Hello from IFFR World President Michael Graves

October 14, 2012

GREETING FROM THE WORLD PRESIDENT

Dear IFFR Members,

Our IFFR year is well underway. From the “trip of a lifetime” as Mooney Acclaim type S pilot Greg Luring described the Southeast Asia Jetaway to the superb IFFR Americas AGM in Palm Springs, California arranged by Americas VP Larry Wolfsen and Americas SW section Chair George Chaffey. My deepest thanks to Shirley More and PWP Peter for two years of outstanding leadership and another decade of special friendship.

I returned from Asia to a busy urology schedule and fierce completion in the USA region ten OCL soaring competition, which I ultimately won with very strong support from Karen and Eddie Hoglan, Stan Blanton and the Caprock Soaring Club. IFFR travels then took Karen and me to California for a Southwest Section Fly-in at the beautiful Santa Monica airport. A super program was arranged by Peter and Shirley More and excellent accommodations provided in the downstair of Ann and Bill Edwards Westwood home. Uncle Leo Tseng hosted a memorable event at his estate overlooking the San Fernando Valley. It was here that we unknowingly said goodbye to our IFFR friend Sean McMillan.

Next I journey to Oslo, Norway for a world-class section meeting. I was overwhelmed with both the hospitality and the culture. Gustav Vigeland’s Sculpture Arrangement within the Frogner Park was itself worth the journey. From the oldest airport in Norway to the most modern ski jump complex in the world I journeyed with IFFR. Section chairman Rolf Mikkelsen included in the outstanding program a visit to the Kon-Tiki museum, and a visit to the fantastic Fram, the ship which explored the Arctic before taking Norway’s legendary Roald Amundsen and his crew to win the race to the South Pole in 1911. Rolf flew me to the Norwegian national gliding port, then took me to his home Rotary club, which meets only meters from Amundsen’s boyhood home! A prime reason for my early visit to Norway was to personally thank Bo Johnson for his excellent work running iffr.org, our new world website. All who know Margot and Bo know what a dynamic team they are for IFFR.

Four days of invigorating fjord-swimming from the beach at the island cottage of Ellen and Peter Wenk followed. Peter made sure we had a make-up Rotary meeting in Sweden by transporting us there in his yacht.

Tollef Jensen relayed your president to Alborg, Denmark in his Cessna 182 for an international handoff to German section Chairman Ulrich Starke who ferried me in his muscular Bonanza to his home city of Gluckburg for a wonderful feast before our flight to the huge international Prague meeting arranged to allow us all to pay tribute to our beloved PWP Charles Strasser. Special thanks goes to Ingo Neufert for his tremendous logistical work to make this international gathering possible. Here I had the opportunity to learn from virtually all of the European IFFR leadership and to pay tribute to Swiss Chair Thomas Morf for the dramatic sectional growth he has created. Meeting and briefly hiking with Jean-Luc Brice has convinced me that our French section 40th Anniversary FlyAbout and CoachAbout will be magnificent. More than 90 IFFR members and guests were present in Prague, representing IFFR sections from Berlin to Los Angeles. This was an unforgettable event in a magnificent city. Thanks Charles for dreaming it up; thanks Ingo for making the dream a reality.

September brought the IFFR Bishop, California fly-in, another feather in the cap of SW section chair George Chaffey. As part of this event, Army aviator Colonel Lew and Betty McConnell hosted us in their beautiful home in the Sierra Nevada.

After two weeks of playing urologist, Karen and I just returned from four days in Palm Springs and the Americas AGM. Larry Wolfsen put together a wonderful program, with Einar Enevoldson providing a tour through his early record-setting of two minutes eight seconds to 50,000 feet MSL from a standing start in his F-104, to his flight into the stratosphere with Steve Fossett in August 2006 to set the Absolute Altitude Record for gliders of 50,727 feet. Einar has created a pressurized glider, the Perlan Two, which could reach 90,000 feet MSL in 2014. Thanks to Svend Andersen for making the Americas AGM truly international. A special thanks to Svend and Carina for raising Sos Andersen, who in Prague became a member of IFFR as a Rotaractor.

Please forgive me for having missed some section and regional events thus far. I will strive to visit nearly every section during my term. Thanks to each for your participation in Rotary’s finest fellowship; please let your local leaders hear your appreciation for their efforts to grow and strengthen IFFR. Remember that not only Rotarians, but also Rotaract members and spouses of Rotarians qualify as members of IFFR.

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PLAN TO JOIN US IN LISBOA FOR THE 2013 AGM AND IFFR ANNUAL GALA BANQUET. TOUR PORTUGAL WITH IFFR BEFORE THE ROTARY CONVENTION AND ENJOY THE FRENCH SECTION 40TH ANNIVERSARY FLYABOUT AFTER LISBOA. DETAILS ON IFFR.ORG.

