



NEWS In the Sky

August 2023

(www.opa.aero)

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

OPA Dinner Meeting sponsor for July
was Bella's Original Pizza in Yukon

**Speaker: Jeff Sandusky, Cirrus Aircraft
Regional Director - Midwest, Covering OK, AR, MO, and KS**
Jeff will present an overview of Oshkosh 2023, 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.

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

**September 7th, 2023 - 6:00 pm
"Planes, Bikes, 'Copters & Cars"
at Wiley Post Airport!**

**Fly your plane or helicopter in,
display your
special car or bike, or do both!
No entry fees**

**Park planes on the ramp by the tower
and cars and bikes at the Page
Building**



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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College Liasion - Elise McLendon

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

June Roy
Steve Haynes

OPA President Kyle Fulton



After our July OPA Board meeting on July 20th, I used a tool that we learned about at one of our OPA meetings a couple of years ago. The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) has a website (<https://theraf.org/>) with maps of some airfields that aren't all on the regular FAA Sectional Charts. The RAF only has about 10 airfields on their map for Oklahoma. One of these landing strips is South of Davis, Oklahoma at Smokin Joe's BBQ.

I cruised down from Wiley Post after our board meeting and landed at Smokin Joe's beautiful 1800 ft grass strip. The restaurant was already closed for the evening, so I taxied to an open area and tied down the airplane. The camp-ground residents watched over my plane for the night while I visited nearby Falls Creek Camp.

I'm looking forward to visiting this grass strip again in the next couple of weeks so I can eat at the restaurant. Hopefully I can visit while completing the Oklahoma Aeronautics - Red River Run Challenge that will be running on the Fly Oklahoma App August 12-20.



OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission launched their Fly Oklahoma mobile app last July and as part of their new challenge feature, they are announcing a new aeronautical challenge, the "Red River Run".

In celebration of National and Oklahoma Aviation and Aerospace Day on August 19th, pilots are invited to complete the challenge by visiting at least 7 airports listed in the challenge within a 24-hour period and will earn a custom patch from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission upon completion. Airports listed in the challenge include Hollis, Frederick, Grandfield, Healdton, Ardmore Municipal, Madill, Durant, and Hugo.

This airport challenge will run from August 12-20, 2023. Ardmore Municipal will host an event on Saturday, August 12th for pilots to stop in as part of their trip. Pilots can find more information under the "Challenges" section on the app.

The Fly Oklahoma mobile app allows pilots to explore the Oklahoma Airport System and serves as a digital Airfield Directory (AFD), Recreational Aviation Directory, and a digital passport system which allows pilots to access airport information across the state of Oklahoma, compete to earn various badges upon visiting Oklahoma airports, and stay up to date with aviation events. Download the app on your mobile device and begin your adventure today! Search for the Fly Oklahoma app in the mobile app store for more information. Explore the OK Airport System and other aviation points of interest by scanning the code above with your phone's camera.

Highlights from the July Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Bella's Original Pizza in Yukon for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting
Thanks to Mike Grimes for the Pictures

OPA President Kyle Fulton opened the meeting, and we thanked Dave Ackley for a great meatloaf dinner. After the pledge to the American flag, we welcomed Tim and Nancy Chaney. Tim has his Private and CFI and is working on his Commercial and Instrument. Nancy already has hers. Grant Aguirre and his mother Rebecca Luker were there. Sharland Windham CFI, AIM and Aviation Manager (of PWA for years) and Sharif Lepe, Ret USAF from Tinker AFB were visiting. Sharland was once Miss July on a Pilots calendar. New members, Kim and Ed Hewett from Lawton, were welcomed. They have a Cherokee 6. Collyn Holt, a Mustang High School Aviation STEM Program participant visited. He works for Dave Roy at Bella's Original Pizza.



Lee Holmes gave us an OPA Fly Away update. The July fly away was changed from Beaumont, KS to the Ada Pancake Breakfast. The weather was uncooperative, but there were still many attendees. (See Fly Away article.) Lee told us about an 8-page letter he received from a friend that was written by a lady who was 12 years old when the Germans took over Paris. He passed out copies. It was very interesting.

Gail Foote shared Okie Derby information. It will be our OPA August Fly Away. Gail said that Bill Halpain has worked the Derby since 1975 and that Roy Cowan has spotted for them for 8 – 10 years. Others present have participated as pilots in the Derby. She said last year the first place 3 planes were separated by less than 2 points. It is a race against yourself, not a regular race. It is a Proficiency Rally. It helps you make yourself a better pilot.



