



NEWS In the Sky

November 2018

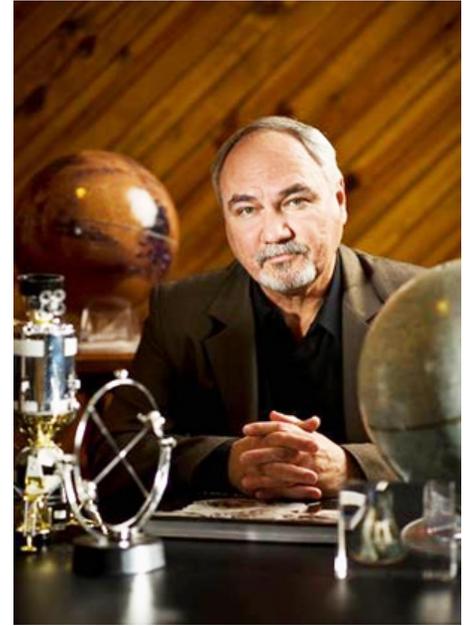
(www.opa.link)

**November 1st, 2018 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Bill Moore, Award Winning Author and Oklahoma Aviation Historian

Oklahoma City has a long history with aviation and airports. Those airports began with a grass strip near today's current intersection of S.E. 89th and Shields. Learn more about this and other airport information from a co-author of the book, *The Oklahoma Aviation Story*.

Bill Moore received his B.A. in 1979 and M.A. in 1993 in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Oklahoma. He has been honored as a University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism Distinguished Alum. His career in video production work included time with the F.A.A., Oklahoma City Community College, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS), as well as producing documentaries for OETA. The decade he spent with OHS included serving as part of the group responsible for opening the new Oklahoma History Center in 2005, which included the Oklahoma film and tape library established by Moore composed of several million feet of film and tape. He has written numerous historical journal and magazine articles on the space program as well as being author and co-author of four books dealing with Oklahoma history. He serves on several film and book publication committees; and served as President of the Stafford Air and Space Museum Board. He also served on the Gaylord College of Journalism's JayMac Alumni Board.



Working on the exhibit about Oklahomans involved with the space program when the Oklahoma History Center opened, Moore continued researching in this field that had fascinated him his entire life. It turned into a project known as "Oklahomans and Space." This project has yielded a coffee table book and 7-part documentary series on OETA. Previous work included a documentary, "Thomas P. Stafford, Oklahoma Astronaut." Both projects were nominated for a Heartland Emmy Award.

**December 6th, 2018 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

Be sure to contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations - 405-219-5149 dinner@opa.link

**"Flyin' High" Band from Tinker Air Force Base will supply the music!
Dave will supply the feast!**



Save the date and meet us there for a great time and great food with good 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

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

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Six Degrees of Separation: Pilot Edition

As pilots, we are always enamored with the great pilots of history... Wilbur and Orville Wright, Amelia Earhart, Chuck Yeager, and of course Charles Lindbergh, to name a few. It is even more special if you have some type of personal connection to one of the greats... and I do.

Every family has one... that person who is, typically self-appointed, as the keeper of the family history. For my mom's side of the family that person was my Great Aunt, Dorthy Stearns. My Aunt Dorthy was the keeper of all things that concerned our family: pictures, stories, recipes, and history. So, as a young man interested in flying, you can imagine my surprise when my Aunt Dorthy informed me that my great-great Uncle had sold Charles Lindbergh the Spirit of St. Louis. His name was Arthur J. Edwards... A. J., as he is known in our family, was brother to Ethel Edwards, who was Aunt Dorthy's mom, my great grandmother.

