PROMOTING WORLD UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL THROUGH ROTARY FELLOWSHIP

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

WORLD BULLETIN
JANUARY 2001

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FUN IN ROTARY
FROM THE COCKPIT

Sam Bishop

What a great way to start off my term as President, with back to back IFFR meetings in Portugal, France and Germany! Elena and I were hosted magnificently and I cannot thank the sponsors enough. Details on the meetings are found elsewhere in this Newsletter, so I won’t repeat them here. Elena and I are deeply appreciative of the hospitality we received.

Every once in awhile, a touching story comes to light that renews our faith in human life, in Rotary, and in IFFR. It seems John Weber, #0663, on July 11, 1947, was sent 623 miles out to sea off the Boston area, to pick up an injured sailor, Knut Thorso. Knut had fallen 35 feet into the bilges of a Norwegian freighter and had broken “almost every bone in his body” according to press reports at the time.

John Weber, a pilot with the US Coast Guard, and a crew of 11, set out in a PBM-5G on the longest sea rescue mission ever attempted. John set the PBM down in treacherous, eight foot seas. Knut, still unconscious, was transferred to the airplane and they returned. He was almost dead when they got him to a hospital outside Boston. Knut was unconscious so long, he never got a chance to meet John, who was soon transferred to the Philippines, where he continued a long, distinguished career, chalking up 13,000 hours and “rescued so many people I lost track”, per John.

Meanwhile, Knut was in the hospital so long during his convalescence, that he fell in love with one of his nurses! He was not a citizen, so when he recovered, he set out again as a sailor, eventually making his way back to Boston, where he married his nurse. Knut then stayed with his wife in the United States.

Meanwhile, 52 years later, John (now an IFFR Member) wondered if Knut was still alive and what had happened to him. He contacted Audun Johnsen, #4384, Secretary of the Scandinavian Section (Norway). Audun went to extraordinary efforts, reviewing government records, researching telephone books, and calling people with the same last name. Eventually he found Knut’s brother. It turned out, that Knut had never returned to live in Norway, but had taken up residence in the United States and was living in Newport, New Hampshire.

They finally got together and had a great reunion. John has sent us pictures and a full page copy of the story written in a local newspaper, complete with the IFFR logo. John received a Medal of Merit from the King of Norway for bravery in leading the mission. (It was awarded in 1948, but John didn’t receive it until 1967, as the US government prohibited foreign governments from bestowing honors on US Military personnel.)

The story and pictures are very touching and makes me very proud to be a member of this great organization.

Elena and I hope to see all of you in San Antonio, or at one of the many IFFR Section meetings we will be attending over the next 18 months.

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Prepare for Barcelona in 2002!

Victor Merelo, Chairman of the Iberian Section, reports that plans are underway for the BARCELONA Fly Away after the 2001 International Convention. They plan an exciting 10 day trip, to include such places as SEVILLE, CASABLANCA or TANGIER (MOROCCO); GIBRALTAR; PORTIMAO (PORTUGAL); and GRANADA. Put it on your 2002 calendar!
If you live in flying distance of a meeting, if you are traveling around the area for other purposes or if you decide to visit the area just to attend a section meeting, you will be glad you made the effort to be there! Consider attending any one of these meetings, and you will love the friendship and camaraderie that you will enjoy during the weekend! The events are always FUN!

For up to the minute information and registration forms on any meeting, visit our web site. Start with www.iffr.org and drill down to the appropriate event.

Scandinavian Annual Meeting
17-19 August, 2001, in Mariehamn, Åland Islands.

Åland Islands (a semi independent province of Finland) is situated in the northern Baltic Sea, where it meets the Gulf of Bothnia and Gulf of Finland. It has 25,000 inhabitants, of which 10,000 are in the city of Mariehamn.

The airport is small-scaled and friendly, with modest traffic but fully equipped and with more than adequate runway length for our purpose.

The main trade for Åland is shipping (owning and operating ships), holiday and vacation tourism, farming and fishing. We intend to let this fact be reflected in the program. The primary purpose however is to provide a good environment for a relaxed and pleasant social get together, such as the IFFR meetings usually are. The first evening will be spent on a farm, whose young and creative owner, besides the traditional farming also runs a restaurant in the basement of the farmhouse where he offers homemade wine and brandy as well as food made entirely of raw material produced on the farm itself. Apart from the traditional pork and potatoes it includes such exclusivities as ostrich and crayfish. The farmer and his family are also talented entertainers so we believe that we are going to have a good time.

