



NEWS In the Sky

February 2024

(www.opa.aero)

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

Dr. Vivek Mahale is a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Norman, Oklahoma. He received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma. As a graduate student, his research focused on the analysis of severe convection using weather radars. He began his National Weather Service career as a student employee in 2009 and became a full-time employee in 2014. He continues to study the use of dual-pol radar in the detection of severe and hazardous weather and serves as the radar focal point at the Norman Weather Forecast Office (WFO). He has lead-authored several journal articles in radar meteorology. He also leads the Norman WFO job shadow program and has served as a mentor for several students. His accomplishments within the National Weather Service range from serving as a subject matter expert for warning-decision making to leading workshops with core partners.



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). You can RSVP by sending an email to dinner@opa.aero

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

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

March Speaker To Be Announced

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

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.

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College Liasion - Elise McLendon

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June Roy
Steve Haynes

OPA President Kyle Fulton



Single digit temperatures and sub-zero lows were the big news in January. Hopefully, you were able to stay where it's warm. I was chasing baby calves and breaking ice for cows to drink.

If you fly during this weather, I hope you have a good cowling blanket to keep your engine warm in between engine starts. Preheating during this weather is also essential!

Hopefully we will get to participate in a fly-away this month and the weather will cooperate.

Stay safe and have fun flying!

Kyle Fulton



Wednesday | April 3, 2024

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.



New OPA News in the Sky Feature Pilot of the Month

Pilot of the Month: Brian Hancock

Welcome to a new newsletter segment called Pilot of the Month. I am going to attempt to interview a pilot each month and have them answer a few questions so that our readers can get to know our member pilots better.

This month I am interviewing myself so everyone can know what to expect when I corner them at a dinner meeting for some good info on their pilot life.

What do you Fly? I own a 1976 Cessna 172N with the 180 H.P. conversion, tail number N73660.

How long have you been flying? I started lessons in 2011 and got my private in 2012. I have a little over 400 hours.

What got you interested in learning to fly? My dad loves planes and flying, he earned his pilot's license in 1969 but when kids came along (ME!) his flying took a back seat until he started flying again in 2010. I started lessons shortly after. From an early age he took my brother and I to air shows, got us into RC airplanes, and never missed an opportunity to talk about flying. It didn't hurt that I lived about 8 miles south of McConnell AFB in Wichita and watched F-4's, F-16's, B-1's, KC-135's and many other aircraft come and go over our farm. I loved those loud birds!

What's been one of your favorite flights? We have family in Denver and I love leaving there in the morning on a return flight home and flying south along the front range of the Rocky Mountains before turning west to head to OK. I also love a good smooth night flight and enjoy seeing all the lights from above.

What is your dream plane? Tough question (you are a great interviewer)... I was an F-16 mechanic in the Air National Guard and love that plane, it reminds me of an old 70's model corvette with the sexy curves, it's probably my favorite. On the General Aviation side there are tons of cool aircraft... but I've always dreamed of going to Glasair and building a 2-weeks to taxi Sportsman 2 plus 2.

Brian Hancock



Picture
from the
OPA
January
Dinner
Meeting

Highlights from the OPA January Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Mike Grimes for the pictures

Aaron Vorland presented information on Basic Medical and how to keep current. He also presented investigations into recent aviation accidents and actions that caused them. These are the hyperlinks for the personal minimums and FRAT he discussed.

Personal Minimums

https://www.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/libview_normal.aspx?id=9091

FRAT https://www.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/libview_normal.aspx?id=352396

Vorland said that getting back into the flying habit meant having a current medical and a flight review or reinstatement if needed in your case.

Requirement #1

Get a physical exam from any state-licensed physician within the past 48 months.

- Print the checklist from faa.gov/go/basicmed or your course provider
- Bring the comprehensive medical examination checklist (CMEC) FAA Form 8700-2 to your exam.
- Keep your completed checklist somewhere safe

Requirement #2

Take the free online course:

- See faa.gov/go/basicmed for a list of course providers.
- When taking the course, you must:
- Provide the physician's name, state license number, address, and phone.
- Provide your name/address/phone & Pilot Cert. Number
- Attest to your health and consent to a National Driver Registry check.

Any current CFI can legally give you a flight review.

- What should I look for?
- How active is the CFI
- Do they have "lesson plan" or "outline" describing their review?

How do I find a DPE if I need a reinstatement?