A. J. Edwards had an airplane manufacturing and sales career that included stops at Swift Aircraft, Prudence-San Diego Airplane, Mahoney Aircraft, and the place where he made his mark on history... Ryan Airlines. Edwards was the Sales Manager at Ryan when Lindbergh commissioned the construction of the Spirit of St. Louis. His signature can be seen on the sales receipt, along with Lindbergh's when the idea was sold. (See photos on page 7)

Lindbergh had been a mail pilot prior to his famous flight and was familiar with the good record of the Ryan M-1, a plane that was designed to deliver mail across the country. Lindbergh had wired the president of Ryan Aviation in early 1927 to ask if they could construct a Whirlwind engine plane capable of flying nonstop between New York and Paris. Mahoney was away from the factory when the wire was received; but Claude Ryan (founder of Ryan Airlines) wired back that they could build a plane similar to the M-1 but with larger wings... delivery in about three months.

On February 23, 1927 Lindbergh arrived in San Diego to tour the Ryan factory, meeting with factory manager Hawley Bowles, Chief Engineer Donald Hall, and my Great-great Uncle) A. J. Edwards (the Ryan Sales Manager) to review their plans for delivering a plane capable of flying across the Atlantic Ocean non-stop from New York to Paris. The rest as they say... is history. When the Spirit of St. Louis was delivered to Lindbergh on May 10, 1927 at Rockwell Field in San Diego ... just 76 days after their initial meeting. A.J. Edwards and Donald Hall were photographed with a few other Ryan personnel and Charles Lindbergh as he received his Ryan NYP (New York to Paris). (See photo, left to right, on top of the plane is H.J. Van der Linde, welding mechanic O.R. McNeel, student mechanic pilot George Hammond, Lindbergh, Hall and Edwards)

And, that is my six degrees of separation from one of the most famous (if not the most famous) pilot of all time.



Highlights from the October OPA Dinner Meeting Continued

OPA President Brian Hancock opened our meeting by thanking Dave for the great food and Tony Plant for setting up the tables every month for our meeting. Roy Cowen helped with the set up today. We met Travis Thomas, a soon to be member, who flew 7 years in the Navy and 30 for American Airlines. Greg Finley, OPA Fly Away Chairman, gave us an update on the September fly away for Guthrie's 6th Annual Community Day at the airport. They had face painting for the younger set and he said his grandson looked like a tiger the rest of the day. They had a great time. The October fly away is scheduled for the 13th in Muskogee to tour the Batfish submarine and lunch will be Mexican, Italian, or a place called "I really don't care", if they can find it.



Carvin Brown from the Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas Blood Institutes Coffee Memorial Blood Center told us about their blood distribution work that he manages. When hospitals call to say they need a specific type of blood or blood product, his job is to get it to them. They receive calls every day. It is not like morphine or a certain test where there is something else (a different pain killer or other test) you can use; they need that specific item. Carvin said he is a fanatic about what he does. He introduced us to the Mercy Pilot Program – Flights for Life. He explained that if he and a friend both have A positive blood, you would think they could use each other's blood; but if the antibodies don't match they must find a rare donor. They have several in each location; but might not have the blood on hand in the right location. Carvin said there are volunteers here, so you don't have to sell people on the need to help others. They started the program in 1984 with 4 pilots and now there are 16 pilots in Phoenix. Since the July 4th inaugural flight, they have flown 1200 units to patients who needed them.



Carvin said when it comes to healthcare, Speed Equals Life. Since speed is the answer for what we need, pilots handle that. There is a \$40 per pilot application fee and \$250 charge for training. They are a true non-profit, so no one is compensated for their expenses, but the costs are tax deductible. They fly both scheduled and nonscheduled flights. The process is the pilot chooses a mission; They meet at the airport and give the pilot boxes; Pilot flies; Meet at the airport and take boxes; Give you boxes to return. He said it is better that sitting at home in your underwear, eating cereal and watching cartoons.



