October 12, 2016

FULL STEAM AHEAD

We are in full swing around the Region-- Coast to Coast, North & South ... with more to come. Join an IFFR event near you!

Special News Flash -- IFFR Americas Facebook

We are 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 Happened

LAKES REGION FLY-IN
SEPTEMBER 16 – 18, 2016
MEREDITH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Except for Sunday, we had beautiful New England weather for the Lakes Region Fly-In on September 16 – 18. The activities started on Friday with Mark & Karen Hagen and Gary & Connie Dehnel taking the cog railway to the top of Mt. Washington and then having lunch at the historic Mt. Washington Hotel where we could see the cog railway going up the side of Mt. Washington in the distance.

Friday afternoon Tom and Anna Johnston flew up from Harrisburg, PA. Enroute they stopped near Philadelphia to pick up Vladimir Kogan. Friday evening we were joined by Frank Dibble and Mae Bradshaw (flew in from Rye NH) and local Rotarian Bob and Lisa Davis for an on-the-beach dinner on Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith, NH. Saturday breakfast was at Sunshine & Pa’s, a ‘down-home’ local restaurant where Mike Rosenblum (Nashua, NH) joined us. After breakfast Bob and Gary took the guests on their respective motor boat and sailboat to
Sunday morning we had a farewell brunch at the Lake House overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith, NH. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum (Mike’s wife and Nashua Rotarian) joined us for this enjoyable brunch. Sunday ended the fly-in with Tom, Anna, and Vladimir launching into IMC conditions and flew right over JFK airport en route to the Philadelphia. To top off the IFFR fellowship the remaining few (Dehnels, Hagans, Davis) went to see the movie ‘Sully’.

Ragged Island for a picnic lunch. As a first time sailor, Vladimir applied his aviation skills to ‘flying the wind’ with sails and Bob used his vast local knowledge for his tour of the lake. The Saturday evening ‘banquet’ was at Lavinia’s restaurant – which was part of the Underground Railroad prior to and during the Civil War.

Open Cockpit Day
Oakland Aviation Museum
September 18, 2016

Members of the IFFR and the Marin county 99s (international female pilots organization first led by Amelia Earhart) joined hundreds of people--including tons of children--at the annual Open Cockpit Day at the Oakland Aviation Museum (OAM). We gathered for an informal lunch at a room set aside for us (the Amelia Earhart exhibit room), and then toured the museum -- which has a wide range of displays and exhibits, including exhibits about Amelia Earhart, Jimmy Doolittle,
historic women in aviation, aircraft engines over the years, and displays of antique aircraft (Wright flyer 2x), classic aircraft (e. g., monocoque), warbirds of all kinds, a mammoth scale railroad set up (very popular with the kids), and much more.

The special treat this day was being able to actually climb into the cockpit of some very famous, historic aircraft. The planes included a MIG-15, Grumman Tomcat, Douglas Skywarrior, McDonnell Douglas Skyhawk, Grumman Intruder, Hawker Siddeley Harrier, A-7 Corsair II, a ¾ scale P-51, and more. Most of us rarely, if ever, get a chance to do that, and the opportunity comes only twice a year at the OAM. If you missed this chance, be ready to come next year to put yourself in the cockpit of one of these famous military jets from yesteryear.

CALIFORNIA CAPITAL AIRSHOW
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, USA
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2016

The California Capital Airshow is ranked as the 5th best Airshow in the United States. This year we had beautiful weather, over a dozen IFFR members representing 3 states and 3 countries, great shows and wonderful camaraderie. Nine members and friends arrived for Friday dinner, including Vicki & Tim Puliz, Larry & Diana Wolfsen, John Massey, Roger & Angie Hassler, George Chaffey, and Sam Bishop. Joining them at the Airshow on Saturday were
Richard Pearl, and Konrad & Nathalie Milde ((they are Swiss, but Kon flies an Airbus for the Emirates out of Dubai, and have a home in Phoenix, AZ).

There were many military as well as general aviation aircraft on display. The Airshow included like aerobatics and historic flights by many types of military airplanes flown during the past 6 decades, which included the B-29, B-17, Japanese Zero, Corsair, P-51, P-39 Lightening, F-16; and more. The Army’s Golden Knights parachute team put on a dramatic and impressive demonstration, with jumpers hitting the ground target right in the center of the bullseye. An acute stomach problem with the lead commander prevented the Blue Angels from performing Saturday, but they came back strong for a show on Sunday. This is an annual event, and if you have never attended, watch for announcements of next years Airshow and IFFR gathering.

**THE SUPER BOWL OF BALLOONING --- NATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL**  
**ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**  
**OCTOBER 1 - 4, 2016**

This is the premier hot air balloon event in the world...often referred to as the Super Bowl of Ballooning! For the first time, IFFR members
Dave & Janna Daniels organized an IFFR event as part of the Festival, and laid the groundwork for the big event they are expecting next year.

