July 20, 2017

We’ve already had an active summer with IFFR. Great fellowship during the Atlanta Rotary Convention, successful meetings there, and an annual banquet that set a new high standard for food quality while maintaining the great fellowship we treasure this event to provide. Then a fantastic fly about through Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia organized by Dale Read. And there’s more to come: getting together at EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh, a couple of balloon events, the AOPA expanded Fly-In at Norman, Oklahoma, and several other things going on. Get out there and enjoy flying and IFFR!

What’s Coming

IFFR Fellowship at Oshkosh AirVenture 2017
Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin (KOSH)
July 24 – 30, 2017

Of course you want to go! Where do you go to meet almost 500,000 of your closest friends and to share the love of all things aviation for a week of constant excitement and entertainment? Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh Wisconsin, USA becomes the center point of the aviation universe as pilots from all over the globe make their annual pilgrimage to “EAA AirVenture,” known by most of us as simply “OSHKOSH.”

EAA has been bringing aviation enthusiasts together since their earliest beginnings in 1953. That’s 64 years of growth and support that no other aviation organization can compare to. They literally have something for almost everybody from the person just thinking about learning more about flight to the senior citizens of aviation who have been the heroes and mentors that we all learned from and look up to today.

This is the greatest gathering of new and very old aircraft ever seen. You can get right up next to them and look (but don’t touch) at each detail of the newest home built and major production airplanes as well as the “Better than new” remanufactured icons from the past. There will be seminars and
demonstrations of anything related to aviation, including aircraft care and maintenance, navigation and safety. If you are into shopping, there are literally hundreds of vendors who will sell whatever shiny new, or old, gizmo has come out this year.

Airplanes of all types will be landing and departing throughout the day and at 3:00 each afternoon, some of the best airshow performers will bring forth amazing skills to demonstrate what they can do that very few others can do, or are even willing to try.

If it was tracked, you would probably see a major dip in the nation’s supply of soap and wax as pilots polish their airplanes so shiny that you may need to wear sunglasses in the hangar even before they pull their pride and joy out into the sunlight. Everyone is heading to Oshkosh and hoping for one of the few prime parking spots to show off their personal time machine, to find that perfect spot to tie down their airplane with a group of friends and camp together under the wings of their airplanes. There is no better fellowship opportunity than to share your time with friends you may only see at an event like this.

To see the schedules of what is happening this year at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh and to get more information about the other activities involved with EAA, check out [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org).

Of course, many Rotarians attend each year, and many are IFFR members. So, if you’re at “Oshkosh,” we have a special fellowship and food gathering after the Airshow on Tuesday evening to cool down, enjoy a beverage and have a meal with a great group of old friends and make some new ones:

**IFFR Fellowship, Cocktail Hour, Dinner**  
**Tuesday Evening, July 25th beginning at 6:00 PM**  
**Fox River Brewing Co.**
IFFR members and friends are invited to join Svend Andersen, (IFFR World President) and George Chaffey (IFFR VP, America’s Region) at the Fox River Brewing Co. This is a great place with great food and beverage choices. It is located on the Fox River in Oshkosh with easy access and parking. Website: www.foxriverbrewing.com

We have reservations (under IFFR or John Ockenfels) on Tuesday July 25th starting at 6:00 PM - plan to order dinner about 6:30. The Fox River Brewing Co. address is: 1501 Arboretum Drive, Oshkosh (Just off of Highway 21 where it crosses the Fox River). Dress is casual, of course.

Please feel free to invite your friends to join us. They might enjoy a “Typical IFFR gathering.” We look forward to seeing you there. For planning purposes, please let John Ockenfels know you’re coming and how many are coming with you. Contact information: Johnockenfels@hotmail.com or call John directly at 319 321-4601.

**Rotary Club Brat Fry and Corn Roast**

**Wednesday July 26th at Noon**

**EAA Nature Center**

Make up a meeting and meet other Rotarians from around the world!!

