



NEWS In the Sky

April 2018

(www.opa.link)

**April 5th, 2018 - Social Hour 6:00 p.m.
Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.**

You must have a prepaid ticket to attend this very special event. (At the Oklahoma History Center in OKC) Tickets will not be available at the door. We must give the caterer a headcount the week before the meeting.

Speaker: Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford - Astronaut

A native Oklahoman, born in Weatherford, General Stafford's mother came to Oklahoma in a covered wagon and lived to see her only son go to the moon, watching on color TV. The April meeting of the Oklahoma Pilots Association will be a historic one, co-hosted by the Oklahoma Historical Society and held at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., in Oklahoma City. General Tom Stafford will be speaking just a few paces away from the actual Gemini 6 capsule he piloted to the first rendezvous in space in 1965, proving the viability of a manned mission to the moon.

Just five months later, he and Eugene "Gene" Cernan returned to space on the Gemini 9 mission, for the second spacewalk by an American. This challenging feat had a near disastrous outcome which almost took the life of General Stafford's fellow astronaut and close friend. Just 3 years later, these two men returned to space together on the Apollo 10 mission – the second manned mission to the moon – where they descended to just a few miles above the lunar surface. As the first to fly the lunar module in lunar orbit, one of their primary purposes for that mission was to search out a site for the first moon landing on Apollo 11. On their return to earth, Stafford, Cernan, and John Young reached the highest speed ever attained by humans: 28,547 miles per hour.

General Stafford has flown over 120 different types of fixed wing and rotary aircraft and 3 types of spacecraft. Much of his post-NASA career as a three-star Air Force General involved high level classified information, which is only recently becoming declassified. This means many of his greatest accomplishments can now be publicly discussed, including his work on stealth fighter and bomber technology for the F117A and the B-2, among others. April 5th will be your opportunity to hear General Stafford give a firsthand account of some of mankind's most impressive adventures, including these stories and others.



**May 3rd, 2018 - Social 6:30 p.m.
7:00 Dinner Meeting**

Speaker: Scott Sarver: "Doc" Restoration

For our May dinner meeting, we will be back at the Page Building at Wiley Post Airport on May 3rd. Our May speaker will be Scott Sarver. Scott worked for Cessna Aircraft Company for 32 years and upon retirement became a volunteer and one of "Doc's Friends" who helped restore one of only two flying B-29's Superfortresses in the world. Scott will share his experiences restoring "Doc" and a slide show chronicling how "Doc's Friends" acquired the aircraft and what it took to get it back to flying status. Scott graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in Aviation Management. He went directly to Cessna Aircraft Company and ended up working there for the next 32 years. Scott held a myriad of positions, culminating in the Sales Division, selling Special Mission Citation Aircraft as the Manager of Special Mission Sales. After retirement he has been a restoration volunteer and once they got flight certification, he has been certified as the Lead Scanner in the flight crew. Doc is owned by a local group of businessmen known as Doc's Friends. They are a 501 3c corporation. Last year was their first year of flight operations and they were all thrilled to be able to take the aircraft out and display it to the public. They look forward to many more years of showing this aircraft off. (See a picture of "Doc" on page 2.)





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.

2017-2018 OPA OFFICERS

- President - Matt Cole 405 260-1010
- Exec. Vice President - Mike Grimes 405 641-6860
- Past President - Lee Holmes 405 833-7201
- Treasurer - Roy Cowan 405 340-1425
- Secretary - Greg Finley 918 340-9184

Vice President of Membership
 Roger Walton 405 219-5149
mem@opa.link

Vice President of Communications
 Brian Hancock 405 757-5706
hancock73660@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Term Expires 6/30/2019

- Evan Bird
- Bill Hines
- Mike Rangel
- Joey Sager
- Jeff Sandusky

Term Expires 6/30/2018

- Rick Cacini
- Hal Harris
- Al Liebler
- Bill Pappadopoulos

Position open

College Student Board Member - Stephen Tritten

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

- Ben Roy
- June Roy
- Steve Haynes

**OPA President
 Matt Cole**



Hello everyone. Just a quick letter this month wishing everyone a great spring. As always, I hope everyone is managing to get lots of flying in between those days containing 30 knots plus wind gusts and lower ceilings. Hopefully this spring holds as much, if not more, flying; and that everyone enjoys and remains well.

