



# NEWS In the Sky

May 2024

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

**May 2, 2024 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Max will provide an update on the recently expanded Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford, OK, which now spans over 63,000 square feet. He will give us a sneak peek into their exciting future plans; perhaps with some bonus information on a fascinating aircraft to be added soon to their extensive collection. Max also plans to share some details from General Stafford's April 5th memorial service in Weatherford, which was well attended by admiring locals, as well as notable dignitaries and space heroes. Come and hear more about this growing Route 66 attraction right here in Oklahoma.

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 Triebach 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."

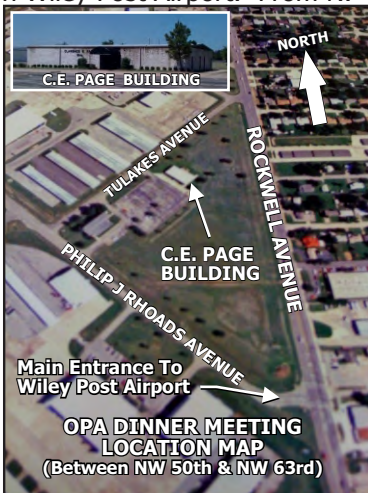


**June 6, 2024 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

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.



**John Wise** is currently a full-time CFI/CFII at Sundance Flight Academy located at KHSD/Sundance Airport in N.W. Oklahoma City. He started flying at the age of 14 in an Aeronca Champ, soloed at age 16 in 1971, and after graduating from high school served as an air traffic controller at Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH. He has had many careers, but is most well known as a radio personality in the 1980's and early 90's in the Oklahoma City metro area. He obtained his private pilot certificate in 1986 and went on to earn his instrument, commercial, Multi engine and CFI/CFII ratings from 1987-2017. If he isn't at the airport, you can find him on the tennis courts at Oak Tree Country Club with Diane, his wife of 36 years. He loves motivating and encouraging people of all ages using his love of flying.





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.

**2023-2024 OPA OFFICERS**

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- June Roy
- Steve Haynes

**OPA President  
Kyle Fulton**



I hope you can attend our upcoming dinner meetings. We have a great lineup of speakers for each meeting. Our board of directors had a difficult time deciding which presentations to invite each month!

If you would like to help plan these meetings, please consider joining the board of directors or run for OPA office in June.

Our July meeting this year falls on the 4th day of the month. We will cancel our July 4th meeting so each of you can celebrate our country's independence in your own way.

Hopefully, you can get out and fly on some of these beautiful Spring days! Be safe and watch the weather!

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 - Angela Drabek



**Interviewer: Brian Hancock**

**What prompted you to start flying?** I was always interested as a kid but never really explored flying until I met my 93 year old neighbor, Rita Eaves. Rita and I were both walking our dogs in our neighborhood one day and I noticed that she had a t-shirt with an airplane on it, and I asked what that was about. Turns out she (and her late husband, Leonard) had been pilots and she was a current member of the Ninety-Nines. She invited me to the Ninety-Nines Christmas party where I met a flight instructor and the rest is history. I also learned that she and Leonard were long time members of the OPA. I joined the Ninety-Nines and OPA at about the same time in 2014.

**How are the Ninety-Nines different from the OPA?** First, the Ninety-Nines is an organization of women pilots, which is an international organization with members in 44 countries and thousands of members throughout the world. I am also a member of the local Oklahoma Chapter of Ninety-Nines, which supports women in aviation, including their annual Okie Derby, which raises money for the Wings of the Future Scholarship. Like OPA or AOPA, they strive to promote the advancement of aviation through education, scholarships and mutual support however they focus their efforts on women pilots. They were started in 1929 when Amelia Earhart, one of the founding members, wrote a letter and mailed it to every registered woman pilot asking them to join the organization and 99 of them replied... hence the name, the 'Ninety-Nines'.

**What do you fly?** I fly and own a Cessna Skyhawk 172 SP. I have my private license and am currently working on my IFR rating.

**What are some of your favorite places to fly or flights to take?** I love flying for Pilots N Paws, a non-profit organization that connects volunteer pilots with animal rescues and shelters, transporting pets across long distances free of charge, ultimately helping those pets find their forever homes. I have made about 10 flights with Pilots N Paws and flown over 20 dogs. I also have flown as a Flights For Life pilot, flying blood for the Oklahoma Blood Institute. As well, I have also enjoyed flying in the Ninety-Nines annual Okie Derby, the Air Race Classic Derby, OPA Fly Aways and

flying the Fly Oklahoma challenge to fly to all the Oklahoma airports.

**What's the hardest part about flying for Pilots N Paws?** The hardest part of flying Pilots N Paws flights is not keeping all of the dogs that I fly.

**Angela has been a member of the OPA since 2014, She is also a member of the Ninety-Nines, EAA, and AOPA. She earned her pilots license in 2016 and has been the OPA's Secretary since 2018.**

To learn more about the Ninety-Nines please visit their website at: <https://www.ninety-nines.org>

To learn more about Pilots N Paws please visit their website at: <https://www.pilotsnpaws.org>





## Highlights from the April OPA Dinner Meeting

### Thanks to Brian Hancock for the notes and Mike Grimes for photos

Ross Ellis, a new member, attended his first meeting. He flies a Citation 5. Hal Harris brought one of his students, Jim Gleason, to his first meeting. OSU had another good showing... five students came to support Dr Matt Vance. Okie Derby is scheduled for August 17th.

