

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS**  
**FRENCH SECTION**  
**BULLETIN N° 29 – AUTUMN 2010**  
*(English Summary)*

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**The NEW COMMITTEE is arrived !**

President Jean-Pierre GABERT and Treasurer Jean-François RAPIN have expressed their wishes to enjoying a well deserved retirement.

September, 11 will definitely be a date to be remembered: our President-Elect is for the first time one of our female members !

**Welcome to you, President and Chairwoman Dominique BRICE !**

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Présidente                                  | Madame Dominique BRICE      |
| Chargé de la Communication                  | Monsieur Joël LAUNAY        |
| Grand Argentier et Garde des Sous           | Monsieur Olivier VIGNERON   |
| Maître de Cérémonie, Secrétaire Particulier | Monsieur Jean-Luc BRICE     |
| Grand Conseiller Technique                  | Monsieur Bruno LATIL        |
| Grand Palonnier et Past-Président           | Monsieur Jean-Pierre GABERT |
| Grand Sage parmi les Sages                  | Monsieur Jean RECULLET      |



### PRESIDENT's MAIDEN ADDRESS (extract)

I am genuinely honored and proud you have chosen me.

Succeeding to our past-Presidents, particularly Jean-Pierre and Jean-François, and that under the umbrella of our Dean, Founder and First President Jean RECULLET, is not likely to be so easy ... I did accept this responsibility in counterpart to the innumerable and inexprimable friendship that have been bounding all of us throughout our meetings, travels and other events.

I cannot help remembering our Friends Philippe, Dominique and Guy who have been so implied with us and with whom we would have liked to share this moment.

Jean-Pierre, a lot of thanks to you for your keen commitment!  
Thanks a lot also to Jean-François!

The Section you are now transmitting to me is truly lively and dynamic, let's just now trying to be as efficient as you have been!  
Anyway, I know that I can rely upon your experience; your advice always is welcome!

Jean-Pierre's achievements deserve to be honoured by a PHF distinction award plus the honorific title of *Grand Palonnier* (a joke allusive to Mao, great helmsman, 'palonnier' is the French word for rudder, so his title is *Great Rudderman* ....).

You will discover in the following pages what's the programme for the year to come.

Fly safe, take care !

Be our common passion our best means for us to keep wholesome and to grow Friendship!

*Dominique BRICE*

### A Word from our PAST-PRESIDENT

My Friends,

I'm very touched by the PHF awarded through the hands of Jean. Thanks a lot! I did appreciate the help of those who have been committed during the past years, particularly Jean-François and Joël (what a great job they have achieved!), supporting the preparation of meetings, fly-ins and fly-outs, all those who have made our success and our pleasure.

I am confident that the spirit of our Section will perdure; our Friendship, as it is called, is living by our commitment to it, by our meetings, travels and bulletin (thanks to Joël!).

Let's be active participants, let's live the 'double-friendship' dear at the heart of our President-Founder, Jean.

I'll always be with you and active in such a way that our Friendship still be ... **shared pleasure** !

Amical Regards,

*Jean-Pierre GABERT*

## SPRING MEETING at DREUX

DREUX (Dreux-Vernouillet Airport LFON, grass strip), Eure-et-Loire department, somewhere inbetween Ile-de-France, Normandie and Beauce is located 70 km West of Paris. Numerous sights witness a long and rich history.

Our spring meeting is rather unformal and more or less improvised. We are generally greeted by local IFFR members who organize a lunch (to which all of us contribute) that could be pic-nic, catering or simple restaurant.

We were received on 2010, April, 25<sup>th</sup> in Dreux by Guy Moreau and Joëlle, Bernard Violette and Christiane.

Already the day before were arrived Jean-Luc and Dominique Brice in TB 20 from Toulouse, Jean-Pierre Gabert in Comet from Vendée-Air-Park and Danièle Gabert by car. We spent a nice time in the evening at Guy Moreau et Joëlle's with Bernard Violette and his wife, Hervé Guérin, ex-IFFR and his wife.

We visited the next day morning the town with the explanations of Guy and then enjoyed a guided tour of *La Chapelle Royale Saint-Louis de Dreux*, the shrine of *Famille d'Orléans*, within Dreux' castle.

We then met at the airport Jean Recullet coming from Briare with his MCR, Michel Azy and his friend Fernand Durand coming from Chalon-sur-Saône with a Cessna 172, Michel Humeau in his Pioneer 300 from Vendée-Air-Park, Jean-Marc et Chantal Daurelle with a Tecnam 92 from Til-Châtel, Philippe et Odette Golain with a Robin 460 from Orléans and Joël, Jeanine and Jeremy Launay in DR 400 from Briare.

