INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
OF
FLYING ROTARIANS

Promoting World Understanding and Goodwill Through Rotary Fellowship

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WORLD BULLETIN - SEPTEMBER 2002
THE VIRTUAL PODIUM
Tony Watson - IFFR World President

With the tragedy during our Fly About following the Barcelona RI Convention, I’ve gotten off to a shaky start as your new World President. Former Presidents of IFFR kept telling me this is a fun job. I’m sure it will be, but we have all been sobered by the loss of 4 dear members of our Fellowship. We will never forget them.

This has become a test of our Fellowship, and up to this point, I have been pleased with how we have acted and reacted. Everyone has shown a great deal of caring in this situation. We will need to continue in this mode for some time, and some elements of our feelings about this tragedy will be with us the remainder of our lives.

We do go on. None of these would have had us stop having fly ins and fly abouts. There are so many fellowship opportunities and ways to have fun with each other and make this world just a bit smaller. Or, maybe just make your area a little smaller.

We have had wonderful events at the International level of IFFR, but we have also had some fine events within the Regions and Sections. There are activities in each section in Europe every year, also in Australia and New Zealand.

However, we have had not as many activities in the Americas Region. Some Sections in Americas haven’t had an activity in years. Under the new leadership in Americas, with new VP PDG Brian Andersen and 7 new Section Chairs, we are already registering an increase in the number of activities planned. This is great news for the grass roots level of IFFR. Rotarians need to see how IFFR fellowship works close to home before they get enthusiastic about what can happen when many nationalities of Flying Rotarians get together.

I’ll be watching these developments right here in my own house, the Americas Region, and hope all IFFR members worldwide are excited about these developments. Meanwhile, we’ve got IFFR International events planned in New Zealand just before the RI Convention in Brisbane 2003, as well as a fly about in Australia following the Convention. The African Region is planning a fly about in late March or early April 2004. The fly about associated with the Kyoto, Japan 2004 RI Convention will likely be in Hawaii.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Yours in Rotary fellowship and safe flying.

IFFR World President longtime, active Rotarian

Anthony Austin (Tony) Watson is a native of Dallas, Texas, where he still lives with his wife, Jane, and their four children, Reed, Peter, Anne and Nancy. He’s the son of PDG Austin and Millie Watson. He has spent 33 years in the family business, a wholesale electrical parts distribution company, but currently spends his time on Rotary, church and family activities.

Tony joined the Fair Park (Dallas) Rotary Club in 1973 and has maintained perfect attendance since. He served his club as president in 1982-83 and is the associate editor of the weekly club bulletin. Since joining Rotary, Tony has attended 18 international conventions.

A Paul Harris Fellow along with his wife and children, Tony served three years as a Governor’s Representative and served as District Photographer for many years.

Tony piloted himself to the Montreal convention in 1975 and promptly joined IFFR, a membership he has maintained ever since. He served as world bulletin editor 1983-1994 and was America’s Region chair from 1997 to 2000.

In addition to his flying activities, Tony is a Reserve Elder in the Highland Park Presbyterian Church and an active choir member. He also does a little acting in community theater, loves to travel, is a serious amateur photographer and likes to use computers, especially “Macs.”
IFFR members die during fly-around

Past IFFR President Graeme Le Quesne of Isle of Jersey
John Festi of Stafford Springs, Connecticut
Graham and Josi Mockridge of Surfers Paradise, Australia

As many of you will already know, IFFR Past World President Graeme Le Quesne died together with his three passengers, John Festi from Connecticut and Graham & Josie Mockridge from Australia, while taking part in the Iberian Flyabout that followed the R.I. Convention in Barcelona.

Graeme, a Jerseyman and a long standing member of IFFR, was completing his year as President of Jersey Rotary Club at the time of his death. At the family request there were only family flowers but a donation in his memory has been made by IFFR-UK to Rotary Charities chosen by Graeme during his Presidency.

