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**WORLD BULLETIN**

*September 2001*
FROM THE COCKPIT

Sam Bishop

It was June 2001 in Texas and the weather gods appreciated our arrival by clear, warm weather. The only “convergence zones” were IFFR Members arriving at Galveston for the pre-convention fly in (NASA & Lone Star Air Museum). And the gods continued on our side. Sunday night’s dinner dance was fabulous, highlighted with Mariachis and Ukuleles (incredible young group from Canada) and our great emcee, PP Charles Strasser.

Every evening we had a hospitality room, where friends could get together for a glass of wine, beer or soda. It was really well received. When Karl-Heinz Netsch (Germany) was asked about some of the highlights of his trip, he mentioned the fun and camaraderie at the hospitality room. We’ll do it again for sure! Thank you Tom and Margaret Surowka for doing such a wonderful job. This was after a car wreck on the way to Texas that destroyed their new car and bruised them up very badly. (Drunken driver hit them.)

I am from New Mexico, so was pleased to show off our state after touring Air Museums in Big Springs and Midland Texas. You will read about it elsewhere. Let me just say, from all of us “THANK YOU TONY WATSON!” You did an outstanding job.

The Nominating Committee selected Luis Henriques, (Portugal) and, at the Convention, he was elected World President Nominee 2004 – 2006, He will succeed Tony Watson, who will take over from me after Barcelona. Luis will be the first World President of IFFR from “the continent”. He is a wonderful fellow, but more importantly, we’ll also have his lovely wife Lurdes and his energetic, bright, son Pedro as a family TEAM.

After a great visit with the Italian Section this spring, Elena went to South Africa with the Birdwatching Rotarians, while I met up with Angus and Alisma Clark in England. They have a practically new “Robin” in which we flew to Wales and then to Duxford to participate in the dedication of the Rotary Room at the American Museum. Fabulous time and my personal compliments to the Cambridge Rotary Club and their work to help us understand and not forget our history.

The IFFR Sections are certainly alive and well around the world, as evidenced by the large participation at meetings like Perth and Åland Islands. I would like to thank all the Sections whose meetings we have attended for their gracious and generous hospitality.

Let us not forget, your Fellowship is for FUN. There are lots of Rotarians out there that love aviation. Most of them also would appreciate the opportunity to have more FUN. Please invite them to join us.
The Great American Southwest  IFFR Flyaway  
By Beverly Fogle

Following the Rotary Convention in San Antonio, twenty planes loaded with Flying Rotarians from around the world gathered at or somewhere near Stinson Field to begin the Great American Southwest Fly-away. It was a highly varied collection of planes. Some were slow, some were fast, some were rented. Some of the pilots were intimately familiar with flying in the great southwest while others were just getting their American flight jargon under control.

A mini-course in mountain flying was held after the annual meeting, for the special benefit of those who might not be accustomed to high altitude operations, desert weather phenomena (particularly thunderstorms) and rugged terrain. The terrain turned out to be not much of a problem, but the altitude did present challenges (Bryce Canyon airport is at 7586’ msl). We were able to avoid the thunderstorms, at least when flying.

The first day of flying was relatively uneventful. We eventually all (almost) gathered at Big Spring, Texas, where we had lunch with local Rotarians. Then on to Midland, home of the Confederate Air Force Museum. The Confederate Air Force collects and displays virtually every plane that flew in World War II. This was a most impressive exhibit of aircraft, and the presentations brought life to many facets of that war with which most of us were unfamiliar.

Next stop was Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The hike was a substantial one for many of us as we wound our way through literally miles of dramatically lighted echoing chambers. Seeing (?) the tiny bats leave the cave at dusk was deemed by some to be a misadventure, and by others (maybe with better seating?) an awesome experience!

Granny’s Theatre entertained us that evening with an old-fashioned melodrama. Plus, we entertained each other - most professionally, of course. Bet you didn’t know popcorn could be a dangerous weapon!

On to Santa Fe. Lots of confusion about hotel rooms tested our patience and good humor, but it all worked out well. This is truly a shopping mecca, and those who had seen enough of air museums finally had their play day. Wonderful art galleries! (I neglected to buy --- now I must go back!) The excursion to Taos was icing on the New Mexico cake.

