field at Oshkosh, with a half million people and 10,000-15,000 airplanes on site? Easy ... Look for “Lady Bird”, George Chaffey’s 1948 Luscombe. “Lady Bird” (1983 Reserve Grand Champion Classic) will be parked in the “Past Grand Champions” section, very close to the Red Barn, the headquarters of the Vintage Aircraft Association. This is very centrally located, so you can use her as a convenient meeting place, and George will try to have a clip board there for leaving messages for one another. Think of Lady Bird as the IFFR airfield meeting room and bulletin board. She’ll also provide nice shade for those watching the afternoon air shows.

THE MINNESOTA FLY-ABOUT

The Minnesota Fly-About is “ON”...leaving Wautoma on July 25, ultimately arriving in Duluth, before heading back to Wautoma on August 1. Watch for stories and photos in the next newsletter ... there will be a lot.

What’s Happened

2015 SOUTH CENTRAL AMERICAS IFFR
BLACK WALNUT CAFÉ – GALAXY FBO – CONROE AIRPORT (CXO) - JUNE 27TH

Dodging a cold front, in June and in Texas none the less, we arrived at the Black Walnut Cafe - Conroe for fun, food and fellowship. Flying in were PWP Tony and Jane Watson in their Bonanza, and arriving by other transportation were PWS Lynn Miller, and Tony and Jane’s son, Reed, and
daughter-in-law, Kari, and grandson, Austin. Ava and I also drove after ceding the airways to the cold front and thunderstorms that blessed Longview and Northeast Texas with 5 more inches of rain.

The Black Walnut Cafe - Conroe, located in the Galaxy FBO, lived up to its billing as a superb luncheon destination, and allowed us a great backdrop for discussions of future IFFR events over the Hundred Dollar Hamburger (or rather Turkey Burgers, Black Walnut salads, and Flying Mahi Mahi Tacos).

After Lynn updated us on the successes from São Paulo, and we discussed plans for a return to the Hangar Hotel, and new trips to the new Space Port and Commemorative Air Force Museum at Ellington Field, and Brenham’s Southern Flyer Diner, we adjourned to memorialize the moments below.

-- Jack Welge, Chair, South Central Section, IFFR Americas

What’s Coming

IFFR NORTHWEST SECTION AT ARLINGTON FLY-IN
JULY 10 – 12, 2015 - THIS WEEKEND

Section chair Bev Fogle will have IFFR participation in the Arlington, Washington Fly-In beginning tomorrow. Information has been on the ifframericas.org site for a while. She had a block at the Best Western Plus Hotel in Arlington, Washington under the name of the Flying Rotarians, but that block date expired on June 8th. Nevertheless, worth a check at (360) 363-4321. If you want or need to camp, reservations need to be made in advance at the fly-in website, www.ArlingtonFlyIn.org.

Please complete the IFFR registration form if you’re coming, available at our website, www.ifframericas.org, or click here: http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2015ArlingtonReg.docx.
Nut Tree Airport Fly-In
Celebrating 70 Years of Service - Vacaville Rotary Club
Vacaville, California
July 18, 2015

For those not going to Oshkosh, or getting a late start, you can still fly or drive ... and gather with Rotarians at a fly-in near you, if you live in California. The Rotary Club of Vacaville is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast fly in at the Nut Tree Airport in Vacaville, California. It will be followed with a program, and the speaker is retired USAF Sean Bautista, Disney’s technical aviation consultant for Disney Productions’ “Planes” and development consultant for Pixar.

More details and ticket purchasing is available at this link: [http://www.eventbrite.com/e/vacaville-rotary-70th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-17375874705](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/vacaville-rotary-70th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-17375874705)

IFFR Fly-In
Bar Harbor, Maine, USA
August 28-30, 2015

Spend a weekend with fellow Flying Rotarians on Mount Desert Island (“MDI”), Maine. Cadillac Mountain here is the first spot on the coast of New England to see the rising sun.