--- Tailwinds, Michael
LYNN MILLER, 
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lynn Miller of the Rotary Club of Seabrook, Texas, USA, became IFFR’s Secretary - Treasurer around December 2010, and is continuing in that capacity under new World President Michael Graves for the 2012-14 term.

Lynn was born in Macon, Georgia, USA, and is trained as a nurse and served in the USAF Nurse Corps. Her husband is the pilot: Warren ‘Rocky’ Miller, M.D., a surgeon, and they have one daughter, Tonia.

After moving to the Houston area in 1972, Lynn earned a degree in history and began a new career as director and curator of a small Texas history museum at Houston Baptist University. She retired from that position in 2009.

Lynn joined Rotary in 1991 and has served her (Seabrook) club on its Board of Directors, as director and curator of a small Texas history museum.

Tony Watson, Flyer Editor

2 years ago, PWP Anthony A. “Tony” Watson (IFFR 1667) from Texas returned to a job he did for 11 years, serving IFFR and 5 World Presidents.

As of this bulletin, he has now served 7 World Presidents as BE, as World President Michael has asked him to continue.

Tony joined the Fair Park (Dallas) Rotary Club in May 1973, sponsored by his father, the late PDG Austin B. Watson. He has served on most chairs in that club, and has been president twice, about a quarter of a century apart. He took over from his dad editing the club bulletin, which he continues to do every week for what is now Dallas Parks Rotary.

Tony began flying in 1971 shortly thereafter graduating from SMU. He holds an ATP certificate, CFI (including instrument) and CFI (advanced) and has flown over 4500 hours. He owns a Bonanza A36 based at KLCN.

Tony joined IFFR after flying himself and Jane to the Montreal RI Convention in 1975. In addition to the editor’s job and serving as V-P Americas for IFFR, he was World President in 2002-04.

Tony married Jane in 1971 and they have 4 adult children: Reed, Peter, Anne and Nancy, and 2 grandchildren, Austin and Audrey. Tony is also active in the choir and auditioned chorale at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church, where he has served the choir twice as president and is a reserve elder.

BO JOHNSSON
IFFR INTERNATIONAL WEBMASTER

Swedish Flying Rotarian Bo Johansson (IFFR 5743) is the new Webmaster for the IFFR International website. Bo joined Rotary and IFFR in 1996 and served as President of the Rotary Club of Kolbäck, Sweden in 1998-99. His Club has honored him twice with Paul Harris Fellow Awards, first recognizing his work within his club and second for his efforts with IFFR. He has been President of the Scandinavian Section twice, 2000-02 and 2004-06. In 2006 he organized the post Copenhagen RI Convention Scandinavian fly about and began serving his section as activity leader. He has served as webmaster of his section since 2008.

Bo began flying in 1984 and has flown over 4400 hours. In addition to commercial, multi-engine and instrument privileges, he also holds a Class Rating Instructor certificate (CRI). He has owned several Piper’s including a Seneca, Navajo, Malibu Mirage, and currently a Lance. He is a board member of Hässlö flight association in Västerås, where his aircraft is based.

His main business is Sit Down, a manufacturer of stadium and grandstand seating (sitdown.se). Other businesses include: Arena Thermo Seat, Pelard Bath, Wiggystyle (specialized bike helmets) and Exso (a distributor).

Bo is married to Margot, and their children, all adults, are Patrick, Sussane, Mattias and Anna. They have 6 grandchildren, with the latest arrivals being Anna’s twins, Oscar and Victor. Bo is also a Swedish Freemason.

In addition to the IFFR Webmaster address, you can e-mail him at: bo@sitdown.se.

TONY WATSON, FLYER EDITOR

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Lynn learned about IFFR at the Barcelona convention in 2002 and thought joining the organization would be an excellent way to get Rocky more involved in her Rotary activities. It worked, and they have done every Fly-Away since, except 2006, when the Convention conflicted with a former Rotary exchange student’s wedding in South Africa.

“I believe IFFR to be a wonderful organization which provides one with the opportunity to make friends with delightful people all over the world.”

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2012 IFFR Southeast Asia Jetaway

In early 2011, Michael Graves visited Peter and me in Los Angeles, and they were discussing the annual flyaway after the 2012 RI Convention. Bangkok as the convention city presented a problem as there aren’t any private planes for rental nor is there any IFFR member from Thailand to help organize programs. I happened to have a brochure from a US tour company with recommended tours to different parts of SE Asia. Voila, our Jetaway itinerary! And immediately, I was asked to put together the 2012 post convention tour with the help of a travel agent. Chiang Mai is known for its rich heritage and beauty, the “rose” of Thailand and its old capital that would be a good destination for our Jetaway. Angkor Wat in Cambodia houses the world's greatest concentration of architectural treasures, a must see in SE Asia; Hanoi, Vietnam, once occupied by the French, then the Communists after WWII, now the capital of a unified country is a good stop, and Halong Bay a UNESCO natural world heritage site is a big attraction only 4 hours away. Hong Kong, my home town and the most cosmopolitan city in the world is a great place to finish up our tour.

