



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Skyrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95476

FEBRUARY 2020



WHO SAYS WE DON'T HAVE FUN AT SKYPARK?

Walt Bowe's Grumman FM-2 Wildcat in for a visit. You should've heard it!

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President/AE: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747  
Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382  
Secretary: Nelleke Cooper, 707-938-5587  
Treasurer: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901  
Membership: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901  
Young Eagles: BK White, 707-996-1335  
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BOD: Paul Seibert, 707-939-7491  
BOD: Marsi Fahraj, 415-686-5254  
BOD: Roland Gangloff, 707-935-1832  
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## FIRST THINGS FIRST

The January meeting is this **Tuesday, February 11**. 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 \$8.00 per person. Our chefs for the month will be Bill and Jan Wheadon.

Our program will be a talk on the Doolittle Raiders, including a short video, by Bruce Jamigian.

Chapter member Wayne Flower will also give an update on the FAA NPRM concerning UAV (drones) that will have a serious impact on the radio control aviation community. He will ask that we all submit comments before the deadline of March 2. More information is included at the end of this edition of the newsletter.

### **A LITTLE NOTE FROM YER EDISTOR**

We are due for some clubhouse spring cleaning and furniture moving. I will be at the clubhouse this next Saturday, February 15, so we can get the cabinets and desk re-arranged and usable again. I have LED lamps for the lighting fixtures, but the fixtures will need some modification to use the LEDs. I would also like to get some plywood up on the inside of the large door so we can give it a coat of paint and hang some more pictures there.

I would like to get the sound system set up again after the Christmas party and clean up the entertainment section a bit.

If anyone has an old laptop after a computer upgrade running Windows 10, we could use one for running PowerPoint presentations for meetings as well as running flight simulator software for Young Eagles and Aviation Explorers.

We will be asking our members to give us a hand reaching out to other pilots for a membership drive. We have had the same officers for several years and would love to have fresh energy and input into the Chapter.

We have a remarkable Chapter hidden away out here in the country. We do a tremendous job of introducing young people to aviation and have had many successes with them going on to get pilot's licenses and even pursue careers in aviation.

Please send an email or give me a call and let me know if you can help out this Saturday. I'll

start at about 9 am, we'll break for lunch, then finish off in the afternoon.

This has been such a warm and sunny February that I have hope again that the days will soon be long and the breezes soft. After the winds today, a 20 knot crosswind would be barely noticeable. (Ha!)

See you around the airport. We could always use another airport bum.

### **EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER REPORT** **February 2020**

Treasurer Report January was a month of elevated activity due to 24 members paying dues (\$360), a donation of \$2000 from Explorer Post 1268 to the Air Academy on top of a member contribution of \$50 to same. BK White turned over \$139.66 that was in the Young Eagle refreshment fund, and excess dinner funds combined with a few small donations brought total deposits to \$2,623.

Expenditures included a check that was written back in July of 2019 for \$1000 to cover a scholarship that was awarded to Fabiola Chavez. Also there was a \$10 charge on our account called a "withdrawal currency fee". I'm not sure what that was but I'll query Redwood Credit Union and hope to have an answer for you at our meeting on Tuesday.

A summary of our accounts is below with total chapter funds being \$14,803.80.

Checking Account	- \$9589.47
Saving Account	- \$ 107.67
CD Account	-\$5106.66

See you at the meeting,  
Bill Wheadon  
Membership Chairman and Treasurer

### **YOUNG EAGLES**

Well as you know, we got "blown away". Did have one Young Eagle show up, had a donut and got a couple of Sport Aviation Magazines

and called it a day. Ron W. and John T. came out to enjoy a “Full Size” donut instead of having to share with the kids (that almost never happens). We’ll try again next month. It’s that time of year when we battle the elements.

B.K.

Young Eagles day was this Sunday, February 9, but we had winds gusting up to 45 knots right across the runway. In a fit of cautious responsibility, we cancelled Young Eagles for this month and look forward to calmer days in march.