For Saturday we have planned a small seminar for which there is also a local background. Åland runs a comprehensive set of nautical schools and academies. Since nowadays there are many parallels between the training of seamen and airmen we thought it might interest the participants to learn a bit about this training and particularly how simulators are used in this context. To conclude Saturday's program there will be a cocktail reception in our very famous maritime museum followed by a gala dinner in the Nautical Club.

Sunday morning the pilots will be busy preparing the flight home after a farewell lunch at the airport restaurant.

Bengt Hellsten, Scandinavian Section Activity Leader
Mariegatan 13B, FIN-22100 MARIEHAMN, Finland
Tel/fax:+358 (0)18 12961 E-mail: bihellsten@alcom.aland.fi

Italian Section Meeting
Siena, 27-29 April, 2001

The Meeting of the Italian Section will take place in Siena, close to Florence. It will start on Friday 27th of April in the afternoon at the Siena Airport. During Saturday we will visit the historical medieval town of Siena. Saturday evening will be the official dinner. On Sunday, 29th, we will fly to Perugia, (20 minutes of flying) to visit the town, going back home in the afternoon; or you can stay in Perugia to visit at your leisure.

Cesare Cardani, Section Chairman
cesare.cardani@polimi.it

German Section Meetings
Kassel, 12-13 May, 2001

On Saturday morning the planes will be welcomed at Kassel-Calden airport. At 13:30 the attendees will visit the Piper-Germany factory, looking at electronics (GPS), engineering technology, engines and at 9:00 is the departure from the hotel to the aerodrome. There will be a presentation of new Piper aircraft with the possibility of demonstration flights.

Karlsbad-Prague, August 31-September 2, 2001
Friday 31st, up to 13:00, arrival and welcome at aerodrome Karlsbad and transfer for lunch to the golf club. Town and park walk and sightseeing in the afternoon, informal dinner at 19:00.

Early breakfast on Saturday morning, and bus departure to Prague at 7:00. In the morning, sightseeing tour of the castle, cathedral, bridges, etc. After lunch, walk through the old town to admire its many relics. At 16:00, return trip. At 20:00, gala dinner at hotel.

On Sunday, leave by bus to the airport at 10:00.

Jürgen Timm, Section Chairman
Heierstrasse 2, D - 25704 Meldorf, Germany
Phone: +49-4832-97777, Fax: +49-4832-7202

United Kingdom Section
Perth Fly-In - 25-28 May, 2001

1996 saw the highly successful post convention flyabout around Scotland. In 2001 there will once again be the opportunity to experience Scottish hospitality. Perth, the base for the meeting, has excellent airfield facilities and offers easy access to Scotland from most of Continental Europe.

On the Friday evening there will be an informal get together in the form of a Ceilidh – music and dancing in the Scottish style – with the opportunity to sample some traditional Scottish refreshment! Saturday will give the option of a visit to Scotland’s capital city, Edinburgh, or a mini flyabout. The flyabout will take us over to the West Coast of Scotland to the Isle of Mull. There will then be the opportunity to repeat a spectacular part of the 1996 visit - a flight up the Great Glen over Loch Ness, the home of the famous monster.
Sunday will see a coach tour of some of the magnificent scenery in the Perth area. This will include a visit to Scone Palace – the historic home of the Stone of Destiny – and Pitlochry – the Gateway to the Highlands. The weekend will finish with a Gala dinner. On Monday we go our separate ways or perhaps linger a little longer in this very pleasant part of the world.

Registration forms and full details of accommodation etc. will be posted on the IFFR Europe web-site. We look forward to giving you ‘Cead Mille Failte’ – a hundred thousand welcomes in Scotland in May.

**Angus Clark**, UK Section Chairman

**Australasian Region**

**Wanaka, NZ Fly-in, 24-25 February 2001.**

**Lilydale, Victoria, Australia Fly-in, 16-18 March, 2001**

Lilydale is in the Yarra Valley some 22NM east of Melbourne. Join this fly-in to visit the famous Healesville Sanctuary and local wineries.


