



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95476

SEPTEMBER 2013



## **This Really Exists: Giant Concrete Arrows That Point Your Way Across America...**

Every so often, usually in the vast deserts of the American Southwest, a hiker or a backpacker will run across something puzzling: a large concrete arrow, as much as seventy feet in length, sitting in the middle of scrub-covered nowhere.

What are these giant arrows? Some kind of surveying mark? Landing beacons for flying saucers? Earth's turn signals?

### **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President: Don Booker, 707-938-9461  
Vice Pres: Jeanette Woods, 707-996-4563  
Secretary: Marsi Fahraji, 415-686-5254  
Treasurer: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901  
Membership: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901

Building Chair: Darrel Jones, 707-996-4494  
Young Eagles: BK White, 707-996-1335  
Dinner Co-ord.: Roy Myers, 415-897-2983  
BOD: Paul Seibert, 707-939-7491  
BOD/Air Ex: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747

### **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The July meeting is this **Tuesday, September 10**. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner is at 7:00 p.m. after the Board of Directors' meeting, and is \$6.00 per person. I called both Don and Roy and they said that our chef for the month will be Marsi. I haven't talked to her yet to see what the menu will be. I hope someone told her.

Our speaker will be Howard Hall's friend Tom Ryan.

### **EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER REPORT** **September 2013**

We're in good shape.

Bill Wheadon  
EAA 1268 Membership Chairman and  
Treasurer

### **YOUNG EAGLES SEPTEMBER 8**

Young Eagles this coming Sunday. The WX should be good, lets hope theres no fog. I have to leave early (visitors from San Diego). I will bring the usual "Treats" and help get things started. Will be thankful for any volunteers. Send me a Yea or Ney to [Eagle1@Vom.Com](mailto:Eagle1@Vom.Com). See you Sunday

Jeanette also asks all Young Eagles pilots to give a copy of their current insurance to either BK or her.

As always BK White is looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events. Let him know you will be joining us and helping out by sending him an email to [eagle1@vom.com](mailto:eagle1@vom.com) or by calling him at 707-996-1335.

### **AIR EXPLORER UPDATE**

The latest from the Aviation Explorers:

Our July activity took us over the Lee Schaller's place in Petaluma. The boys (and me) got to shake our collective heads in amazement at the astounding collection of stuff that he has in his two hangars (not including the house) of submarine engines, artillery (all de-militarized, of course), cars, boats, planes (on the ground and suspended from the ceiling), engines, endless manuals, motorcycles, and practically a museum's worth of wonderful photographs on the wall.

My personal favorite was one taken in the Sacramento Valley, airborne of course, looking down at a field with the message "FARMING SUCKS" sculpted out of the middle of it. Priceless.

And the quote of the day came from Connor. When I asked him what he thought about the place, he said while looking around: "I'm thinking we need to get a ride in one of these planes..." Yep - I'll be working on that.

August was busy and quiet at the same time with everyone migrating to Wisconsin for Oshkosh. Daniel and Garrett went to Air Venture and will be giving a presentation (as usual) at the October EAA meeting. Our August meeting took place the day after they got back - they were positively beaming and gave a terrific recap to everyone there.

On September 21 we have a great opportunity to make some money for the group selling hot dogs at the Petaluma Airport for their Display Day and Astronaut Day. I know Darrell will be mentioning this also in the newsletter so I'll leave the details to him. However, if anyone can help out us out at the booth it would be much appreciated. I am hoping to raise enough money to schedule several hours of dual for each of the Explorers.

Give me a call at (707) 853-2220 if you have an hour or two to spare while you'll be over there. It is sounding like there could be

a huge amount of people for the event.  
Thanks!

Robin

**MOVIE NIGHT AT SKYPARK**

Movie night for March should be **Friday, September 27**

We'll send an email to confirm the date and program.

Pizza is always available for \$5 per person, including beverages, and complimentary popcorn just to whet your appetite (or spoil it), courtesy of Walt Lewis and his Amazing Real Movie Theater Popcorn Popping Extravaganza Machine.

See you at the movies on Skypark Movie Night, **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27** at 6 p.m.

