



# NEWS In the Sky

August 2018

(www.opa.link)

August 2nd, 2018 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jeff Sandusky will lead us  
on a trip to Oshkosh AirVenture 2018



September 6th, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

"Planes, Bikes, 'n Cars"  
at Wiley Post!

'n Helicopters too!

FREE SHOW! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Fly your plane in, display your  
special car or bike, or do both!

Not just for pilots or OPA members.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m. (not required)

\$13 each for full dinner: salad, entree,  
sides, dessert & drink



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  
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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 \$35.

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

Editors: Ben & June Roy

Typesetting & Layout: Ben Roy

Circulation: Wyvema Startz

Members' contributions of articles and other information relative to aviation are encouraged.

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## OPA President Brian Hancock



By the time you read this EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2018 will be in the books. I hope that many of my fellow OPA'ers were able to attend and enjoy this premier general aviation themed event. In just a few square miles thousands of aircraft will be parked; hundreds of thousands of people will attend; and all will be celebrating a common theme: AVIATION.

With that said, here are my Top 10 Reasons for Attending EAA AirVenture Oshkosh.

10. KidVenture - If you have little kids, or adults that are kids at heart, AirVenture does a great job providing activities for kids of all ages at KidVenture. While in the area also get in a tour of the EAA Aviation Museum (hint: it's air-conditioned).

9. [The 6 a.m. Alarm - Those who have attended know what I'm talking about. The T-6 Texans crank up those large radials every morning and wake up the neighborhood. It ensures an early start to the day and is the surest sign that you have arrived at Oshkosh.](#)

8. Aircraft Vendor Displays - I call it the "If I Won the Lottery Tour." Every plane manufacturer will have their shiniest planes on display for all to see, smell, touch... and buy.

7. The Fly-In Theater - What a relaxing way to end a day; by watching a great aviation themed movie like [Top Gun, Always, or Air America with a thousand friends.](#)

6. The North 40 - Miles of neighbors camping under their wings. It's always nice to sit around in the evening to watch the sun set and visit with your fellow pilots about, what else, flying!

5. The Ultralight Runway - I always enjoy watching all the ultralight aircraft take off and land one after the other on the short grass strip.

4. War Birds - No explanation needed.

3. The Clockworks - The planners of EAA AirVenture have this down to a science. Take a minute to appreciate all the planes and helicopters landing, taking off, flying overhead, taxiing, parking, fueling, while all kinds of events, presentations, and displays are happening around you. It's a work of art, managed by an army of volunteers.

2. The Sea Plane Base - I would encourage everyone to grab a chair and go to the sea plane base one warm afternoon and sit in the shade and enjoy the seemingly cooler temps and relaxed atmosphere along the water.

1. The Night Air Show - One of the best newer additions to AirVenture... it's an airshow... at night. All the planes will be lit up like Christmas trees and some even shoot fireworks from their wing tips. Keep an eye out for Matt Younkin's Twin Beech, one of my personal favorites.

So, if you are reading this and are one of those that have AirVenture Oshkosh on your bucket list... the time is NOW! Oshkosh is a year away, START PLANNING and just GO... you will not be disappointed.

**OPA July 4th, 2018**

Thanks to Frank Bice and Gerald Luton for the pictures

Instead of our regular OPA dinner meeting, Hal Harris, of AirOne Flight Academy, hosted a pizza dinner at Wiley Post Airport. Then everyone sat in the yard around the Terminal Building to watch the Bethany Fireworks Show. Gerald said he didn't have an official count, but he thought there were about 50 people in attendance. Hope you enjoy the photos from the evening and that you enjoyed the celebration of our country's freedom where ever you were!



