



NEWS In the Sky

March 2023

(www.opa.aero)

March 2, 2023 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jeff Mulder - Airports Director Oklahoma City Airport System

Jeff Mulder has more than 30 years of aviation experience and has served as an Airport Director at 4 airports over a 20-year period. He is currently the Airports Director for Oklahoma City Airport System. He is the past national chairman of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and a recipient of their Distinguished Service Award. Jeff is also a past recipient of Airport Director of the Year by Airport Revenue News. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University and is a commercial pilot and flight instructor.



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.



April 6, 2023 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: George W. Braley GAMI Head of Engineering



George W. Braly
D.O.B. 3/7/1948. Ada, Oklahoma.
Aerospace Engineering,
Brown University '70.
Head of Engineering, General
Aviation Modifications, Inc. (GAMI).
Commercial Pilot. SMEL.
Flight Instructor for more than 50
years.
Inventor of G100UL® High Octane
Avgas, the only FAA approved drop-
in replacement for existing high
octane leaded aviation gasoline.

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



This is a Great Item for our Auction!
(Believed to be) Authentic 103-year-old vintage document. Operations of Aircraft 1920 United States of America War Office. In good condition, professionally framed and preserved. Passed down as an heirloom from a government pilot to his granddaughter who left it in her estate. Note #1 "Don't take the machine into the air unless you're satisfied it will fly" and #21 "Pilots may not wear spurs while flying"

OPA is accepting items until May for an auction scheduled for our August dinner meeting. Any items not selected for the auction will be welcome and used for door prizes for our dinner meetings. We expect to have some excellent items. This is a great opportunity to regift some of your aviation treasures and find new ones!

OPA Newsletter Mailing Request

Because the cost of printing and mailing our newsletter has gone up (much like everything else), if you currently receive your copy of the newsletter from the post office, please let us know if you are willing to save money for OPA by viewing the newsletter online instead of receiving a hard copy. Contact us at info@opa.aero if you are willing to change to online viewing. (Remember that it is always in color online.)



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 \$40.

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
Editor: June Roy
Circulation: David Aimes

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

2021-2022 OPA OFFICERS

- President - Kyle Fulton
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- Past President - Greg Finley 918 340-9184
- Treasurer - Roy Cowan 405 340-1425
- Secretary - Angela Drabek
- Vice President of Membership
Roger Walton 405 219-5149
membership@opa.aero
- Vice President of Communications
Craig Hodgens
info@opa.aero

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- Term Expires 6/30/2024
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- Lee Holmes
- Bill Pappadopoulos

College Student Board Member - Mason Mateson

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

- June Roy
- Steve Haynes

**OPA President
Kyle Fulton**



Get involved in this year's activities. The Summer will be here before we know it and it will be time to elect board positions and officers for Oklahoma Pilot's Association.

Do you want to contribute to the planning of our activities? This is your opportunity to get involved! You can serve on the board, help with planning fly-aways, or with meeting preparation and execution.

We are also planning to have a presence in several of Oklahoma's fly-ins this year, including Chickasha, El Reno, Guthrie, and Norman.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the OPA or serving on the board as an officer or member, let me know at a meeting or call me. 580-302-4007. Or email kyle@fultonfarms.us

In Memorium - Shirley Brown

OPA member Shirley Brown flew to her Heavenly home on February 19, 2023. She and her husband, Charlie Brown were active in OPA until Shirley became ill a few months ago. Her smile will be missed. Please keep Charlie and Shirley's family and friends in your prayers.



ANGEL FLIGHT

We Need More Pilots.

Join Angel Flight Oklahoma and Make a Difference, One Flight at a Time.

Share your skills and love of flying to help those in need. Angel Flight volunteer pilots fly one or more flights a year. Flights are posted and scheduled online so you can pick a flight that's best for you.

To learn more, or to schedule a fly-along, call 918-749-8992 or visit www.AngelFlight.com.

Highlights from the February Dinner Meeting

The OPA's February Dinner guest speaker was Daniela Kratchounova. Kratchounova, Ph.D., is a Research Scientist at the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI). She earned her doctoral degree in Applied Experimental Human Factors from the University of Central Florida. Dr. Kratchounova has 25+ years of experience in the aviation industry including training and instructional technology. Before her tenure at the FAA she previously worked for Gulfstream Aerospace and Honeywell International. Kratchounova is also a native Bulgarian.

Kratchounova's research interests include aviation weather human factors (image-based visibility, pilot decision-making in adverse weather avoidance), advanced vision systems (Enhanced, Synthetic, Combined Vision Systems), head-up and head-worn displays, non-traditional multimodal controls (gaze, voice, touchless gesture, touch), and future flight deck design.

At present Kratchounova is working on a new Pilot Reporting, or PIREP, program. PIREPs are reports submitted by pilots that describe observed in-flight weather conditions. PIREP's provide pilots with timely and critical weather reporting that pilots use for flight planning and while in flight to learn about weather patterns and



conditions they may enter over the course of their flight. Real-time weather reports allow pilots to avoid dangerous weather conditions increasing safety in flight.

