



NEWS In the Sky

October 2018

(www.opa.link)

October 4th, 2018 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

SKY 5 Pilot Chase Rutledge flies for you every morning to bring you the latest in traffic, breaking news, and any information that will impact your day. Chase is also there for you when it matters. As a member of the First Alert Storm Team, Chase will bring you the most accurate and up to date information about severe weather in your area; and as breaking news happens he will be there to provide the information you need as the story develops.

Chase has been with the KOCO Channel 5 since 2012 as a backup pilot. After retiring from the Oklahoma National Guard on March 31, 2018, he assumed the full-time pilot position. He served 26 years with the Oklahoma Guard with 20 of those years in a full-time position as an Army Pilot and Instructor. He has served overseas and during countless missions across the nation; in support of the war on terrorism, disaster relief, and Homeland Security, to name just a few.



Chase has known that his dream was to be a pilot since he was six years old and he has never stopped pursuing that dream. Chase studied Telecommunications at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK; acquired all of his airplane qualifications at Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, OK; and then continued his flight training with the United States Army. He believes that all this experience has prepared him for what he calls his "dream job" here at Channel 5.

When Chase isn't flying, he is still dreaming of flying. However, while he is doing that he enjoys spending time with his family. He is an avid wood turner and enjoys traveling the world. Chase and his wife live in Edmond and they have four children. The six of them

enjoy getting outdoors and enjoying what this great state and world have to offer. Chase enjoys hiking, skiing, camping ... well, anything that takes him to the mountains and back in the sky.



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

Be sure to contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations

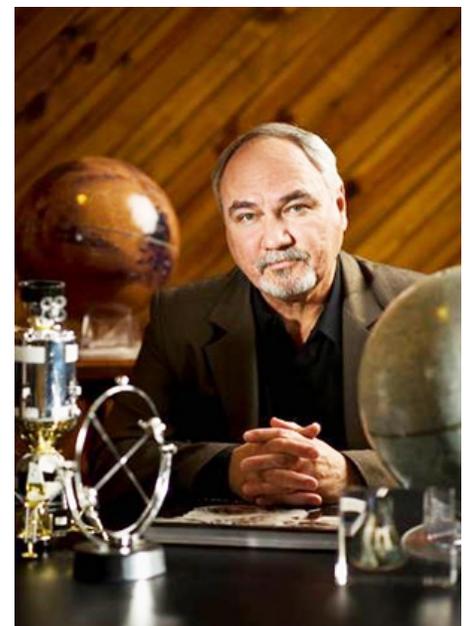
405-219-5149 dinner@opa.link

Speaker: Bill Moore

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 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.





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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As pilots we are often asked, "what does it cost to fly?" Over the last few years, as the OPA's Communication Chair, and now as President, I have received several emails or Facebook messages from those interested in learning to fly, asking about the "cost" of getting a pilot's license.

I almost always reply with... "the cost is worth it." I mean, can you really put a price on "Aviation Freedom?" But, obviously, that is not the answer they are looking for; so, I often break it down to what it cost me to learn to fly. I know everyone's cost is different, depending on the route they took, and I point that out; but this is a true representation of what it cost me to get my little piece of aviation freedom. It is important to point out that it took me 52 hours of flight time before taking my flight exam. You can do it in as little as 40 hours (the FAA minimum), but for the following tally's I am using 52 hours, with 26 of those hours being of actual instructor time.

When I decided to learn to fly, I wanted to do so in my own plane. I did not like the idea of renting, and learning to fly in someone else's, and then buying a plane and re-learning a new aircraft. So, I bought. My first plane was a 1963 Cessna 150D - a rarity, I would find out, the only Cessna 150 with a straight tail and a rear window. I paid \$22,500 for my first plane. It had not been flown in a couple of years, so my first annual cost a little under \$4000, to replace worn fuel lines and various hoses, engine mounts, a bad transponder, a couple tires, and general maintenance. I had spent \$26,500 and all I could do was taxi at this point, which was a little discouraging.

I found myself an instructor and paid \$40 an hour for their time. (I would total about 26 hours of actual instructor time before getting my license) totaling \$1040 in instructor cost. Each hour of instruction in a Cessna 150 would burn about 5 gallons of fuel. Fuel was a little more expensive in 2011 so I was paying approximately \$5.00 a gallon. So, add about \$1300 for fuel cost.

