2015 Calendar of Events

March 2015
5-7 – Iowa/Missouri Convention

April 2015
10 – IFF Duchess Rosella Day -- Carriage House Inn -- Calgary, AB
10-12 – Alberta Convention -- Carriage House Inn -- Calgary, AB
17-19 – Manitoba Convention -- Elkhorn Resort and Spa -- Onanole, MB -- Reservations 1-866-355-4676 and mention code MBFLY. Contact Ron or Darlene Witty 204-773-2279 or rfarms@xplornet.com

May 2015
15-17 – Mid-Atlantic Convention -- Crisfield, MD (includes IFF WOY Day)

June 2015
5-6 – Tri State Convention -- Hanford House Red Lion, Richland, WA  800-733-5466 (includes IFF MOY Day)
19-21 – Minnkota Convention -- Canad Inn, 1000 S 42nd St., Grand Forks, ND Phone: 701-772-8404

July 2015
18 – IFF Convention Pre Tour - Leaving Helena, MT to visit Deer Lodge, MT
19-22 – 2015 IFF Convention -- Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Boulevard, Helena, MT 59601 Reservations Phone: 800-829-4047; Hotel Phone: 406-457-5500

If you have an item to be placed on the Calendar of Events, please send the DATE, NAME OF EVENT, PLACE WHERE THE EVENT WILL BE HELD, and CONTACT PERSON WITH PHONE NUMBER to the magazine email (flyingfarmersmagazine@hotmail.com) or mail to the IFF Office at P.O. Box 309, Mansfield, IL 61854

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We have enjoyed the company of a lot of Flying Farmers since my last article. We had a nice flight with a good tailwind as we flew our 210 to the Melton, Florida airport to attend the IFF Workshop at Navarre Beach. In Melton we were able to top off our plane with the least expensive Avgas we have bought in many years. We paid $3.50 per gallon.

Wendell Rust met Cathy and me at the Melton Airport and led us to their hangar to put 2028S to bed. What hospitality. Joel and Tina Wharton landed just after we arrived so we all were promptly whisked off to the Best Western Hotel in Navarre Beach. The weather didn’t offer as much hospitality as our hosts. It was cool and cloudy and we had a very low overcast for a lot of the time we were there. Wendell and Joyce Rust did a great job of planning the workshop and bringing it to fruition. The agriculture tours were outstanding and the speakers were very well versed in their particular areas. As we were leaving a University of Florida research farm, I saw this on their board: “It isn’t the farm that makes the farmer. It’s the love, hard work and character”. Our colorful tour guide at the Naval Air Museum had actually flown many of the planes in the museum. He flew the old piston-powered planes all the way up to fighter jets. He was able to add interesting insight about why the planes were chosen to be in the museum. One of the banquet speakers told us he flew for a charter service called Atlas Air. He spoke of piloting a 747 full of roughnecks every two weeks from Houston, Texas to the oil fields of West Africa to operate the drilling rigs there. Two weeks later he would take more roughnecks to the oil field and pick up the roughnecks he had flown there the previous the flight before. Now that is a long commute. He also said that flying a cargo of horses to Asia in a 747 was more of a challenge than the roughnecks.

Prior to the IFF Workshop our IFF Queen Colette had a very nice reception in an outdoor pavilion overlooking the bay. Thanks for the great job Collette and Ken.

After the workshop, we had to wait an extra day for the weather to clear before we could depart for Fort Pierce, our starting point for the Bahamas tour. We were blessed with clear skies and smooth air and a good aerial tour of most of Florida. The Bahamas trip had a group of seven airplanes and 14 people. Two of the couples were new IFF members who joined IFF just to go on the tour. The next morning we donned our life jackets and put the life raft in the plane and took off to the southeast for the longest over water leg of only about fifty miles to Grand Bahama Island. Our 210 must not have noticed all the water because I didn’t hear any of the strange sounds the engine usually makes when traveling over water or rough terrain! We turned east and flew over Grand Bahamas Island and then hopped over a short stretch of water to Abaco Island. We stayed there for three nights. Then it was on to North Eluthera where we were met by a local farmer. Bahamian agricultural officials also took the tour where we visited several local farms. We saw vegetables,
First and foremost, thank you to the Rust’s for organizing the hugely successful 2015 workshop. Foggy weather wasn’t enough to “dampen” IFF enthusiasm! For sure, the daytrips left us all “buzzing”!! I was glad that many of you came early to attend my reception. Following workshop, 5 flying farmers planes, (and 2 non), flew with Caribbean Sky Tours to the Bahamas. By the end of the trip the two non flying farmer planes joined IFF.

Here’s an idea . . . If anyone in your family has a birthday or other special occasion coming up why not buy them an IFF membership? Buy one for your AME! Encourage your local aviation or ag businesses to join. Over the years Flying Farmers have supported local businesses faithfully. Buy a membership for your flying club president, or for anyone you know who is “plane nuts.” It will give them a chance to see what our organization is about. We need new members to help our amazing organization grow and prosper.

As for the Bahamas trip itself, I didn’t know that so many beautiful shades of blue water existed.

Sir Redcap Ken and I have a busy year lined up. We will be attending conventions in Alberta, Manitoba, Mid-Atlantic, Minnkota, Montana, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Ken will attend the North West Aviation Conference in Puyallup, Washington near the end of February.

We will be spending the rest of the winter in Osoyoos, BC until early April. When we return home Ken will be busy getting pastures ready for the Custom Graze Cows that will be coming in May. I will resume my nursing foot care business, and will seed some lettuce in my little greenhouse. I sow successive small crops of lettuce until mid summer for continuous fresh lettuce.

With chapter conventions starting up soon, new queens will be crowned. It would be wonderful to get ladies who have never had the pleasure of being Queen before. They will get plenty of support from their local sisters, you are never far from advice. Please send me your new queen’s name and info as I will need to contact them.

Happiness and Health to all in 2015
Bill and I are enjoying the sunshine in Southern Arizona and will return to Alberta by April 1. Hopefully the weather will be improving in Alberta by then so we can fully enjoy Duchess Day on April 10 and attend the Alberta Flying Farmer Convention in Calgary.

I would like to remind everyone to look at the IFF Awards and Scholarships that were listed in the Jan/Feb IFF Magazine. If you are eligible or know of someone in your family that can take advantage of the awards, make sure they know about them and get their applications in on time. The Flying Farmers do a remarkable job of promoting aviation. Flight training and College are very expensive these days and it certainly is a help for students to have some extra money to use towards the training or upgrades. The IFF Memorial Scholarship Award for College Completion; The Gift of Flight Award and the Land it Scholarship are worth considering. If you have completed any upgrades or done an APT ride be sure and fill in the application for a Flight Achievement Awards.

During my career as a Flight Instructor and then as an Airline Pilot, I recognized the advantages of recurrent training. The APT Program is a way to keep current because it makes a pilot review very important safety items. I retired from the airlines ten years ago and I know how easy it is to forget the small details. There were some basic important lessons I learned flying the Boeing 737 for 24 years—always check the weather; always file a flight plan or flight notification; always do a preflight check of the aircraft; always use a checklist; always have an alternate plan of action; know your aircraft and all emergency procedures. It is amazing how the size of the aircraft does not matter – pilots have the same responsibilities. We all want to continue flying so it is worth the effort to keep current.

My other project is encouraging more women to fly. Growing up in a Flying Farmer family was wonderful; I just assumed that I would be a pilot like my Dad. Mom and Dad surprised me with flying lesson when I was seventeen. Now 18,000 hours later, I am still flying. I love to get in my Cessna 170 and take off. Learning to fly can be challenging but it is not difficult. There is a lot of information that has to be learned but that is part of the challenge. I think too many women just assume they cannot do it because it looks so complicated. The Landit program is a good way to get started. It teaches the basics of handling an aircraft and a person can see if they are really interested or not. So any lady out there who is hesitating learning to fly should try the Landit program first and if they want to continue, they can complete the Private Pilot training.

