



NEWS In the Sky

September 2023

(www.opa.aero)

**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**

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!

**OPA Dinner Meeting sponsor for August was
Lee Holmes for Lawyer Darla Neisent**

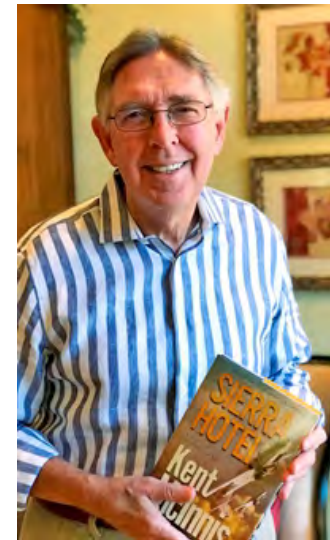


If you plan to attend, please RSVP as soon as possible, but no later than noon the Tuesday before the Thursday Dinner Meeting, so we can get a count to the caterer (\$15 each). You can RSVP by sending an email to dinner@opa.aero

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

Speaker: Kent McInnis

Kent McInnis earned his Air Force pilot wings in 1971 at Laredo AFB, Texas, with a class proudly named the Rio River Rats, an homage to the "real" River Rats who risked their lives flying missions over North Vietnam. His first assignment was to return to Laredo AFB as an instructor pilot in T-37 jet trainers. His job was to introduce and solo student pilots in their first jet aircraft. Students, after learning the difficult task of instrument flying, could experience the more enjoyable parts of flying—aerobatics and formation. Because half of the instructor pilots were returning Vietnam combat veterans, Kent collected their stories as well as his own in film, photos, and journals. These are the sources for the realistic and entertaining works of historical fiction



Kent McInnis brings to his readers.

SIERRA HOTEL, the first of a three-novel series, looks at the Vietnam War from the perspective of airmen in the rear echelon dealing with a different enemy—dysfunctional commanders, war protestors, and personal demons, while supporting a war their leaders are unwilling to win. Books 2 & 3 are CLEAR and a MILLION and SEMPER FLY. Look for TALES of the RIO RIVER RATS in 2025.

**October 5, 2023 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**





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
Exec. Vice President - Mike Grimes 405 641-6860
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

DIRECTORS

Term Expires 6/30/2025

Brian Hancock
David Wilson
Eric Lang
Mike Rangel
Joey Sager
Jeff Sandusky

Term Expires 6/30/2024

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

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

June Roy
Steve Haynes

OPA President Kyle Fulton



Fall is quickly approaching.....thankfully! I've made a few flights on these 100+ degree days and have been surprised at how smooth the air can be on some hot days. I do climb quickly up to 6500 feet or above to escape the heat. One of my trips was the "Red River Run" sponsored by the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission.

We flew to airports on the Oklahoma/Texas border and logged them in my Fly Oklahoma app. Some of the airports were unfamiliar, so it was interesting finding them. We had an enjoyable morning and ended the day with a big lunch at the grass strip by Smokin Joes Rib Ranch South of Davis. I received my "Red River Run" patch from the aeronautics commission after just a couple of days in the US mail.

If you haven't been logging on to Fly Oklahoma, you're missing out. There are currently 2 other challenges on the app I need to complete: \$100 Hamburger and Cross Country Extravaganza. I look forward to these challenges while I continue to log Oklahoma airports. I'm currently at 64 airports and hope to complete all 110.

Take advantage of these calm days and get out and fly!



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.

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission launched their Fly Oklahoma mobile app last July. 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 with your phone's camera.



Highlights from the August Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Lee Holmes for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Anglea Drabek, Mike Grimes & Jeff Sandusky for the Pictures

OPA President Kyle Fulton led us in the pledge to the American flag and then we thanked Dave for our wonderful meal. We had an update on our August flyaway to the Okie Derby Proficiency Rally, sponsored by the '99s to provide scholarships to women in aviation. John Harris and Dr. Perry Carson, kind of new members, joined us. We learned Pilot Med is now open if you need your medical. Phone number is 405-640-0987. Paul Swails has a new single engine plane. Rick Cacini was selected for an Honor Flight. He said he will have a guardian on the flight; and will probably be younger than his guardian. The airport manager from Guthrie and the Vice Mayor attended. Eddie Fagma and Katie, Michael Fisher and his wife and daughter attended. Michael said he is not new to OPA, but it was a long time ago when he was last here. His daughter was only a month old then, and she has grown considerably since then. He has a plans-built aircraft. Jeff Sandusky's mother and her friend Linda attended, along with Julie and her parents and family, Marlene Wurth, Cailey, Seth, Keith and Lisa and Felts. OPA members Lola and Dave Ames have a house on a runway and a plane for sale.