Dr. Matt Vance was our guest speaker. His topic is one close to his heart; Five Critical Safety Decisions Points (5 CSDP). Dr. Vance used an audio file from a near accident that took place in 2000 in the Iowa area. The pilot, flying a Cessna 172, tail number N9815L, took off from Fairfield, IA in VFR conditions and entered IFR conditions along the course of flight. While attempting to turn back to the field he departed from, he entered a spin and made a mayday call to Fort Dodge Flight Support. The air traffic controller responded as N9815L entered a spin and the pilot was yelling for help. The flight controller calmly instructed the very panicked pilot on how to recover from the spin and helped direct him out of IFR and to safety. The pilot safely landed in Pella, IA and called the Flight Service Station to discuss the flight and thank the controllers for helping him. This can all be heard on the recording.



Dr. Vance noted that if the pilot had used the 5 CSDP noted in the Pilots Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (PHAK) in chapter 2, p2 13/14 that he would not have been in his situation. The Five Critical Safety Decisions are:

1. Preflight Weather Planning - Go/ No GO decision? Make this decision at home. There is no reason this decision cannot be made prior to arrival at the airport.
2. Hold Short Line - Commitment to takeoff? Inertia in the moment can be overpowering. Dr Vance gave a personal example of him in 1990. MAC to SUS Machismo/Invulnerability led to him make a poor decision and he departed despite less than favorable conditions. It was only through luck that his decision worked out.
3. Flight Mid-Point - Continue or divert? Reassess destination weather with FSS or ADS-B in/out. Do not use ATIS as the information may be old. Fatigue brings acceptance; the hazardous attitude of "invulnerability" and/or "resignation."
4. Descent into Terminal Area - Do I have to Approach at this airport? Just prior to the top of descent you are making a decision to land at that airport. At this point you can still decide to divert.
5. Commitment to Landing - On this runway? Just before entering the pattern or just prior to final approach you can still choose to land on that runway.





## Highlights from the April OPA Dinner Meeting

### Thanks to Brian Hancock for the notes and Mike Grimes for photos

Dr. Vance believes these decisions can apply on any type of flight VFR, or IFR.

He also stated that he does not believe the FAA emphasizes these 5 CSDP enough. These could have made a huge difference in the pilot's outcome from the audio recording if he had applied them to his situation.

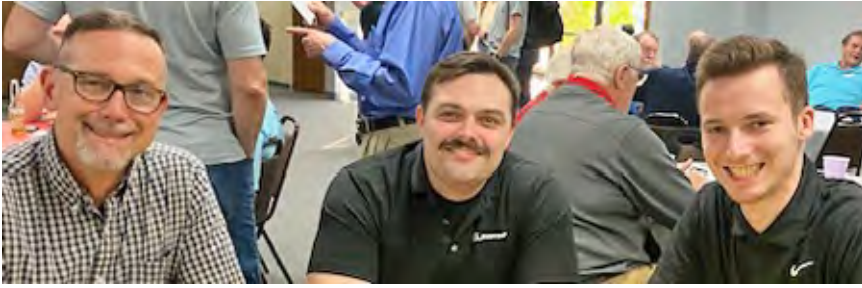
Had he looked at the weather prior to arriving at the airport and seen that conditions either were or could become IFR along his flight path he could have decided at that time not to make the flight. The same could be said as he waited at the hold short line or in flight by checking with FSS or using current weather data. With the help of the controller the pilot luckily landed safely and most likely learned a valuable lesson.

The 5 CSDP are prudent, proficient pilot behaviors for every flight - no matter VFR/IFR and no matter the situation, flying pattern, or cross country. Your attitude toward the 5 CSDP matters and can either save you or cost you your life. The audio clip referred to by Dr. Vance can be heard at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnDmqgtrELO>





**Pictures from the May OPA Dinner Meeting**  
Thanks to Brian Hancock for the notes and Mike Grimes for photos



**Roy Cowan - Pilots N Paws Flight**  
April 6th Roy flew to Elk City; picked up pets, then flew to Tulsa.



**It looks like this  
Pilots N Paws thing  
may be contagious!  
But it's a good kind  
of contagion.**







### May 18, 2024 OPA Flyaway - Weatherford, OK Stafford Air and Space Museum Wheels Down 11:00 - Lunch at Lucille's



The Stafford Air and Space Museum (SASM) holds thousands of artifacts on display, including the Space Shuttle Stationary Simulator, which was used to train the astronauts for all 135 Shuttle missions. The SASM is the only museum that has the Lunar, Command, and service module all together. This is a great museum for your non-piloting friends and relatives to join with us.



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SATURDAY - MAY 11, 2024

11:30AM - 1:30PM

HANGAR B-52 - JONES RIVERSIDE (RVS)

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# OPA April 13, 2024 OPA Flyaway - Stillwater, OK - OSU Flying Aggies Fly In

Hello all,

It was so great seeing all of you at this year's Flying Aggies Fly In. On behalf of myself, Emma, the Flying Aggies, and the Stillwater community, I want to thank you so much for taking the time to come to our fly in. It was great getting to meet you all and seeing all of your amazing aircraft. I hope to see you all again soon.

I have attached our google photos link with all of the photos taken during the day. There are plenty of pictures of all of the aircraft out there, and even some of our behind-the-scenes pictures of us being college kids. I hope you enjoy, thanks!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tU3uD4KGWojLy9YQA>

Best,  
KAYLIN KLEIN







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Call June Roy 405- 615-2071



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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

**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  
Officer and Board Member Elections

**June 20 - OPA Board Meeting** 6:30 pm  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**July 4 - NO OPA Dinner Meeting**  
**Celebrate our Independence Day!**

**July 13 - OPA Fly Away - Bentonville, Ark**  
**Back Country Fields**  
 Details to be Announced

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

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

