



NEWS In the Sky

March 2020

(www.opa.link)

March 5th, 2020 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Speaker: Deirdre Gurry
Enid Woodring Regional Airport Director**

Deirdre Gurry is the Airport Director for the Enid Woodring Regional Airport. Formally a US Air Force T-6 Texan II Instructor and Evaluator Pilot; Deirdre Commanded the 8th Flying Training Squadron until March 2019. She retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from active duty on August 1st. A native of Pennsylvania, Deirdre was commissioned in 1999 through the Air Force ROTC program at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. She completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi; and stayed on at Columbus as a T-37 First Assignment Instructor Pilot. Deirdre did most of her operational flying in the C-17 Globemaster at McChord Air Force Base in Washington. In 2011 she completed her Masters in Business Administration and in 2014 earned a Masters in Military Operational Art and Science. She has held several leadership positions including Chief of Safety, Chief of the NATO Airlift Coordination Center, and as Squadron Commander. **She has flown to all Oklahoma airports!**



April 2nd, 2020 - Social Hour 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Speaker: Max L. Ary, Executive Director
Stafford Air and Space Museum**

Ary is considered one of this country's leading authorities in the history of manned space flight. Prior to coming to the Stafford Museum, Ary founded the internationally acclaimed Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center, where he served as its President/CEO for nearly three decades. After leaving the Cosmosphere in 2002, Ary was named as the Executive Director of the Omniplex Science Center (now known as Science Museum Oklahoma) in Oklahoma City. He is credited for being involved with the development and design of nearly a dozen space and aviation museums throughout the world, including his work with General Tom Stafford in the creation of the Stafford Museum in the early 1990's. Ary has served as a technical advisor on numerous space-related movies, including the Academy Award winning production "Apollo 13" and the Emmy Award-winning TV miniseries, "From the Earth to the Moon." He has made numerous appearances on the "Today Show," "Good Morning America," "CBS Morning News," the History Channel, and the Discovery Channel, to provide expert commentary regarding spaceflight happenings. He has led numerous projects to save thousands of priceless and historic space artifacts from destruction, including the expedition to find and recover the "Liberty Bell-7" Mercury spacecraft from more than 16,000 feet below the Atlantic Ocean, and the complete restoration of the actual Apollo 13 Command Module "Odyssey." He has served as a space education technical advisor to more than 50 museums and institutions around the world, including NASA, the Smithsonian Institution, Disney, and the Russian and South Korean governments. For his work, Ary has been awarded numerous national and international awards, including the Triebech Trophy for Aerospace Design, the National Non-Profit Young Executive of the Year, and he is one of the only Americans ever awarded the "Gagarin Medal" by the Russian Federation of Cosmonautics. In 1994, he was named to the "Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame."

A native Kansan, Ary is a graduate of Wichita State University, and was named by the university as a "Distinguished Alumni" in 2000. Ary has been married to his childhood sweetheart, Jan, for more than 49 years. They have two children, and four grandchildren.

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





Clarence E. Page Building
5810 Tulakes Avenue
Wiley Post Airport
Bethany, Oklahoma 73008

OPA President Brian Hancock



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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Coming up in May is the first of three Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Fly-In's. This first event is to San Marcos, TX on Friday, May 29th and Saturday, May 30th. The other two fly-ins are to Casper, WY in June and Rochester, NY in September. Each AOPA flyaway is a great way to connect with the pilot community. The Oklahoma Pilots Association (OPA) has elected to make the San Marcos, TX AOPA Fly-in our May Flyaway with several members already planning on joining the festivities.

AOPA has done an excellent job in the past hosting these events at different locations through the country. If you have never been to a AOPA Fly-In they feature educational workshops and seminars plus aircraft and vendor displays. Unique to the San Marcos event will be a STOL competition and concerts at the end of both nights of activities. The workshops and seminars are designed for all skill levels of pilots so there will be something for everyone.

If you attended the AOPA Fly-In in Norman two years ago, you have some sense of what to expect. Since that time, AOPA has expanded the schedule from one to two days. Each will be filled with an expanded seminar and workshop list, plus a larger list of vendors and aircraft displays than in previous years. Something else you may notice is a broader local presence, with AOPA encouraging you to explore beyond the airport to the surrounding community.

A highlight of the event, on both days at 11 am there will be a town hall meeting with AOPA President, Mark Baker. Mark will talk about AOPA's mission and accomplishments, plus take questions from the audience.

