



NEWS In the Sky

August 2020

(www.opa.aero)

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

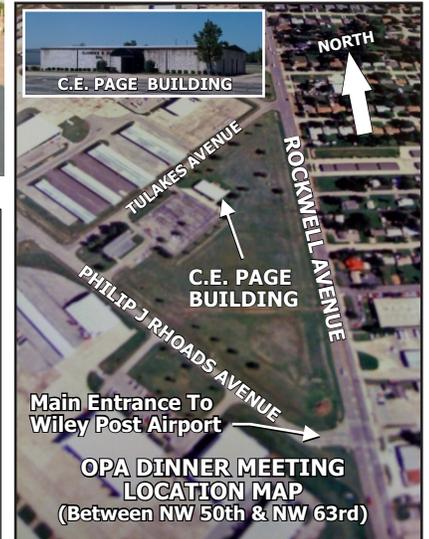
**Speaker: Steven Thompson
Oklahoma State RAF Liaison**

A native Oklahoman, Steven was raised outside Ardmore and learned to fly, starting with the Civil Air Patrol at 15. He has an ATP and spent 33 years as a commercial pilot. One of the greatest things through the years has been the ability to also use my ratings for recreational flying, taking several trips each year with my wife Rachel and our kids through the US. We have been RAF volunteers for the last 7 years. After a short conversation hearing about their goals, it was what can we do to help? Since then the RAF has had tremendous growth and countless accomplishments.



**September 3rd, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.
"Planes, Bikes, & Cars"
at Southern Wings Hangar at Wiley
Post Airport!
6701 N Rockwell - Hangar 28
Fly your plane in, display your
special car or bike, or do both!
Full dinner \$13 at 7:00 p.m.
No entry fees**

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



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.

Main Entrance To Wiley Post Airport
OPA DINNER MEETING LOCATION MAP
(Between NW 50th & NW 63rd)



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
Circulation: Mike Rangel

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

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College Student Board Member - Josh Smith

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Ben Roy
June Roy
Steve Haynes

OPA President Greg Finley



I would like to thank you for trusting me to serve you as your President and I consider it an honor for this opportunity. Before we taxi to the active runway and takeoff on this flight together over the next year, I think it is only fair that I share a little about myself.

Although I did not realize it at the time, I first became interested in aviation a couple of months before my fourth birthday. We only had three networks at the time, and they were all filled with the launch of Apollo 11. We lived on the east coast of Florida and I vaguely recall spending most of the day playing astronaut as I ran back and forth from looking up in the sky in my front yard to watching the living room television. Finally, the countdown finished, and the launch was successful. My mother later told me the only thing I talked about that day was if astronauts had to be pilots then I wanted to be a pilot too. Thirteen years later, a family friend had taken me flying in his Cessna 150 when we flew along the Atlantic coast as close to Kennedy Space Center as possible. This "discovery flight" was just a few months after I was able to witness the first launch of the Space Shuttle. Unfortunately, finances did not afford me the opportunity to take lessons at that time.

After graduating high school, I immediately enlisted as a Military Policeman in the U.S. Marine Corps from where I eventually retired after a 21-year career. I was fortunate enough to be stationed around Marine Corps air stations where I was able to be close to various types of aircraft. My first duty station afforded me the much-appreciated opportunity to be security for HMX-1 (Helicopter Marine Experimental Squadron One) or, most commonly known as "Marine One" ... the President's helicopter. It was during this time I was able to meet President Reagan on several occasions.

I have always kept my head in the clouds and at one point I had taken lessons with a flight club located on Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. I flew a T-41 which was the military designation of a Cessna 172 (F Model). After completing the oral portion of my private pilot check ride, I was not able to fly due to a change of typhoon wind conditions. I am sure you will agree that it is not healthy to take off and land a single engine piston in 50 knot direct crosswinds. Unfortunately, this was during the time that my family and I were packing out because we had orders to move from Japan to California.

Over the next few years, various military deployments and work-related assignments did not allow me the time to regain currency with a new instructor. However, after I retired from the military, I eventually moved to Tulsa, OK, where I was finally able to obtain my Private Pilot Certificate. Since then, I have been able to receive my Commercial Pilot Certificate for both single- and multi-engine airplanes, along with an Instrument Rating in both as well. Earlier this year, I began working on a commercial add-on in helicopters, but that was put in the holding pattern until the effects of the coronavirus settle down. I have been teaching various aviation related courses over the past ten years as an adjunct faculty member for Oklahoma State University (OSU) and I am admitted as a graduate student with OSU in the Doctor of Education in Applied Educational Studies - Aviation and Space Education. I do not think any of this was a thought back in 1969, when I lay in my front yard watching the moon launch.

Continued on Page 3

Pilot Update: Remembering Tim Holmes

Timothy (Tim) Holmes was born September 6, 1941 in Oklahoma City, OK. He went to be with the Lord and his family on June 28, 2020 after a long battle with COPD, which he called "Chronic Obnoxious Personality Disorder". He will be missed by his wife, Phyllis, his brother, Lee, other family, and everyone who knew him.

