The Big Dane’s World Newsletter

September/October 2017

Get in touch...

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The days are getting darker and soon lots of planes in the northern hemisphere will go into hibernation for the winter. September gave us a great come back as the Italian section hosted the San Marino fly in. The second weekend was held in France at Aix-en-Provence. Many took the opportunity to fly first to the San Marino weekend and slowly working their way across the Mediterranean at a holiday pace in order to attend the French fly in. Carina and I were able to attend the San Marino fly in but, due to a family event, we could not make the French weekend.

September has been a very busy month for us. Not only with IFFR matters, but we also had to attend a family wedding in Italy and then of cause the major event in our little family, as our daughter made us grandparents on September 22nd. A big boy who is going to be named Max came into our world and took us by storm.

September is also the month where we start our world tour, leaving from Denmark via London to Auckland New Zealand on the 27th. We look forward to meeting lots of Flying Rotarians. We also look forward to revisiting Australia and New Zealand, as we have very fond memories from earlier visits. More about this in a later Newsletter.

**Another 50-year anniversary at the San Marino fly in:**

Carina and I flew into Bologna on row 11 sipping on our G and Ts at 35,000 ft. on a Lufthansa A320. A nice trip over the Alps although we saw very little as it was a late flight so all dark outside. We stayed the night in Bologna, and were picked up by Giuseppe Berardo, the Italian Section head and his lovely daughter Caterina. The drive to San Marino was spectacular as we are not accustomed to the mountainous area in Denmark.

In all 8 planes arrived at Rimini including the PC12 with Vice president Europe at the helm. Total number of attendees was 40 from 7 nations so a really nice turnout.

The hotel was not ready to give us the rooms upon arrival, so gently nudged by our host, they put on a free bar with snacks for the group, which made a perfect meet and greet afternoon in the middle of a very old and charming city.
The guided tour of the city was interesting, and we learned about this settlement which was founded already in year 300 making it the world’s oldest republic. Sitting on top of a mountain the view is astonishing. The evening dinner was in the hotel and our host made his speech telling us what to expect in the coming days. As always food in Italy is great, and comes in sizable quantities.

A visit to the San Marino airport left us all with respect for the pilots operating in and out of this strip. Most pilots concluded that the choice of Rimini as the point of arrival was the right choice. After being interviewed by the local TV station our tour continued to St. Leo, an equally old town, with the castle set on the hill top.

The evening dinner was held at the San Marino Aero club. Again, we were treated to some great Italian food ending with the 50 Year anniversary cake. Banners were given to the team arranging the fly in. After the dinner we were entertained by two talented singers and enjoyed some dancing.

On Sunday San Marino had their annual day of celebration featuring concerts, parades and a blessing by the bishop in the cathedral. As important visitors, we were treated to great seats at the main tribune to both the crossbow competition and the concert.

Sunday evening, dress code went from casual to jacket and tie as we were hosted by the local Rotary club. We were welcomed by the president of San Marino Rotary Club, Maria Salva. As so often before the kitchen did not disappoint us, and we had yet another great evening of fellowship.
The evening also provided the perfect setting for inducting a new member Paul Stevenson from Scotland.

Paul has been a frequent guest at IFFR events over the years. He is also a partner in the Cirrus with World Secretary Ian Kerr since 2004. I am glad that Paul has accepted our invitation and joined the fellowship.

A great welcome to Paul, who now does not need an invitation from Ian to come to our meetings.

The 50th year anniversary of IFFR Italy.

It is not every day that you are invited to celebrate a 50-year anniversary within IFFR. Sometimes it is hard to establish the precise year and date of the official charter. In this case however we know that Italy has been part of IFFR since 1967 as Cesare Maffei of the Milan north Rotary club took the initiative to set up the first IFFR group in 1967. For the celebration we were treated to a fantastic birthday cake.
IFFR France Fly-in weekend Aix-en-Provence 7-10 September 2017

On September 7th some 55 participants of 8 different nationalities in 20+ airplanes made their way to LFMA Aix-en-Provence in beautiful and sunny Southern France. The arrivals were efficiently coordinated with the TWR and we were marshalled to the IFFR part of the field.

One aircraft from the UK had an unfortunate landing at an intermediate stop. The couple in the airplane sustained injuries and had to abandon the trip. Kudos to Fellow Féroz Wadia, who happened to be at the site, as he took care of the follow-up arrangements to be made for passengers and aircraft, thereby missing the Fly-in altogether.

