



NEWS In the Sky

October 2019

(www.opa.link)

**October 3rd, 2019 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Mark Kranenburg
OKC Airports Director**

Mark Kranenburg is the Director for the City of Oklahoma City's Airports Department. He oversees the management and operations of the city's three airports: Will Rogers World Airport, Wiley Post Airport and Clarence E. Page Airport. Mr. Kranenburg began his civilian career in aviation in 1993 as an Airport Operations Officer at Will Rogers World Airport. In 1994 he became the General Aviation Manager of Wiley Post and Clarence E. Page Airports, a position he held until 2001. He then served as the Assistant Director of San Bernardino County's six general aviation airports and later as the Director of Riverside Airport in Southern California. Mark returned to Oklahoma City in 2005 as Airports Director.



Mr. Kranenburg holds a degree in Aviation Management and is an Accredited Member of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). He has served on AAAE's Board of Directors and Policy Review Committee and is a Past President and Legislative Chairman for the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association. Mr. Kranenburg also served as an air traffic controller in both the United States Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration.

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

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

Speaker: Col. James (Jim) T. Putnam, USAF (Retired)

Putnam is Vice President of Gerrity Chapter 215 Air Force Association and President of Chapter 24 OKC Experimental Aircraft Association. Jim served over 27 years in the Air Force as a munitions and aircraft maintenance officer and major acquisition program manager. His experience included a wide variety of tactical aircraft weapons systems. He retired as the host base Inspector General for Tinker Air Force Base and the 22,000 military and civilian employees in the Air Logistics Center and the five wings hosted on base. He commanded maintenance squadrons four times, was a deputy group commander and twice took his squadron to win the Best in TAC and finished his career by winning the Lt Gen Flynn Award for the Best Inspector General Office in Air Force Material Command. Jim served in 26 different positions at 12 air bases, including three overseas tours. He has led a wide variety of organizations from shop, branch, squadron, group, senior academic instructor, to division chief in two Air Logistics Centers.

Jim had a 14 year career with the Northrop Grumman Corporation. He worked with the F-18, a classified radar project, direct support of a Navy Test Squadron, and spent the majority of his time working on the B-2 Stealth Bomber program. Jim has a BS in Engineering from the USAF Academy, and a Master's in Aviation Management (Summa Cum Laude) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College and of the Defense Systems Management University and holds Department of Defense certifications. Jim has been married over 40 years and has two sons; a C-17 captain aircraft commander in the Air Force, and an industrial safety engineer for the State of Oklahoma. He enjoys flying his private aircraft, water sports, hunting, shooting, travel and military history. If you heard Jim speak in 2015, you know you don't want to miss his presentation.



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.

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Randy Plant Receives the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award



Thanks to Greg Finley for the photo and article

Recently, one of OPA's own, Randy Plant, was awarded with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) top award as he continues with his life-long commitment and contribution to aviation. The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award was presented to Randy on September 19th during a safety seminar which he hosts regularly. This prestigious award is only presented to those who have at least 50 years of U.S. piloting experience, starting on the recipients first solo and with no revocations of certificate. The would-be recipient's entire aviation file is scrutinized by an FAA Inspector who submits the final application for approval. It must be accompanied by three typed recommendations covering most, if not all of, the 50 years and with a detailed resume'. Unbeknownst to Randy, his son, Tony Plant, submitted the award package to the FAA to honor the determination and dedication his father has for aviation. During his career, Randy has been an aircraft dealer, flight instructor and flight school owner, and FBO owner. Alongside his son, Tony, Randy continues to serve in the aviation industry as the Vice President of Southern Aircraft Sales here at Wiley Post Airport.

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OPA President Brian Hancock

Decision Making

As most of you probably have seen by now the Airshow and Oshkosh favorite, Draco, the famed highly modified Wilga aircraft flown by Mike Patey, was wrecked on takeoff from Reno/Stead Airport (KRTS) on September 16th.

After the wreck Patey made a series of videos taking all the blame for the wreck saying he made poor piloting decisions that directly resulted in totaling his million dollar plus Short-field Takeoff and Landing (STOL) champion. Patey and his two passengers survived the wreck with only bumps, and one bruised ego.

Draco was probably one of the most capable STOL aircraft ever built. Modified with a powerful Pratt and Whitney PT6S-28 Turboprop, the plane could take off and land in less than 100'. Despite all that power and capability, the plane listed to the right on the takeoff roll due to a series of crosswind gusts that ground-looped the plane. Patey admitted that the plane did not fail him, he failed the plane.

