



NEWS In the Sky

July 2023

(www.opa.aero)

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

**OPA Dinner Meeting sponsor
for June was OklaHome!**

Speaker: Lt Col. David McCollum - Civil Air Patrol

Lt Col. David McCollum currently serves as Oklahoma Wing Chief of Staff and Government Relations Advisor. McCollum joined Civil Air Patrol in 2008 while living in Texas, fulfilling a long-time interest in the organization. His impetus for finally joining the all-volunteer auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force was the highly publicized search for Steve Fossett, which CAP was heavily involved in.

McCollum served Texas Wing in various capacities, including unit, group and wing public affairs officer, and unit deputy commander for seniors, all while becoming a qualified search and rescue mission pilot. After transferring to Oklahoma Wing in 2014, McCollum served as wing public affairs officer, wing director of emergency services, and commanded the Oklahoma City Composite Squadron. Under his leadership, the unit lost fewer members during the COVID-19 pandemic than any other unit in Oklahoma Wing (less than 14 percent when the wing and national average was in the 20+ percent range).

He graduated from Southwest Region Staff College at Kirtland AFB in 2017 and was named outstanding student. McCollum graduated from CAP's National Staff College at Maxwell AFB in 2019.

McCollum is a senior mission pilot with more than 2,000 hours of flight time, mission check pilot, senior incident commander and holds numerous other emergency services qualifications. He holds master ratings in public affairs and emergency services, with senior ratings in operations and several other specialty tracks. He is an instructor for CAP's Volunteer University, the organization's professional development schoolhouse.

He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and currently resides in Oklahoma City.



OPA is accepting items until October for an auction scheduled for our December 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!

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

August 3, 2023 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jeff Sandusky, Cirrus Aircraft Regional Director - Midwest, Covering OK, AR, MO, and KS Jeff will present an overview of Oshkosh 2022, with lots of pictures for us to enjoy!

Jeff learned to Fly at the University of Oklahoma in 1987. ATP Rated Single and Multi Engine. Commercial Rated Sea Plane Single. Certified Flight Instructor Single Engine and Multi Engine, along with Instrument Instructor. 8,000 Plus Hours Pilot in Command. University of Oklahoma BBA Finance. Oklahoma City University MBA Finance and Marketing. OPA members who have not attended Oshkosh say they enjoy attending vicariously through his presentation.



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 \$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

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Term Expires 6/30/2024

- Dave Ames
- Rick Cacini
- Craig Hodgens
- Lee Holmes
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- College Liasion - Elise McLendon

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- June Roy
- Steve Haynes

**OPA President
Kyle Fulton**



In the past month, I've flown with 16 people of varying experience in aviation as passengers. One person even said that she's flown in a small airplane but never landed in the plane. She experienced tandem skydiving!

Eight individuals flew on Young Eagle flights during Chickasha's Wings and Wheels event. It's been several months since I participated in any Young Eagle flights, and I wasn't sure about flying them in my Cessna 180. I had always flown my Cessna 150 because it was cheaper to fly and I was only responsible for 1 child. I was surprised that I had double the enjoyment flying more students at once. The power to take off quickly and the smiles on their faces make it all worthwhile flying the 180 with 300hp!

The other 8 individuals that flew with me during the last month participated in flyins with me, flew to the Stafford Museum in Weatherford, or just went sightseeing locally.

If you haven't invited a friend to fly with you or flown Young Eagles, you are definitely missing out! Take a new person flying with you and spread the joy!

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Highlights from the June Dinner Meeting Thanks to OklaHome for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting!

Thanks to Mike Grimes for the Article and Pictures

The June OPA Fly Away will be to Chickasha on June 3, 2023. New members Grant and Rebecca Aguirre, from Guthrie, have a 2000 Cessna 182. Jim & Vickie Yates, long time OPA members, celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary at the OPA meeting. Mike Grimes presented the slate of officers for re-election. Brian Hancock will replace Chris Call, and David Wilson will replace Bill Hines. Eric Lang, Mike Rangel, Joey Sager, and Jeff Sandusky will stay on the board. All current officers will remain in their positions. The election was declared by acclamation of members present. (Note from your editor: Thanks to all of our OPA Officers and Board Members for their service and all the time they spend working for our organization. It is a lot of work, and they do a fantastic job!)