**DINNER SCHEDULE**

We are lining up our celebrity chefs for 2013 so let Roy know if you would like to be one of our famous chefs for the upcoming year. Roy can be found at [Flyboyroy@aol.com](mailto:Flyboyroy@aol.com) or by phone at 415-897-2983. You can also let me know at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com) and I'll put you on the roster.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cook	Meal
<b>2013 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>		
SEP	Marsi	Surprise!
OCT	Air Explorers	Mystery!
NOV	Ron P.	Excitement!
DEC	XMAS	PARTY

**SKYPARK FAMILY FUN DAY**

Sonoma Skypark's Family Fun Day has been rescheduled to next June, probably the second Saturday. That leaves plenty of time to get the open house well organized.

**SPEAKERS**

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. If you don't want to show your own baby pictures at a meeting, think of an alternative program or speaker and let us know what you would like to hear.

We will be trying a new method of arranging for speakers. We will ask for volunteers, not to necessarily be the speaker themselves, but to ask someone they know to be the speaker for the month they've selected.

Send an email to me at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com) so we can get your program or speaker information into the newsletter.

Month	Speaker/Member	Subject
<b>2013 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>		
SEP	Tom Ryan	?
OCT	Air Academy Participants	Tales of Oshkosh
NOV	Eric Presten	Bleriot ops
DEC	FROSTY S.M.	ICING OPS

**2013 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

Send me any events you have for the calendar and I'll put them in.

DATE	EVENT
9/21	Wings Over Marin

**EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

**August 13, 2013**

EAA Chapter 1268 - BOD Meeting

President Booker called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Board members and officers present were Don Booker, Bill Wheadon, Darrel Jones, Paul Siebert, BK White and Marsi Fahraji.

Unavailable this evening: Jeanette Woods, Vice President. Also, unavailable: Robin Tatman, Air Explorer's Post Leader [as she

was taking off in a 747 from Detroit to Japan, *and back* - - apparently 860,000 pounds of pure fun.]

Darrel Jones:

EAA National has provided the Chapter with a \$100 check as reimbursement for non-attendance of sponsored Young Eagle re Air Academy.

**Treasurer's Report:** Operating Account's Balance: \$4,330.28. Added Note: We are now in the black. Bill Wheadon

**Young Eagle Report August 11:**

16 Young Eagles; 5 Pilots: R. Craig; W. Eastland; R. Price; B. Wheadon and J. Woods; 5 Ground crew: R. Cooper; W. Lewis; P. Siebert; Jasmine & Marsi

**Air Explorer Post Report for Robin**

**Tatman:** for Family Day and related fundraising, the Post would like to request relocating "Ice Cream & Popcorn" venue adjacent to food line - - for more visibility. We will continue to sell ice cream from bicycles. Also, a kind request is submitted by the Post to be included in funding allocation yielded from Family Day proceeds.

**Announcements:**

August 17-18, 2013: Sonoma Wings Over Wine Country – volunteers needed

October 12, 2013: Sonoma Skypark's Family Fun Day – *Generating Public Support.*

Volunteers for tasks: Silent auction contributions; letters for contributors for 501C3; funding to Air Explorer's Post; funding to Mentoring Alliance; Model A Participation; Ideas welcome with bringing in "Display Participants"; Balloon Lady; Raffle Tickets; Planning & Organizing; Face; Painting; Parachute / BINGO .

Darrel Jones reported that we will have Planning & Organizing Dates in preparation

for Family Fun Day. Suggested dates: August 24, 2013.

Paul Siebert of the Board's Counsel discussed Risk Management and Liability with respect to Family Fun Day. It was proposed that the Chapter prepare the required form and supplemental language outlining the Chapter's fundraising objective. Paul to prepare draft and finalize for review and submission to EAA National.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

General Chapter Meeting

"Let's Get Summer Started with a Picnic" Presented by "The Avrits". Schmingling with chips, avocado and salsa dips. Dining on sandwiches, with all the accoutrements; buttered corn on the cob; apple and fruit cobblers; ice cream.