Dave Roy, owner, manager, and head dishwasher from Bella's Original Pizza in Yukon was our sponsor for the July Dinner Meeting. He said it is the place to go for a delicious meal. (That's true, even if he is my son. Editor) He has owned Bella's for 1 ½ years and has made a lot of upgrades and updates and general improvements. He has regular and brick style pizza (two ovens). Bella's also has subs, including meatball subs, salads, gyros, and pasta. His pizza dough is made from scratch from an original Italian recipe. He has spaghetti and meatballs and chicken alfredo pasta. Dave said that they are giving away two \$250 gift certificates for Bella's when they reach 2000 likes and shares on their Facebook page! They will go live and randomly pick two names from the following shares. Dave drew two names for \$25 gift certificates to Bella's as door prizes.



Highlights from the July Dinner Meeting

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Charlie Metcalf, a Sr AME, will open a new business at the airport on August first. He said that he was out of breath from the exercise from the Okie Derby song.

Our scheduled speaker had a scheduling conflict and Scott Dorsey was kind enough to step up to the mike and give us an interesting, and funny, talk. Scott said his wife has the Pilot Proficiency Center on Whitman Field. It is open during Oshkosh and will give you free training. They will let you train for what YOU need to practice on. Scott is a retired Airline Pilot and Captain. He said there's one advantage and one disadvantage to that – he was an airline pilot.

Scott said that he had to be brief because he had to let a student try to kill him flying in the dark after the meeting.

Scott compared learning the flow of flying to the Karate Kid movie – wax on, wax off. He said a college professor breaks things down to the smallest possible component, like you need to do in flying. Professionalism begins with flows. When it comes to training get current on your VFR. Use the WINGS Program or just use yourself. Give yourself a + or a – for what you do. He noted that AFI gives zero tolerance for airline pilots. When taking off and communicating with the tower, they give very specific taxi instructions. Read them back specifically. For example, let them know that you will be heading west bound. Why? Because they are so busy now that the first person may not have been able to let the other person know where you are headed, so help them out. He also said that you don't have to be a perfect pilot. But he also said that the best end to a Safety Checklist is, "Would I take someone I love in this airplane?" If the answer is not a big YES, do not even start the airplane! Our thanks to Scott for stepping up and giving us an interesting talk!

Someone reminded us that the St Jude's Dream Home will be open starting July 15th. You could win a \$550,000 home for a \$100 ticket. The proceeds all go to the children at St Jude's. The home will be open starting July 15th at Covell and Air Depot. If you visit the home, you can sign up to win \$5000 worth of furniture without even buying a ticket.





OPA July 15th Fly Away - Breakfast Fly-In, Ada, Oklahoma



Thanks to Kyle Fulton for the article and Kyle and Angela for the pictures

The Fly-in at Ada on Saturday, July 15th was well attended by several organizations. Twelve planes from around Oklahoma braved the marginal weather and others drove in. Close to 100 people attended, including a large group of EAA Chapter 1005 volunteers.

I (Kyle Fulton) and passenger Kurt Holley arrived about 8:20 am from the Chickasha area. We ate a wonderful breakfast of pancakes and sausage and visited with the other attendees. Around 9:00 am one of our hosts asked for our attention. We thought he was going to announce who won the STC they were giving away. Instead, he announced that there was a 30,000 ft. tall storm headed in our direction with hail. It would arrive at the airport in 13 minutes. I had never seen 9-10 planes leave in a 10-minute period. We all left the airport before the storm hit.

I guided my plane toward the north and ended up in Watonga to get around the large storm that formed in SW Oklahoma. We filled our tank with gas in Watonga and proceeded South to Weatherford to tour the Stafford Air-Space Museum and eat at Lucille's Roadhouse before heading home to Chickasha.

We arrived back at my home airport about 1:00 pm. It ended up being a great morning flight with a few challenges. I didn't get a chance to take many pictures since we had to exit before the storm.

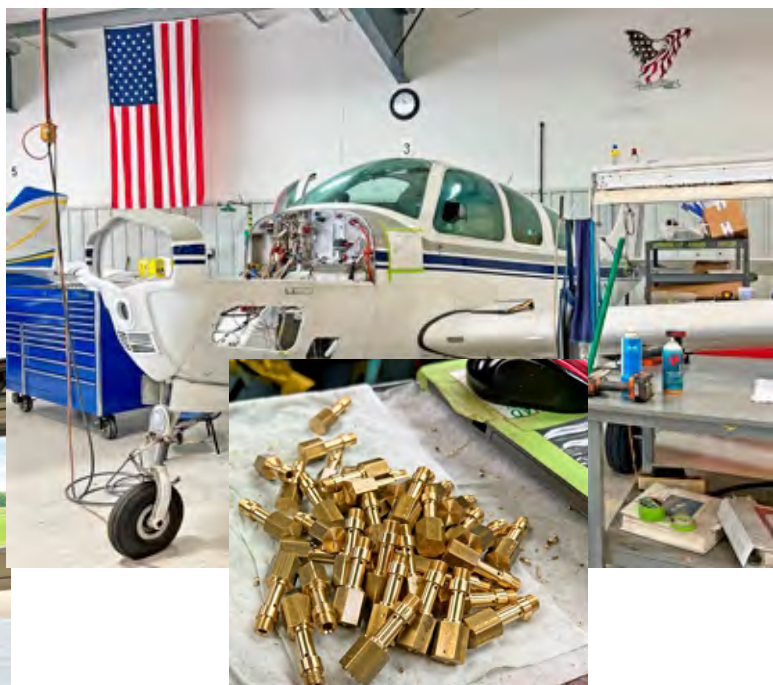
Angela and Elaine drove in and got a tour of the GAMI plant.