Farmington was the jumping-off place for Mesa Verde National Park, with the fascinating cliff dwellings. Such sophisticated communities --- where did all those people go? But the stairs leading down and then back up strained many a muscle. We all were in slightly better shape after that exercise.

The flight from Farmington to Bryce provided our first real mountain terrain and high altitude operations. Various scenic routes were taken, and a variety of adventures shared. Four of us did a formation takeoff and flew over the Grand Canyon, after playing around down low over Lake Powell. The airspace around Grand Canyon National Park is tightly regulated, but so far we haven’t heard of anyone being violated. What a marvelous vista to be able to share with your Rotarian friends!

Bryce is just plain fascinating. We were able to hike around and among the pillars, marvel at the colors in the changing light, and experience the serenity for which this desert area is so famous. Lots of photographs were taken, none of which can truly show the magnificence and extent of this red rock area.

The North Rim of the Grand Canyon was our next destination. A bus ride was the usual mixed blessing --- too long, but lots of opportunity for sharing, including appreciating our batch of would-be stand up comics. This view of the canyon is reputed to be the most spectacular, and many of us agreed. Once again, our photos are simply not adequate.

A western barbecue dinner included a semi-improvised play, built around the stars of stage and screen among our members. Who knew there was such talent with the ranks of IFFR? We’ve had lots of opportunities to discover these hidden talents on this trip.

Many left the group at this point, especially those heading on west. The balance of the group returned to San Antonio via Amarillo, and had the opportunity to visit the Palo Duro Canyon and enjoy the modest outdoor spectacle entitled simply “Texas”. As if anything in Texas can be simple or modest!

BITTS AND PIECES OF SAN ANTONIO AND THE FLY-AWAY

Beverly Fogle has given us a great report of the Fly-away, but, since we had quite a few members for whom this was the first Fly-away, and they seemed to be so enthusiastic, I asked some of them to give me their impressions to share them with all.

Buddy Hall, from Mandeville, Louisiana, who was accompanied by his son Rob, also a pilot, said: “What a treat to be able to spend eight days with such diverse and interesting group of people, doing what we love to do—fly airplanes. I have been flying since 1967. Yet, this fly-away was the most enjoyable flying experience in which I and Rob have had the privilege of participating. As Sam Bishop stated on one occasion during the trip, ‘we work hard in Rotary all year, but, on this occasion, we only have fun.’ And fun we had. Great people from all over the world, great flying, great weather and great scenery and of course great food just can’t be beat. We are looking forward to and have already begun planning for the next two years fly-aways from Barcelona, Spain and Brisbane, Australia.”

Peter More, from Southern California, said: “Nine days of non-stop sightseeing, partying, flying in great weather, swapping club project ideas, and most of all, wonderful fellowship with Flying Rotarians worldwide! A fantastic experience that took us to some of the most beautiful places in the country. Thanks for organizing this most enjoyable event!” And his wife Shirley commented: “I have never seen him having so much fun!”

Doris Walker & Nola Dawes, Australia; Gail Saib, Florida and Margie Yoder, Ohio, chat animatedly in the Hospitality Suite. Great place to socialize!
We thank thee Lord for IFFR
Which brings us together wherever we are.
To meet again like family friends
Gathered here from earth’s four ends.

But let us remember as we dine
On these rich foods and table wine
That there are many folk today
Who cannot travel in this way.

So spare a thought for them, our brothers
And never forget the needs of others.

At the end of the evening, after the group heard Herman Hassinger first limericks, he was proclaimed ‘Poet extraordinaire’ and ‘commissioned’ to write at least one a day. Here are the first two inspired by the trip’s events:

**Midland**

We went to Midland of course where they used to ride on a horse they traded in old ‘yeller’ for a spinning propeller and fly as the rebel air force.

Thank God I’m still alive!
Some Brit is on runway five.
I don’t want to go to heaven while on runway seven;
English the wrong side drive.

Today as we take to the skies let’s use our God given eyes.
Stay on the alert and don’t get hurt and avoid the nasty surprise.