We are more than 20, plus local Rotarians, among them the President and Nicole and Christian Levêque, (maybe some day a new IFFR ?), chatting about news from here and there, and about our possible projects.

Our President in exercise, Jean-Pierre, presents the last information available with regard to our next trip in Slovaquia, the reason why our next September meeting that was planned to be held at Vichy must be rescheduled at Poitiers (the airport of Vichy will be closed at this time for becoming a dragsters' circuit!).



## CZECH REPUBLIC & SLOVAKIA ROUND-TRIP

26<sup>th</sup> June – 03<sup>rd</sup> July

### **PRAGUE, Czech Republic, Saturday**

Coming from France, Switzerland and Belgium everybody arrived around noon by good flying conditions, although cumulus buildings were forming on the East of Germany.

We were not however still gathered since some of us had chosen Prague-Letnany LKLT, the others Prague-Ruzyne LKPR, the first one for those equipped with strong landing gear, the second for 'normal' and maybe a bit more sophisticated (IFR) aircraft ...

And that choice revealed fully justified!!!! Landing at Letnany is somewhat 'sportive', not only because of the complexity of the area with multiple airports near one another, but because the runway is dramatically bumpy ... causing spectacular rebounds! And to cap it all, all markers were removed for mowing the lawn ... which might not disturb 'local pilots'... those unfamiliar have nevertheless appreciated ;-) ...

We had then a late and 'light' luncheon at the hotel (goulash with bread and meat with gravy, all of that lavishly watered with ... beer) and a short nap was necessary afterwards.

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We all met at night (11 IFR) to have a good 'local-flavour' dinner in Ô such a picturesque tavern: HOSTINEC U KALICHA where a singer accompanied by accordion and tuba set a vivid ambiance. Up to that, we then enjoyed the scenery of two choirs from Poland and Norway vying to singing their best traditional songs.

Did you actually plan all of that, Jean Pierre...? That cannot be a coincidence...

The local gastronomy: *charcuterie, saucisses, raifort, cornichons doux, piments, viandes à profusion, choux rouges, choucroute*, and BEER of course!

### **PRAGUE, Sunday**

On board of the 'underground' (mostly elevated however), line C, we disembark at Florenc, downtown. We are then guided by throughout this lovely town with its 365 churches.

This is genuinely worth the travel, the town is wonderful, dynamic, colourful, the sun is shining and the girls are gorgeous!

At the right time, we stood in front of the monumental Astronomical Clock striking 12 times and displaying complex mechanisms.

We had then a meal in one of the numerous auberges and we are now in the process of getting accustomed to the Goulasch, and the accompanying beer...

A boat trip on the VLADA River gave us another sight upon the town and to the castle erected on the hill on the opposite side. Dany was lost on Charles' bridge among the crowd and was pitifully left alone by herself for a while: poor Dany!

The tramway eased our way up to the Castle where we did assist to the Guard Relief, had a magnificent panoramic view upon the town and witnessed the place of the famous *Defenestration of Prague* (people were thrown out of the window of the castle after some disagreement).

The late evening was devoted to the briefing for the flight of the following day.

## Monday, FLIGHT to LUCENEK, Slovakia

Early morning, some of us realized that their flight-plans have been disregarded; they naively believed that Paris would have duly logged them...

VFR pilots departing from Letnany enjoyed the experience of speaking with the military controllers of Kbely who clear them to a mysterious reporting point; needless to say that the accent and the fact not to be familiar with the environment did not ease the job!

Fortunately they are kind enough for vectoring the aircraft on the right way, although at very low altitude. And yet we will have to climb above the mountainous area that is waiting for us ...

Once established at a more comfortable level, we avoid overflying Prievidza airport where a glider contest is running. We saw however numerous small strips on the way there forward.

Meanwhile, the two IFR aircraft were making their routes well above the cloud layer, basking in the sunshine ... They had nonetheless to cancel IFR and find a way down for landing VFR, which was not too hard however!

Amazingly, whatever the routes, the flight rules or the power of our vehicles, we did arrive almost all but all together at about the same time. Fortunately, Lucien was there on the frequency to help us avoid traffic aloft and on the ground.

We then gathered in a restaurant in a garden where black swans were strolling; we got there acquainted with our hosts, Viéra and Lucien.

On our way to Zvolen in the afternoon, we had a first look on the countryside and we had a break for tasting the water that was running hot and sulphurous from the ground.

