



NEWS In the Sky

January 2024

(www.opa.aero)

January 4, 2024 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to Eric Lang of Christian Brothers
& Michelle Henderson of Air Center
for hosting our dinner meeting!

Speaker: Aarland Vorland - FAASTeam

Varland has been flying for more than 20 years, has a bachelor's degree in aviation management. He has instructed part 61/141 and flown professionally under parts 91, 91k and 135. In 2014 he was hired into the Will Rogers Flight Standards District Office as an Aviation Safety Inspector. As an ASI he had oversight of commercial operators working under parts 133, 135, 137 and 141 as well as providing medical flight reviews, 44709's and check rides. In June of 2017, Aaron joined the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team (FAASTeam). In his position on the FAASTeam Aaron has spent the last 5 years studying what causes incidents and accidents in the state of Oklahoma and uses that information to help pilots fly more safely.



Looking for
a tax break?
OPA is a
501c3
organization,
so donations
are tax
deductible!

February 1, 2024 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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 (\$18 each starting in January). You can RSVP by sending an email to dinner@opa.aero
If no RSVP, \$20 at the door if food is available.

February Speaker To Be Announced

We had a great OPA Christmas Dinner!
Our entertainer, Damian Theodoridis, provided some beautiful music.
We had a really good auction, making \$3,790, including some donations. This was much needed for the financial health of our association. Our scholarship fund is in very stable financial status.

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 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
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Term Expires 6/30/2024

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- Lee Holmes
- Bill Pappadopoulos
- College Liasion - Elise McLendon

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

- June Roy
- Steve Haynes

**OPA President
 Kyle Fulton**



Thank you to everyone that attended our January OPA Dinner meeting. We enjoyed music from a young pianist and raised funds for our organization with an auction. The funds raised were beyond the amount I had imagined! This helps insure our future as an organization to promote aeronautics in our state.

I hope that each one of you had a wonderful Christmas and a great New Years celebration.

This new year is sure to bring changes and challenges. I wish each of you the strength and wisdom to be successful in 2024!

Kyle Fulton



**Firecannon Retires
 After 40 Years of
 Service**

The Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics has announced that engineer, Kelly Fincannon PE, is retiring at the end of this year. Fincannon began working for the Department in September of 2021 as the agency's Chief Airport Engineer. His primary focus was airport planning, design, construction, and project

management; with a mission to provide continued development and improvement of the Oklahoma Airport System while working closely with the Federal Aviation Administration, airports, consultants, and construction contractors.

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 OPA December Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Eric Lang of Christian Brothers & Michelle Henderson of Air Center for hosting our dinner meeting!
Thanks to Mike Grimes for the pictures.

After a great Christmas Dinner, catered by Dave Atley, we pledged allegiance to the US flag. Eric Lang of Christian Brothers introduced his wife Lisa, and Michelle Henderson of Air Center. They were our December dinner meetings hosts. Eric told us that Michelle orders parts for jets, piston planes, etc. She provided the red gift basket of plane cleaning supplies for our drawing. Eric and Lisa provided the wine and cheese gift basket for our drawing. Our thanks to everyone who bought tickets for the baskets and our regular door prize!

Bill Papadopoulos introduced his Greek friends, including our evening entertainer, 13-year-old Damian Theodoridis. Damian's parents, Alex and Nicki Theodoridis and grandparents Yeota and Bill Theodoridis joined us for the evening. Damian provided wonderful music for us, mostly classical, but he included some Christmas classics for us! Damian convinced his family to make some very nice auction purchases for him. Thanks family!



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Thanks to Eric Lang of Christian Brothers & Michelle Henderson of Air Center for hosting our dinner meeting!
 Thanks to Mike Grimes for the pictures.

Lee Holmes' sister-in-law, Lee Hobson joined our meeting for the first time and Anna Harmes and her granddaughter were there. We were sorry to learn that OPA member Ann Broker passed in her sleep on October 31st. Her husband said they had been married for 42 years and that she was the perfect pilot's wife. Joe Bob Nelson said that he and his daughter are learning to fly. Justin Skaggs is now the airport manager at Guthrie and the former assistant manager, Bill is the new manager at Sundance. We were reminded that OPA needs a new Fly Away Chair. Please contact an officer or board member if you are interested. It is a fantastic way to serve OPA. David Atley received the Cook of the Year award for excellent service to OPA as our caterer. Kyle Fulton will receive his award for outstanding service as former OPA President in the future.

Bill Papadopoulos introduced Damian Theodoridis, our entertainment for the evening. Bill said that he taught Damian how to play. Someone remarked that Bill sometimes exaggerates a little! After being entertained by Damian, Lee Holmes took the microphone to lead our auction. Lee said he had a new name for Damian, "Flying Fingers Damian". That name really fits because his fingers really flew while he was playing. Lee did a wonderful job as auctioneer, getting people to up their bids and sometimes bid against themselves! The proceeds from the auction go to our operational budget and will be an immense help since our rent for the building for our meetings went up to help cover the expense of a new HVAC unit for the building.



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Thanks to Eric Lang of Christian Brothers & Michelle Henderson of Air Center for hosting our dinner meeting!

We had great auction items donated by members. Lola and David Ames donated hangar art. The framed Diamond Lil silk screen they donated was purchased by Dinzel Gates who flew the original Diamond Lil during the Korean War. Diamond Lil was painted on the B24, and it was the 25th out of 20,000 B24s. Brian Hancock donated a new leather bomber jacket. (Eric Lang modeled it for us during the auction, and it looked so good on him that he had to buy it.) Mike Grimes donated his fleet of collectible Texaco model planes and another model signed by a famous female pilot. (Susie wasn't happy that he included that one.) It was purchased by a member who had flown the original plane. Dusty Boren donated an approximate one-and-a-half-hour flight in his bush plane with Dusty as pilot. There were lots of other great auction items



including framed original 1920 flying rules, donated by Craig Hodgins, the history of Piper aircraft, a framed F4 Phantom flown in WWII, and an American Traditional Artist crop duster painting. Thanks to everyone who donated, purchased auction items, and purchased door prize tickets!



Pictures from the OPA December Dinner Meeting

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Please let our new advertiser, Crosswind Cleaning, know you saw their ad in our newsletter!

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OPA January 13th Fly Away - Ponca City, Oklahoma Enrique's Mexican Restaurant Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.



This is one of the favorite OPA Fly Aways. The food is fantastic! Enrique's is my all time favorite Mexican Restaurant. Their chips are unlike any others and are fantastic paired with their homemade salsa and queso. They also have orange sopapillas as well as the traditional ones. This is authentic Mexican food! We had 22 in attendance last year when these pictures were taken!





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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

2024 OPA Calendar

January 4 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

January 13 - OPA Fly Away
Enrique's Mexican Restaurant
Wheels Down - 11:00 am

January 18 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

February 1 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

February - OPA Fly Away
To Be Announced

February 15 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

March 7 - OPA Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

March 9 - OPA Fly Away
To Be Determined

March 21 - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

Make dinner meeting reservations at dinner@opa.aero

\$18 per Dinner due to increased costs
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

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 _____
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All material for newsletter publication should be sent to:
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 C/o June Roy
 11749 SW. 54th St
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 405-615-2071
 email:
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MEMBER: Approximate Hours _____
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Please make dues check payable to:
 Oklahoma Pilots Association
 Mail to: 5810 Tulakes Ave.,
 Wiley Post Airport,
 Bethany, OK 73008

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$50 starting in January 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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