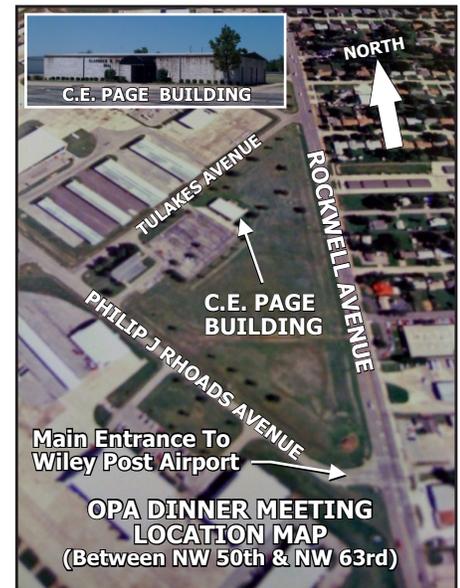
**"Doc" - B-29 Superfortress
 one of only 2 flying B-29s**



Please note that the April Dinner Meeting will not be held at our regular location.

The Oklahoma Pilots Association, in conjunction with the Oklahoma History Center and the Stafford Air and Space Museum, are proud to present: An Evening with General Thomas P. Stafford.

This event is being held at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., near the Oklahoma State Capitol. The evening will begin with a social hour at 6pm with dinner being served at 7pm.



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.

Highlights from the March Dinner Meeting

After a great meal and the pledge to our flag, OPA President, Matt Cole welcomed everyone to our meeting. Brian Hancock gave us Fly Away updates, including the trip to Enid for lunch at Lucille's and to tour the ML Learning Center MiG display and cockpit. The local EAA Chapter has offered to provide transportation for OPA. We also learned details about ticket sales for the April dinner meeting at the Oklahoma History Center. General Stafford will be the speaker and he will start limiting his public appearances due to his age. There will be a reception prior to the dinner, which will be served at 7:00. Only 300 tickets will be available and they must be purchased in advance. No tickets can be purchased at the door. There will also be a raffle for signed memorabilia. Hal Harris will sell tickets at AirOne for those who can't or don't want to buy tickets on line. We were reminded that the OPA Board has arranged great speakers for us. There are 370 million people in this country and we have one of the only five Viet Nam Aces speaking tonight. In June we will have AOPA President Mark Baker as our speaker. Miles Turner, VP of the Flyin' Aggies, and Dr. Lofti from OSU told us the annual fly in is coming up and the Annual Alumni Banquet is March 10th. Dave Finley brought his daughter, Krista, and her husband, Ryan Samples to our meeting. Nick and Diane Chapman from Twin Lake Airport were visitors. Bill Pappadopoulos presented OPA Board Member, VP of Communications, and Fly Away Chairman, Brian Newall with the OPA Pilot of the Year Award and mentioned that he has done a terrific job with our Fly Aways.



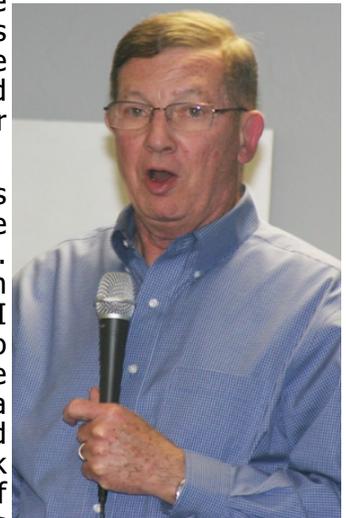
Don Miller introduced our speaker, Col. Charles B. DeBellevue, and said he is the sort of guy you read about in books. He flew in both the front and back sets of the F4. DeBellevue said to just call him Chuck. He is in both the Louisiana and Oklahoma Halls of Fame and you can read about him on Google.