I also like to encourage young people to consider a career in aviation. I knew that I wanted to be an Airline Pilot when I was quite young so I had a goal to work towards. I knew that as a woman, I would have to be well qualified so I chose to go to University to complete a degree (companies are impressed with a college education). During the summers, I completed the Commercial Pilots License and Instructors Rating and flew my Dad’s Cessna 170 to build up my
Hello everybody! Is it just me, or is it crazy that it’s already February? This year already seems to be going by way too fast! Since you’ve last heard from me, I’ve turned 16! I don’t feel any older, but the one thing I did feel was the swats my grandpa jokingly gave me.

School is going pretty good, and my grades are staying up. I think a lot of the teachers are getting tired of the students though. I have 2 Agriculture classes this semester, and they both are super easy! Plant Science is the more difficult of the two. We have to memorize and identify 60 different plant seeds – Noxious Weeds, Restricted Weeds, Grain Crops, Legumes, and Forage crops. The 7 different wheat varieties are almost impossible for me to identify. Our Ag instructor keeps telling me and the 4 people I study with, that we are probably the smartest and gentlest of the bunch. The 2nd calf was a Black Angus heifer, named Priscilla who weighs around 600. She’s crazy. That’s all you can really say about her. She’s been tied up twice also, and nearly tears the fence down. We’re hoping she gets her act together, but time and a lot of work will tell!

We had our chapter Valentine’s Day party and we had a good turnout. Recently I also bought 2 more 4-H calves which makes the number in my pen three. I purchased Elvis, a big 1,005 pound ¾ Angus, ¼ Hereford steer off of wheat pasture that looks exactly like a Hereford, but with black instead of red. So far he’s only been tied up twice and he’s proving to be the smartest and gentlest of the bunch. The 2nd calf was a Black Angus heifer, named Priscilla who weighs around 600. She’s crazy. That’s all you can really say about her. She’s been tied up twice also, and nearly tears the fence down. We’re hoping she gets her act together, but time and a lot of work will tell!

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Don’t forget to make your nominations for Man of the Year, Woman of the Year and Airport Operator of the Year!
IFF Queen’s Reception

by Karen Bradd
Illinois Flying Farmer

Queen’s Day at International Flying Farmers Workshop in Navarre, FL on January 12, 2015.

Eighty Flying Farmers joined Queen Colette Pierce in an outdoor reception near the beach for an afternoon of wine and coffee with cheeses, snacks and fruits in an adorably decorated pavilion which she called “shabby chic!” Friends from all over Canada and the United States spent a wonderful but cool and foggy afternoon in a reunion-like atmosphere reminiscing and sharing of adventures and catching up on each other and those absentees. All this camaraderie took place amid aerial charts hanging from the ceiling and a gift table with beautiful flowers and a decorative chest holding her tiaras. Redcap Ken entertained the men with Manitoba charts and flying exploits of their area. The area around him was constantly busy for three hours. The local paper interviewed Queen Colette and President Burl Scherler as well as many individual flying farmers. This

Lto R: IFF Past President Wendell Rust, IFF Secretary Alex Knox, IFF Vice President Wayne Wilderman, IFF Queen Colette Pierce, IFF President Burl Scherler, IFF Treasurer Zelda Lewis.
wonderful afternoon was the perfect start to a great workshop with warm hearts abounding.

Opening BBQ

Following the IFF Queen’s Reception, Workshop was kick-started with a cookout of hamburgers, hotdogs, veggies, beans, chips and condiments catered by Alphy’s restaurant.

After Flying Farmers enjoyed the cookout in the pavilion beachside, we learned about Navarre and the barrier islands whose purpose is to absorb storm shock. Santa Rosa Island in front of Navarre is only 2 blocks wide but is 42 miles long. The only two bridges that cross over to the island are here and at Pensacola. It is also the site of the longest pier in Florida.

Gulf Island National Seashore Park is located on the island and is the home of salt marshes, live oaks, maritime forests and magnolias. The area is traced back thousands of years to early Indians. It was the home of five forts. 21.5 million hand-made bricks were used in building Fort Pickens. Their ceilings could not be flat as they had to support 10 feet of sand above with cannons on top of that. The most famous Indian held captive at Ft. Pickens was Geronimo.

The park is the home of a plethora of wildlife including four varieties of sea turtles on the endangered list. It is a haven for bird nesting areas for 260 varieties of birds. The osprey fishing bird of prey is just one of the examples.

In 2004 and 2005 hurricanes washed the roads away on the island. They were reopened in 2009 and Ft. Pickens is a major tourist area today. This bird, beach and sea life is set aside for future generations in this wild and remote area. It’s recreational and historical significance is and hopefully will remain a masterpiece of nature for all to enjoy and learn from.
Palm Tree or Dolphin

Were you a palm tree or a dolphin? There were two tour buses at the Navarre Beach Workshop, and those on the first bus Tuesday were on the “palm tree schedule” – the dolphin’s schedule was slightly different.

We all saw lots of palm trees as the buses traversed through a forest of palms in Pensacola Beach enroute to the National Naval Aviation Museum. A knowledgable guide related many tales about the historic aircraft on display, then we learned how the Blue Angels trained at the iMax presentation of “The Magic of Flight.” After lunch, we were free to explore the fabulous museum.
Back to the bus where a guide stepped on in Pensacola to tell us about the historic city. Some history, sites and sights:

- First founded in 1559, Pensacola was the first settlement in the continental United States, but it only lasted two years; it was again settled in 1698, and this time it lasted.
- Five flags have flown over the city – Spanish, French, British, American and Confederate.
- The narrow streets, tiny cottages and small yards of the 1810 “Colonial Village” were especially interesting.
- Andrew Jackson defeated first the British, then the Spanish (1814-1818), and signed the treaty giving Florida to the United States in 1819. In 1821, he became Florida’s first governor.
- As we drove past a cemetery (with fenced graves), we learned part of it was under the pavement we were traveling on.
- John Wesley Hardin, outlaw, breathed his last in Pensacola.
- Some cities have painted cows or horses; Pensacola has painted pelicans.
- We even saw elephants! A circus was setting up, hence the pachyderms.

After an interesting tour, the “palm trees” and later the “dolphins” rode back across the Intercoastal Waterway to the Navarre Beach Best Western for the evening activities.

The guide on the bus talks about the sites in Pensacola.

Peanuts, Bees and Trees

Whee! How do you adequately cover a farm tour cram packed with interesting information? You start at the beginning. The first stop Wednesday morning was the Santa Rosa County
Extension Office where personnel that had coordinated the tour stepped on the buses. The first thing they did was to hand out snack bags of peanuts (complete with the Heart Healthy seal), and you knew it was going to be an outstanding day!

Peanuts and cotton are the principle crops of the area, with peanuts the most profitable. They work together well in rotation, with two years of cotton followed by a year of the nitrogen fixing peanuts. Cotton farmers especially appreciate GMO/BT genetics as they lower the number of spraying applications needed from fifteen to one, a major reduction on chemical usage, hence 99% of the cotton planted is GMO. Other traditional crops in Santa Rosa County are soybeans, (soft) wheat and corn (gotta have those grits!)

A less traditional crop is pine trees for paper pulp, poles and timber. Part of caring for the trees is proscribed burning every 3 to 5 years; it helps control invasive plant species. Strangely, the fire also helps some animals; it aids wiregrass, fodder for the gopher turtle, and the animals that use the burrows dug by the turtles.

