



NEWS In the Sky

April 2020

(www.opa.link)

The OPA Board would like to thank each of you for your patience as we navigate through this trying time of what has been called the COVID-19 virus; or coronavirus. We value our Members and the health, safety, and wellbeing of each one of you, and your families, are at the foremost of each decision we make. Also, we want to comply with the orders and direction given by our public officials. Therefore, we are cancelling the monthly Membership Dinner Meeting for Thursday, April 2, 2020. We invite you to mark your calendars and save the date for our next scheduled Membership Dinner Meeting on Thursday, May 7th, as we believe life should be back to normal by then. Greg Finley, VP OPA Communications.

Your OPA Board is working to reschedule Mr. Ary's Presentation Max L. Ary, Executive Director Stafford Air and Space Museum

Ary is considered one of this country's leading authorities in the history of manned space flight. Prior to coming to the Stafford Museum, Ary founded the internationally acclaimed Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center, where he served as its President/CEO for nearly three decades. After leaving the Cosmosphere in 2002, Ary was named as the Executive Director of the Omniplex Science Center (now known as Science Museum Oklahoma) in Oklahoma City. He is credited for being involved with the development and design of nearly a dozen space and aviation museums throughout the world, including his work with General Tom Stafford in the creation of the Stafford Museum in the early 1990's. Ary has served as a technical advisor on numerous space-related movies, including the Academy Award winning production "Apollo 13" and the Emmy Award-winning TV miniseries, "From the Earth to the Moon." He has made numerous appearances on the "Today Show," "Good Morning America," "CBS Morning News," the History Channel, and the Discovery Channel, to provide expert commentary regarding spaceflight happenings. He has led numerous projects to save thousands of priceless and historic space artifacts from destruction, including the expedition to find and recover the "Liberty Bell-7" Mercury spacecraft from more than 16,000 feet below the Atlantic Ocean, and the complete restoration of the actual Apollo 13 Command Module "Odyssey." He has served as a space education technical advisor to more than 50 museums and institutions around the world, including NASA, the Smithsonian Institution, Disney, and the Russian and South Korean governments. For his work, Ary has been awarded numerous national and international awards, including the Triebech Trophy for Aerospace Design, the National Non-Profit Young Executive of the Year, and he is one of the only Americans ever awarded the "Gagarin Medal" by the Russian Federation of Cosmonautics. In 1994, he was named to the "Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame."



**May 7th, 2020 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

Steven Thompson, Oklahoma State RAF Liaison

A native Oklahoman, Steven was raised outside Ardmore and learned to fly starting with the Civil Air Patrol at 15. He has an ATP and spent 33 years as a commercial pilot. One of the greatest things through the years has been the ability to also use my ratings for recreational flying, taking several trips each year with my wife Rachel and our kids through the US. We have been RAF volunteers for the last 7 years. After a short conversation hearing about their goals, it was what can we do to help? Since then the RAF has had tremendous growth and countless accomplishments.

Dave Powell, Arkansas State RAF Liaison

Few pilots can say they began flying in a Texan T-6 at the age of 12. That's when Dave Powell was first exposed to flying by his father. They also flew a Navion his dad's company used for business. Once out of college and working, Dave made the time and had the funds to get his pilot's license, initially using the privileges to visit family in Texas and Michigan. After retiring from international assignments with Clorox, Dave started Summit Aviation which operates FBOs, flight training, and a Cessna Service Center in Bentonville and Springdale, AR. Dave brings his passion for aviation to local schools, exposing young people to the joy of flight. He works to grow the GA flying community in Arkansas; and is enthusiastic about the RAF mission. Dave and his wife Julie have two children, one out in the working world and one in college. Dave's current plane of choice is a "spiced up" Cessna 170B.



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

- President - Brian Hancock 405 757-5706
- Exec. Vice President - Mike Grimes 405 647-6860
- Past President - Matt Cole 405 260-1010
- Treasurer - Roy Cowan 405 340-1425
- Secretary - Angela Drabek 405 990-9067

Vice President of Membership
Roger Walton 405 219-5149

mem@opa.link

Vice President of Communications
Greg Finley 918 340-9184

gfinley@cox.net

DIRECTORS

Term Expires 6/30/2021

- Bill Hines
- Eric Lang
- Mike Rangel
- Joey Sager
- Jeff Sandusky

Term Expires 6/30/2020

- Rick Cacini
- Hal Harris
- Lee Holmes
- Al Liebler

Bill Pappadopoulos

College Student Board Member - Josh Smith

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

- Ben Roy
- June Roy
- Steve Haynes

**OPA President
Brian Hancock**



These are unprecedented times in America and around the globe. Covid 19 has brought business, travel, entertainment, and education to a halt as virtually all Americans have been told to remain at home.

