



# NEWS In the Sky

**March 2019**

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

**March 7, 2019 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Kelly Keller  
Territory Manager, Appareo Aviation - Central U.S.**

Kelly Keller is the Central US Territory Manager for Appareo Aviation, parent company of the **Stratus** brand of avionics. Based out of Fort Worth, Texas, Kelly is a third-generation pilot. Her grandfather was a WWII B-17 bomber pilot who flew two tours in the European theater; and her father was a Vietnam veteran, airline pilot, A&P/IA, and avid advocate for general aviation. Kelly has been a Private Pilot since 2010, with ASEL and ASES class ratings and is currently finishing up her Instrument rating.



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

**April 4, 2019 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

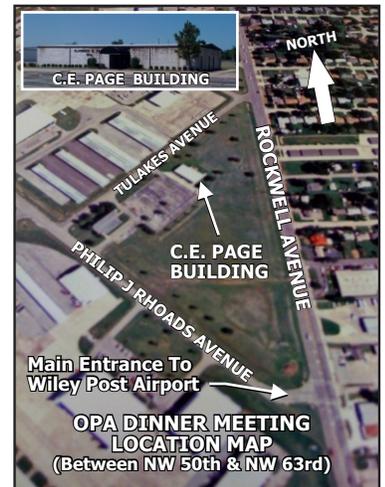
**Speaker: Greg 'Sven' Smith  
Site Director, Military Aircraft Systems Division  
Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, OKC**

Greg Smith is the Site Lead for the Northrop Grumman, Aerospace Systems and the B-2 Bomber Program in Oklahoma City, OK. Greg is responsible to the B-2 Program Manager for all Oklahoma City area activities, including employee engagement, software and hardware sustainment, future technology planning, capability enhancements, new business initiatives, and community engagement. Greg helps ensure close customer relationships with the government B-2 program office at Tinker AFB.

Mr. Smith served as a USAF officer and pilot. His has operational flying in B-2s and B-52s, as well as T-37s and T-38s, plus duty in cyberspace, electronic warfare, acquisition and aerospace requirements development. Greg's experience includes Advanced Programs Division Chief and Director of Plans, Programs, and Requirements at Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC); Senior Operations Planner for United States Central Command in the Middle East; Director of Operations for Air Force Cyber Command Provisional; AFGSC Special Access Programs Director; operational flight duty as commander; combat pilot; and unit commander for Air Force electronic warfare reprogramming.

Mr. Smith earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University and Master's Degree in Management from Central Michigan University. He attended numerous DoD professional schools, including Air Command and Staff College, Army Command and General Staff College, Air War College, and Joint Forces Staff College.

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.





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.

**2018-2019 OPA OFFICERS**

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[mem@opa.link](mailto:mem@opa.link)

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[gfinley@cox.net](mailto:gfinley@cox.net)

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**OPA President  
Brian Hancock**



**A Purpose to Fly**

In the past month I have been in a couple of different conversations about "having a purpose to go fly", with individuals I know.

I, personally, never NEED a purpose... I NEED money... but never a purpose. However, it occurred to me that some people like to fly with a purpose or a destination in mind. And some want to help others through flying.

Of course, I told both individuals about our flyaways and the OPA Calendar ([www.opa.link/calendar.html](http://www.opa.link/calendar.html)). Our calendar lists various events; but both were looking for something more than a pancake breakfast. So, I did some investigating and found there are lots of organizations looking for help and they will give you a reason to fire up the plane and take to the air.

A few months ago, we heard from the **Oklahoma Blood Institute**. They were looking for pilots to fly blood and other items to destinations around the Midwest. ([www.flightsforlife.org](http://www.flightsforlife.org))

In addition, I found several others:

**Angel Flight of Oklahoma** arranges for free transport of individuals with a medical related need. ([www.angelflight.com](http://www.angelflight.com))

**LightHawk** provides flights to make aerial observations available to conservation groups. ([www.lighthawk.org](http://www.lighthawk.org))

**Pilots N Paws** helps pets escape a bad environment and find a loving home. ([www.pilotsnpaws.org](http://www.pilotsnpaws.org))

**Above the Clouds** provides flights for seriously ill children who dream of flying and, perhaps, co-piloting an aircraft. ([www.abovethecloudskids.org](http://www.abovethecloudskids.org))

**Young Eagles** introduces flying to kids ages 8-17 by giving kids free rides in airplanes with an experienced pilot. ([www.eaa.org/eea/youth/free-ye-flights](http://www.eaa.org/eea/youth/free-ye-flights))

**Civil Air Patrol** focuses on three primary missions; aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services. ([www.gocivalairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivalairpatrol.com))

**Operation Airdrop** organizes pilots with private aircraft to deliver supplies in the wake of natural disasters. ([www.operation-airdrop.com](http://www.operation-airdrop.com))

**Pilots to the Rescue** is an organization to save pets facing imminent death. ([www.pilotstotherescue.org](http://www.pilotstotherescue.org))

And, those were just a few that I found after a quick search. As you can see there are many reasons for you to go fly, you just need to find one that fits your schedule and desires and offer to help. Or, you can just fly to Enrique's and eat Mexican food... After all, it's a purpose. Ha-ha.