The sign in front of the Florida Research Center states: “It isn’t the farm that makes the farmer, it’s the love, hard work, and character”. We appreciated the sentiment, and the personnel who took the time to tell about their projects. One told of the turf grass developed for the 1,300 golf courses and baseball fields in Florida, and another demonstrated a gristmill that used fine sieves for cornmeal and coarser ones for grits. Later at lunch, we had mullets dipped in cornmeal before frying, and cheese grits, both from the research center.

Definitely a less traditional livestock enterprise was the C & C Honey Farm, which specializes in selling queen bees. Prior to “The Hurricane”, they had 700 hives, now they are back up to 250, gradually increasing to full capacity. They raise 500-600 queens a year, selling them all over North America to those who need new queens to assure a non-Africanized addition to
their hives. Several bottles of honey made it onto the bus to keep the sacks of grits company.

Brief stops were made at Gabbert Farm (restored antique tractors, 1930-40’s John Deere parts store and farmhouse), and also an implement shed where peanut harvesters and cotton pickers were stored; not many of the farmers on board had those machines!

The last stop was Panhandle Growers where ornamental landscape trees are grown for the wholesale market. When they were established in 1986, most of their trees went to Disney World. They currently have 75,000 trees on 330 acres with 15-18 tree types; 25% are live oak, next are crepe myrtle (called “crepe murder” after too drastic pruning), then holly and magnolia. One new term for some people was “litigation trees”; some cities require developers to replace trees destroyed by parking lots, etc. Those living in droughty areas were impressed with the 66 inch annual rainfall, until we learned they lost over 4,000 trees in last spring’s flood. We Eastern Kansans were aghast that they grew and sold Eastern Red Cedar, a species that can overrun and ruin our native tall grass pastures.

It is always interesting to learn about agriculture in another part of North America, and as one Flying Farmer commented, “That was the best farm tour ever.” We agree!

Both evening meals were at a catfish house, but neither delicious meal featured fins; one meat had cackled and the other mooed!

On Tuesday evening, we were given “twisted pens” with a variety of shapes, from fish, flamingos and turtles to palm trees, hearts and guitars, all in a variety of colors. They were fashioned by the Careers Class of the Navarre High School and were such a hit that several Flying Farmers bought additional pens. We also received unique and useful favors (luggage handle covers, airplane shaped luggage tags, and microwave
Both speakers had been in Special Ops for the military. On Tuesday night, Larry Rodka told about being a navigator for the Military, CIA, and State Department, and his admiration for STOL planes. Wednesday evening’s speaker, Brian Betts regaled us with tales of flying different birds, both fixed wing and helicopter, for the military and as a civilian pilot. One story involved 200 head of cows he transported to Iceland in a 747!

Wednesday evening closed with a power point presentation honoring President Burl Scherler. Past President Wendell Rust then gave him a certificate of appreciation featuring a gold “key” representing the key to the Rust’s Navarre home; the Scherlers may have the use of it for a week’s vacation.

Dense fog hampered the journey of some to Navarre Beach, but the weather cleared enough for successful tours. When all were departing on Thursday, the heavens opened for a watery farewell, but that failed to dampen the memories of another outstanding Flying Farmer Workshop. Thanks to IFF Office Manager Pat Amdor, and especially to Joyce and Wendell Rust for all the planning, labor, and organization; it was appreciated.
L to R: John & Noreen Carley, Burl & Cathy Scherler, Doris & Virgil Shultz, Pat & Norman Clapper

The view from many hotel windows

Randy Klotz, IN & Doris Shultz, IN

Larry Dahl, MK & Clément Dion, SK

Karen Bradd, IL & Judy Jacobs,

Jerry Brown, VT

Davene Brown, VT

Sally & Don Apple, OH

Noreen & John Carley, MB

Nevoy & Shirley Culp, IN
Howard & Virginia Buehler and Phyllis & Darrell Lemons finally made it in time for the final Workshop dinner after commercial airline delays.

It wouldn’t be an IFF event without ice cream. Larry & Diane Dahl and Terry & Wayne Wilderman

IFF Queen Colette Pierce & Tina Wharton

How many Flying Farmers can you identify by seeing the back of their heads?

Willy Teller, IL
Following this year's Navarre IFF Workshop, IFF members and friends pointed their planes, trains and automobiles toward the southeast and landed in Venice where warm sunny days afforded a respite from the cold and snow. Our hostess for this marvelous weekend was the Florida Chapter’s Mary Gruber, a planner par excellence.

**The Rookery**

The Snowbird event began Friday afternoon with a gathering at the Venice Audubon Rookery, a delightful place where toward dusk many birds fly in and land on an island within a few feet of a viewing area. The bird fly-in continues as darkness sets in with shrubbery on the island becoming decorated much like a Christmas tree with birds representing its ornaments.

This was a marvelous sight and pure joy for any bird lover. Hostess Mary and her helpers then set out a fine picnic supper in the Rookery’s pavilion provided by the Florida Flying Farmers. What a wonderful evening it was and afterwards everyone departed for their respective evening lodging.

**Saturday**

Saturday afternoon everyone was invited to Art and Mary Gruber’s new home at 19591 Quisto St. in Venice. Their newly built dwelling has a fully screened in Florida Room with enclosed pool for the very best in southern living. Art and Mary arranged a tasty lunch for all attending who then relaxed...
either in the house or its adjoining Florida room. Many thanks go to Art and Mary for opening up their home to Flying Farmers from across the U.S. and Canada. Attending were Don & Sally Apple, Pat Amdor, Karen Bradd, Davene & Jerry Brown, Norm & Pat Clapper, Judy & George Conard, Jim & Jane Farrell, Bob Finley w/ Dolores Green, Art & Mary Gruber, Alex Knox, Don & Barbara Leis, Zelda Lewis w/ Willy Teller, Bob & Florence Lutes, Jim & Anita Meyer, Bob & Donna Miller, Kim & Sylvia Murphy, Virgil & Doris Shultz, Colleen Travis, Ed & Gert VanderKolk, Jack & Merry Vandervolk, and Al & Barb Wadley.

**Saturday Evening Dinner & the Buddy Holly Story**

Later, most everyone de-camped to the Left Coast Seafood Restaurant for a tasty dinner and then onto the Venice Little Theater where they enjoyed a musical production, The Buddy Holly Story. Buddy and his band had a meteoric, though brief, eighteen month “rock music” career that ended in a disastrous winter plane crash near Mason City, Iowa. Though a winter snowstorm forecast, the band’s pilot did a poor job of evaluating the risk for icing conditions that night. “The Buddy Holly Story” touched the hearts of many who lived through that time and have vivid memories of its tragic ending. Buddy and his musical group member the “The Big Bopper” live on today in some of the rock music they created during the mid fifties. The show was enjoyed by all, especially those who were “into” the rock music of that era. The evening ended on a high note and nicely wrapped up this year’s Florida Snowbird Fly-In weekend.
International Flying Farmers President Burl Scherler was honored on February 20 during the Heartland Flying Farmers and Ranchers 11th Annual Convention that was held February 20 – 22, 2015 at Alliance, Nebraska.

Members from several chapters were present at the Banquet. Among the dignitaries who attended were: IFF Region 6 Director Bill Bunger and his wife Margaret. His wife and personal photographer Cathy Scherler was there. Burl’s daughter Christi Stulp and her husband Jeremy were present. Mark and Brynn Stulp were present for Grandpa Burl’s Day.

The tables were decorated with red roses in bud vases tastefully designed by Virginia Buehler. Margaret Bunger made sure everyone had some chocolate sweets to enjoy.

The evening started with a banquet held at the Westside Event Center compliments of Burl. The kitchen staff prepared comfort food consisting of chicken fried steak, potatoes, gravy, salads and dessert. Keith Schumacher did a fine job of choosing the meal selections.