Following the accident the Portuguese Aero Club under its President Manuel da Silva gave considerable support to IFFR and in particular to those most directly affected. By way of appreciation and in recognition of all that Graeme and his passengers had enjoyed a trophy is being presented to the Aero Club by IFFR. The cost is being underwritten by IFFR-UK. Our treasurer, John Ritchie, 84 Broadway, Letchworth, England SG6 3PH will accept contributions from anyone that wishes to make a personal gift towards this memorial.

At the funeral, the large congregation lead by members of his family and of his Rotary Club heard eulogy from Charles Strasser OBE, past World President of IFFR.

We have known Graeme for 15 years. He was an experienced pilot. His aircraft was equipped with the latest state of art radio and navigation electronics, including GPS.

Dan Nalven

LAST FLIGHT

By Maisie Grady

Little did we know, when we said goodbye
That would be the last, our friends would ever fly.
Three keen pilots and the wife of one,
Took to the skies, looking to the sun.

But how very quickly everything can change.
Bad weather was ahead, just within their range
Heavy cloud loomed up - visibility poor
Other planes nearby, what now was the score?

Some climbed up and were safely on their way,
Others returned to base, to fly another day.

A request was heard, to climb to further height
Where is their plane? - we should contact all the powers.

But with other planes about, it was not considered right.

Other planes nearby, what now was the score?

With Search and Rescue looking, on the land and over sea,
We hoped they'd landed safely and quite all right they'd be.

With Search and Rescue looking, on the land and over sea,
But with other planes about, it was not considered right.

Nothing else was known, not for several hours,
Where is their plane? - we should contact all the powers,

And then the dreadful news came - close to midnight,
The plane had crashed on Sintra Mount at 1,400 feet,

Sadly all had perished, still fastened in their seats.

Took to the skies, looking to the sun.
That would be the last, our friends would ever fly.

Three keen pilots and the wife of one,
Took to the skies, looking to the sun.

But how very quickly everything can change.
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Nothing else was known, not for several hours,
Where is their plane? - we should contact all the powers,

We hoped they'd landed safely and quite all right they'd be.

Their friends were all so worried - faces grim and tight
And then the dreadful news came - close to midnight,
The plane had crashed on Sintra Mount at 1,400 feet,
Sadness all had perished, still fastened in their seats.

Such a pretty place, in Portugal near Spain,
On an earlier visit, there was joy, not pain.
All experienced pilots - what happened we cannot know,
But to friends and family - a tremendous blow.

Well loved and most respected, two Grahams, Josie, John,
Fond memories we have of each of you, now that you are gone,
We thank you for the good times - may now you rest in peace.
We always will remember, your contribution each.
Going to Australia? Reserve hotel room now!

Are you planning to join other IFFR members in Brisbane during the 2003 Rotary International convention?
You need to get your hotel reservations in right away. We’ve got 40 rooms block at the Windsor International and another 20 reserved at the Kedron Palms.
The Windsor International is #42 on the Rotary hotel reservation form and is listed among the “standard” hotels with rates of $95-140 per night.
The Kedron Palm, #54 on the hotel list, is among the economy hotels at $55-95 per night.
If your club secretary doesn’t have registration and hotel forms available, go to the RI web page (www.rotary.org). On the left side of the home page click on “Register for 2003 Convention.” At that location you can download the convention and hotel forms.
When you complete the hotel form, be sure to print at the top of the form “IFFR Hotel.”
In addition to the convention and the IFFR activities during the convention, great pre-convention and post convention flyabouts have been planned. You can get the latest information from the web page: www.iffr.org.au Activities before the convention are centered on New Zealand and the post convention fly about will be to the Great Barrier Reef and the Queensland Outback.

