



## THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95476

JUNE 2006



### NEW FUN NEWSLETTER ACTIVITY FOR SKY CRAFTERS!

Chapter 1268 members can think up clever and amusing captions for the photo of John Thomason and an unidentified burglar stuck inside one of the new Sky Crafters' kitchen cabinets in the new clubhouse. The June meeting will be our first in our own facility. Maybe during the meeting we can think of a good way of getting that burglar unstuck.

#### **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President: Eric Presten, 707-939-8913  
Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-996-4494  
Secretary: Ashley Gravatt, 707-996-2984  
Treasurer: Bob Avrit, 707-938-5818

Membership Chair: Marilyn Poggensee,  
707-939-7491

Building Chair: Don Youngs, 707-538-2288  
Young Eagles Coordinator: Rich Cooper,  
707-938-5587

## MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY

The Sonoma Sky Crafters membership directory went out with the May newsletter. There are a number of corrections and additions to be made, and we will continue updating the directory throughout the year.

Eric, Debbie, Curtis and Ben Presten are in new digs. The new address is:  
19165 Junipero Serra Drive  
Sonoma, CA 95476

Sam McIntosh sent his phone number:  
707-939-3750

Bob Kramer is at a new address:  
78303 Sunrise Mountain View, Palm Desert,  
CA 92211

Jerry Terman's phone number and address:  
707-935-8946  
201 Meadowlark Lane  
Sonoma

If you didn't quite get it together to send your membership dues in to Bob Avrit, don't worry. All is forgiven. Bob's address is just below and he is still eagerly accepting dues checks or twelve dollar bills from the procrastinators in the club. Just fill out the membership form on the last page of this newsletter, stick it in an envelope with that twelve dollars, and send it on in.

Send your dues to:

Bob Avrit  
4479 Grove Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476

## BOSS! BOSS! THE CLUBHOUSE! THE CLUBHOUSE! IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE!

The May 9 work party did itself proud. Well over a dozen Sky Crafters members came

out during the day and put the club house interior together.



*Our very own B.K. "Rambo" White, carpenter par excellence, about to saw either his kneepad or his cord.*

Don Youngs had headed up the crews to open the side wing of the T-hangar out to give us more interior space. His crew dismantled the west side, modified the steel framework, with lots of welding on Don's part, then got the new sheet metal put back on with some fiberglass insulation in the roof of the new section. Don also oversaw the concrete work to pour a new slab under the expanded West Wing.

After the stage was set, a work party gathered on May 9 to make the place livable and workable.

B.K. White and his helpers put up the wood frame wall in the kitchen, which was then wired and insulated before paneling covered the walls.

Greg Murray took on the task of getting the kitchen wiring in place with help from several other Sky Crafters. There are receptacles, switches and lights enough that preparing meals will be a pleasure.

Our own master electrician, Dick "Sully" Sullivan went to work on the meeting room lighting, with Bruce Wiltse assisting, and together got all the lighting fixtures up, conduit run and most of the wire pulled. Our other master electrician, Ed Barkhurst, concentrated on the ground-level receptacle boxes and conduit for the meeting room.

Tim Steers took charge of the cabinet modifications, with lots of help, and by the end of the day was able to get most of the cabinetry in place, if not completely anchored down.

The gang included Bob Avrit, Frank Russo, Rich Cooper, Sam McIntosh, Jack Caldwell, John Thomason, Ron Price (who also cooked up hamburgers for lunch with Francois), Paul Siebert as well as several others who I, in my declining years and with my feeble memory, have overlooked..

The sewer line will be run to the buildings as soon as construction starts on Gardner Cook's new hangar, since the airport will be using that work crew to get the trench dug.

### **JUNE 13 WORK PARTY**

The next work party should be enough to get the clubhouse to the point that we can turn on the lights and plug in a coffee pot and TV.

We will need to pull some wire, get the electrical panel up and connected to the service, put in those receptacles and switches, and mount and connect the microwave.

There is still some cabinet work to be completed before we can get the stove, oven, sink and dishwasher installed. The cabinets were cut apart to remove them from the kitchen in which they were installed, so the blocking, backing and tops and sides will need to be cut and glued, nailed and screwed into place.

As soon as the lights and receptacles are installed in the kitchen, we will be able to move the refrigerator in and start that running.

We also need someone to oversee grading the patio and placing some crushed rock so we can fire up the barbecue sheltered from the wind. That person will need to run a sprinkler on Monday for a few hours to soften up the ground.

Tuesday we will need four or five people with shovels and a couple of wheelbarrows to grade the patio for drainage, roll out some weed stop and then to place the rock. If someone has a pickup and is willing to get the rock, we can save the cost of delivery.

We can plan on being out at the hangar at about 9 am again. I may have to leave for a couple of hours, but the last work party ran so smoothly that I'm sure I won't even be missed.

Please come on out and give it that last little push to get everything usable. If you can't come out to help during the day, please come out for the meeting an hour or so early and we can get everything moved over from

John Thomason's hangar and get the tables set up for the meeting.

See you at our new clubhouse!

**SONOMA SKYPARK OPEN HOUSE  
AND FAMILY FUN DAY THIS  
SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

The next big event at Sonoma Skypark will be the annual open house and family fun day. Each year the airport hosts a public day to acquaint the residents of Sonoma Valley with the airport and to generate a little good public relations.