The Ice Cream Making King Keith Schumacher proved that he hadn’t lost his special recipe and touch between the IFF Convention that was held in July, 2014 at Loveland, Colorado and the Heartland Chapter Convention. Members of his family prepared homemade ice cream for all to enjoy and was one of the highlights of the evening.

Local Poet Robert Henderson entertained the attendees with his poetry. Most of his poems about farmers, ranchers and pilots related to most everyone who was present.

Burl called on volunteers to make their own paper airplanes out of placemats and to have some competition. There were five contestants and Darrell Lemon’s plane flew the farthest. Then Burl waded up his placemat in a ball and threw it somewhere in the room.

Burl and Cathy received some congratulatory letters. Virginia Buehler read some letters from Wayne and Terry Wilderman.
Burl’s grandson Mark helps open gifts

Burl’s granddaughter Brynn

Burl gives instructions for the paper airplane contest

Burl with a beautiful wooden plaque recognizing him for being International Flying Farmers President for 2014-2015. His photo was etched in the cherry wood plaque.

Burl received several gifts and he opened them with the help of his grandson. Among the gifts one box contained toilet paper and paper towels.

Darrell Lemons just threw his paper airplane the farthest

Margaret Bunger read a letter from Wendell and Joyce Rust.

Cathy Scherler had prepared a slide show complete with some of Burl’s favorite musical selections. The projector malfunctioned and everyone in the pictures had a green tint. She had 550 pictures in the slide show and was set up to last 25 minutes. She was very disappointed and hopes to redeem herself and present it at some point.

Darrell Lemons on behalf of the Heartland Flying Farmers and Ranchers presented Burl with a beautiful wooden plaque recognizing him for being International Flying Farmers President for 2014-2015. His photo was etched in the cherry wood plaque.

As the evening came to a close Burl thanked everyone for coming to his special day. He also thanked all of the Heartland Flying Farmers and Ranchers members for their support through the years while he is going through the IFF officer team. He thanked everyone in attendance for their support.

Darrell and Phyliss Lemons on behalf of the Heartland Flying Farmers and Ranchers presented

Burl thanks the Heartland Flying Farmers and Ranchers for their support and everyone for attending.
Are Flying Farmers not only adventurous but a daring squad? Yipper! Although hopping the Bahamas was for some of us the most remote dreamed of expedition, seven private planes (pilot plus co-pilot or first officer) met in Fort Pierce, Florida on Friday, January 16th for a first briefing with the incredibly competent Caribbean Sky Tours' team, Rick Gardner & Pia Hilbert. IFF president Burl and Cathy Scherler (Colorado), IFF Queen Colette and Ken Pierce (Manitoba), John & Sue Smith (Kansas), Tom & Lydia Reeves (Massachusetts), Ted & Karen Templeton (Florida), Clément and Sylvia Dion (Saskatchewan) enlisted for a memorable flight.

Saturday, January 17: Final briefing at St. Lucie County International Airport in Fort Pierce. There, it was compulsory to rent a raft and life jackets. Although advised life jackets would be considered sold if opened, some of us decided to don the jacket before take-off (without blowing it up of course). Definitely a good decision; couldn’t imagine having had to struggle with that apparatus when fastened in our seatbelts in the air! We felt reassured and we now have extra emergency gear added to our airplane paraphernalia. Flight times approximately 1 hour 45 minutes over broken clouds, approx. 45 minutes over water. For this leg, our Cessna 210 was the first to take off after Rick and first to land in Treasure Cay. As foreseen, it was necessary to clear customs and adapt to the multiple stamping process which was to be
repeated before and after every departure and landing. Off then to Treasure Cay Hotel and Marina’s cosy 1½ story suites with living room and deck overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Rick and Pia courteously hosted us for a welcome cocktail at the Tipsy Seagull Bar and Grill. “Boombay Smash” it was! Ayoye!! There is definitely more rum than mix in this typical local drink where in the Bahamas the alcohol is cheaper than soda!

Fortunately, delicious conche fritters and spread were served or the beach would have had to be wider for the strollers and needless to say, the walk back to our living quarters much slower. Refreshed travellers reconvened for the evening meal at the impressive “Spinnacure” which although served on Bahamian time was delicious. We had hoped Colette could sing for us, accompanied by Burl on the piano. However, the attempted performance, although unanimously prompted, was short-lived because the piano was out of tune.

Sunday, January 18: Interesting guests this morning at Coco Beach restaurant: oops! a bird, another bird, a small reptile, a dog! The crew had decided to swim or explore the island as one so wished. After breakfast, Burl & Cathy, Clément & I decided to take up Tom & Lydia’s suggestion to go geocaching on the opposite side of the island. Off we were in rented golf carts, the popular means of transportation in Treasure Cay. For those who are not familiar with geocaching, this proved to be quite a lengthy adventure but after lifting or moving umpteen rocks and branches, the treasure was found. (Should you wish to have more information on this fun-filled GPS treasure hunt, check the website: geocaching.com. On our way back to the marina, we stopped briefly at the Catholic Church for a few prayerful moments enriched by Burl’s touching rendition of Amazing Grace. Lunch at Coco Beach where others, namely Colette & Ken, Ted & Karen were intrigued by our expedition and decided to join us for more geocaching on the opposite side of the island. Golf carts, here we went again for a very enlivening afternoon.

Monday, January 19: Most of us opted for a 20 minute ferry ride to Green Turtle Cay. Again we rented golf carts to tour the island and New Plymouth Village. One way streets offered an immediate adjustment. Ted & Karen met their particular challenge bravely driving downhill with little or no brakes! Were they relieved to join us on flat ground! Throughout the day, we admired turn-of-the-century homes, visited the Albert Lowe Museum as well as the Memorial Sculpture Garden, a tribute to the builders of the Bahamas and enjoyed the village’s small gift shops. Food served for lunch in local restaurants was delicious. The famous Bahamian “Boombay Smash” is said to have originated in this very village in the Blue Bee Bar. An on-the-premises treat indeed! Time then to board the ferry whose pilot once again proved impressively competent.

Tuesday, January 20: After an early breakfast, we reconvened in the main lobby. A more than pleasant surprise awaited Burl. Tom and Lydia had decided to stay back yesterday with plans to return to the first geocaching site where Burl had lost his
glasses. Lo and behold, within five minutes of searching, there under a rock were the prize glasses! Tom did return the glasses duly attached to a neck cord! Touched by one of many kind gestures, we headed to Treasure Cay Airport for 8:00 am to fly to North Eleuthera. There we were greeted by Frederic, owner of Fine Threads Farms, clad prestigiously with suit, shirt, tie and cap. Our agricultural tour at the farm left us amazed at the courage and dedication needed to grow tomatoes, cabbages, corn, herbs, spices in ... rocks. A team of government officials who are trying to improve agriculture in the Bahamas came to speak to us to encourage an exchange of suggestions from the United States and Canada. During the engaging outdoor talk, we were offered generous amounts of coconut milk as one by one we were handed a freshly picked coconut. Our next stop was at Lady Di’s pineapple farm. This dynamic hard-working lady, we were told, grows the best white pineapple, “Sugar Bread”. Unfortunately because we were off-season, we were unable to sample. A typical pre-ordered lunch was served at Gene’ Restaurant and Bar. We then headed to an island that had been separated by a raging hurricane. A man-made bridge takes the place of what was once an impressive rock arch. The concrete replacement bridge has also been battered by turbulent storms. The Glass Window there is a prime spot for viewing the striking contrast of the deep blue Atlantic Ocean on one side and the gentle turquoise waters of Exuma Sound on the other. We then boarded our planes for a one hour flight from North Eleuthera to New Bight, Cat Island. Fernandez Bay Village which was to be our home for the next few days was paradise. Once again, the turquoise waters of the ocean were but a few steps away. Food was delicious and drinks purchased on an honour system. And this was security at its best: no keys, no locks!

