



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

APRIL 2020

## LOW RISK ACTIVITIES FOR COVID-19



- Working on your plane
- Polishing and cleaning your plane
- **FLYING** in your plane
- Looking and admiring your plane
- Upgrading your plane
- Sitting in your plane making airplane noise

**WEAR A MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, CARESS YOUR PLANE**

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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### **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

**The January meeting is usually the second Tuesday of the month, but things are on hold during the corona virus pandemic.**

We'll let you know when we will be having meetings again.

It's not the same at all, but you could always order a pizza for delivery to your home and see what aviation movies are streaming on Netflix or Amazon.

### **PRESIDENT'S/AIR EXPLORER REPORT**

Greetings everyone!

It's amazing what a drastic turn things have taken over the last two months. I hope that none of you have been affected by the Corona Virus - either directly or indirectly, and that you are safely sheltering in place.

Skypark is a ghost town pretty much, and the few that are there are extremely respectful of social distancing and keeping that important 6 feet from one another. Mostly though, everyone seems to be flying their airplanes and minding their own business! Skypark is doing its part to "flatten the curve" - cancelling the annual board meeting, as well as Young Eagles, EAA monthly meeting, and the Saturday barbecues. While we haven't cancelled the May meeting yet, it is most likely that we will. I am guessing it will be another month or two at least, but that is definitely a WAG (wild \_\_ss guess).

In the meantime, though, I wanted to ask everyone to once again put Family Fun Day on your calendar: Saturday, September 12, 2020.

I am hoping that we will be up and running by then, but we will do what we need to do based on the current situation. If you all will be willing to do what you did last year, then things will go off without a hitch!

In the meantime, my schedule at Delta has been cancelled for the rest of the month of April. For May we have trips to Tokyo and Sydney as well as irregular charters that will be popping up. Since Delta is accepting money from the CARES act, they will not be able to furlough any employees until September. Hopefully we will be through the worst of it by then. So, I am around and available by email, phone, and 6 feet of separation face to face.

Stay safe in the meantime!

Robin

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

Treasurer Report – For the month of March our three accounts total \$15,298.60 in chapter funds. This is broken down in the following accounts:

Checking account - \$10,059.47  
Savings account - \$ 109.64  
CD account - \$5129.49

There were no disbursements from the checking account – income in the checking account in the amount of \$238 was from:

Dues - \$95  
Donations - \$50  
Dinner proceeds - \$93

That's all for now – any questions? If so, shoot me an email – [bill.wheadon@gmail.com](mailto:bill.wheadon@gmail.com).

Bill  
Membership Chairman and Treasurer

## YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles day is the second Sunday of each month and would have been this Sunday, April 12. The rally was cancelled for this month and will probably be cancelled in the near future months.

Now is a good time for you to check your training and background check for the EAA Youth Protection Policy and Program. I saw mine had just expired and so spent a few minutes reviewing the on-line information and answering the questions, then completing the background check update information.

The whole process takes about 15 minutes and the certificate is good for three years from the date of completion.

The goal of EAA is to let pilots know what the safety guidelines are and are not like a FAA written exam that requires a passing score. If you have thought about volunteering as a Young Eagles pilot, go to:

<https://eaa.org/eaa/youth/free-ye-flights/ye-volunteers/ye-volunteer-opportunities/eaa-young-eagles-volunteer-pilots> and follow the directions to complete the training.

You'll never have a better excuse to burn some fuel and delight some young possible future pilots. When's the last time you could do that?

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.

## MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK

Movie nights at Sonoma Skypark are also on hold for the time being. We will have to stream our aviation films, or dust off the old VCR and hope it still works.

I have a drawer full of VHS tapes, some of which might still play. I'll let you know. Hopefully you have a few flying films around the house also. Another great resource for aviation films, short and long, is You Tube. Pick a favorite airplane and fly vicariously. I am partial to Stinsons, Pietenpols and Taylorcrafts.

Until Rafe's walk-in Theater on the Airport is back in operation, we hope you stay safe and healthy. We'll let you know when he is showing movies again.

## DINNER SCHEDULE

We have our celebrity chefs for 2020 but now don't have meetings until further notice. We will modify the schedule as the situation warrants.

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	Darren and Carole S.
JUN	Marci A.
JUL	Darrel- bbq
AUG	Gene M.
SEP	Ron & John -Roadkill Special
OCT	Richard, Sandra & George
NOV	Air Explorers
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	?

## SPEAKERS

The meetings are on hold for now, so the speaker schedule is also subject to much change.

We have some great programs coming up, we will just need to wait to see when our speakers will once again speak.

