



# NEWS In the Sky

December 2019

([www.opa.link](http://www.opa.link))

December 5th, 2019 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

## Annual Christmas Dinner and Celebration

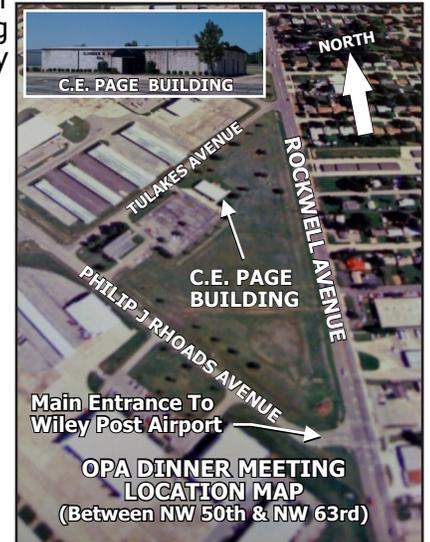


Carol Ann Fewell is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma where she majored in Communications. She entertained as part of high school and college traveling show choirs, as well as singing as a solo and ensemble artist. Carol has made four appearances at Carnegie Hall with a guest choir, accompanied by the New York Pops Orchestra, under the direction of the late Skitch Henderson, and once by Doc Severinsen. She performs at local Opry venues and the El Reno Country Music Show. Carol hosted a karaoke show for several years at Risky's Barbecue in downtown Fort Worth. Carol regularly entertains at local retirement venue and also provides solo services for weddings, funerals and special events. Carol serves as Director of Communications at Keller United Methodist Church and is married with three children. She will sing a variety of musical selections. Carol is the daughter of "News In the Sky" editors, June and Ben Roy. If you would like a professional recording of Carol's music, she will have CDs featuring 10 songs available at the Christmas party for just \$10 each!

Please contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations so we will have enough food for everyone. [dinner@opa.link](mailto:dinner@opa.link)  
405-219-5149



The Oklahoma Pilots Association (OPA) meets the 1st Thursday of each month at the Clarence E. Page Building, located on Wiley Post Airport. From N. Rockwell, enter the airport at the traffic light (Phillip J. Rhoads Ave.), take the first right, and drive back to the light gray brick building.



January 2nd, 2020 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Aaron J. Varland,  
FAAS Team Program Manager

Aaron Varland was born and raised in Reedsport, Oregon. His first flight was in the summer of 2001 in a Cessna 172 owned by one of his mother's coworkers. That flight set in motion Aaron's pursuit of a career in aviation. After graduating from high school, he moved to Oklahoma in 2002 to pursue his formal flight training. Since moving to Oklahoma, Aaron has obtained a bachelors degree in aviation management, instructed part 61/141, and flown professionally under parts 91, 91k and 135. In 2014 he was hired into the Will Rogers Flight Standards District Office as an Aviation Safety Inspector. As an ASI he had oversight of commercial operators working under parts 133, 135, 137 and 141; as well as providing medical flight reviews, 44709's and check rides. In June of 2017, Aaron joined the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team with the goal of helping to reduce the aviation accident rate in the state of Oklahoma.





Clarence E. Page Building  
5810 Tulakes Avenue  
Wiley Post Airport  
Bethany, Oklahoma 73008

Oklahoma Pilots Association is a member-controlled not-for-profit organization for all pilots and aircraft owners. OPA strives to serve the needs of general aviation pilots statewide, promoting aviation, education and safety in personal and business flying.

Membership consists of student pilots through airline transport pilots, both civil and military and is open to all pilots and aircraft owners. Annual membership dues are currently \$35.

OPA holds monthly dinner meetings at the C. E. Page Building on Wiley Post Airport in Oklahoma City. Distinguished guest speakers present educational and safety related programs at the monthly dinner meetings.

OPA hosts monthly Fly Aways for lunch or dinner and weekend Fly Aways to interesting destinations.

OPA, through its charitable non-profit corporation, accepts money or property donated to fund the Vic Jackson Memorial Scholarship Fund which is awarded annually to a college student with career aspirations in the field of aviation. Your contributions of money or property are tax deductible.