## OPA July 14th Fly Away - Grand Lake, Monkey Island

Thanks to Greg Finley for the article and to Greg, Roger Walton & Gerald Luton for photos

Ahoy Maties! It's time to muster topside and start swabbing the decks, shine the brass, and open the hatches to vent out the below decks! I'm sure your wondering why I'm using all this Naval language when we're a bunch of pilots. Actually, a ship or boat on the water is much like flying an airplane. Before the advancement of technology and the use of gauges and GPS, they both primarily used the stars to navigate and travel at the speed of knots. What exactly is a knot? The old sailing ships needed a consistent unit of measurement so they took a rope and tied knots in it at a uniform spacing then tied one end of the rope to a piece of board or bucket. The wood or bucket would be thrown in to the water off the stern (back end of the boat) and they would count the number of knots during a certain timeframe. The number of knots that passed through the hand of the sailor during that time was how fast they were travelling. Now, someone smarter than me might know exactly how far apart the knots were and what timeframe they used. If you know, let's hear about at [info@opa.link](mailto:info@opa.link) and we'll see who gets the right answer.

Back to the reason for the naval language. We flew to Grand Lake Regional Airport (309) this month and had lunch at the Aqua Bar & Grill, which is a floating restaurant right at the South end of the runway. The winds were light and variable and most everyone came in low over the trees on Runway 17, except for Hal Harris who came in right over the water on Runway 35. Once there, we all had a great time, sharing scuttlebutt; which is a naval term for hangar flying. We ate at the outdoor tables while watching all the nice yachts, boats, and jet skis pass by and occasionally stop in for a bite to eat and to refuel; which is another thing boats and airplanes have in common... they use a lot of expensive gas.

Altogether, we had 23 people, 7 airplanes, and 1 car including Allen Arms, Craig Boelte, Ed & Cindy Braly, Bill Halpain, Brian Hancock, Hal, Alma, and Grace Harris, Dwayne James, Mark Charrier, Al & Sonie Liebler, Gerald Luton, Randy & Jan Richison, Dean & Christa Ritter, Roger & Jan Walton, Greg Finley, and guests Cliff Paden and Tony Cable. I would like to encourage each of you to attend our next Fly Away event when we go to the Drake Field Airport (KFYV), Fayetteville, AR. We will visit the Arkansas Air and Military Museum and have lunch at the famous Hugo's.

Usually we need a head count (for the restaurant & for ground transportation when needed), so if you plan to go along, please email Roger Walton at [flyaway@opa.link](mailto:flyaway@opa.link) with the number in your group (or text or call: (405) 219-5149). We'll meet you on the ramp. If you have a seat available or need a ride please contact one of the following: Greg Finley: (918-340-9184) [gfinley@cox.net](mailto:gfinley@cox.net), Brian Hancock: (405) 757-5706 - [Hancock73660@gmail.com](mailto:Hancock73660@gmail.com), or Bill Pappadopoulos: (405) 417-7876, or Roger Walton: (405) 219-5149 - [flyaway@opa.link](mailto:flyaway@opa.link), or Danny Davis: (405) 990-5201 - [abadavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abadavis@sbcglobal.net).





# OPA July 14th Fly Away - Grand Lake, Monkey Island



## OPA Members Ride in B-17 Madras Maiden

Thanks to Fred Benenati for the article and photos

I had one more aviation bucket list item until this past May 12th. That is when I got to ride in the Liberty Foundation's Madras Maiden here at Wiley Post Airport. My attempt to ride in another one last April of 2017 was foiled by a sudden oil leak. Although it was fairly windy this time, it was manageable, and the visibility was great.

My interest in this ride was spurred by the fact that my father had trained to be a radio operator/gunner (top turret) in a B-17 in the 8th Air Force in England in 1942. However, after only two missions, it was determined that the base he was assigned to had a shortage of supply clerks! Thus, he and several colleagues were involuntarily moved to supply. He was furious (he wanted to fly), but my mom was relieved. It is likely that I might not be here if he had remained air crew, due to the near horrific loss rates.

The gentleman seated in the radio set space for take-off on my flight was none other than fellow OPA'er Bill Hartsell. The sound of those four engines starting was music to our ears. The nine of us passengers were thrilled when we took off. Movement to all allowable positions was encouraged (see pictures), and thoroughly enjoyed. The flight lasted about 30 minutes. The landing touchdown was obviously unavoidable, and of course reluctantly accepted by all of us. What a thrill to experience what dad did 76 years earlier!