Wednesday, January 21: Planes headed to the New Bight Airport for an adventure to Staniel Cay. Brave souls boarded a boat to explore the famous James Bond Thunderball grotto and tackle a little snorkling in rather turbulent waters. Sue’s memorable words: “Forget the fin! Get Lydia!” A little scare however didn’t dampen Lydia’s enthusiasm. Not only did she enjoy the swimming pigs as did the rest of the team, she basked in the sun with this friendly porcine species.

Thursday, January 22: This was a day to enjoy more of the relaxing beach and turquoise waters of Fernandez Bay and an opportunity to visit the town of New Bight. When we stopped to enjoy a meal at a typical...
Bahamian restaurant, we were entertained with traditional music provided by a trio who had mastered a button accordion, a makeshift drum and a vibrating handsaw/screwdriver combination. Colette joined in with rhythmic spoons the French-Canadian way. This had been the day as well to visit “the Hermitage”, a miniature monastery built atop Mount Alvernia, the highest point in the Bahamas at an elevation of 206 feet. It was Clément’s turn to report a hair-raising mishap. “Sylvia paused at the top of the challenging jagged climb to take a photo of the tomb site, became tangled in heavily twisted vines, dropped like a fence post and rolled a full 360 degrees. I was afraid she’d roll all the way down!” The result: multiple bruises and an injured knee cap. Upon returning to Fernandez Bay, trust Cathy, although down herself with a bad cold and cough, to come to the rescue with Emergency Chocolate as a primary first aid treatment! The final dinner meant sharing highlights of the trip and
acknowledging newly acquired or reinforced friendships.

Friday, January 23: Breakfast ... check out ... and time for the final flight: New Bight with a fuel stop and customs ritual at North Eleuthera and on to Fort Pierce. Added opportunities to capture more Bahamian aerial wonders!

Yipper again! Amazing feats were accomplished, many enjoyable moments shared — sheer results of team camaraderie backed by efficient tour guides, Rick Gardner & Pia Hilbert!

**Farewell to the Bahamas L to R: Colette Pierce, Lydia Reeves & Karen Templeton**

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**Bahamian coziness**

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**The Hermitage, a miniature monastery atop Mount Alvernia**

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**“Cat” Island “hospitality”**
Some of my fondest memories of Cape Aircraft, Inc. days in the '50s at the Warren County Airport involve me, a small “tom” girl with thick brown braids standing in the shop watching ‘Pout’ and Ed Watt do their meticulous rebuilding magic with airplanes. In the shop there were always glue and dizzying solvent smells and pungent oil smells. There was gunk, paint and masking tape. At home, Poutre’s wife Ruth would have cut and sewn to shape the heavy off-white material used to recover the holes in the planes, and Pout would painstakingly stitch it on the wooden frame. Coats and coats of goop later, the plane would be whole and beautiful once more – the paint matching perfectly and numbers stenciled on straight and bold for all to see. I probably was in the way some of the time, or maybe all of the time, but I always got patient smiles. Both Mon and Dad worked at the Glenn Falls airport as Dad was the FBO; it was really another home to me and I loved it.

It almost seems like yesterday – I remember a small me with a wooden handled cardboard basket filled with Concord grapes, witting on a huge smooth boulder a couple feet above the grassy field just northwest of the airport, in the warm late summer sun. I am watching the darning needles near the drainage ditches and the occasional airplane on the bleached runway. After feasting on grapes, I picked cattail leaves, cut them to size and worked on weaving a placemat. The sounds of summer at the airport buzzed all around.

Mom, the Cape’s record and bookkeeper, had a glass-topped heavy old show case upstairs, which was her office counter. I remember Dad frequently polishing it with pink glass wax, which was hard to remove from the many scratches in the thick glass. Mom would have small mementos in it to sell to the traveler/pilot who might want to surprise someone with a trinket upon returning home from the airport. She sold tiny blown glass animals for a while. She would let me play with them!

Fond memories like these can both sustain and entertain us as time passes, can’t they? They are like old friends that can surface when the rain keeps drumming on the roof. And, they help keep the past alive.

Franklin Roosevelt was related to five U.S. Presidents by blood and to six by marriage.
What Does Helena, Montana Have to Offer?
IFF 2015 ONVENTION - FOURTH INSTALLMENT

It is only four months until the 2015 IFF Convention is a reality. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to read our last three articles and are excited to participate in our planned tours and activities.

Reality also means that the time has come to make your hotel reservations even if you are not 100% sure of your attendance. The room reservation can be cancelled up to 24 hours in advance of your arrival without penalty. Keep in mind that in the summer time the hotel is heavily booked as is the case everywhere so it is vitally important to book early.

Amenities at the Best Western Great Northern in Helena are first rate. A complementary deluxe breakfast bar is included with your stay. Also you will have access to free high speed internet.

Convention room rates for the hotel are $132 single or double (double queen rooms); $142 king rooms; $152 king feature rooms plus taxes until June 20, 2015. Please call 800-829-4047 or 406-457-5500 for reservations prior to the release date in order to guarantee yourself a room. Be sure to refer to International Flying Farmers when booking in order to receive the convention rates.
You will find in this magazine, as well as the last issue, a copy of the convention registration form. Please fill this out and mail to Pat “sooner rather than later”. Make note that the rate for the convention of $325 must be received at the office by May 15 or postmarked by this date. After that the rate increases to $350. Again, there is a cancellation policy in effect if unforeseen circumstances occur. So there is no excuse not to register!

In searching on the internet it appears that three airlines service the Helena Airport – Alakda, Delta and United. The last two have stops in Denver or Salt Lake City or even Minneapolis. Another option may be to fly nonstop to Billings, MT and rent a vehicle to drive to Helena. The distance is about 240 miles and would take you through some very scenic country, passing near Yellowstone Park.

Of course driving your own vehicle would make for a wonderful trip as well. The east-west interstates will eventually bring you to Helena which is located on I-15. There is free parking during your stay at the hotel.

For you intrepid flyers – and isn’t that where our organization began? – we have enclosed some information for you as well.

Our FBO of choice is Exec Air Montana located at the Helena Regional Airport. You can find information about this FBO at http://helenaairport.com/fbos/. The usual services found at other FBOs are available here. Also, the Customs Office is adjacent to this site. Detailed information for those flying their own planes to Helena will be available in the next issue of the magazine.

For any individuals or chapters who are planning to contribute to the convention through sponsorship or donations, we would appreciate that you let the office know this information in a timely fashion so you will be recognized in the Convention Program.

The decision was made last year to not hold a live auction this year. Your generosity with this in the past has been greatly appreciated. However, donations for door prizes and the silent auction will be gratefully accepted.

WATCH FOR INSTALLMENT FIVE – ENTERTAINMENT AND SEMINAR SPEAKERS – COMING IN THE MAY/JUNE MAGAZINE
coconut, papaya, pineapple and other tropical fruit. It was a tough country to farm with a lot of rocks and brush that needed to be cleared. The water table was shallow enough to sub-irrigate the fields. Then after a late lunch at a small café overlooking a azure blue bay it was off to the airport. We had a beautiful flight along the island chains to Cat Island. The large shallow ocean areas have the most beautiful light turquoise blue water that provides awesome vistas from the air. We stayed in a Fernandez Bay resort where the beach was just 50 feet from our cabin door. What a nice relaxing place it was. We had candlelight dinners on the oceanside patio. After three more days in paradise, it was time to head back home. As always, Rick and Pia from Caribbean Sky Tours did a great job of efficiently herding us through all the obstacles and paperwork that are always present with international travel.