The Oklahoma Pilot Association plans to honor the wishes of our national, state, and local government and temporarily cease our face to face interactions. This means there will not be an OPA Dinner meeting in April or an OPA Fly Away in March. We will re-evaluate monthly to see when we will be able to get back to normal and resume our monthly events.

But just because we are social distancing does not mean we can't have any connections with our fellow OPA members. Pick up your phone and give your favorite pilot a call and check in on them. I've visited with several people over the last few weeks; and after we get past the "I can't believe what is happening" discussion, we usually get to talking about normal stuff; places to fly, what upgrades I wish I could afford for the airplane, and that I've finally got time to clean the underbelly of my plane, and boy was it dirty!

Also, if you are alone, social distancing does allow for a few touch and go's here and there... the only distancing you have to abide by in the air are those stated by the FAA; 500' below, 1000' above, clear of clouds, etc...

This too will pass. We need to work together to ensure it happens sooner instead of later; so we will social distance from one another as long as necessary. As soon as we are allowed, we will get back together and enjoy each other's company face to face. Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Happy Flying

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.



Blue Skies Flight Training LLC

Private, Instrument, Commercial, Flight Instructor & ATP Licenses, Flight Reviews & IPC's

Matt Cole CFI, CFII, MEI, ATP

Gold Seal Flight Instructor
President Oklahoma Pilots Association

520 Airport Rd. Hangar #4
Guthrie, OK 73044

Office: 405-260-1010

email: matt@blueskiesflightschool.com

website: www.blueskiesflightschool.com



Highlights from the OPA March Dinner Meeting

OPA VP Mike Grimes opened our meeting and led us in the pledge to our flag. Frank Bice led us in the pledge to the Oklahoma flag. We welcomed new member Treva Walker. Someone made a forced landing without a scratch on their plane. Joey Sager informed us that Jett got checked out in his plane. We welcomed June Ricards as a visitor. Greg Finley said the Fly Away would be Saturday to OSU. It was weathered out the last two years, so they changed it from April to March this year. Members were thanked for donating door prizes.



Jett with his airplane

Mike introduced our speaker, Diedre Gurry. She has flown to all the Oklahoma airports and has enjoyed an amazing career. She said she enjoyed the meal and loves BBQ. She told us that her career inspired her to land at all the Oklahoma airports. When asked what her major would be in college by her high school counselor, she asked what a major was. She said she wanted to be a teacher, but not high school because her peers were "pain in the butts". So, she wanted to teach higher education. She was told she would have to learn something first. She was handed a scholarship application that had a list of majors like physics and computer science. The Air Force offered a Financial Assistance Plan (FAP) scholarship in mechanical engineering and that sounded good to her. She was commissioned the year she graduated from a small college. She wanted to be near pilots; but didn't think she could ever be one. She thought she was so lucky because she was accepted into pilot training.

Her first assignment was as an instructor pilot. She got her dream – she got to teach college kids, which was what she wanted from the beginning. She flew a T37 and loved flying upside down. When you get your wings, you try to run to the back wall and touch it before they catch you. If so, you get a case of beer, if not you get to experience the dunk tank. Actually, you get dunked even if you make it, even if there is 6 or 8 inches of ice to break. Being a part of the FAP plan that helped direct her AF path allowed her to go direct to the left seat and she was upgraded to instructor in her first year. She spent four months at Altus AFB in Commander School. Most of that time was spent on air refueling. She said that is amazing. The longest connection is 15 minutes and the refuel can be done during a turn. (She made this all sound so easy, but I assure you that she put in her hours of learning and her sweat equity into the program.)



Highlights from the OPA March Dinner Meeting Continued

Gurry flew everywhere, with many long 24-hour duty days. She would have one hour at the office, one hour of mission planning, and the 24 hours stopped at landing, not when you got to the hotel. Many were short flights, but Italy to Ca was 18 hours airborne with an augmented crew. Most mission were at night. She said the AF owns the sky at night. She saw the fields in Iraq and Afghanistan through night vision goggles in total darkness. When taking off from Bagdad you could see a firefight happening and that was pretty amazing to see through night vision. When she entered the FAP plan there were only 4% female pilots and 20 years later it's still 4%. She doesn't believe it is due to discrimination. She showed us some amazing pictures from her career. During a secret mission into Iraq, she learned that a C17 can do a turn in 90 feet of runway, it can eventually turn around. She had an international satellite phone and hung up on a 4-star general who just wanted to make sure they were taking off.