As always B.K. 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.

**MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK**

Movie night for February is **Saturday, February 22 at 6pm in the Sonoma Skypark clubhouse.**

**Free admission.** Pizza is always available for \$5 per person, including beverages, and complimentary popcorn just to whet your appetite (or spoil it).

See you at the movies on Skypark Movie Night, **SATURDAY,** February 22 at 6 p.m.

**DINNER SCHEDULE**

We have some of our celebrity chefs for 2020 but let us know if you want to take an unfilled month. Hot dogs, chili or pizza are perfectly fine. Contact Robin at [robntat@aol.com](mailto:robntat@aol.com) or 707-553-2747. 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	Cooks/Meal
<b>2020 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Robin T

FEB	Bill & Jan W
MAR	Nelleke and Rich C
APR	Ernie G- Tri tip
MAY	Marsi or Darren?
JUN	Darren or Marci?
JUL	Darrel- bbq
AUG	???????
SEP	Ron & John –Roadkill Special
OCT	Richard, Sandra & George
NOV	Air Explorers
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	?

**SPEAKERS-WHAT’S YOUR PASSION?**

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. Please share what interests you most about flying.

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>2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Gene Marcinkowski- Hamilton
FEB	Bruce Jamigian- Jimmy Doolittle
MAR	Michael Loray
APR	Marcus S. or Wayne F.?
MAY	Wayne F. or Marcus S.?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	Air Academy reports
DEC	XMAS PARTY

**2020 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

Send me any exciting, thrilling, terrifying or just plain fun events you have for the calendar.

DATE	EVENT
1/12	Young Eagles 9 am
1/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
1/25	Skypark Movie Night
1/31	Air Academy application deadline

2/9	Young Eagles 9 am
2/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
2/22	Skypark Movie Night
3/8	Young Eagles 9 am
3/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
3/28	Skypark Movie Night
4/12	Young Eagles 9 am
4/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
4/25	Skypark Movie Night
5/10	Young Eagles 9 am
5/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
5/23	Skypark Movie Night
6/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/14	Young Eagles 9 am
6/27	Skypark Movie Night
7/12	Young Eagles 9 am
7/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/16-19	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/20-26	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
7/25	Skypark Movie Night
8/9	Young Eagles 9 am
8/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/22	Skypark Movie Night
9/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
<b>9/12 ?</b>	<b>Skypark Family Fun Day!</b>
9/13	Young Eagles 9 am
9/16-20	Reno Air Races
9/26	Skypark Movie Night
9/29-30 ?	Wings Over Wine Country
10/11	Young Eagles 9 am
10/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/24	Skypark Movie Night
11/8	Young Eagles 9 am
11/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
11/28	Skypark Movie Night
12/4	Skypark Xmas Party
1/1/20	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

### **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

EAA 1268 Board of Directors Meeting

January 14, 2020

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Robin Tatman at 6:30 pm.

Present were: President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Treasurer and Membership Chairman Bill Wheadon, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, Director Roland Gangloff and Young Eagles Coordinator B.K. White

Absent: Directors Paul Siebert and Jeanette Woods

Bill Wheadon had prepared an extensive annual Treasurer's Report for the year 2019. It included running balances for:

Checking account:	\$7,976.47
Savings account:	107.67
CD account:	5,094.91
Meal accounting:	1,296.35
Air Academy Accounting:	1,755.00

President Robin presented the Chapter with a \$2000 check from the Air Explorers' Treasury possibly to be used for future Air Academy participants. Several of the current Air Explorers are not old enough for the Camp and the funds will be held over till next year. Darrel mentioned that there were several kids consistently participating in Young Eagles and they may qualify for scholarships to the Academy. Applications are due at the end of January, but may be extended until March.