Anyone who met Tim knows he had a love affair with flying. He started in the 70's after having a serious wreck in his modified race car at the old fair grounds. Since that was too dangerous to keep doing, he decided to start flying and he did for years. His pride and joy was Piper Turbo, a favorite for years. He also had a V-tail Bonanza that he used for long trips; but his baby was a 1946 original Ercoupe named (Snoopy). In 2015 he and his wife were married in the Ercoupe, and they shared many adventures in it, including leaving her purse on the wing and flying 70 or so miles before noticing it missing and having to go back after it. Yes, it was funny later. He taught Phyllis and her 8-year-old granddaughter to fly.



Tim was a court reporter at the state and federal level for 50 years and taught court reporting. A 40-year member of OPA, and a member of the Quiet Birdmen. Past President of the OPA; 15-year member of the Goldwing Road Rider's Motorcycle Club. He also enjoyed raising cattle and poultry on his farm in Chandler, OK for years before moving back to Oklahoma City. Tim loved his cars, said he had 13 of them at one time. He considered his friends at Page Airport family. When he was told over three years ago that he only had a few months to live, he requested a cookout at his hangar instead of a funeral. He not only attended that one, but two more, surprising his doctors.

It was suggested that to honor him, just do something nice for someone without a reason. It will make him smile! (Editor's note: I believe that Tim's smile that came from the inside out is what I will always remember most about Tim.) We know he is flying with new wings!



(These are some of our favorite photos of Tim from earlier newsletters.)

OPA Vic Jackson Memorial Scholarship Winner Lora Gallman

Lora Gallman is a violin teacher with a love for sharing aviation in vintage tailwheel airplanes. She will be using the Vic Jackson Memorial Scholarship to pursue her commercial and flight instructor certificates with the goal of becoming a tailwheel flight instructor.

The Vic Jackson Scholarship was established to honor Vic and to support pilots in their flight training. Donations to the fund are tax deductible.



President's Column Continued from Page 2

More exciting than meeting the President was seeing the love of my life for the first time. My wife, Christi, and I were married 33 years ago this past February. When we met, she was an Air Traffic Controller in the U.S. Marine Corps and she, also, completed a career, retiring the same year I did. We have a great son, a wonderful daughter and a really, super-awesome grandson who has joined me on some flyaways.

Aviation has always been a part of my life in one form or another and I have enjoyed the years that I have been a member of OPA as it allows me the joy of being around fellow pilots. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your President.

Highlights from the July Dinner Meeting

OPA VP Mike Grimes opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Lora Gallman received the OPA Vic Jackson Scholarship. The members present approved the slate submitted by the election committee for officers and board members. Thanks to all who serve OPA and General Aviation.

New Officers for 2021:

- Greg Finley – President
- Mike Grimes – Exec VP
- Roy Cowan – Treasurer
- Angela Drabek – Secretary
- Roger Walton – VP Membership
- Kyle Fulton – VP Communications

Board Members until 2022:

- Rick Cacini
- Hal Harris
- Lee Holmes
- Bill Popadopoulos
- Dave Ames

Current Board Members until 2021:

- Bill Hines
- Eric Lang
- Mike Rangel
- Joey Sager
- Jeff Sandusky



Unfortunately, your editors were unable to attend as Ben is recovering from his broken femur. We understand that we missed an excellent presentation by Dr. Kevin Kloesel, University Meteorologist of OU Office of Emergency Preparedness. I heard that you could tell Dr. Kloesel has vast experience teaching on the college level and doing presentations and interviews on television. Besides being highly informative, he was also very entertaining. One of his quotes is, "ALWAYS REMEMBER! Although radar data is a great weather situational awareness tool, the limitations of radar demand that you use these data in conjunction with a myriad of other datasets not typically found on an app. Having radar data on an app or a laptop does not magically enhance your ability to assess weather risk. In fact, in many cases, being fixated on your radar app can lead you to misrepresent or completely miss the actual risk."





OPA July 11th Fly Away - Ponca City Article from Betty Smith and pictures from Lee Holmes



Saturday July 11th, my pilot and I left for Ponca City in a Cessna Skylane 11 N1473M. He gave me instructions on the seat belts, headset, and other things that they show you on commercial planes. Then he showed me different instruments on the panel. The only thing I understood was the instrument that showed where the little pink plane was on that little line going North. Later, when the little pink plane started veering to the left, I wondered where we were going, because we were supposed to be on that little line going North. Well, it seemed that the airport was to the left so, thank heaven, the pilot knew to turn left. ("Sorry, Lee, I should have known you knew where you were going.") It was an easy flight and it wasn't bumpy at all. I will confess, I took a Dramamine before I left, and I hoped that I didn't fall asleep on the plane. Fortunately, I didn't--I didn't want to miss anything, especially landing. It went well too. After my second flight on a small plane, I am beginning to feel like a "Pro." Hope that does not offend any of you pilots that have been flying for years.

