



NEWS In the Sky

March 2021

(www.opa.aero)

March 4th, 2021 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Tom Chandler Regional Manager, Central SW, AOPA

Tom has been immersed in general aviation since a very young age. He earned his private pilot certificate while in high school, followed by a degree in Aviation Management from Wichita State University, along with ATP and CFII certificates.

His professional flying career got rolling with a decade of flying air ambulance and charter King Airliners for Midwest Corporate Aviation out of Wichita's Jabara Airport. Later, he worked for 8 years as the Airport Manager in McPherson, Kansas while mixing in some corporate flying and instruction. During that time he also served as the president of the Kansas Association of Airports and secretary of the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education. He has been the AOPA Regional Manager - Central Southwest for four years and currently resides in Heath, Texas near Dallas.

He will present an "AOPA Update", including a little bit of everything, plus a local focus on legislative and airport issues.



If you are looking for a tax deduction, gifts to the OPA Vic Jackson Memorial Scholarship Fund or to OPA are valid tax deductions.

We are taking the recommended safety measures for the health of those who attend. We ask each member to determine what is best for their health.

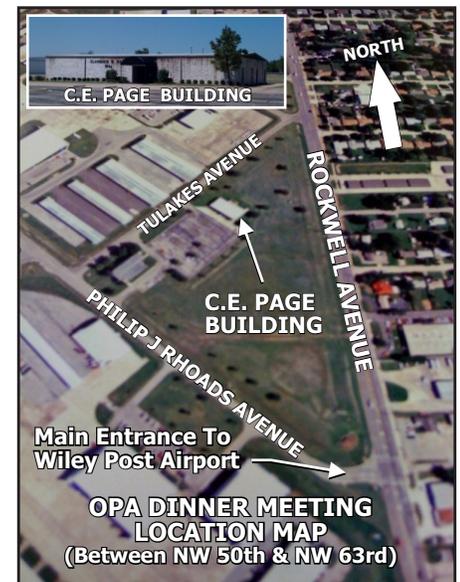
If you plan to attend, please RSVP as soon as possible so we can get a count to the caterer.

You can RSVP by sending an email to dinner@opa.aero

April 1st, 2021 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: To Be Announced

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
Wiley Post Airport
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
Circulation: Mike Rangel

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

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Steve Haynes

OPA President Greg Finley



This month marks one year since the world changed significantly due to the coronavirus. We learned new phrases such as, self-quarantine and social distancing. We even learned how to wash our hands, as if our parents did not teach us properly in our youth. It seems to me that investing in companies that produced medical masks, Plexiglas, and rubber gloves would have been a great idea. Needless to say, buying stock in toilet paper as well!

Similarly, stores, restaurants, and other organizations were affected by closures or reduced hours of business. OPA was no different with the cancellation of some meetings and flyaways. I wanted to let you know that your Officers, Board Members, and various Committee Chairs have been working hard in recent months to reopen and keep progressing forward with our meetings, programs, and flyaways, as some of our guest speakers needed to cancel due to employer restrictions on public appearances during this pandemic. New speakers were sought out and scheduled. New locations for flyaways have been identified and planned. We have continued to advertise and start screening applicants for our annual scholarship award. We have even shown some growth with the acceptance of new membership applications.

Through all this, we have been able to continue forward, as an Association, due to the most important element... YOU. Without our membership, we would not exist. Therefore, I want to thank each of you for your attendance and participation during these past few months of getting back to normal! Especially, our February meeting. This was our highest attended meeting since this pandemic started a year ago. I would like to encourage each of you to attend our monthly meetings and flyaways. It would be exciting to see all of us together; especially some of you whom we have not seen in quite some time. You can always learn more about our events by going to our website located at opa.aero

Before I close this article, I would like to extend a special thank you to our Newsletter editors, Ben & June Roy, who have tirelessly gathered information and created our monthly Newsletter. This has not been an easy task this past year due, in part, to constantly changing information and last-minute confirmation of events and guest speakers.

If you have any questions about this article or have suggestions for a future article you can contact me at president@opa.aero

Highlights from the February Dinner Meeting Thanks to Mike Grimes for the pictures and article about the meeting!

OPA Meeting February 4,2021, was held at the Page Building at PWA. Approximately 49 were in attendance, a great turnout considering how the weather went after that time. Greg Finley called the meeting to order, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America. Greg made the announcement that we were going to do the meeting a little different, we would first do announcements and introduction along with the presentation of special awards by Bill Poppadopoulos. Then we would eat and have our speaker.

