



# NEWS In the Sky

October 2023

([www.opa.aero](http://www.opa.aero))

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

**OPA Dinner Meeting sponsor for September  
was Craig Hodgens for OklaHome**



## 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.



**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](mailto:dinner@opa.aero)**

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

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

## 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 Fossett, 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 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.



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  
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[membership@opa.aero](mailto:membership@opa.aero)
- Vice President of Communications  
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- David Wilson
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- 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**



The weather is finally cooling down a few degrees and we've received some moisture after a hot summer! I enjoyed going to the Westheimer Aviation Festival this month and am looking forward to the El Reno Fly-in and Airshow.

One of the things I look forward to each month is our OPA Fly-Aways. We've had some great ones over the years that generated some good memories. Our Fly-Away Chairman, Lee Holmes, has a passion for seeking out interesting destinations. Lee decided this month that it is time for him to retire as Fly-Away Chairman and pass the torch to someone new.

The OPA Board is searching for someone to coordinate these fly-aways as chairperson. We have a fly-away planning meeting each month just before our board meeting. We have a list of potential destinations. Please let one of our board members know if you are interested in this position. It can be very fun and rewarding as well as expanding the outreach of our organization.

We have the next 3 months up to January taken care of as far as planning. I encourage you to take an active role in our organization and help us plan some great getaways!



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.



## In Memoriam - OPA Member Vicki Yates - She Will Be Missed

Vicky Janette Yates, 79, of Edmond, Oklahoma passed away on September 6, 2023, in Edmond, Oklahoma. She was born August 3, 1944, in Wellington, Kansas to Warren Nelson Harris and Ethelyn Lavon Blackmore Frey.

Warren moved the family from Wellington to Guthrie, Oklahoma when Vicky was 7 years old.

Growing up in Guthrie, she met Jim who she described as 'the love of her life'. Vicky and Jim began dating steadily during her senior year of high school while Jim was attending college at Central State University. Vicky graduated from Guthrie High School in 1962 and was married to Jim on June 1, 1964. They were married for 59 years and had two sons, Jim, and Chris. They settled in Edmond, and she started helping in her sons' classrooms at Russell Dougherty Elementary, and eventually became a full-time employee of the Edmond Public Schools working as a teacher's aide with special needs children. Vicky retired from her teaching career at Cross Timbers Elementary after 18 years of service so she could start taking care of grandkids. She then took care of her grandkids, while parents worked during the day, for 8 years until they were all in elementary school which was such a blessing to the grandkids and the parents. Vicky loved going to church at New

Covenant in Edmond, traveling around the world, ballroom dancing, playing piano, camping, fishing, and spending time with her family. Especially the grandkids!

She was preceded in death by her parents, Warren and Ethelyn, stepmother, Marjorie Eileen Blackmore, stepmother, Betty Jean Harris, half-sister, Jill Shannon Johnson, and stepsister, Carolyn Sue Webb Hightower. Vicky is survived by her husband, Jim; her children, Jim and his wife, Tish, and Chris and his wife, Rebecca; her grandchildren, Harrison, Nicole, Teagan, and Sophia; sisters Nancy Hopkins and Joy Privette, half-sister Jody West, stepbrother Jim Webb, and many other family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for charitable donations to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)



# ANGEL FLIGHT



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### Highlights from the September Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Craig Hodgens of OklaHome for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Anglea Drabek, Kyle Fulton and Brian Hancock for the Pictures and Brian for the article

The OPA's annual Planes, Bike, and Car show was held during our September Dinner Meeting. The hundred-degree temps affected our participation turnout, but those that braved the warm temps to show off their Planes, Bikes and Cars deserve much appreciation, so thank you. And thanks to Craig Hodgens of OklaHome for hosting our dinner meeting.

We ended up with eight cars, one motorcycle, and four aircraft for the attendees to check out. Of course, Dave grilled some tasty hotdogs and burgers for all in attendance to enjoy. Despite the warm evening we had great camaraderie and fellowship... mostly in the AC provided by the C. E. Page building.