News from the UK Section

UK, European sections honor Ritchie with multiple PHF

As he approached the end of his term in office as World President, Sam Bishop had the unusual privilege of making an award to John Ritchie of a double Paul Harris Fellowship at a meeting of the U.K. Section at Truro, Cornwall in May in recognition of the work done by him for the U.K. Section and the combined European Sections over the past 20 years.
He was elected the UK Chairman in 1982 and served for six years, and in 1983 began a regular quarterly Bulletin for members which he still continues to publish.
On relinquishing Chairmanship in 1988 he took up the post of U.K. Secretary - Treasurer, which office he still holds.
In 1990 he was appointed European Vice-Chairman, responsible for contacts and communications between the seven European Sections and with those in America and Australia, and held this for 10 years. In 1997 he joined the Letchworth Garden City Club after retiring from active practice in Stevenage.
During the 20 year period John, accompanied by his wife Mary, has attended Flying Rotarian activities in Norway, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, always travelling by light aircraft and frequently accompanied by other members from the U.K. Section.
On buying his PA32 in time for the Glasgow Convention Flyround he had it re-registered as G-IFFR.
On hearing that the U.K. Section intended to make this award, the other European Sections indicated that they wished to be associated with it. The result was that a total of $2000 was raised giving John a multiple award, in effect one from the UK Section and another from the Continental European Sections.
By agreement with his Club’s Foundation Committee this was nominated to the PolioPlus Campaign which John first supported by a sponsored flight to the R.I. Convention in Munich, Germany in 1987.

Coventry draws many; was Lady Godiva expected to attend?

To judge by the number of those attending the midweek meeting at Coventry you would think that Lady Godiva had agreed to repeat her horseback performance for the benefit of IFFR. Members came by air and by road from anywhere between Biggin Hill and Blackpool, Exeter and Edinburgh, to mention but a few, and we were delighted to welcome all three UK lady members and two of our latest recruits.

Having once penetrated the security surrounding the airfield, the party spent an interesting morning touring the Air Atlantique establishment at Coventry Airport, where we inspected a wide range of historic aircraft, mostly still in flying condition, and ranging from a Miles Messenger pre-war trainer to an ex-RAF Shackleton once used for AWACS Duty. The attendance was so strong that it was divided into three groups each with its own well informed guide who knew the individual aircraft and their histories like their own children.

For many the ‘nest of Goony Birds’ otherwise better to known on this side of the Atlantic as the Dakota DC3 brought back wartime memories of this ubiquitous transport and we were delighted to learn from our guides that three are still in service and those not still flyable are being used to provide the hard-to-come-by spares.
The Coleshill Rotary Club had turned out in number to join us and to provide ground transport to the Deer Park Golf Club where a buffet lunch awaited the fifty or more who had enjoyed a morning in warm sunshine, meeting old friends and making new ones. Our thanks go to Bill Jevons and the members of his Club, and to those at Air Atlantique for the efforts they made to entertain and inform us.
HANGAR TALK

5 IFFR Presidents at Barcelona

During the Barcelona convention, four past presidents of IFFR took a moment to have a photo taken with outgoing president Sam Bishop (center). The group includes (left to right) Charles Strasser, Graeme Le Quesne, Bishop, Federico Compean and Marcus Crotts.

IFFR, IFFR presidents meet

IFFR World President Sam Bishop and IYFR International Commodore Ken Winter exchanged their Fellowship Banners recently at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco.

The occasion was a reception for the International Commodore sponsored by the San Francisco Fleet of the Yachting Fellowship. Sam is a member of IYFR, having joined long ago at a joint IFFR/IYFR event in the San Juan Islands. The photographer, Roldano Guerra and the SFO Fleet Commodore, Nick Tarlson are both pilots and agreed to join IFFR that night. Score two points for IFFR!

Alaskans enjoy fly-in & weather

Greetings from Alaska! Our merry little band of IFFRers enjoyed a wonderful fly-in barbecue to Talkeetna, Alaska on Sunday, August 4.

The weather was a rare phenomenon ... clear, calm, sunny and 84 degrees! We had about 35 members, friends, and family fly in to this wonderful airport about 80 miles north of Anchorage. Talkeetna is the staging town for expeditions to Mt. McKinley.