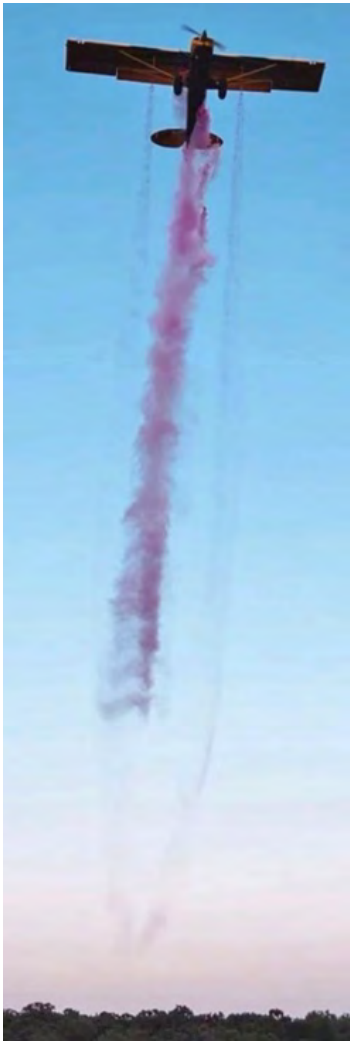


OPA July 15th Fly Away - Breakfast Fly-In, Ada, Oklahoma

Thanks to Kyle Fulton for the article and Kyle and Angela for the pictures



OPA Member Dusty Boren doing a Gender Reveal over Carleton Landing!



OPA Board Member Angela Drabek and OPA College Liasion Elise McLendon during flight to Clinton Regional Airport for the Fly Oklahoma Challenge!



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OPA August 19 Fly Away - Yukon, Oklahoma Sundance Airport



FUNDING THE "WINGS OF THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP"

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.OKIEDERBY.COM

The Okie Derby Proficiency Air Rally, sponsored by The Oklahoma Chapter Ninety-Nines, has been held annually since 1979! Since 1990, the Okie Derby has generated more than \$70,000 for funds for aviation scholarships. All Proceeds Benefit the "Wings of the Future" Scholarship assisting women in realizing their dream to fly.

The Oklahoma Chapter of the Ninety-Nines relies on the support of the aviation event to help achieve the goal of driving funds for the "Wings of the Future Scholarship". The yearly event for the scholarship program helps encourage interest in aviation, as well as helps Okie Derby participants polish their piloting skills for this wonderful event.

A cross-country proficiency event of approximately 200 statute miles for single, multi-engine aircraft & experimental aircraft (piloted by builder) to be flown during daylight hours under VFR conditions and conducted on a handicap system.

Cost for Okie Derby is \$55 per plane to participate in the air rally. It is not a race. The goal is to meet the time and fuel use that you predict. The deadline to register is August 14th. Attendance is free and volunteers are welcome.

If you want to have fun and sharpen your piloting skills, then the Okie Derby Proficiency Air Rally is the place for you. Don't miss this annual event to help support women in aviation!



**OPA Board Member Angela Drabek
and OPA College Liasion Elise
McLendon during a flight out of
Goldsby in Cessna 150 'Bubbles'**

**Elise just completed her
Instrument Rating!
Congratulations!**



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Approximate Ad Size Monthly Rate

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Full Page 7 1/2" x 9 1/2"	\$240

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: Call Jim Sutton 405-760-1988 or Scott Law 405-520-2442 .

We are looking for new advertisers 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

- 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, Yukon, OK**
- 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 Fly In - OPA will have a table there**
- October 5 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- October 19 - OPA Board Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- October 21 - OPA Fly Away - Beaumont, KS Grass Strip - 2400'**

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.,
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 Bethany, OK 73008

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 C/o June Roy
 11749 SW. 54th St
 Mustang, OK 73064
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ANNUAL DUES ARE \$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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