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On “dejeuner de midi” close to the airport, part of the group departed for the CNRA, the regional ATC center for Southwest France, one of the busiest in France. CNRA “overlooks” the scheduled flights to/from Africa, and Middle East as well as all the seasonal holiday traffic passing through the airspace of a pleasant part of Southern France. Some of the pilots in our group made new ATC controller friends as it turned out they talked on the radio to each other earlier that day and there was an old-fashioned strip to prove it.... The rest of the group were treated to shop browsing in Aix and a city tour on the tourist train, equally interesting so it seemed.

On Friday a guided old city-walk uncovered a very pleasant city with a Spanish flavour. The University with its student population definitely gives Aix a dynamic and upbeat atmosphere. The weekend theme was “Paul Cézanne”, the famous French painter (1839-1906, post-impressionist) who was born, lived, worked, and died in Aix-en-Provence. In the afternoon we climbed (hard work after an excellent lunch), up the hill to the atelier (“workshop”) where Cézanne created his masterpieces. It was interesting to find there the original objects and props that can be seen in his paintings.

On Saturday we set out, under a grey and not so promising sky, for the outdoor walk through the hill forest where Cézanne painted his famous outdoor works, like “Mont Saint Victoire”.
All this culture nourishment makes one thirsty (in addition to a full-grown rain shower while we were in the bus), so next on the program a visit to a local vineyard, Château de Beaupré, where the fine details of growing and pressing grapes to end up with wine was explained and shown to us. A buffet lunch with tasting of the local white, rosé and red wines from the cellars of Baron Double met the approval of all. On the way home we visited the factory of a famous local sweet “calisson”, of which 70% of the annual production volume is sold around Christmas.

The farewell ("gala" but don’t wear a tie...) dinner was pleasant with speeches expressing thanks from all around Europe (Latvia and Andorra included!) for the French team, having organized an excellent weekend with an attractive mix of history, culture AND cuisine.

A suivre!
Han Klinkspoorn
It’s all about safety:

With the summer flying season almost over and fall upon us with the coming Autumnal Equinox, IFFR fly-ins can become more difficult to plan and fly. The weather often turns the countryside more beautiful so the desire is to get out and fly, but unique dangers lurk for the unwary.

The Safety Committee was formed to help organizers run our events safely and from a Safety Committee perspective, it is always wise to plan for the least capable pilot that may be attending. Sam Bishop’s column a few months back gave our webpage http://iffr.org/organising-events/ that has more detail, documentation and forms which may assist.

With Hurricane Season, all that is still true but doubly so. We always check conditions of airports and runways at each end of our journey, but are we also checking availability of fuel, of water, of services? Transportation can also be a bit tricky if there has been recent flooding as my wife, Ava, and I personally experienced when we found our airport vehicle half submerged in creek water.

It is each pilot’s responsibility to check weather. Regarding weather, the flight must be VFR at the take-off and destination airports and you must be able to fly the entire route VFR. This does not mean a properly rated and current pilot cannot file IFR. Each pilot makes his/her own decision as to whether or not they will fly as long as the above minimum conditions are met. Someone familiar with the area can be of help in visiting about what to expect, what is unique, the best approach, and so on, but indeed no one goes if the minimum weather criteria are not met.

It still bothers me to cancel events, because I, like you, treasure Rotary Fellowship, but if it does not look flyable under our rules and driving is not an option then the decision needs to be made in time for everyone to plan.

WP Svend indicated last week that he had been tracking damage reports at airports affected by recent weather events and asked that in our next column we remind and encourage a little extra vigilance in flight planning and selection of alternate airports.

Our Safety Committee was formed to help organizers run events safely and that starts with the initial planning.

Remember, our articles are only a short summary for the sake of brevity, so if questions remain or you want more clarity, please contact me or the Safety Committee member for your region (below).

Jack Welge, Safety Committee Chair, welgelaw@yahoo.com - Americas
Michael Bryant, michael.bryant@xtra.co.nz - Australasia
Christian Denke, brief@cdenke.de – Europe
Sam Bishop, PWP, Safety Committee Advisor - sambishop@totlcom.com
Quintessential New England – post convention fly-away

International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians

Toronto Post Convention

IFFR Fly-Away

June 28, 2018 – July 7, 2018

Experience
Historic New York
and
Quintessential New England
PROGRAM

June 23 – 27 Toronto Convention: Fly into either Toronto City Centre Airport or Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

Thursday June 28: Travel to Syracuse Hancock International to clear customs and as time permits visit Syracuse - such as Destiny USA New York State’s largest shopping, dining and entertainment mega-plex.

Friday June 29: For a one-of-a-kind experience, take a day-cruise on the historic Erie Canal aboard the double-decked tour boat Emta II.