Something’s decidedly wrong the engine seems not quite as strong.
Could there be a leak? The damn thing is weak.
Thank God that the runways are long!

Our toastmaster
One of the things I liked most was the antics of our grey-haired host.
He’s really a gasser that fellow named Strasser, so here’s to Charles… a toast.

Dr. Mike Graves from Amarillo, Texas, did not show his talent until the end, but show it he did: From Stinson to Big Spring we flew, each aircraft, it had quite a crew. We saw some old planes from a textbook like Jane’s. Old friends we were meeting anew.

Emily Morgan (Our Hotel)
Let’s drink to our heroine Emily, whose exploits vanquished the enemy. She helped win the attack while flat on her back by being uncommonly friendly.

Museums
Said a wife with a heartfelt sigh: must we look at more things that fly? I can’t remember the name and they all look the same, just let me go shopping... and buy.

Joe Kiefer, Tony Watson, George and Marilyn Alderman, Phil and Margie Yoder, James and Catherine Alexander and Feroz Wadia at the Midland West Rotary BBQ.

From the desert we headed out west, the caverns and mountains the best. Old Santa Fe town we left with a frown, Clarice had accomplished her heist.

Farmington brought Rotarian friends as we strolled thru the old Hogan Ends. Up cliffs we did climb in the mountains sublime as our journey on westward extends.

Then we launched over Monument Valley in an organised air to air rally. Lake Powell we did buzz leaving boaters a-fuzz, came us then on to Bryce for to dally.

To Grand Canyon so late we starved ‘til we ate.
Open-mouthed on the bus we slept with no fuss after gazing at vistas so great.

Now the journey must end Addie to a friend. Goodbye Shepherd Tony, it’s off from Arizona as we scatter like birds in the wind.

The deadline for articles and information for the Winter Bulletin is December 15! Please send the date of your events and reports with pictures!
HANGAR TALK...

ANYONE FOR THE BLUE CARIBBEAN?

Dan and Barbara Nalven are organizing a third IFFR trip to St. Lucia, St. Vincent and other islands.

The date? November 2002.

Interested? Send your name, address and contact information to them at P.O. Box 698, Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA, N6467@aol.com, phone/fax 914-631-7764. They would also like to know:

Are you planning to take your own aircraft? Will you have seats available for cost sharing passengers? Would you like to go as cost sharing passengers?

They will provide all the charts, forms, information, reservations, etc. to make it a fun filled flying adventure. (Editor’s note: we went in the first trip and had a ball!)

HONORARY FLYING ROTARIAN

Past IFFR World President Charles Strasser inducts the Lieut. Governor of Jersey, Air Chief Marshall Sir John Cheshire as an Honorary Flying Rotarian. P.P. Graeme Le Quesne can be seen in the back. Sir John was made an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Jersey on the same day. Both Charles and Graeme are members of the Club which, according to Charles, is the only Rotary Club in the world with two Past IFFR World Presidents!

Utilize your airplane for business purposes

Edmond Anderson, IFFR #5528, has an electronic Newsletter for Pilots. Its focus is to provide ways for pilots to justify flying more and to be able to expense their flying time and use of their aircraft. If you would like to receive this ‘Newsletter for Pilots’ contact him at edsmplace@bigplanet.com.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...Past President Marcus Crotts is President of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers? He is also the Rotary International General Co-Chairman of the Friendship and Fellowship Task Force. Congratulations Mark!

...PP Don and Lorena Bymaster, attended the Convention and were able to join us at the booth and at the Hospitality Suite? Don has been seriously ill recently and we were extremely pleased to have them with us.

...more than 900 Rotarians and friends, (and numerous IFFR members, including our World President) attended the inaugural ceremony of the Visitors’ Room in the American Air Museum at Duxford in May? The event was hosted by the Rotary Club of Cambridge. The room is incorporated in the museum to give WWII veterans a place to rest and reflect in peace and to gain computer access to a wealth of information about the units, reunions, airfields, memorials, etc. of the 8th and 9th US Army Air Forces. IFFR –UK donated, at the request of the Cambridge Club, a large Visitors Book, bound and inscribed. Well done Cambridge Rotary!