Homeward bound, we had severe headwinds but smooth air and clear skies. Cheap avgas prices softened the blow of our slow trip home.

With a forecast of snow and wind, we were off by car to the Heartland Flying Farmers and Ranchers Convention in Alliance, Nebraska. Alliance is the rail hub of the Powder River Basin coal mine so a lot the coal produced in Wyoming comes through Alliance. BNSF Railroad constructed a maintenance facility to service the equipment that hauls the coal. What an interesting tour. We got a good view of the locomotives and learned that they operate with 4,500 horsepower diesel engines coupled to AC electric generators and traction motors. Some of the locomotive engines are still two-cycle diesel but most are four-cycle. The Alliance Bean plant was a good tour also. We were informed that 90% of the world’s Great Northern beans are produced in the Nebraska panhandle and eastern Wyoming. That’s a lot of gas or rather —beans.

Thanks to the Heartland Chapter for helping host my IFF President’s Day. Nebraska President Keith Schumacher persuaded a local poet to entertain us with his original poems about life and happenings in Nebraska. Cathy put together a slide show of my years as an IFF officer and the Schumachers treated us with homemade ice cream. The snow didn’t arrive as predicted and the rest of the convention went smoothly. We did arrive home to almost an inch of much needed moisture from the rain and snow that came while we were gone.

If you have not been to the International Flying Farmers website lately you might want to look it over at www.internationalflyingfarmers.org.

You will find chapter newsletters posted there as well as a full calendar of events. You can even download issues of the magazine in full color. If you have activities or events that are not posted, be sure to send them to the IFF Office at iff1944@hotmail.com. The IFF Flyer and IFF Care Network are sent by e-mail only. You will need to be sure the IFF office has your current e-mail address so you can keep getting the information.

Cathy and I are looking forward to attending some of the many conventions that are coming up as well as IFF Duchess Rosella’s Day in Calgary. Don’t forget that Wayne and Terry Wilderman are planning a great IFF convention in Helena, Montana this summer so make early plans to attend. Helena is in the mountains of Montana with breathtaking scenery close by.

See you in the air or on the road.

Newsletter Editors

Remember to submit 3 of your newsletters for the Newsletter Contest.
HONOR IFF DUCHESS ROSELLA BJORNSON PRATT

APRIL 10 -2015

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The BIG Event will include an area tour, dinner and speaker. There will be time to toast and gently roast our Duchess. (Please contact us to be on the program)

(The full convention program will be in the AFF Newsletter )

Flying Commercial Flying your own plane
YYC Calgary Use High River or Springbank airports
(Transportation to the hotel can be arranged)
Convention Registration has not yet been confirmed

Contacts are Convention Chairperson Eleanor House 403-601-6233, eleanorathome@telus.net or Hannah 403-485-6566, hannah2@telus.com
The 21st of February was a grand day to honor the IFF President, Burl Scherler, and celebrate all day in Alliance, NE at the Heartland Flying Farmer convention.

Tours were to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad maintenance facility there in Alliance. What a large facility for working on such monstrous machines – engines that produced as much as 4,000 hp and rail cars that would haul from 85 ton to 110 ton. That was for just one part of the three part building. The second part was for parts and the third part was for rebuilding engines or rail cars that had been involved in accidents. Coal Trains are seen moving down the track made up with as many as 130 rail cars loaded with coal with two, maybe three engines in front and one, maybe two engines in the rear for balancing the power load of the train between front and rear engines. Yes the rear engines are connected in such a way so the engineer up front can talk to the rear engines for help in a power run or a time of braking. The tour guide mentioned one and a half miles to stop a loaded coal train doing 50mph to 60mph. Not exactly something you want to step out in front of.

Next stop was the New Alliance Bean and Grain Company. Three or four varieties of Northern Beans are handled in the plant in cleaning, sorting and bagging for shipment. Bags of 10 lbs, 50 lbs or several 100 lbs are processed through machines with electric eyes and bagged and then loaded into box cars for shipping. The entire process was interesting through all the work, physical, in cleaning, bagging and then loading a box car with as many as 180,000 lbs of beans. The loading went along fairly well with a fork lift up to about the top two or three layers. That is when physical labor was required and the perspiration came into recognition.

The weather turned some colder and snow moved in later that
evening. But the Flying Farmer spirit didn’t sway and a great meal was had at the Country Club. That was a chicken-fried steak to die for.

After filling to the brim, a roast Burl party formed and the packages came forward. Everyone had a good time and especially when it came to toasting the special guest, IFF President Burl Scherler. The entertainment was The Cowboy Poet Robert Henderson reciting many of the poems he has written.

Saturday morning we had the business meeting, reports from the officers and many door prizes. Out of state officers gave a brief synopsis of their upcoming conventions. We had a combined men and ladies luncheon with guest speaker Wally Seiler portraying Mark Twain.

Saturday afternoon was open for people to visit Carhenge, the new $5 million museum, or shopping. Saturday evening awards were given, Newsletter award given by Burl and Catherine Scherler, a gift of a beautiful clock was presented to President Keith Schumacher.

The award to the person traveling the farthest distance to the convention went to Jerome Arneson from Cooperstown, ND. Bill & Margaret Bunger presented Dwayne and Sally Margritz as the new Man and Woman of the year.

Virginia Buehler presented Phyllis Lemons as the new hostess for 2015-2016. The following officers were installed...

Outgoing Hostess Virginia Buehler (L) presented new Hostess Phyllis Lemons (R) with a bouquet of red roses.
by Burl Scherler: President - Darrell Lemons, Vice President - Beth Scott, Treasurer - Dwayne Margritz, Newsletter Editor - Margaret Bunger. Secretary - Luellen Landgren was not present.

Sunday morning church service was conducted by Pastor Teri Lucas. Following the church service everyone left with a smiling face and cheery thoughts.

If you have achieved a flight upgrade, please submit it for you IFF certificate. The form to submit is on page 26 of the January/February IFF magazine.
‘Round the Regions
By Florence Lutes
Indiana Flying Farmer

The 2015 IFF Workshop hosted by Joyce and Wendell Rust, IFF Past President is now history. It will be remembered as a very cool, interesting, and informative few days. Due to the weather, those traveling via commercial airlines had trouble arriving at Navarre Beach, Florida. Read all about the Workshop events in the ‘Special Feature’ articles.

The annual Florida Snowbird event was planned and hosted by Art & Mary Gruber, in the Venice area. On Friday, January 16th late afternoon, 29 Flying Farmers gathered at the Venice Rookery. Members were amazed watching all the birds that came to roost for the night. A catered meal by Sonny’s Bar-B-Q was served. We were joined by more Snowbirds for the Saturday lunch at Gruber’s new home. After lunch and a short meeting was held. It was announced Richard Dayton wanted to be replaced as Treasurer, and Don Apple will assume those duties. Flying Farmers attending included: FL- Allan & Janet Craig, Richard & Pat Dayton, Royce & Connie Pierson, Herb & Bunny Call and guests – former NY members; IL- Karen Bradd; IN-Bob & Florence Lutes, Bob & Donna Miller, Truman & Joyce Miller, Virgil & Doris Shultz; MI- Ed & Gert VanderKolk and guests - daughter & son-in-law; OH- Don & Sally Apple, Don & Barb Leis, Al & Barb Wadley; ON- Don & Glenda Matheson; PA- Jim & Joyce Sheaffer.

Mark your calendars now for the following events:

June 19 – 20 OH\MI Convention, Defiance, OH Hampton Inn, 1037 Hotel Drive
Sept 18 – 19 IL\IN Convention, Springfield, IL

On their way home from the Loveland Convention, Bob and Florence Lutes visited the Mid America Air Museum in Liberal, KS and stopped in Clinton, IL to visit with Ernest Thorp. Below are photos from their visits.