And there were big surprises for all of who had not attended before. The Night Balloon “Glow” was awesome. As night descended, many dozens of tethered balloons inflated and came alive as pilots periodically blasted their burners sending fire and hot air into their crafts, causing them to burst into brilliant colors, like a giant Christmas tree throughout the huge staging area -- except… it was thousands of times bigger and more dramatic.

On Monday morning, as the day dawned, many of the balloons again inflated, came alive in living color in the brilliant sunshine. Because of severe winds aloft, the balloons could not launch Monday morning, but fortunately were able to launch Tuesday morning.

This was one of the most surprising and awesome IFFR event in a long time. Photos cannot begin to capture the drama of the event, so... plan to join the IFFR at this event next year. Meanwhile, ...enjoy the photos in this newsletter, and more importantly, click the link below to go to the IFFR Americas website to see dozens of great photos of this event...and a very short 30-second video you should not miss.
What’s Coming

FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX - CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS
OCTOBER 21 - 23, 2016
IFFR FLY-IN AT LA GRANGE, TEXAS (3T5)

We are eleven days away from the F1 Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas. For information on the Grand Prix, click or enter URL: http://www.circuitoftheamericas.com/2016-f1

Our group is growing. PWP Michael Graves and Karen Hicks (and their Rotary Exchange Student), Rocky and Lynn Miller, PWP Tony and Jane Watson, George Alderman and Judge McWhorter, Ava and Jack Welge.


Plan for an Thursday Oct. 20th early arrival - drive or fly in to Fayette County Regional Air Center (3T5) with its 5000 foot runway and contact me with your arrival time and we’ll meet you and take you to our event hotel, the recently refurbished Best Western La Grange. (Our hotel is only 57 minutes from the track.) If flying commercially, KAUS in Austin is probably closest and do contact me with your arrival time.

Early arrivals will enjoy hospitality at Bodega Wine Market, 201 W. Travis Street, La Grange, Texas on October 20th until 7:00 pm. Friday arrivals may join our Rotarians at the track or tour the Painted Churches of Central Texas http://www.texasescapes.com/CentralTexasTownsSouth/PaintedChurchesTour.htm; or enjoy a leisurely tour of Fayette County including the world renowned concert hall and antiques market at Round Top.

Then following the first Track Day on Friday, October 21st, join us for our South Central Americas AGM Dinner at Bistro 108 http://www.bistro108.com/ with cash bar at 6:30 pm. and dinner at 7:00 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 22, following track events, Taylor Swift will appear live in Concert. Ticket required – please see the Circuit of the Americas website. Sunday is the 2016 US F1 Grand Prix.

Details: Click Contact Jack Welge: email.
OPEN HANGAR. Visionary pilot and organizer Robert Ragozzino and his team are building an exact replica of Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis, to be flown next May to recreate Lindbergh’s non-stop, solo flight from New York to Paris on the 90th anniversary of Lindbergh’s original 1927 flight. There will be a special, free, Open Hangar and tour of the project at Gnoss Field Airport, 351 Airport Road, Novato, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday October 22, 2016. You can join IFFR and 99s members to see the plane being built, and talk to Robert about his plans for this historic flight. If you have any questions, contact IFFR member and Marin County 99s President, Sue Royce, at (510) 220-7744 or sue@royceprinting.com. There will also be an EAA Young Eagles event at the airfield.

GALA DINNER. For those wanting to extend the day to attend a special Safety Awareness Week Gala Gourmet Dinner that evening (6:00 – 9:00 pm) in the Scanlon Aviation Hangar, for only $45 per person, mail checks to Scanlon Aviation, Attn: Deborah Garcia, 451 Airport Road, Novato, CA 94945. For questions or credit card charges, call Deborah Garcia at (415) 897-4787.

A FLY-IN WITH PRESIDENT SVEND AND FAMILY
SANTA MONICA (KSMO), CALIFORNIA
11:00 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016

Please join us in welcoming our World President Svend Andersen from Denmark, who will be accompanied by First Lady Carina, and son Tim with his bride Julia. Our lunch fly-in will be at the historic Santa Monica Airport (SMO) on Sunday October 30, 2016. We will meet at the Typhoon Restaurant between 11am -11:30am. Please use the transient parking in front of the Typhoon Restaurant. After lunch, we will visit the Museum of Flying.

We look forward to having you meet Svend and his family. If you can join us, send an email to Peter More at peter@petermore.com or call him at (310) 502-2933. We already have a substantial sign up so let Peter know as soon as possible.
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 (commercial 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:

Craig and Ruth Ann Bledsoe
18811 Jamie Drive
Eagle River, Alaska 99577-7956
TEL: (907) 694-4730 -- FAX: (907) 696-4730
Cell: (907) 854-0052 (Craig) Or: (907) 854-3393, 92 (Ruth Ann)
E-Mail: kl4e@arrl.net; or craig_bledsoe@ak-prepared.com.