At night we joined and attended the –very formal- meeting of the local RC of Zvolen: it was for them the D-day of Presidency transmission; they nonetheless greeted us very very warmly. The party was enlightened by a Tzigane Band; we are indeed at the door of Bohemia! Let's remind also that Jérémy, the son of our friend Joël, enjoyed this opportunity to get along particularly well with American 'students' exchange' pretty girls ... didn't you Jérémy?

## Tuesday in Zvolen and Kremínca

We had this morning our appointment to the **SYMBIA Institute of Zvolen**.

The main activity of SYMBIA is to offer social services to the children and young people up to the age of 26 who are dependent on the help of other people, meaning they are physically and mentally disabled, autistic, with pervasive development disorders.

Our IFFR Section had decided, with the help of several Rotary Clubs to support RC Zvolen for their contribution to the benefit of this Institute.

During our visit, we noticed that, despite very limited means, the establishment is very well managed, patients are well cared of and the staff is fully devoted, welcoming and kind.

Our financial contribution will help develop various entertaining and therapeutic activities like luminosity-therapy and music-therapy, advanced disciplines that help dampen the stress; it will be used also for the installation of a wooden stage for an equestrian activity with ponies.

The afternoon was devoted to the visit of **Kremínca**, historical and mining country.

We then donned our miners' outfit and had a trip underground first using a mini-train and then by foot along the endless and inescapable galleries that led to gold mining excavations; we had been well shown glittering stones but nobody discovered the very vein of gold that would have allowed him or her to acquire a new flying machine (oh, by the way, Olivier, haven't you bought your 'brand new Yack' just afterwards???).

The temperature was rather chilly, and we were happy to get warmed up afterwards with a strong schnaps! We just got an idea of the working conditions the miners have been enduring, not much light, cold and stringent physical activity...

Then, downtown in an ancient building that does not reveal what is running inside, we visited an ultra-modern factory producing coins and medals for everywhere in Europe and beyond (not however now with the gold extracted locally since the mines have been closed for many years)

We were invited for the lunch by Lucien who then showed us his private mountainous runway (not yet scythed and thus not operational yet). We were then in the homeland of Viéra, a small village where she had been living with her parents; the latter received us warmly with tasting of their local wine and a delicious fresh cheese.

The dinner was in an auberge in the countryside where some of us had the opportunity to eat ... bear (not so tasty however after their assessment)!

## Wednesday at Prievidza

Having established our base-camp in Zvolen, this day was first spent on another airfield, the one of Prievidza, where the gliding world championship was in preparation. There was a large swarm of gleaming aircraft with and without an engine. Our motivation however was not gliding but the visit of AEROSPOOL factory building the very attractive WT9 Dynamic:



We met a team working in good mood and running their job with a true professionalism; about one hundred workers are capable of providing for a complete unit every three days ... and it sells! The jewels in question betray a nice design, fair final touch and strength.

Some of us would enjoy the next day the opportunity to fly one of them: they weren't disappointed! And yet by comparison with his MCR, Jean-Pierre felt its commands relatively

'heavy'. As we say by ours': 'one cannot have both at the same time the butter and the money for the butter' (that is 'to have your cake and eat it'); you'll have anyway to compromise!

After the lunch in the restaurant of the Air-Club, we made our way towards the mountains, had a break at the departure of the lift in a ski-resort, and stopped at **Cičmany**, lovely ancient village lying among the hills. Houses are partly half-timbered, the wooden parts being painted of repetitive patterns, the rest mostly white, all of them in very good state of maintenance.

Albeit we were in the mountains, nobody had any glimpse on a bear ... but we saw the man who saw the man who saw the man who ... maybe saw it!

The dinner was in an auberge along the road where, in a festive ambiance, the Chef took his accordion and sang traditional Slovak songs ... with Viéra who joined him in a wonderful duo ... The Special Goulash of the menu was actually appreciated by all of us!

## Thursday at Prievidza

Once again in Prievidza for the visit of the **Bojnice Castle**,



Bojnice castle is one of the most beautiful castles in Slovakia, standing on a travertine hill above the town. In 1970 the castle was declared a National cultural monument, nowadays houses a museum. The first written mention of the castle existence is from 1113 and comes from the Zobor abbey. The wooden fortress was rebuilt with stone over the 13th century. Originally renaissance and gothic style, it has been rebuilt in Romantic style in 19th century. It has been the property of Bata, the shoe-maker, or rather the king of the shoes...

And this night, we happily celebrated the 90th birthday of Jean RECULLET, our dear Father-Founder, wishing him numerous flying trips alike the present one for the coming years.