Announcements included a thank you to Shirley Brown for helping with the Valentine decorations on the table. Thank you, Shirley, and as always, we appreciate Jan Walton's efforts of making the tables look great! Gary and Karen Manning were introduced as new members, along with Greg and Diane (sorry did not get your last names).

Lee Holmes made announcements about Flyways, Weatherford for February, and Tulsa International - Tulsa Aerospace Museum is Tentative for March 20th. Weather is always a factor this time of the year.

Bill Paoppadopoulos was introduced to present the Annual Awards from OPA. His first award was presented to Brian Hancock. Brian has served two terms as our President and was presented the President's Award. Lee Holmes was presented the Pilot of the Year Award. Lee has headed up the Fly Away Committee and does a great job. Mike and Susie Grimes were presented an Award for years of Service to OPA. Mike has served as President four times, longest sitting member of the board, and now serves as Executive Vice President. Mike commented he could not have served without the support of his wife Susie.



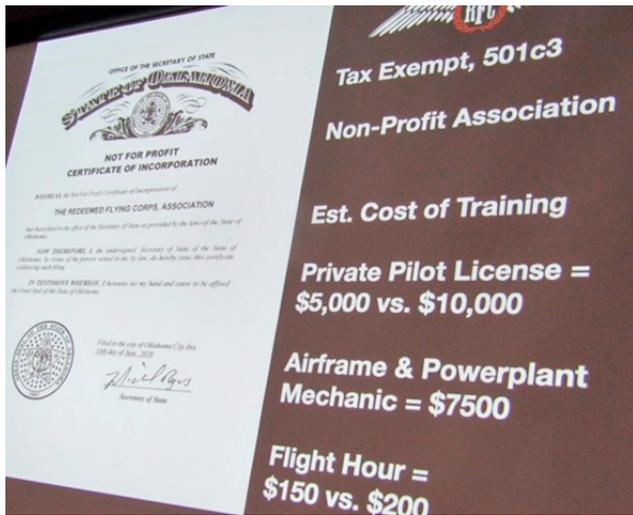
Highlights from the February Dinner Meeting Thanks to Mike Grimes for the pictures and article about the meeting!

Greg then introduced our speaker for the evening, Steve Russell. Steve has a significant history in the military, in Congress, and in the State Senate. He was an avid supporter of aviation while in both Congress and the State Legislature. Steve talked about his experience in getting his pilot's license. He stated he always admired WWI aviation and aviators. He decided to take an accelerated course to get his pilot's license due to his busy schedule. He talked about going to Monroe, LA for a six days to solo course. While in Congress his schedule was so busy, he said he had decided not to pursue his pilot's license. He said he was talking with his wife about dropping out of flying and she told him that he needed to finish the pilot's license because it was his lifelong desire. Thus, he was able to get with a friend and finish his pilot's license.

Steve told about his interest in the Christian aviation programs, flying Evangelistic Ministers and supplies to Manitoba, also about the JAARS Flying Christian Aviator Program and the lack of Pilots for these programs. He told us that 40% of these pilot positions in these programs go unfulfilled each year.

This need led Steve and some others to start a flight training program for Pilots and Mechanics to help fill this need. The program is called Redeemed Flying Corps (RAF). The program is open for students 16-30 years old, of high character, good attitude, and disciplined to train as mechanics or pilots for the mission field. This program was born at the First Southern Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and Steve is a member of their staff.

This program is Christian based and is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. He explained that this program is modeled after the RAF from WWI, and that the first squadron was started in his church and has branched out from there. He said each squadron starts out with skilled volunteers in the pews, which are then formed into a squadron that is a flying club that trains, then into a dedicated pool of young people with a goal of becoming a pilot or aircraft mechanic. They contract with flying schools and A&P schools for training at a reduced cost for the students. The students then agree to a four-year commitment to mission aviation.



Highlights from the February Dinner Meeting Thanks to Mike Grimes for the pictures and article about the meeting!

