



NEWS

In the Sky

November 2023

(www.opa.aero)

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

**OPA Dinner Meeting sponsor for September was
Brian Hancock, Edward Jones Financial Advisor**

Speaker: Lt Col David McCullum

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 Fosssett, which heavily involved CAP.

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 % when the wing and national average was in the 20+ % range).

He graduated from SW Region Staff College at Kirtland AFB in 2017 and was named outstanding student, and 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 OU and currently resides in Oklahoma City.



OPA will have entertainment and an auction during our December Christmas Dinner meeting. We have some excellent items. This is a great opportunity to find some aviation treasures and Christmas gifts! Pg 3

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.

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

Damian Theodoridis - Entertainer

Damian is a 13 year old native of Oklahoma. He began playing piano at the age of five; and has been a music lover and showman since.

Though Damian's preferred music style is classical music, he truly loves music of many different types, and enjoys listening to music styles from various other cultures. Damian's love of music is not limited to just playing the piano. He also loves composing and playing his own music. Throughout the years he has enjoyed playing and listening to violin music as well. His favorite composer is Franz Liszt. He enjoys Liszt's lively compositions; and has played Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in different competitions and performances.





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

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EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

June Roy
Steve Haynes

OPA President Kyle Fulton



Each month your OPA Board discusses options to increase membership and attendance to our monthly meetings and flyaways. We have gained sponsorship for our meals and in December we will be auctioning several items in order to raise money for our operating funds.

This month your board of directors came to the difficult decision of raising our meal prices to \$18 and our memberships dues to \$45 starting in January. The recent increase in rent for the building and other rising costs brought us to this decision.

Please consider helping us in the new year by volunteering to help plan our programs or join our flyaway committee to organize some fantastic getaways.

Thanks
Kyle Fulton



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.



Pictures of some of the Auction Items available at the December Meeting
There will also be some gift baskets you can buy tickets for a drawing!



We have a whole fleet of Texaco Model airplanes! A framed picture of the Geneology of Piper Aircraft; A framed drawing of Diamond Lil; A framed Cottonbelt plane flying; An Antique framed photo of Regulatios for Operation of Aircraft; A Jacket; and others



Pictures from the OPA 9/30 Fly Away to El Reno Airport Fly In & Community Day



**Thanks to Kyle
Fulton for the
pictures**



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**OPA November 4th Fly Away
Pauls Valley Municipal Airport
Oklahoma Antique Air Association**



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For more information or for vendors
to reserve spot call Chris Salazar @
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**OPA November 11th Fly Away
Fairview Regional Airport**

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**70th Annual
FAIRVIEW FLY-IN**

Saturday, November 11th, 2023
Fairview Regional Airport
Fairview, Oklahoma

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\$8 BREAKFAST
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The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is excited to invite you to a naming ceremony and 60th-anniversary celebration as they become the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics.

The event will take place on November 16th, 2023 at 2 p.m. on the Fourth Floor Rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol with a reception to follow.

The agency will continue to provide the citizens of Oklahoma and beyond with expanded programs in airport infrastructure, aerospace business development and workforce, aviation and aerospace education, and aero safety. The new name takes effect on November 1 of this year.



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OPA October Fly Away Beaumont, KS



Thanks to Brian Hancock for the article Brian & Kyle Fulton for pictures

There were a lot of flying activities on October 21st; Cedar Mills, Cushing Fly-in, but it was also the OPA Flyaway to Beaumont, KS for lunch at the Beaumont Hotel and Restaurant. Pilot Kyle Fulton in his Cessna 180 with co-pilot Brian Hancock and pilot Bill Halpain in his Bonanza with co-pilot Dick Jennings braved the near perfect weather to make the trek and enjoy the grass strip landing and short taxi down Main Street (see the video on the OPA Facebook page) to the restaurant.

We took in the sites and several placards explaining how the grass strip came to be and how the town was founded before sitting down for lunch (although most of us had breakfast). After dining we departed as we came, back down Main Street to the grass strip then south to home.

In November you have an opportunity for two OPA Flyaways; The Oklahoma Antique Airplane Association (OAAA) will host their annual fly-in at Pauls Valley, OK (KPVJ) on November 4th and The World's Oldest Free Fly-in at Fairview, OK (6K4) on November 11th.

We are looking for volunteers to coordinate efforts at each location... which is to say you will be in charge of picking a time for a group photo, taking the photo, and sending it to the newsletter staff (June Roy). If interested, please let Kyle Fulton know at the dinner on November 2nd.

