



NEWS In the Sky

May 2019

(www.opa.link)

**May 2, 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**

The Oklahoma City Police Air Support Unit was established in 1973 and consisted of only one helicopter, four officers and one supervisor. Today the unit is comprised of two helicopters, eight pilots, one lieutenant and two civilian personnel who serve as mechanical technicians. The Air Support Unit falls under the command of the Uniform Support Division. The Department currently uses two recently purchased 2013 Airbus AS350 B3E helicopters to fly missions and provide support to police officers throughout the metro area. Our guest speaker, Lt. Mike Jackson, will talk about the unit's mission, which includes searching for suspects attempting to elude capture and locating lost or missing children and adults. Pilots assigned to the unit are police officers who have undergone extensive training and flight time to attain pilot certification and proficiency ratings.

The helicopter will be flown in for OPA



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

Please contact Roger Walton for dinner reservations so we have enough food for everyone. dinner@opa.link 405-219-5149

Speaker: Glenn Freeman

After serving in the US Marine Corps and being deployed to the Middle East in support of Desert Storm, Glenn was medically discharged in December 1991, due to a leg injury. He was then accepted to Washington State University; where he graduated in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He began working with The Boeing Company in 1996.

From 1996 to 1998, Glenn worked as a Systems Engineer on the F-22 Raptor program; determining from the design drawings how many spares of each part would be required over the life cycle of the F-22, because Boeing owns roughly one-third of the aircraft. Glenn worked closely with the Logistics Supply Agency (LSA) as he developed prediction models for various parts of the fighter, in order to determine the frequency of part failures and the probability of such failures.

After leaving the F-22 program in 1998, Glenn moved to the Oklahoma City area where he worked on the B-1B bomber's Avionics Flight Software and the Avionics Integrated Test Function (AITF) areas. This software function was responsible for the self-diagnostic capability resident on the plane, in which errors would be reported back to the crew in real-time for situational awareness. In 2001, Glenn began supporting the Weapon Delivery software function for the B-1B during which time he became one of the senior systems engineers in that area. Glenn frequently traveled to Edwards AFB, CA, to support the ground testing for the B-1B.

In 2003, Glenn began his work on the B-2 program as the software systems engineering lead. He was part of a small team of engineers who traveled to Washington in 2003, to learn everything about Boeing's software portion of the B-2 in order to transition the software program from Seattle to Oklahoma City. The team spent four months in Seattle immersed in the B-2 program to bring back as much knowledge as possible to begin an OKC-based team.

After 8 years as the software systems lead, Glenn was promoted to the Integrated Product Team (IPT) as Lead Engineer, where he had overall technical responsibility for the Boeing software onboard the B-2 bomber. In 2013, he accepted a management position in the same area and now runs the B-2 software area for Boeing. On the B-2 platform, Boeing has the responsibility for the weapons, the bomb bays, the fuel management system, and the simulation.





OPA President Brian Hancock

My Ride in Doc

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of riding in Doc, the restored WWII era B-29 that calls Wichita, KS home. Doc's Friends, the organization that cares for Doc, is now selling seats for rides on various weekends throughout the summer. My dad purchased three seats and gave my brother and I each one for our birthdays this year.

And, what a ride it was!



Doc boasts a new hanger and permanent home on Eisenhower Airport (ICT) west of Wichita. Doc's Friends have done a great job building displays that highlight the history of the B-29 from conception to use in WWII and beyond. They also tell the story of how Tony Mazzolini found the aircraft in the Mojave Desert in 1987, purchased the aircraft (a process that took 12 years), and began restoration of Doc to flying status.

Doc is one of only two flying B-29's in the world (Fifi is the other) and the team that restored it did an immaculate job. Everything on the aircraft looks like it rolled off the factory floor only a couple years ago... the paint is fresh, the aluminum polished, and all the gauges are new.