He brought Stanley Young up to the stage and said he was one of the first to sign up and flew the first unscheduled mission. They called Stanley and they met at the airport. The box held fixed platelets for 4 patients. One was a child with a GI bleed who was stable when the request was made but turned worse. Carvin said he doesn't want to think about what would have happened if they had to wait another 2 hours. Since Stanley has a caring heart, Carvin made him some gold wings and presented them to him. They have 5 pilots now in the OKC area and he can schedule up to 500 missions. He said when you fly you have choices, a \$100 hamburger, touch and rolls, etc.; and he suggested you fly with a purpose, doing this or something else. You can fly from any airport you chose; and he can call and get you fuel discounts from many of them. He added that he would go karate chop them if they charge you fees. Brian said that we have some great pilots in our organization, and Roger Walton. He added that he would take some blood if he got some of Carvin's energy. (You just had to be there!)



Highlights from the October OPA Dinner Meeting Continued

Brian introduced our speaker, Chase Rutledge. Chase said he was a pilot, so he could talk about himself. When he was 6 years old he flew from Albuquerque to OKC to see his grandparents. He got to go into the cockpit and talk to the pilot and knew then he wanted to fly. After experiencing a 747 Chinook in high school, he knew he wanted to be in the service. He joined the Army to pay for his flight training and begged for years to go to flight school. He finally got there and told us about learning to hover at Ft. Rucker. He said it took a space the size of Wiley Post to learn to hover. He came back to OK with the title of US Army Aviator. He started flying Blackhawks in '98. Was flying with a counter drug unit.

He got activated to fly tornado damage and was stationed at the capitol where he did search and rescue and VIP escort. He flew Dan Quail's wife, head of the Red Cross, and the weather changed so they couldn't get back. The other pilot grabbed the controls and kind of scared him. She said, "That was fun." He wanted to say, "We almost died." He did more flights with the OK National Guard RAID team in OH58 doing marijuana eradication. He said he spotted plants with a naked guy in the yard. When he took the agents back the next day, the plants were still there, the guy was still there, and he was still naked. e does Warriors for Freedom almost every Friday at ballgames for the station. He mentioned that Senator Inhoff is the only pilot with a US Senator seal on his plane.



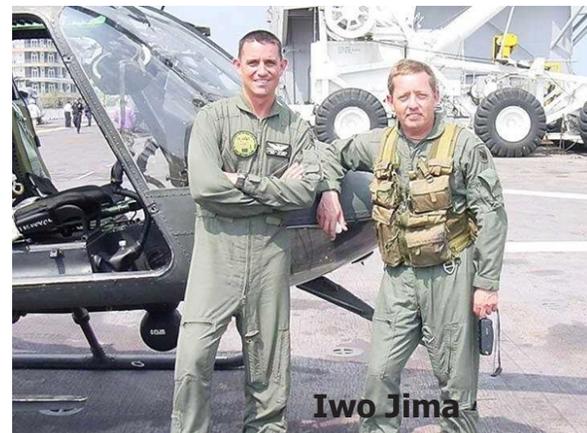
Highlights from the October Dinner Meeting Continued

He worked Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and said it was chaos. He can't say how many aircraft were in the area and he was stunned they didn't lose one. They first did search and rescue, flying people from roofs, to the airport or the Astrodome. Then it changed to the sad job of looking for the deceased. He said gas mains had ruptured and were spewing out of the water that flooded the city. Many of the dead were found in attics where houses flooded to the rooftops.

One great thing Chase did was land on the deck of the USS Iwo Jima. They didn't have the right nozzle to refuel, so they had to put about 12 together to make it fit. They had no choice because you can't take off when you are out of fuel. He also flew in Desert Storm where the helicopters ran for 9 hours straight. He got to come home for 2 weeks when his son was born, then went back.

He shared one about a woman in the Virgin Islands where he was working with the National Guard. She was stopped driving with a log in her lap, a mixed drink in the cup holder and a joint in her mouth. She got a ticket for having a dog in her lap.