Special thanks to Gardner and Sheila Bride, of *Petaluma Coffee & Tea Company*, for providing the aromatic and perfectly brewed coffee.

Tonight's Presentation: Meeting was adjourned and the EAA Chapter 1268 welcomed Gary MacDonald in a presentation about his personal experiences in Idaho and Air Camping (true survival techniques and equipment).

Announcements:

First, we need cooks for next month. Any volunteers?

August 14, 2013 PAPA Meeting (Tri tip and Chicken)

August 17 & 18, 2013 Wings Over Wine Country Air Show

September 1, 2013 PAPA Fly-Out to Trinity Center (086)

September 1, 2013 46<sup>th</sup> Lions BBQ and Fly-In

Food Served: 12-4 pm

Bill Smith's Band: 1-5 pm  
September 21, 2013 Novato's Gness Field,  
Wings Over Marin  
(emphasis career opportunities & women in  
aviation)

10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
September 21, 2013 Petaluma Airport,  
Display Day with Astronaut Walt Heim  
October 12, 2013 Sonoma Skypark Airport,  
Family Fun Day  
*Complimentary lunch:* 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
November 11, 2013 Petaluma – Veteran's  
Day Parade

Bill Wheadon Treasurer's Report:  
\$3,330.28; We are now in the black due to  
contributions from Gary MacDonald and  
PAPA ear marked for next year's Air  
Academy fund. Merci!

B.K. White reported for the August Young  
Eagles: sixteen Young Eagles; five Pilots: R.  
Craig; W. Eastland; R. Price; B. Wheadon  
and J. Woods; and five ground crew: R.  
Cooper; W. Lewis; P. Siebert; Jasmine &  
Marsi. B.K. thanked everyone for their  
continued support and participation.

Ron Price reported that a workday dedicated  
to refurbishing the airway beacon will be  
scheduled after the harvest (late fall).

Don Booker reported:  
August 17-18, 2013: Sonoma Wings Over  
Wine Country – volunteers are needed.  
October 12, 2013: Sonoma Skypark's  
Family Fun Day – *Generating Public  
Support.*

Walt Lewis reported for Air Explorers:  
Daniel Shulte now has his private ticket and  
a cake (of his choice) was presented to him  
at the last Post meeting; The Post will  
volunteer to sell Hot Dogs on Display Day  
with PAPA to take place on Saturday,  
September 21 (Astronaut Walt Heim to be  
present at the event). The Post is planning an  
outing to Shellville. The Post will *not* be

selling hot dogs at Wings Over Wine  
Country this year.

Old Business:

The June-July minutes were approved as  
published in the newsletter (minor  
corrections noted).

Motion to Adjourn: 7:30 pm  
The meeting was adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted  
Marsi Fahraji, Chapter Secretary

### **PETALUMA AIRPORT DAY SEPT 21**

Hi All,

If you've not volunteered to help out with  
the "Wings Over Marin" event at Gness  
Field on September 21st, we REALLY need  
your help at our event with Shuttle  
Astronaut Rex Walheim that same day. So  
far over 20 PAPA members have  
volunteered to participate. The public event  
with Astronaut Rex will be combined with  
our final Display Day event for the year.  
Following the Display Day we'll have a  
gathering at the PAPA hangar including  
burgers and fries as well as some brewed up  
adult beverages for all the Astronaut Rex  
volunteers. We'll have a great time relaxing  
after the hectic day and be able to show  
Astronaut Rex how much we appreciate his  
service to our country. He's looking  
forward to spending time with us as fellow  
pilots.

See you all there!

Tail winds,  
**Tom McGaw**  
Thomas McGaw Consulting  
Airport Development & Business Planning  
707-762-3724

### **WINGS OVER MARIN SEP 21**

All GFCA Friends and Lists

I'd like to ask for your help in getting our event out to the northern California airport email lists.