Lee Holmes sponsored our dinner meeting, representing Attorney Tracy Niesent, his 30-year partner, along with his son. They are Medicaid specialists who have litigated several cases involving nursing homes. One went from \$6000 a month to only \$1500 a month. Thanks, Lee.

Our speaker, OPA member Jeff Sandusky from Cirrus Aircraft, gave us a wonderful personal tour of Oshkosh, with many more great pictures than can be included in our newsletter. It was very interesting and entertaining. He flew into beautiful Appleton Airport this year instead of Oshkosh because Craig let him fly his brand new 2023 turbo Cirrus up. He refers to the traffic at Oshkosh as a conga line, so be sure you are proficient at landing if you fly into Oshkosh. Also be sure to have plenty of gas. He was rerouted 1 1/2 hours away and it is not unusual to be put in a loop before you can land. There are 148 take-offs and landings per hour, with 5 planes on the runway at a time. The first thing about going to Oshkosh is to plan, so be sure to check Notams a week ahead of time. You won't know what runway you will land on until they tell you and you can't back up to the right dot.

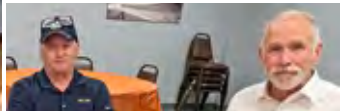


Highlights from the August Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Lee Holmes for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting
Thanks to Anglea Drabek, Mike Grimes & Jeff Sandusky for the Pictures

There were 677,000 visitors to Oshkosh this year, 1400 forums and workshops, 848 exhibitors and 13,000 campsites. There were 2372 international guests from 93 countries. Oshkosh is 2 miles by 2 miles and is a city for the one week and then the city is gone. It has grocery stores and a gas station, and you can buy about anything you can imagine there, even a hovercraft. People camp there in anything from a state-of-the-art motorhome to a tent. There is a church at the airport that holds a service on Sunday morning. The stained-glass windows feature aviation. Cirrus provided great meals all week. They had drinks and ice cream too and Jeff said the brewed and kegged root beer and ice cream were favorites all week. Cirrus sold 51 planes that week and \$330,000 sales in just baseball caps and T-shirts.

Oklahoma had a great display and a fantastic presence at Oshkosh (including GAMI). The State of Oklahoma held a luncheon Saturday afternoon and Grayson Ardis delivered the opening remarks. OSU and other colleges had a very big presence there. And all of the airlines were recruiting heavily. I could tell you more about Jeff's presentation, but you would probably prefer to see more of his pictures. Thank you, Jeff, for another great trip to Oshkosh! (Julie's dress in the photo below is a map of Oshkosh!)



Highlights from the August Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Lee Holmes for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting
Thanks to Anglea Drabek, Mike Grimes & Jeff Sandusky for the Pictures



Highlights from the August Dinner Meeting
 Thanks to Lee Holmes for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting
 Thanks to Anglea Drabek, Mike Grimes & Jeff Sandusky for the Pictures





OPA September Fly Away El Reno, OK



AIR SHOW & COMMUNITY DAY

**El Reno Regional Airport
September 30**

Gates open at 10:00, only Young Eagles can enter earlier for flights from 8:30-12. Air show runs from 12 Noon - 3:00. There will be food trucks available.

OPA Members who attended this event in the past have said they enjoyed it. OPA will have a table at the event to encourage membership in OPA. Feel free to stop by and say hello and maybe even sit a while to share OPA experiences with others. Don't forget that membership is not only for pilots, but for anyone who has a love of aviation.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma — AAR Corporation and the Women in Aviation International Greater Oklahoma City Metro Chapter will join Will Rogers World Airport, the 137th Special Operations Wing, the Air and Space Forces Association of Oklahoma, Boeing, Sooner Flight Academy and the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics to host the first Girls in Aviation Day in central Oklahoma. To be held at AAR Hangar 2, located at the company's Maintenance Base facility in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Women in Aviation International event will focus on introducing young girls to the exciting field of aviation, aerospace, and aeronautics, educating them on career opportunities and bringing awareness to the many diverse fields within the industry.

