



NEWS In the Sky

January 2020

(www.opa.link)

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.



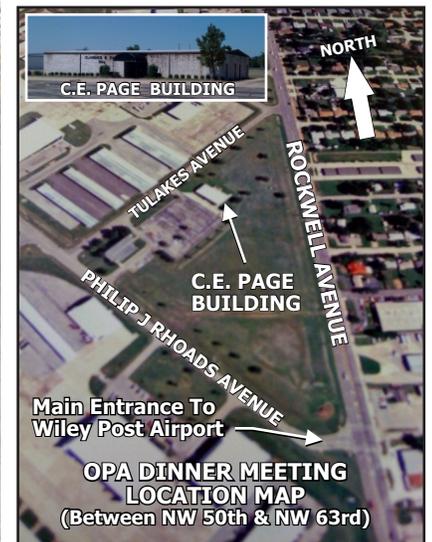
Please contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations so we will have enough food for everyone. dinner@opa.link
405-219-5149

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

The Board is working on a special speaker: to be announced.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from your "News in the Sky" Editors and our family to all of our OPA family and friends!

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.





Clarence E. Page Building
5810 Tulakes Avenue
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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.

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Pilots in Demand, Part 2

The sky beckons! If you are reading this article you have, at one point or another, felt the urge to become a pilot. Some, like myself, have made general aviation the peak of their goal, but others want to make aviation a career. In Part 1 of this article we explored the need for more pilots in the work force. In Part 2 I'll describe what it takes to become an airline pilot and the various training paths you can take to get there.

According to the FAA, to be hired by an airline or other air-carrier as a first officer or co-pilot you must hold an Airline Transport Pilot certificate, or ATP. In addition to passing applicable knowledge and practical tests, applicants must be 23 years old, hold a commercial pilot certificate with instrument rating, have recorded 1500 hours total time as a pilot, and recorded at least 50 hours in a multi-engine airplane. Most large commercial airlines also require pilots to have a bachelor's degree; however, some smaller regional airlines only require a two-year degree.

There are many different paths that lead to accomplishing the above... first and foremost is either a Part 61 or Part 141 Flight School. These refer to FAA regulations around the various requirements, but Part 61 flight instruction is the least regulated, making it the most informal and often least expensive. Part 141 flight schools, on the other hand, adhere to a strict training outline approved by the FAA. Both offer casual, at-your-own-pace, course work, but Part 141 training is known to be a bit more fast-paced.

Another path is to attend an Aviation College or University. This offers the benefit of not only learning to fly, but also allows you to earn a 4-year degree along the way. Universities often offer students the most up-to-date technology and training techniques in a very structured environment; but that usually comes with a higher price.

Aviation Academies offer students a shortened, college-like, structured environment similar to the Part 141 program without the often required, elective courses required by college programs. This reduces cost and time, with most programs lasting only a year or two.

The last path we'll discuss is a Military Aviation Career. This is typically the least expensive out-of-pocket option with the government picking up the tab for flight school; but it comes with obvious commitments. Most military pilots must fill a minimum 10-year obligation to fly for the military. One also needs to consider that time served will likely be away from home, with the likelihood of military deployments. However, military experience is a highly sought trait desired by airline recruiters.

There is an obvious need for pilots in the future and many paths to get you from the ground to the skies. Each comes with a pretty lengthy, and often, expensive path. But if the sky does beckon and you are willing, there should be no doubt that there is a place for you amongst the clouds as an airline pilot.

Next month we'll explore some local paths you can take, and how you can help ease the burden of expense along the way, in our third and final part of Pilots in Demand.