I decided to teach myself ground school and purchased a used set of Kings Ground School Course Books for \$250. I followed that up with a 3-day refresher course at American Flyers in Dallas, Texas for about \$400 before taking the ground school exam (a part of the cost of the course). In all it took me 11 months from logging my first hour to logging my 52nd hour before taking my flight exam. Hanger cost were \$200 a month (\$2200) and insurance on the plane was about \$850 a year. Throw in some miscellaneous cost, like a David Clark headset, oil change, charts and slide rule, a med exam, plus a hula dancer dash ornament for the old bird (a must) and you probably need to add in another \$1000. Finally, add in \$500 for the FAA Check-Ride.

All in I spent about \$34,040 to get my GA pilots license. After 52 hours of flight time and 11 months, I had a license to fly myself anywhere I was brave enough to go, and a very nice Cessna 150 to boot. Take the plane, fuel, and hanger out of that number and replace that with rental cost (\$7540 at \$145 an hour for 52 hours) and you would be at about \$11,580. According to various websites I researched, it says the national average is between \$13,500 and \$14,000. With inflation, I probably was pretty close in today's dollars to the national average.

And, that's what I tell people it cost to get a license. However, as I originally stated, the true answer is, "the cost is worth it." I hope this helps those thinking of taking to the skies. Good luck!

OPA September 6th "Planes, Bikes, 'n Cars" Dinner Meeting

Tony Plant recently had a Stratus ABS installed in his 1973 Varga. It is serial #1 and the only one built in 1973. Real production started in 1974.



Eric Lang and wife Lisa, and their children Ella, Owen, Ava and Georgia displayed their Cherokee.



Rusty Ridenour and Emma Jumper flew the OSU plane in from Stillwater. OSU student pilots also arrived in a vehicle without wings. They were K D McCloy, Alex Wilczek, Nate Anders, Brandon Reed, and Dustin Houser.



September Dinner Meeting Continued

After viewing some great cars and planes, we enjoyed Dave's wonderful barbeque. OPA President Brian Hancock welcomed everyone to the meeting and we pledged our allegiance to the US flag. We had a great turn out, even though the weather was glum and kept most of the cars, planes, and all the bikes away. (Thank goodness and Photoshop for being able to lighten the photos for the newsletter!) Brian admired the brave people from OSU who flew the amazing plane over. Brian said it was the best equipped 150 he was ever seen. We had ten OSU students at the meeting. There were three planes on display, and two of them taxied over from their hangars. Brian said he heard they had a race. We only had a few cars, but they were very nice ones. It was pouring rain at the homes of many of our members who usually bring cars, planes and bikes. We were lucky that the rain at Wiley Post held off until after the show.

Fly Away Chair, Greg Finley, reminded us that the September Fly Away was to Guthrie and that everyone should meet for a picture for the newsletter. (Thanks Greg.) He advised everyone to go early because there is also a fly in at Weatherford, so some planes will leave to go there for the afternoon. There will be Eagle Flights for kids. Brian teased Eric by saying that he has about a dozen kids. Eric said that 4 kids and a wife is why he needs the big Cherokee airplane to carry all 6. We enjoyed having all of them join us.

Teresa Camp gave us an Okie Derby update. She and her husband Bill partnered to fly the event in a Mooney. She didn't know what speed to set as a goal, and said you had to see funny marks and draw a picture to prove you were there. She worried because planes with slower speeds were passing her. She was trying to fly her target speed. One of them was doing donuts in the air after he got to his destination. Was off 16 seconds on speed. She was off four tenths of a gallon on fuel and won the Rookie award. Someone volunteered Teresa to be the Okie Derby Chair next year.

Valerie and Rich Bensinger joined us. They are from N. Virginia and he is a pilot for Robinson Aviation. We applauded David Hanes for getting his certificate in June after 40 years. Greg's best friend, Cliff Payne was a guest. Brian reminded us that Chase Rutledge the Sky 5 helicopter pilot will be our October speaker. He was awarded the Legion of Merit Award the other day. In spite of the weather, we had a great crowd who enjoyed the evening.



Bill Hines displayed his 2013 Subaru BRZ.



Anna was proud to wear her own OPA name tag.



Bill Halpain brought Sue's 1985 Mercedes Benz 280 SL.