Chase kept our attention with so many great stories that I can't do justice to, so I will share some of his photos instead of writing more. If you missed his presentation, you need to hear him if you get the chance. He flies now in the new Sky 5 helicopter for Channel 5 News. He got to jump with the US Army Golden Knights from 14,000 feet. He said family is why he does all he does. Family comes first, then flying. Chase received the Legion of Merit award after he retired. Thank you, Chase, for a great, entertaining presentation and for sharing your photos for the newsletter.





**November 10, 2018 OPA Fly Away
67th Fly-In and Airshow -Fairview, OK
Wheels Down: 8:00 a.m.**



Thanks to OPA Fly Away Chairman, Greg Finley, for the article and pictures

The Fly Away for the month of November is sure to be one of the better events to attend. This month we're going to fly out to the World's Oldest Free Fly-In & Airshow. It is the 67th Fairview Fly-In and Airshow located at the Fairview Municipal Airport (6K4) and only 60 nautical miles away from Wiley Post. I want to encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to attend this great event.

The gates will open at 7:00 am, on Saturday, November 10th. We should all plan to be wheels down by 8:00 am so, we can partake of the free breakfast to anyone who flies in to the airport. Also, keep your eyes and ears open because a free turkey is provided to every 10th airplane that lands. The airport will close to both inbound and outbound aircraft at 12:30, so they can start a tremendous airshow featuring Russell Husbands in a Decathlon; Kate Kyer in her Pitts S2B; Chet Kuhn in a Wolf Pitts; Jeff Shetterly will be flying a T-6; and Kyle Franklin will be in his bi-plane. Also, present will be the Tulsa Glue Dobbbers, flying their RC airplanes.

Again, I encourage you to make plans to attend what will be a great event. If you are a Veteran of the US military we ask that you proudly wear some type of military or veteran attire, so we can show honor and gratitude to you as you celebrate this Veterans Day weekend.



State Aviation Directors Conclude National Convention by Presenting OK Director Its Most Prestigious Award



At its recently concluded 87th annual convention and trade show in Oklahoma City, the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), presented its most prestigious award, the Kenneth Rowe Ambassador of Aviation Award, to the Director of Aeronautics from Oklahoma, Victor Bird. The Rowe Award is presented to the state aviation director who epitomizes optimism and pride in the capabilities of state aviation agencies. The award is not presented annually, and this marks the 11th time since its inception in 1994 that it has been presented. "It was an honor to be the host state for our annual convention.... To be recognized by your peers with this award is most humbling..." said Bird. "No one has worked harder than Vic to ensure the viability of our aviation and aerospace industry...our second largest industry with an annual economic impact of \$44 billion, an \$11.7 billion payroll for 206,000 jobs, and an average salary of \$73,300. I congratulate Vic for his efforts and leadership on behalf of the industry and upon his receipt of this well-deserved award," said Governor Mary Fallin.

Bird championed legislation in 2005 that repealed the sales tax on all maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft (MRO). This resulted in Oklahoma companies...having a competitive advantage. In 2008, he advocated for ... legislation providing tax credits to the engineers that work in aerospace, and the employers that hire them. The legislation has significantly contributed to thousands of engineers going to work in aerospace and companies like Boeing and Northrop Grumman locating hundreds of engineering jobs in their Oklahoma operations. In 2010, Bird shepherded ... legislation protecting public-use and military airports from encroaching incompatible development. Senator Jim Inhofe said, "Vic has been a tireless advocate for aviation and aerospace ... around the country and has worked to advance policies that have led to the growth of the aerospace industry in Oklahoma. His leadership has ensured a system of airports that serves the needs of commerce and communities across the state as well as the safety of civil and military aviation in Oklahoma. This recognition from his peers is well-deserved." Congressman Steve Russell added, "No one has been a stronger advocate for aviation and aerospace in Oklahoma than Vic. His work and advocacy to ensure the safety of both civil and military aviation from incompatible obstructions has been admirable. I salute him on his receiving this award from NASAO."

