

GOPA 2021 Fredericksburg, Texas May 10-13, 2021

TEXT WILL BE UPDATED WHEN NEW INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE

Well, the word is out...TEXAS will be the site for our next convention! Fredericksburg, Texas, to be specific, in the heart of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. This neat little German themed town is where our 2006 convention was held and for those of you who attended back then, you'll remember what a great time we had (aside from the blazing HEAT!) As it will have been 14 years since we last met in Fredericksburg, we decided it was a good time to revisit. The town has grown in the last 14 years but you'll find it to be as charming and interesting as ever. In order to avoid the intense summertime heat, as well as to take advantage of off season pricing, we've scheduled the event to take place May 10-13, 2021.

The primary convention hotel will be The Hangar Hotel, <http://www.hangarhotel.com> conveniently located right on the field (T82) and next door to the convention facility. They will begin accepting reservations on October 14, 2019. We have booked the entire facility, (50 rooms) and negotiated the rates down to \$119.00 for Sunday through Thursday. Rates outside those days will be higher. You can

call (830) 997-9990 to make your reservation and be sure to mention the GOPA BLOCK-RATE.

The overflow hotel, Fredericksburg Inn & Suites, <https://www.fredericksburg-inn.com/en-us> will also be the same one we used last time, but it has recently undergone a \$4 million renovation and is extremely nice. It also benefits from having a full complementary breakfast and is an easy, one block walk from main street where all the shopping, restaurants and museums are located. They are accepting reservations now and you can contact them at (830) 997-0202. Again, be sure to mention the GOPA BLOCK-RATE.

Your convention chairs, Bill and Cindy Daly, my wife Susan Dollar and myself are determined to put on a great convention for you so please mark your calendars now, polish your boots and spurs and start planning to attend. More updates on the activities and attractions will be coming in the near future so stay tuned and check back to the GOPA website often. See you in TEXAS!!

Updated Feb 7, 2020

If you haven't already made up your mind to attend this year's annual convention in Fredericksburg, Texas, maybe I can tease you with a little more info that'll help you get off the fence. First and foremost, if you've attended an GOPA convention before, you know that it's just 'plane 'fun! (pun intended). If you've never been to one, well, now is certainly the time. The little German-inspired town of Fredericksburg is in the heart of the Texas Hill Country and in May, the weather should be just about perfect, with average high temps in the low 80s and nightly lows in the low 60s. There's no end to the interesting things to do and see in the area and we've scheduled in plenty of free time for you to explore on your own. We've also planned a chartered excursion along the Hill Country Wine Trail.

Turning up your nose at Texas wines? Think again! Wine Spectator proclaims "The Future is Bright for Texas Wine". The Texas wine industry is exploding and in the Texas Hill Country alone, there are more than 50 registered wineries. The Hill Country region is now the second largest AVA (American viticultural area) in the US. At 9.6 million acres, and with a climate and terroir not unlike Rioja, Spain or Southern Rhone, France, skilled vintners are producing world class wines within the sandy clay loams of this unique location.

Due to numerous vintages, word is spreading – and it's time to pay attention. Mediterranean grapes from Spain, southern France, and Italy thrive in Texas. From finely tuned Tempranillo, crisp Viognier to beautiful Rhone-still red blends, Texas Hill Country wineries are not only situated around beautiful scenery, the wines they're producing are gaining world-wide recognition. Grape growers and wine makers here are fast figuring out what makes not just the best wines in Texas, but some of the best wines, period. So plan to hop on board our optional wine tour excursion on Wednesday. We'll stop first at the Altstadt Brewery for a quick lunch and then it's off to the wine trail to sample some of those luscious Texas vinos. Additional Wine Tour information on the last page.



If you're interested in World War II history, a fantastic museum is located right down the street from the overflow hotel, in the heart of downtown. The National Museum of the Pacific War, <https://www.pacificwarmuseum.org/> has 3 different galleries spread out over 6 acres and is an immersive experience delving into World War II in the Asiatic/Pacific theater. There's also the Texas Rangers Heritage Center, <http://trhc.org/index.html> that tells "The Story Behind the Badge". Another interesting stop just a few miles east of town is the LBJ Ranch National Historic park, <https://www.nps.gov/lyjo/index.htm> where you can see what's known as «The Texas White House» as well as the Lockheed C-140 Jetstar that Johnson called «Airforce One-Half». This plane flew LBJ and his family directly to the landing strip that is still located right on the ranch.