Thank you again for all who participated. We look forward to hosting the event on September 5, 2024, so mark your calendars now!



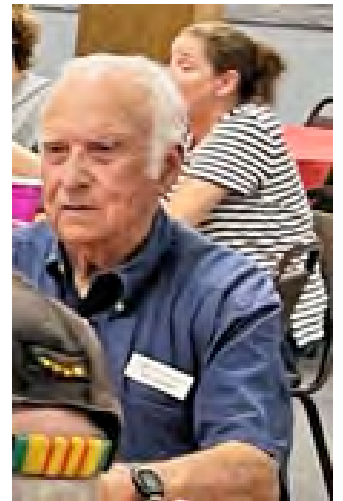
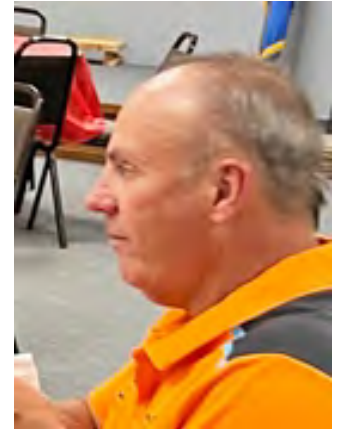
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**OPA is fun for all ages**





## OPA September Fly Away Beaumont, KS



The October OPA Fly Away is scheduled for Beaumont, KS to eat at the historic Beaumont Hotel and Restaurant. The Beaumont Hotel was created in 1879 as a stagecoach and railroad stop to shelter weary pioneers... when the railroad brought cattle barons and frontier society to Beaumont.



Surrounded by lush native grass, the hotel nestled deep in the Flint Hills became a magnet for cattle buyers visiting the surrounding big spreads. As the nation grew, so did aviation; in 1953, a 2,600-foot north and south native grass airstrip was carved out of the prairie so airplanes could taxi right up to The Beaumont Hotel's front door.

The airport designator is 07S. Wheels down for lunch will be 10:30 am. The north/south runway is listed at 2400' and is a grass strip, but I was told it is in good shape. To get to the restaurant, taxi to the south end of the runway and take the road west to the restaurant. Aircraft parking is along the south side of the road.

Please RSVP for the Flyway by emailing [flyaway@OPA.aero](mailto:flyaway@OPA.aero) with the number of people in your party and if you are flying or driving.

### Editor's Note

If you have a story and or pictures of a flight or aviation related activity, please submit them to your editor at [broysprint01@earthlink.net](mailto:broysprint01@earthlink.net) Articles and pictures will be used as space permits. Your articles will be edited for punctuation, etc. as needed. We would love to share your activities with our readers. Examples would include things like Young Eagles flights, or flying pets to forever homes, or flying someone on an Angel Flight to a hospital or doctor.

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

**Free Admission!** **FOOD TRUCKS!**

**VENDORS** **DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLES!**

**OAAA**  
OKLAHOMA ANTIQUE AIRPLANE ASSOCIATION

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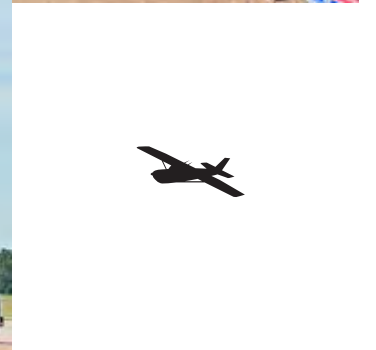


For more information or for vendors to reserve spot call Chris Salazar @ 405-207-6619

# OPA September Fly Away - El Reno Airport Fly-In and Community Day



Thanks to Brian Hancock for the Pictures







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One-Quarter Page 3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	\$70
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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

- 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**  
Wheels Down: 10:30  
Lunch - Beaumont Hotel & Restaurant
- 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 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!

Make dinner meeting reservations at [dinner@opa.aero](mailto: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:  
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 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](mailto: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](mailto:mem@opa.aero).**

