The Sierra Safari (sponsored for over 60 years by the Bishop Rotary Clubs) is one of the most spectacular and unique events put on by Rotary Clubs anywhere. The event was picked to be the site of the Americas Annual General Meeting, with 30 IFRF members and guests attending the activities of the weekend. A number of members flew in from Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Texas, Arizona, and other parts of California as well as those who used other means of transportation.

PDG Lew and Betty McConnell welcomed the group to their home in Aspendell for lunch on Friday, about 30 minutes from Bishop up a beautiful canyon in an alpine setting at almost 9,000 feet. Lunch in this spectacular setting, on the back porch overlooking a creek, was followed by the Annual General Meeting, with 25 in attendance.
The IFFR banner was proudly displayed during the meeting, but could not be hung level due to the loft of the ceiling, so we were all “right rudder” for our group photo.

Sierra Safari events started on Friday evening with the Governor’s Reception, followed by an IFFR gathering at the RV park where some of the group was staying.
What could be better than a bonfire and BBQ and talking about flying!

We woke to a wintery mix of weather on Saturday with snow visible in the mountain tops around Bishop. Everyone headed off on excursions ranging from hiking to Rainbow Falls and Devil’s Post Pile (with beer tasting at Mammoth Brewery to celebrate the hike), shooting, exploring petroglyphs, fishing — Bob and Trudy Phillip’s daughter Holly caught the only fish that day! — photography of the fall colors, or climbing to 10,000 feet to view the Bristlecone Pines (one of the oldest living things in the world, up to 5,000 years old).
Saturday was capped off by a truly “western” dinner held in a horse barn! Great fun, great music and dancing. The weekend was a wonderful time to see old friends and make many new friends. The Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (IFMR) attended the event as well, and we look forward to more joint events with IFMR and other fellowships.