On Wednesday July 26th at 12:00 PM The Oshkosh Southwest Rotary Club will be holding their annual AirVenture Brat Fry and Corn Roast for all visiting Rotarians and their guests. This is a special meeting where several local Rotary Clubs come together to have a combined meeting, and is always well attended, with Rotarians from around the world coming for a make up. There’s always an outstanding program, too.

The Corn Roast will be held at the EAA Nature Center on the EAA grounds, outside the ticketed area. Just look for the very large covered pavilion with about 50 picnic tables inside. It is a very good place to get out of the sun, or rain. The Rotary Club members will be serving brats, burgers, sweet corn on the cob, salads, desserts, and drinks. There is
Great Texas Balloon Race 40th Anniversary
East Texas Regional Airport (GGG)

If you miss Oshkosh or leave it early, come join us at the 40th Anniversary of The Great Texas Balloon Race and watch Hot Air Balloons rule the skies over East Texas! See http://www.greattexasballoonrace.com.

The Great Texas Balloon Race traces its origin back to both 1978 and founder and local Dentist and World Record Holding Hot Air Balloon Pilot, Dr. Bill Bussey. Today, the great Texas Balloon Race is one of the premier gatherings in the country, drawing more than 55 racing and novelty balloons annually. The US National Balloon Championships have also run concurrently here from 2012 and through 2015.

Make plans now to fly or drive and join us for one night or the entire event. Hotel information is pending, but do plan to experience the breathtaking balloon glow. Balloon Glows on Friday and Saturday night present an awesome display of color and excitement.

Considered by many of the pilots that compete at the Great Texas Balloon Race to be the best run event on the circuit, the Great Texas Balloon Race earned Longview, Texas the official designation as “The Balloon Capital of Texas” by the Governor of Texas in 1985, and in 2013 Gregg County was proclaimed “The Balloon Race Capital of Texas” by the 83rd Texas Legislature.
Balloon Flights begin with a 6:30 am Great Texas Balloon Race Competition Flight over Longview Friday morning and continue each morning through Sunday over Kilgore, Longview and East Texas Regional Airport. Launch and landing sites change each day as they are always determined by wind and weather.

As if that’s not enough, Live Concerts are featured Friday and Saturday nights! On Friday, July 28th TEAZUR performs and Saturday, July 29th at 6:30 pm it’s The Darrin Morris Band followed at 9:30 pm by Headliner Travis Tritt.

An email has recently been broadcast by Jack with a sign-up. Let him know you’re coming! Email Jack or call (903)753-5683. Tickets are $15 in advance at [http://www.outhousetickets.com](http://www.outhousetickets.com) or Friday $15 Saturday $20 at the gate.

Jack also reminds us of the following coming events in South Central Section:

- Sept. 8 - 9 Dinner before start of AOPA Fly-in to Norman, Oklahoma (KOUN)
- Sept. 30 A Fly-in to Walnut Ridge, Arkansas - Parachute Inn (KARG) [Click for restaurant review]
- Oct. 20 - 22 Annual US F1 Grand Prix Circuit of the Americas Fly-in, La Grange (3T5)

**THE SUPER BOWL OF BALLOONING --- NATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2017**

Not just another balloon full of hot air event - this is THE Premier hot air balloon event in the world ... the Super Bowl of Ballooning! And IFFR will be there. You’ll watch the amazing balloon ascension at dawn, the unbelievable Balloon “glow” in the evening, and be able to see it “up close and personal” only feet away from the balloons ... or go up for a ride, which will be available. Plus a chance to gather with fellow IFFR members for dinner Friday night and for the Balloon “glow” Saturday night after dark.

We are also working on an optional side road trip to visit the site of the first atomic bomb test, a site in south central New Mexico that is rarely open to the public. No promises, but if the logistics work out, we’ll mention this on our website and in a future newsletter.

