



IFFR President's Newsletter

October 2022



As your President for 2022 to 2024, let me start by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to lead this great organisation – the Best Rotary Fellowship in the World!

IFFR is flying! There has been so much going on that it has taken me four months to produce this first newsletter - and I am trying something different with it. If you click on the "**Read More**" links, it will take you to my new President's blog site, where you will find more information and pictures. It's an experiment, but I hope you like it.

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Save these dates

We will announce dates for 2023 in the next few weeks, but for now, here are dates for some upcoming events for you to put in your diary.

- **IFFR Americas "Noon Zoom" meeting: Wednesday 30 November: Noon PST, 19.00 UTC**
- **IFFR World Half Year Zoom Meeting: Thursday 8 December 20.00 UTC. Invitation to follow shortly**
- **IFFR UK Christmas Lunch: 14 December - RAF Club, London: [Information](#) and [Registration](#)**

And look out for an email with your invitation to register for the Tango Round the Outback FlyAway following the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia at the end of May 2023.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Fellowship and Flying Around the World

Asia & Australasia



At the end of June, the Hong Kong section had a hybrid meeting at the Hong Kong Flying Club. Those present in person had a visit to the Hong Kong Flying Club, and then, after dinner, and joined by more members by Zoom had a great presentation on how being a pilot helps with decision making. And they inducted 3 new members!

[Read more >](#)

In October the Australian section held a successful weekend fly in at Ballina, New South Wales and in New Zealand, IFFR members and partners held their fly-in at Hastings. You will hear more about those meetings next month.

Europe

Although they didn't hold an annual weekend this year, the UK section has continued to hold one day fly-ins. In July they met at Beccles airfield, near the East coast of England. This was a great day out at “the best improved aerodrome in the UK in 2021”. This was a joint meeting with the members of Beccles Rotary Club, and for some of their members, it was the first time they had seen inside a light aircraft!

[Read more >](#)



On the first Thursday of August, around 50 of us flew in, some in their own planes, some commercially, to Stavanger, the Oil and Gas Capital of Norway, on the south-west coast. A great weekend based right on the city waterfront, with visits to the Oil and Gas Museum, the aviation museum and a wonderful evening cruise along the coast to our dinner venue beside the water. Congratulations to PWP George Chaffey for being this year's winner of the Nordic Aviation Trophy.

[Read more >](#)

The last weekend in August it was the turn of the Swiss section to host us in Bern, the capital city of Switzerland. 12 aircraft flew in for a sunny weekend in this beautiful small city, famous for the “Bern Bears” and the home to Switzerland's National Parliament. Rotarian Melanie Mettler, a member of the Swiss Parliament gave a fascinating perspective on Swiss government during our tour of the Parliament building before Esther Brönnimann-Zellweger (wife of Rotarian Markus) amazed us with a moving yodel.

[Read more and hear Esther yodel >](#)





A week later, at the beginning of September, we gathered again, this time in Civitavecchia, just north of Rome, for the Italian section meeting. All participants flew in commercially or drove, but several of us did still get airborne thanks to the generosity of Italian IFFR member Angelo Midei who flew us in his sleek Tecnam P2008. We had a great private guided tour of the Vatican Museum, including the Sistine Chapel and visited the Etruscan city of the dead! The Gala dinner was a *Conviviale Interclub* with three local Rotary Clubs, one Rotaract Club and their District Governor.

[Read more >](#)

Finally, on the weekend of 9 to 12 September, the French section held their meeting at Melun, south-east of Paris. The weather was less kind this weekend, and all VFR (and some IFR) aircraft were grounded. However, by means of “Trains, Planes and Automobiles” nearly everyone still managed to attend. On the Saturday we spent the day at the Paris Villaroche Air Legend Airshow, one of the largest in Europe. Sunday was a day of culture, with visits to the Palace at Fontainebleu and Chateau Rosa Bonheur, before our final dinner at the Samoie-sur-Seine country club.

[Read more >](#)



Americas



The Americas Region kicked off the Rotary Year with the annual meeting of the North-Central section at Airventure, Oshkosh. Past Reserve Grand Champion George Chaffey once again flew his 1948 Luscombe across the US from California to Wisconsin. Members got together with the Rotary Club of Oshkosh Southwest for their annual IFFR picnic. I look forward to joining this event in 2023.

[Read more >](#)

In September, straight after the European meetings, we had a double dose of IFFR fellowship with the Reno Air Races meeting, followed a week later by the Lampson Field Fly In at Clear Lake, north of Napa Valley, California. There was less racing than usual at Reno as a result of reduced visibility caused by a nearby forest fire, with races replaced by some amazing aerobatic displays. But Tim and Vicki Puliz were fantastic, generous, hosts and we enjoyed great evenings of IFFR fellowship at their local Italian restaurant and at the barbecue at their home.

