



# NEWS In the Sky

February 2018

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

February 1st, 2018 - Social 6:30 p.m.  
7:00 Dinner Meeting

**Speaker: Aaron Varland** was born and raised in Reedsport, Oregon. His first flight was in the summer of 2001 in a Cessna 172 owned by one of his mother's coworkers. That flight set in motion Aaron's pursuit of a career in aviation. After graduating from high school, he moved to Oklahoma in 2002 to pursue his formal flight training. Since moving to Oklahoma, Aaron has obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Management; instructed in part 61/141; and flown professionally under parts 91, 91k and 135. In 2014 he was hired by 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 and check rides. In June of 2017 Aaron joined the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team with the goal of helping reduce the aviation accident rate in the state of Oklahoma.



March 1st, 2018 - Social 6:30 p.m.  
7:00 Dinner Meeting

Please contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations so we have enough food for everyone. [dinner@opa.link](mailto:dinner@opa.link) 405-219-5149

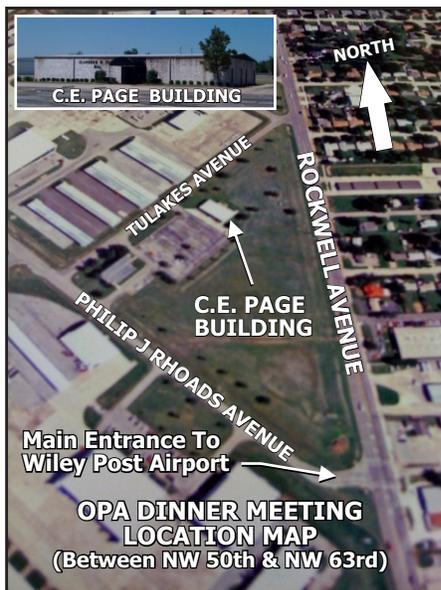
## Speaker: Col. Charles B. DeBellevue, Retired - Viet Nam Ace

DeBellevue became the first Air Force Weapon Systems Officer (WSO), and the only "backseater", to become a flying ace. He was credited with six MiG kills, the most earned by any US aviator during the Vietnam War and is a recipient of the Air Force Cross, 2 silver stars, 2 Legion of Merits, and 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses. He is the only backseater who was given the Ace honor. He and pilot Capt. Steve Ritchie scored the first of four Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 kills they achieved together on May 10, 1972. DeBellevue, Ritchie, and Capt. Jeffrey Feinstein became the only USAF "aces" during the Vietnam War. DeBellevue and Ritchie normally flew a McDonnell Douglas F-4D Phantom. It was like a big truck, big, ungangly, but really fast. It was one of only eight equipped with a top-secret APX-80 electronic set, code name "Combat Tree". It was displayed on a scope in the WSO's cockpit and it gave the Phantoms the ability to identify and locate MiGs when they were still beyond visual range. He logged 550 combat hours while flying 220 combat missions, 96 of which were over North Vietnam. He has over 3000 flying hours.



Although he did not pass pilot training before his combat service, he re-applied after being removed from combat after his 6th kill and earned his pilot wings. He served as Assistant Operations Officer in Alaska; 5th AF Deputy Chief of Staff at Yokota AB, Japan; Commander of the 432nd Combat Support Group at Misawa AB, Japan; and Commander of the 95th AB Wing at Edwards AFB, CA. He retired from active duty as a full Colonel as the last flying Ace, while serving as Commander of AF ROTC Detachment 440 at the University of Missouri in 1998 after 30 years of military service.

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





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 Matt Cole



We are getting very excited about our April Social event which will be held at the Oklahoma History Center on April 5, 2018. Guest speaker for the event will be Astronaut and Test Pilot General Thomas P. Stafford. This is such an incredible honor to have the General come speak to us and tell us stories about his flying experiences so, tell everyone you know who may be interested, to come attend this event. We are still ironing out the details however, we are most likely going to be selling tickets to the event prior to April so, be sure to stay tuned for further details and I hope everyone can make this once in a lifetime event.

## Wright Brothers Master Pilot Recipient Mike Harris

Mike Harris is a native Oklahoman, born and raised in Chickasha. He graduated from Chickasha High School in 1966, and served in the Air Force before receiving his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University. He later earned a law degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law, and in 2010, was appointed as a United States Administrative Law Judge, currently serving in the Social Security Administration Office of Hearings Operations.

Mike began flying in 1965 while still in high school. He clipped a coupon from Flying Magazine, and along with five dollars he received for his 18th birthday, he took a 30-minute introductory flight lesson at the Chickasha airport under instruction of George Hector. He later soloed in 1966 and has since enjoyed over 50 years of flying. He received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for 50 years of safe flying at the January OPA Dinner Meeting.

Mike and his wife Pam reside in Chickasha, near their two sons, daughters-in-law and four grandchildren. Although not a licensed pilot, Pam has been involved with the entire 50 years of flight adventure, as the couple were dating in high school when Mike began flying in 1965. They have been married 48 years.



## Highlights from the January Dinner Meeting

OPA President Matt Cole introduced Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team's Aaron Varland and Billy Risley, FAA Front Line Manager, who presented Mike Harris with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. Harris has operated safely for 50 years. Varland said the FAA makes sure the recipient is the kind of pilot who deserves the award. Mike soloed from Chickasha 50 years ago. He has enjoyed getting to know everyone in OPA.