This event will be hosted jointly by: NE Section Chair Tom Johnston (tomjohnston@verizon.net, 717-761-0195), and IFFR member Liz Graves, (lizgraves@gmail.com, 207-266-3109). See the flyer: [http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2015%20Bar%20Harbor.pdf](http://www.ifframericas.org/events/2015%20Bar%20Harbor.pdf)
Bar Harbor: The town of Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island (MDI) has been a popular vacation spot for generations. An international cruise ship port and working fishing village, the town is also the gateway to Acadia National Park. See the 15 min informational video www.barharboringo.com.

Lodging: We’ve arranged a special rate at the Bluenose Inn, of $174 per night. If weather prohibits flying in, cancellation fees will be waived. A private room at the on-site restaurant will be available for group gatherings. www.barharborhotel.com, 207-288-3348.

Airports: BHB—The Hancock County-Bar Harbor Airport is located in the town of Trenton close to the auto bridge onto MDI. Note hours are limited. 207-667-7329. Runway information and frequencies at www.bhbairport.com/general.html. BGR—Another option is the Bangor International Airport, approximately an hour by car from Bar Harbor. Coastal weather is less often an issue here; on days when weather prohibits safe flying in or out of BHB, BGR may be a good alternative. 207-992-4600. www.flybangor.com/generalaviation

Reception with MDI (Bar Harbor) and Ellsworth Rotary Clubs: District #7790 is an international district that includes part of the state of Maine as well as part of Quebec and the Canadian Maritimes.

Activities: Options for exploring the area during the fly-in include:
- Hiking: Local Rotarians are happy to lead groups on easy or strenuous hiking excursions in Acadia National Park’s trail network.
- Bicycling: Explore some of the network of car-free carriage roads built in the early 20th century by the Rockefellers. Rentals available.
- Boating: Kayak or canoe rentals and guided tours are available for a view from the water. Traditional sailing vessels including a four-masted schooner offer trips.
- Bus or trolley tour: Take in the views and learn human and natural history in a more leisurely way.
- Lobster boat ride: watch a fishermen haul traps and learn about the industry, still a major part of the regional economy.

Event Registration: Please make your own reservations at the Bluenose Inn. Contact Tom to let him know you’re hoping to come. Contact Liz with questions about the area, Rotary clubs, or activities.
South East Section Chair Dale Read invites all IFFR members to a South East Section fly-in designed around the September 9 – 13 Triple Tree Fly-In. Greg Bowers and Richard Wallace, IFFR members from North Carolilna, along with Dale have put together a wonderful weekend event.

We’ll use the Greenville Downtown Airport, Greenville, SC (KGMU). Plan on arriving around 4:00 PM on Friday, September 11th. Our lodging will be on the southeast side of Greenville, South Carolina. Friday evening, after socializing over beverages at the hotel, we will have dinner in downtown Greenville.

Saturday, we’ll have breakfast at the hotel, then head for the aerodrome by car. You can also fly, but there are special arrival procedures, so it’s either a 30-minute drive or a 30-minute flight. There are workshops all day (EAA style). Plan on having lunch at the event.

Mid-afternoon, we’ll drive back to KGMU for departure. However, if you wish to do an extended stay there, you can fly into SC00 anytime beginning Wednesday, September 9th and camp on the field if you desire. There is a Saturday evening BBQ dinner and entertainment at the Triple Tree, and you can leave on Sunday.

Triple Tree Details: [http://www.tripletreeaerodrome.com/](http://www.tripletreeaerodrome.com/)

Contact South East Chair Dale Read: phone 865-250-1882, email dread@readwindow.com

**CALIFORNIA CAPITAL AIRSHOW**  
**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA (MHR)**  
**OCTOBER 2 – 4, 2015**

For the second straight year, IFFR will be at the California Capital Airshow (CCA), one of the fastest growing and most successful airshows in the country ... now rated 5th best in the country. Last Year was great, and this year (its 10th Anniversary) will be even better ... we’ll be enjoying warbirds, Snowbirds, fighters and Falcons, plus a Raptor or two. And great IFFR fellowship.  SAVE THE DATE.