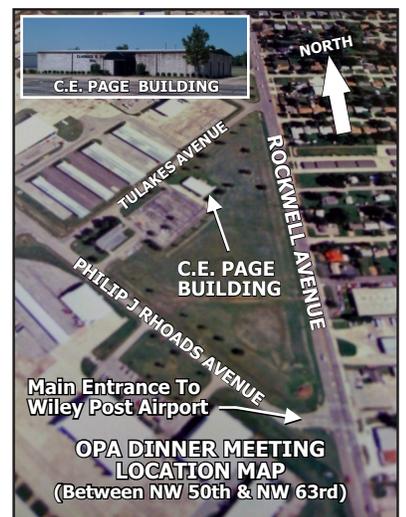
More details will follow concerning our Flyaway, but I wanted to give each of you the AOPA registration website and allow as much time as possible for you to reserve hotel or camping space, if needed.

Please see <https://aopa.org/Community/Events/AOPA-Fly-Ins/2020-AOPA-Fly-Ins/San-Marcos/> for more details about the event and to make your reservations.

Stay Safe and Happy Flying

Brian Hancock
OPA President

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.



OPA February Dinner Meeting
"Airvangalism - 2020 is Your Year"
Victor Bird - Director of Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

Article from Angela Drabeck (Editors' thanks to Angela)

Victor Bird gave a great presentation, giving a plea as to why the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC) needs to hear from Oklahomans in aviation and aerospace.

He said the main mission of OAC is to meet the needs of airports by promoting aviation; which includes ensuring that the needs of commerce and communities across Oklahoma are met by the state's 109 public airports, as well as ensuring the growth and vitality of the state's aerospace industry.

He emphasized that our airports in Oklahoma are the 'gateway to the world' for communities across the state, and are vital in generating economic activity. Statistics show that aviation is the fastest growing industry in Oklahoma. Through a recent Economic Impact Study, aviation and aerospace industries in Oklahoma are one of Oklahoma's top economic engines.

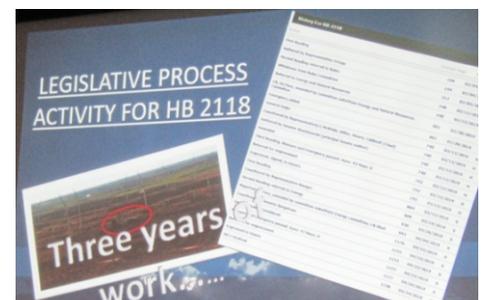
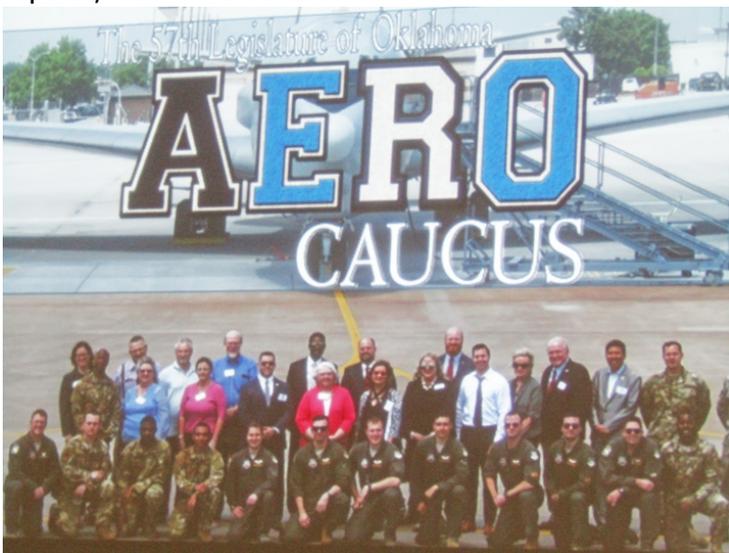
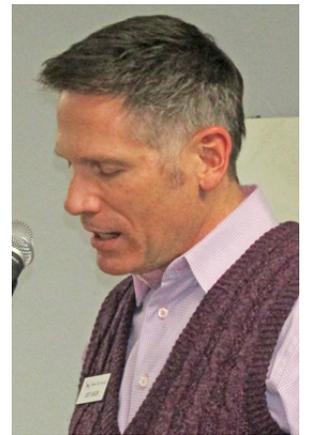
The three major contributors to Oklahoma's statewide economic impacts are airports, off-airport aviation and aeronautical businesses, as well as military aviation. Overall there are over 205,600 jobs in Oklahoma that are in some way supported by airports, aviation or aerospace; generating an economic impact of \$43.7 billion annually, and over \$11.7 billion in annual payroll.