Save the date (October 6 - 8, 2017). Let organizers Dave & Janna Daniels know you are coming by email danielsroofelp@sbcglobal.net or by telephone (on the flyer), and call the hotel directly to make your reservations (Hotel Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown, at 800-252-7772). **The DEADLINE for reservations and arrangements is September 6th.**
AOPA Fly-Ins

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA (KOUN) - SEPTEMBER 8 - 9, 2017
GROTON, CONNECTICUT (KGON) - OCTOBER 6 - 7, 2017
TAMPA, FLORIDA (KTPF) - OCTOBER 29 - 31, 2017

The Fly-Ins, which began under current AOPA President Mark Baker, have now expanded a bit with two days worth of activities, and it looks like three in the case of Tampa.

Our South Central Chair, Jack Welge, is planning on arranging a dinner on the Thursday night before the Norman event, September 7. Watch for more details through email blasts, the website, and next month’s newsletter.

You can expect some kind of IFFR event planned before or during each of these fly-ins, and we hope you’ll take advantage of this planning to enjoy some of the best fellowship Rotary has to offer - fellow IFFR members.

RI CONVENTION 2018 - TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
JUNE 23 - 27, 2018
NEW ENGLAND FLY ABOUT
JUNE 28 - JULY 6, 2018

It’s not too early to start thinking about the RI Convention next year and IFFR activities that will take place during and following the convention. We will soon have a procedure for reserving your room with the rest of our group in Toronto. We have requested and been assigned the Westin, which is visible on the right side of the picture. The photo was taken by Shirley More as Peter approached the island airport at Toronto back in 2010.

The FlyAbout will take place entirely in the USA, with those in the USA planning to assemble in Buffalo, New York, and those at the Convention at Toronto before joining up for the tour. Beautiful parts of New York, New Hampshire, and other states will be visited. The outline of the trip was made available to us during the Atlanta Convention, and we plan to publish here in a month or two.

Meanwhile, get excited! Flying into Toronto’s Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (CYTZ), formerly known as Downtown Island, is one of the most memorable things you can do in personal aviation.
**What’s Happened**

**ATLANTA ROCKED ... AND IFFR ROLLED**

The Convention was huge; our booth the busiest ever, the Banquet view breathtaking, and the Fly-Away ... simply the Best. Rock & Roll.

**IFFR Booth, AGM & Banquet**

Our IFFR booth is always “the” place to be at any Convention. Amidst tens of thousands of attendees, it’s like Cheers, because ... “everybody likes to go where everyone knows your name and they’re always glad you came.” We were often mobbed, with hundreds of folks stopping by to talk, visit, ask questions and... join. We signed up over 115 new members, the most we remember at a Convention. Who knew? Hint: To really enjoy next year’s Convention in Toronto, sign up to help in our booth during part of the time... it’s a great fun way to greet old friends and meet new ones, and just to feel a part of the action.

The Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) featured brief reports from around the world. The Banquet was in The Commerce Club, on the 49th floor of a downtown building ... stunning views and excellent food. Our speaker, IFFR member and Commerce Club member, David Stovall, (1) arranged for our access to the site, and (2) will serve on the Rotary International Board of Directors. (See the article on his selection in our April newsletter) [Click]. WP Svend presented
the annual award for the Flyer of the Year to ... PWP Michael Graves. He then presented very special Awards to two outstanding IFFR members for their dedication and exceptional service to IFFR over many years ... Larry Wolfsen and Lynn Miller.

**THE FLY-OUT**

We staged at the Gainesville airport. 13 Planes, 1 Bus and 47 Participants. Under the guidance of Organizer Dale Read and Safety Officer Sam Bishop (beer-in-hand, but only after tying down each night), we headed north to Chattanooga, Tennessee (home of RI President John Germ), where we were greeted by local Rotarians, hangared our planes, ate lunch, and were welcomed by a proud local Rotarian.