And even though May is slightly past the usual peak viewing time for wildflowers, there still should be enough around to make a drive through the Willow City Loop more than worthwhile. It's just a few miles north of town and is free. https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g55863-d218871-Reviews-Willow_City_Loop-Fredericksburg_Texas.html. Also located an easy drive from Fredericksburg is the little outpost of Luckenbach, made famous by Willie, Waylon and the boys. There's someone playing live music just about every evening so you can pull up a chair, pop a top on a longneck and enjoy the tunes under the live oak trees where so many famous country musicians have played.

Now if none of this piques your interest, how about shopping and dining? Fredericksburg's Main Street is bustling with more than 150 shops, boutiques and galleries along with creative dining spots and even more wine tasting rooms. A great way to find out more about all that the

Area has to offer is at the Convention and Visitors Bureau: <https://www.visitfredericksburgtx.com/groups/tours/>, where you can request more information and have it mailed to you ahead of time. They'll send you a free visitor's packet so you can hit the ground fully prepared to take in all the sights.

As an added bonus, since we're literally in FletchAir's backyard, David Fletcher will have some of his staff on hand with the templates to perform rigging checks on your Grumman to see if your flaps and control surfaces are within tolerance. We'll have a sign-up sheet available at check-in to get you on the list. Due to time constraints, only minor actual rigging adjustments will be made, but at least you'll be able to know for sure whether or not you need to have your own mechanic perform the adjustments.

In addition, the FletchAir parts warehouse is conveniently located just down the road from Fredericksburg in the town of Comfort. David plans to have a table at the airport stocked with some of the more commonly purchased Grumman items available for sale. However, now would also be a great time to save some money on shipping some of those larger items like windshields, side windows, canopy trim pieces etc. Some of those items cost almost as much to ship as their purchase price. If you'll give Juan or Steve a call at the warehouse and place your order now, we'll arrange to have it available for pickup at the convention center. Just be sure to tell them when you place your order that you'll be picking items up at the convention. You can reach them at parts@fletchair.com or 830- 995-5900 or 800-FA-WINGS.



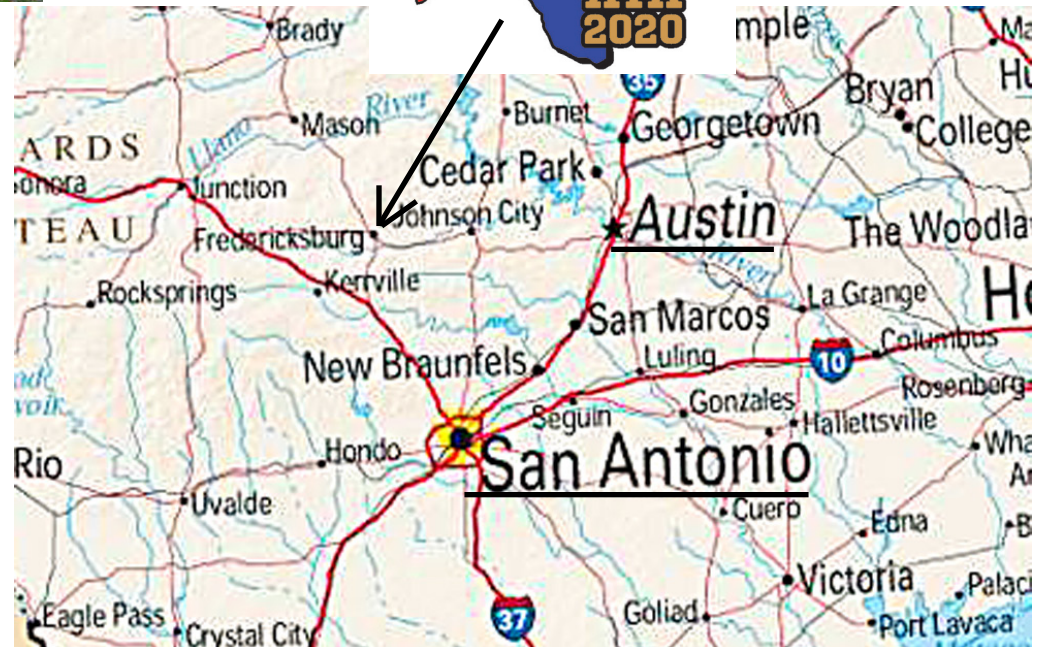
So if you've been riding the fence about coming, surely you're ready to book that room and join us now. We have booked all 50 rooms at the Hangar Hotel <http://www.hangarhotel.com/>, which is located right next to the convention facilities and the FBO. Book your room by calling them directly at 830-997-9990 and be sure to ask for the GOPA convention rate, which is \$119/night (Sunday-Thursday). Please note that this hotel does not allow pets or children. The overflow hotel is the Fredericksburg Inn and Suites. <https://www.fredericksburg-inn.com/en-us>. It's located 3.4 miles from the airport and is only a block off of main street. They accept pets and children and the rate is the same at \$119/night (Monday-Thursday). They can be reached at 830-997-0202 and again, please mention the GOPA group discount. If you're interested in camping or plan to arrive in an RV, there is an excellent park immediately adjacent to the airfield <http://www.fbgtx.org/343/Lady-Bird-Johnson-RV-Park> with 98 RV spaces.