## **Friday towards Bratislava**

Cleared for Take-Off to Bratislava, the short en-route flight was uneventful; the arrival at Bratislava international airport was a bit busier... It's just fair to report here some complaints from many a pilot flying VFR in the low levels: they said that IFFR's IFR pilots were guilty of generating the traffic jam and complained having been put waiting in a stack for at least 20 minutes... In fact, they should rather thank them and admit they did enjoy the sightseeing far better than those who were obliged to comply with the procedures...

Once on the apron, refuelling took also some time, particularly for those waiting for Jet-A1, although their aircraft was not a jet however, only a mere C182 ... They just had time to clean up their toys!

Gathering at the hotel «Gay 'Toine» (Gate-One), we had a rapid lunch in order to devote all the afternoon to the visit of the town, the new capital of Slovakia. The ancient town is well restored, for sure not as attractive as Prague, but without comparison with the state it was under the soviet regimen, after the assessment of Viéra.

Bratislava is very close to Vienna, on the opposite bank of the Danube River, Austria; many tourists are now coming from the West.

We have also noticed that Napoleon had just come here in advance to our visit!!!

## **Saturday: departure**

The time to depart had already dawned...

We have had not enough time to thank Viéra and Lucien sufficiently for all they deserved. This first discovering of Slovakia gave us the genuine wish to come again and again.

Some have been flying back directly to France or to Belgium or to Switzerland; others had a break in Germany (Jean Pierre at Schwabish, Joël and Jeremy at Neuhof) or in Switzerland (Dominique et Jean-Luc)

**Many thanks to all our Friends of the IFFR who have made it possible to have this wonderful time all together !**

## GENERAL MEETING, POITIERS, SEPTEMBRE 2010, 10th, 11th, 12th

### Friday

Arrival at Poitiers-Biard Airport (LFBI) is well cadenced and performed in good met conditions, weather being rather better than forecast, ... anyway for almost all of us (French, British and Belgian friends !!!); this is not the case –and we regret them not to be here- for Renaud et Fabienne HILD and GUMY family coming from Strasbourg.

Olivier VIGNERON new (not so much!) airplane, a Yack, high on its long legs, is one of the focal points of interest (by the way, what's the quantity of oil you put in it to come here, Olivier?).

Special urban coaches were hired to go downtown, our hotel being at the heart of the ancient city, although we had to walk a little, the streets being too narrow for them to drive in ...

We were greeted there by Gilbert SIMIONI, a 'local *Poitevin*' (or *Pictavien*, the controversial name of the inhabitants of Poitiers), also inhabitant of Vendée-Air-Park. Gilbert is to be this afternoon our guide for a tour in the Gallo-roman city, settled on a plateau at the point of merging of two rivers (la *Boivre* et le *Clain*), a town in which one hundred steeples and towers are erected ; we had a look at the remarkable roman church of *Saint-Hilaire-le-Grand*; we walked past numerous half-timbered mansions; then throughout a magnificent garden, part of which is a zoo, we reached an outstanding panoramic viewpoint providing a comprehensive view of the environment.

We all gathered for the evening meal at a restaurant 100m from the hotel, that is more than 60 of us ! Then at 9.15 pm precisely, we were in front of the carved façade of *Notre-Dame-La-Grande*, artificially re-coloured after the way it looked in the pristine time, thanks today to special laser beams.

### Saturday

This day was devoted to opening an insight into the future (which is the literal meaning of *Futuroscope*), not disregarding however the aeronautic history, all of that benefiting from the most up-to-date technology.

That was in a large and beautiful theme-park that we have been greeted by a young and lovely hostess who guided us with efficiency and good mood from enjoyable entertainments to the next, all of them on large screens, often in a full 360° environment and in 3 dimensions.

We have successively enjoyed a series of 6 versatile experiences:

- an intergalactic travel in space throughout galaxies, stars and planets bumping each other and providing eventually the condition for the life to loom on the planet Earth, *Cosmic Breaks*,
- flying a Breguet XIV side by side with Mermoz, Saint-Ex and Guillaumet overhead *la Cordillère des Andes*, *The Wings of Courage*,
- sharing the company of *Sea and Sky Travellers*, with pilots much more efficient and clever than ourselves in our heavy craft (including VLA and gliders),
- diving into the deep sea among strange creatures that could be almost stroked when forwarding our hand, *At the bottom of the Seas of the World*,
- Ground and water threatened sights, *Blues upon Louisiane*,
- the painting world and the disturbed life of *Me, Van-Gogh* with breath-taking and stunning reproductions of his works.

The eyes full of marvellous images, impressed by the usage of an advanced technology (although not absolutely perfect ...), this is a very enjoyable experience that we all would like to renew in 10 years time in order to be capable of assessing progress in techniques and arts.

Note however that the day was not purely intellectual and fortunately it was broken up by a stop for the buffet at noon in the open; would you be amazed if I said that our conversation was also open-orientated (say open into the airspace!)?