Following our lunch reception, we departed on a thoroughly interesting tour of Chattanooga, Civil War battle sites, Choo, with conductor WP Svend. the flyers stopping at Knoxville (KTYS), where Cirrus airplanes are prepared and an up-close view of the Chattanooga Choo-FridaymorningourpilotsdepartedChattanooga, for lunch and a tour of the Cirrus Vision Center, for delivery to customers Later that afternoon,
everyone arrived in Lexington, Kentucky ... home of bourbon and horses and much more. Over the weekend, we traveled through bourbon country, toured the Buffalo Trace distillery, rode through horse country (it’s the horse
racing capital of the world), visited Keeneland, a famous race track, toured the historic Shaker Village, and enjoyed a riverboat ride on the Kentucky River, during which a monsoon struck, while we enjoyed it safe and dry inside. One highlight was the Lexington Rodeo ... calf roping, steer wrestling, bareback riding and the biggie ... bull riding. Kids, don't try this at home! The Rodeo is sponsored by the Lexington Rotary Club and is their main
fundraiser of the year.

On Monday, 6/19, we headed to Charlottesville, Virginia. The following morning we toured Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, before heading to Williamsburg, Virginia, to experience one of the oldest settlements in America. We dined in an historic Inn, where the president of the local Rotary Club paid a surprise visit, welcoming us to her community. Having been born in Germany years ago, she was, in turn surprised that our WP Svend could greet her in German.

On Wednesday 6/21, following a tour of the Williamsburg village, we traveled to Manassas, on the outskirts of Washington DC, with our youngest member, Balazs Magyar, getting a chance to fly George’s 1948 Luscombe, Lady
Bird, probably the oldest plane in our gaggle. In Washington DC, we had free days, with some folks visiting the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, and many other monuments in the central DC area, the Udvar-Hazy Aviation Museum near the Dulles airport, while others had fun shopping.

**Farewell Dinner**

At our dinner at the Columbus Grill in Manassas, WP Svend was in rare form. He presented thanks and “gifts” to Sam Bishop for serving as Safety Officer (he brought ‘em all back), to Dan Radtke for his work in setting up the 3 days in the Manassas-DC area, to Robbi Read for doing so much work on the trip, and especially to Dale Read, for an exceptional job in planning, organizing and implementing a virtually flawless event.

**Who’s Who**

**New Section Chairs for IFFR Americas**

The new Rotary year means for us that 2 of our 7 Section Chairs in IFFR Americas have someone new to that position. We have Al Clayton taking over from Craig Bledsoe for Alaska / Yukon, and Dan Radtke taking over from Tom Johnston for North East.

**New Alaska Section Chair**

As the always enthusiastic Craig Bledsoe steps down to assume the presidency of a state-wide professional association, Al Clayton is now the new Section Chair for the Alaska / Yukon Section.

Al was born in Alaska and has been stuck there ever since. He got a ride in the back seat of a Super Cub to a remote hunting camp in the Wrangell Mountains as a teenager, which convinced him he needed wings. He went off to Oregon for college with a plan get smart and make money so he could afford them.

Al met Beth, his tolerant wife, at college in Oregon. She
thoughtfully gave Al a pilot’s logbook for Christmas, apparently without realizing that the $10.00 book was a money gobbling monster. There are now two and one half planes in the Clayton collection. They include a Cessna 182 which is shared with a partner, a Cessna 170B, which had been wrecked and was restored by Al and his friend Rob Tasker, and an experimental Super Cub, built by lifelong Alaskan Kirk Ellis.

Frequent flight destinations for Al and his family include airstrips in the Wrangell – St. Elias National Park near McCarthy, Alaska, the lakes and ponds of southwestern Alaska, and a small strip near Skwentna, Alaska, where leopard-spotted rainbow trout abound. These trout eat mice.

Al is a member of the “Pioneers of Alaska,” the Alaska Airmen Association, the Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation, the Recreational Aviation Foundation, Seaplane Pilots Association, CAF, AOPA, and EAA. He is President of Dairy Airpark Homeowners Association, which owns an airstrip on the west bank of the Kennicott River.