Angus Clark information updated

Please correct your directory to read as follows:
Angus Clark
Folds Head Close, Folds Head Calver,
Hope Valley, Derbyshire, ENGLAND
Res: 1433 631585 Fax: 1433 631585
angus@foldhead.plus.com

Martha’s Vineyard Fly-in

8 IFFR members plus family and friends flew in to Martha’s Vineyard recently, according to Dan Nalven. Mass for a perfect event. Parking was 100 yards from the beach and a BBQ was enjoyed by all and several stayed overnight.

Herman Hassinger flew over from Block island with Jack Schneider. He plans to attend Australia meeting and expects to have his license back by then.

152 raffle prize; funds to Polio

MANNING, South Carolina — The Manning Rotary Club is 75 years old this year and plans to commemorate this anniversary in a unique way. On Oct.12, the club will raffle a Cessna 152 airplane and in the process they plan to raise more than $100,000 to contribute to the Rotary International PolioPlus campaign.

“There are only 10 countries in the world that still report polio outbreaks because vaccines are not available,” Dr. Scott Brown, Manning Rotary Club president said. “It’s Rotary International’s intention to eradicate polio, worldwide, by 2005 and we want to help make sure this happens.”

“Amercia has been polio free for many years and we want to share the gift,” Joe Witt, Manning Rotarian and project sponsor said. “Not only are we going to do something good for all mankind, but we’re going to have a lot fun doing it.”

On Oct. 12, there will be a lottery-style drawing held at Palmetto Air Plantation in Manning. “We plan to make this a fun day,” Witt said. “We’ll have food, music, and lots of fun things to do for everyone.”

The odds of winning the airplane or one of the other prizes is one in 6000. “These odds are excellent, considering most big-ticket item sweepstakes have million to one odds, and generally takes a year to award the prize.” Brown said.

For more information about the project, log on to www.ManningRotary.org or call Kathi Tisdale, Project Director, at (803) 473-7038.

Photo captions for Page 6

1 - Entrance to La Alhambra, Granada, Spain. 2 - At Lt. Gov. Cheshire’s home in Jersey, Channel islands. 3 - Annual IFFR board meeting in Barcelona. 4 - Pres. Tony and Jane with Alhambra fortress in background. 5 - AGM. 6 - Neil Smith and plane at Barton Field.

Photo captions for Page 7

1 - Jane and Nancy at Hampton Court, England. 2 - Jane and Nancy at St. James Palace, London. 3 - Clark residence at Folds Head, England. 4 - Tony and Jane Watson, Elana and Sam Bishop during toasts at IFFR dinner dance in Barcelona. 5 - Fellowship dinner at Pome D’Or Restaurant in Jersey. 6 - Entering German underground hospital on Jersey. 7 - Grave of actress Lily Langtry. 8 - Tom Surowka (left) and James Alexander manning IFFR booth in Barcelona. 9 - IFFR booth in Fellowship area.
A Tale of Five Countries
(or a journal of our visit to Barcelona, Spain for the Rotary Convention including travel through Spain, UK, Portugal, Channel Islands and France.)

By Tony Watson

Jane, Nancy and I made plans to attend at least the RI Convention in Barcelona. Because we were just 3, we were able to make reservations on our IFFR fly about in Spain and Portugal following the Convention, and to a pre-convention home hospitality for IFFR members in Jersey, Channel Islands.

Angus Clark (now IFFR European Vice President), a member of the Rotary Club of Sheffield Vulcan and Neil Smith of the Rotary Club of Congleton invited us to fly in their aircraft. We would fly with them to Jersey, Barcelona, on the fly about in Iberia, then on back to England. Nancy and I would fly with Neil and Janet, and Jane would fly with Angus and Alisma. I greatly looked forward to my first opportunity to fly in light aircraft outside of the Americas.

Since Nancy had never been to Europe, we decided to leave Dallas early so she could see a few sights in the London vicinity before going to the beautiful pastoral settings of the midlands of England.

Wednesday morning after our arrival in London, we took a cab to St. Pancras Station and boarded the express train, exiting some 2 hours later at Chesterfield, where we were met by Angus. After he pointed out the unusual twist in the cathedral spire, we enjoyed the 20 minute drive to his home in the Hope Valley of Peak National Park. This was to be our home hospitality overnight stay.