Saturday morning visit to Mont De Lancey, Bertolli and Ferguson's. Lunch at Healesville Sanctuary. Visit Eynon on Yarra, Domain Chandon. Fellowship dinner at Lilydale International. Sunday morning, IFFR Meeting and town walk, transfer to airport for lunch.

**Joint Australia-New Zealand Fly-in to Norfolk Island, 7, 8 & 9 September 2001.**

**Medical Team to Albania**

On October 21st, 2000, Giorgio F. Aletti and Roland Marrek, members of the Italian IFFR Section, carried a medical team, formed by four doctors, one of them coming from USA, to Tirana, Albania, in Aletti’s Piper Malibu. On the same day and in the same airplane, Section Chairman Cesare Cardani and three other Italian Rotarians flew to Tirana to meet the local Rotary Club. The surgeons worked in the pediatric wing of the Tirana hospital for a week, at the end of which they went back to Italy in the same plane and with the same crew. Therefore, Giorgio Aletti flew three times to Tirana in one week. The Italian IFFR Section paid the air travel of the American doctor from Los Angeles to Milan. Congratulations to the Italian Section!

![The medical team upon arrival in Tirana. Roland Marrek standing, right, and Giorgio Aletti lower left.](image)

**OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE!**

The 5th of December Her Majesty the Queen of England, at a Buckingham Palace Investiture, presented to our **Past President Charles Strasser** the insignia of Officer of the Order of the British Empire, which was awarded in the Birthday Honors list on the 17th of June, 2000, for services to the community in Staffordshire and Jersey. This includes services in many forms to Keele University, St. John Ambulance Air Wing transporting kidneys for transplant, employment for the disabled and Rotary and other charities. Congratulations Charles! strasser@itl.net
IFFR MEMBERS IN THE WORLD OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

South Central Section Chief, PDG Mike Pinson of Harker Heights, Texas, has been nominated to serve as RI Director in 02-04!

Join me in congratulating him. mpinson@juno.com is his e-mail address.

Noel Fryer of the Rotary Club of Blackfriars, Newcastle under Lyme, has been appointed Treasurer of RI. Noel was most helpful in getting the Board policy changed which had for many years banned IFFR members flying RI officers, students and charity missions. All members of IFFR congratulate you, Noel!

Jersey (Channel Islands) airport becomes GA recreational aircraft friendly...

dramatically reducing landing and parking fees, thanks to the untiring efforts of Charles Strasser. For more information contact Charles at 0044 (0)1534 851681.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FLY TO SOUTH AFRICA?

President Sam received a message from Mick McConnell in Natal, SA, expressing his willingness to host an IFFR fly-in. He believes this would be a great opportunity for camaraderie with the local members and he also mentions that SA is an extremely reasonable country to tour (cost-wise). He would like to know if you are interested. Please contact Mick at hubers@mweb.co.za

FLYING IN THE US?


LOOKING FOR A TERRIFIC ADVENTURE?

Lance Weller, #5676 from Australia, will take delivery of a new Cirrus SR 20 in July, 2002. He is planning to fly from Minnesota, USA, to Australia, via Canada, Iceland and the UK, then following the track of Bert Hinkler. He would like to make the trip with a like-minded IFR pilot to share the planning, the flying and the expenses. Interested? Call Lance, home 61 7 3878 2422, work 61 7 3229 4955.

OSHKOSH (BY GOSH)...

is changing the starting day from this year on, from Wednesday to Tuesday, ending the next Monday. 2001 dates: July 24-30. 2002: July 23-29. More details: www.eaa.org

SUN & FUN (FOR SURE)...

April 8 - 14, 2001 www.sun-n-fun.org

The Rotary Clubs of the Lakeland, Florida, area are planning to copy the Oshkosh Bed & Breakfast concept offering accommodations @ $50 per night, per person, and a great make-up dinner meeting on Monday evening, April 9th. For information contact John F. Wendel, wcplaw@aol.com

THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS...

Check the Mercator projection of the world at http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earthlights_dmsp_big.jpg This is an incredible and different view of IFFR country!

THIS NEWSLETTER...

is also posted on our web site at www.iffr.org. See the pictures in living color!

Gone West

Tom Lloyd, #4334, was an aviator for a very long time and a regular participant in the Jersey Aero Club International Air Rally for the last thirty three years. Tom died at the end of August. His funeral was attended by many of his Rotary, business and aviation friends. He was a member of Staines Rotary Club, lived in Ashford, Middx., and flew from Denham airfield. Condolences are extended to his widow Margaret.