Florence & Bob Lutes at IFF exhibit in the Mid America Air Museum
L to R: Bob Lutes, Ernest Thorp, Florence Lutes

March/April 2015
The International Flying Farmer

\newpage
'Round the Regions

While traveling to Workshop, Bill and Joan Lieber enjoyed lunch with Donly Dehn and her grandson, Brian, in her home in Clinton, Missouri. The old friends reminisced about Flying Farmer meetings and members.

By Colene Sager
Washington Flying Farmer

Washington Flying Farmers held their annual safety seminar on January 31 at Big Bend Community College Aviation Classroom in Moses Lake, Washington. Three individual seminars in one day met the requirements (except the flying portion) for the FAA Wings Program and the IFF APT Program.
John Swedburg, a recently retired faculty member with Big Bend Community College and Harry LaForge, career flight instructor and CEO of Hoffman Pilot Center, Missoula, Montana, were our very able presenters. A big thank you goes to them for a job well done. The lovely classroom facilities at BBCC are another factor which makes this a successful seminar. Flying Farmers provide coffee and cookies to keep up the energy of the attendees. This combination makes for a very productive learning environment.

The morning seminar was based on aircraft performance including density altitude, weight and balance, wake turbulence, aircraft instruments and good decision making skills. Early afternoon concentrated on the pilot’s responsibility from the preflight to the postflight. The final afternoon seminar covered those unexpected airspace issues like temporary flight restrictions, active restricted areas, unforecast weather, and the pilot’s responsibility for continually checking these out during cross country flights. This all added up to a day well spent.

Region 9 invites you to the Tri-State Convention June 5-7, 2015 in Richland, WA. The highlight of the convention will be the celebration of Art Sager as IFF Man of the Year. We have some great tours lined up and would like to see you all there. Pasco, the closest commercial airport (about 5 miles away) is served by Delta, United, Alaska and Allegiant or fly to Portland, Spokane or Seattle, rent a car and make it a great vacation. The hotel is the Hanford House Red Lion (800-733-5466) mention you are with the Washington Flying Farmers and get the rate of $122 which includes taxes and breakfast. Audrey Ledgerwood would love to send you the registration form (ledgerja@donobi.net). We hope to see you there.

By Jack Vandervalk
Alberta Flying Farmer

On January 6th Merry and I started for Florida in our Motor Home. We would like to have started earlier but our daughter and her husband from Thailand were here till the 5th. The first day we drove in light snow causing some trouble with the throttle on the Motor Home freezing. We stayed that night in Billings, MT in front of my cousin’s new house. After going out for Breakfast with family and thawing the throttle again we were off to Cheyenne, WY.

The next day we drove to Sheridan Lake, CO and enjoyed touring Burl and Cathy Scherler’s farming operation. We had a nice visit and were impressed with the whole operation. Friday we drove to Dallas, TX and spent time with my cousin Marg. That is a story on its own. Saturday afternoon we finished driving the rest of Texas. Sunday morning we tried to find a church that had services when we were in that area. The Church that our GPS lead us to had no parking for our big rig and the streets were narrow. So back on the freeway and we made it to the hotel at Navarre, Florida early that evening. We parked the Motor Home in a far corner of the parking lot and moved into the hotel the next day. We enjoyed 3 days of foggy rainy weather and found out it was warmer at home.

Monday we enjoyed good fellowship with a reception and goodies sponsored by IFF Queen Colette Pierce. In the evening we enjoyed an outdoor Cookout that had a roof only. Later we watched a video on The Gulf Islands of the area. Tuesday after breakfast at the Hotel we were on buses to the National Naval Aviation Museum followed by a tour of downtown Pensacola. At the Museum we were divided in groups and each group had a retired navy pilot tell stories about each plane and why it was needed. There were also models of a lot of Aircraft
Carriers from the early days to modern day vessels. In the evening we dined at a Catfish house with a retired Navy man telling of some of his experiences. Wednesday we were again early on the buses and off to the West Florida Ag Research and Education center. There we learned a little about growing peanuts and they showed how to make grits and corn starch. They were showing farmers how they could get set up to make grits to increase the profit in growing corn. Next we went to a small honey farm where we were told a lot about bees. It takes perfect timing and knowhow to raise Queen Bees that he sold for 20 dollars. Our next stop was at a farm where the owner had restored a lots of farm tractors. This farmer had been a John Deere dealer so it was good to see a lot of old John Deere models in excellent shape. There were even peddle cars and old washing machines. The most interesting stop if you wanted to see present day expensive machinery was at a large farm. This place had machinery to grow and harvest peanuts and cotton. The peanuts first have to be plowed up and turned upside down to let dry. Then they are harvested with a special combine type machine. It was interesting to see the 2 big sheds full of tillage, planting, peanut harvesting equipment and cotton harvesters. The huge John Deere Cotton Harvester was something to see. What a huge investment in machinery. The last stop was at a farm where they grow all kinds of trees that are used to landscape commercial buildings. The place was huge with 6000 trees with a lot in pots ready to go. Wednesday evening we were back to the Catfish house for another great meal and speaker. The evening ended with the closing of Workshop get together. Wendell and others were quite entertaining.

Thursday morning we headed south to find some warmth. Friday afternoon we joined some of the IFF Florida snowbirds. We met at Art and Mary Gruber’s new winter home. They moved in only 2 months earlier. In the evening we had a picnic in a park where a lot of birds spend the night on a little Island. Lots of people were getting close up pictures of the birds coming in. Saturday we again were at Gruber’s for games and fellowship. That evening we all went out to eat together at a renowned restaurant.

Sunday we went to a Baptist Church and then up to St Petersburg to visit Merry’s niece. We stayed 6 days, walked the beach and got sunburned. Then we moved east of Tampa to a RV Park for 3 days so we could visit Chad and his family. As a boy Chad spent 8 summers at our house in Claresholm and we had not seen him for 20 years.

Monday the 26th we headed north, and because the eastern US had a bad snow storm we turned west on Interstate 10. After visiting Merry’s sister in-law in Louisiana we moved to Austin, Texas. Stayed with Merry’s cousin 2 days then moved on to Casa Grande, AZ with friends for 3 days. After Casa Grande we visited Wayne and Terry Wilderman in Mesa, AZ where we stayed in a RV park and visited other friends for 5 days. Then we went on to Buckeye, AZ to spend 2 days with some of our Claresholm neighbors. From there we spent 3 days in Yuma, AZ and 3 days going home. We had a good time and saw a lot of new country.

Carl & Lillie Ray were married on Father’s Day in 1947 at Second Baptist Church in Marshall, Texas. On Father’s Day in 2014 they celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary and posed for another “bride and groom” picture at First Baptist Church in Floresville, Texas.
On the way from IFF Workshop in Navarre to the Florida Snowbird Fly-In in Venice, FL made IFF Secretary Alex Knox a strawberry king.

‘K’ was chosen to stand for a strikeout in baseball because ‘S’ was being used to denote a sacrifice.

Armadillos have four babies at a time and they are always all the same sex.

Dad and Helen want to thank all of you for the birthday cards that were sent to Dad to help celebrate his 94th birthday on February 3rd. Out of the 67 cards he received over 50 of them were from Flying Farmers which means a great deal to him and shows how thoughtful you all are.

Our family appreciates every boost you continue to give Dad with the phone calls, cards and visits!

Zelda
Col. Norman C. Wilmeth of Guymon, OK, US Army (Ret) passed away July 7, 2014 after a brief illness at Texas Tech University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas. He was 96 years old.