A proposed itinerary and cost needed to be ready to present to members during the annual meeting at the RI Convention in New Orleans in May 2011. I wanted competitive bids from different travel agents. We ended up choosing Thailand Vacation Tour since they have offices in California and Bangkok.

While the travel agent handled bookings of inter-Asia flights, hotels, restaurants and local tours, we still needed to locate the right venue for our annual general meeting, banquet, farewell dinner and a hotel in Bangkok during the convention. Through extensive research and recommendations from local friends we were able to block rooms at the Four Points Sheraton, a newly opened hotel in Bangkok at a reasonable rate. Four Seasons Hotel in Bangkok offered us an unbelievable banquet package and in Hong Kong we were able to book our farewell dinner at the Jade Garden Restaurant with the spectacular view of the Hong Kong harbor.

After over a year of planning, we arrived at the Four Point Sheraton in Bangkok on May 3, 2012. Our carefully chosen hotel was exactly what we expected and more. Nice modern décor, wonderful service from all hotel staff and a great breakfast buffet to start our day. Dealing with Bangkok's traffic jam and sultry temperature was not easy, fortunately the convention provided us with free passes to their sky train to commute to the convention and they had staff at all locations for direction. After the Convention concluded, the Jetaway experience began the next day.

Chiang Mai, our first stop, did not disappoint. The five star Hotel Le Meridien which we insisted the intended hotel was overbooked when our group grew to 50+ was everything we expected, in location, service, comfort and food. The buffet breakfast was even better than Four Point in Bangkok. Wat Doi Suthep, the holiest temple in this old capital was impressive with its gilded Buddhist artifacts. Highly regarded as a handicraft center, we visited a hand-painted umbrellas factory where one of our members asked the artist to paint a pair of wings on the Rotary wheel on his hat so it became an IFFR logo. Very clever, Charles Strasser. A silk factory was next. We saw an exhibit of how silk was derived from cocoons and the final silk products. They have a beautiful show room and a great selection of merchandise. Most ladies did not return to the bus empty handed. The final handicraft stop was the Gem Gallery. Again, it was a beautiful show room with all kinds of good quality gems, I noticed even some gentlemen were making purchases for their spouse who didn’t come along. That evening we were escorted to a traditional northern Thai dinner and entertainment in a beautiful setting. At the entrance to the restaurant we were mesmerized by the large floating lanterns being lit and sent up into the dark sky. Leo Tseng in our group decided to send one up with IFFR written on it. The next day was a big day of adventure. We visited the elephant camp. It began with an oxen ride around the camp, then an elephant show, its highlight being elephants with all kinds of good quality gems, I noticed even some gentlemen were making purchases for their spouse who didn’t come along. That evening we were escorted to a traditional northern Thai dinner and entertainment in a beautiful setting. At the entrance to the restaurant we were mesmerized by the large floating lanterns being lit and sent up into the dark sky. Leo Tseng in our group decided to send one up with IFFR written on it. The next day was a big day of adventure. We visited the elephant camp. It began with an oxen ride around the camp, then an elephant show, its highlight being elephants as artists. To our amazement, one actually painted himself, a sketch of an elephant, another made an impressionistic painting of trees with leaves and flowers in the appropriate colors. The most incredible painting was one depicting two birds with an autograph of the elephant. If we weren’t there to witness the whole painting process and recorded it, nobody would have believed these paintings were done by elephants. Charles Strasser didn’t miss the opportunity to buy the “birds” painting so he can tell the story with his video recording when he returns home.

It was the first time for many of us to have an elephant ride. So exciting! We felt so high on its back, at times it felt like being on a roller coaster. The most precious moment was witnessing the caravan of pilots riding on elephants across a river. I was fortunate to capture it on my Canon. Still another ride to go, it’s the bamboo rafting along the river. A couple of

women walked along the shallow river with cold drinks on a rubber tire, that was the mini floating market. By the time we got back on the bus we were all exhausted from the heat, from the three rides that were more authentic and exciting than those in Disneyland and we all had fun being kids again for the day. Chiang Mai was a good stop, greener, less crowded and more relaxed than Bangkok.