Lee Holmes introduced the speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Underwood, and his wife. From 1999 to 2016, you might have seen him on one of his numerous TV appearances as the historian for the National Museum of the US Air Force. He has also written many books and articles for professional journals and magazines. He has a wealth of entertaining historical information.



He spoke about presidential airlifts. Airpower is a presidential mission. Presidents didn't fly until the 1930s. Before that everyone thought planes were too dangerous. The first President to fly in an airplane was FD Roosevelt. When he was running for re-election, he flew in 1932 to a Democratic Party Convention. Two Presidents flew before they were elected. Hap Arnold proposed an airplane for President Roosevelt. It was a YC 30 Condor, and they had to make a lift for him to enter the airplane. He flew again in a 314 Dixie Clipper to an overseas conference (US Navy). Hap Arnold decided the Army should be flying the President, not the Navy. In 1945, he commanded that a C54 Bomber be converted for a Presidential aircraft to include a lift chair that descended below the aircraft to pick up FDR. The Secret Service said the converted aircraft was not safe enough, so Hap

Arnold told Douglas to build a special aircraft to fly the President. It was designated a Douglas YC-54 and was named the Sacred Cow. The crew designed a Sacred Cow Patch to be worn on their flight jackets. The aircraft is still at the National Museum of the Air Force.



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Harry Truman loved to fly and flew extensively. 1947 Douglas Aircraft VC118 replaced the older plane. Harry Truman flew in the Douglas and later flew in a Douglas VC-118 (The Independence) to Wake Island in 1947.

Lockheed built the first "AirForce One" in 1952 for President Eisenhower. Lockheed-VC121A - "Columbine II", and later Lockheed VC121E - "Columbine III" (1954). It was named the Independence. In 1956 Aero Commander was accepted as the only twin-engine aircraft to be used for transport of a President. (Aero Commander was built in OKC and flown to Washington DC on a single engine to show how safe it was.) In 1957 they used a helicopter, Bell UH-13J to transport the President.

In 1959 it was a Boeing VC137B. In 1962 President Kennedy used a Boeing VC137C, the first Presidential jet aircraft. Raymond Loewy & Jackie Kennedy designed the paint scheme for the Presidential aircraft. In 1972 it was a Boeing VC137B. It was the second jet aircraft used for a President and two of them were built. This was the same aircraft in which President Kennedy was transported back to DC after he was assassinated in Dallas. Also, President Johnson was standing in that aircraft when he was sworn in as the new President in Dallas. That aircraft was retired in 1990 and is now in a museum.

In 1990 the Boeing VC-25A-SAM 280000 and 290000 (747 variants) were put into service. The future Presidential Jet is currently under construction by Boeing with flex composite wings and a new General Electric GEnx-2B engine.

It will fly to Hong Kong from Washington DC without refueling. It is six stories tall and is faster. The design has been modified to help reduce the cost. Estimated cost is \$5.3 billion for 2 mission ready 747-8I aircraft. Our thanks to Dr. Underwood for a very interesting presentation.



Pictures from the June Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Mike Grimes for the Pictures



OPA July 15, 2023 Fly Away



Wheels Down: 9:00 a.m.

Change of plans. We are not going to Beaumont, Kansas. But if you want to go there that's okay. But the new OPA plan is to go to Ada for their Pancake Breakfast which is planned 8 to 10 a.m. For OPA, let's plan wheels down at 9:00 at the new Terminal building next to the Chickasha Building. There's plenty of parking. We probably do not need a head/plane count but let me know anyway; especially if you need a ride or if you have an extra seat or two to share your plane. Phone 405-833-7201. Lee



PANCAKE FLY-IN
KADH

RESCHEDULED
JULY 15, 2023

ADA, OK
Fly-in or drive in Pancake Breakfast to be served in our beautiful new Airport Terminal lobby 8:00AM-10:00AM. This event will be held rain or shine. Sponsored by EAA Chapter 1005.

Donations are welcomed.

Amazing door prize for any pilot who flies into the event!