Alejandro Bacher, one of our first Argentinean IFFR members, passed away this year. Our IFFR condolences to his family and friends.

His Zlin 242L is for sale in Argentina. It was bought in the Czech Republic two years ago, has 400 hours, is in excellent condition, and certified in the USA. You will find all the details at www.trafulsa.com.ar/zlin242.htm
Report on the IFFR Meeting of the German-Austrian Section September 16-17, 2000 in Berlin

40 participants were expected, led by the World President, Sam Bishop, his wife Elena, and our National President, Hans Rindfleisch, and his wife Grete.

16 airplanes were scheduled to land at Tempelhof. But, unfortunately, a frontal system from the West moved into Berlin on September 16, which also affected the weather on Sunday. Thus by Saturday, three airplanes had cancelled and several other participants had gone over to the IFDR (International Fellowship of Driving Rotarians). In the end there were 33 participants, and yet four more managed to "surf" on over to the Air Force Museum.

The Air Force Museum in Gatow, located on the former site of the British forces airport in Berlin, covers the history of military flight in Germany since 1884. Various historical periods are presented as exhibits inside a hangar, and some 60 airplanes and rocket launchers from West and East - all from the post World War II period - are displayed on a wide expanse of grounds. The lecture given concerning the mission and philosophy of the museum was impressive, and the display outdoors was spectacular. None of the aircraft are airworthy now, and what lingers in one’s memory is the sad condition of some specimens, which are meant to be protected from the weather by a coating of wax. Once a week the tires are inflated, but in some the air soon escapes.

Dinner in the Raabe-Diele Restaurant was excellent, and most guests rounded off the evening in the pub next door, where those who felt the impulse to move could satisfy the urge by dancing.

On Sunday morning we visited the Reichstag and from its cupola had a bird’s eye view of Berlin, as far as it is possible to see a city experiencing low cloud cover.

For this reason, only the IFR fliers were able to take off, and the VFR fliers found other solutions.

Newly elected Section Chairman Jürgen Timm took charge of his duties at the meeting’s formal dinner.

Four years ago I was elected to the office of secretary. It was a pleasure for me to organize this meeting in Berlin.

Gerhard Wrede

Having fun in Berlin! (Editor’s picture)
IBERIAN AND FRENCH MEETINGS
By John Richie (U.K.)

The Iberian IFFR meeting, held at Braga in northern Portugal the weekend before the French IFFR meeting at Chambery had given us an unrivalled excuse for an autumn air-touring holiday to combine both events. With Ives Branson as PI and me acting as navigator/RT operator and our wives snoozing behind us, G-IFFR cruised happily at FL065 through the sunlit skies of France and Spain for a couple of days.

On Friday, September, we arrived in Braga, where a warm welcome from Luis Henriques, European Vice-President and Victor Moreno, Iberian Chairman, with their wives, awaited us. Sam and Elena Bishop were also there. Like us, the UK Chairman Angus Clark with Alisma and Charles Strasser accompanied by Susan Harrold had decided to combine these activities, and Ian Kerr faced with the long flight from Aberdeen had come by jet. His was a welcome voice on the radio on arrival at a strange field. Members of the Braga Aeroclub had turned out to see the unusual sight of three foreign aircraft (albeit one with an N registration) at their airfield.

After lunch and a visit to the cathedral towering over the city we watched a demonstration of radio controlled models before setting off for dinner at Vila Verde, hosted by their Rotary Club. Speeches were few but the courses were many and excellent and the camaraderie and hospitality of the club members heartwarming! Saturday saw us on the coach to Oporto where we visited the Calem Port wine cellars down by the river before touring the city by coach and on foot. The principal bridge across the river Douro was built by the man who created the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and the similarity in design was unmistakable. That night, at the Gala dinner, we were entertained by a great group of folk singers and dancers, which crowned a delightful meeting.

After some touring on our own, the next Friday found us in Chambery watching the arrival of Angus, Charles, John Bowden bringing with him Feroz & Raye Wadia, and Wilfrid Lemmers who had flown down to Braga, back home to Belgium, and was now accompanied by Lily. Of course, Jean-Francois Rapin, the French Chairman accompanied by the indefatigable Solange and many members of the French Section including Jean Reculet with license restored after a full recovery to health, were assembling for lunch. Marc & Ruth Bonnet from Geneva had flown in bringing with them Sam & Elena Bishop.