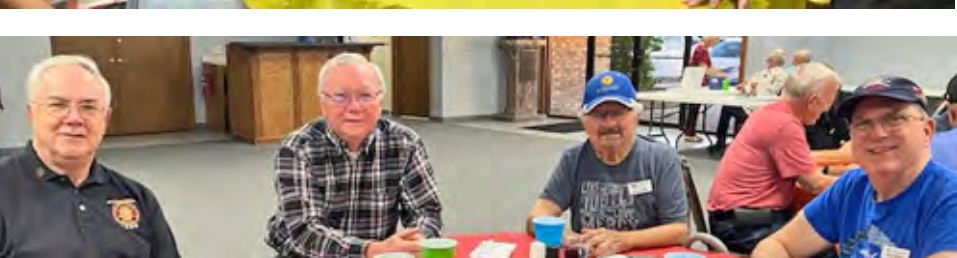
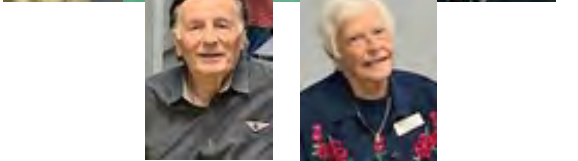


Pictures from the October Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Brian Hancock of Edward Jones for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Mike Grimes for the Pictures

Financial Advisor Brian Hancock said that he helps people plan for retirement and plan to survive retirement; to make sure you don't outlive your funds.



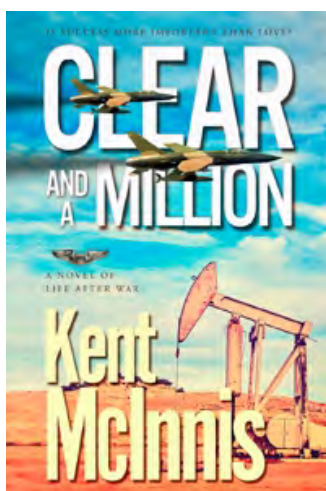
Highlights from the October Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Brian Hancock of Edward Jones for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Mike Grimes for the Pictures

We had a great meeting with a very entertaining speaker. The Vic Jackson OPA Scholarship provides financial help to fund flight training. Students can attend any flight school in Oklahoma. We had a table at the El Reno Fly In and a couple of people joined. One was at the meeting. David Ames and Rick Cacini helped Kyle man the table. OPA group should meet at 11 for a picture at the OAAA Fly In. Kyle won a turkey the last two years at the Fairview Fly In. Every tenth plane that lands wins a turkey. Bill's grandson, Jacob, wants to be a pilot. Ronnie Hightower is buying a J3 outside of Lubbock. John Taylor got his first medical 19 years ago and his second that week. David Eubanks, a new member from Mustang is retired from Net Jets. We celebrated Craig Hodgins birthday with a wonderful cake provided by his wife Jennifer. His mother Clara and daughter Autumn joined us to celebrate, with Jerry and David. Wendy Windham is an instructor and a new member. Greg Flouramoy is a new AMP. We learned that Rick Stanford who was in a very bad plane crash is now in rehabilitation and doing outstanding. He can breathe on his own, has his full memory and is able to talk. That is amazing after seeing what his plane looked like after hitting the wire before he hit the ground.

Our speaker, author Kent McKinnis, gave us a very entertaining presentation. He has achieved a great deal in his life, but said he is most proud of being an Eagle Scout leader who was able to take all 10 boys to Eagle rank. He is an accomplished author, and a retired USAF pilot. He said you need a lot of imagination to write. Kent said in the military there is a set air speed for everything. In civilian life if you hear the warning horn you either lower the nose or fly faster. He said in the military it takes years of your life to learn to fly. In civilian life it takes money. He added that it's better when it's paid for. He had a friend who was shot down twice in Vietnam in 36 hours. He did not serve overseas; but spent his career teaching. He said history books tell facts and historical novels tell feelings and attempt to give a sense of what those feelings were. He said nobody wants to hear about your great vacation, but they enjoy hearing about the horrible one and gave us a true, hilarious (after the fact) example. That's the sort of thing you write about. He dedicated his book, "Sierra Hotel", to a friend who was killed in action, and was able to give his widow a signed copy in person. "To Captain Jack R Harvey (KIA Vietnam) Barbara and Kelly". There are three books in the trilogy and the third is coming.





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Call June Roy 405- 615-2071



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or a Meeting?**

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All scheduled items are subject to change

2023 OPA Calendar

November 2 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

November 4 - OPA Fly Away

OAAA Fly-In Car Show

Pauls Valley Municipal Airport

November 11 - OPA Fly Away

Fairview, OK World's Oldest Free Fly In

November 16 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**December 2 - OPA Fly Away Guthrie, OK
Victorian Walk**

December 7 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

December 21 - No OPA Board Meeting

Enjoy the Holidays with your family!

2024 OPA Calendar

January 4 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm

Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**January 14 - OPA Fly Away - To Be
Announced**

January 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

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editor, June Roy 405-615-2071**

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Referred By _____

Your Name _____

Occupation _____ **Name tag** Yes No

Spouse _____

Occupation _____ **Name tag** Yes No

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Zip _____ **Receive by Mail** ☐

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MEMBER: Approximate Hours _____

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Oklahoma Pilots Association
Mail to: 5810 Tulakes Ave.,
Wiley Post Airport,
Bethany, OK 73008

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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.**

**OKLAHOMA PILOTS
ASSOCIATION**

Clarence E. Page Building
5810 Tulakes Avenue
Wiley Post Airport
Bethany, Oklahoma 73008