

## **IFFR Fellowship at Oshkosh Airventure 2017**

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?

Well, beginning on Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of July and going through Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

When the dates for Oshkosh come around pilots from all over the country will be busy getting all of their equipment rounded up, fixed up, and ready to go. Campers will be loaded and tents folded. Cars will be packed and GPS systems checked for the best and fastest route to “Camp Scholler” and an opening day like no other.

You can go to just about any airport and you will find pilots and mechanics of all types getting their airplanes ready for the biggest show of the year.

It doesn’t matter if they are flying shiny new home built custom flyers, Ultralights, Vintage Wings, large or small Warbirds, Jets, or that newest “Gotta Have” rocket with wings and a new parachute.

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. In many cases, the ultimate goal is to find that perfect spot to tie down their airplane with a group of friends and pitch their tents 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.

This is part of why Oshkosh is rightly called the greatest show on earth and in the air.

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 their web site at [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org).

Do be careful, however, this can lead to an affliction that requires a pilgrimage to Oshkosh to find the cure.

If you are planning to come to EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh Wisconsin, IFFR has a great place to go 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 members and friends are invited to join Sven 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. Check them out at: [www.foxriverbrewing.com](http://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)

This is strictly casual so plan to wear whatever you are comfortable in. Please feel free to invite your friends to join us (all are Welcome). They might enjoy a "Typical IFFR gathering."

We look forward to seeing you there.

On **Wednesday** July 26th at 12:00 (noon) **The Oshkosh Southwest Rotary Club** will be holding their annual **AirVenture Brat Fry and Corn Roast** for all visiting Rotarians and their guests.

This has been a Rotary event for many years and is well attended by Rotarians from around the world. It is another great place to meet many other Rotarians who speak the language of Aviation at all levels. I have attached their flier with maps and other information.

The Corn Roast will be held at the **EAA Nature Center on the EAA grounds**. (See the map) Just look for the very large covered pavillion 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. The program this year is undetermined at this time but usually features an outstanding speaker with an aviation theme. There is also a separate parking lot adjacent to the Nature Center for free short term parking. Please pass this information on and invite anyone else who you think may be interested.

There will be a special signup sheet for IFFR members at the club's ticket table.

No reservations are needed. However, if you are planning to attend either of these events, please let me know how many are attending so I can give the event planners a basic attendance count.

I can be reached at -- [johnockenfels@hotmail.com](mailto:johnockenfels@hotmail.com) or call me directly at **319 321-4601**. I look forward to seeing you there.

John Ockenfels  
IFFR NC Chair