Alisma Clark was out enjoying a golf competition, but came by to make sure the meals she had prepared were going to be served correctly. Angus took us to visit the beautiful grounds of a nearby estate, where Charles and Diana had done some of their courting a few years back. After Neil and Janet drove up we started talking about routing and other issues, like who would take which bags. Jane and I repacking our bags, leaving behind some things we’d bought in London.

The next morning, we got a reasonably early start and Neil drove us to the old Manchester Aerodrome, Barton Airport, close to an hour drive. We took off about 11:30 a.m. and landed at 2:06 p.m. at the Jersey airport after crossing the English Channel at Southampton.

The Clarks with Jane beat us there by some 45 minutes, and by the time we got up to the Aero Club restaurant, they were no longer selling sandwiches. However, soon Celia Jeune came by and took us to Les Hougettes House, where she and Richard live with the last child in the nest, Ralph. Fortunately a good tea that afternoon supplied some nourishment until we could join the others for dinner that evening. Richard and Celia gave us a ride to the Aero Club that evening for a welcome dinner. We had about 23 guests who had arrived on seven aircraft and a few airline seats.

The next day, Friday, Celia took us by the German Underground Hospital. The Channel Islands were the only part of British territory that was occupied by the Nazis during WWII. The tale of this sad time on the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark and others in the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey was told in this bunker-like hospital setting built by the Germans with slave labor. After a light lunch, we boarded a bus in the main town, and took a sightseeing tour of the perimeter of the island. After the tour, Ralph presented Nancy with some Turkish Delight candies that she had been trying to find for several days.
In the evening, we were invited to Lt. Governor and Lady Cheshire’s House where a reception was held in our honor. After the reception, Celia and Richard took us by an adjacent graveyard and we saw the gravestone of Lily Langtry, the “Jersey Lily” of Judge Roy Bean “Law West of the Pecos” fame. We then went to a seafood buffet at the Pomme D’Or Hotel and Restaurant.

Saturday morning, we were at the airport by around 9 a.m., but weather kept us from departing until 11:40. We flew two legs on our way to Sabadell Airport near Barcelona, stopping in Basillac, France at the Periqueux-Basillac Airport for refueling. The first leg took about 2:20 and the second was of almost equal length. After a 30 minute cab ride, we were at the Balmoral Hotel, our home for the next 5 nights. We were bushed on arrival, and it was 8:00 p.m. and we’d missed lunch again. McDonald’s quickly got our business this evening!

The Convention had started and we checked things out. I picked up our registration, met up with Jane and Nancy, and had lunch with them before heading for the First Plenary Session. We were late and the facility was inadequately sized for just one session, so we found ourselves sitting behind the stage, watching the big projected image in reverse, and looking at events happening backstage. Before the entertainment started, comedian Jerry Lewis was given a special award by Rotary, presented by President Rick King. On the stage as aide was PDG Ray Kneeggs from my own Texas district.

Our IFFR Dinner Dance was this evening, well attended, with somewhere around 70 attending. We could not start until late – 8:00 was considered really early by the Spanish staff at the hotel – and the last of us didn’t leave until about 1:00 a.m. We had wonderful food and a good disk jockey, along with great fellowship and recognitions, and many toasts proposed by MC Charles Strasser, a past president of IFFR from Jersey.

Tuesday was the big day for IFFR meetings. We held our annual board meeting on Tuesday morning at the Balmoral. There was time for a quick lunch, then over to a hotel near the Convention Center, where RI had reserved a room for us to hold our annual general meeting (AGM). We took care of our business, including presentations for 2003 in Brisbane and also a possible southeast Asia fly about. At the end of the meeting, the sign of office was passed from Sam Bishop to me, and I made a few remarks, then adjourned the meeting. After the meeting, we had a separate convocation for those making the Iberian fly about.