Free convention shuttle service will be provided as usual, but if you'd like to rent a car you can arrange one at either Avis or Enterprise, neither of which are located at the airport. You can reach the local Enterprise office at 830-997-1745; remember to mention that you're with the GOPA convention. Also, note that Enterprise cars are not available for pickup on Sunday. Avis can be contacted at 210-494-1374 and again, be sure to let the agent know that you're with the GOPA

convention in Fredericksburg and that you want an FBO delivery.

Now if you plan to fly commercial, the closest major airports are San Antonio at 67 miles away, or Austin/Bergstrom, a little further at 82 miles. Once you get out of the big city, it's a very pleasant drive from either location. But still another option for getting here is our "Ride/Share" program. This can benefit members in more ways than one. If you're planning to fly your plane to the convention and have an empty seat you don't mind filling with another person, let us know. Alternately, if maybe your plane is down for maintenance, or for some reason you'd just like to fly with someone else, we will try to match you up with a willing participant and you both can have the benefit of sharing the travel expenses. It's a win/win for everyone. Just send me an email and I'll do my best to get you set up.

Your convention planning team is looking forward to seeing you in May so that we can share the delights of our part of the world with you. Book that room NOW and get your boots polished up and we'll see you in TEXAS!





Hangar Hotel above, and downtown shops in Fredericksburg below.



Conference Center right, and Luckenbach Post Office below.





GOPA Annual Convention May 10-13, 2021 Fredericksburg, Texas

Well, hopefully by now if you're planning to join us in Texas for next year's convention you've already got your room booked. If not, then what are you waiting for? If the early bookings are any indication of the overall attendance, we're going to have a great turnout. ~~The cut off date to get the preferred room rates of \$119/night is April 11 so don't delay...those rooms are filling up fast!~~ Contact information for the hotels can be found on our website in the "Upcoming Events" section.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Fredericksburg, it's a town of about 11,000 located in the heart of what's commonly known as the Texas Hill Country. It was settled in the 1840's by German immigrants and was named after Prince Frederick of Prussia. Its rich German heritage is still evident today in its architecture, cuisine and friendly people. Today, its economy is principally driven by farming, ranching, and tourism, with vineyards and wine production rapidly becoming a major economic driver of revenue to the area. It has become the second largest certified viticultural area in America with over 50 wineries, vineyards and tasting rooms located in the immediate vicinity.

The non-towered Gillespie County Airport, sits at 1700' elevation and has a 5000' runway with lots of ramp space. It features two RNAV approaches and one VOR approach. At this time, we're fairly confident that we'll have enough ramp space to tie everyone down so fortunately, no one will have to park in the grass. Averaging less than 50 operations per day, we should have plenty of room and flexibility to conduct our air and ground games. In May, the average high temperature is 83 and the low average is 63 so we'll definitely beat the brutal summer heat.

In the 'Upcoming Events' section on the home page of our website, you can see a preview of the power point presentation I gave at Fernandina Beach. This shows some of the many things to do and see out here in this beautiful part of the world. Among other things, this part of the state is renowned for is the amazing display of natural



wildflowers that cover literally thousands of acres each spring. Mother nature being what she is, may be nearing the end of the peak viewing period. Nevertheless, I'm pretty certain there will still be some great views across the area so have your camera ready. Much like trying to guess the peak leaf-peeping period in the north eastern part of the

country, it's always a gamble to predict the best viewing time here. One of the favored viewing trails is the Willow City Loop, just a few miles outside of Fredericksburg. It's about a 13 mile long drive through private ranch land that is open to the public at no charge and definitely worth your time.