Saturday June 30: Travel to Ticonderoga, NY and take a mid-afternoon tour the Ticonderoga Industrial Heritage Museum.

Sunday July 1: Visit Fort Ticonderoga and discover the story that defined North America in the 18th century. Then take a tour of the Starship Enterprise at the Star Trek - The Original Series Set Tour.

Monday July 2: Travel to Laconia in New Hampshire’s Lakes Region. Enroute stop at Concord NH’s McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center with its collection of innovative, interactive exhibits of aviation and space sciences.

Tuesday and Wednesday July 3 & 4: Climb to the Top of Mount Washington, the highest peak in New England, on the world’s first mountain-climbing Cog Railway train, take a cruise on Lake Winnipesaukee, and view the Lakes Region fireworks from the Castle in the Clouds.

Thursday July 5: Travel to New Hampshire’s historic seaport of Portsmouth. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the charming seaport town.

Friday and Saturday July 6 & 7: While still in Portsmouth, take a boat trip to the legendary Isles of Shoals located six miles off the coast and take advantage of the numerous guided tours and museums in the historic Portsmouth vicinity. End your historic & quintessential experience with the Saturday evening IFFR farewell banquet.

Note: A 55 person tour bus will follow the flyers’ route and be used for transport to each of the stop’s activities.

Fly-Away POC: Gary Dehnel, Meredith NH Rotary, 603-677-7910, gcdehnel@verizon.net
Han’s Membership Tips

Fellow IFFR fellows!

After flying home from the last European IFFR Fly-in for the 2017 season, in Aix-en-Provence, France, reality sets in. We had a great IFFR Fellowship season with all sections going out of their way to organize well attended and fun weekends! After the fine memories, reality returns. Autumn is upon us and I have already woken up to days of OVC001, VV001 BECMG BKN 004. When birds stop flying, there is a message.....

What to look forward to for the next couple of months? My postbox gets filled with all kinds of announcements, including aviation related events. Simulator days, where aviation enthusiasts show each other their sim and armchair flying skills, usually on the biggest "iron" available. It is amazing what technology has made possible in simulating reality at affordable cost. These meetings are well attended and shared passion is in the air (...). It is worthwhile (and fun!) to pay a visit and be amazed what’s going on in that world. But also, it could be an opportunity to strike up conversations and open up the world of real flying (fellowship) to this audience.

Other opportunities are the various seminars and exhibitions that are "in season" now. In my country, for instance, there is the annual General Aviation Navigation symposium, a platform where GA pilots, ATC, researchers meet to discuss latest developments. I have concluded that one of the most interesting parts (and always on the schedule....) is cocktails at the end, as that is the ideal mingling "tool" to "meet old friends and make new ones" as the saying goes. Write Friend with capital F and here is an opportunity to preach The IFFR Gospel! Wear the tie and wings!

So, check the magazines, papers and email announcements for scheduled events where the community that loves flying is flocking together to talk and/or simulate flying, while Nature out there keeps us grounded in OVC001!

Keep out of the bad stuff and the blue side up!

Han Klinkspoor
Meet section head of the Portuguese section Carlos Santos Nunes

Carlos Nunes is the new IFFR section head for of the Portugese section. A retired commercial captain for TAP, the Portugese national carrier, Carlos has also been working as a safety consultant to TAP both during and after leaving the flying career.

Carlos Nunes joined the fly in in Turku, Finland this year together with his wife, Graca.

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Use of our new IFFR database of all members - it’s called Membermojo

Firstly, from a computer or tablet

1. Go to iffr.org
2. Press the tab at the top on the home page with label 'Membermojo'
3. On the next page enter your email address and select 'Sign in with email'.
4. Within a minute you will receive an email - in the email message press 'click here to sign in'.
5. Scroll down to 'My details' and select 'View or edit details' to see your own entry. If you select 'Edit' at the bottom you can amend any of your details then press 'Save' at the bottom.
6. Now go back to the top and select 'Your membership'. This then shows the earlier page and if you go down to select 'Member directory' you can enter a name of any IFFR member in the world in the box, using last name followed by first name, and when it displays in an orange color press on the name and you will see the member's details. You can return to 'Your membership' page at any time to select another member.
7. Please ignore the 'Payments' option as payments are made via your section.
8. If you wish you can select ‘Set password’ but this is not necessary as you can simply sign in using your email address.

Secondly, from a mobile phone

Go to iffr.org
Press the button with lines on the right side of the blue bar at the top
Press the word 'Membermojo'
Continue as from number 3 above

Ian Kerr