Happy flying,  
Brian Hancock

## The Reasons for Cancellation of the January and February OPA Dinner Meetings

The photos below says it all about the January Dinner Meeting. As always, the safety of our members and guests is our first priority. The OPA Board of Directors must make the call about cancellation no later than 11:00 a.m. on the meeting date. This is necessary so that our resident chef does not start cooking and then learn we have cancelled the meeting. While the weather did not get as bad as forecast the date of the February meeting, it was in the best interest of safety to cancel; especially since our parking lot could be very hazardous, even if the roads are not. Hopefully, we will have beautiful weather for our March meeting.



The OPA Board of Directors must make the call about cancellation no later than 11:00 a.m. on the meeting date. This is necessary so that our resident chef does not start cooking and then learn we have cancelled the meeting. While the weather did not get as bad as forecast the date of the February meeting, it was in the best interest of safety to cancel; especially since our parking lot could be very hazardous, even if the roads are not. Hopefully, we will have beautiful weather for our March meeting.



### OPA Fly Away March - Pawhuska, OK The Pioneer Woman Mercantile - Lunch & Tour Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.



Please make sure to mark your calendars for our flyaway scheduled for Saturday, March 9th, as you will not want to miss this one! We are going to going to fly out and visit the Pioneer Woman Mercantile.

The Pioneer Woman Mercantile is a destination restaurant, bakery, and store in Pawhuska, Oklahoma! Ree and Ladd Drummond spent years renovating the hundred-year-old Osage Mercantile building on Main Street so that they could welcome visitors from near and far and give them a slice of small-town hospitality.

"The Merc" has gorgeous goods, comfort foods, fresh-made pastries, delicious coffee, and plenty of fun to dish out. Join us as we fly in and enjoy an awesome lunch together then take some time to shop around. We can park on the ramp and the taxi way in front of the hangers to the north.

If you plan to go, 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). 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).



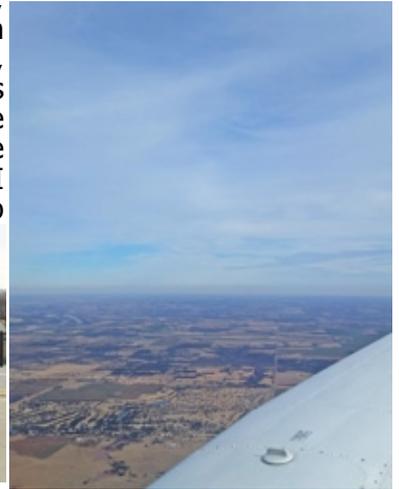


## OPA Fly Away February 9th - Ponca City Enrique's Mexican Restaurant



Thanks to Brian Hancock and Roger Walton for information and photos

We were finally able to make the OPA Fly Away to Enrique's in Ponca City in February that the weather didn't permit in January. Twenty-five people arrived in 9 planes and 1 car to enjoy the fantastic food and fellowship with others who share the love of flying. Those attending included: Lola and David Ames; Gary Aylor; Randy Buttram and guests, Nick and Angie; Vi and Danny Davis; Kenneth and Dee Ann Ediger; Ricky Fulton and guest, Phil Thurston; Brian Hancock; Brent Meyers; Danielle, Joey, Josie and Jett Sager with guests, Dana and Scott Caver; Kurt Semtner; James Sharp; Wyvema Startz; and Jan and Roger Walton. While your editors, (Ben and June Roy) were unable to make the official fly away; we were able to hitch a flight with Susie and Mike Grimes to Enrique's on a day when the weather and our schedules permitted. I snapped a photo out the window on our flight. I not only enjoyed my favorite shrimp enchiladas there; I ordered extras to bring home. And I'm sure everyone enjoyed Enrique's unique chips and salsa. Now I'm hungry and want to go back!



### 2019 State Aviation Art Contest Winners Announced



The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC) announced the names of twelve students that placed in the Oklahoma 2019 International Aviation Art Contest. The state-level Aviation Art Contest, sponsored by the OAC, encourages youth, ages 6 to 17, to reflect on aviation by designing a piece of art based on the year's chosen theme. This year's contest theme was "My Dream to Fly." Participation has climbed from 35 students in 2014 to 1,220 entries from 86 schools in 2019. The agency attributes their success to their aviation art contest calendar which is mailed to all of the public and private schools across the state. Junior Division winners were Brecker Tubbs, Chloe Childs, Haven Herrod, and Ruby Nix. Intermediate Division winners were Channing Reames, Faith Lawson, Anneliese Weir, and Marcelo Casas, Jr. Senior Division winners were Adamariz Veleta, Omar Lira, Ashlynn Buchanan and Maricza Lopez. Vic Bird said, "The annual Oklahoma Aviation Art Contest is critical to stimulating aviation interest among young minds. If we can reach them at the earliest of ages, we can guide them into STEM based education and aviation and aerospace careers." First-place winners in each of the three age categories receive \$200, while the second-place winners receive \$150. A cash prize of \$100 is presented to students who place third, and honorable mention will receive \$50.