- designee.faa.gov
- Looking for Designee? Click here
- Enter DPE
- Location
- We currently have 7 DPE's and 1 admin only Designee.
- This list will have all the information needed to contact the designee

Aaron said to remember that being legally current is not the same as Proficient!



**Jim Yates OPA
Pilot of the Year**



Pictures from the OPA January Dinner Meeting



Shelton named Director of Government Affairs, Industry Development, and Communications

Oklahoma City — The Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics (ODAA) has named Sandra Shelton as its Director of Government Affairs, Industry Development, and Communications. In this position Shelton will be responsible for the agency's marketing and communications initiatives, legislative and congressional affairs activities, and spearheading industry outreach and development efforts.

Prior to Shelton joining the Department in April of 2016 as the Aviation Education Coordinator and Government Affairs Liaison she had served over 20 years in state government. She has worked with both political parties in the Oklahoma State Senate and House of Representatives as well as several other state agencies over her nearly 27-year career in public service to the State of Oklahoma.

During her tenure with ODAA Shelton served as the creator for many of the agency's very successful outreach efforts including the 2017 law that instituted December 9th as Oklahoma Women in Aviation and Aerospace Day in state statute. She is also the principal for organizing the State's annual "AERO Oklahoma" advocacy day at the Capitol during the legislative session. Both events bring over 1,000 Oklahomans together each year to commemorate, support, and advocate for the state's second largest industry, as well as encouraging students to consider careers in the aerospace industry.

Shelton has advocated for and successfully passed over two dozen pieces of aviation and aerospace legislation on behalf of the Department and raised tens of thousands of dollars for charitable organizations that represent the industry. Just last year she was honored with the National Medal of Merit award by the local, state, and national Air and Space Forces Association for her service to the association which serves the needs of active duty, reserve, and veteran military members.

"From the day Sandra started at the Department she helped the organization with developing a vision for the future, bringing new ideas and energy to the agency's mission to enhance and support the state's aviation, aerospace, and defense industry. She brings people together while encouraging collaboration between public and private entities to ensure the industry has the support it needs," said Grayson Ardies, Executive Director for ODAA.



OPA Pilot Update

Congratulations to OPA member and College Liasion Elise McLendon on her CFI rating.



Oklahoma Aerospace & Avionics Partners with Bessie Coleman Aviation Allstars



At its December 2023 meeting, the Commission approved a partnership with the Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Star Program to implement an after-school aviation program for 6th and 7th-grade students enrolled in the Weatherford Public Schools, Pryor Public Schools, and Springdale Elementary of the Tulsa Public Schools. The first of its kind in Oklahoma, students enrolled in the aeronautical program will learn about aerospace careers and will participate in hands-on aviation projects that have been designed to create interest in aerospace and aeronautics.

April 30, 2026, marks the 100th anniversary of Bessie Coleman's death and in keeping her legacy alive, their goal is to expand aviation programs throughout the United States, reaching as many students as possible. The curriculum is designed to promote STEM (science, technology engineering, and math), teach the theory of flight (aeronautics) and introduce various careers, pioneers and inventors in aviation. They are a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization where their work is primarily funded by grants and individual donations.

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**OPA February 10th 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!



OPA January Fly Away Changed to Drive Away

Due to bitter cold temperatures our January flyaway, was changed to a January driveaway... about a dozen brave souls, joined us at Clark Crew for some tasty barbecue and warm conversations. Thanks to Hal Harris for arriving early and getting a table.

Those in attendance included Hal, his wife Alma and daughter Grace, P. T. Solinski, and his daughter "Lilly," Tom Solinski, Dalton Bracken, Jim Yates, Angela Drabek, Elaine Reiger and her husband Pete Gavin, plus Brian Hancock.

Since we couldn't make it to Enrique's Mexican Restaurant in January, we will try again in February on Saturday, February 10 with an 11 AM wheels down time. Enrique's is located at the Ponca City Airport (KPNK).





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Approximate Ad Size Monthly Rate

Business Card 2"x 3 1/2"	\$30
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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

- February 1 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- February - OPA Fly Away - Ponca City Enrique's Mexican Restaurant**
Wheels Down: 11:00 am
- 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
- April 4 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- April 13 - OPA Fly Away**
To Be Announced
- April 18 - 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 _____

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
 405-615-2071
 email:
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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.**

