



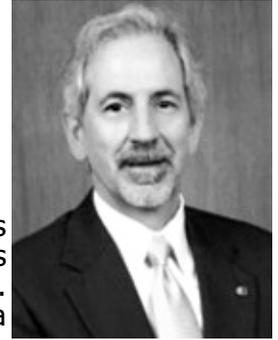
NEWS In the Sky

February 2020

(www.opa.link)

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

Speaker: Victor Bird
Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission



Victor Bird has been the Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission since 2002. Bird is responsible for the direction of the state agency charged with the promotion of aeronautics throughout the State of Oklahoma and the development of the state's 108 publicly owned airports. Bird successfully lead the effort to make the Commission an independent state agency with a dedicated aviation revenue stream to ensure the state could invest in its airport infrastructure.

He was instrumental in the formation of the governor's Aerospace Task Force in 2004, which resulted in several recommendations to ensure the viability and growth of the state's aerospace industry and championed legislation promoting the industry; such as engineer tax credits for aerospace, protection of public airports through the Aircraft Pilot and Passenger Protection Act, and the repeal of the sales tax on all aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul transactions. Bird played a critical role in the successful legislative effort to protect military training airspace throughout Oklahoma. Under his leadership 84% of OAC's revenues have been invested in airport projects statewide. The Commission partnered with the FAA to improve the state's airport planning process, becoming a model for other states around the country.

He was the 2010 chair of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) and is the only Oklahoman to ever hold that office in the 88-year history of the Association. He is the recipient of two prestigious NASAO awards. He was the 2010 recipient of the AOPA's most prestigious award, the Hartranft Award, which recognized Bird for his achievements in public policy that have advanced aviation. He is the only non-elected official to ever receive the award. He was also the recipient of the 2009 General Thomas P. Stafford Award, recognizing his outstanding contribution to Oklahoma's aerospace industry. Currently, he is the co-chair of NASAO's Legislative Committee and a member of the U.S. Contract Tower Association Policy Board. Bird earned his juris doctorate and bachelor's degree from The University of Tulsa.

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

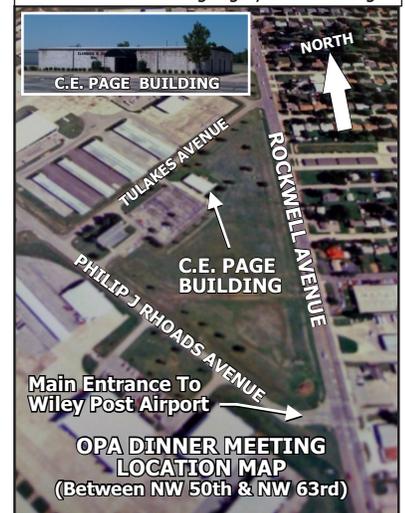
Please contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations so we will have enough food for everyone. dinner@opa.link 405-219-5149

Speaker: Deirdre Gurry, Enid Woodring Regional Airport Director



Deirdre Gurry is the Airport Director for the Enid Woodring Regional Airport. Formally a US Air Force T-6 Texan II Instructor and Evaluator Pilot; Deirdre Commanded the 8th Flying Training Squadron until March 2019. She retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from active duty on August 1st. A native of Pennsylvania, Deirdre was commissioned in 1999 through the Air Force ROTC program at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. She completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi; and stayed on at Columbus as a T-37 First Assignment Instructor Pilot. Deirdre did most of her operational flying in the C-17 Globemaster at McChord Air Force Base in Washington. In 2011 she completed her Masters in Business Administration and in 2014 earned a Masters in Military Operational Art and Science. She has held several leadership positions including Chief of Safety, Chief of the NATO Airlift Coordination Center, and as Squadron Commander. **She has flown to all Oklahoma airports!**

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.





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.

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Pilots in Demand, Part 3

How many times have you asked yourself... "if I just had it to do all over again?" Hindsight is always 20/20. When I was young, I dedicated most of my high school years and a large part of college, yearning to be a pilot. Not just any pilot, but an Air Force fighter pilot. This singular focus would be my downfall.