Wings Over Marin – is happening on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-4m at Gness Field. Please visit the web site for details and ticket information. [www.gnessfield.org/events](http://www.gnessfield.org/events)

We are going to have a family friendly day and a lot of fun:

We need your help, even if you can't attend, or volunteer for the event. Please forward the two attachments to this email to your friends, family, and email lists with a note telling them that you know this event will be a fun family friendly day. Encourage them to go to our web site where they can find details about the day and buy tickets on-line! [www.gnessfield.org/events](http://www.gnessfield.org/events) We also have a facebook page at [www.facebook.com/wingsovermarin2013](http://www.facebook.com/wingsovermarin2013).

If you know how to do facebook, please "share" any of the great facebook items about the event with your facebook friends!

#### Highlights:

Women in Aviation theme with some wonderful women speakers and seminar in the afternoon for middle and high school youth to be inspired by aviation as a possible career.

Static Displays, Fly-overs, Marin Antique and Roadster Car Club, Free Rides for kids (who win raffle – should be at least 20 free rides for kids that day. Expo, Food and Fun. Visit [www.gnessfield.org/events](http://www.gnessfield.org/events) for directions, schedule, parking, and on-line ticket sales!

Thanks for your help in getting the word out about Wings Over Marin. Looking forward to seeing you on Sept. 21 at Gness Field.

Steve Knecht  
[steve.knecht@comcast.net](mailto:steve.knecht@comcast.net)  
415-893-9941 (office)  
415-246-5493 (cell)

#### **ALSO FROM GNOSS FIELD**

Our annual Young Eagles day is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10-2 at Gness this year and, as always, we're on the prowl for pilots to help fly kids that morning. We're a little thin on pilots of our own this year especially, as we'll be flying kids a various times during the day the previous Saturday at the Wings Over Marin event. We'd love to have any or all of your members come join us on the 28th-would you mind posting a notice for us?

Let everyone know they can call me directly at 415-378-8504 or email me here for details.

Many thanks! Hope to see you again this year (in fact, I believe that's your purty Stinson on our Facebook page header: [www.facebook.com/EAA1232](http://www.facebook.com/EAA1232)

Regards,  
Ken Mercer  
EAA Chapter 1232

#### **THIS FROM NUT TREE CHAPTER 1230**

Our YE events are the third Saturday of each month (we start in March & fly through November). The information I sent on the times during the event still hold. We pilot brief at 0715, start flying kids at 0730 until done. With enough aircraft flying we are usually done by 1200 or earlier.

Cheers,

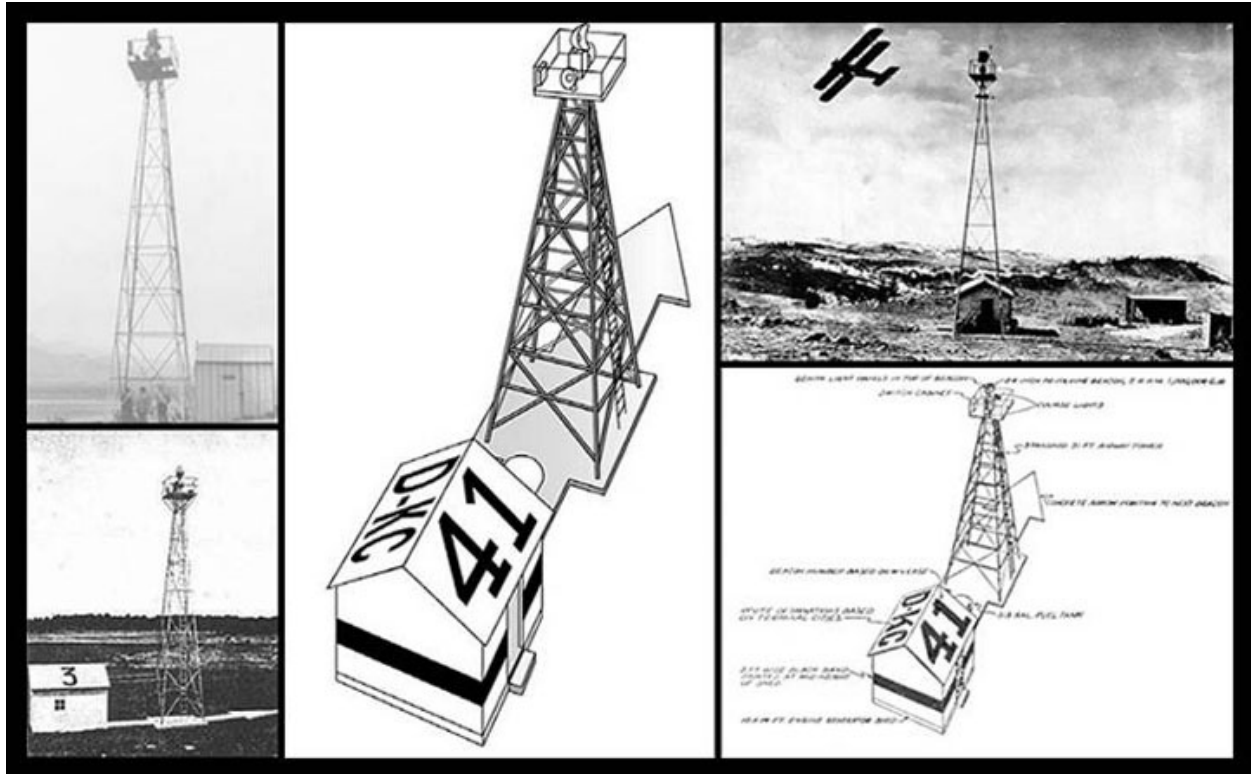
Mike Hedrick  
President, EAA Chapter 1230  
Nut Tree Airport, Vacaville