Highlights from the December OPA Dinner Meeting

OPA President Brian Hancock opened our meeting after we enjoyed a great Christmas dinner, prepared by Dave Ackley. Bill Papadopoulos led us in the pledge to the American flag and Frank Bice led us in the pledge to the Oklahoma flag. We welcomed guests, Pam and David Karalunas, from Alaska. The December OPA Fly Away is to Guthrie on the 14th for the Victorian Walk. Everyone was asked to meet at 5:00 in front of the Post Office for a group photo; then off to the restaurants for dinner. Brian mentioned that Greg Finley has served as Fly Away Chair for over a year (and served VERY well). We also learned that the Santa Fly In would be on the 14th at Guthrie for photos with Santa. (Yes, Santa flies in. One year OPA member Joey Sager flew Santa in by helicopter.) Southern Wings will host its annual free Christmas lunch on December 20th.

Brian introduced Carol Ann Fewell, our entertainer for the evening. She warmed up (and warmed us up) with several songs while we gathered. Carol traveled here from her home in Ft. Worth to entertain us. She donated a CD of a selection of her songs for a door prize. She sang a wide variety of music for us; everything from "Santa Baby" and "To Heck with Old Santa Claus" to "Oh Holy Night" and "I Will Always Love You" to "Jolene" and "I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart" (complete with yodeling) and everything in between. Many people in the audience were seen singing along. There was also a lot of great dancing contributing to a wonderful evening. I could rave about her performance, but you might think I am just prejudiced since she is our daughter. But I always say that being prejudiced, doesn't make it not true! Everyone present seemed to enjoy the evening.



Brian noted that we have enjoyed some great flyaways this year and some great meetings. We are always looking for volunteers – maybe next year a new flyaway chair, etc. He mentioned that all the set up for the evening was done by volunteers. He asked Carol to lead us in "Silent Night" before we left. When she said, okay, but she hadn't rehearsed it; he said that was okay, because we hadn't either. It was a wonderful close to a wonderful evening.



Photos from the December Christmas Dinner



Photos from the December Christmas Dinner



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**Saturday January 11th OPA Fly Away - 68th Ponca City, OK
Enrique's Mexican Restaurant
Wheels Down: 11:00 a.m.**



Article by Fly Away Chair, Greg Finley

iPreparémonos para comer comida mexicana en Ponca City el sábado 11 de enero! I am not too sure how accurate Google Translator is; but if you were able to start making a flight plan for lunch at Ponca City on Saturday, January 11th, then I guess it is pretty accurate. We plan to be wheels down at 11:00 am, so we can all get seated together for a great time of fun and fellowship. Please go ahead and mark this date on your calendars and start looking out for the January flyaway email so you can be an RSVP early bird.

You can find out more about this flyaway and other events by viewing our calendar on our website located at opa.link. Also, you can follow us on Facebook under Oklahoma Pilots Association.

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



Photos from the 2019 OPA Fly Away



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Saturday December 14th - OPA Fly Away Guthrie, OK Victorian Walk and Territorial Christmas



Article and photo from OPA Fly Away Chairman, Greg Finley

Merry Christmas OPA! The December flyaway was a little different than other flyaways during this past year, as we decided to all gather in front of the post office in Guthrie, OK, for a group photo and then enjoy the night's events of supper and the Victorian Walk. The Guthrie Victorian Walk is a wonderful time when the shop owners and some residents dress in 1800's style clothing and adorn their storefronts with live-action decorations. Most shop owners stayed open late and offered hot chocolate, coffee, snacks, and friendly conversation. We were able to hear the songs of both children and adult carolers, as well as small groups of musicians. Perhaps due to the vehicle traffic of the evening, we all did not get to meet at the same time; but we had at least twelve of us accounted for in two different photos.

Please make plans to join us on Saturday, January 4th, as we fly to Ponca City, OK, and bring in the New Year with an OPA favorite! The Mexican style food of Enrique's is sure to clear off your taste buds from all the Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey and ham. Please plan to be wheels down by 11:00 am; so, we can all get seated together and have great fellowship.



TERRITORIAL
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To learn more about this flyaway and other events, you visit our website at opa.link or follow us on Facebook.



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All holiday and special event dates are charged \$75 over daily rate.

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.

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

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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

- 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.
- 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.

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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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.**



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