As a kid I was always enamored with planes. As I have mentioned many times before, my father never missed an opportunity to bring flying into our lives. We attended every air show, flew RC planes, and talked about flying often. In high school I joined the ROTC and after graduation enlisted in the Air National Guard with the intent of applying for their pilot program (on the advice of a family friend) thinking this would be my path... until those applications were denied... three times. And, that was it. I didn't allow myself to take any other path. I saw the path I had chosen close before my eyes, and it wasn't until I was in my 40's that I would seek a different way.

There are many opportunities to become a pilot... sure it would be nice if we could all get behind the stick of a F-35 (or F-16, which was my aircraft of choice) but if you really want to be a pilot there are many paths you can take; airline, transport, private, ferry pilot, etc., etc.

The best way to learn about the various opportunities is to involve yourself at an early age (or even later in life, like myself) in the flying community. Join an organization like OPA, or a flying club, involve yourself in various STEM organizations in schools. Join Young Eagles. Attend Air shows. Read books about flying. Become a student of the game. There are many ways that you can explore your path. I heard a story once, and I believe it was from one of the OPA members, (I just can't remember who), this individual would hang out at the local FBO as a teen and visit with the pilots, often getting rides with those who were going up to do touch and gos, or just going flying for fun.

These are all things I wish I would have done. At the time I was stepping off my path I told myself, it's too expensive to learn to fly on my own. And, I'm not going to lie, it's not cheap. But I have also learned that there are scholarships, and assistance to help individuals become pilots. I simply googled "Pilot Scholarships" while writing this article and was left with a long list of ways to get assistance through scholarships, grants, and loans. There are ways!

Locally, the Oklahoma Pilots Association gives away a minimum \$2500 annual scholarship to assist student pilots; and I have on good authority that they may give away two this year. And, we are not alone; the Ninety-Nines, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma University, Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology, Western Oklahoma State, Southeastern Oklahoma State, just to mention a few, all offer scholarships for pilots and aviation related careers. Like I said, there are ways!

Looking back, I should have visited with my teachers and discussed what classes would best prepare me to be a pilot. I also would have talked to a few pilots; Air Force Pilots, General Aviation Pilots, Commercial Airline Pilots, et al. I would have sought out organizations like Young Eagles and flying organizations like the OPA, EAA, and AOPA. My dad did a lot of things right. I just didn't open myself up to the total world of aviation. I should have taken the time to look at the other paths. If I just had it to do all over again...

This is the third and last article in the Pilots in Demand series I have written over the last few months. It was written with the intent of showing individuals that there is: A) an opportunity and B) a way to get there. Even for individuals like myself. I finally got back on my path at 40 and became a GA pilot. No, I'm not dog fighting commies in my F-16; but I am up there, in the sky, doing what I always wanted... I'm a pilot. Stay Safe and Happy Flying, Brian Hancock, OPA President

Highlights from the January OPA Dinner Meeting

(Editors' Note: We had to cut short the information from Aaron's presentation due to Ben's surgery and rehabilitation. He had 3 disks removed, 4 vertebrae fused, and a metal plate installed. He went to the hospital the evening of our January meeting and came home from Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation on the 31st. He's doing great, but still has a lot of recovery ahead.)

We enjoyed dinner, catered by Running Wild Catering, because our regular caterer, Dave Ackley was ill. Brian Hancock welcomed everyone and led us in the pledge to our flag. Greg Finley gave us updates on OPA flyaways. The January flyaway was scheduled for January 11th to Enrique's Mexican Restaurant in Ponca City. If weather is a factor, as predicted, the trip will be moved to the following weekend. Greg is trying to coordinate a flyaway with the Colorado Pilots Association. Brian asked for a volunteer to pick up and mail our newsletters because Wyvema Startz has health problems preventing her from continuing to do the mailing.

Aaron Varland, our speaker for the evening presented the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to Peter Richard Cappadonna for 50 years of dedicated service to aviation safety. Peter has also sponsored most of the 20 or 30 recipients in the last few years. Applying is much like applying for a job, including a resume and letters of recommendation from pilot peers who can actually attest to your flying ability. Aaron said that Peter is the only one who pulls records from his office for a good reason; the others are pulled after the pilot did something bad or wrong. Aaron said that no airman flies alone, a spouse is always a part of it, and presented Peter's wife with a pin.