OPA Newsletter Staff

Editors: Ben & June Roy

Typesetting & Layout: Ben Roy

Circulation: Wyvema Startz

Members' contributions of articles and other information relative to aviation are encouraged.

### 2018-2019 OPA OFFICERS

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## OPA President Brian Hancock



### Pilots in Demand, Part 1

What a great time to want to be a career pilot! I'm sure you've read the headlines...

"According to recent job reports, more than 30,000 pilots, or half of the total 60,222 at 10 large U.S. airlines, United Parcel Service and FedEx, will reach the mandatory retirement age of 65 by 2026."

"Boeing has projected that aviation will need 790,000 new pilots by 2037 to meet the demand with 96,000 pilots needed to support the business aviation sector."

"Airbus estimates demand for pilots at 450,000 by 2035."

"The International Air Transport Association estimates air travel will nearly double in the next 20 years."

No matter how you slice it. No matter how you say it. No matter the numbers used to explain it... there has likely never been a better time to get your pilot's license and seek a career in aviation than right now.

To help attract future pilots, airlines have been offering higher wages on a scale to compete with private and business aviation, which has typically been the highest paying sector for pilots. Industry wide you are seeing salaries that are growing well above the national average. Furthermore, pilots' unions are also taking advantage of the shortage to ask for better conditions for their members resulting in better pay and benefits for pilots. Not only is there a need but the benefits of working for an airline or major carrier are getting better by the day.

You are even seeing plane makers like Airbus and Boeing expand into training services where margins are potentially higher than building jets. And carriers like Quantas and Emirates are opening training programs to directly combat the shortages within their airlines.

This shortage has created a perfect storm of opportunity. All in all, if you want to fly a plane for a living there is no better time than now to do so. The need is certainly there, but how does one become a commercial airline pilot?

Next month, in Part 2, I will discuss what is required to be a commercial pilot and the various paths available to achieve that goal.

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website: [www.blueskiesflightschool.com](http://www.blueskiesflightschool.com)



### Highlights from the November OPA Dinner Meeting

OPA President Brian Hancock introduced Jennifer Meckling from the OKC Community Foundation. She presented a check for \$7000 to OPA for our Vic Jackson Scholarship Fund. The fund was started 22 years ago as a memorial and has grown from the original \$10,000 to enough to allow us to use the \$7000 in interest earned for scholarships to provide funds for training in an aviation field. The OPA Board may give out two scholarships this year. Pilots must have their private license to apply. We heard a little about Vic Jackson and how much he loved aviation and how this fund honors his memory. Jennifer mentioned that anyone can set up funds for something near and dear to their heart.



Bill Pappadopoulos led us in the pledge to our flag and said he hoped everyone got some of the really good turkey. We learned that the fly away to Cedar Mills occurred in perfect weather. More planes participated than had been there for a long time. The Fairview Fly In will not include an air show or lunch this year; but will include breakfast and a free turkey for every 10th plane. For December we will go to Guthrie for the Victorian Walk on the 14th.

Mike Grimes explained a little about the process for the OPA Scholarship. Hal Harris chairs the Committee and 3 – 5 other members serve on the committee each year. Fliers are sent to colleges, technical schools, etc. and applications are available on the OPA website. They look at all applicants, including flying experience, education, need, and how they would use the funds to promote a full-time career in aviation.



Brian introduced our speaker, Col. Jim Putnam, USAF, Retired. Jim serves on the OK Aeronautics Commission, but this presentation is about the EAA. Jim gave some history about EAA, including the founder, Paul Poberezny. EAA is "a community of passionate aviation enthusiasts that promotes and supports recreational flying." He flew 250 different kinds of airplanes and once flew from Oregon to Washington and landed on the mall to show how viable planes were for travel. Flying had a reputation of being a rich man's sport, but you could build and fly one for \$20,000 back then. Jim said that you can still do that, but you will have to prop it and stick your finger out the window to check the weather. He said that flying is more a lifestyle and passion than a hobby. EAA is a steward of that heritage and supports the future. With EAA you can build, fly and dream. It was interesting that you could build and fly a plane for years before you could have an instructor in the plane with you. (Aren't we all glad that changed?)