Next stop was Siem Reap. We had to make a connection in Bangkok. On board ready to take off only to hear the captain’s announcement that there was engine problem and we needed to deplane. We went back to the departure lounge and waited two hours for a replacement plane. We arrived Siem Reap in late afternoon. To save time, we started our tour of some thousand year old temples immediately to get a taste of this architectural treasure packed city before sun down. When we finally checked in to our Grand Soluxe Angkor Palace Resort, we were greeted with tropical drinks, cold towels and a truly palatial resort. After a quick shower we were off to dinner. We were taken to an elegant restaurant beautifully set up just for our group. They served tropical cocktails like margaritas and pina coladas, western salad and main courses with an Asian twist. What a civilized way to finish up our first day in Cambodia. Promptly at 8am we were all on the bus ready to explore one of the seven wonders of the world, Angkor Wat. In the 95 degree temperature and 90% plus humidity, it’s best to start early. Angkor Wat is enormous, with over a thousand years history, no wonder the stones all turned black. This was the city temple, the king’s temple sit high up on a steep staircase. I did make it to the top of the temple where I was rewarded a magnificent view of the whole Angkor Wat. It was exhausting touring this huge place in the heat; thankfully our tour guides
arranged an air conditioned room in a nice restaurant for lunch.

Our afternoon tour took us to Banteay Srei, the women’s temple of pink sandstone with very intricate carvings. It’s smaller in scale, surrounded by a moat and truly exquisite. Our evening program was the Apsara dance and dinner. It was in a big hall that’s open on all sides but covered by a roof. The buffet dinner offered a huge variety of SE Asian food. So we were wined, dined, well entertained and completely exhausted by the time we got back to our hotel room.

We took a late flight to Hanoi from Siem Reap that evening. Our flight arrived Hanoi after 10pm. Getting our visa stamp took forever as the immigration officer was overwhelmed by the S3 of us arriving at once. By the time we all got our passport back, picked up our luggage, dragged it to the very end of the terminal where our coaches were waiting and were driven to our hotel, it was nearly midnight.

We stayed overnight at the Hanoi Hilton Opera, a beautiful colonial building adjacent to the Opera House. The breakfast buffet tops all our previous hotels that we were already very impressed with. After a delectable breakfast we climbed on our coaches to make a 4 hours trip to Halong Bay (meaning descending dragon), a stunning UNESCO World Heritage site, with over 3000 limestone islands emerging from the waters of the Gulf of Tonkin. Shortly after noon we arrived at Halong Bay. Along the way, the scenery was simply picture perfect. We were all out on deck trying to capture every beautiful scenery were four early risers. After breakfast, we got on a tender that took us to a lagoon. Along the edge we saw dozens of monkeys. a baby was hanging around its parents, and another playfully swinging on a tree branch, some simply watching this boat load of tourists excitedly snapping pictures of them.

Lunch was served on board. After a little rest we got back on the coach to dinner. It started to rain, actually it poured. Again we were treated to a lavish Vietnamese meal in a very charming restaurant. Our travel agent did a superb job picking very nice restaurants - that’s rare for a tour group.

The visit to Maison Centrale prison, better known to Americans as the Hanoi Hilton (ironically, we chose to stay at the Hanoi Hilton Hotel) was the most memorable part of our Hanoi tour. It was built by the French in the 1890s to house inmates. One room exhibited prisoners shackled to concrete slabs, in another smaller hall was a POW exhibit, the center of attention was the flight suit belonging to the best known POW John McCain. We watched some footage of the Vietnam War which some in our group was very emotional. In the afternoon, the group visited the old quarter and the Temple of Literature, which was the first university of Vietnam founded over 900 years ago.

The next morning we departed early for our flight to Hong Kong, the last stop on our tour. Kowloon Hotel was our choice of accommodation due to its ideal location, adjacent to the six stars Peninsula at a fraction the price, and the subway station was just a 10 minute walk from the front entrance. We had free time that afternoon; some went on a harbor cruise on the ferry, others went shopping in this world famous shopper’s paradise, and quite a few couldn’t resist paying a visit to the huge Apple store.

The last day of this "Jetaway” was a tour of Hong Kong. Due to a stomach problem I had to stay in while our group visited the huge attractions on Hong Kong island. In Aberdeen, the old fishing village, people went on a sampan ride, in Stanley market they had fun doing last minute shopping for souvenirs and up in Victoria Peak they had the view of Hong Kong below, well, whatever one could see through the fog. In fact, they barely escaped getting wet from the downpour minutes after they got on the bus.

That evening we had our farewell banquet at the Jade Garden Restaurant with a spectacular view of the Hong Kong harbor. Nine Hong Kong Rotarians from different clubs joined us, this was an effort between Peter and the president of a sister club in Hong Kong to promote fellowship amongst Rotarians coming from different countries. The group quickly warmed up to each other, some were even invited to a local Rotarian event the following day. The banquet went very well with 10 delicious courses, plenty of food and drinks and outstanding service. It came time to say goodbye to everybody, to friends we spent the past two weeks with.

