



NEWS In the Sky

December 2021

(www.opa.aero)

December 2, 2021 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Dinner Meeting Entertainment - "World On A String Quartet"



We will enjoy a great Christmas Dinner provided by Dave Ackley's Catering, (Glad to have you back Dave!) great companionship, and entertainment.

Serving Central Oklahoma for 15 years, "World On A String Quartet" provides classical, pop, rock and jazz string music for public and private events.

In addition to providing music for 150+ weddings and events each year, members have performed with Michael Bubl , Joshua Bell, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Drive Band, Oklahoma Opry Band, 2Cellos, Byron Berline, the Pat Patrick Band, the OKC Philharmonic, Tulsa Symphony, Fort Smith Symphony and at Carnegie Hall

If you plan to attend, please RSVP as soon as possible, but no later than noon the Tuesday before the Thursday Dinner Meeting, so we can get a count to the caterer (\$15 each). You can RSVP by sending an email to dinner@opa.aero

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.

December 4th - OPA Fly Away Gage's Steakhouse - Guthrie, OK Meet at 5:30



Contact Bill Pappadopoulos
405-417-7876 for more information.

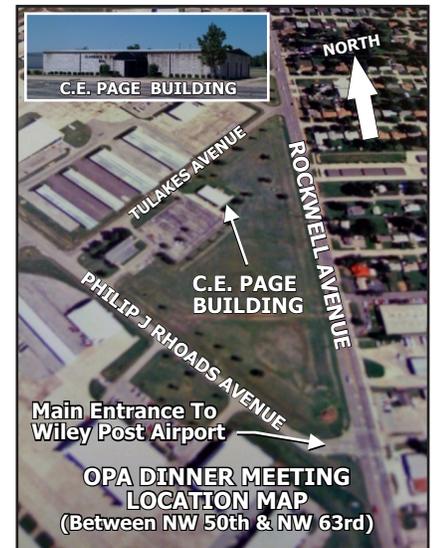


Annual OPA Dues change to \$40.00 Effective January 1st 2022

January 6, 2022 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Mike Grimes

Mike will talk about "Frauds and Scams and How to Prevent Being Victimized" and about "Surrounding Awareness". He has 58 years of law enforcement experience and has completed the Oklahoma State Troopers, FBI, and Secret Service Academies. He was inducted into the OK Law Enforcement Hall of Fame.





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.

2021-2022 OPA OFFICERS

President - Greg Finley	918 340-9184
Exec. Vice President - Mike Grimes	405 641-6860
Past President - Brian Hancock	405 757-5706
Treasurer - Roy Cowan	405 340-1425
Secretary - Angela Drabek	
Vice President of Membership	
Roger Walton	405 219-5149
	mem@opa.aero
Vice President of Communications	
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Bill Pappadopoulos

College Student Board Member - Mason Mateson

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Ben Roy
June Roy

OPA President Greg Finley



This time last year, we were exiting what I call "the year of COVID" and I wrote an encouraging article asking you to focus on the things that are true, just, pure, lovely, and commendable. To think about the things that are excellent and worthy of praise. If you would like to refresh your memory of that December 2020 article, you can always go to our archived Newsletters on our website, opa.aero, and review it along with our other past Newsletters.

During 2020, we had to cancel most of our monthly meetings. In fact, we were not able to even have our annual Christmas Banquet. None the less, I declared 2020, our best year as we were able to keep the Association going and I proclaimed that 2021, will be even better. This past year was better! We did not need to cancel any meetings, we had a very active Flyaway schedule, we had a phenomenal roster of guest speakers, and we are having our annual Christmas Banquet this month. Hopefully, you have already gotten your reminder email and RSVP'd by the time you read this article. Yes, 2021, is our best year yet. We have a growth in membership and our meeting attendance has continued to increase. But, 2022, will be even better!

Reflecting back on this time, I must give credit where credit is due. Each of you, our Membership, held faithful and strong with us and continued to be flexible as the end of 2020, and beginning of 2021, plans were very fluid with a lot of last-minute information was disseminated. I do want to give special recognition to Tony Plant for consistently setting up and getting the building ready for each of our meetings. Also, I want to thank an amazing Board who worked arduously to keep the Association running and on schedule. I realize I do not have the article space to mention the exceptional efforts of each one but I do want to highlight a few. As Past President, Brian Hancock took the reigns as Chairman of our Vic Jackson Memorial Scholarship Committee and captured the attention of several exceptionally qualified applicants that resulted in two recipients; and, it looks like we are off to another great year of applicants from which to choose. Kyle Fulton has done phenomenally well as the VP Communications on getting the information out to you and Lee Holmes has done a tremendous job at seeking out various locations and activities for our flyaways. As Secretary, Angela Drabek has done extremely well at making sense and documenting our Board meetings and Roy Cowan continues to amazingly keep track of our finances.