The city is also home to the Admiral Nimitz Historic Site and the National Museum of the Pacific War. This museum is one of the very best in the country and is located in the heart of the city, an easy stroll from the overflow hotel surrounded by many shops and restaurants. Just down the road a short drive from town is the world famous outpost of Luckenbach, made famous by Willie, Waylon and the boys. Even though there are only about 10 permanent residents, the dance hall, general store and saloon can pack in thousands of country music lovers on a busy weekend. Known for it's friendly atmosphere and laid back vibe, the little settlement has hosted numerous music festivals, chili cook-offs, a 'Hug-In' and even its own 'World's Fair'. Their slogan: "Everybody's Somebody in Luckenbach" pretty much says it all.

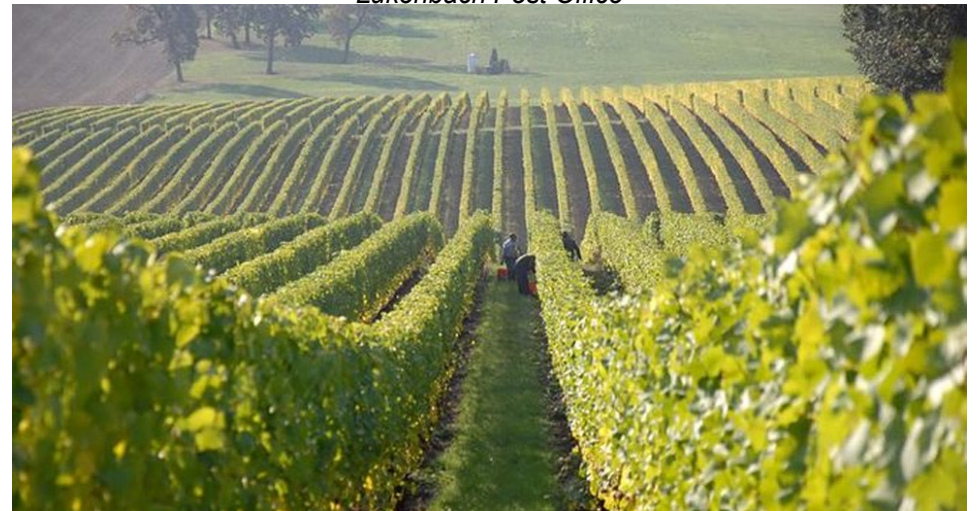


Enchanted Rock State Park, which features a huge granite dome rising 425 feet above ground.

Just a few miles northeast of town is Enchanted Rock State Park which features a huge granite dome rising 425 feet above ground. It's one of the largest batholiths in the U.S. and according to the park service, is one of the best examples of an exfoliation dome anywhere in the world! Wow! Now that alone should be reason enough to polish your spinner and head on down here to see. Even if you don't take the time to drive out to the park, you really should plan to fly over it on the way home as it truly is an impressive sight.



Lukenbach Post Office



Lots of grapes, and of course wine and wineries...

Be sure to watch for the next Star issue when we'll post the schedule along with more detailed information about the planned events. This is just a few of the many reasons to come visit us down here in our little piece of paradise, so why don't you get that room booked, start your flight planning, and get ready to have a fine time in TEXAS!

aya 2020 apparel



t-shirts

Men & Women: S-M-L-XL \$18.00
 Men & Women: 2XL-3XL-4XL \$28.00

- Heathered gray
- Tri-blend jersey: 50% Polyester, 25% Combed Ring-Spun Cotton, 25% Rayon
- Crew Neck, No Pocket
- AYA 2020 screened on front; convention logo screened on back



long sleeve fishing shirts

\$30 (all sizes)

Men: S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL-4X
 Women: S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL



- 100% Nylon Ripstop with Solar-Factor UPF 30+ and UV Protection
- Caped Back and Vented Shoulders
- Dual Cargo and Zipper Chest Pockets
- Mesh Underarm Inserts
- Adjustable Roll Up Sleeves
- Comfortable Mesh Lining
- Convention Logo will be embroidered on upper right chest



caps \$15.00

Convention logo will be embroidered on front

note:

APPAREL MUST BE ORDERED BY SUNDAY, APRIL 5.

WEDNESDAY WINE TOUR

Depart hotels via wine shuttles at 11:45 a.m.

First stop: Altstadt Brewing for lunch, complete with a beer or glass of wine.

Afternoon: each shuttle will make one stop at the world-famous Wildseed Farm and stops at two wineries before returning to the hotels by 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$60 per person, includes lunch, one beer or wine, and all transportation.

NOTE:

The tour price does not include wine by the glass or tasting fees at the wineries, which run around \$20 (typically 6 tastings; some include a souvenir Reidel wine glass).

Also, private vehicles may not participate in the afternoon wine tour; all participants must ride one of the contracted wine shuttles.