After another of Dave's great meals, Matt welcomed everyone to our first 2018 meeting and Bill Pappadopoulos led us in the pledge to the American flag. Sandra and Jerry Shelton were welcomed and Sandra, from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, told us about the Aviation Art Contest and distributed the 2018 calendars. Last year 1100 students participated in the contest. She also told us that they need 10 more applications for aviation license plates to become law and passed out fliers and aeronautical charts. She said she was glad to be a part of Oklahoma aviation and OPA. New member Larry Turned and his son were at the meeting. Evan Bird got his new CFII. The fly away to Guthrie last month was really good and the January fly away is to Enrique's in Ponca City, always a popular location.

Bill Hines made a special presentation to Roy Cowan, who sells our monthly dinner meeting tickets and brings in beverages for us. He is the last through the dinner line, and occasionally some of the good stuff isn't left, but he never complains. Bill said as a banker, Roy doesn't want anyone to sneak in without paying. Roy is also the OPA Treasurer. Each year the board asks if he would like to be the treasurer again and he says no. Then we say that we don't have anyone else, and he says, "Guess I'll do it another year". Roy thanked everyone and said he appreciated it. He said he has enjoyed getting to know everyone in OPA.



## Highlights from the January Dinner Meeting Continued



Matt introduced our speaker, pilot and author, Barbara Schultz. She said she lives in California, and was able to schedule speaking at our meeting in conjunction with working on a grant at the Museum of Women Pilots. She said she flew her '58 Beech 18 to Alaska and plans to go to Iceland next year. Schultz said that probably no one there had heard of Moye Stephens. He grew up in West Hollywood and could walk to three airports. He came from a very wealthy family of lawyers and planned to be one in his father's firm. He got his pilot's license in 1924 when you only needed 6 – 10 hours of flight time. When he was 14 he flew with Dick Rinaldi and they flew in the movie "The Air Circus". He quit law school to become a pilot for an airline connected to Ford Trimotor. He flew Cary Grant and Clark Gable out of Grand Central Airport in 1920. She said all the pilots drank when they flew at that time, but he drank more than most.

In December of 1930 he left in his Stearman, called the "Flying Carpet", on an 18-month flight around the world with Richard

Haliburton. The flight included the Sahara to Timbuctoo, flying 15 – 20 miles from Mt. Everest, where they nearly died, and visiting headhunters in Borneo. She said the stories of him returning with a lot of shrunken heads was not true, because they weighed too much and they smelled terrible. They did several motor maintenance stops, necessary because of all the sand. Haliburton was very famous and he said he did everything he talked about, but he put a little lipstick on it. Moye said it was more like pancake makeup, and he used the whole makeup kit. You can learn a lot more about Moye Stephens in Barbara Schultz's book; "Flying Carpets, Flying Wings; The Biography of Moye W. Stephens". Schultz said she went around the world herself for \$500. She said she was cheap. Matt presented her with a free one year membership to OPA with our thanks for her presentation.





### OPA January 13th Fly Away - Ponca City, OK Enrique's Mexican Restaurant (at the airport)



Thanks to Roger Walton for the information and to Roger and Gerald Luton for the photos

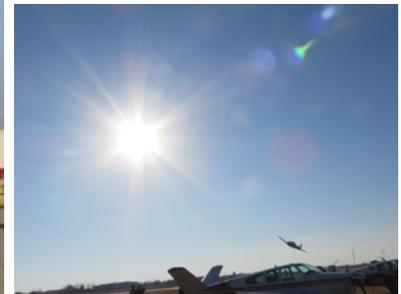
Twenty-four people enjoyed the OPA Fly Away to Enrique's for great Mexican food at the airport. Those attending were: Craig Bolte and Alma and Hal Harris; Kathy and Randy Buttram and Kathy's son, Nick, and his fiancée, Angie; Roy Cowan and Bill Hines; Ricky Fulton; Phyllis and Robert Hensley; Gerald Luton, Lee Holmes, and Jan and Roger Walton; Bill Hines; Sue and Dale Hughes; Vicky and Jim Yates and son, Chris; and OSU Flying Aggies: Andrew Edgeller and Max Maroney. They arrived in Ponca City in 10 planes.





# Photos from the January Ponca City Fly Away and Ponca on 12/2/17

Thanks to Gerald Luton for the photos



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**OPA Fly Away February 10th - Enid, OK**  
**Lunch at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant**  
**Wheels down 11:00 a.m.**



There was a scheduling problem with the planned February OPA Fly Away to the Prairie Fire Restaurant in Elk City, so the Fly Away Committee changed the location to Enid.

Café Garcia is known for it's California style Mexican food and a really great complimentary salsa bar with eight kinds of salsa. It is located at 324 S. Grand Street in Enid. The phone number is 580-237-4775. This is another popular OPA destination! If you didn't get your fill of Mexican food last month, be sure to make this one.

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: 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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### 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**

- February 1st-** Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
  - February 10th** - Fly Away - Enid, OK  
Garcia's Mexican Restaurant  
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
  - February 15th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
  - March 1st-** Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
  - March 10th** - Fly Away - Claremore, OK  
J. M. Davis Arms Museum  
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
  - March 15th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
  - April 5th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma History Center - OKC
  - April 14th** - Fly Away - Weatherford, OK  
Stafford Museum - Lunch at Lucille's  
Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
  - April 19th** - 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 (Cancelled until spring)  
Breakfast Lakeland Aviation - Call 580-389-5000  
(No heater in the hangar, waiting for installation)
- 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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