GAMI has donated a G100UL STC! Drawing will be at 9:45AM.

CONTACT:
Bill Holland
405-626-1386
BillTHolland@gmail.com



OPA May 20 Fly Away - Chickasha, Oklahoma

Thanks to Kyle Fulton and Joey Sager for the article and pictures



The 2023 Wings & Wheels Airshow and Car Show was held on June 3 at the Chickasha Municipal Airport. Aviator attendance at the free, family-friendly event was hampered a bit by marginal VFR ceilings early in the day. Many pilots still flew in while others drove. We had 4300 attendees. There were about 50 cars registered for the car show. Sixty kids signed up for Young Eagles flights (cut off at 60 due to weather). Pilots flew 38 Young Eagles flights! The Oklahoma Pilot's Association hosted a booth to promote OPA, answer questions, and invite attending pilots to join our organization and attend our events. OPA President Kyle Fulton, David James, and board member Angela Drabek staffed the booth.

The skies cleared enough by noon to allow the exciting airshow, produced by David Shultz Airshows, to proceed. This year's events featured Kyle Franklin of Franklin's Flying Circus, Jeremy Holt, Leland Kracher, the Lone Star Jet Team, the Falcon Flight Formation Team, and Mike "Spanky" Gallaway. Despite the challenging weather, Young Eagles flights were offered, and awards were presented to car show winners for the beautiful vintage cars on display. Food trucks served lunch and tasty treats for attendees, and the afternoon weather was pleasant for those who braved the morning's lower ceilings and marginal VFR weather to attend. Make plans now to attend next year's event!





OPA May 20 Fly Away - Chickasha, Oklahoma Thanks to Kyle Fulton and Joey Sager for the article and pictures



Lydia Koehlers - OPA Scholarship Recipient

Born in Germany, my life had a rather unorthodox beginning. I moved to the States when I was two and began a life of adventure, travel, and joy. Although I was raised by my single mother, life has never been dull. Unbeknownst to me, travel ran through my blood. Blame it on being born abroad or the sheer fact I had an ex-military brat mother, but we could never seem to stop hopping on planes to go places. My mother felt similarly when she decided to pursue a flight attendant career four years ago. This was my main inspiration to become a pilot. I now train at The University of Oklahoma where I have just recently completed my last flight for my commercial license before my checkride. My long-term goal as a pilot aside from doing the absolute most fun job for the rest of my life is doing what has been done for me. I would love to fund a scholarship for those who have a passion for aviation and have faced similar upbringings. I also am incredibly excited to continue to pave the way for future women pilots through leading by example and forging new paths.



Lydia is studying in Europe this summer and will try to attend a dinner meeting after she returns.

Congratulations to Elise McLendon (OPA College Liasion) on getting her Instrument Rating - June 27, 2023.



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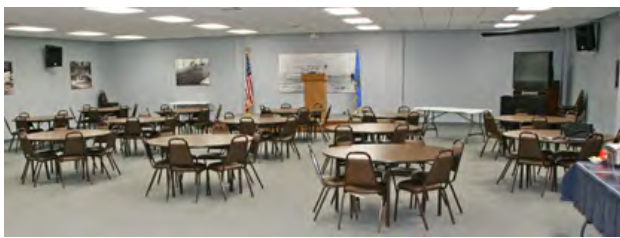
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Call June Roy 405- 615-2071



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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

- July 6 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- July 15 - OPA Fly Away - Ada, OK**
Pancake Breakfast
Wheels Down - 9:00
- July 20 - OPA Board Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- August 3 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- August 17 - OPA Board Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- August 19 - OPA Fly Away Okie Derby (99s)**
Sundance Airport
- September 7 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- September 21 - OPA Board Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- September 23 - OPA Fly Away - Norman, OK**
Westheimer Fly-In
- September 30 - OPA Fly Away - El Reno, OK**
El Reno Airport Fly In

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!

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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# _____

All material for newsletter publication should be sent to:
OPA NEWS
 C/o June Roy
 11749 SW. 54th St
 Mustang, OK 73064
 405-802-9657 Cell
 email:
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MEMBER: Approximate Hours _____

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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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