Robin mentioned the need to obtain a weather station for Skypark. Ernie Ganas was instrumental in getting the weather station for Gnos field in Novato. However, the price was somewhere around \$10,000. Alternatives for less expensive options were examined. There is a live webcam located at the southwest corner of the Sonoma Plaza and the possibility of setting one up looking at the sky to use as a base for checking weather was considered. Travis Morton had a Weather Underground station when he ran the flight school. Robin suggested costs could be split 3 ways between

Sonoma Skypark, our Chapter 1268 and the Air Explorers. She would bring it up at the next Skypark meeting.

Calendar planning for 2020. Family Fun Day September 12 and the Christmas/Holiday Party December 4, for which we may have to explore a new venue. As for speakers for the year Wayne Schake suggested a presentation by Bruce Jamigian with a video of a TED talk about the life of Jimmy Doolittle and the Doolittle raid.

Darrel renewed our Chapter with the California Secretary of State, fee \$20.

Board meeting adjourned 7:00 pm

Dinner was prepared by President Robin Tatman. It consisted of tasty, delicious Beef Stew, bread and rolls, broccoli, salad, ice cream with caramel sauce and a big chocolate birthday cake was provided by Frank Russo, who's actually birthday it was.

General Meeting called to order at 7:55 pm.

Robin thanked Darrel, Jan, Bill and Nelleke for helping with the preparation for dinner and we all sang Happy Birthday to Frank.

Will Campbell's beautiful pictures were showing during dinner to everyone's delight.

Guests: Andy, his son Ray and grandson Vincent, who is participating in the ROTC at UC Berkeley.

Larry Nelson introduced our new member, Ernie, a licensed pilot, who started flying at Skypark in 1977.

The officers gave their Board meeting reports to the membership.

Young Eagles report by B.K. White. The 6 pilots, Don Booker, Darrel Jones, Ron Price, Bill Wheadon, Mark Shackford and Tim Bloodgood flew 34 kids. The weather was great and there were quite a few new kids.

Bill Wheadon informed the members that the annual financial reports had been completed and detailed reports can be obtained from Bill. A record of the balances is in the Newsletter. As Membership Chairman, Bill reminded the members that it was time to renew annual Chapter dues, still \$15.

Air Explorers need to re-register every year and all the leaders need to complete the 2 hour training program required by the Boy Scouts. We have currently 3 new people to be registered. Hopefully, in the future, we can have a program like the Napa Chapter currently has under the EAA umbrella and possibly take kids to the Oshkosh Air Venture.

Richard Craig gave his Taylorcraft model airplane kit to the Air Explorers as a project for them to complete.

Robin needs help from Ernie Ganas (Gnoss field) and asked the Membership to explore the possibilities available for our own weather station at Skypark. Ernie mentions that he didn't think we should have an AWOS system at the 6-figure price. Ron Price mentioned that the airport had paid for the WU station for Travis Morton's flight school. A weather station would be beneficial for all pilots, but would be a big help for parents of Young Eagles who often drive to Sonoma from Santa Rosa and other distances not knowing whether they will be able to fly. ACCU weather can be set up with a phone line, but doesn't include ceiling and visibility.

John Thomason mentioned the Ray Scholarship as a possible source of funds. Criteria for the scholarship is a broad participation of the Membership. Ernie suggested calling Ken Mercer from Gnoss Field as they got the scholarship.

Richard Craig announced the next crab feed will be the following month's 4th Saturday at movie night. Call Rafe for reservations and details.

Ron Price remarked that after the Christmas party there were 8 chairs missing and the PA system. Possibly still at the venue. He also brought up that the middle spread of Vintage Magazine has 4 of Will Campbell's photographs of Ron's airplane in it! Ron also gave us an update on Colin Traynor's adventures in New Zealand. Colin met up with Thomas Oliver Weaver, a New Zealander, whom he had met at Skypark. Thomas got his degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Cal Poly and is working at a Rocket lab, which launches satellites in low orbits in space and competes with Space X. Thomas got his private license and instrument rating here at Skypark. Colin is in Wanaka, South Island and got a job at a Flight School.