We put in a lot of time and energy in planning and organizing this unprecedented Jetaway, there were sleepless nights worrying whether our travel agent would come through or whether we could all put up with the Asian heat, the foreign food and the hectic itinerary. There were a few hiccups that were attended to with urgent emails and phone calls, ultimately everyone had a great time. At the end, the sweetest reward came from hearing how much people enjoyed themselves and the thank you emails and notes pouring in when we arrived home.

---Shirley More
told us a little of the history.  

After a delicious lunch at the Arthurs Seat Hotel, a guide showed us around the Franckston Sand Sculptures. It was most interesting - not even the local members had been before. Saturday night’s meeting was hosted by the Rotary Club of Seaford Carrum Downs (of which Andrew Ling, Sam & Natalie Graham and John & Judy Berends are members). Thanks to Club President Louise Welbourn and other club members for your assistance. We also celebrated District 9820 District Governor Kel Hobby’s birthday with a couple of presentations. It was a great evening. A special thank-you to Rotary Club member Peter Harris as guest speaker and story-teller, where he also showed photos and some of his model aircraft. Peter has been involved in this area of aviation for many, many years and has even competed overseas. By popular demand (from Rotary Club members) Peter performed his extremely funny “Octopus” act.  

On the Sunday morning, some of us visited the Tyabb Old Aeroplane Co (an aviation museum) at the Tyabb airport, whilst most of the women went to the Tyabb Packing House Antiques/Craft Village (mostly to browse and have a coffee). After a delicious BBQ lunch at the Aero Club, some members departed for home, whilst the rest spent some time at the Enchanted Maze Gardens at Arthurs Seat before returning home.  

Many favourable comments were made about the way the weekend was organised. There was a rumour that members were taking bets on which of the three restaurants made the best pumpkin soup!  

After two years as President John can finally “put his feet up!”  

--- Judy Berends

HUNTER VALLEY (MAITLAND), AUSTRALIA FLYAWAY  
OCTOBER 19-23, 2012  

Some 32 IFFR members and partners enjoyed a fantastic weekend in the Hunter Valley, just north of Sydney in the heartland of the northern wine country. Members Steve Jackson and Ian Hope carefully crafted a weekend full of fun, frivolity and fellowship with a zippy schedule to squeeze into the day as much as possible! Thanks guys for your outstanding efforts, we all appreciated it.  

After pickups from the two local airports an informal welcome dinner was held on the Friday night, hosted by President Sam Graham in the main restaurant of the Sir Francis Drake Motel with an “early to bed, early to rise” mantra in readiness for our 6:00 am breakfast and tour the next morning.  

A ride for 2 hours in the Rail Motor Society’s 1923 vintage train aptly named the “Tin Hare”, no doubt for its astounding turn of speed, saw us in the centre of Murrurundi township for the Frontier Festival. Certainly, every different and entertaining re-enactment of a bygone era for us all, surviving both a train and stage coach holdup by bushrangers(outlaws) courtesy of the local theatrical society but luckily the day was saved by the Sherriff, none other than local DG Peter Raynor.  

Morning and afternoon tea plus a bush lunch seemed to have us eating all day so it was not surprising that some unnamed members had a “kip” on the returning train ride … yes play it again Sam (what key were you snoring in)?!  

Dinner at the golf Club over a glass or two of wine and more fellowship put us in the mood for the next day’s top gun visit to “Fighter World” at Willamtown Air Force Base. Aviators really are just big kids at heart when it comes to planes, but guess what, some of us kids no longer fit into the tighter confines of fighter cockpits anymore … over time they seemed to have shrunk!!  

It was just great fun looking at some of the historic operational aircraft of the RAAF from the English Spitfire, Vampire and Meteor to “Fighter World” at Williamtown Air Force Base and "Hunter Valley the French Mirage; a North American designed Avon Sabre; the Italian Macchi primary trainer and even a Russian MIG 21 plus lots more.  

A short bus ride to the wonderful Hunter Valley Gardens for a quick BBQ lunch, finished just before a sprinkling of rain hit, but it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm for inspecting Australia’s largest open display gardens with over 8,000 roses in a cork screw design, perhaps alluding to the regions wine heritage. The garden includes 6,000 trees, 600,000 shrubs and a million ground cover plants with some 500,000 annuals planted each year on 40 acres. A colourful afternoon full of nature’s gifts, peace and harmony for our Rotary Fellowship before some of us departed for home.  

Peace through Service and enjoyment through fellowship - Rotary is just amazing!  

--- Mike McFarlane
The first European fly-in was arranged by PWP Charles Strasser and was held in Prague from 23rd to 26th August. The logistics were considerable as around 90 members, spouses and friends gathered in the land of Charles’s origin.