2020 Aviation and Aerospace Legislation: Director Bird said that there are over 26 Bills directly affecting aviation, and only one Bill passed in 2019. He encourages Oklahoma Pilot's Association members to stay active with current House and Senate Bills that affect aviation, writing or calling legislators to let them know what you feel is important.

Contacting your local legislators offers an opportunity to maintain contact, and help keep current issues on the front burner for aviation. Whether its a phone call, written letter, or an email, it can be particularly effective in influencing legislators' views. Director Bird said that most of all, pilots understand the importance of aviation in Oklahoma.

He said that aviation is a 'fantastic industry', and 'I think you need to be heard from more, because you are the ones that really matter. You can make a difference, one person can make a difference.'

For more information regarding Oklahoma airports, legislation, resources and Economic Impact reports, visit The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission website at <https://oac.ok.gov>



Photos from the February Dinner Meeting

Thanks to Mike Grimes for the photos



Your OPA Editors wish to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter during our absence for Ben's surgery and recovery.





**Saturday February 14th - OPA Fly Away - Wichita, KS
Visit B-29 "Doc" - Lunch at Hangar One Steakhouse**



Article and photos from Brian Hancock

On Saturday, February 15, 10 OPA members ventured to Wichita, KS (KICT) to visit the B-29 WWII Bomber they call DOC. Bill Halpain (with Roger and Jan Walton, Al and Sonic Liebler as passengers) and Brian Hancock (with Brent Meyers) flew to Wichita and Jim Putnam and his wife Billye and Stan Young drove to Wichita.

The new permanent Doc hanger in Wichita features a small museum that displays a history of the B-29; from conception during WWII, through use as mothballed bombing targets in the California desert. That is where Doc was located before being towed out of the sand, cut up, and shipped to Wichita, for its 12-year restoration back to flying status.

After spending time looking at Doc, their museum, and finding our OPA Brick on the walk of fame (see picture) we went to the Hangar One Steakhouse for lunch.

Join us for our next flyaway on March 7th to Stillwater (KSWO) to partake in the OSU Fly-In. Wheels down will be 10 am but is subject to change based on the event schedule.





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March 7th OPA FlyAway
 Stillwater Regional Airport (KSWO)
 Article from Greg Finley



This month we're gearing up to support the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Flying Aggies 7th Annual Fly-In and Car Show, which is located at the Stillwater Regional Airport (KSWO).

Although we plan to be wheels down by 10:00 am, you are welcome to arrive early, as the event starts at 9:00 am and lasts until 1:00 pm. After arriving, look around for other OPA members, and simply enjoy the event in smaller groups or go solo. We do ask that everyone locate the Flying Aggies orange and white club airplane... a 1960 Cessna 150 tail number N600SU... and plan to participate in a group photo with the airplane at 11:30 am.

There is open registration if you have a motorcycle, car, truck, or SUV that you would like show. Please go to the Flying Aggies website <https://www.flyingaggies.com/fly-in-car-show> for more information or to pre-register your automobile for the show. Also, the above website has more information for the event.

Start making your plans now and we'll see you in Stillwater!




Looking for a Location for a Special Event or a Meeting?

Try the Page Building at Wiley Post Airport!

Page Building rental rates:

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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 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.

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Let the Fly Away Committee know if you are attending this month's Fly Away!

If you plan to go, please email Roger Walton at flyaway@opa.link with the number in your group (or text, (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 Danny Davis: (405) 990-5201 - abadavis@sbcglobal.net.

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Celebrating Our 49th Year At Wiley Post

2020 OPA Calendar

- March 5th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- March 19th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- March 7th Fly Away** - Stillwater, OK
 OSU Flying Aggies Fly In
 Wheels Down - 10:00 a.m.
- April 2nd** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- April 11th Fly Away** - Ada, OK
 Petrillo's Restaurant
 Wheels Down - 11:00 a.m.
- April 16th** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- May 7th** - Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- May 21st** - OPA Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Page Building, Wiley Post Airport
- May 30th Fly Away** - San Marcos, TX
 AOPA Fly-In
 Wheels Down - TBA

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)
- 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

Address _____ E-Mail Address _____

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Phone (Residence) _____ (Business) _____ (FAX) _____

Pilot information: Are you a Aircraft Owner? Yes — No — Type _____ N# _____

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 Mustang, OK 73064
 405-802-9657 Cell
 email:
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ANNUAL DUES ARE \$35

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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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.**