Friday will be a NIGHT AIR SHOW. If you’ve never seen this (I hadn’t) check it out on YouTube as ‘Aircraft Night Aerial Ballet’.

Saturday and Sunday there are TWO flight demonstration teams!! The US Air Force THUNDERBIRDS and the Canadian 9-plane SNOWBIRDS!!
THUNDERBIRDS: “America’s Ambassadors in Blue,” the USAF Thunderbirds are internationally known for their hard-charging demonstration of precision formation flying while pushing their F-16 Fighting Falcons to the limit.

SNOWBIRDS: All the way from Moosejaw, Canada… the Snowbirds, a nine-ship jet demonstration team! Check out the view from the ‘TankCam’ for a glimpse of what you’ll see and experience! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTnTEvKC-sE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTnTEvKC-sE)

Our IFFR Fly-in! Watch for details this summer. For information in the meantime, contact IFFR members Tim Pickney (TIM.PINKNEY@ME.COM) or John Massey (JOHN@FLYLUXEAVIATION.COM).

IFFR at AOPA Regional Fly-In
**OCTOBER 9 -11, 2015 - TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE (THA)**

Southeast chair Dale Read will do something with the fall event in Tullahoma. Rotary Clubs in the Tullahoma, Tennessee area are offering home hosting to Flying Rotarians coming to this event on October 10th.

Tentative plan will be for IFFR members to arrive around 11:00 on Friday the 9th. We would drive into town for lunch with the Tullahoma Rotary club. We could have later arrivals, too. We would then be driven to the member homes to get settled in and relax. We would return to the airport around 5:00 for evening activities.

Our group would be housed in Rotarian homes and returned to the airport Saturday for AOPA activities. We should have more information by the end of the summer. Dale is planning for us to have a tour of the Beech Museum at Tullahoma as well as a trip to Lynchburg to tour the Jack Daniels Distillery (no samples, it’s a dry county). More details on that later.
Editor’s Privilege

I quietly celebrated 40 years of membership in IFFR last month at RI Convention time. My flying mentor was the late PDG Vactor H. Stanford, who was later our IFFR Chairman in 1982-84. When I joined the Rotary Club of Fair Park (Dallas) in May 1973, Vac encouraged me to immediately join IFFR, but I deferred, saying I would join when I flew myself to a Rotary Convention for the first time. I earned my instrument rating in April 1975 and immediately started planning a very long international cross-country to the RI Convention in Montreal. Back then this took a lot of planning, especially for a young person who had to be quite budget conscious. I had to order the right charts and plates, but not too many. Vac helped me procure the Canadian charts (approach plates and IFR en route charts).

This trip began by flying Jane and myself from Dallas to Niagara Falls in a 10 hour day of flying on June 7, 1975 in our co-owned 1968 Piper Arrow. The RI Convention began with the plenary on the evening of June 8th, and we arrived mid-afternoon at Montreal Dorval Airport to clear customs. Within a couple of days I’d marched up to the IFFR Booth in the House of Friendship and joined. I don’t think I attended the AGM since I was singing with the Greater Dallas Rotary Chorus at several venues during the convention, and there was a conflict of some kind.

I had intended to reenact the first day of the trip on the 40th anniversary of that trip, June 7, 2015, but we had to delay that trip indefinitely due to an urgent matter with Jane’s family. I still hope to do this – I’m sentimental (but I’ll do it in a Bonanza, not an old Arrow).

However, I’ve overcome some sentimentality about my Rotary Club connection, so after 42 years as a member of the Fair Park Rotary Club, I joined the Rotary Club of Midlothian, Texas on June 30, 2015, since I now live near that community. A 42 year Rotarian with a red badge!

-- Tony Watson #1657, Editor; PWP 2002-04