Gurry flew support to the National Science Foundation in Antarctica. There was only an ice runway, but that is better than wet slush. The runway was lined with flags so you could see it. A C17 can land in zero visibility, but that is only authorized in Antarctica. It requires a 4000' runway; but can be waived to 3000'. It weighs 565,000 pounds. She also said you could land in 660' short runway by adding power to slow your descent and slamming the brakes as you hit; not after you hit. Deploying reverse thrust stops you. She laughed and said that was a lot of fun and she did it every chance she got. If passengers in the back complained she told them that it was the military – to get used to it.



Highlights from the OPA March Dinner Meeting Continued

Once when she was doing training and planning how things needed to be done to a one-star general, he agreed, but they would have to get certification. A four-star general walked in and said that it sounded great; make it happen. He was the Commander for Allied Air Command for NATO. She said it was a great atmosphere to work in. She once flew back from Afghanistan with NATO with a bolt stuck in the hydraulic line. She had Spaniards, Americans, Canadians and French on board. She spent two years in Italy as part of her job with NATO. She has 4000 flight hours: many of them command hours.

When asked why she didn't fly for an airline, she said she doesn't like sitting still. She couldn't totally separate from the Air Force; so, she took the position at Enid Woodring Airport because there is a lot of connection to AF there. Gurry invited us to fly in to Woodring for third Saturday breakfasts; free for pilot from 7:30 to 11. She bought an airplane; then wondered what she would do with it. Her answer was to fly to all Oklahoma airports. She said that we should all be lucky, have fun, and be our own person. Mike Grimes presented her with a free one-year membership to OPA as thanks for her wonderful, very interesting and entertaining presentation.



EL RENO REGIONAL AIRPORT

NEW STATE OF THE ART FUEL SYSTEM

Grand Opening specials for all of April!

LOWEST PRICES IN THE STATE!



\$3.50
PER GAL. 100 LL
\$2.75
PER GAL. JET-A

FULLY AUTOMATED CARD SYSTEM | 24/7 SELF SERVICE

AWOS FQ- 118.475 • CTAF/UNICOM- 122.80

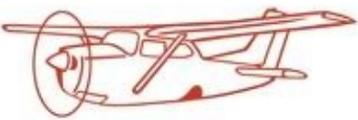
ELEVATION: 1420 • RWY 17/35 - 5600X75FT

AWOS: 405-262-0087

FOR MORE INFO: 405-262-4272

Learn To Fly

- Flight Training and Ground School Classes
- Recurrent Training and IPCs
- Aircraft Rental and Pilot Shop
- Financing Available (wac)



AirOne

FLIGHT ACADEMY

Hal Harris CFI, CFII, MEI

405.789.0000

www.aironeflightacademy.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission



Aero Oklahoma 2020 State Capitol Event Cancelled

We have made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel AERO Oklahoma 2020 events scheduled for April 14, 2020. Recognizing the importance of this event and the spotlight it places upon our state's second largest industry, aviation and aerospace, we will, consistent with the most up to date guidance and information, work on rescheduling this event for later in the year. The health, safety, and security of our attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors is our foremost concern and it will remain our guiding principle. Over 500 attended last fall's celebration of women in aviation and aerospace. We will all be ready to celebrate our resourceful and enduring industry when we all can safely do that—and we will do it!

April 11th OPA Fly Away - Ada Regional Airport (KADH) Lunch at - Potrillos Mexican Restaurant



Article from Greg Finley

I realize everyone's attention is most likely focused on the coronavirus and self-quarantine but please let me draw your attention away for a moment and let's take a look forward to our upcoming flyaway. This coming month, we are going to be flying down to the Ada Regional Airport (KADH) on Saturday, April 11th. We're planning to be wheels down by 11:00 am so, we can all go and have lunch together at the Potrillos Mexican Restaurant.



Now that you've marked your calendar and started making your plans to attend our flyaway, I do need to bring your attention back to the current events of the day. We are going to be monitoring the situation very closely in both the OKC area as well as Ada, OK. If at that time it's been deemed safe to continue with our plans, then we will have a wonderful time in Ada. However, if your health and safety will be at risk or, decisions of our governmental leaders say otherwise, we will make a "GO" or "NO GO" decision as we get closer to this event.



You can stay up to date with this flyaway and other OPA events by visiting our website at opa.link or follow us on Facebook.



March 7th OPA FlyAway Stillwater OSU Flying Aggies Fly-In

Pictures from the OPA Fly Away to the OSU Fly-In will be in the May Newsletter. We have some great ones to show you!

Thanks to Greg Finley, OPA Fly Away Chair.