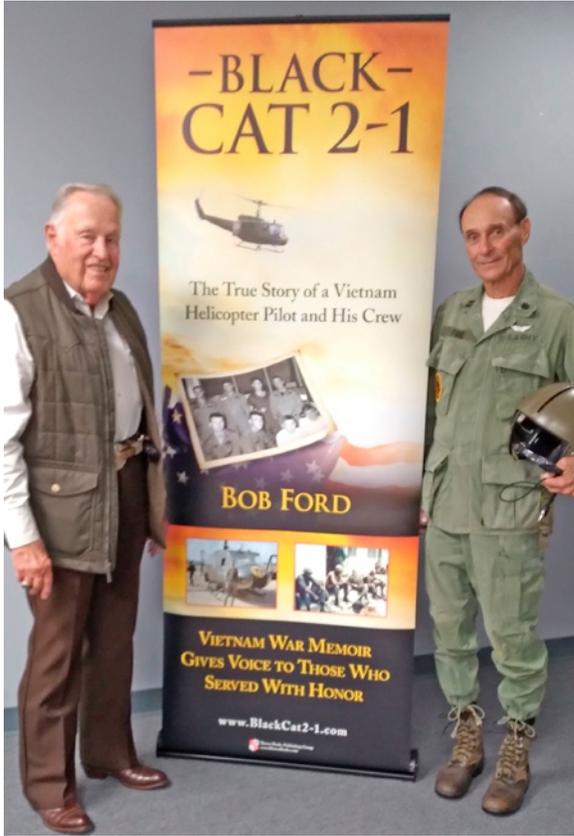
I do want to thank Ben and June Roy for continuing to publish our monthly newsletters during some very challenging times and I appreciate our Executive VP and Programs Chairman, Mike Grimes, for keeping my head screwed on straight. Thank you to our entire Board!

As we prepare to launch in to 2022, I challenge each of you to make this coming year your best one yet... as an Association and in your own personal lives. Look for the positive things and focus on them. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!

We are looking for new advertisements for our newsletter. If you can help us find new advertisers, please contact our editors, Ben or June Roy 405-615-2071

Highlights from the November Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Bob Ford for allowing us to use pictures from his presentation.
 Thanks to Mike Grimes for pictures from the meeting.



OPA VP Mike Grimes opened the meeting with the pledge to our flag and welcomed everyone. New OPA member, Tim Turner, bought a Seneca and hopes it will be ready by Friday. We learned that our speaker is also an excellent triathlon participant, running, biking, and swimming.

Mike snitched on Ben Roy for turning 80 that day, making him more mature. Diedre Hall introduced our speaker, Bob Ford. She said one of the things she found most interesting about Bob is the way the kids at the elementary school he works with look up to him like a grandfather.

She introduced him as a true war hero. To allow space for pictures, I will use words directly from Bob's book, "Black Cat 2-1, The True Story of a Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and His Crew". His presentation was extremely interesting and included both the horrors of war and the belief that it was all for a compelling cause and that he doesn't regret his decision at all.

"From July 1967 to July 1968, Bob Ford flew over one thousand missions in Vietnam. After the first six weeks, he became an aircraft commander and took over the command of a helicopter detachment at Hue, forty miles from the DMZ – the farthest northern helicopter unit in Vietnam." He shared stories of friendship and selflessness. Another quote, "In the Vietnam War, 2,197 helicopter pilots and 2,717 crew members were killed." His book, "Black Cat 2-1 is the story of one pilot who make it home and the valiant men he served with who risked their lives for the troops on the ground. Bob Ford brings readers (and those who are

fortunate to hear him speak) into the Huey helicopters he flew on the missions when he and his men dared to protect and rescue." It was an amazing presentation. Thanks for your time and your service!



Highlights from the November Dinner Meeting

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Thanks to Mike Grimes for pictures from the meeting.



Pictures from the November Dinner Meeting



"In the left seat" (top left)



"Refueling at Hue between missions." (top right)

"Jerry McKinsey, holding blood chit, Nov 67."

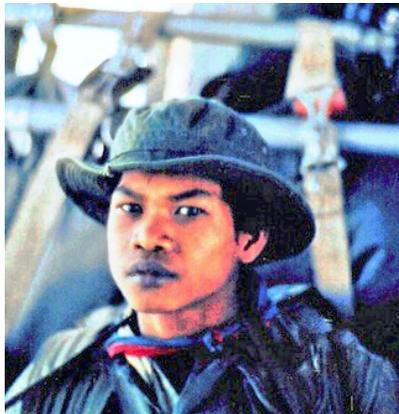


"The Black Cats Hue detachment, Nov 67: standing, Lt Bob Ford, W-2 Dwight Dedrick, W - 1 M a r k Skulborstad, and W-2 Tom Pullen; seated, W-1 John Aye, W-2 Al Toews, W-2 Jerry McKinseyl and W-1 Dick Messer" (middle right)



Our "Last soldier out." (next to bottom left)

The photo of the small boy smoking a cigarette "made an impression on the third grade class in Okeene. (bottom left)



"I was told no American could ride a water buffalo, I accepted the challenge." (bottom right)

"With Amy" (bottom center)





November 6th - OPA Fly Away - Pauls Valley Municipal Airport OAAA Fly-In & Car Show



Article and pictures submitted by Lee Holmes, OPA Fly Away Chairman

November 6, 2021, an OPA Flyaway to fill our memory boxes with friendship, airplanes and 4-wheel vehicles all at one welcoming airport, Pauls Valley. Pauls Valley is about 65 miles south of Oklahoma City and, for many years, the local flying "club"/Member of Antique Airplane Association has sponsored an antique airplane gathering. This year there were 81 registered airplanes and over 150 registered cars and trucks.