And now for the details:

This is a preliminary agenda with prices for various activities that visiting IFFR members and families can participate in while they are in the Anchorage vicinity starting with the 2017 Fur Rendezvous commencing on Friday, February 24th, and concluding with the start of the Iditarod on Saturday, March 4th, and the restart in Willow on Sunday, March 5th. Probably the most important document to summarize all of the various activities is the referenced 2016 Fur Rendezvous Master Schedule [click here]. There won't be a 2017 Master Schedule published until mid-December, however the events occurring on each of the days of the week and both weekends should be substantially the same.

Here is current information on hotels which the attendees can pick and choose at http://www.anchorage.net/places-to-stay/hotels-motels-and-inns/ Most of our IFFR members who bring their own aircraft will want to fly in and out of Merrill Field. As you can see in the following link: http://
Now to address prices for the specific activities shown in the Master Schedule. For those who arrive on or prior to the official start on Friday, February 24th, our kickoff event will be the Jim Beam Jam starting at 2100L in the Egan Center (big downtown convention center) for bourbon and dancing at a cost of $25 per person (link: http://www.furrondy.net/events/jim-beam-jam). Saturday, February 25th, and Sunday, February 26th, are full of fun activities (see the Master Schedule) and we will attend all of them! Note that for the entire first weekend, the World Champion Sled Dog Races will be underway on the streets of Anchorage (link: http://www.furrondy.net/events/world-championship-sled-dog-races)

For Monday, February 27th, through Friday, March 3rd, we will provide transportation to specific off-site events that our guests would like to visit. The Fur Rondy Melodrama (see link: http://www.furrondy.net/events/rondy-melodrama) is really funny - we go every year and it is very well done. It runs every night of the week, and tickets are between $18 and $23 per person depending on seat location. I will survey the attendees shortly before the Fly-In and purchase a block of seats for the evening that the majority wish to attend. The souvenir shoppers will want to visit the Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market (link: http://www.furrondy.net/events/the-charlotte-jensen-native-arts-market) with a lunchtime side trip to the Alaska Native Medical Center (link: http://anmc.org/patients-visitors/craft-shop/) for the museum-grade creations. I have made arrangements with Alaska Machine Gun Association (AMGA) President Dave Arieno to reserve a range at Birchwood Shooting Park (a short walk from the Birchwood Airport mentioned above) for a day of full-auto fun and excitement. The basic cost for our group will be a $200 range rental fee plus the cost of the ammunition expended. Weapons will range from military combat rifles to submachine guns to large caliber crew-served belt-fed weapons (see photos), and again I will canvas our participants for their preferred day of industrial-scale mayhem.

So now we get to the grand finale on Saturday, March 4th: the commencement of the 2017 Iditarod - the Last Great Race on Earth. Our hosts will be Buzz and Mary Rohlffing of Media Production Associates who own a block of businesses in downtown Anchorage and will offer unparalleled rooftop viewing of the entire starting
process. Here is a slideshow of Ceremonial Start photos similar to what our IFFR visitors will see in the streets of Anchorage (link: http://www.adn.com/multimedia/slideshow/photos-iditarod-2016-ceremonial-start-kicks-44th-race/2016/03/05)

Once the mushers are on their way, the next big event will be the Running of the Reindeer at 1600L (link: http://www.furrondy.net/events/running-reindeer). For a paltry $25 per person, our IFFR sprinters can blend right in with the rest of the lunatic Alaskans and charge down 4th Avenue in the midst of a herd of allegedly tame reindeer thus ending up in a video clip on the national evening news for everyone back home to enjoy. After recovering from all of the above, our whole group will stagger off to the Egan Center for the wrapup party - the Miner’s and Trapper’s Charity Ball (link: http://www.minersandtrappersball.org and http://www.furrondy.net/events/miners-trappers-ball) for $30 per person. As you can see, if you have a particularly furry face or extravagant moustache, you could win some big bucks at this event!

The next day, Sunday, March 5th, all the action moves out to the Restart Party in Willow where the genuine flat-out racing to Nome 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.

So let’s get back to 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 (link: http://www.airnav.com/airport/PALH). For the jaunt out to the Willow Restart Party, we will provide complimentary ground transportation via those 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.

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 four months from now. See you soon!

**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 the Alaska event; Furnace Creek; and more events into 2017.

Tail winds to ya’,

George Chaffey
IFFR Vice President, Americas Region
Wing Leader, Low & Slow Squadron
925.927.4502 direct  925.699.3343 mobile  925.946.9809 fax
GChaffey@Littler.com
Treat Towers, 1255 Treat Blvd, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, CA  94597

Webmaster: PWP Peter More
Newsletter Editor: PWP Tony Watson

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>3/16/- 19 Modaero Nextgen Festiv. Conroe, TX</td>
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<td>4/5 - 10 Lakeland FL Sun ’n Fun</td>
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<td>9/18 Oakland, CA “Open Cockpit Day”</td>
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