Wilmeth was born May 2, 1918 south of Guymon, Oklahoma to Joseph Carroll Wilmeth and Lora Dixon Wilmeth. He enlisted in the US Army in 1939. In WWII, he served with distinction as a Glider Pilot flying numerous missions. He was a founding sponsor of the National Museum of the US Army. He was married to Mary Donna Long on September 3, 1950 then married to Kay Tipton on July 9, 2003.

Wilmeth was a past-president of the Oklahoma State Auctioneers Association and an active member of the National Auctioneers Association where he was one of the first in the US to earn the professional CAI certification. He was the 2010 International Flying Farmer Man of the Year and a former president of the Oklahoma Flying Farmers as well as an active member of the WWII Glider Pilots Association.

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He is preceded in death by a daughter, Lora Melinda Wilmeth, and his first wife, Donna Long Wilmeth.

Wilmeth is survived by his wife, Kay Wilmeth; his daughters Carol Wilmeth Wheeler of Oklahoma City, and Renee Wilmeth of Indianapolis.

Dorothy Marie Gay, 88, of Atwater, Ohio passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2015. Dorothy Marie Northup was born in Denver, Colorado on September 23, 1926. She married James Gordon Gay on January 1, 1947. They moved to Atwater, Ohio in June of 1948.

Dorothy was a member of the Atwater United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Rebekah Circle, Campfire Camping Club of Ohio, International Flying Farmers, and the Atwater Red Hat Society where she was the Queen and two bridge clubs. She enjoyed reading, playing cards and has traveled extensively.

She is survived by her husband Jim of 68 years and sons: Richard (Beverly) Gay of Saline, Michigan and John (Norma) Gay of Wadsworth, Ohio. Surviving also are her grandchildren: Steve, Tom, David, Bryan, Tammy and Tiffany and step-grandchildren: Donavan, Melody, Josh, Tim, Mandy and 17 great-grandchildren. Dorothy also leaves her brothers: Bob (Shio) Northup, Jim (Mae) Northup and Harry (Holly) Northup.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents George and Marie Northup and her brother George.
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CONVENTION '15
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Full breakfast included
Rooms Rates: $132 single or double (double queen room); $142 King; $157 King Feature plus taxes until June 20, 2015

Pre-Tour – Saturday, July 18th
Dear Lodge, MT – Visit Grant-Kohrs Ranch for a tour, lunch and a PowerPoint presentation. Enjoy the many offerings of the Old Prison Museum Complex including the Prison Cow Ice Cream Shop. Return to Helena for dinner. An optional event is Symphony Under the Stars available across from our hotel.

Sunday, July 19th
Church service, committee meetings, PQUAD get together and Queen & Redcap Mixer. Afternoon boat tour to Gates of the Mountains. Welcome Banquet with entertainment to follow.

Monday, July 20th
Business meeting/MOFY/WYO Luncheon, seminar speakers, chapter dinners, awards presentations and entertainment to follow.

CHAPTER DAY – Tuesday, July 21st
Morning activities include Last Chance Tour Train and guided tours of State Capitol. Boxed lunch. Afternoon activities include guided tours of Montana Museum & Helena Cathedral. Return to hotel for dinner and entertainment.

Wednesday, July 22nd
Business meeting, lunch on your own (except for executive officers & spouses and Past Presidents and Spouses), seminar speakers, Awards & Coronation Banquet.

Refund Policy
100% refund given if cancellation is due to health issues or family emergency and all other approved cancellations.

I/We will not be staying at the Best Western; however, we would like to contribute towards the meeting rooms. I have added $________ to my registration fees.

Payment accepted in US or Canadian funds ______

Mail this completed registration page to: International Flying Farmers, P.O. Box 309, Mansfield, IL 61854
If you submit an article that has been published in another publication, you must also submit permission from the publication in which it appeared as well as permission from the writer of the article. These permissions must be in writing or the article cannot be printed in the IFF magazine.

IFF Correspondents: Make note of the following deadlines for upcoming issues of the International Flying Farmer magazine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January/February</td>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>March/April</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June</td>
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<td>July/August</td>
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<td>September/October</td>
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<td>November/December</td>
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New Magazine Calendar Deadlines

Chapter Supplies Available through IFF – New Prices!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queen’s Tiara</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trophy</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOY Pin</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen’s Pin (w/year guard)</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Guard</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$</td>
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Additional Info:

Send check for the amount of supplies ordered -- indicate year for the trophy and pin under “Additional Info”. Please allow 6 weeks for the trophy, tiara and pins, and 3-4 weeks for the WOY pin.

Name: ___________________________
Address: _________________________
_________________________________
City: ___________________________
State/Prov: ______________________
Zip/Postal: ______________________

mail check and order form to:
International Flying Farmers
P.O. Box 309
Mansfield, IL 61854

NOTICES

DATE OF JOINING IFF

Please notify the IFF office of the year that you joined IFF. There are many blanks in the database that need to be filled as well as some incorrect information. This information is needed to determine 25-year and 50-year memberships.

Where in the world is Helena, Montana?

July 19-21, 2015

It’s happenin’ in Springfield, Illinois
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel
July 17 - 21, 2016
### NAME

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Last</th>
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<th>Middle</th>
<th>Birth date</th>
<th>Pilot ratings/total pilot hours</th>
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### SPOUSE

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### CHILD

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### ADDRESS


### TELEPHONE

CELL PHONE

### EMAIL


### OCCUPATION

PRINCIPLE CROP

### AIRCRAFT

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<th>Make</th>
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### LANDING STRIP

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<th>Direction from town</th>
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Who told you about IFF?

Contributions or gifts to IFF are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

### IFF ANNUAL DUES:

- new members $85

Includes enrollment for pilot, spouse & all children living at home.

Make checks payable to International Flying Farmers

Mail to:

INTERNATIONAL FLYING FARMERS
P.O. BOX 309
Mansfield, IL 61854

### IFF Liability Disclaimer

The International Flying Farmers (IFF) and its representatives hereby make notification they have no authority and take no responsibility or control for: 1-the safety of members or guests, 2-the qualifications of individuals to operate aircraft or other forms of transportation, 3-the situations when individuals should or should not fly, and 4-the type of transportation or manner of transportation in which members or guests choose to use.

Members and guests are solely responsible for their own safety and the safety of their families. No liability is assumed or implied by the IFF, its Officers, Directors, or Chapter Officers.

### NOTICES

#### IFF Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations

All contributions are fully deductible for IRS tax purposes since the IFF Memorial Scholarship Fund is a 501 (c)(3) charitable institution; they should be sent to:

IFF Past Presidents

c/o Robert Lutes

71705 CR 23

New Paris, IN 46553

#### 25 or 50 YEAR MEMBERS

If you have been an IFF member for 25 or 50 years and have not received your 25-year or 50-year pin, please notify the IFF office. Be sure to give the year you joined IFF.

Only obituaries for those who were IFF members at the time of death will be published in the IFF magazine. Others (family and former members) may be published in chapter newsletters.
HISTORY
International Flying Farmers is an organization of families with a mutual interest in the promotion and use of airplanes in agriculture. The organization, founded in 1944, consists of state and provincial chapters throughout North America. While originally founded by farmers and ranchers who owned aircraft, the membership now consists of individuals from all walks of life, from storeowners and factory workers to bankers and lawyers. Direct involvement in agriculture or aviation is not, in and of itself, a requirement for membership.

PURPOSE
The purpose of the organization is: To create and maintain a compact representative and centralized organization with a spirit of cooperation and mutual helpfulness among its members; to explore and emphasize the importance of flying and the use of the airplane in agricultural production, including the breeding, raising and feeding of livestock; and to engage in research and extension service, including publishing magazines or other periodicals to disseminate among its members information pertaining to the purposes of the organization.