I was joined for this weekend by friends and neighbours Alastair and Allison Morgan and our first leg was from Perth to Teuge in The Netherlands in my Cirrus SR22. Following a light lunch we continued to Letnany, a grass airfield very close to the centre of Prague. The runway is 1000 metres grass and even smooth enough for my Cirrus. We were welcomed by very attractive young ladies bearing glasses of beer - had we arrived in Paradise? There was a minibus provided to shuttle us to nearby Hotel Sbely Duo and it was possible to visit Kbely Aviation museum on the way to the hotel which was well worthwhile. I shared the visit with Peter Wenk, one of a number of US IFFR members who joined us for the meeting.

The first evening’s dinner was held in our hotel and after breakfast on Friday morning our coaches whisked us off to a tour of this magnificent city including Hradcany Castle, the Cathedral and the Old Town. In the evening we enjoyed a typical Czech dinner and it was looking round the room you realised just how many of us had gathered for this weekend.

On Saturday we visited Karlstejn Castle and the weather was very warm and summery. We had an afternoon to ourselves following lunch in the city then individually braved the metro back to the hotel - a very efficient system with local station Strizcov being exceptionally modern.

All too soon it was our final gala dinner and all were gathered in their finery. We heard from World President Michael who had flown all the way from the USA to join us as had PWP Peter and Shirley. And of course WPE James was there with Catherine so only Prince Charles was missing (no, not Strasser - that Charles was there of course!).

Sunday morning had pilots up early looking closely at the weather. It was clearly not suitable for the majority of VFR pilots but we were happy to set off IFR in the Cirrus. We were clear on top with some rough weather for a few minutes in the descent to Teuge. As we parked at the fuel pumps there was a huge thunder shower. After lunch we continued direct back to Perth. Flying time outbound 4 hours 48 minutes and 6 hours for the return.

Huge thanks and congratulations to Charles and Ingo Neufert who took care of all the administration. I’ve never seen so many emails in the organisation of an event - they worked very hard.

--- Ian Kerr, pictures by Feroz Wadia

In the February 2012 Rotating Beacon plans were outlined for IFFR participation in the Malta Air Rally in June. Unfortunately the Italian government almost immediately put a big block in the way. As part of their austerity plans they introduced a ‘luxury tax’ on aircraft. The tax covered not only Italian based aircraft but also caught any aircraft that spent more than 48 hours in Italy. This caused James, Feroz and Angus to rethink their plans. In May the Italians changed the time limit to 45 days, but in the meantime the three heard about a Fly-in to Ukraine, and made plans to go there instead.

In February AOPA Ukraine had announced their first ever Fly-in in July to Uzhhorod, close to the Slovakian border. This was to be a joint event involving a local Motorcycle Club and the Ukraine Development Institute of Flight Technologies. It promised a long weekend of excursions and entertainments in a fascinating part of the world. This had all the makings of a unique and memorable flying experience.

An extended trip was then planned stopping off, on the way, at Aschaffenburg in Germany, Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic and Kosice in Slovakia. In the event Feroz’s aircraft went ‘technical’ so he flew with James and Catherine in the P28R. Alisma and Angus went in their Robin DR400. Picture on arrival is the group with organizer Gennadij Khasan.

This trip was featured in an article written by PWP Angus Clark with photos by PWP Feroz Wadia and published in AOPA-UK’s magazine. The link for the article is:


LINZ, AUSTRIA, 17 – 20 MAY 2012
GERMAN – AUSTRIAN SECTION
Event

I invited IFFR member Ron Wright and his friend Joyce Norfolk to accompany me to the German-Austrian section meeting in Linz, Austria so planning completed, set off in my Cirrus SR22 N21UK at 11.00 on 16th May from home base Perth to collect them from Panshanger, just south east of Luton. On arrival I refuelled then Ron and Joyce met me and after a light lunch we loaded up and departed.

We flew from there to Bitburg, a former US Air Force Base near the Belgian – German border now home to 50 local aircraft. We had chosen Bitburg because there is a hotel nearby and John and Patricia Bowden joined us for the overnight stay.

We departed the next morning at 10.30 and flew in almost a straight line towards Linz. I checked the log on arrival and the trip from Perh had taken exactly 6 flying hours covering 998 nautical miles.

We were warmly welcomed by members of the German-Austrian section and enjoyed a very tasty buffet lunch while we caught up with friends. We were then on to the coach and after a 30 minute ride were
delivered to the chique Hotel am Domplatz in the centre of town. We dropped our baggage in our rooms and I was in a delightful room with a stunning glass walled bathroom and a view across to the cathedral, a copy of Cologne cathedral, immediately opposite. At 15.00 hours (prompt bitte)! A small tourist train “The Linz city express” whisked us off for a guided tour of the city, different coaches offering German or English.