Bird has been the director since 2002... Bird has been previously honored by the aviation community. In 2009, he received the General Thomas P. Stafford Award from the Oklahoma Aerospace Alliance for his outstanding contribution to the Oklahoma aerospace industry. In 2010, he was awarded the Joseph B. "Doc" Hartranft Award by the ... AOPA. The ... award is annually presented to an elected or appointed federal, state, local, or foreign government official who has made significant contributions to the advancement of general aviation. Bird is the first and only non-elected recipient of the Award. In 2017, Bird received the Chairman's Award from NASAO for his dedication and unwavering support for NASAO and its membership. "Oklahoma has never had a better advocate and promoter of aviation and aerospace than Vic Bird. He is our number one 'Airvangelist,' and I salute him on his receiving the ... Award. He earned it," said Lieutenant General Tom Stafford (ret.).



Founded in 1931 before the FAA, NASAO is one of the most respected and senior aviation organizations in the United States. Oklahoma was one of the 16 charter members of NASAO, established to ensure uniformity of safety measures, to standardize airport regulations and develop a national air transportation system responsive to local, state, and national needs. The mission of the OAC is to promote aviation, which includes ensuring that the needs of commerce and communities across the state are met by the state's 108 publicly owned airports that comprise the Oklahoma Airport System, and helping ensure the viability of the state's aerospace industry. Article and photo from: Sandra Shelton, Public Information Officer

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October 13, 2018 OPA Fly Away USS Batfish - Muskogee, OK



Unfortunately, our OPA Fly Away scheduled for October 13th was a last-minute cancellation due to the weather. It was a time of cold temps, visible moisture, and low ceilings. We attempted to have an alternate at a local area restaurant; but it appears the drizzling rain and chilly, fall weather kept most people indoors by the fireplace with a hot bowl of soup or chili. Well, we don't know that for sure that is what people were doing, but it sure sounds like a good idea.

Although we were not able to visit the USS Batfish at the Muskogee War Memorial Park, it does not take away the fact that it is a historical legend of its time. The USS Batfish claimed over 14 kills, including a record breaking three enemy submarines. If you would like to learn more about the USS Batfish, please visit www.warmemorialpark.org or plan you own trip to Muskogee and visit this great piece of engineering marvel of the time. We will put the USS Batfish back in the rotation of OPA Fly Aways and take another look at visiting it in the future.



Brian Hancock's 6 Degrees of Separation

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Detail Instructions: Gasoline Capacity 400 Gals. Minimum Cruising Radius 3500 Miles at 1550 P.M. Instruments: Oil Gauge, Temperature Gauge, Altimeter, & Primer.

Name: CHARLES A. LINDBERGH (Print Name Here)

Signature: Charles A. Lindbergh

Office Address: St. Louis, Mo. Phone: _____

Field Address: St. Louis, Mo. Phone: _____

Factory Representative: A. Edwards

Accepted by Ryan Airlines: February 25, 1927. (Date)

By: B. Franklin Melrose (Print or Stamp)

Charles Lindberg's Spirit of St. Louis Sales Receipt and photo of A. J. Edwards (See story on page 2 - President's column)



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

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Celebrating Our 49th Year At Wiley Post

2018 OPA Calendar

- November 1st** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- November 10th Fly Away**- Fairview, Oklahoma
World's Oldest Fly In - Wheels Down - 8:00 a.m.
- November 15th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- December 6th** - Christmas Dinner - 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- December 15th Fly Away** - Guthrie Centennial
Christmas & Victorian Walk - Dinner
Granny Had One - Wheels Down - 5:00 p.m.
- December NO OPA Board Meeting**
Merry Christmas!

2019 OPA Calendar

- January 3rd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- January 12th Fly Away** - Ponca City, OK
Enrique's Mexican Restaurant
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
- January 17th** - 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
Breakfast Lakeland Aviation - Call 580-389-5000
- 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

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