## OPA July 14th Fly Away - Grand Lake, Monkey Island



## OPA August 4th Fly Away - Fayetteville, Arkansas Air and Military Museum - Lunch at the famous Hugo's Drake Field Airport - Wheels down 11:00 a.m.



For our next Fly Away event we will go to the Drake Field Airport (KFYV), Fayetteville, AR. We will visit the Arkansas Air and Military Museum and have lunch at the famous Hugo's.

Usually we need a head count (for the restaurant & for ground transportation when needed), so if you plan to go along, please email Roger Walton at [flyaway@opa.link](mailto:flyaway@opa.link) with the number in your group (or text or call: (405) 219-5149). We'll meet you on the ramp. If you have a seat available or need a ride please contact one of the following: Greg Finley: (918-340-9184) [gfinley@cox.net](mailto:gfinley@cox.net), Brian Hancock: (405) 757-5706 - [Hancock73660@gmail.com](mailto:Hancock73660@gmail.com), or Bill Pappadopoulos: (405) 417-7876, or Roger Walton: (405) 219-5149 - [flyaway@opa.link](mailto:flyaway@opa.link), or Danny Davis: (405) 990-5201 - [abadavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abadavis@sbcglobal.net)

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### AERO Oklahoma Aviation and Aerospace Advocacy Day

Thanks to Brian Hancock for the article and to Brian and Sandra Shelton for the photos

Approximately 70 organizations, companies, and vendors represented themselves at the AERO Oklahoma Aviation and Aerospace Advocacy Day at the Capitol on April 24th, including the Oklahoma Pilots Association. We used our booth to promote membership benefits and the aviation related activities that our organization provides.

Jeff Sandusky and Brian Hancock manned the OPA booth from 10 a.m. - p.m. and visited with State Reps in both the house and senate. Aviation dignitaries, such as General Lee Levy, Commander of the Air Force Sustainment Center and Air Force Material



Command at Tinker AFB; and Vic Bird, Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Director, visited the OPA booth, as well as hundreds of aviation enthusiasts from all over the state. Governor Mary Fallin was also



in attendance and opened the day with welcoming remarks and a big "Thank You" for the work and support that those in attendance provide to the state. Aviation and Aerospace represents the 2nd largest industry in Oklahoma employing 206,000 people and paying \$11.7 billion in salaries to Oklahomans, as well as adding \$44 billion in annual activity to the state.

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Contacts: Steve Schroeder: 405-691-8629 (home phone) [sandsschroeder@cox.net](mailto:sandsschroeder@cox.net) or QB Governor Jim Sutton 405-760-1988 (mobile phone)



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**OPA Fly Away Committee**

Please contact any committee member with questions about Fly Aways or suggestions for future OPA Fly Aways.

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**2018 OPA Calendar**

- August 2nd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- August 4th** - Fly Away - Fayetteville, AR  
Fayetteville Air Museum - Wheels Down - 11:00
- August 16th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- August 18th** - 40th Anniversary Okie Derby  
Sundance Airport, Yukon, OK
- September 6th** - Planes, Bikes, n'Cars 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner at 7:30 - Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- September 15th** - Muskogee, Oklahoma  
Tour the Batfish Submarine  
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
- September 20th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- October 4th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- October 15th** - Fly Away Albuquerque, NM  
Balloon Fest - Wheels Down - 4:00 p.m.
- October 18th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

Be sure to contact **Roger Walton** for dinner reservations  
 405-219-5149 [dinner@opa.link](mailto:dinner@opa.link)

**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)
- 2nd Saturday - Ardmore  
Breakfast Lakeland Aviation - Call 580-389-5000
- 3rd Saturday - Alva Regional Airport Fly-In  
Breakfast - Call 580-327-6778 March through Nov
- Saturday after 3rd Monday - Owasso Pancake  
Breakfast EAA Chapter 10
- 4th Saturday - Enid Fly-In Breakfast - Woodring  
Airport (WDG) April through October

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**Approximate Ad Size Monthly Rate**

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One-Eighth Page 2 1/2" x 3 3/4"	\$40.00
One-Quarter Page 3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	\$70.00
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**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

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