An interesting car show – a friend told me about the new Corvette that the owner had won after buying \$40 of raffle tickets. I had to leave early, and John Myers called me about 2:30 asking "where are you?" I responded "home." He said, "they just drew your name for a prize." But dang, I had to be there to win.





November 6th - OPA Fly Away - Pauls Valley OAAA Fly-In & Car Show



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Wyvema Startz wins the 'Pearl Carter Scott Award' - for Outstanding Achievements in General Aviation at 'Women in Aviation & Aerospace'

Article and pictures submitted by Angela Drabek

Wyvema Startz, known to everyone as 'Wy', has been a member of the Oklahoma Chapter of Ninety-Nines (International Organization of Women Pilots), since 1988, over 33 years. She served as Treasurer, Airmarking Chairman, Okie Derby Chairman and 99's Membership Chairman. She also participated in the Okie Derby, Air Race Classic, a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and a member of the Oklahoma Pilots Association for over 30 years. Wyvema is the true essence of someone in love with aviation, sharing her passion for aviation and encouraging others.

A late bloomer, Wy didn't find aviation until the age of 55, and she set her mind on becoming a pilot, and didn't look back. She joined the 99's as a student pilot in 1988. Wyvema found a passion in getting ladies interested in flying by demonstrating the fellowship and aviation activities associated with the 99's. Wyvema was born and raised in Oklahoma. She spent two years in Texas learning accounting and two years in Norfolk, Virginia. Wy married her high school sweetheart and has two sons - David, with two grandchildren, and Paul. Her son's interest in aviation motivated her to find an instructor who believed women could fly and had patience with her radio skills.

Wyvema readily admits that she had a very difficult time finding just the right instructor. Wy relates that she was so afraid to talk on the plane's radio that she cried every time. A

female flight instructor was her lifesaver and worked incessantly with her until she conquered the radio

fear. Wy spent two years with three instructors before finally passing her Private Pilot's exam at the age of 55. Wyvema logged 1,089 hours in eleven different single engine aircraft, having the time of her life. She flew throughout the country, flying north to Oshkosh, east to the Tennessee Mountains, south to San Antonio, and west to Las Vegas.

Wyvema joined the 99s in time to race in the Okie Derby, a proficiency air race, and she and her copilot, another 99, took 4th place in a Beech Sundowner. "It was a THRILL!" she exclaims. Wyvema flew in about every Okie Derby until 2003. It needs to be mentioned that Wyvema and associates were always in costume at the Okie Derby. They flew as Flying Gypsies; Air Heads, a group who could Hear no Evil, Speak no Evil, and See no Evil; and Space Girls. She also took a box of stop watches so she would also have the right time, regardless. Wyvema was serious in her first job for the 99's Chapter as Airmarking

Chairman, making history for the Oklahoma Chapter by capturing National Airmarking Honors by organizing 18 Airmarkings in seven years.

Another thriller was as navigator with 99 Dianah Cummins Harrod in the Air Race Classic in 2000, starting in Tucson, Arizona, and four days later arriving at Hyannis, Massachusetts. The team did well, especially for first time racers, placing 18th out of 48 racers. Wyvema was inducted into the International Forest of Friendship, in Atchison, Kansas in 2010. The International Forest of Friendship is a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace. The Forest

was a gift to America on her 200th birthday in 1976 from the City of Atchison, Kansas (the birthplace of Amelia Earhart), The Ninety-Nines and the Kansas State University Forestry Extension.

According to Wy, the 99s have been her support and her best friends in life. She can't imagine life without learning to fly and being a part of the group! She is truly a dedicated and reliable member who has made tremendous contributions to the Oklahoma Chapter. Her motto in life is "If it's not fun, I don't want to do it!".





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Approximate Ad Size Monthly Rate

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One-Quarter Page 3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	\$70
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Full Page 7 1/2" x 9 1/2"	\$240

Call Ben Roy, 405-802-9657
or June Roy 405- 615-2071



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or a Meeting?

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**All scheduled items
are subject to change
as necessary.**

2021 OPA Calendar

December 2 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm

Planes, Bikes and Cars & OPA Elections

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**December 4 - OPA Fly Away - Guthrie, OK
Gage's Steak House - Meet at 5:30**

December 15 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

2022 OPA Calendar

January 7 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

January 15 - OPA Fly Away - Ponca City, OK

Enrique's Mexican Restaurant

January 20 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

February 3 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

February 6 - OPA Fly Away

To Be Determined

February 17 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

Make dinner meeting reservations at
dinner@opa.aero

\$15 per Dinner due to increased cost.

**If no RSVP, \$20 at the door if food is
available.**

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**

3rd Saturday - Goldsby Airport breakfast

Donations benefit youth aviation

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
DUES 1/01/2022 \$40
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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