In its current form PIREPs are given to air traffic controllers and then relayed by those same controllers, who are also responsible for updating a PIREP database. Controllers are often too busy with other tasks to take these PIREP reports.

**Thanks to
Brian
Hancock
for the
article**

Highlights from the February Dinner Meeting

Kratchounova and team have spent the last two years developing a cloud-based computer system to record and relay PIREPs to pilots negating the need for air traffic controllers in the process.

Kratchounova and her team wanted to do this through a dedicated frequency for these reports and secured the old Flight Watch frequency that was decommissioned in 2017; 122.0 MHz. In their developments they built a computer based PIREP program that allows pilots to report real-time weather reports using natural speech. Pilots no longer will be required to use dated "pilot" language to report weather events. They simply report what they are witnessing while in flight in everyday language.

As a part of the "proof of concept" they are currently testing the program in two 50 radial mile areas of the country; Oklahoma City, OK (KOKC) and Nenana, AK (PANN). Pilots flying in those areas can use the system to report and retrieve PIREPs and those that are enrolled can actually get paid \$50 per occurrence for relaying and retrieving PIREPs from the system.

To participate in the program you can register at cbtopsatcami.faa.gov. The website will walk you through the reporting and retrieving process as well as allow you to register for your own participant number to be paid for your efforts. As a participant you will be asked to fill out a bi-monthly survey about using the system. The system is in TESTING and prone to errors and the survey will be your way to communicate the experience, good or bad, with Kratchounova and her team.

If her program is successful her hope is to secure 122.0 MHz to be used across the country for all pilots, GA and professional, to secure accurate and real time weather data. Her current proof of concept testing program runs through April 30, 2023.

Also, Roy Cowan was awarded with the 2022 OPA Pilot of the Year Award.

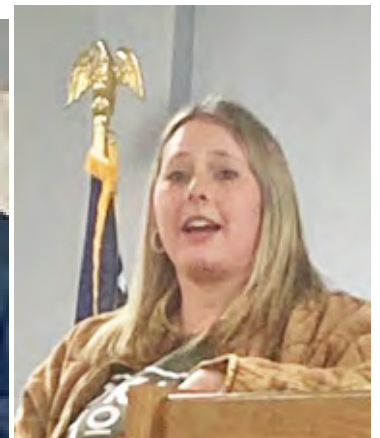


Roy Cowan's Biography

I grew up on a farm in southern Colorado. The first time I ever flew was when Mechanical problems caused a forest service helicopter to make an emergency landing on the farm. It stayed there for several weeks (probably waiting for parts.) When they came back to repair the helicopter, they took us for rides. The next time I flew in a small plane was about 25 years later when I took a Discovery flight from Hal Harris at Air One Flight Academy. Before then I guess I didn't have time or money to pursue it. I just kept chipping away and got my private, then complex and high-performance endorsements, and a couple years later my instrument rating. When I got my private, I checked into the Engineers Flying Club but there was a wait list. An interest became available in a 1968 Piper Arrow when one of the three partners lost his medical. I purchased it and have enjoyed flying the Arrow ever



since. Partnerships have always worked out well for me; I've had good partners and it makes it much more affordable. Hal introduced me to the Oklahoma Pilots Association shortly after I received my private in 2011. Flying is fun but the camaraderie among pilots is great. I have my Bachelors degree from Oklahoma Christian University and my MBS from Oklahoma City University. I've worked for Midfirst Bank for 18 years in commercial real estate lending.

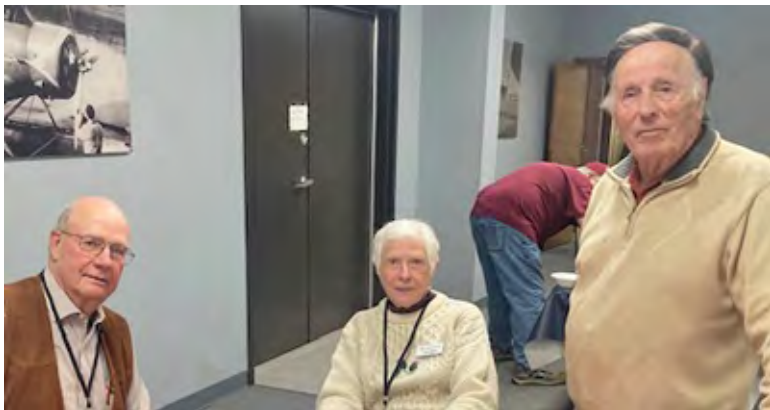


Pictures from the February Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Craig Hodgens OklaHome Homebuilders for sponsoring our dinner meeting!



Thanks to Mike Grimes for the Pictures



HANGAR FOR SALE

Twin hangar for sale at PWA. Located directly across from the Pilot's Lounge. Member of PWA, Inc. with all privileges including discounted aviation fuel. Call Jay Flinton 405-642-2341. \$46,500.



February 11 OPA Fly Away to McAlester KMLC Captain John's Seafood and Cajun Restaurant



Thanks to Lee Holmes for the article and to Lee and Craig Hodgens for the pictures

OPA February 11, 2023, Flyaway to McAlester - Weather: at 8 A.M. airport was IFR! – By 10 the sky was clear – by 11, it was overcast with about 1200' ceiling for our last 25 miles – but we all made it in okay. By noon it was clear skies again.