September Dinner Meeting Continued - Thanks to Gerald Lutten for additional Photos



Fortinato Mercado brought his 1991 Nissan. It took him 5 months to buy it from Japan and parts can only be found in London. Yes, the steering wheel is on the wrong side for the US. He definitely brought the most unusual car!



"Tuna" Dobbin brought his 2011 Supercharged V8 Cadillac CTS with 556 hp - one of only 395 built in 2011.





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



Come on out and join us on our October Fly Away as we fly out to Davis Field (KMKO) and visit the USS Batfish in Muskogee, Oklahoma! At the Muskogee War Memorial Park, home of the USS Batfish, visitors may explore the World War II legend; the USS Batfish. Unseen and unheard while stalking its prey in World War II, the USS Batfish claimed over 14 kills, including a record breaking three enemy submarines. History awaits those who like adventure! Before taking a tour of this amazing piece of history, we'll stop and have lunch at one of the many restaurants along the way. For more information about the Muskogee War Memorial Park and the USS Batfish please visit www.warmemorialpark.org

MUSKOGEE WAR MEMORIAL PARK



HOME OF THE USS BATFISH



Thanks to Greg Finley for the article and pictures



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.





September 15th OPA Fly Away - Guthrie-Edmond Regional Airport



Thanks to Greg Finley for the pictures and article

For the month of September, we could probably call this our monthly "Drive Away" instead of "Fly Away". We attended the Guthrie, Oklahoma, 6th Annual Community Day and Fly-In at the Guthrie-Edmond Regional Airport on Saturday, September 15th. Although most of us drove to this event, we did have a few who flew their planes. Also, our very own Jim and Vicky Yates displayed their old Model A Ford (green car in article photos). We had a great time looking at the static displays of some really great-looking airplanes, and a couple of helicopters from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and OKC News Channel 5.



We also heard the life story of Oklahoma born James Herman Banning through the voice of an actor. Mr. Banning was the first African-American to receive his pilot's certificate and fly coast to coast in the US. The kids had plenty of fun with face painting and free flights in the extended pattern with the EAA Young Eagles program; and our Past President, Matt Cole, hosted some Discovery Flights through his Guthrie-based flight school... Blue Skies Flight School. I would like to encourage everyone to come out and join us each month in our flyaways, as we travel around the state and its surrounding borders. Also, if you have an idea for a flyaway location, please let us know so we can look at putting it in the schedule.





September OPA Fly Away - Guthrie Community Day



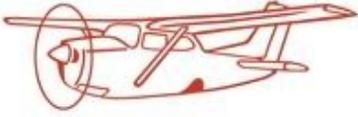
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September OPA Fly Away - Guthrie Community Day



Aeronautics Aviation Education Program Sets Record Granted Amount

OKLAHOMA CITY – The month of August sends youth back to school which means a returned focus on vectoring young minds toward the exploration of aviation and aerospace for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC). Twenty-eight organizations were recently awarded Aerospace and Aviation Education Program grants or contracts totaling \$296,697 from OAC. The record amount of funding is a vital resource to educators for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) instruction concentrating on aerospace and aviation. The funding was approved by the Commission at their August 9 meeting.

The program, which has been awarding aviation education grants for over 30 years, is part of the OAC mission to encourage and promote aviation throughout the state of Oklahoma. Director of Aeronautics Vic Bird said aerospace supports 240,000 jobs with an average salary of \$73,300 annually. "Last year, after a two-year study, we learned that the Aviation and Aerospace sector in Oklahoma supports \$43.7 billion in annual statewide economic activity. A competent workforce, which includes our desperate need for aerospace engineers, will be needed to sustain this industry," said Bird. The nationally recognized program enjoys a positive reputation as one of the most robust aviation education programs among state aviation agencies. OAC has provided nearly \$1.9 million in education funding within the last 10 years alone.

OAC Media Contact: Sandra Shelton, Public Information & Government Relations, E-mail: sshelton@oac.ok.gov

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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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and Bill Pappadopoulos - 405-417-7876

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Celebrating Our 49th Year At Wiley Post

2018 OPA Calendar

- October 4th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- October 13th Fly Away**- Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Davis Field Airport
 Tour the Batfish Submarine
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
- October 18th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- 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!

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
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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.**