This gave us a great flavour of Linz then it was back to the hotel to unpack and freshen up before dinner in the country at Gasthaus Exenschlager where we had Linz dumplings, a bit of a carbohydrate overload but very tasty. I must confess that when we returned to the hotel, while some headed for the bar I headed for bed, completely exhausted after a busy 2 days.

We had a very civilised start at 10.00 the next morning when we were on the coach and off to ARS Electronica centre. This is a very modern building housing a fascinating range of electronic exhibits both past and futuristic. We then had lunch in the centre following which we had a free afternoon so I strolled round the city centre with John and Patricia. We returned to the hotel and enjoyed a swift refreshment before heading off to our rooms to scrub up for the gala dinner. It was on the coach again and off to 4 star Hotel Schloss Muhldorf for a fine dinner with classical guitar entertainment.

On Saturday it was again a relaxed start with the coach departing at 10.00 to deliver us up stream of the River Danube for a short lunch cruise back towards Linz. The bus drove to collect us then we were off to visit Voest Alpine, a huge steel company with origins from 1881. Pilots are by nature interested in things technical and this was a fascinating tour viewing the smelter from close quarters and seeing long strips of steel compressed down to much longer, thinner sheets. The coach returned us to our hotel where we had a very relaxing final dinner.

Suddenly it was Sunday and time to leave. The bus departed at 10.00 and we were in good time for an 11.15 departure. We flew to Deventer airfield which is about 40 miles east of Amsterdam. The picture shows Ron and Joyce in front of the Cirrus there. After a 2 hour stop with a nice snack in the airfield restaurant we lifted off at 15.45 for Panshanger. Unfortunately, the TAF for Panshanger was overly optimistic on bases, and with below minimum conditions there, we diverted to an ILS at Cambridge. Thanks to the Strasser scheme there was no charge for our weather diversion. We later headed for Dunleeswell, then to Gloucester the next day for a 50 hour check of the Cirrus, then back to Perth, passing by the Forth Bridges and Edinburgh Airport on the way. 2263 miles in 14 hours.

--- Ian Kerr

NEWS OF OUR IFFR FAMILY

Belgian Eric Charlez is thrilled to report that in his La Louviere Rotary Club there are 7 IFFR members; 3 IFFR members and another Rotarian who flies have crossed the Atlantic in a single-engine plane.

Our most senior living PWP (1978-80), PDG Marcus Crotts of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA, was presented with the 2012 Society of Manufacturing Engineers Lifetime Achievement Award back in June. Congratulations, Mark!

Now for sad news. We have heard several of our fellowship active in IFFR international events killed in aircraft accidents since our last Flyer.

Long time IFFR member Harry Bell (#2222) was killed with another member of his Rotary Club (also a CFI) on July 5th near Piru, California during his BFR. We saw him at the New Orleans RI Convention and also at the Bishop Safari in 2011.

Sean McMillan, who based his Cessna 110 at the Santa Monica, California airport (along with PWP Peter More) participated in our Southern Skies post New Orleans RI Convention fly about in 2011. On August 10th he took off from KSMO and almost immediately declared an emergency. He went down in a residential area about 3 miles from KSMO. Witnesses say he sacrificed himself to avoid causing ground casualties, one person calling him a hero.

On October 25th, Herman and Doris Hassinger took off from Nashua, New Hampshire, where Herman had most of the maintenance done on his A36 Bonanza. Just a few minutes into the flight something went wrong, and Herman attempted to land on or near a freeway, but clipped a light standard, causing the impact that killed them both. Herman and Doris have been fixtures at IFFR events for close to 30 years, and have participated on many IFFR fly abouts.

He was also IFFR’s unofficial poet laureate, ready with a poem or limerick presented at the farewell dinner of each event, often published later in Flyer. Many tributes have come from our active members, and he will be greatly missed.

I’ve indulged (and edited) just a couple of remarks received from around the world about Herman and Doris:

From Eric Linklater (New Zealand): Herman’s dry wit and delightful poetry will be my lasting memory of this avid member of the IFFR fraternity, and I know he will be missed in the Americas. Herman was a person who really enjoyed his time flying, and being able to fly up to his death would have been so satisfying for him.

From PWP Charles Strasser: Herman was a loyal “old timer” of IFFR. He was a staunch supporter of many fly-about’s and fly-in’s all over the world and added a dash of colour to all of them. His wit made him a shining star and his unique ability to compose an appropriate Limerick, at a moments notice, became legendary. He even composed a Limerick Obituary for my ultimate departure, which I have reproduced on the last page of my autobiography. Both Herman and Doris made immediate friends with everyone they met and so their loss will be felt by many.

We extend our sympathy and condolences to all the friends and families of our friends.

AOPA SUMMIT & AMERICAS REGION ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Palm Springs, California, USA

Mild and sometimes drippy weather greeted many of our members who attended the festivities in Palm Springs. IFFR members from through out the stated and two foreign countries attended.