Chuck said he always wanted to fly, even as a kid. He joined CAP and got his pilot's license through ROTC. He was in AF pilots' training when they cut the number of pilots in the F4D planes from 1 to 2 to save training costs. He said two pilots in the plane was not efficient because they would fight over the stick during landings. They got rid of the pilot in the back seat and put a navigator in that seat instead. That cut the number of pilots getting AF wings in that group in half as well. He switched to navigator's school and was happy to finish first in his class. When he arrived in Viet Nam his first stop was with the squad scheduler. Chuck said he was the most important person in the squad because he said who would fly each day. He was told he couldn't fly the first day he arrived because he got there too late. He got to fly more than most and with good pilots because he had the experience and had flown with most of the pilots in training. They were very particular about who they would fly with; a colonel wanted to fly with one of the pilots, and the lieutenant pilot refused to fly with him. Chuck was part of the 555 Tactical Fighter Squadron, known as the Triple Nickel.

They were the first group to fly to Hanoi and the last ones out. He flew with the same eight guys almost all the time. Chuck shared intriguing stories of his flights and fights in Viet Nam, where he scored six MiG kills; the most earned by any aviator in the Viet Nam war. DeBellevue, Capt. Steve Ritchie, and Jeffrey Feinstein became the only AF "Aces" in that war. Randy Cunningham and Willie Driscoll were the two Navy "Aces". I wish I could share those stories with you, but I



just can't do them justice. He also showed us a really need movie. Chuck flew in one of only a few planes with special radar at that time that let them shoot beyond visual range (BVR). The radar was in the navigator's seat and he did the shooting. At 27 years, Chuck was afraid of nothing, man or beast, and would go anywhere. If you missed the presentation and have the chance to hear Chuck in the future, you really need to take advantage of that opportunity.



Highlights from the March Dinner Meeting

Our thanks to Col. DeBellevue for allowing us to use photos from his presentation for the newsletter

Chuck shared a photo of his Blood Chit designed to give to anyone if you were shot down and caught, to let them know you were an American fighting man. He said people there were told if you turned an American in you would get a lot of money, and since you couldn't tell who was friendly or an enemy, he just kept it. Chuck said he had good air to ground training, but no air to air training; so, he borrowed a plane to use to learn how to fight air to air. He said you have to train the way you are going to fight or you will fight the way you trained. The deck max speed was 820. They sometimes did 1000. He said if the bolts failed you would never know it at that speed. They had the engines turned up as high as they could get them, so the maintenance guys said the engines wouldn't last that long. They had to call tankers to bring them fuel. If the tanker didn't come, no one was going home. Chuck said the F4 was not a 9g airplane, but it will do 10, and four seconds is as eternity in that situation. On September 9, 1972, one of their group was hit and crashed in Laos, but they were rescued the same day. The first thing they did when they returned from a flight with a kill was paint a star on the plane. The chief mechanic had a can of red paint ready. After they landed they borrowed two planes from maintenance and did an airshow for maintenance. Everyone who had a kill pulled up and rolled. Chuck said that airshow was the most dangerous part of the day. He asked if we had seen the Blue Angels; then commented that the Angels practiced, but they didn't. Of course, that was all illegal. He showed the photo of his party suit with the red stars for each kill and said that it pays to advertise. He went straight to AF pilot training from Viet Nam and graduated first in his class.



Painting the star

Matt presented Chuck with a one-year membership in OPA and thanked him for sharing his stories with us. Chuck said it was a pleasure to be with us because we were pilots and because we were red-blooded Americans. He said he liked our starting the meeting with the pledge; that it means something to him. It really means something to us too, Chuck. Thank you for your service to our country and for a very wonderful presentation.