Proposed Schedule, subject to revision.

	Diner open 8-4	Diner open 8-2	Diner closed	Diner closed	Diner open 11-2	Diner open 11-2	Diner open 8-2	
	Officer Club: 5-9				Officer Club : 7-10	Officer Club: 5-11	Officer Club: 5-12	
	SHUTTLE SERVICE	SHUTTLE SERVICE	SHUTTLE SERVICE	SHUTTLE SERVICE	SHUTTLE SERVICE	SHUTTLE SERVICE	SHUTTLE SERVICE	
	SATURDAY, MAY 9	SUNDAY, MAY 10	MONDAY, MAY 11	TUESDAY, MAY 12	WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	THURSDAY, MAY 14	FRIDAY, MAY 15	
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast at hotels	Breakfast at hotels	Breakfast at hotels	Breakfast at hotels	Breakfast at hotels	Breakfast at hotels	Breakfast at hotels	
7:30 a.m.							DEPARTURES	
8:00 a.m.	Convention Crew arrives	Board arrivals Early arrivals	BOARD MEETING 8-12	Pilot Briefing			Have a safe trip home.	
8:30 a.m.				FLYING ACTIVITIES Flour Bombing Spot Landing	SEMINAR 1 8:30-9:15 INSTRUMENT APPROACHES Ron Levy	SEMINAR 4 8:30-9:15 ATC	Thanks for coming.	
9:00 a.m.	Suggested Activities for Early Arrivals and Free Time: National Museum of the Pacific War, other area museums, art galleries, shopping, drive Willow City Loop, visit LBJ Ranch/Texas White House, tour Garrison Brothers Distillery, visit Luckenbach (live music daily), climb Enchanted Rock, eat a hamburger at Alamo Springs Café and watch the bats at Old #9 Tunnel.		REGISTRATION 9-11:30 SILENT AUCTION OPENS	REGISTRATION 9-11		COCKPIT COOL COURSE 9:00-11:00		
9:30 a.m.				HANDS-ON AIRPLANE DEMOS (pre-register)		SEMINAR 2 9:30-10:15 Garmin	SEMINAR 5 9:30-10:15 AVIATION AIRCRAFT INTERIORS	
10:00 a.m.				TACH CHECK Ann Marie & Mike &	FLYING ACTIVITIES Flour Bombing Spot Landing	SEMINAR 3 10:30-11:30 GRUMMAN AIRCRAFT INSPECTION	SEMINAR 6 10:30-12:00 AVIATION EXPERTS	
10:30 a.m.				RIGGING CHECK Dave Fletcher		LUNCH on your own OR		
11:00 a.m.						BREWERY/LUNCH & WINE TOURS Board bus at 11:45		
11:30 a.m.								
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH on your own	LUNCH on your own	LUNCH on your own	CATERED LUNCH at airport		LUNCH on your own		
12:30 p.m.								
1:00 p.m.				GROUND EVENTS Grumman Limbo	Free Afternoon Wine Tours	Free Afternoon Wine Tours		
1:30 p.m.								
2:00 p.m.		REGISTRATION OPEN 2-4:00PM Scholarship Items Sale	REGISTRATION 2-4:00	Precision Taxi	Other suggested Activities for Free Time: National Museum of the Pacific War complex and other area museums, art galleries, shopping; visit LBJ Ranch and Texas White House in Johnson City.	Other suggested Activities for Free Time: Air Rally on your own National Museum of the Pacific War complex and other area museums, art galleries, shopping; visit LBJ Ranch.		
2:30 p.m.			HANDS-ON AIRPLANE DEMOS (pre-register)					
3:00 p.m.			TACH CHECK &	Spot Parking				
3:30 p.m.			RIGGING CHECK	Rodeo Tiedown				
4:00 p.m.				Rigged Pre-Flight				
4:30 p.m.								
5:00 p.m.								
5:30 p.m.								
6:00 p.m.	DINNER on your own	DINNER On Your Own	NEWCOMER'S MEETING	DINNER on your own	DINNER on your own			
6:30 p.m.								
7:00 p.m.						BANQUET & AWARDS		
7:30 p.m.			WELCOME RECEPTION Taco & Nacho Bar		AIRPLANE GAMES Cornhole Wing Nut Toss Paper Airplanes Runway Landings Musical Airports			
8:00 p.m.			CALCUTTA	MEMBERSHIP General Meeting Catered Paletas				
8:30 p.m.								
9:00 p.m.					SILENT AUCTION ENDS			