 OPA Fly Away February 9th - Ponca City - Enrique's Mexican Restaurant





**OPA Fly Away February 9th - Ponca City - Enrique's Mexican Restaurant**



**June OPA Fly Away Input Needed**

The OPA Fly Away Committee is looking in to the possibility of doing an overnight trip to Amarillo, TX, to watch the musical "Texas" at the Palo Duro State Park outdoor amphitheater. But we would like your feedback before we go forward with making any plans or deposits. So far, the total cost to you will vary, but we know the group rate dinner and show tickets will be approximately \$50 each. The hotels within 15 miles of the state park are ranging from \$75 - \$100 a night. We are looking into the prices for renting one or two vans for ground transportation of the group. If we were to go, the following "rough" schedule would be offered:

We will either go the weekend of June 8-9 OR June 14-15:

Saturday

12:00 (noon) arrive/transport to hotel

5:00 pm - depart hotel for theater

6:00 pm - Chuck Wagon style dinner - (outdoors)

8:30 pm - Show Starts - (outdoors)

TBD - return to hotel after show

Sunday

TBD - check out of hotel and return to airport (depart and head home)



If you are interested in this flyaway to Amarillo, TX, please send an email to [flyaway@opa.link](mailto:flyaway@opa.link). Include the number of people that will be with you. We will discuss this trip at our next Membership Dinner Meeting on Thursday, March 7th. If the decision is to go forward with this trip, please be prepared with cash or check for register you for the trip and start making reservations.

Thank you,

Greg Finley, VP of OPA Communications



Photos are from 2011 OPA Fly Away to Palo Alto

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**The Oklahoma Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is offering a scholarship again this year** and would like to invite any Oklahoma female aviator, 18 or older, to apply for their 2019 Wings of the Future Scholarship. If you are a female pilot (or student pilot), or know of one, please use the following link for more information on how the recipient could receive up to \$5000 in scholarship funds. Potential candidates should be success oriented, self-motivated, show a strong tendency for professionalism, and have a great deal of enthusiasm. The application is due April 30th, 2019.

<http://okiederby.com/wings-of-the-future-scholarship/>

Many thanks,  
Holly Blunk, Ninety-Nines

**Aeronautics Commission Hosting Aviation & Aerospace Day at State Capitol on March 19**

**Who:** Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

**What:** "AERO Oklahoma" Aviation & Aerospace Awareness Day 2019

**When:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Where:** State Capitol: First, Second, and Fourth Floor Rotunda's

**Why:** The purpose of "AERO Oklahoma" Aviation & Aerospace Day is to recognize Oklahoma's aviation and aerospace industry as a vital economic engine for our state. As Oklahoma's second largest industry, aviation has a significant impact on the lives of our citizens. It is a unique opportunity for Oklahoma military, aerospace companies, private and commercial pilots, airport managers, municipal officials, drone pilots, educators, flying clubs, and the many users of the Oklahoma Airport System to meet one-on-one with state legislators and other elected officials to remind them of Oklahoma's strong aviation heritage and show them firsthand how the industry continues to solidify our state as a worldwide leader in aviation, aerospace, and aerospace and defense. **(OPA will have a table there.)**



This year, the Commission is organizing a career fair to be held during the event and aviation and aerospace industry exhibitors will visit with employment seekers. Applicants should be prepared to present their resume. Major companies such as AAR, American Airlines, Boeing, Consolidated Turbine, Pratt Whitney, and Northrup Grumman, will be among the many exhibitors. High school, vocational, and college students are encouraged to attend.

## CD coming due? Compare our rates.



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Financial Advisor

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All holiday and special event dates are charged \$75 over daily rate.

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)

**OPA Fly Away Committee**

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

**Greg Finley - 918-340-9184**

[gfinley@cox.net](mailto:gfinley@cox.net)

**Danny Davis - 405-990-5201**

[abadavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abadavis@sbcglobal.net)

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**Mike Rangel - [rangelm945@msn.com](mailto:rangelm945@msn.com),**

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## 2019 OPA Calendar

**March 7th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**March 9th Fly Away** - Pawhuska, OK  
 Lunch - Pioneer Woman Mercantile  
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.

**March 21st** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**April 4th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**April 13th Fly Away** - Stillwater, OK  
 Flying Aggies Annual Fly In  
 Wheels Down - 10:00 a.m.

**April 18th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**May 2nd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

**May 11th Fly Away** - Arrowhead Airport, OK  
 Lunch and Golf (Or just lunch if preferred)  
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.

**May 16th** - 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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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ **Name tag** Yes No

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ **Name tag** Yes No

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**ANNUAL DUES ARE \$35**

**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.link](mailto:mem@opa.link).**



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