Party shirt on display in museum



Blood Chit



After the rescue



Star on the plane

**OPA April 14th Fly Away - Weatherford, OK - Guided Tour Stafford Air and Space Museum
Lunch at Lucille's - Wheels down 11:00 a.m.**



**Pictures from Weatherford
OPA Fly Away 9/10/2016**



**Pictures from Weatherford OPA Fly Away 9/2010 - General Stafford's
80th Birthday Celebration & Museum Tour.
Stafford's mother came to Oklahoma in a stagecoach in 1901,
so they brought one in for the day to honor her.**



Usually we need a head count (for the restaurant & for ground transportation when needed), so if you plan to go along, please email Roger Walton at flyaway@opa.link with the number in your group (or text or call: (405) 219-5149). We'll meet you on the ramp. If you have a seat available or need a ride please contact one of the following: Brian Hancock: (405) 757-5706 - Hancock73660@gmail.com, or Bill Pappadopoulos: (405) 417-7876, or Roger Walton: (405) 219-5149 - flyaway@opa.link, or Danny Davis: (405) 990-5201 - abadavis@sbcglobal.net



April OPA Fly Away Number 2
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma



4th Annual

Oklahoma State University Flying Aggies Fly-In

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018

| STILLWATER REGIONAL AIRPORT (KSWO) | 9AM-1PM |



| AIRPLANE RIDES FOR SALE | FLIGHT TEAM DEMO | STATIC AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS |
| LOCAL BUSINESS BOOTHS | CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE | LIVE MUSIC BY WILLIE LAIN |

—CONTACT INFO—

For airplane rides or static display inquiries:
Miles Turner at
(432) 638-3100 or
miles.turner@okstate.edu.

For car show inquiries:
David Koch at (832) 244-1858
or dakoch@okstate.edu



FIRST EVER Flying Aggies Car Show!! \$25 entry fee.
Gates open at 8am. Registration closes at 10am.

The OPA Fly Away March 10th to Enid, OK for Lunch at Café Garcia & to Tour the MIG Display Was Cancelled Due to Weather



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

Photographs from the March Dinner Meeting



CD coming due? Compare our rates.



Brian C Hancock
Financial Advisor
7015 W Hefner Rd Bldg C Ste B
Oklahoma City, OK 73162
405-728-0221
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

OKLAHOMA

Angela Drabek
angela@oklahomawebdesign.com
www.OklahomaWebDesign.com
Office (405) 688-7093 Cell (405) 990-9067

Web Design - Web Hosting - Graphic Design - Consulting
Site Management - PHP Programming - SEO/ Marketing

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

Try the Page Building at Wiley Post Airport!

Page Building rental rates:

Total day – 8:00 am till day's end:

Monday thru Thursday - \$300

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - \$350

Morning only 8:00 am - 1:00 pm:

Weekdays - \$150

Weekend days - \$175

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)



**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**

OPA Fly Away Committee

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

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,

Roger Walton and Jan Walton,

flyaway@opa.link - 405-219-5149,

Brian Hancock - 405-757-5706

hancock73660@gmail.com,

Mike Rangel - rangelm945@msn.com,

and Bill Pappadopoulos - 405-417-7876

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.

John G. Gillespie, CEP, RFC



Estate Planning Trusts Investments

Let us help you avoid a lifestyle change during retirement.

We FLY to YOU- \$250,000 Minimum
6632 NW 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 73008
405.491.0235 retire@AccessFinancialGroup.com

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





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

2018 OPA Calendar

- April 5th** - Social 6:00 p.m. - Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Oklahoma History Center - OKC
 - April 14th** - Fly Away - Weatherford, OK
Stafford Museum - Guided Tour
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m. Lunch at Lucille's
 - April 19th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
 - April 21st** - OPA Fly Away - Stillwater, OK
OSU Flyin' Aggies - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 - May 3rd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
 - May 12th** - Fly Away - Springfield, Missouri
Lambert's Restaurant - Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
 - May 17th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
 - June 7th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
 - June 16th** - Fly Away - Dodge City, KS
Front Street
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
 - June 21st** - 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)
- 2nd Saturday - Ardmore (Cancelled until spring)
Breakfast Lakeland Aviation - Call 580-389-5000
(No heater in the hangar, waiting for installation)
- 3rd Saturday - Alva Regional Airport Fly-In
Breakfast - Call 580-327-6778 March through Nov
- Saturday after 3rd Monday - Owasso Pancake
Breakfast EAA Chapter 10
- 4th Saturday - Enid Fly-In Breakfast - Woodring
Airport (WDG) April through October

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

Rick Jones

Buick GMC Pontiac

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