Here are some web links you might find interesting...

[Mississippi crop duster](#)  
[Airshow Action photo links](#)  
[FIRE BOMBING IN SPAIN](#)

**Send me your news for your newsletter!**

## No, it's...The Transcontinental Air Mail Route.



On August 20, 1920, the United States opened its first coast-to-coast airmail delivery route, just 60 years after the Pony Express closed up shop.

There were no good aviation charts in those days, so pilots had to eyeball their way across the country using landmarks. This meant that flying in bad weather was difficult, and night flying was just about impossible.

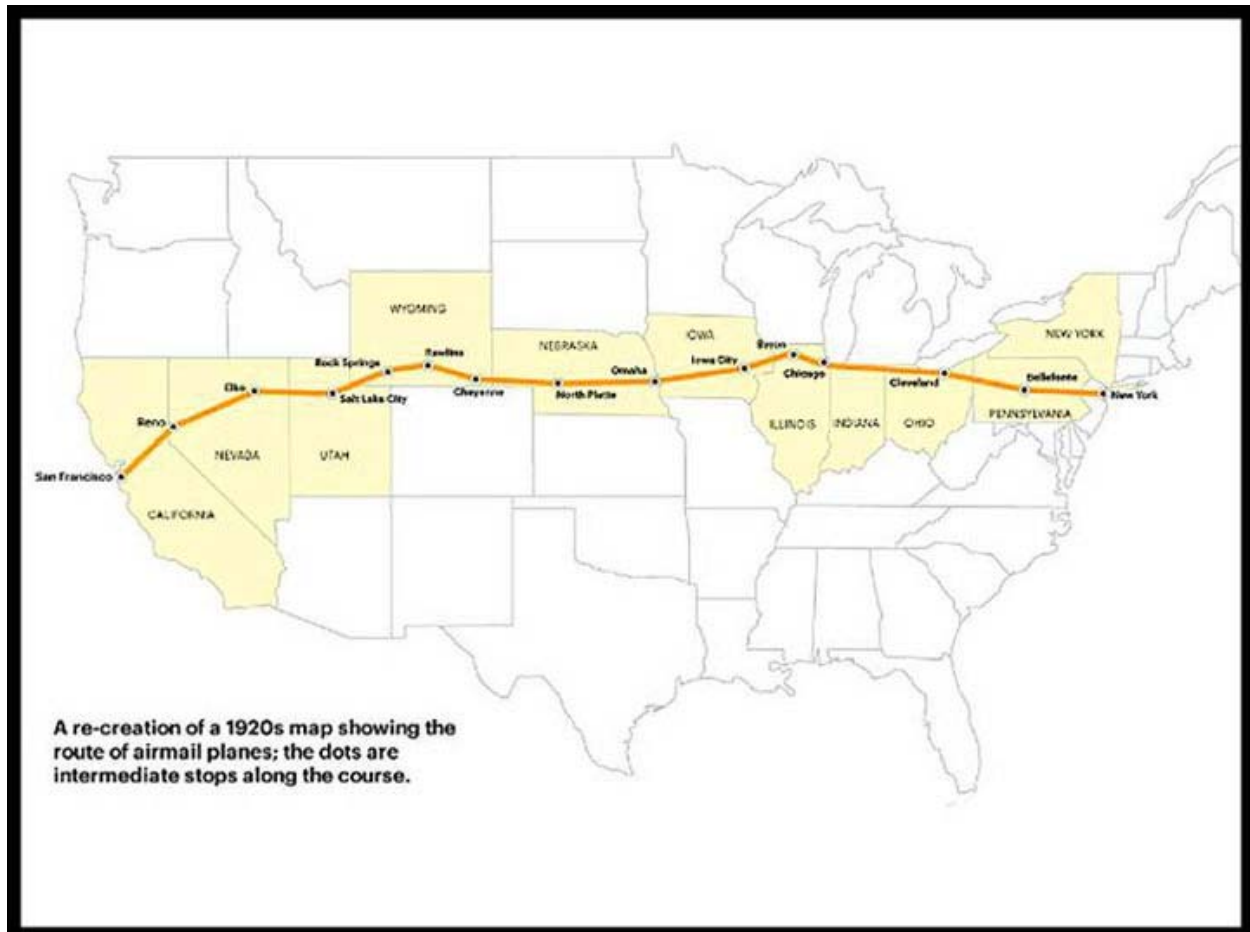
The Postal Service solved the problem with the world's first ground-based civilian navigation system: a series of lit beacons that would extend from New York to San Francisco. Every ten miles, pilots would pass a bright yellow concrete arrow. Each arrow would be surmounted by a 51-foot steel tower and lit by a million-candlepower rotating beacon. (A generator shed at the tail of each arrow powered the beacon.)