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	Yayoi West- Earth Day
APR	Michael Wray-Vickers Gun Bus
MAY	Wayne F.?
JUN	Angwin Flight Training program
JUL	?
AUG	Roland Gangloff
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	Air Academy reports
DEC	XMAS PARTY

### **2020 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

Same ol', same ol'. We will keep the schedule updated in the hopes that the corona virus crisis will ease and we can get back to some semblance of normalcy.

Check to make sure the events listed below are still occurring before coming out to the airport for the event.

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

DATE	EVENT
4/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
4/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
4/25	Skypark Movie Night
5/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
5/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
5/23	Skypark Movie Night
6/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
6/27	Skypark Movie Night
7/12	Young Eagles 9:30 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 9:30 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 9:30 am
9/16-20	Reno Air Races
9/26	Skypark Movie Night
9/29-30 ?	Wings Over Wine Country
10/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/24	Skypark Movie Night
11/8	Young Eagles 9:30 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!	

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

There is an old Transylvanian curse (and don't ask me why it has to be Transylvanians. It could just as well be Rotarians). "May you live in interesting times." I don't know which Rotarian I ticked off, but I think he got me good.

As you well know, we have a little existential crisis going on. Nothing much, just a global pandemic. It has, of course, affected everything we planned, including meetings, group activities, social events and just walking down the street.

For those of us who like to hang out at the airport and talk about airplanes and flying, we find we can't hang out at the airport and talk about flying, unless we are wearing personal protective equipment and standing six feet from other pilots wanting to talk about flying.

The EAA Chapter 1268 meeting scheduled for this Tuesday, April 14, is cancelled. As was the Young Eagles rally scheduled for today, April 12. As will be the May meeting and Young Eagles. As was the Sonoma Skypark shareholders meeting that was supposed to be March 27. As was the Sonoma Skypark movie night that was supposed to be Saturday, April 28. As is the Sonoma Skypark Saturday hamburgers and hot dogs for who knows how long. That last one really hurt. I love those hot dogs.

You get the drift. We are hunkered down for the duration, however long that might be. I'm convinced that the empirical proof of a higher being is that we make plans that don't align with that higher being's plans, so they don't happen. That, and I think that higher being has a wicked sense of humor. I know that when I make plans, sometimes they work out and sometime the universe just isn't cooperating. "The best laid plans of mice and men, etc., etc. etc."

We do have some news that may brighten our outlook. The Board has selected a bright young man as our Air Academy participant, Evan Buckley of Petaluma, and will be sending him to Oshkosh in late July if it is safe and the Air Academy is held. We have also received a Ray Aviation Scholarship of \$10,000 for a young person age 16 through 19 to get their private pilot's license.

The Board selected Nathan Wilson to receive the scholarship. Nathan has been flying with Richard Craig for many hours in John Thomason's Tripacer and is ready for solo. Because of insurance requirements, Nathan can't use the Tripacer for solo so he will be continuing his training at Napa. The complication is that Nathan is scheduled to leave for Belgium in July to attend college. At this time, we don't really know what will be happening, but Nathan has told me that the Napa flight school plans to continue training

using PPE and sterile procedures, so we'll just need to see how that works out.

Nathan has been one of our regular Young Eagles, and has shown an unswerving interest in learning to fly. I just checked in with him and he told me he is studying to take the private pilot written exam so he can concentrate on preparing for his check ride. His mother, Anne-Andre', has been involved with the Chapter and even made and sold crepes at one of the Sonoma Skypark Family Fun Days. Tres Bien!

Another young person, Sebastian Johnson, has also been flying with Richard. He is another of those aviation-focused young people that maybe we identify with. The kid who would ride his bicycle to the airport just to watch planes take off and land. He isn't old enough to qualify for Ray Scholarship funding so the Board conferred by email and proposed giving him a Chapter 1268 scholarship from the club treasury so he can continue flying with Richard until he's ready to solo and go to a more formal flight school. The Board approved a \$1,000 scholarship for each of the next two years, when Sebastian will be 16 and qualified to solo.

So what are you doing as you shelter in place? I've put together a greenhouse in the garden for Catherine. Some of you may have taken a flight physical with Dr. Schafer here in Sonoma. He had bought a greenhouse kit for his wife and Catherine's sister Gwen in 1997, not long after they had lost a son.

It was good therapy for John, riveting together the framework of the kit he bought at Costco. It was also good for Gwen to spend time in the greenhouse planting and growing beautiful flowers. After Gwen passed away the greenhouse just sat empty and unused in their back yard. John offered the greenhouse to Catherine.

My therapy for the last several weeks has been to drill out all the rivets and disassemble the greenhouse, carry it across the street to our yard, trim the width to fit a space in our garden,

and then to rivet it back together. Catherine's therapy, of course, has been planting seeds in soil in egg cartons inside the greenhouse and getting the planting beds ready for a new spring.

