MAY IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER

The dam has burst ... the IFFR activity is flowing. Seoul is just days away, and there’s much more coming. Read on!

What’s Happened

SUN AND FUN ... FOLLOW UP
JEKYLL ISLAND, LEEWARD AIR RANCH & SUN ‘N FUN
APRIL 7 - 10, 2016

Last month provided most details of this very successful event, that is becoming a regular event, with visitors from all over the IFFR world. Special thanks go to Southeast Section Chair, Dale Read, who planned and trail bossed this entire event, in collaboration with host Peter Wenk. Dale did this, while deep into planning for the IFFR Fly-Away that will follow the 2017 Convention in Atlanta.

We are including a photo of the group’s lunch gathering at Flagler Beach, enroute from Jekyll Island to Leeward Air Ranch. Also, we had Norwegian members who have become regular participants over the past decade. Scandinavian Section Chair Rolf Mikkelsen, Tollef Jensen, and Petter
Faye-Lund joined us in Leeward Air Ranch and for the trip to Sun and Fun. However, following the IFFR event, the three intrepid Norwegians headed south... toward Key West... the southernmost spot in the United States. Did they make it? What happened to them? We’ll report on that planned adventure as information comes in.

Special Event Announcement - 2017

ALASKA & THE YUKON... COMING AT YOU!

PLANES, TRAINS, MUSHERS & MACHINE GUNS

We are rerunning this article again because you should make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Even though it’s 9 months away, time is shorter than you think for this unique event. If you have some questions about dates or anything else, Section Chair Craig Bledsoe would be glad to talk with you (contact info end of article). You can come as early as February 24, and you can stay until the race ends. Be sure to be there for the weekend of March 4 and 5, or immediately prior, when some IFFR fellowship events should happen, and plan to stay around for a week or more whenever you do come.

If you’re accustomed to paved stripes, flat land and mild weather, you’re in for an awesome, exhilarating surprise. Lead by Section Chair Craig Bledsoe, a group of Alaska IFFR aviators, including PDG Phil Livingston, Diana Livingston, Ruth Ann Bledsoe, DGE Harry Kieling, PDG Dick Sutliff and others, are putting the Alaska / Yukon Section on the IFFR map, and announcing, right here, a huge IFFR event for 2017. Read on!

FUR RENDEZVOUS & THE IDITAROD

FEBRUARY 24 TO MARCH 5 TO END OF RACE 2017

Greetings from your fellow IFFR members of the Far North. We are working on an exciting and unique Fly-In happening in early 2017 that will cover many of the most memorable events to take place each year in this part of the world. The following agenda just covers the high points, but we will personally work with each participant to provide just the right amount of the Arctic aviation experience as you would like to have.

Fur Rendezvous. The kickoff event next year will be the start of the famous Fur Rendezvous winter festival [http://www.furrondy.net/] in downtown Anchorage on Friday, February 24th. This multi-faceted celebration...
includes the (1) World Champion Sled Dog Races (sprint racing), (2) the Running of the Reindeer (look at the photos on the website!), (3) outhouse races, (4) blanket tosses, (5) fireworks, and of course (6) some incredible deals on furs to take home as souvenirs of your Alaskan adventures! Our hosts will be Buzz and Mary Rohlfing of Media Production Associates who own a block of businesses in downtown Anchorage and will offer unparalleled viewing of many of these unique activities. In addition for those who are interested, as a board member of the Alaska Machine Gun Association (AMGA), I can arrange for a day of full-auto shooting and explosives detonations at the nearby Birchwood Shooting Park adjacent to the active GA Birchwood Airport. Ground transportation will be provided (see below), or you can fly out to Birchwood and join us at the Shooting Park - a short walk from the CAP hangar.

**Iditarod.** The following Saturday, March 4th, will feature the ceremonial start of the thousand mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race - the most spectacular endurance race with the highest purse on the planet. [iditarod.com](http://iditarod.com)

Again, our hosts, the Rohlfings, will provide the best seats in the house to watch the finest sled dog teams in the world assemble for the ceremonial start beginning in downtown Anchorage and then heading out into the wilderness.

