



NEWS In the Sky

April 2024

(www.opa.aero)

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

Christian Brothers was our Dinner Meeting Sponsor

Speaker: Dr. Matt Vance



Dr. Vance holds a PhD in Aviation Science from Saint Louis University. He was the Oklahoma State University Senior Professional Pilot faculty representative responsible for academic classes covering aviation: Human Factors, Crew Resource Management (CRM), Law, Ethics, FAR §141 PVT/INST/COMM/MULTI ground school, Space Science and Safety.

The March presentation will involve "Title - FAA 5 Critical Decision Points/N9815L

Are you familiar with Ch-2 of the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (FAA-H-8083-25C), Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM)? **Buried within the discussion of the 5-P checklist are the FAA's 5 critical decision points a pilot faces on every flight.** We will discuss them and then apply the decision points to a Fight Service Station (FSS) audio recording of a real-life, near-tragic incident. This discussion lesson was always one of the most poignant and respected by my professional pilot students at OSU."

Previous to OSU, he served as Senior Researcher/Flight Instructor for the Center for Aviation and Space at Saint Louis University. Previous industry positions included Boeing; Exchange Officer – UK Ministry of Defense in London; Director of Washington Studies and Analysis, Future Combat Systems, Air Traffic Management, and Senior Manager of Boeing Commercial Airplanes Product Strategy; McDonnell Douglas, Principal Engineer for Phantom Works Systems Assessment Division and Lead Engineer for the HARPOON missile.

His flight experience includes 5,800 hours between U.S. Naval Flight Officer, civil Pilot-in-Command / Instructor flying time. His 20-year military career includes more than 3,000 hours of patrol/submarine hunting with extensive operational experience in Pacific, Indian, Arctic and North Atlantic theaters and joint Command Center Duty Officer service at the United States Transportation Command. Dr. Vance recently retired from the faculty at Oklahoma State University.

**May 2, 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). You can RSVP by sending an email to dinner@opa.aero

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

**Speaker: Max L. Ary, Exe Director
Stafford Air and Space Museum**

Ary is considered one of this country's leading authorities in the history of manned space flight. Prior to coming to the Stafford Museum, Ary founded the internationally acclaimed Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center, where he served as its President/CEO for nearly three decades. After leaving the Cosmosphere, Ary was named as the Executive Director of the Omniplex Science Center (now known as Science Museum Oklahoma) in Oklahoma City. He is credited for being involved with the development and design of nearly a dozen space and aviation museums throughout the world, including his work with General Tom Stafford in the creation of the Stafford Museum in the early 1990's. Ary has served as a technical advisor on numerous space-related movies, including the Academy Award winning production "Apollo 13" and the Emmy Award-winning TV miniseries, "From the Earth to the Moon." He has made numerous appearances on the "Today Show," "Good Morning America," "CBS Morning News," the History Channel, and the Discovery Channel, to provide expert commentary regarding spaceflight happenings. He has led numerous projects to save thousands of priceless and historic space artifacts from destruction, including the expedition to find and recover the "Liberty Bell-7" Mercury spacecraft from more than 16,000 feet below the Atlantic Ocean, and the complete restoration of the actual Apollo 13 Command Module "Odyssey." He has served as a space education technical advisor to more than 50 museums and institutions around the world, including NASA, the Smithsonian Institution, Disney, and the Russian and South Korean governments. For his work, Ary has been awarded numerous national and international awards, including the Triebech Trophy for Aerospace Design, the National Non-Profit Young Executive of the Year, and is one of the only Americans ever awarded the "Gagarin Medal" by the Russian Federation of Cosmonautics. In 1994, he was named to the "Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame."





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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**OPA President
Kyle Fulton**



Spring is here and we already have Easter before April even arrived. I hope that you're able to get out and fly in between all the wonderful rain.

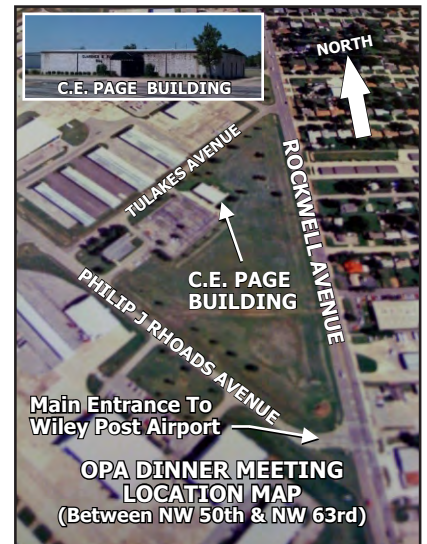
Please consider getting involved in our pilots' association this year, either on the board of directors or other leadership positions. The only way our organization continues is by participation of our membership.

We will be having our regular elections in June, so let one of the board members know if you would like to get more involved.