The speaker for the evening was Gene Marcinkowski. Gene was a long-time resident of Sonoma, but moved with his wife to Cloverdale after retirement. He is a docent at the Hamilton Field History Museum. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12:00 till 4:00 pm. Gene was based at Hamilton Field in 1960 and it has a special meaning for him.

After WWI Billy Mitchell was a strong advocate for air power in war. As the windy conditions and fog at Crissy Field were not ideal for air operations, Hamilton Air Force base was established. Construction was completed in 1935 and General "Hap" Arnold was the first commander. Gene had a wonderful presentation and a video of the history and the mission of Hamilton Air Field. He highly recommends stopping by for a visit.

### **MORE INFORMATION ON THE FAA UAV NPRM:**

### **The Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Remote ID - Info, Action and More**

The whole NPRM about remote ID is more than a little confusing and something that all RC hobbyists should be aware of. There are

extensive threads about this topic on all of our sites but I thought I would try to pull as much together as I could in this thread to increase awareness and link to informational pieces that might help us all better understand not only what is being proposed, but what our options are to take a stand against the ruling...or at least help shape it into something that is RC friendly.

While I understand the FAA feels the need to control the airspace, I can't understand why traditional RC aircraft would fall into the same category as drones that are flown miles away from the pilot. I love FPV (first-person-video) and would be understanding of some limitations on that but lumping the whole hobby into this has to come from a lack of understanding.

One question is - has the FAA set an "internal limit" for FRIA's at 2000 clubs? The budget numbers shown reflect that. Is that negotiable? If all the current people who fly on personal property start an AMA club (and AMA is the CBO), the number of clubs could probably double, or greater. Is that an option for FAA? They have complete control to authorize locations. But if we think ahead, and start a campaign to create more flying fields and the FAA goes along it could alleviate a lot of pressure for the next couple of decades.

### **Dave Baron Thoughts**

I want to thank you for the great work that you and your team at RC Groups is doing for our hobby!!!! Let's get the word out to the masses, we need to seriously ramp up the letters to the FAA!

All AMA members and drone enthusiasts need to make their voice heard to the FAA prior to the March 2nd deadline. (Many of us are sending more than one comment to this portal, when we think of a new concern we want to voice!) The bottom line is- BE VOCAL!! <http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/ama...formal-comment>

The second most important thing to do is to contact your Congressional representatives- letters to the house and senate! Let them know your liberties are being trampled by a government agency. Be clear, accurate, and most of all refer to the FAA's RID clearly and accurately, so that they don't go looking in the wrong direction or reference the wrong problem! NPRM

Support, (GIVE \$\$\$) to the Model Aviation PAC! This is going to fund elected officials now and upcoming who will champion our concerns. Congress holds the purse strings to the FAA, they can make a difference to the future of modeling! [modelaviationpac.com](http://modelaviationpac.com)

Call your fellow modelers, and make sure that they are sending out the emails and letter also! We may not have the money of Amazon and other corporations that want us out of the airspace, but we do have hundreds of thousands of voices that can be put to the task of fighting back!

### **Here are some thoughts from Aloft Hobbies recent newsletter:**

Hey, why are all of the major aviation associations siding with the RC Model Hobby?

Because they know the majority of their members started right here in the hobby, and many are still very active. Maybe the FAA just doesn't understand how much education comes from these models. Maybe they don't understand that the majority of pilots and aviation professionals started off flying RC planes? Maybe they don't care about STEM programs and the promise they have for the nation?

It isn't too late to fight this! We have some strong associations fighting for us but we need you more than anything! The FAA is very focused on National Security, it is not a Line Of Sight (LOS) vs First Person View (FPV) fight, or a hobbyist vs commercial fight like some initially thought. Congress wants the

FAA to be able to identify our models to assess risk of an attack.

The EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) has a great track record of working with the FAA and getting big changes for the betterment of aviation. They know what works and what doesn't work, and they are suggesting:

"When you do comment (on this NPRM), please be respectful and use rational, fact-driven arguments in your own words. Form letters and emotional comments have much less impact on the regulatory process."