You may find yourself being interviewed by national media personalities and getting your “15 seconds of fame” on the evening news as happened to some of our friends last year!

The next day, Sunday, March 5th, all the action moves out to the Restart Party in Willow where the genuine flat-out racing kicks off directly in front of Tryg and Kim Erickson’s lake home. They will be hosting a party in our honor that will make you think that you are stocking up for next thousand miles right at their buffet line. From that point on, you have a multitude of choices to consider, including following the race by air, visiting other parts of Alaska, or planning your return to the Lower 48 by overflying the Alcan Highway or flying...
along the gorgeous Inside Passage of Alaska’s coastal waters.

**Flying.** So let’s talk about the flying part: Most aviators heading North to Alaska will call Merrill Field home for the duration of their stay in the Anchorage Bowl. If you are ski-equipped, Lake Hood adjacent to Anchorage International Airport is the most active ski and float plane air base in the world. For the jaunt out to the Willow Restart Party, we will provide complimentary ground transportation via two 8-pax 4WD HF and VHF equipped vans. If you would like to fly out from the city to a closer feeder GA airport, both Big Lake and Willow Airports will be open, and we will plan for shuttle helicopter transfers to the Restart Party courtesy of Jerry and Diane Winchester in their Robinson R44. Finally, the lake surface will be groomed so that either wheel or ski equipped aircraft can land and tie down adjacent to the Restart Party site.

These events constitute the biggest surge in tourism that Alaska experiences at any time during the year. We will do everything we can to help you have an enjoyable once-in-a-lifetime experience, but you need to step up right now.
and make hotel reservations and consider renting a vehicle for the duration of your stay. We would love to pre-book a block of rooms for IFFR attendees over Fur Rondy and the Iditarod, but so would everybody else in the free world. In other words - it can’t be done!

Once you’ve determined where you’ll be parking your aircraft and made arrangements with the FBO of your choice, and then when you have your personal accommodations squared away, please reach out by e-mail Craig_Bledsoe@ak-prepared.com or by calling me at (907) 694-4730, and we’ll take it from there.

All of us in IFFR up here in the Far North are looking forward to welcoming you for Fur Rendezvous and the Last Great Race - Iditarod 2017. Please plan on visiting us for this fantastic series of activities happening just ten months from now. See you soon!

-- Craig Bledsoe, on behalf of the Alaska/Yukon Section.

Who’s Who

The Airplanes of IFFR Americas

We are collecting pictures of planes flown by IFFR Americas region members, along with the members and whoever is flying with them. You can take a tour by clicking on this link: IFR Americas Fleet. Meanwhile, here is just a sampling of the fine aircraft flown by our even finer Flying Rotarians.
What Do You Fly?

Is your plane on the Americas IFFR website?

We have organized the photos of the planes (or previous planes) of our Americas members. The photos are now organized by aircraft type which makes it easier for you to find a photo of your plane, and to see others who fly the same type of airplane as you. See the existing photos of planes on our website, www.iffrAmericas.org organized by type, under “Photos” and then “Airplanes of IFFR”, or CLICK HERE. Are you there? Are any of your friends there?

It can be interesting to learn of other members who fly (or flew) the same make of airplane you fly, or to learn if you or others fly something quite unique that is not flown by other folks. Since the last newsletter, he have received many new photos of members and their planes, which have been added to the website, and it is continuing to grow. Check it out.

If you are interested, send a photo of your plane or planes (with you in the photo if you’d like) and with details about the make and model and any other interesting information, and we will post your airplane photos on the website along with those of other members. These can be photos of planes you own or that you rent or that you fly for work (there are some professional pilots in our group, and a couple of jet photos have already arrived). If you own more than one plane, sent photos of all of them. Send to gchaffey@Littler.com.