The airport is asking pilots and owners to bring their airplanes out for display. The open house will run from 11 am to 3 pm, and will be limited to static display only in the interest of safety.

There will be an ongoing barbecue, a free hay ride, music, an operating amateur radio station, Sonoma's own Magic Man, Roger Rhoten putting on a magic show, antique and hot rod cars, and whatever else we can think of. If you also have a car that you would like to display, please bring it out.

The airport will need all the help it can muster, with set-up and tear-down being the biggest jobs. If you can lend a hand, we will be starting between 8 and 9 in the morning, and should have everything up by 5 in the afternoon.

Please call the airport office at 707-996-2100 to let us know that you will be there.

**NAPA B-17 AND YOUNG EAGLES  
RIDES A SUCCESS!**

The EAA B-17, Aluminum Overcast, flew from Napa May 12, 13 and 14, and sold out all rides. The Napa EAA chapter will be

sharing the proceeds with Sonoma Sky Crafters, with our club getting 40% of the net amount given by the national EAA.

Sonoma Pilots gave the majority share of the Young Eagle rides, with 77 of the 92 Young Eagles riding with our chapter's members. Jeanette Woods, Harry Andrews, Nerio Festa, Ron Price, Andy Smith and Darrel Jones gave rides though the day, with Trevor Meeks flying the Cadet over to lend moral support (the silly ol' tower didn't like his radio and wouldn't let him use their airspace.)

B.K White once more did yeoman duties on the ground, as did all the other Chapter 1268 members who helped out over the three days.

**YOUNG EAGLES CALENDAR**

Chapter 1268 will fly Young Eagles again this Sunday, weather permitting.

Give Rich a call at 707-938-5587 if you will be flying Young Eagles this Sunday.

**JUNE MEETING PROGRAM**

The June meeting program will be a presentation by Bill Ewertz on some of the aircraft he has built, bought, owned, sold, flown and restored. He will have slides of many of the planes he's owned, and will tell about the ones he is currently restoring.

Dinner will start at 7, (IN THE NEW CLUBHOUSE) and Bill's presentation will start right after the regular business meeting.

**OSHKOSH IS GETTING CLOSER!**

Planning is nearing completion for the fly-out to Oshkosh again this year.

We will leave on Friday, July 15, and fly up to the Prospect Fly-in just over the border in Oregon. They will have a chicken and steak barbecue Saturday evening, and then a pancake breakfast Sunday morning.

After breakfast, we will head out and try to make Cavanaugh Bay, up in the northeast corner of Washington for the second night. The next day, we will head out through Glacier Park pass and get across as much of Montana as possible. The fourth day should see us somewhere between North Dakota and Minnesota, weather permitting.

This will be one of those “the more the merrier” trips, so call Darrel Jones at 707-996-4494 to get your name on the list.

### **MAY MEETING MINUTES**

EAA Chapter 1268  
Sonoma, California

Minutes of the May 9, 2006 Meeting  
President Eric Preston called the meeting to order at the usual starting point.

Guest was Bob Shultz who used to own a Cherokee and still has his pilots license. Just moved from Tennessee, possibly looking for rides?

Thanks again to Nelleke Cooper, Marilyn Avrit, and Jeannie Williams for dinner. It was wonderful.

The minutes were approved.

57 members have paid, however there are still 11 from last year who have not paid either years. Look out for treasurer Bob Avrit who will be hounding you at the next meeting.

Vice-President Darrel Jones wants to know which email is easier to read. Let him know at the June meeting.

Don Youngs had help with the clubhouse's roof from Ron Price and Eric Secrest. Darrel Jones will be starting work on the kitchen, so any help is well thanked.

Oshkosh. The fly-in is set for late July through early August. There are many potential routes, and there should be a group getting together to talk about the plans soon.

The B-17 fly-in went great, except for someun-expected hostility brought on by the tower because of radios and, uhem, whilst in-flight arguments. We had over 60 flights, which was quite a change from the usual 5 to 10, so great job pilots and volunteers.

From our chapter, Darrel Jones, Ashley Gravatt, Paul Siebert, and Ron Price got the honor of free B-17 rides to the next base in Sacramento on the Monday following. Ashley will have printed pictures, maybe, at the next meeting.

Trevor Meeks reported that he has updated the website. Check it out at [www.eea1269.org](http://www.eea1269.org).

Jeanette Woods forgot about being the guest speaker, so the members took a walk or short drive down to the Clubhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Gravatt, Secretary

Well, that's enough for this month. Please send your news to: [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com).

**Sonoma Skycrafters**  
EAA Chapter 1268  
358 Patten Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**REMEMBER! THE JUNE MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER  
1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, JUNE 13, AT 7:30 PM, AT SONOMA SKYPARK,  
SKYCRAFTERS CLUBHOUSE, HANGAR B5!  
DINNER STARTS AT 7 PM, SO DON'T BE LATE!**

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**SKYCRAFTER MEMBERSHIP**

**EAA CHAPTER 1268**    Membership Dues:        \$12 per year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Your check should be made payable to:    **EAA 1268**

Please mail your dues to:

Bob Avrit  
4479 Grove Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476