...you can buy IFFR pins, caps, banners, iron-on patches and Directories directly from our Treasurer, Tom Surowka, all year long? His contact information is on the front page!

IIIIFFR HOTEL IN BARCELONA

We have a block of rooms reserved for IFFR Members at the BALMORAL HOTEL**** in Barcelona.

This is a “group booking” made by IFFR, so to reserve your room, fill in the Rotary Barcelona Hotel Reservation Form (you can go to www.iffr.org, download and print the form). Select the BALMORAL Hotel, number 24, then write in BIG letters, IFFR GROUP HOTEL, then fax or mail it.

This is REALLY IMPORTANT, as the Hospitality Room and other IFFR activities will be located in or near the BALMORAL Hotel!

Do it NOW, before the limited number of rooms are gone!

GONE WEST

Carlo Vanoni, member of the Italian Section of IFFR. Carlo, who had a very successful career in electronics, radio transmission and aviation, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1989. He continued attending the IFFR meetings of European sections and RI Conventions, in spite of his ever increasing physical difficulties. He will always be fondly remembered by those of us who had the privilege of being his friends.

Jean Pierre Thezard, French member of IFFR. Our sympathy to his family.
Sam and I (your Editor) stopped in Sweden before the Scandinavian Fly-in at Mariehamn in the Åland Islands, and got a lift from Stockholm to Västerås in Kurt & Haide Bjerneby’s C-185 on floats (a first for me). Kurt hosted a pre fly-in party at his home for those en route, and then, around 2300 hrs, they took Sam to his room. It was a tiny one room tree house/ hotel, 100 feet up in a huge oak tree in the middle of the Västerås City Park!. Sam says: “Kurt muttered something about “birds” as they hoisted me up to this electricity-and-plumbing free domicile for the night. No wonder tourism is off in the area!”

From there we flew with Wilfried Lemmers (Belgium) to Åland in his Cardinal (another first for us). Wilfred deserves special recognition, as he has been at every single European section Fly-in we have attended!

With beautiful weather we were able to enjoy all the activities. Friday evening we had dinner and wine tasting at a local Apple Distillery, and we really did some tasting!

About Saturday Angus Clark says: “In the morning, a number of us went to visit an old sailing ship, the Pommern, which was berthed permanently in the harbour. This remarkable vessel, built on the Clyde in 1904, specialised in transporting wheat from Australia to Europe. What was extraordinary was that it continued in this trade until 1949.” In the afternoon some members attended a seminar on the use of simulators in ships’ officers’ training (and most of the practicing ‘captains’ run the ships aground!) and some of us had a great boat ride (and race!) through the Archipelago, hosted by local Rotarians. Cocktails that evening were in the Åland Maritime Museum, and dinner at the Nautical restaurant. The dinner itself was a typically enjoyable Scandinavian affair. Excellent food and liquor accompanied by the rambunctious singing of specially created IFFR songs were a perfect way to round off the weekend. Everything was very interesting, as well as lots of fun. The Scandinavians like to party and we enjoyed every minute of it. Gus Rosenlew gave us a ride back to Helsinki in his Seneca II on a day that would make you gasp at the clear beauty over some of the most spectacular island area in the world.


UK Section Fly-In - Perth
By Ian Kerr

Even though I say so myself, we had a great weekend on May 25-28. In total we had 23 aircraft, and 76 people were around at some time or other with an age range from 2 to 83!! Longest trip was over 1000 miles and 10.5 hours flying for Bengt Hellsten, Gus Rosenlew and Karl-Goran Eriksson from Finland.

Everybody arrived safely, some coming a day early due to uncertain weather. In the event, the Gods smiled on us and on Saturday we had around 14 aircraft and 28 people flew to the west coast visiting Mull and/or Oban. The attached photo was taken on that day. In the very center of the photo, beyond Ballachulish Bridge, is Glencoe which goes initially to the right then to the left - that is the route most followed back to Perth and it is awesome.