Our ride lasted about 30 minutes. We were able to move around the aircraft in flight, and my brother and I did just that. We were seated in the aft section of the aircraft; so we had access to the rear gun turret, the observation bubble on top of the aircraft, and each of the side observation bubbles... all places where electronically controlled guns were once mounted (a new feature in the B-29).

On May 18th, the OPA Flyaway is to Wichita to visit Doc. I hope you'll take the opportunity to visit with us and read Doc's storied history. I believe they will be offering flights that day; so, if you're interested, keep an eye on their website for when they go on sale or call Doc's Friends to see what they have to offer. www.b29doc.com/rides/ or (316) 260-4312.

Ps. I checked on the brick we purchased and donated for OPA; and it was apparently overlooked. They assured me it would be installed in the next batch which gets installed in 6-8 weeks. They promised a picture when it's done.

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

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

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Brian Hancock - My Ride in "Doc"



Brian Hancock - My Ride in "Doc"



**OPA Fly Away May 18th - Wichita, Kansas
 ICT and Tour B29 "Doc"
 Lunch at Hangar 1 Steakhouse
 Wheels Down 11:00 a.m.**



From OPA Fly Away Chair Greg Finley

One very crucial point of WWII was the surrender of Japan after two B-29 Superfortress' [Enola Gay and Bockscar] delivered atomic bombs to Japan, on separate occasions in August of 1945. Although not one of those specific planes; Doc is a B-29 that rolled off Boeing's Wichita production line just five months earlier, in March. After Doc was delivered to the US Army Air Forces, the end of WWII occurred prior to Doc having an opportunity to be sent overseas to see combat. Doc was used in a variety of training arenas until it was left in the Mojave Desert for 42 years. In 1987, Doc was found, and the restoration process began. Today, Doc is one of two B-29 Superfortress' that have an airworthiness certificate and fly.

We will be visiting Doc at the Eisenhower National Airport in Wichita, KS, on Saturday, May 18th. We plan to be wheels down at 11:00 am and have lunch at Hangar One Steakhouse and visit Doc. For those interested in taking a ride on one of Doc's scheduled flights during our trip, please visit the following link and pre-purchase a ticket.

For more information and tickets: <https://www.b29doc.com/b-29-doc-adds-flight-experience-rides-for-may-18-19-in-wichita/>

If you plan to go, please email Roger Walton at 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 Brian Hancock: (405) 757-5706 - Hancock73660@gmail.com, or Bill Pappadopoulos: (405) 417-7876, or Roger Walton: (405) 219-5149 - flyaway@opa.link, or Danny Davis: (405) 990-5201 - abadavis@sbcglobal.net.



Photo above from Brian Hancock





April 13th OPA Fly Away



Thanks to Roger Walton for the information and Brian Hancock for the article and Photo

For the month of April, we planned to support the Flying Aggies of Oklahoma State University at their 4th Annual Fly-In and Car Show. As you know, the earth was still rotating on its axis and revolving around the sun, it was heating and cooling, and weather systems still roamed about its surface. Unfortunately, the weather for that day resulted in very high winds and hard, continuous rain around the Oklahoma City area; causing it to be unsafe to depart and return. Therefore, we chose to use our alternate location and have lunch at The Black Bear diner. However, an hour wait did not seem to settle well with those attending. A quick jump next door to Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant proved to be a good decision; because immediate seating was available. All-in-all, there were eleven of us who met and had a great time of fellowship, and a great meal to boot. Those attending included: Valerie Musgrave-Bensinger; Kathy and Randy Buttram; Danny Davis; Bill Halpain; Brian Hancock; Sonie and al Liebler; Brent Meyers; and Jan and Roger Walton.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to fly out to Wichita, KS, with us on May 18th, for lunch and to tour "Doc"; the restored and airworthy B-29 Superfortress bomber.