Now mail could get from the Atlantic to the Pacific not in a matter of weeks, but in just 30 hours or so.

Even the dumbest of airmail pilots, it seems, could follow a series of bright yellow arrows straight out of a Tex Avery cartoon. By 1924, just a year after Congress funded it, the line of giant concrete markers stretched from Rock Springs, Wyoming to Cleveland, Ohio. The next summer, it reached all the way to New York, and by 1929 it spanned the continent uninterrupted, the envy of postal systems worldwide.

Radio and radar are, of course, infinitely less cool than a concrete Yellow Brick Road from sea to shining sea, but I think we all know how this story ends. New advances in communication and navigation technology made the big arrows obsolete, and the Commerce Department decommissioned the beacons in the 1940s. The steel towers were torn down and went to the war effort. But the hundreds of arrows remain. Their yellow paint is gone, their concrete cracks a little more with every winter frost, and no one crosses their path much, except for coyotes and tumbleweeds.

But they're still out there.





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

MEMBERSHIP **DUES ARE DUE** IN JANUARY, AND MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER. DUES ARE STILL A MODEST **FIFTEEN BUCKS**, SO BRING SOME CASH FOR DINNER AND A BIT MORE TO **PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2013!** SEE YOU THERE!

**REMEMBER! THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 7 P.M., AT THE SKYCRAFTER'S CLUBHOUSE HANGAR B-5 AT SONOMA SKYPARK AIRPORT. DINNER STARTS AT 7 PM, SO DON'T BE LATE!**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE 6 P.M. BEFORE THE MEETING**

**SKYCRAFTER MEMBERSHIP**

**EAA CHAPTER 1268** Membership Dues: **\$15 per year.**

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

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

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

Telephone number, home: \_\_\_\_\_ work: \_\_\_\_\_

**EAA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXPIRATION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AIRCRAFT OWNED OR BUILDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please mail your dues to:**  
**Bill Wheadon, Treasurer**  
**1021 Stonebridge Drive**  
**Napa, CA 94558**