Visibility was unlimited with a modest amount of cloud - perfect flying weather and some day to enjoy our privilege. On Sunday we visited Blair Castle north of Pitlochry, having a tour of the castle followed by the annual Highland Games which, conveniently, coincided with our visit.
ITALIAN SECTION MEETING IN SIENA

If a visit to Siena and Perugia are not enough encouragement to attend an IFFR meeting, what is! The Italian Section annual meeting took place in the morning, followed by a visit to Siena in the afternoon. We all had the pleasure of looking at the city from the ‘inside’, visiting the Headquarters and Museum of the Contrada of the Owl and hearing all about the Palios. It would be impossible for me (Elena) to describe here the history, structure and traditions of the Contradas and Palios, which distinguishes Siena from any other town, but next time you are in Italy make sure you visit it. It is magnificent! We finished the day with an exquisite 5 course meal. The next morning we flew to Perugia, were we spent the day sightseeing and visiting with our friends. Among them was the group that participated in the Post-Buenos Aires Convention Fly-away, with whom we had had a great time. It was truly a delightful experience!

French Section Meeting at Reims
By John Ritchie - UK

One of the benefits of being a member of IFFR is the chance to look around organizations as security conscious as the French Civil Air Navigation Control Centre at Reims. Ian Kerr and I left Henlow on a bright sunny Saturday morning and flew G-IFFR at FL55 across northern France with no more than a call to Lille Info who gave us a squawk and to Reims Military whose automatic responder confirmed that the French Air Force does not work at weekends, before we dropped down into Prunay for a welcome beer with the assembling French members followed by lunch at the airfield restaurant. Why do the French eat better at their airfields than we do?

A coach took the party to the Control Centre where we exchanged passports for passes before touring round the vast establishment that handles all IFR airway traffic from the Channel coast to the eastern borders of France. From their modern equipment room they can monitor the operational state of every ATC radar, radio, fixed antenna, and phone installation throughout their area. Up to 30 controllers can work at the same time when traffic demands, although on a quiet Saturday afternoon many of the consoles were occupied by trainees up-rating their skills. Only on the Paris edge of the area was any congregation of aircraft noticeable.

After the educational part of the day we again took the coach the short distance to the Pommery Champagne caves where we saw some of the thirty million bottles they hold and learned something of the art of making the drink that gives the sparkle to so many weddings and christenings. After climbing back 140 steps to ground level we celebrated accordingly. Then on via a brief stop to admire the Cathedral to our hotel for a convivial meal. As the only Britons present our hosts made every effort to look after us and by the end of the evening it was no problem to give greetings in alcoholic French from the UK members plus salutations sent from Sam Bishop, who had been at Duxford only a week before. In exchange we received a warm invitation to the French reunion at Biarritz in September.

The next morning we got our comeuppance! On climbing out of the circuit the low voltage light shone as brightly as the morning sun and the ammeter confirmed the unwelcome news. We landed back but could not see any obvious cause and with no mechanic available decided that we really didn’t need a radio with clear skies, good maps and two GPS and returned home incommunicado in time for lunch having avoided controlled airspace all the way. The champagne that we brought home will remind us of a trip that so many of you would have enjoyed as much as we did.
Convention Activities

- Fly the A320 full Motion simulator at TOP FLITE, Sabadell
- June 23—Dinner-Dance (details to follow)

Post Convention Fly-away
Leg 1: Tarragona – Seville June 27,2002
Leg 2: Seville – Rabat June 29, 2002
Leg 3: Rabat – Gibraltar July 1, 2002
Leg 4: Gibraltar – Cascais July 2, 2002
Leg 5: Cascais – Santiago de Compostela July 4
Leg 6: Return July 5

Note
The idea for this form is to know how many persons are planning to attend the Convention and the Fly-away. We need numbers to negotiate prices and make reservations in advance. Please fill in this form and we'll put you on the list for further information and contact.

IFFR Member ___________________________________________ # of persons ____________________

Address __________________________________________________ Telephone ________________________

____________________________ Fax ___________________________

E-mail ____________________________________________________

Please send this form to
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Tel/Fax: +351—289 829 610
E-mail: iffreurope@mail.telepac.pt

Note: The RI Convention and Hotel registration forms (as well as the IFFR pre-registration form included here) can be downloaded from the IFFR web page, www.iffr.org. Fax/mail to Luis the IFFR form only.