In the afternoon we visited the Rectimo engineering establishment on the airfield. The owner, IFFR member Michel Demurs, gave us an interesting tour of the plant.

The next day we had a memorable visit to the ONERA wind-tunnel with lunch at a mountain fortress controlling the passes that for centuries have linked Savoy with Italy. The wind tunnel was transported, as part of the post-war reparations, from Austria to Modane, a small town in the hills where there is adequate water to power the turbines that drive the multi-bladed fans, and has been used to test and assess models for Concorde, among other things. According to our guide, ONERA accepts only two groups of visitors per year, and we were one of them!

Dinner that night was taken aboard a cruise boat whose floodlights illuminated the points of interest along the banks of the lake. Next day we were taken on a visit to the city of Chambery itself, visiting the Museum des Beaux Arts and the grounds of the Palace of the Count of Savoy before returning to the airfield for the farewell lunch. It was a well attended meeting and excellently organized!
SAN ANTONIO 2001

A **block of 50 rooms** was set aside for IFFR members at the **RAMADA EMILY MORGAN HOTEL**, a mere 2 blocks from the convention center! They were supposed to be held until December 20, 2000, but they may still have rooms, so try it! **RESERVE NOW.**

Hotel reservation forms can be obtained from RI, or downloaded off the RI Web Page at [http://www.rotary.org/meetings/convent/](http://www.rotary.org/meetings/convent/). Please do it NOW.

The Ramada Emily Morgan is coded EMA on the housing reservation form.

Members should also write **ATTN: JANIS KELLY, IFFR HOTEL** in big letters on the form:

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**PRE AND POST CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**

Get on the list to show preliminary interest in making these trips. E-mail addresses preferred.

**PRE CONVENTION - NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER (HOUSTON) TOUR**

Friday morning, 22 June 2001 - Meet at Hobby Airport (or arrangements to transfer to Hobby from Houston Bush Intercontinental)

Lunch together, tour Johnson Space Center in afternoon.

Overnight in Houston area or go on to San Antonio

Make share rides available if necessary.

**OFFICIAL AIRPORT SAN ANTONIO STINSON**

**AIRCRAFT RENTAL LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED LATER**

**OFFICIAL HOTEL IN SAN ANTONIO IS RAMADA EMILY MORGAN**

**POST CONVENTION - TOUR OF THE SCENIC AMERICAN SOUTHWEST**

**INCLUDING PORTIONS OF TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, UTAH,**

**AND COLORADO**

**THIS ITINERARY HAS NOT YET BEEN SET. THIS IS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO:**

**Thursday, 28 June**

Depart San Antonio in morning. Possible lunch in Big Spring. Midland, home of Confederate Air Force, this afternoon. RON in Midland.

**Friday, 29 June**

Depart early morning for short trip to Carlsbad, New Mexico. Lunch, then tour of the famous Carlsbad Caverns. At dusk, watch the bats leave the cave, a memorable sight.

**Saturday, 30 June**

Depart early morning for either Santa Fe or Taos, New Mexico. Tours of area.

**Sunday, 1 July**

Possible 2nd day in this area of New Mexico

**Monday, 2 July**

Early morning departure to Farmington, New Mexico and / or Kayenta, Arizona. (Monument Valley and perhaps Mesa Verde N. P.)

**Tuesday, 3 July**

Early morning departure for Bryce Canyon (or Kanab), Utah.

**Wednesday, 4 July**

A canyon tour day.

**Thursday, 5 July**

Early morning departure across the Rockies to Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Friday, 6 July**

Head back to San Antonio after Rotary luncheon, via Amarillo

**Saturday, 7 July**

Those who RON in Amarillo continue to San Antonio.

Some really spectacular scenery even better seen from a light plane.

Give us your name, e-mail address, fax number, and regular address and phone, via e-mail (TonyWatson@aol.com), fax (501-423-1346), or mail (Tony Watson, 6922 Waggoner Place, Dallas, Texas 75230-4267, USA).

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**Deadline for articles/news for the next Bulletin is April 20th. Please send news as soon as possible. Only with everyone’s cooperation can this Bulletin represent all Sections and serve all the members.**