**September 23rd at 10 am
GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY**

Presented by the Women in Aviation Oklahoma City Metro Chapter

OKLAHOMA Aerospace & Aeronautics

Register On Eventbrite

Girls IN AVIATION DAY
A Women in Aviation International® Event

AAR Oklahoma City
6501 S. Meridian
Will Rogers World Airport



OPA September Fly Away Norman, OK



SEPT
23

OPA will have a table



17TH ANNUAL AVIATION FESTIVAL

**Max Westheimer Airport
1700 Lexington Ave.
Norman, OK 73069
9:00am - 2:00pm**

FOR STATIC DISPLAY RSVP, CONTACT
OUAIRPORT@OU.EDU OR 405-325-7233

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.



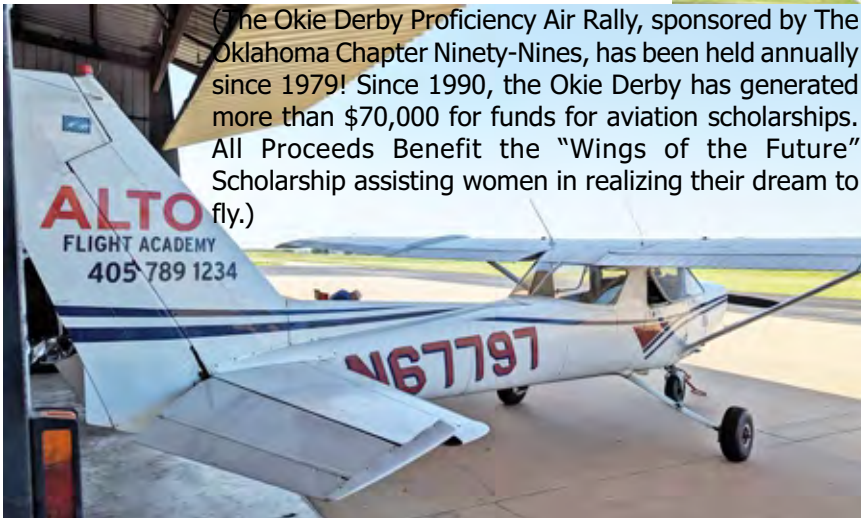
OPA August 19 Fly Away - Okie Derby Yukon, Oklahoma - Sundance Airport



**Report from
Roy Cowan
Okie Derby
Spotter
at Okeene**

We had a very nice experience at Okeene, the airport attendant was very hospitable and happy to see us. Kristy Taylor from JordanAirInc@ChristmanAirportOkeene.

Thanks for the photos Roy



(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.)

Oshkosh 2023



Janis Love and Angela Drabek got to meet Zara Rutherford and her brother Mack Rutherford at Oshkosh this year. They spoke at the EAA Forum and shared their incredible journeys of their solo flights.

Zara Rutherford is a Belgian-British aviator. At age 19, she became the youngest female pilot to fly solo around the world and the first person to complete a circumnavigation in a microlight aircraft, after a five-month journey which began in Kortrijk, Belgium, on 18 August 2021, and ended on 20 January 2022.

Mack Rutherford - On 24 August 2022, Mack became the youngest person ever to fly solo around the world (and first ever minor/under eighteen years old). He holds four [Guinness World Records: These include youngest person to fly solo around the world - previously held by Travis Ludlow, and, youngest person to fly a microlight solo around the world - previously held by his sister Zara Rutherford.](#)

Angela also got a photo with Martha and John King from King Schools.



CIRRUS AIRCRAFT
CIRRUSAIRCRAFT.COM

To Schedule a free demonstration flight in the world's best selling aircraft, contact
Jeff Sandusky
 405-650-5900
 jsandusky@cirrusaircraft.com

WILEY POST AIRPORT ATLANTIC FBO OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

OPA Newsletter Ad Rates

Approximate Ad Size	Monthly Rate
Business Card 2"x 3 1/2"	\$30
One-Eighth Page 2 1/2" x 3 3/4"	\$40
One-Quarter Page 3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	\$70
One-Half Page 4 3/4" x 7 1/2"	\$120
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

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 - OPA will have a table

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 14 - OPA Fly Away - Beaumont, KS Grass Strip - 2400' Rain Date: October 21

October 19 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

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

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

November 18 - OPA Fly Away Pawhuska, OK Pioneer Woman Mercantile & Petting Zoo

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

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.**