Thanks, Kyle

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.

Time change. I had to go around and fix all my clocks.



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.



Remembering Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford A True Pioneer in Air and Space

It is with great sadness that the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics shares the passing of a true pioneer in air and space exploration, Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford (USAF, ret.). General Stafford, the esteemed namesake of the Oklahoma Stafford Air & Space Museum, passed away on March 18, 2024, in Indian Harbor, Florida, at the age of 93.

General Stafford's remarkable journey began in Weatherford, Oklahoma, where he was born on September 17, 1930. A proud "Weatherford Eagle," he credited his hometown as the foundation for his extraordinary life. After graduating from Weatherford High School in 1948, he pursued his dream of becoming a fighter pilot, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in the top 1% of his class. His dedication led him to transfer to the newly formed United States Air Force, where he excelled as a test pilot and later as an astronaut.

During the height of the Cold War, General Stafford played a pivotal role in the Space Race, flying in four historic space missions, including Gemini 6, Gemini 9, and Apollo 10. He was one of only 24 humans to venture into deep space and explore another celestial body. Following his space career, he continued to serve his country, leading efforts in aerospace development and serving as a key advisor to multiple U.S. presidents.



General Stafford's legacy extends far beyond his achievements in space. He was a visionary who believed in the power of collaboration, as evidenced by his instrumental role in fostering cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in space exploration, helping to pave the way for the end of the Cold War.

As we mourn the loss of a true hero, let us also celebrate General Stafford's enduring legacy and the countless lives he touched. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, including his wife Linda and their children and grandchildren.

In honor of General Stafford's memory, let us continue to reach for the stars and embrace the spirit of exploration and discovery that he embodied throughout his remarkable life.



**OKLAHOMA
AEROSPACE &
AERONAUTICS**

Grayson Ardies, Executive Director

Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics

**A Memorial Service will be held
in Weatherford April 5th**

OPA Vic Jackson Memorial Scholarship Winners - Antonin Stoddard



The OPA Scholarship Committee selected two recipients for the 2023 Vic Jackson Memorial Scholarship, Emily Jensik and Antonin Stoddard. Last month we focused on Emily Jensik, so let me introduce you to Antonin Stoddard this month.

Stoddard has always been interested in becoming an airline pilot since he was 4 years old. He finds flying very fun and peaceful.

Stoddard is currently a senior at Mustang High School and is the first high school student OPA has awarded with a scholarship (to our knowledge). He is enrolled in the AOPA High School Aviation Curriculum at Mustang. Stoddard is the President of the Mustang High School Aviation Club and is also on the Oklahoma Aerospace and Aviation Influencers Board.

Stoddard has already amassed 135 hours as a private pilot and has his tail wheel endorsement.

Stoddard plans on attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University and will enroll in their Professional Pilot 4-year degree program. Stoddard also plans to share his passion of flying with other would-be pilots and hopes to fly Young Eagles as soon as he is eligible.

Stoddard will receive a scholarship for \$5000 to use for his studies at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

New OPA News in the Sky Feature Pilot of the Month - Roger Waltman

Interviewer: Brian Hancock

What first got you into flying? Roger has always had a love for flying... His first flight was in a V-Tail bonanza at age 12. In 1972 at the age of 22 Roger attended an air show in Norman sponsored by the Confederate Air Force and at the show was a school that hosted a seminar for people that wanted to be pilots. In the seminar they told him "If your excuse to not start taking lessons is money then you don't have an excuse, because we can finance it for you!" That triggered Roger to learn to fly; he was young, single, incredibly handsome (his words), fresh out of college and making a little money, so he found the Engineers Flying Club & started taking lessons from Hal Corn in a Cessna 150. His goal was to learn in one month, but it took him three.

What do you fly? Roger has owned two different planes in his life... a 1968 Beech Bonanza V-35A and, before that, a 1987 Mooney M20J 205. At present he does not own a plane but flies often with OPA members Bill Halpain and Roy Cowan and yearns to fly with Brian Hancock (because his skills are so impeccable!).

When did you join the OPA? Roger joined the OPA in 2006 and is currently the Membership Officer. Roger has held just about every position on the board of the OPA, with the exception of Treasurer.

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 have been some of your favorite flights? Branson... Jan (Roger's wife) and he love to go to Branson because it is a nice flight and there is a lot to do there.



Is Jan a pilot too?

Roger said, "no" but when he was getting his IFR rating in 2002 she took the private pilot's ground school. She never took the test, but she did complete the course. Jan LOVES to fly and goes on many of the OPA flyaways with Roger and the group!



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AND GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCES
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

Come and meet with alumni and friends of our No. 1 ranked School of Aviation as we welcome the arrival of our new aircraft.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. Max Westheimer Airport 1700 Lexington Ave., Norman, OK 73069
RSVP TODAY

Join us for a fly-in, food, music and fun!