Spend a little time and write your own message it does not need to be a long and wordy novel, do what seems right from your point of view. That is the best thing we can do at this time. And please consider sharing information about this subject with your friends and get them to send in some comments. If the FAA does not hear from us, then they will move forward and bulldoze this wonderful hobby.

RC modelers have been happily sharing the airspace for 70 years now and we have an excellent track record. We should not be turned into outlaws.

### **Remote ID**

Remote ID is a way for the FAA to keep track of unmanned aircraft. This info is transmitted from a UAS, the FAA, law enforcement and the public may find out information from a UAS flying near them. In the current iteration of the rule, model aircraft are considered UAV's by the FAA and treated the same as drones. The info broadcasted will include your name and phone number. In theory that info is only available to the FAA and law enforcement. Your longitude and latitude will be broadcasted to the public.

Any RC aircraft that weighs between .55lbs and 55lbs, flown recreationally full under this proposed rule. as well as all RC aircraft und 55lbs flown commercially under part 107.

## **What is a FRIA**

If your craft does not support remote ID you are limited to flying within the boundaries of an FAA recognized area or FRIA. A FRIA is an "FAA-recognized identification area". I read this to mean community-based organizations like the AMA. So the best-case scenario for pilots like me that fly out of an AMA field is that nothing would change.

## **Thoughts on FRIA from RCG users Scott Page:**

I applaud the FAA for proposing FRIAS. This is in effect a reservation specifically for VLOS operations. However, the FAA FRIA proposal falls short as this appears to be designed as a grandfather provision with a sunset by attrition goal. FRIAS should become a permanent method of allowing CBO's, municipalities, or landowners of over 2 acres to define a reservation for LOS aircraft which don't conform to the RID proposal. The RID requirement is certainly appropriate for BVLOS aircraft but is a burdensome overreach for LOS model aircraft. Aircraft flying LOS at a FRIA reserved for this activity pose no threat to the public or other air traffic. This has been demonstrated with a fabulous safety record over about 80 years. I submit that model aviation is safer than golf. According to a study by Golf Digest, each year an estimated 40,000 golfers seek emergency treatment due to injuries caused by errant golf balls and flying club heads. Not to throw golf under the bus – but golf serves the same demographic as model aviation. Injuries and especially death from model aviation is very rare indeed. Interference with full-scale aircraft operations from LOS model aviation is very rare indeed.

## **Send Your Thoughts and Concern to Congress and the FAA**

The best thing you can do for your hobby is to make your feelings known on this proposed

rule and how it should be changed. The comment period is still open.

A big way for us as RC hobbyists to make a difference is to reach out to your representatives and senators. If you contact them they will notice an increase in concern over the new proposed ruling. The AMA says that contact is not going unnoticed and it leads to more discussion on the rule.

March 2nd is the deadline for submitting your concerns.

## **How to Leave a Comment**

The FAA has confirmed that every comment is counted, even if it's the same as the last 1,000 submitted. Your comment will be separated into a spreadsheet based on the concerns in the comment. Your comment isn't a vote. It is a way to let the FAA know you have an issue with the new proposed rule. Good data that is focused and unique is better but not required. I took the FAA's suggested comment and altered it to reflect my feelings and you can too.

## **This is from the Academy of Model Aeronautics:**

### **Comment Now on FAA's Proposed Remote ID**

On December 26, 2019, the FAA released a [proposed rule for remote identification of UAS](#). There are several areas of concern with the proposed rule that AMA will be pushing back on and [we need your help advocating for change](#). The FAA is accepting comments on the Remote ID proposal until March 2, 2020. To help us achieve the best possible outcome on the final rule, it is critically important that everyone submits a comment.

[submit comment >](#)

Send me your news for [your](#) newsletter!



**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 2020!** SEE YOU THERE!

**REMEMBER! THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 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!  
THE 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**