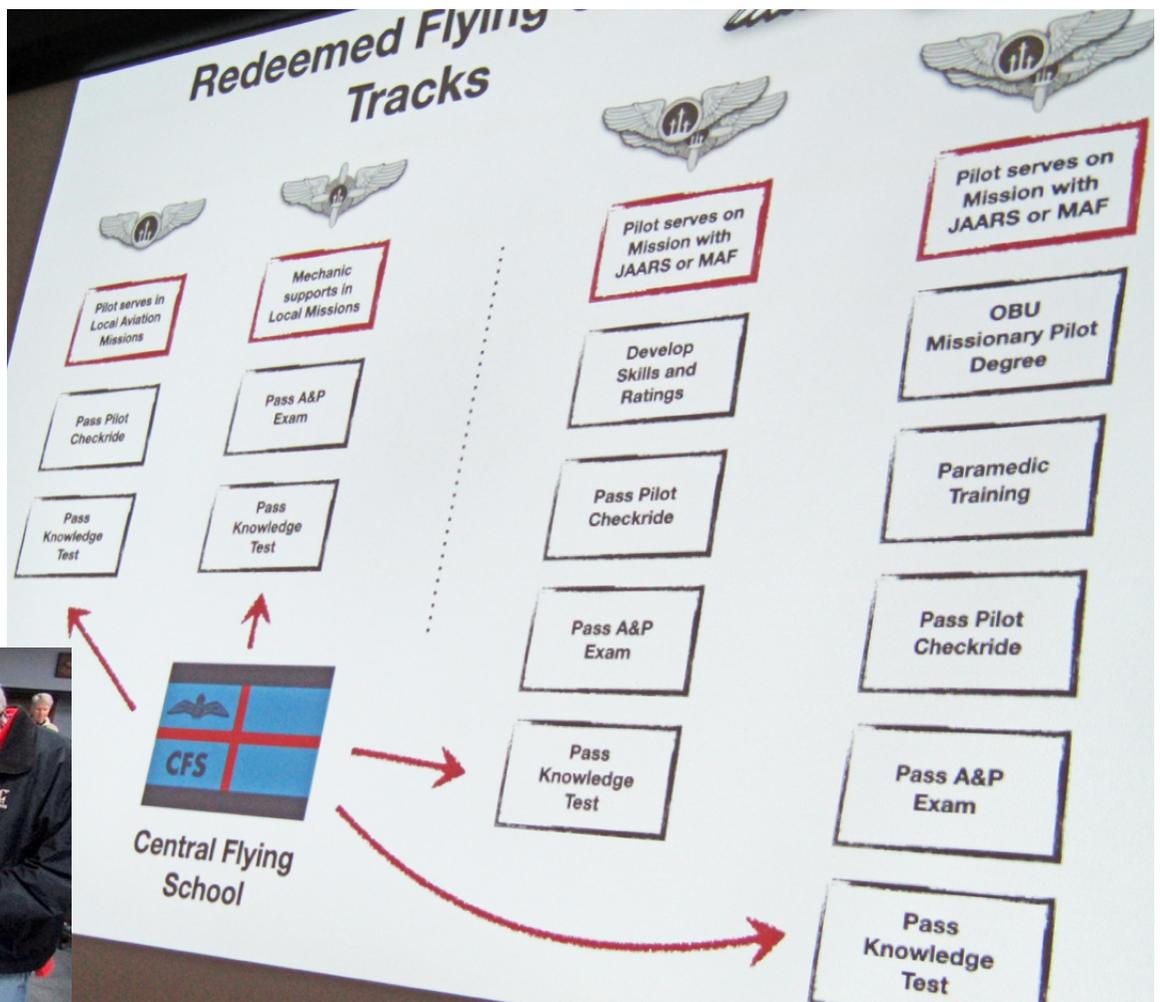
The progress of the program has been great. They have just soloed 2 new pilots at 16 hours each and completed the building of flight simulators for instructional time. He said they are doing blood flights and Angel Flights. Steve said they have a real need for ground and flight instructors to continue to build the program. Steve was given a membership in OPA and was thanked for a great presentation.

David Hale – Sundance Airport stated he has a firm that specializes in Medical Certification issues for pilots and they have been successful. Anyone needing a Student Pilot Certificate - they charge \$50.00.

Reminder: we had a lot of food left over. Our count on reservations for this meeting was 81, but only 59 showed. Please try to be as accurate as possible on your reservation for the dinner meetings.



If you receive the OPA Newsletter in printed form and want to see it in color, please visit our website at www.opa.aero



**March 20th OPA Fly Away - Tulsa Air & Space Museum & Planetarium
 Tulsa International Airport KTUL 94
 Wheels down 10:00 a.m.
 Special parking at the museum**



For March 20th, we are planning on the Tulsa Air Museum at the Tulsa International Airport. The Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium (TASM) is a regional leader in the promotion of science-based education through hands-on interaction and discovery. Combining presentation with inspiration, TASM tells the story of Oklahoma's rich aerospace history with interactive exhibits that educate and entertain visitors of all ages. Come experience 34,000 square feet of aviation history and take a look at the future of aerospace. Pictures are from the 2016 OPA Fly Away to TASM.