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

**Try the Page Building at Wiley Post Airport!
For Page Building rental rates contact: Steve
Schroeder: 405-691-8629 (home phone)
sandsschroeder@cox.net or QB Governor Jim
Sutton 405-760-1988 (mobile phone).**



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
gfinley@cox.net
- Danny Davis - 405-990-5201
abadavis@sbcglobal.net,
- Matt Cole - 405-260-1010
mattc7774u@gmail.com,
- Hal Harris - 405-789-0000
capt.harris@aironeflightacademy.com,
- Brian Hancock - 405-757-5706
hancock73660@gmail.com,
- Mike Rangel - rangelm945@msn.com,
- and Bill Pappadopoulos - 405-417-7876



**LEARN TO FLY
CRABTREE SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICS
LIGHT SPORT TRAINING-TAILWHEEL TRAINING
SPIN TRAINING**



**BECOME AN FAA LICENCED SPORT PILOT
IN AS LITTLE AS 20 HOURS
GLENN CRABTREE 405-282-4250 cacinc77@sbcglobal.net
www.crabtreeaircraft.net**

**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 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 Brian Hancock: (405) 757-5706 - Hancock73660@gmail.com, or Bill Pappadopoulos: (405) 417-7876, or Danny Davis: (405) 990-5201 - abadavis@sbcglobal.net.

ANGEL FLIGHT



We Need More Pilots.

Join Angel Flight Oklahoma and Make a Difference, One Flight at a Time.

Share your skills and love of flying to help those in need. Angel Flight volunteer pilots fly one or more flights a year. Flights are posted and scheduled online so you can pick a flight that's best for you.

To learn more, or to schedule a fly-along, call 918-749-8992 or visit www.AngelFlight.com.

STEMPILOT

Engaging Students in STEM with Flight Simulation



SAFEDRONE



**MATT ESKER MATT@STEMPILOT.COM
405-593-0324 WWW.STEMPILOT.COM**



CIRRUS AIRCRAFT
CIRRUSAIRCRAFT.COM

To Schedule a free demonstration flight in the world's best selling aircraft, contact
Jeff Sandusky
 405-650-5900
 jsandusky@cirrusaircraft.com

WILEY POST AIRPORT ATLANTIC FBO OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

OPA Newsletter Ad Rates

Approximate Ad Size Monthly Rate

Business Card 2"x 3 1/2"	\$30.00
One-Eighth Page 2 1/2" x 3 3/4"	\$40.00
One-Quarter Page 3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	\$70.00
One-Half Page 4 3/4" x 7 1/2"	\$120.00
Full Page 7 1/2" x 9 1/2"	\$240.00

Ask About Discounts for Annual Ads
 Call Ben Roy, 405-802-9657



Southern Wings Aircraft Sales Ltd.

Randy Plant
Tony Plant

6701 N. Rockwell Hangar 28
 Oklahoma City, OK 73132

Ph. 405-789-7402
 Fax: 405-789-5395
 sales@southernwingsaircraft.com
 www.southernwingsaircraft.com

Celebrating Our 49th Year At Wiley Post

Serves U Right
 Catering by Dave Ackley

405-501-2201
 eggsackley@sbcglobal.net

2020 OPA Calendar

All scheduled items are subject to change as necessary to meet directed Covid 19 requirements and for the health and safety of our members and guests.

April 2nd - NO Dinner Meeting Stay Safe!

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

April NO OPA Fly Away

To meet social distancing standards

April 16th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

May 7th - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

May 21st - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

May 30th Fly Away - San Marcos, TX

AOPA Fly-In

Wheels Down - TBA

June 4th - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

June 18th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

June Fly Away - TBD

Be sure to contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations

405-219-5149 dinner@opa.link

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



GMC Buick

OPA MEMBER

"The Cars & Trucks America Owns"
 HWY 81, S. of 66 - EL RENO - 405-262-2466 - 800-375-3751

Please Print - Information Will Be Used For Membership Directory and Newsletter Database

Oklahoma Pilots Association Membership Application New Membership Renewal Update

Date _____ Referred By _____
 Your Name _____ Occupation _____ **Name tag** Yes No
 Spouse _____ Occupation _____ **Name tag** Yes No
 Address _____ E-Mail Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ **Receive by Mail**
 Phone (Residence) _____ (Business) _____ (FAX) _____

Pilot information: Are you a Aircraft Owner? Yes — No — Type _____ N# _____

MEMBER: Approximate Hours _____
 Private ___ Commercial ___ Instrument ___
 ATP ___ CFI ___ CFII _____

Please make dues check payable to:
 Oklahoma Pilots Association
 Mail to: 5810 Tulakes Ave.,
 Wiley Post Airport,
 Bethany, OK 73008

All material for newsletter publication should be sent to:
OPA NEWS
 C/o Ben Roy
 11749 SW. 54th
 Mustang, OK 73064
 405-802-9657 Cell
 email:
broysprint01@earthlink.net

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$35
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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.**



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