

COVID, RUSSIA WERE SETBACKS, BUT ...

Flight to End Polio set for takeoff!

By PDG John Ockenfels/Iowa City AM

As many who are reading this are aware, in 2018 my cousin's husband, **Peter Teahen** and I joined each other in a plan to fly his single engine airplane around the world. We realized that since both of us are **Rotarians**, this would be a great opportunity to raise money to support **PolioPlus**.

At the 2019 International Rotary Convention in **Hamburg, Germany**, I announced the details of the trip. We were going to stop at more than 20 cities and our goal was to discuss the status of the polio with local Rotarians. The promise we made to Rotary was that we would pay for 100 percent of the expenses and 100 percent of the money raised would go to PolioPlus. Our goal was to raise **\$1,000,000**.



PDG John Ockenfels

For years we have used the phrase "Polio is only an airplane ride away." We chose the phrase "Stopping polio is only an airplane ride away." We were scheduled for departure from Cedar Rapids on March 24, 2020.

After two years of planning, the program came to a stop. We had to "pull the plug" 10 days before our departure because of **Covid**.

We rescheduled several times. In the spring of 2022 Covid was coming under control. We chose a new departure date. **May 5, 2023**, became the new departure date.

We planned a new route north through **Maine, Canada, Greenland, Iceland and Europe**. We were looking forward to an important stop in **Karachi, Pakistan**, where we were being hosted by the regional leaders of the polio program. From there we were going to **India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Singapore**, then north through **Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, and Russia** before crossing the north end of the **Bering Sea** into **Alaska**.

However, in the spring of 2022 **Russia invaded Ukraine** and banned all U.S. aircraft from its airspace. That is a massive issue for us. The **Piper Lance** airplane that we were flying could not carry enough fuel to cross the Pacific Ocean, or the Bering Sea except from Russia. Once again, we were shut down.

So we decided to get an airplane that could carry the fuel necessary to cross the **Pacific Ocean** at a different location. I sold my **Cessna 182** and Peter sold his **Piper Lance** (our original plane for the trip). Together, we purchased a **Cessna T210M**. It has modern avionics, flies 20 miles per hour faster, can fly higher over weather if needed, and it can carry the weight we need. Arrangements have been made to add special fuel tanks and radios for this trip.

Thus our **route has again changed**. We will fly as planned until we leave **Thailand**. From there we will work our way south through **Australia**, turn east and work our way up the **Pacific Islands** into **Honolulu, Hawaii**. From Honolulu, we will launch into our longest leg of the trip – a 14-hour flight to **San Diego**.

This new route will take about **three months**. We will travel approximately **25,350 miles**. We will put about **160 hours** of flying time on the airplane.

Please take a look at our website www.flighttoendpolio.com for more information about the trip and about how you can help by donating to **PolioPlus**. There is an approved special downloadable form that can be used to send your donations through **District 6000 HEF** (our district's 501c3) so that it can be tracked to see how much is being sent to the **Rotary Foundation**. OR, you can use the regular forms or go online to the foundation, please include "Flight To End Polio" in the comment box.

If you know any **Rotarians we should meet along the way**, especially if they can arrange gatherings with other Rotarians or dignitaries, or if you would like to help with fundraising, please contact us. johnnockenfels@hotmail.com.



FLIGHT TO END POLIO

This is the current route for the "Flight to End Polio," departing **May 5** and returning the last week of **July**. It is **subject to change due to weather, mechanical, safety or local government issues, or at the discretion of the pilots, who plan to stop for several days between most of the destinations**. You can follow the flight and find information for donating to **PolioPlus** at www.flighttoendpolio.com.

DATE	Locations (Airport ID)	Flight Duration
1.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa USA (KCID)	950 mi., 5 hr., 36 m
2.	Portland, Maine USA (KPWM)	701 mi., 4 hr., 7 m
3.	Narsaruaq, Greenland (BGBW)	676 mil, 3 hr., 58 m
4.	Reykjavik, Iceland (BIRK)	670 mi., 3 hr., 56 m
5.	Wick, Scotland ((EGPC)	640 mi., 3 hr., 45 m
6.	Roskilde, Denmark (EKRK)	527 mi., 3 hr., 5 m
7.	Rotterdam, Holland (EHRD)	350 mi., 2 hr., 3 m
8.	Waterford, Ireland (EIWF)	426 mi., 2 hr., 30 m
9.	Carpiguet, France (LFRK)	311 mi., 1 h4., 49 m
10.	Lisbon, Portugal (LPPT)	727 m., 4 hr., 16 m
11.	Grenoble, France (LFLS)	756 mi., 4 hr., 27 m
12.	Munich, Germany (EDDM)	321 mil, 1 hr., 53 m
13.	Iraklion, Greece (LGIR)	982 mi., 5 hr., 45 m
14.	Aquaba, Jordan (OJAQ)	605 mi., 3 hr., 42 m
15.	Abu Dhabi, UAE (OMAL)	1,148 mi., 6 hr., 45 m
16.	Karachi, Pakistan (OPKC)	633 mi., 3 hr., 43 m
17.	Nagpur, India (VANP)	696 mi., 4 hr., 19 m
18.	Colombo, Sri Lanka (VCBI)	455 mi., 2 hr., 40 m
18.	Phuket, Thailand (VTSP)	1,098 mi., 6 hr., 27 m
19.	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (WMKK)	379 mi., 2 hr., 13 m
20.	Bali, Indonesia (WADD)	1,058 mi., 6 hr., 13 m
21.	Darwin, Australia (YPDN)	953 mil., 5 hr., 36 m
22.	Cairns, Australia (YBCS)	905 mi., 5 hr., 19 m
23.	Brisbane, Australia (YBBN)	749 mi., 4 hr., 38 m
24.	New Caledonia (NWWW)	784 mi., 4hr., 51 m
25.	Nadi, Fiji (NFFN)	684 mi., 4 hr., 14 m
26.	Pago Pago, American Samoa (NSTU)	714 mi., 4 hr., 25 m
27.	Christmas Island, Kiritimati (PLCH)	12,58 mi., 7 hr., 47 m
28.	Honolulu, Hawaii USA (PHNI)	1,155 mi., 7 hr. 9 m
29.	San Diego, California USA (KSAN)	2,271mi., 14 hr., 4 m
30.	Temecula, California USA (F70)	50 mi., 0 hr., 19 m
31.	Denver, Colorado USA (KAPA)	693 mi., 4 hr., 17 m
32.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa USA (KCID)	615 mi., 3 hr., 48 m
Approximate Totals		25,338 mi., 157 hrs

(Schedule subject to change)