**Rick Cacini and Veterans from Yukon brought their mobile Veterans Museum for a while before the dinner meeting**



**Highlights from the November OPA Dinner Meeting Continued**

After WW II there was a huge influx of pilots, and we need new pilots now. EAA gives out 1 or 2 scholarships to their youth academy each year. EAA had a goal of serving one million kids in 10 years through the Young Eagles program and they made it! Their records show that kids who flew as Young Eagles are five times more likely to have some kind of aviation career. They now also have adult Eagle flights.

We saw a photo of the crash site where the pilot ran the fuel tank dry. There was a second tank behind his shoulder, but he didn't know where it was. A well-trained pilot; but not trained in THAT airplane. Jim reminded us that after 9/11 the EAA helped get flight back for General Aviation. They helped convince the government that it wasn't guys building a plane in a basement who were committing terrorism. He also commented that with the FAA if you lose your medical you must submit forms in triplicate for further disapproval.

Jim reminded us that you don't have to be a builder or fly a homebuilt to be a member; any and all are welcome. Jim is a member of the Oklahoma City EAA Chapter 24. He said that seeing a biplane flying around is living history and we need the "Keep the antiques flying". EAA is a nonprofit 4013C for tax purposes. We saw several videos during the evening that added even more to Jim's great presentation. You missed a good one if you couldn't attend.



**EAA Founded in 1953 by Paul H. Poberezny**



**'77 - On the anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's historic solo flight to Paris in 1927, a meticulously accurate reproduction of the Spirit of St. Louis goes on a nationwide cross country tour. Purpose is to rekindle America's interest in aviation**



**Oshkosh Warbirds area - North American B-25J on 22 July 2019 (right)**



**'78 - EAA Aviation Foundation with Blackhawk Technical School in Janesville, WI commissions an exact replica of the original Wright Brothers flyer as a centerpiece for the EAA museum. (bottom right)**



Photos from Jim Putnam's Presentation  
 Thanks to Jim for allowing us to use his photos



'54 and '55 - Mechanix Illustrated and Flying magazine cover the new homebuilt "Baby Ace" aircraft built by Paul Poberezny. Huge spike in interest nation-wide on home-built aircraft.

**KITFOX UPDATE**  
 We have met over 90 times now!!!  
 Covering of wings is well underway  
 On track for a May 2020 to Jul 2021 completion.



The Young Eagles Build and Fly initiative is an intensive RC model building and flying "program-in-a-box" designed for EAA chapters to partner with local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) clubs to engage Young Eagles participants and other youth. The program can either be a follow-up to or lead to an EAA Young Eagles flight and is intended to further their passion for aviation. The program's contents would typically retail for more than \$1,500, each program kit costs only \$500 for participating chapters.



### Saturday November 9th OPA Fly Away - 68th Fairview, OK



Article by Fly Away Chair, Greg Finley  
Thanks to Danny Davis for the pictures



This past November, we experienced a beautiful day of cloudless skies with temperatures topping out at 70° as we descended on the World's Oldest Fly-In and Breakfast. The 68th Fairview Fly-In is located at the Fairview Municipal Airport (6K4) and only 60 nautical miles away from Wiley Post and this free event was sponsored by the Fairview Flight Club.

The festivities began with a free breakfast for all those who flew in for the day, and every tenth airplane received a free turkey. In past years, a free airshow normally closed the day but the organizers decided not to host the airshow this year. Nonetheless, we all had a great time of fellowship and looking at all the airplanes whose owners allowed them out of the hangar for the day.

At the risk of forgetting to list someone, I would like to thank those who attended: Larry & Leanna Eversmyer, Dale & Sue Hughes, David Johnson, Jim & Billye Putnam, Danny Davis, Chuck Smith, Roy Cowan, Bill Hines, Bill Halpain, Charlie & Shirley Brown, Jeff Brown, Kyle Fulton. Also, Aaron Witt made the trip from Hooker, OK, and Joey Sager's dad, Dwayne Sager, ravelled from Perryton, OK, o join us. If you attended and are not listed in this article, please let me know about it so I can correct our eords.