Aeronautics Commission Aviation and Aerospace Education Program Now Accepting Applications

OKLAHOMA CITY (April 1, 2019) – The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission announced that the FY20 Aeronautics Commission Aviation & Aerospace Education Grant Program is now accepting applications through May 31, 2019. Any learning institutions or organizations instructing an aviation and/or aerospace minded educational program or camp in the coming year should apply. Aerospace and aviation education is one of the Aeronautics Commission's top priorities. Since FY2001, it has provided over \$2.8M in aerospace and education funding to organizations and programs throughout the state. Applicants from colleges and universities that successfully received grants from the agency last year were: Ada City School District, Bethany Middle School, Dove Science Academy, Gordon Cooper Tech Center, Guthrie Junior High, Merritt School, Metro Tech, Oklahoma State University, Okmulgee Public Schools, Owasso High School, Rose State College, and Southeastern and Oklahoma Universities.

Grants are for education programs that are aviation and aerospace minded for primary through post-secondary education. The program funds are part of more than \$270,000 the agency annually provides to programs statewide aimed at exposing more Oklahoma young people to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and careers in the aviation and aerospace industry. "There is nothing more important that we do here at the Aeronautics Commission than to encourage young people to consider aerospace or aviation as a career when they finish their post-secondary education. The Aeronautics Commission's aerospace and aviation education funding supports the Oklahoma Works initiative that aims to address the skills gap and connect students to programs that will help build Oklahoma's aerospace and aviation workforce," said director Victor Bird, with the Aeronautics Commission. The application and rules are available at oac.ok.gov. For more information contact the agency's Aviation Education Coordinator, Adam Fox, at (405) 604-6904. Submit entries by email to afox@oac.ok.gov.



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.

Highlights from the April Dinner Meeting

Our thanks to Susie Grimes for taking notes and writing this article and Mike Grimes for the photos, since your editors could not be present.

OPA Vice President Mike Grimes called the meeting to order. Frank Bice led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were several guests including Jim Dewey, Tyler and Cindy Barnhart, Carl and Cathy Whittle, Sue Ricards, and Gary (Sorry, I did not get your last name.) State Representative Jay Stegall is a new member.

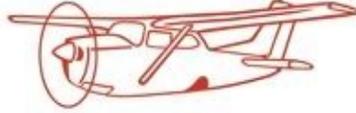
Mike Grimes introduced us to our guest speaker Greg "Sven" Smith. Greg talked about the four operating sectors of Northrop Grumman and presented an overview of the B-2 and the B-52. He served in Kosovo and showed us his flight jacket that had a silk lining sewn onto the lining of the jacket. Several languages were printed on the silk to inform whoever was helping him and taking care of him that they would be rewarded by our government. This silk lining is called a Blood Chit. He showed us the original design of the B-2 which was designed in June of 1979, pictures of weapons carried on the B-2, and explained GPS, which was the targeting system on the B-2. In addition to his service in Kosovo, he also participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq in 2003. He concluded his presentation by telling us that the B-2 remains America's "go to" weapon system.

Mike Grimes introduced Sandra Shelton who is on the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. She informed us that March 19 is Aeronautical Day at the capital. An important bill is HB 2118 which protects military training airspace.



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Photos from the April OPA Dinner Meeting



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Contacts: Steve Schroeder: 405-691-8629 (home phone) 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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Celebrating Our 49th Year At Wiley Post

2019 OPA Calendar

- May 2nd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- May 11th Fly Away** - Wichita, KS
 Hangar Steakhouse - Wheels Down - 10:00 a.m.
 See B29 DOC - Cockpit Tour & Museum
- May 16th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- June 6th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- June 15th - 16th Fly Away** Amarillo, TX
 Overnight - Palo Alto Play
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
- June 20th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- July 4th** - Watch Bethany Fireworks
 AirOne, Wiley Post Airport
- July 13th Fly Away** - McAlester, OK
 Lunch at Pete's Place in Krebs
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
- July 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

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)
- Saturday after 3rd Monday - Owasso Pancake
 Breakfast EAA Chapter 10
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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.**