Anchorage Hillside Rotary Club has been Al’s home base in Rotary for 23 years. Al has served in many roles in the club over the years, including several years as Youth Exchange Officer and as President in the year ending July 2015. Al is pleased to be a member of the IFFR and excited about the opportunity to advance its mission in the Last Frontier.

Al’s family pictured here are wife Beth, daughter Taral, and son Trevor. Al says all his family does for fun is fly and fish. Apparently so .......

New North East Section Chair

We will publish Dan Radtke’s bio with picture in our next edition of this newsletter. We’ve posted his picture on our website already and will post his bio there soon.

What’s Up

National Recognition for Talkeetna Build-A-Plane

Our April Newsletter highlighted the work of Talkeetna Build-A-Plane (TBAP) in teaching kids the skills and temperament needed to build, restore and fly airplanes, which in turn helps them succeed in life, including building successful careers in
TBAP’s impact has now been recognized by the National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education (NCASE), a coalition of government, industry, labor and professional associations that promotes aviation and space education activities. NCASE inducted TBAP Director, Larry Rivers, into the Crown Circle for Aerospace Education Leadership, a prestigious award given only to one person each year, one who has made an indelible legacy and represents the best in aerospace education and leadership. In the Crown Circle, Mr. Rivers joins such aviation pioneers as famed test pilot Chuck Yeager and astronaut Scott Crossfield.

Mr. Rivers was inducted on May 24, 2017 in the Capitol Building in Washington DC. The presentation was made by NCASE officials, by FAA representative Angie Slingluff, by representatives of various aerospace organizations, and by Alaska Congressman, Don Young. Americas IFFR has strongly supported TBAP, and IFFR members Dick and Page Sutliff (Alaska), and Americas VP George Chaffey (California) flew to Washington D.C. for the ceremony. The pictures show Larry Rivers with Congressman Young, Rear Admiral (retired) Annie Andrews and the physical representation of the award, and Larry Rivers flanked by George Chaffey and Jesse von Stein, an aide of Congressman Young as Larry accepts our check.

Congratulations to Larry Rivers, and to Talkeetna Build-A-Plane.....and to the many young people whose lives have been positively changed by TBAP.

**Online IFFR Americas Annual Meeting Was Via Go To Webinar**

We used to hold our annual general meetings (our world IFFR members refer to this as an AGM) during the AOPA Conventions, but when AOPA changed their format, we lost that venue. Since then we’ve had a difficult time finding an acceptable time and place for our physical meetings. Physical meetings are great, but at least we have technology that can help us have our AGMs as we should if we can’t arrange an agreeable venue for a physical meeting. So, we decided to use Go To Webinar, and needed a meeting arranged on short notice, so we sent out the announcement with legal waivers and then held the webinar from 5:00 to 6:00 PDT on May 31, 2017.

This was mainly an informative meeting to acquaint members with our officers and committee members and the various functions each of us have. This was recorded and can be listened to following a link that is published on our website. [IFFR Americas AGM 2017](#). Login is required, but you can set that up easily.

We considered this meeting to be a trial run to see if this kind of meeting can be effective for us to fulfil our duties. We will likely use Go To Webinar for our 2018 AGM, but will announce much in advance. We still look forward to fellowship opportunities and physical meetings in the future.
ECLIPSE - WEAR YOUR IFFR WINGS

I’ve corrected the date for the full solar eclipse to August 21st. The moon’s shadow slashes through the USA from the Oregon coast east southeast to the Atlantic. Maximum time of totality is just over 2 minutes, most places a bit less.

We will have no official fellowship activity associated with the eclipse. Most lodging directly in the path in locations with normally good weather conditions has been sold out for a couple of years. But perhaps you’re thinking of flying to an airport along the route as a day trip.

If so, wear your IFFR regalia - shirts, caps, pins, jackets, whatever you have - so you might find another IFFR member to make friends with. And share the wonder of the event as well as the fellowship of Rotary.

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 continuing news on a summer and fall full of events.