There will be a Mustang car show and a Mustang P51 airplane on exhibit. There will be food trucks for lunch. Try to arrive before 10:00 since they plan to place our planes on exhibit also. So there will be parking for us at the museum.

www.tulsaairandspacemuseum.org



Model 12, Series 1 of the Spartan Executive, the last one manufactured by Spartan in Tulsa. Spartan played a big part in Tulsa aviation history, and in the TASM development.



**OPA January 13th (changed to 27th) Fly Away - Weatherford Regional Airport
Stafford Air and Space Museum
Will have updates in April Newsletter**



The Stafford Air and Space Museum has just completed a 5+ million dollar expansion. The Conference room, lobby and gift shop have been remodeled. The museum now has over 1.5 acres of gallery space. The newest exhibit is the full size Replica of the Lunar Module. The SASM is the only museum that has the Lunar, Command, service module all together. The museum is currently developing and building 400+ exhibits to be added. at to be a little extreme. The Stafford air and Space Museum operates in Association with the Smithsonian Institution.



Information and photos from Teresa Schoonmaker, Director of Operations



From OPA Fly Away Chair, Lee Holmes

Our February Flyaway will be to the Weatherford Airport to visit the Thomas Stafford Air and Space Museum. It is recently expanded and there is plenty to see. We will have a museum guide, or you can roam on your own.

Wheels down will be at 11 a.m., then off to Lucille's for lunch. We will then return to airport for the museum tour.

This is a great museum for your non-piloting friends and relatives to join with us.

For March 20th, we are planning on the Tulsa Air Museum at the Tulsa International Airport. There will be more about that in the March newsletter.

For the April or May Flyaway we are considering the Cirrus Service Center at the Hutchison, KS

Airport (KHUT) and then lunch at the Airport Restaurant (good lunch place per Jeff Sandusky). After that we will go over to the Cosmosphere. There will be more about April and May Flyaways in the March Newsletter.

Questions and responses and suggestions can be sent to Lee Holmes at 405-833-7201 or LeeHolmes@OPA.aero.

If you are going to the March Flyaway, please let us know who, how many, along with your phone number in case of cancellation because of weather.

If a Fly Away must be cancelled, usually because of bad weather, we can still be guests of Rick Cacini, Curator of the Yukon Veterans Museum, 1010 West Main, Yukon, OK 73099. Rick will have coffee and donuts for us after 9:00 A.M. Rick is a member of the Flyaway Committee. His phone number is 405-517-1901.



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

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For Page Building rental rates contact: Steve
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PRESS RELEASE

**Oklahoma Airports to Receive \$15M in
Coronavirus Relief**

**For a complete list of airports and funding,
please visit www.oac.ok.gov.**

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STATEWIDE (February 22, 2021) – A new program by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is set to begin distributing nearly \$15.2 million dollars to several Oklahoma airports.

The Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP) is part of the Federal Governments latest Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA). Oklahoma will have \$15,198,519 to distribute to 77 Oklahoma airports, including four commercial airports as well as 73 general aviation (GA) airports. An airport sponsor may use these funds for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, combating the spread of pathogens at the airport and debt service payments.

Four of the GA airports are also eligible for the FAA Contract Tower Program funding under CRRSAA including Ardmore Municipal Airport, University of Oklahoma Westheimer Airport, Wiley Post Airport and Enid Woodring Regional Airport.

The CRRSAA was signed into law by former President Trump on December 27, 2020 directing nearly \$2 billion in funds to be awarded as economic relief to eligible U.S. airports to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The bill includes \$1.75 billion for commercial service and certain cargo airports and up to \$45 million for nonprimary Commercial and GA airports. "The past year brought the Oklahoma Airport System challenges like the industry has never experienced. As with the first round of relief funds, federal transportation dollars to our airports is appropriate and necessary during these difficult times," Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz said. "We know that regional airports connect communities to commerce, and these critical grant funds will continue to allow our communities to sustain the operations at their airports."

Oklahoma City's Will Rogers World Airport will receive the most funding at \$6.4M while Tulsa International Airport will receive \$5.5M. Stillwater and Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airports will receive just over \$1M each.

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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.

2021 OPA Calendar

March 4th - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

March 20th - **OPA Fly Away** -Tulsa, OK
 Tulsa Air Museum - Tulsa International Airport

March 18th - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

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

April Fly Away - Tentative - Hutchinson, KS
 Airport Restaurant - then Cosmosphere

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

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

May 8th - **To Be Announced**

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

Make dinner reservations at dinner@opa.aero

Monthly Oklahoma Fly-Ins
CHECK THE OPA CALENDAR PAGE ON THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID

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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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 _____

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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.**



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