Aaron is one half of the FAA FAAS Team Safety Team. His office follows every accident and incident. He said we only had one fatal accident in our area last year. He asked how many in the room were instrument rated and learned that at least half were. He discussed when you should go around instead of landing and when you need to make that decision. If you are not stabilized at 1000 feet, consider going around. Aaron said not all GA pilots shoot an exact IFR all the time and at a non-towered airport there could be another airplane on the runway, a car waiting on the taxiway, or a tree too close. He mentioned that Ardmore Airport has 3 huge telephone poles on the airport. He emphasized the importance of not making drastic corrections, and that it is important to have a designated idea about when to go around, as soon as you know there's an issue of some kind. For example: I will go around if X, Y, Z. He said it is important to drill yourself on going around so that your muscle memory works; so, practice go arounds. When there are two pilots, either one should be able to make the decision to go around.

Aaron gave us a lot more great information, but we leave you with one last bit of advice: Aviate – Fly the plane!



Photos from the January Dinner Meeting



Photos from the January Dinner Meeting



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Saturday January 18th OPA Fly Away - Ponca City, OK Enrique's Mexican Restaurant



Article and photos from Fly Away Chair, Greg Finley

After a one week delay due to weather, we were able to make our monthly flyaway to Ponca City this past January 18th. Although we had some windy conditions, upwards to 25-30 knots, it was almost right down Runway 35, giving us a slight left quartering crosswind of around 9 knots. Most others, not in our group, arrived after us; which allowed us to go straight in and be seated. Enrique's was not crowded, so we did not feel rushed; which allowed us to share stories, laugh, and enjoy each other's fellowship without guilt.



However, all good things must come to an end; so, it was time to leave and head back to our respective airports. All in all, there were seven of us who attended in four different airplanes. If you were not able to make it to our January flyaway, we invite you to start making plans to attend our flyaway in February, when we all go to Wichita, KS, to see the B-29 "Doc".



You can find out more about this flyaway and other events by visiting our website at opa.link or follow us on Facebook.



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Saturday February 14th - OPA Fly Away - Wichita, KS
Visit B-29 "Doc" - Lunch at Hangar One Steakhouse



Article and photo from OPA Fly Away Chairman, Greg Finley

February leads us in to an exciting flyaway when we will all go to Wichita, KS (KICT), for a day of visiting "Doc" and having lunch. As seen on their website, Doc is a B-29 Superfortress and is one of 1,644 manufactured in Wichita during World War II. Doc was found rotting away in the Mojave Desert in 1987. Since then, the historic warbird has been restored to flying status and is serving as a flying museum. We, at OPA, helped with the funding of Doc's hangar through the purchase of a brick bearing OPA's name; recognizing our Association. After our trip to visit Doc and his new hangar home, we will all have lunch together at Hangar One Steakhouse, a local, on-airport restaurant.

Due to the business hours of Doc's Hangar and Education Center we are asking everyone to be wheels down by 10:00 am on Saturday, February 15th. We will have more ramp parking directions in our email as we get closer to the event. There will be a cost of \$10 for Doc's Hangar and Education Center access and an extra \$5 if you choose to have access to Doc's cockpit. They do have a gift shop; so, I suggest you bring extra money in case you have kids and grandkids at home who expect you to bring them something back. You can find out more about Doc and the hangar by visiting their website at b29doc.com.

You can find out more about this OPA event and others by visiting our website at opa.link or follow us on Facebook.



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Contacts: 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.

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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.

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2020 OPA Calendar

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 15th Fly Away - Wichita, KS
 Visit "Doc" - Hangar One Steakhouse
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.

March 5th - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

March 19th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

March 14th Fly Away - Stillwater, OK
 OSU Flying Aggies Fly In
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.

April 2nd - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

April 11th Fly Away - Ada, OK
 Petrillo's Restaurant
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.

April 16th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

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



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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.**