The reception was MORE than we expected at the airport. We were greeted by Airport Manager Chase Tindle, and his wife Ellee; McAlester Mayor John Browne and several others, including Max Blansett, representing the McAlester Tourism Department. One table was full of welcoming bags for each of us and the adjacent table was full of "goodies" – Best personal welcome ever at an OPA flyaway! McAlester Airport is getting a new building and Chase hopes to get new self-service gasoline available.

For the ride to Captain John's Seafood and Cajun Grill – Chase arranged for a nice bus and great service. Bus hostess, Tracy Holloway, bus driver for McAlester Public Schools, was also the driver – going and coming.

Restaurant was great – delicious food. Rated a 9.5 by one of our members who also rated the Flyaway as a 9.5. (I assume on a scale of 10=perfect). (My personal motto – "Good is not the opposite of perfect".)

OPA Airplane drivers and guests: Bill Halpain and friend, Steve Peter; Roy Cowan brought Mr. Greece, Bill Pappadopoulos; David Ames with wife Lola and friend David Best; Craig Hodgens and friend Jim Gleason; me, Lee Holmes with son, Mark, and grandson Gabe. Also arriving was El Reno Airport Manager Bailey Kennemer, and her mother and father who live in Eufaula.

One of our members asked how I had arranged such a great welcoming. It wasn't me – I just talked with Chase and he created a Fantastic McAlester Welcome. Thanks Chase!!





**February 11 OPA Fly Away to McAlester KMLC
Captain John's Seafood and Cajun Restaurant**



Thanks to Lee Holmes for the article and to Lee and Craig Hodgens for the pictures





February 11 OPA Fly Away to McAlester KMLC Captain John's Seafood and Cajun Restaurant



Thanks to Lee Holmes for the article and to Lee and Craig Hodgens for the pictures



March 11 OPA Fly Away to Atoka, OK Reba's Place - Wheels Down: 10:00 am



March Flyaway to Beaumont KS is rescheduled to Reba's Place in Atoka (KAQR). Reba's Place is a combination restaurant, bar, live music venue and retail store brought to life by country music superstar Reba McEntire.

Constructed in a century old Masonic Temple, Reba's place features two stories of dining space that open to a central stage which will regularly host live music performances. The menu includes scratch made versions of many of the dishes most popular in the region alongside favorites from other areas including Nashville, New Orleans and Mexico. Menu highlights include the "Fancy" steak dinner, street tacos, chicken fried steak and Reba's personal favorite, pinto beans and corn bread. The main floor also showcases a restored antique bar that is more than 100 years old and offers a broad range of beer, wine and spirits crafted into signature cocktails. The aesthetics of the venue are heavily influenced by Reba's western heritage and include a curated collection of memorabilia from Reba's personal archives that will regularly change. The retail space will feature a combination of merchandise created just for this new venture alongside established Reba favorites.



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RebasPlace>

Website: <https://www.rebasplace.com/>

Wheels down by 10:00. We will have a shuttle to deliver us to the restaurant for lunch. Atoka, Oklahoma airport is KAQRCTAF: 122.9WX AWOS-3: 121.125

For questions call Kyle Fulton 580-302-4007 or email kyle@fultonfarms.us





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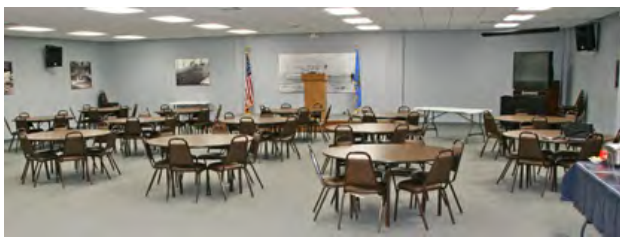
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Approximate Ad Size Monthly Rate

Business Card 2"x 3 1/2"	\$30
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Call June Roy 405- 615-2071



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

Try the Page Building at Wiley Post Airport!

For Page Building rental rates contact: Steve Schroeder: 405-691-8629 (home phone) sandsschroeder@cox.net or QB Governor Jim Sutton 405-760-1988 (mobile phone).

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

All scheduled items are subject to change

2023 OPA Calendar

March 2 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

March 11 - OPA Fly Away - Atoka, OK
Reba's Place

Wheels Down 10:00 am

March 16 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

April 1 - OPA Fly Away - Stillwater, OK
OSU Flyin' Aggies Fly In

Details TBA

April 6 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

April 20 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

May 4 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

May 13 - OPA Flyaway Alva, OK
Plane Plastics

Details TBA

May 18 - 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) **March** through October

3rd Saturday - Goldsby Airport Breakfast
Donations benefit youth aviation

Looking for a tax break? OPA is a 501c3 organization, so donations are tax deductible!

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:
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 C/o June Roy
 11749 SW. 54th St
 Mustang, OK 73064
 405-802-9657 Cell
 email:
broysprint01@earthlink.net

ANNUAL DUES ARE
\$40
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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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