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**Saturday December 14th - OPA Fly Away Guthrie, OK**  
**Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the Christmas Tree in front of the Post Office for a Group Photo**  
**Dinner at your choice of restaurants**  
**Enjoy the Victorian Walk and Territorial Christmas**



Article from OPA Fly Away Chairman, Greg Finley

This coming December we are all going to Guthrie, OK, for an evening of dinner, fellowship; and, a stroll around downtown Guthrie. There we will listen to old-fashioned carolers and browse various shops filled with visions of everyday Victorian life with live models dressed in 19th Century period clothing adorning the window fronts and sidewalks.



Guthrie has long been a destination for fans of Victorian architecture, and, with this lovely holiday walking tour, you can get an up-close look at these beautiful buildings. Enjoy this Victorian Christmas walk that includes over 60 old-fashioned decorated store windows with live exhibits depicting 19th Century life in Guthrie.

Instead of our usual catered dinner, this year we are all going to meet in front of the Guthrie Post Office on W. Oklahoma Ave. and N. 1st St. at 5:00 pm for a group photo in front of the Christmas tree. Then, we can break up in to smaller groups to have dinner at a location of your choice. Plan ahead and make reservations at a restaurant of your choice and be sure to invite other OPA members to join you!



Photos below are from last year's OPA Fly Away to Guthrie.



**Looking for a Location for a Special Event or a Meeting?**

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**Page Building rental rates:**

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Contacts: Steve Schroeder: 405-691-8629 (home phone) [sandsschroeder@cox.net](mailto:sandsschroeder@cox.net) or QB Governor Jim Sutton 405-760-1988 (mobile phone)



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**OPA Fly Away Committee**

**Please contact any committee member with questions about Fly Aways or suggestions for future OPA Fly Aways.**

**Greg Finley - 918-340-9184**

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**Mike Rangel - [rangelm945@msn.com](mailto:rangelm945@msn.com),**

**and Bill Pappadopoulos - 405-417-7876**

**Let the Fly Away Committee know if you are attending this month's Fly Away!**

If you plan to go, please email Roger Walton at [flyaway@opa.link](mailto:flyaway@opa.link) with the number in your group (or text, (405) 219-5149). If you have a seat available or need a ride please contact one of the following: Greg Finley (918)340-9184 [gfinley@cox.net](mailto:gfinley@cox.net) Brian Hancock: (405) 757-5706 - [Hancock73660@gmail.com](mailto:Hancock73660@gmail.com), or Bill Pappadopoulos: (405) 417-7876, or Danny Davis: (405) 990-5201 - [abadavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abadavis@sbcglobal.net).

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## 2019 OPA Calendar

- December 5th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- December 14th Fly Away** - Guthrie, Ok  
Territorial Christmas and Victorian Walk  
Meet at 5:00 p.m. for group photo at OK Ave & 1st St in front of the Christmas tree
- December NO OPA Board Meeting**  
Merry Christmas!

**Be sure to contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations**  
405-219-5149 [dinner@opa.link](mailto:dinner@opa.link)

## 2020 OPA Calendar

- January 2nd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- January 16th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- January 11th Fly Away** - Ponca City, OK  
Enrique's Mexican Restaurant  
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
- February 6th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- February 20th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- February 8th or 15th Fly Away** - Wichita, KS  
Visit "Doc"  
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.

### Monthly Oklahoma Fly-Ins

- 1st Saturday - Ponca City Aviation Booster Fly-In  
Breakfast - Call Don Nuzum 580-767-0470
- 1st Saturday - Pauls Valley Lunch Fly In  
Call 405-268-3925 (Breakfast in Summer)
- 4th Saturday - Enid Fly-In Breakfast - Woodring Airport (WDG) April through October




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 Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ **Name tag** Yes No  
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The OPA General Aviation Newsletter is published monthly. Articles for the newsletter are sought from members, trade organizations, etc. Stories and articles can include flying trips, rebuilding and restoration experiences, special tips, activities, etc.

**Material for publication will be accepted up to the deadline which is the 15th of each month, space permitting.** The editorial staff reserves the right to accept, refuse, or edit any material submitted. Publication of articles and opinions in the OPA Newsletter is not an endorsement by the Association, nor does the Association assume any responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in the Newsletter. Permission is granted to reprint, provided credit is given to The Oklahoma Pilots Association Newsletter. **For circulation issues including newsletters not received or email and address changes contact Roger Walton 405-219-5149 or email [mem@opa.link](mailto:mem@opa.link).**



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