We arrived at the airport and met the group at Enrique's Mexican Restaurant. The food was delicious, so I understand why it is a favorite place for all of you pilots, family, and friends. Lee Holmes greeted everyone as he always likes to do. He met Sam Macaluso and Tony Macaluso "not yet members of OPA", along with Stan Young, who he has known for several years. I met Ken Hallrah and Dee Ann Ediger and talked to her. She told me about the time she first starting flying. It was fun talking to you, Dee Ann. The rest of the group included Bill Hines, Roy Cowan, Anthony and Halee Presuitt, Beth Clingele, Randy and Kathy Buttram, and Jan and Roger Walton.





OPA July 11th Fly Away - Ponca City Article from Betty Smith and pictures from Lee Holmes



Lee had a van available to use for the tour and threw me the van keys to open the van and start getting it cool, since my job was to be a "gofer." I saw a handsome man by the name of Michael Fisher from Stillwater, and I threw him the keys and told him I didn't know anything about a van." He said "I know all about vans and took over my job." "Mike, don't tell Lee I gave you my job." Mike also ended up being our tour driver. Thanks Michael. Tess and Pablo Gonzales arrived in their air-conditioned pickup at Enrique's Mexican Restaurant, which they really needed for their trip back home to Moore after the tour. Blake Anthamatt was there from Tulsa, Michael Fisher from Stillwater, (our driver), Lee Holmes and me, left to tour the STANDING BEAR MUSEUM. Unfortunately, we discovered the van did not have any air conditioning, I told them to

turn on the WD-40, and they didn't know what I was talking about, I said "Windows down and 40 miles an hour." The STANDING BEAR MUSEUM was an amazing experience with all the artifacts, pictures, and statues, THEY ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 80TH YEAR. I have lived in Oklahoma for many years and cannot believe I have never been there. This is a museum everyone should visit.



Lee was impressed by the patriotic shirts on the men behind Roy!





OPA July 11th Fly Away - Ponca City
Article from Betty Smith and pictures from Lee Holmes



We left there in a HOT van to the CONOCO MUSEUM. I was absolutely amazed at the amount of work that must have gone into the preparations for that exhibit. I could not begin to describe this entire exhibit. This is a "Must See Tour." When we arrived at the CONOCO MUSEUM, we were greeted by Carla O'Neil. She was so gracious and knowledgeable, describing the tour ahead of us. She provided us with a "Goody Bag" at the end of the tour and also a 26-page pictorial History of Conoco Aviation. Thank you again, Carla. Our tour ended and we drove back to the airport. It was fun and a pleasure to meet all of you. We headed over to the airplane to head for home. I finally got into the airplane. (I have not yet accomplished a graceful entrance into the airplane.) I fastened my seat belt, put on my headset, made sure that I took another Dramamine without the pilot seeing me, (I didn't want him to think, that I thought the flight would be bumpy) and off we went into the wild blue yonder. I had heard that in the movies. It was hot, but this plane had a nice cooled air conditioner which was great and made the fly-back more comfortable. I still watched that little pink plane on that line heading toward Oklahoma City and when we landed it was very smooth. I was back on good old mother earth. I cooled my Honda down and headed for home; tired and hot but thank you Ponca City and OPA. It was a wonderful experience with good people.



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OPA August 8th Fly Away - Tulsa Riverside KRVS Los Cabos for Lunch -then Oklahoma Aquarium Wheels Down 11:00 - 11:15



Thanks to Lee Holmes for the article.

OPA's next Fly Away will be August 8, 2020 to Tulsa Riverside. KRVS. Wheels down between 11:00 AM and 11:15 AM with parking at North Christiansen Jet Center. Greg Finley will shuttle us over to Los Cabos for lunch, then to the Oklahoma Aquarium. They must feed, clean, and pamper a LOT of special and exotic creatures who are not native Oklahomans; so, there is an admission fee. Seniors, military, and children 3 to 12 are \$13.95. Plain youngsters over 12 and regular others and irregular others are \$17.95. We understand masks may be required (except while consuming drink and food).

Please let us know you plan to attend by email: FLYAWAY@OPA.AERO. Include names of all attending if you know.

For Future Fly Aways we are considering for September: Hobart - Lunch and Tommy Franks Museum. Retired 4 Star General and Kiowa County Museum or Enid. Under consideration for October and later: Cedar Mills - Broken Bow for lunch at Phatt Tabbs BBQ. Your suggestions are encouraged. Please call or email.



Josie has grown a lot since our last aquarium trip!



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2020 OPA Calendar

All scheduled items are subject to change as necessary to meet directed Covid 19 requirements and for the health and safety of our members and guests.

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

August 20th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

August - OPA Fly Away - Tulsa Riverside
 Wheels Down - 11:00 - 11:15 a.m.
 Lunch at Los Cabos
 Tour Oklahoma Aquarium

September 3rd - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

September 17th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

September - OPA Fly Away - TBA

October 1st - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

October 15th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

October 11th Fly Away - TBA

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

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)

3rd Saturday - Enid Fly-In Breakfast - Woodring Airport (WDG) April through October



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 Spouse _____ Occupation _____ **Name tag** Yes No
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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.aero.**