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

What’s Coming

Seoul Is Very Near ... It’s the Biggie!
IFFR at The Convention
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. It’s only days away!

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. For information on the hotel, you can go to its website http://www.lottehotel.com/world/en/.

IFFR Booth: At the huge convention, our booth in the House of Friendship will be the place where IFFR members can meet, hang out and feel like they are at “Cheers”... where “everybody knows your name and they’re always glad you came.” A Convention experience isn’t the same without our booth.

Annual General Meeting: We will commence our Board meeting and AGM during the RI Convention in Seoul before recessing to be continued in Berlin. This will be held on Monday, May 30 at 2:30 pm in Room 209A, Kintex Exhibition Center 1. This will be a great opportunity to meet incoming World President Svend Andersen from Denmark, who will preside. Board Agenda and AGM Agenda will include: Financial & membership Reports;
Old business; New Business; Recess to be continued in Berlin.

**IFFR Banquet:**

**When & Where.** The annual Convention IFFR Banquet will be held on Monday, May 30, at 6:30 pm at the Hotel Lotte World (IFFR’s official hotel for the Convention). Hotel address is: 240 Olympic-ro, Songpa-gu (in the Jamsil section of Seoul, the center of the southern part of the city).

*Why.* If you will be going to the Convention, you’ll want to be with the rest of the IFFR at our annual Banquet. It gives you the best of all worlds...fellowship that is international, a location that is in the Far East, a menu that is western, but with a Korean flair... all held at a 5-star hotel... the best of all worlds. Those of you who attended São Paulo will recall the memorable churrascaria Brazilian-style banquet. This year, IFFR gives you food and fellowship reflecting Seoul. Enjoy!

*How Much.* All this for $100 US per person. We all know the famous “$100 hamburger” ... but this is so much more...this is your $100 banquet in exotic Seoul. Enjoy!

*How to Reserve it.* **We need to have reservations and payment by Friday May 20 (earlier date deadline).**

**Reservation:** If you plan to join us, make your reservations immediately by emailing George Chaffey...just click this link gchaffey@Littler.com and say you are coming and how many (with names).

**Payment:** Pay either by check or Pay Pal.

1. If you are in the US or Canada, you can send a check, made out to “IFFR”, to George Chaffey, 1255 Treat Blvd, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, CA, USA 94597.

2. Or, you can pay by Pay Pal from anywhere in the world. If you have a Pay Pal account, just send the money to IFFR Americas’ email address... ifframericas@gmail.com. If you don’t have an account, it’s easy and takes only a few seconds (you’ll need an email address and a password). Go to www.paypal.com, select the “Pay or send money” icon at the top of screen and select “Send money to friends or family”. Enter the amount to pay and “send”. It’s that easy.

We hope to see you in Seoul and at the Banquet. Enjoy!

**Post-Convention Tour of Korea:** For those who registered, 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.

This will be one of the bigger Conventions... and IFFR will be there... your home away from home.
The annual event at Eagle Field (CL01) in Dos Palos, California is full speed ahead this year, under the capable hands of Larry Wolfsen and Chas Eldridge. There will be lots of vintage aircraft, along with War Birds, bi-planes, general aviation, WWII vintage vehicles and motorcycles, jeeps, 50's dress, and an old-time Dinner/Dance. This is one of those little-known, but big fun, events that we get to publicize to the IFFR world. Take a peek at the Eagle Field webpage to whet your whistle and to get into a 1940’s, WWII, old-time-flying frame of mind: http://www.eaglefield.net/

The dinner dance Saturday evening that is a part of the proceedings, and we hope to make our reservations together so we can sit as a group. Larry and Chas are collecting checks, payable to Dos Palos Lions Club, for $65 for either steak or chicken, or $55 for veggie lasagna. Be sure to mark your food choice on the check or voucher. Also, it will be a good time to let Larry or Chas know where you’re staying. Which brings us to housing.