FLY IN AND
MEET THE FLEET

Highlights from the OPA March Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Mike Grimes for the pictures

Eric Lang - Christian Brothers was our Dinner Meeting Sponsor

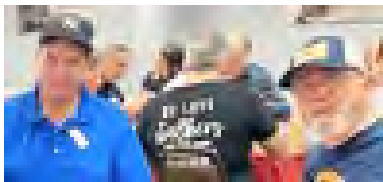
Thanks to everyone who chanced the weather to make it to the OPA Dinner meeting. Kyle Fulton reported that the Flyaway to Ponca City was his first time there and it was really good. The homemade chips were great! Six made the flight.

We welcomed Jeff McCullough, an A&P mechanic, commercial rated pilot, and photographer who volunteered at Oshkosh and did his best photo shoot ever there. Melissa Meyers is a CFII & MEI at Wiley Post. Clint and Garrod Morris were present. OPA Scholarship Chair, Brian Hancock presented Antonnin Stoddard with his scholarship. His was the first ever presented to a high school student. Antonnin is in the AOPA Stem Program at Mustang and already has his private license. His proud mother, Ann, accompanied him.



Eric Lang from Christian Brothers was our dinner meeting sponsor. He and wife Lisa have 4 kids, all teenagers until last week. Eric said tht Scott Dosey was his flight instructor before he got ditched when Scott took an airline job. Scott said he had more hair before Eric. Eric introduced our speaker, Michele Henricksen from AirCentre, LLC.

Michele said they have anything you need, even a fuel line at AirCentre. She even saved the day after Christmas for a pilot loading his plane with a dead battery to go to Key West. He contacted Michele and she went to the shop and got a battery out for him and saved the family trip. The have access to most hard to find parts for almost any plane, with big supplies in stock, as well as air related gifts. Thanks to Michele for an interesting presentation.



Highlights from the OPA March Dinner Meeting Eric Lang - Christian Brothers was our Dinner Meeting Sponsor



OPA Silent Auction - Win a Flight in a Husky Airplane - Thanks, Elaine Regier!

Pete Gelvin bid on the Husky Flight in the silent auction – and won a special gift for his pilot wife! Thanks to Dusty Boren for donating not one, but two flights to the OPA Fundraiser!

The flight with Dusty on Wednesday morning, February 21, was incredible! We flew out of Wiley Post and past Lake Overholser to Yukon and the iconic landmark grain elevators, as well as my house. Following a couple of landings at El Reno's grass strip, we headed to the Cimarron River and a landing on a sandbar! My mom always tells me, "Fly low and slow!" before a flight. When I sent the video of the flight along the river and asked if that was low enough, her response was, "YIKES!" We landed on two additional grass strips before heading back to Wiley Post.

I loved every minute of this flight! Dusty even let me fly the plane a little. It was quite different sitting tandem in the plane with a stick in front of me in the back seat. The plane flies very nicely! Fantastic weather helps, too!

Thanks a million, Dusty! This was an unforgettable experience!!!



YOU'RE INVITED!

ANGEL FLIGHT OK
ANNUAL PILOT APPRECIATION BBQ

SATURDAY - MAY 11, 2024

11:30AM - 1:30PM

HANGAR B-52 - JONES RIVERSIDE (RVS)

INFO: ANGELFLIGHT.COM/EVENTS
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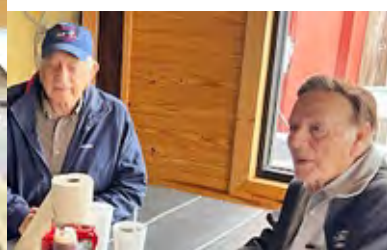
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OPA **March 16th 2024 OPA Flyaway - Davis, OK - Smokin' Joes Rib Ranch** ✈️

Thanks to Kyle Fulton for the photos and article

We had a great turnout at Smoki' Joes in Davis. We had 8 planes and 15 people arrive at the 1900 ft grass landing strip East of the restaurant. We even had one twin-engine plane land with us.

The ribeye steak they serve on Saturday is worth the trip alone. We had some good fellowship before rain started moving in and we all departed.





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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

- April 4 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- April 13 - OPA Fly Away - Stillwater, OK**
OSU Flying Aggies Fly In
Static Displays parked by 10:am
Gates open 11:00 am
11: 30 OPA group picture at Cirrus exhibit
- April 18 - OPA Board Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- May 2 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- May 18 - OPA Fly Away - Enid, OK**
Breakfast Tentative
Wheels Down: 11:00 am
- May 16 - OPA Board Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- June 1 - OPA Fly Away - Chickasha, OK**
Chickasha Wings and Wheels
- June 6 - OPA Dinner Meeting** 6:30 pm
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- June 20 - 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 _____

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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.**