IFFR was in full flight with a booth in the exhibit hall. Under the chairmanship of SW Section leader PDG George Chaffey the booth was erected and continually staffed for the entire convention. We were able to meet and greet hundreds of attendees and many were intrigued by our Rotary affiliation. As a result of George’s tireless work our organization was highly visible and we signed up several new members.

Many thanks to George and his crew. The picture shows Diane Wolfsen with secretary-treasurer Steve Henderson.

It was not all work and no play however, as Thursday evening most of our members went to dinner at a famous local garden restaurant called Le Vallauris, which was within walking distance of our Hilton Hotel. Because of threatening weather we were given a private room indoors and a delicious albeit somewhat raucous meal ensued.

Friday was the big day for IFFR as we held the Americas Region Annual Meeting and luncheon at the Hilton Hotel. Attendance was quite good with 46 members and guests having lunch. Reports were given as follows: Secretary Steve Henderson = financial and membership, Peter More = webmasters comments, Section Leaders = activities in their sections, Jack Welge = Pilots bill of rights, WP Michael Graves = Upcoming Portugal convention. Then followed our keynote speaker, Inar Ivoldersen. He held us spellbound with tales of his powerful flights in Patagonia where using mountain waves he had postulated existed (nobody knew for sure) he was able to soar higher than man had ever been. He is truly a great aviator and wonderful individual. We are indebted to Michael Graves for procuring such a world-class aviator and speaker.

That evening 23 of us loaded into cars and headed South about twenty minutes to the town of Indio where we spent the evening chatting, drinking, and dining at an establishment called Jackalope Ranch. This featured a wonderful indoor / outdoor desert setting, including waterfalls and creeks. The meal was great; however, the high point of the evening was provided by two guests of our member Olaf Lansgaard. One (Olaf’s sister) was an Opera singer and the other was her voice coach. During our meal they provided us with several operatic arias to the amazement of our members. It was a truly enchanting evening. Many thanks to Olaf.

Saturday was a day of leisure with some of our members departing while others continuing convention activities and departing Sunday. Member comments regarding the event were positive and most are committed to going next year. All in all a great way to enjoy and promote the “Fellowship” incorporated in the name of our organization.

--- Larry Wolfsen, Americas Region VP.
PORTUGAL TOUR 2013
The pre-convention tour of Portugal has been fully subscribed as of this writing. If some have changes in their plans, there may be some openings. Check the www.iffr.org website for registration and contact information.

Saturday 15 - Saturday 22 of June 2013
Day 2 – 16 June – Óbidos – Alcobaca – Batalha – Fátima – Tomar
Day 4 – 18 June – Porto
Day 6 – 20 June – Vila Real – Douro Valley – Lamego – Vila Real
Day 7 – 21 June – Vila Real – Viseu – Coimbra – Ericeira
Day 8 – 22 June – Ericeira – Sintra – Lisboa
Per the original brochure, price per person in double room: €1,180. Single supplement: €250. I look forward to seeing many of you there! This tour is an outstanding value!

France Fly-Around 2013
Celebrating the 40th Anniversary French Section, IFFR
Thursday 27 June – Saturday 6 July 2013
The French Section is hosting a wonderful fly-around their beautiful country after the Lisbon Convention, and invites all IFFR members and friends and family to participate. This will be a well-organized tour with both fly about and coach options. Full details are available at their website, www.iffr.fr, or you can e-mail Jean Luc and Dominique Brice at brice.jean-luc@wanadoo.fr.

There are minor differences between the coach and flying options, but the only thing the coach participants will miss is the beauty of the country from the air.

The trip starts on Thursday, 27 June at Toulouse (airport LFCL).
Toulouse – 3 nights – 27 through 29 June
Avignon – 1 night – 30 June
Beaune – 3 nights – 1 through 3 July
Strasbourg – 3 nights – 4 to 6 July
Depart from Strasbourg Saturday, 7 July 2013.

IFFR Activities During RI Convention
Rotary’s Convention for 2013 will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, and IFFR’s hotel is Hotel Citadela in nearby Cascais. The Convention runs Sunday 23 June through Wednesday 26 June. All IFFR activities will be held at the Hotel Citadela.
Monday 24 June 1900: Annual IFFR Banquet
Tuesday 25 June 0800: IFFR Annual Board Meeting
Tuesday 25 June 1200: Transfer to Cascais Airport to dedicate a “homage plaque” to the 2002 Barcelona Fly Away accident victims
Sign up for the banquet and other events by going to the www.iffr.org website. To be assured of a place at the banquet you need to sign up in advance.

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Flyer Publication & Next Deadline
We publish Flyer at least twice a year. This edition has run late for various reasons. We intend to begin work on the next edition in April 2013 and publish in late April or early May. Consider the deadline for the next edition to be April 16, 2013.