[Read more >](#)





One week later, Jennifer Strong excelled with her organisation of the Lampson Field fly in at Clear Lake. A full day of wine tasting at several vineyards, ending with tasting direct from the barrel at the winery of Patty and Bill Brunetti, dinner at the Farm to Fork charity dinner in Kelseyville main street (we also got to watch the hotly contested Kelseyville Pie Eating Contest), a wonderful brunch at the home of IFFR members Tom and Ruth Lincoln and the annual Airmen's Chili Cook-Off at Lampson Field (congratulations to Tom Lincoln for his prize-winning entry). The icing on the cake for Caroline and I was a flight with Jennifer in her C182 on Sunday morning.

[Read more and watch the Pie-Eating Contest >](#)

Following a break over the summer, South-West Section Chair Penelope Cornwall has continued to host her highly successful "Noon Zoom" (19.00 UTC) meetings on the last Wednesday of each month. Initially for the South-West Section, they are now open to all IFFR Americas members and increasingly to members of other sections. After a summer break, recent speakers have presented on topics as varied as Miss Veedol, the plane that made the very first non-stop Trans Pacific flight in 1931, and building and Construction on the Moon!



President's Mission and Vision



IFFR gives you great opportunities for aviation-related fellowship; to have new aviation-related experiences; and to get involved with aviation-related service.

My ambition is to build on the sure foundations laid by my predecessors, and in particular, on the fantastic legacy left to us by Immediate Past World President George Chaffey.

I have set up a Membership and Marketing Committee with three extremely talented members: Immediate Past Americas Region Vice-President Alan Dias, Hong Kong Section Leader Eric Chin and from Europe, Beate Thomsen (who has developed the Rotary-Event online registration system). With their help, I have developed my Vision and Mission statement for the next two years.

My focus will be on:

- Spreading the word about IFFR and the opportunities it gives us;
- Celebrating and promoting the great aviation service done by IFFR members; and
- Helping our members (and groups of members with similar interests) to connect more easily

You will see and hear more on this over the next few months.

[Read George's Mission and Vision](#)

People and Planes

I am pleased to have the support of a great group of experienced leaders who share my passion for, and commitment to, IFFR.

Al Clayton (Alaska) Vice President Americas and **Roland Johnsson** (Scandinavia) Vice-President Europe are new members of the Executive Committee. **Mike McFarlane** (Australia) Vice President Asia & Australia and IFFR President-Elect, **Ian Jenner** World Secretary and Treasurer, **Ian Kerr** MemberMojo Database Manager and **Bo Johnsson** IFFR.org Webmaster are continuing in their roles.

And of course, I remain ever reliant on the support and wise counsel of Immediate Past World President **George Chaffey** and other former World Presidents from all three regions.

Thank you all for your commitment



[Meet President George](#)



[Meet Vice-Pres Mike](#)

IFFR's Doing Good!

I'll be celebrating with you the fantastic service IFFR members do. This month:

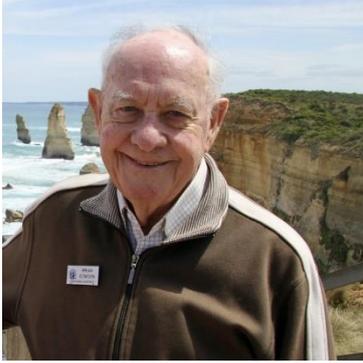


Ukraine - IFFR in the news

IFFR headlined and featured prominently in a recent article "[Rotary Fellowships amplify Ukrainian relief efforts](#)" on Rotary.org. It recognised IFFR was one of the first fellowship to ship aid to Ukraine, and that we have been working to build on the links established when the IFFR Ukraine Squadron was founded last year.

Let's hope we can continue to support our Ukrainian friends in the coming year!

[Read more >](#)



Australia - The Brian Condon Memorial Scholarship

In memory of PWP Brian Condon who passed to higher service earlier this year, IFFR Australia has launched the “Brian Condon Memorial Flying Scholarship”. One lucky youngster will be awarded a \$5,000 contribution towards the cost of initial flight training. As its being promoted via all Rotary Clubs in Australia, this is really going to raise the profile of IFFR Down Under, as well as hopefully stimulating an interest in aviation among young people.

[Read more >](#)



Hong Kong - reach for the skies

In July, IFFR Hong Kong held two fun simulator days which gave IFFR members and Interactors the chance to try their hand at flying approaches into Hong Kong or Taipei airports – and hopefully stimulated the young people to consider a career in aviation. A great IFFR service project!

[Read more >](#)

That’s it for now. If you have an aviation service story to tell, do let me know. And do please give me feedback on how you like the online news site. Either email me or leave your comments on my news site.

[Get in touch with George](#)