Both Catherine and I are in that over-65 demographic, and we both have underlying physical conditions that make us susceptible to Covid-19. It's impossible to not worry about this virulent, communicable virus stalking our communities as well as those all over the world. We find ourselves sleeping in later each morning, and our days starting later than they ever have.

We aren't seeing grandkids and great-grandkids, and go out to the bank or store only when we have to, and then with masks, gloves and sanitizer. The most difficult thing for me, and I know for many others, is not knowing what will happen and how long this will last. I do have faith that this too will pass, it's just the matter of getting to the other side of this pandemic that challenges me.

So I keep myself as busy as possible. I don't watch a lot of You Tube or Facebook for coronavirus updates, preferring to read the more measured and factual accounts and analysis in the morning paper over my bowl of Cheerios. I've spent a lot of time with my bees, and they continue to confound me. I've cleaned up my workshop and electronics workbench so you can see the work surfaces for the first time in years.

I will go out to the airport and concentrate on doing a thorough preflight, then concentrate on not muffing up the take-off or landing, and then I will just try to relax and enjoy that uniquely god-like perspective of seeing our world from the air. The spring green of the pastures, the quiltlike patterns of the planted fields and the soft velvet look of the rows of vineyards from two thousand feet above.

When I come back to earth, I'll try not to worry as much. I'll take our sweet, spoiled little Tillie

out for a walk each day, knowing that her only concern is smelling which dogs have gone before us. I admit, I will worry about the many friends I have at the airport and will hope for their safety and good health. I will miss all of you who I can't see at Saturday hamburgers, or standing around the ramp surrounded by our Young Eagles on the second Sunday of the month. I look forward, eagerly, to the time when we can all be together again.

Take care, stay safe and healthy. Find a good book, watch an old movie, take a socially distanced walk and find something special for your own therapy.

And yes, Dr. John is still doing flight medical exams from his home.

Darrel

### **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

March 10, 2020

President Robin Tatman called the Board meeting to order at 6:25. Present were Treasurer Bill Wheadon, Secretary Nelleke Cooper (cooking dinner), Vice President Darrel Jones, Young Eagles Coordinator BK White, and Board members Roland Gangloff and Jeanette Woods.

Robin told the Board that Sindy Mikkelsen will do the August dinner. Gene Marcinkowski had also volunteered for August. Darrel Will contact both people to resolve the issue.

Darrel reported that EAA Chapter has been awarded a \$10,000 scholarship grant from EAA for flight training for a young person age 16 through 19. As the Chapter Ray Scholarship Coordinator, he will attend an EAA webinar to learn the updated requirements and details on how the scholarship works and will report back to the Board. Nathan Wilson, age 17, has been identified as our probable candidate. Darrel will schedule an interview with Nathan and a parent for the selection process.

BK reported that Chapter 1268 flew 38 Young Eagles rides on March 8 with six pilots, Mark Shackford, Don Booker, Tim Bloodgood, Kevin Horn, Bill Wheadon and Bob Berwick, with Robin Tatman out with a flat tire. John Thomason, Gretchen McDougall, Ron Willis and Roland Gangloff took care of registration and ground crew duties.

BK asked that Young Eagles hours be changed to 9:30 to noon from 9:00 to 11:30. The Board approved the change.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Nelleke and Rich Cooper served a delicious dinner of corned beef and cabbage, with carrots, potatoes, salad, dessert and Irish coffee.

Will Campbell again had a beautiful slide show running during dinner, featuring many of the incredible aircraft photos he has taken at Oshkosh and elsewhere. He also helped with the video presentation for Yayoi's talk after the membership meeting.

Robin called the general membership meeting to order at 7:45.

Guests included Peter Stoneberg whose uncle flew from Sonoma Skypark years ago. Peter also has a 1915 Model T touring car that he brings to the airport occasionally.

Also present was Sebastian Johnson, age 14-3/4, and his parents Fred and Janeth. Sebastian has also been flying with Richard Craig in John's Tripacer. The Board will meet with Sebastian and his parents on Saturday March 14 to discuss giving him a Chapter 1268 scholarship so he can continue flight training until he is old enough to qualify for Ray Scholarship funding.

The officers and Board members gave their reports to the members.

The April meeting speaker will be Michael Wray who will talk about his involvement in building a Vickers FB-5 Gun Bus World War I fighter replica when he was working for Vickers Aircraft in Britain.

Robin adjourned the meeting at 8:05.

The speaker for the evening was Yayoi West. Yayoi showed three videos celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The videos included "Pale Blue Dot", one about mapping the Arctic and Antarctica, and another on a research project firing a rocket through the cusp of the earth's magnetic field. She also talked about having young people at the next Yung Eagles event on April 12 write letters to Earth that will then be put into space by the JPL Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She then answered questions from the members about the Earth Day and NASA programs.



**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 APRIL MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS.**

**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**