## **Saturday, 6pm**

This is the mandatory annual meeting held at the hotel.

Full official minutes are of course available.

The new executive team is taking the floor.

First decision: the amount of the annual subscription is kept at its former level !

Several flying opportunities are then evoked:

- Ile d'Yeu,
- May or June voyage: Chalon-sur-Saône, and then hopping to Switzerland,
- Next annual September meeting at Lyon.
- ... and also maybe Ile d'Elbe, a place we had already landed a couple of years ago, hadn't we Dany?

Following the formal meeting, Jean-Philippe MEYER provided us with numerous images he had brought back from Oshkosh.

## **Saturday night**

Gala dinner was in the magnificent vaulted basement of a restaurant in the city.

The cheerful atmosphere was the opportunity to meet our numerous British friends, regularly attending our meetings. Among them we were honoured to have Charles STRASSER, Feroz VADIA, Angus CLARK, our famous International Past-Presidents!

This night was also the opportunity to thank especially Jean-Pierre with the well deserved award of a PHF distinction, Dany who has been his support during his 10 year mandate (!), and Jean-François RAPIN for the great job he did keeping our treasure !

Special thanks are also addressed to Viéra and Lucien CAODURO for having allowed us to discover Slovaquia last June in outstanding conditions!

Thanks to you Joël, Jean-Pierre, Jean and Gilbert for the organisation of the present meeting in Poitiers.

Still a special night for Dominique, President, who said she was honoured and moved to receive this day her own father as an IFFR member, André DUCOMMUN, a young (88) student ULM pilot!

## **Sunday Morning**

Bound to met conditions, our Friends from Alsace and Ardèche have to depart before the arrival of pending thunderstorms.

Others benefit from a guided tour (in French and in English) providing us with new sights around Poitiers:

- The Church of *Notre-Dame-La-Grande* which had lost its colours but was playing *Grandes-Orgues*,
- The Cathedral,

- The *Baptistère*.

Then by various means and ways we found ourselves in the restaurant of the airport to prepare our flights, refuel aircraft and bodies before dispatching towards our respective homelands.

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### **The WORD of the PEN-PUSHER**

In order to improve the quality of the service rendered, it is strongly recommended that all communication to the secretary be provided during the first week of every month.

Outside this period, of course, you can exchange among all of you by some sort of auto-information (as we call that when AFIS is not available on the frequency of our small aerodromes).

**Amicale des Pilotes Rotariens**, IFFR Section France, Association loi du 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1901,  
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*L'Amicale des Pilotes Rotariens est un groupe de Rotariens souhaitant promouvoir l'aviation en tant qu'opportunité d'amitié et de service. Cette Amicale respecte les principes du Rotary International sans engager ce dernier ni être sous son contrôle.*

# HOME OF SOCIAL SERVICES SYMBIA

SYMBIA was founded 1.1.1991

The main activity of SYMBIA is to offer the social services to the children and young people up to the age of 26 who are dependent on the help of other people, it means they are physically and mentally disabled, autistic, with pervasive development disorders.

Capacity of our institution is 36 people. There are 6 educational/working groups out of which there is 1 group with the autistic children.

Regional centre of autism (RCA) is part of SYMBIA.

SYMBIA is located in 2 buildings with the common yard at the quiet part not far from the centre of city of ZVOLEN. The outside yard provides enough space for recreational horse riding and hippotherapy that is practised once a week. Hippotherapy is practised in cooperation with Mr. Sanitar and financial support of the city of Zvolen. There are 2 big equipped gymnasiums available for us.

There are 28 employees out of whom 9 are operational employees, 13 employees are working directly with the patients, 6 employees are working at RCA. There are social pedagogues, special pedagogues, instructors of social rehabilitation, physiotherapist, ergotherapist and social worker available. All employees of SYMBIA are fully qualified for the work.

Our target is to offer the children and young people with special needs full life with all its nice and happy sites as well as to teach them to solve and manage also difficult sites of life.

Except of the activities obliged by the law we are doing all for the development of our patient personality, his independence, integration into social life. We are organizing visits of theatre, exhibitions, concerts and other activities. We are organizing individual and group musical-therapy, e.g. project "African drums". Among working activities are following:

- Workshop for textile/carpets making,
- Ceramic workshop,
- Self-service,
- Tidying up /cleaning activities (sweeping with broom, snow cleaning in the winter, washing dishes etc),
- Works in the kitchen (preparing cakes or drinks).

Since September 2004 we are offering 2 times a week canistherapy with specially trained dog.

<http://www.symbia.sk/>