Larry has reserved 10 rooms in nearby Los Banos (5 at Best Western $109 and 5 at La Quinta Inn, formerly Vagabond Inn $130) for IFFR members. See the sidebar. Those attending and wanting rooms should call the motels directly and ask for the IFFR held rooms. A bus will make 2 trips from Eagle Field to both motels on the evening of arrival, and there is also a schedule for the remainder of the weekend. You can also camp by your plane if you wish. Restrooms but little else will be available at the field. On Sunday morning, a $10 breakfast is served at the site. Otherwise, there are light breakfasts available at the motels, or if you would like something more substantial, there’s Eddie’s

Use 122.9 frequency. The FAA may be joining us, so by all means ten on your local behavior. All aircraft except lightplanes, balloons and gliders should be on the ground by 4:30 PM.

There will be transportation to the Vagabond Inn and John Jays Best Western hotels in Los Banos ONLY. Please make your hotel reservations accordingly. The bus will make evening trips to these two Los Banos hotels only, departures from 9:00p.m. thru 11p.m.

RV’s are welcome for ticketed guests only. There are no sewer hookups. RVs arrive time: Friday evening thru 1:00pm Saturday. First come, first serve based on spots available. You are encouraged to use a device to reduce emissions when parking near other RVs.

List of Hotels
Days Inn, Los Banos : 209-826-9690
Best Western, Executive Inn Los Banos : 209-827-6954
Vagabond Inn, Los Banos : 209-827-4677
Regency Inn, Los Banos : 209-826-3871
Stardust Motel, Los Banos : 209-825-5016
Apricot Inn, South of Eagle Field : 559-659-1444
Ramada, Santa Nella : 209-826-4444
Holiday Inn, Santa Nella : 209-826-8282
Motel 6, Santa Nella : 209-826-6844

Contact Information:
Michelle Snowden Knobbe
951-333-3010 Cell Phone
Email: michelle.knobbe@sbcglobal.net

If using www.mapquest.com for directions, use the following address for your search: 11100 W. Eagle Ave., Firebaugh, CA 93532. You may also find driving directions by visiting our web page at www.eaglefield.net.

**THE EAGLE FLIES**
**EAGLE FIELD, CALIFORNIA, USA**
**JUNE 11 - 12, 2016**

The dinner dance Saturday evening that is a part of the proceedings, and we hope to make our reservations together so we can sit as a group. Larry and Chas are collecting checks, payable to Dos Palos Lions Club, for $65 for either steak or chicken, or $55 for veggie lasagna. Be sure to mark your food choice on the check or voucher. Also, it will be a good time to let Larry or Chas know where you’re staying. Which brings us to housing.

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Holiday Inn, Santa Nella : 209-826-8282
Motel 6, Santa Nella : 209-826-6844

Contact Information:
Michelle Snowden Knobbe
951-333-3010 Cell Phone
Email: michelle.knobbe@sbcglobal.net

If using www.mapquest.com for directions, use the following address for your search: 11100 W. Eagle Ave., Firebaugh, CA 93532. You may also find driving directions by visiting our web page at www.eaglefield.net.
EAA AirVenture 2016
July 25 - 31, 2016
Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA

We will have the usual Rotary Club meeting at noon on Wednesday and we anticipate the annual get together hosted by Mark and Karen Hagen on Wednesday evening. We'll look forward to seeing many IFFR friends at Oshkosh, and we'll publish the specific information as it becomes available.

Mark Hagen, Dick Rutan, Karen Hagen
AUGUST NORTH WEST SECTION EVENTS

Please note on your calendar that we have a special IFFR fly in event scheduled August 13 - 15 in Ashland, Oregon for the Shakespeare Festival among other things, and the weekend following that, we'll plan on IFFR participation in the AOPA Regional Fly In at Bremerton, Washington. Look for more details next month.

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.

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 more news on Beckwourth, California; Berlin; Ashland, Oregon; Bremerton, Washington; New Hampshire; and more.

Tail winds to ya’,

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