The RI Convention concluded Wednesday night with Auld Lang Syne, and Thursday morning, we took a bus to Sandaball Airport with the group, and with a gaggle of 22 aircraft departed for Granada. This was the longest leg of our trip, and about half the aircraft didn’t comfortably have enough fuel supply to make the trip nonstop, so they stopped in Valencia. The Cessna 182 I was in had plenty of fuel for the flight, so we overflew Valencia and made the trip in 3:38.

Our hotel was located downtown, just across the street from a department store, which got some business from our group. At 8 p.m., we had a bus tour, which took us to the old city, narrow streets, picturesque buildings, and a view of the city and the Alhambra fortress from above. About 2 hours later, yes, that’s 10 p.m., we were delivered to a Bull Ring in downtown Granada, where we were able to go on the floor and see the view the matadors would see, less the bulls and people. Dinner was under the stars, and we got back to the hotel about midnight.

Friday, we had a tour of the Alhambra fortress, originally built by the Moors in the first millennium. Though it was taken back over as a Christian fortress after the Moslems were exiled in the 15th century, we marveled at much of the old architecture and influences.

Saturday we flew a short hop of one hour to the lovely city of Seville, where we had a fine group luncheon. We stayed at probably the most interesting hotel of the entire trip in the old Jewish area of Seville. That evening we took a buggy tour of the old city, then were met by busses and taken to dinner and a show where the various forms of Flamingo dancing were demonstrated.

Our excursion the next day was to the city of Cadiz, via the Tio Pepe winery, where we saw how sherry was produced and aged. A walking tour of the city was followed by a boat ride across a small bay. At the end of the ride a sumptuous midday feast was enjoyed. It was then a long trip back to Seville where we had a lighter meal, needed by all after that huge lunch.

Even though it was supposed to be very hot in Seville, it wasn’t, and that situation followed us into Portugal on Monday.

To be continued in our next newsletter.
IFFR Calendar of Events

2002

Oct. 18-20: New Zealand - New Plymouth
   Contact: Howard Vosper hvosper@extra.co.nz
Oct. 24-26: USA Southwest - AOPA Expo 2002 Palm Springs, CA
   Contact: Peter More peter@petermore.com
Oct. 25-27: Australia - Bendigo, Victoria
   Contact: Alan Grady, president@iffr.org.au
Nov. 8-11: USA Southwest - Napa Valley Fly-in
   Contact: Peter More peter@petermore.com
2003
Feb. 28-Mar. 3: New Zealand - Rotorua Fly-in
   Contact: Phil Pacey phil@paceytrucks.co.nz

For latest listings and additional details, go to: www.iffr.org

Get the IFFR World Bulletin Sooner & Save IFFR money!

Starting with our next World Bulletin, only those asking will receive a copy by mail.
All members can read and download the Bulletin from the International web site:

www.iffr.org

In addition to the World Bulletin, the IFFR web page has a lot of additional information of interest to all IFFR members.

Wear your IFFR Winged Rotary Pin with pride

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- Iron-on Patch US $6
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- Decal, small US $2
- IFFR 7X9 Banner US $10
- IFFR 9X12 Banner US $12

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TOM SUROWKA
203-A Rubens Dr Nokomis, FL 34275 USA
Res: 1-941-966-6636 Fax: 1-941-966-9141 E-mail: surowka@iffr.org

April: Australia - Broken Hill, NSW
   Contact: Alan Grady, president@iffr.org.au
May 2-4: UK - Waterford, Ireland
   Contact: Ian Kerr iankerr@ifb.co.uk
May 24-29: Fielding, New Zealand - Pre-convention fly-in.
   Contact: Alan Grady, president@iffr.org.au
June 5-14: Queensland, Australia - Post-convention flyaway tour.
   Contact: Alan Grady, president@iffr.org.au
Oct. 25-27: New Zealand - Kaikoura
   Contact: Chris Snelsen vichris@xtra.co.nz
2004
Mar. 5-7: New Zealand - Gisborne
   Contact: Phil Pacey phil@paceytrucks.co.nz
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