To my point, one of the most capable aircraft ever built, with a seasoned and accomplished pilot, failed to perform due to poor decision making. The numbers speak for themselves. Poor decision making is the root cause of many, if not most, aviation accidents. Year after year, the NTSB attributes approximately 75 percent of all aircraft accidents to pilot error, with a very large number the direct result of poor decisions.

Good decision making comes down to thinking about what could go wrong before it actually does. In Patey's case, his decision to depart from a runway with a direct crosswind when there were other options available, such as a runway that would allow takeoff directly into the wind. Patey, himself, said the best option would have been to taxi back to the ramp. Sitting on the runway, Patey could feel the aircraft leaning right and knew he should request a different runway or taxi back; but felt he (and the plane) could overcome the obstacles.

With good decision making you have to consider the problems most likely to arise; and decide how to avoid them. Overcome if you MUST, but avoidance is always the best option. In some cases that means the best decision, while unpopular, is to simply leave the plane in the hanger.

Hopefully many of you were able to attend the most recent AOPA Safety Seminar at Southern Wings on September 19 that dealt with making Difficult Decisions. If not, there are several good articles from AOPA that address good decision making, most notably, <https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/online-learning/safety-advisors-and-safety-briefs/do-the-right-thing>.

Stay Safe and Happy Flying!
Brian Hancock



Planes, Bikes, Cars, & BBQ at Wiley Post



Planes, Bikes, Cars, & BBQ at Wiley Post

Thanks to Randy and Tony Plant for hosting our event at Southern Wings Hangar!

We all enjoyed viewing the great cars, trucks, bikes, a Mercedes van, and airplanes before we went inside for a delightful BBQ dinner, prepared by our OPA Chef, Dave Ackley! It was a great evening of fun, food and hangar flying. Thanks to everyone who brought their treasures for us to see!



Planes, Bikes, Cars, & BBQ at Wiley Post



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Planes, Bikes, Cars, & BBQ at Wilev Post - More on Page 8!



Saturday October 19th - OPA Fly Away - Cedar Mills Airport (3T0) Safety Seminars & Fly/Splash In Pelican's Landing Restaurant



From OPA Fly Away Chair Greg Finley

Now that the weather is starting to change, let's get prepared to fly south for the winter... or at least for one day in the fall. This month, we're going to Cedar Mills Airport (3T0), TX, for a fun-filled day of seminars and lunch. The hourly seminars include topics such as, IFR & GPS, Multi-Engine: Extra Safe or Extra Scary, Longitudinal Stability & Loss of Control, Accidents & Incidents, Creative Aviation Ingenuity; and, you can receive FAAST Wings credit for attending the seminars. The first seminar starts at 9:00 am and we ask that you are wheels down by then. However, we will all meet in front of the Pelican Landing Restaurant at 11:15 am for a group photo, followed by lunch and fellowship, before the afternoon schedule of seminars begins.

If you find that you're not interested in the seminars, then come on out anyway. Enjoy the flight and just meet us for lunch. For more information on this flyaway, and other events, visit our calendar page on the OPA website or follow us on our Facebook.



Forum

presented by the FAA, aviation instructors & representatives of aviation equipment, manufacturers, avionics & aviation industry, along with fun education programs.



Seminars

Every seminar qualifies for WING credit & DOOR PRIZES! Each seminar attended gives the pilot additional chances to win the Grand Prize! You must be present at Octoberfest to win the Grand Prize.

Octoberfest Dinner featuring Aviation Guest Speaker

Gary Reeves 2019 National Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) of the Year



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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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This great Mercedes Benz Bespoke Sprinter 2016 Van was formerly owned by the Kardashians. It is now loved by Micah, Hamudi, Adel, and Salim Mruwat! They were kind enough to let me have a seat and enjoy the luxury. It is filled with comfort and beauty.



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2019 OPA Calendar

- October 3rd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- October 17th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- October 19th Fly Away** - Cedar Mills, OK
 Splash In-Fly In
 Wheels Down - 9:00 a.m.
- November 7th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- November 16th Fly Away** - Wynoka Municipal
 Transcontinental Museum
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m
- November 21st** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- December 5th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Southern Wings Hangar, Wiley Post Airport
- December 14th Fly Away**- To Be Determined
- December 19th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport

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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)
- 4th Saturday - Enid Fly-In Breakfast - Woodring
 Airport (WDG) April through October



Rick Jones

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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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 Oklahoma Pilots Association
 Mail to: 5810 Tulakes Ave.,
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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.**

