



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

AUGUST 2020



PURPORTEDLY AN FAA OFFICIAL INSPECTING MCGHEE-TYSON
REGIONAL AIRPORT IN KNOXVILLE (ALCOA), TENNESSEE

Photo by an anonymous informer who won't be ratted out (if they pay)

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President/AE: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747

Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382

Secretary: Nelleke Cooper, 707-938-5587

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

The January meeting is this **Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00 pm on Zoom**. We will send you an email with the link to join the meeting. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S/AIR EXPLORER REPORT

We'll have Robin's report in an addendum to the newsletter.

**EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
AND TREASURER REPORT**
August 2020

Activity in the checking account has been mostly limited to checks written to Mike Smith Aviation which is the flight school at the Napa Airport that trained Nathan Wilson, our Ray scholarship recipient. Nathan received his private pilot certificate in early July. I wrote checks totaling \$9,141.36 to MSA and we were reimbursed by EAA National through the Ray Scholarship fund so there was no net deficit to our checking account.

Other than that, activity since my last report has been one deposit in June for dues renewal totaling \$45.

At the end of July our chapter holdings total \$15,621.44 in the following accounts:

Checking \$10347.47
 Saving \$ 109.64
 CD \$ 5164.30
 \$15621.41

That's all for now – any questions email or call me – contact information is in the newsletter.
 Stay safe,
 Bill Wheadon, Treasurer EAA Chapter 1268

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles is on indefinite postponement. We will let you know when we start flying kids again.

MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK

Our indoor movie night is on hold until there is a vaccine but maybe Rafe will organize another drive-in movie for the regular members. A bed sheet on the side of a hangar and socially distanced chairs might do it. Just like Brodhead.

DINNER SCHEDULE

We will reschedule our chefs when we start having meetings again. Contact Robin at robntat@aol.com or 707-553-2747. You can also let me know at wd6bor@vom.com and I'll put you on the roster.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cooks/Meal
2020 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Robin T
FEB	Bill & Jan W
MAR	Nelleke and Rich C
APR	Dinner at home(s)
MAY	Dinner at home(s)
JUN	Dinner at home(s)
JUL	Dinner at home(s)
AUG	Dinner at home(s)
SEP	Dinner at home(s)
OCT	Dinner at home(s)
NOV	Dinner at home(s)
DEC	XMAS PARTY?
Standby	?

SPEAKERS

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. The meetings will be on Zoom for the rest of the year but we would still like to have a program each month.

Send an email to me at wd6bor@vom.com so we can get your program or speaker information into the newsletter.

Month	Speaker/Member/Subject
2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Gene Marcinkowski- Hamilton
FEB	Bruce Jamigian- Jimmy Doolittle
MAR	Yayoi West- NASA
APR	No meeting
MAY	No meeting
JUN	No meeting
JUL	Michael Wray- Vickers Gun Bus
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
8/9	Young Eagles canceled
8/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm Zoom
8/22	Skypark Movie Night cancelled
9/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm Zoom
9/12	Skypark Family Fun Day! cancelled
9/13	Young Eagles 9 am cancelled
9/16-20	Reno Air Races ?
9/26	Skypark Movie Night cancelled
9/29-30 ?	Wings Over Wine Country ?
10/11	Young Eagles 9 am cancelled
10/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm Zoom
10/24	Skypark Movie Night cancelled
11/8	Young Eagles 9 am cancelled
11/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm Zoom
11/28	Skypark Movie Night cancelled
12/4	Skypark Xmas Party ?
1/1/20	New Years' Day 1 st Flight
Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm (someday) Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse! Currently cancelled	

EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

EAA 1268 Board of Directors Zoom Meeting
July 14, 2020

The Board Meeting was called to order by
President Robin Tatman at 6:25 pm.

Present online were: President Robin Tatman,
Vice President Darrel Jones, Secretary Nelleke
Cooper and Chapter Member Michael Wray.
Treasurer Bill Wheadon joined later. Absent:
Directors Roland Gangloff, Jeanette Woods

Robin and Darrel reported that Nathan Wilson had successfully passed all his tests for the Private Pilot license. Congratulations to Nathan! Nathan was the recipient of the Ray Scholarship of \$10,000 which Darrel had secured for our Chapter and completed his training in one month with Kimberly Smith, flight school manager, and his instructors at Smith Aviation flight school in Napa.

Smith Aviation has replaced Bridgeport Aviation. They offer all advanced General Aviation ratings and they are able to have an excellent examiner available, who originally was trained by Amelia Reed.

Other flight training currently available:
Richard Craig, Sonoma Skypark and Petaluma Flight Training.

Robin mentioned that we currently have 2 candidates, Philip Lachman and Sebastian Johnson, ages 15, for the Ray scholarship for next year.

Deadline for scholarship applications is January 31.

Darrel suggested that scholarships and other available funds from the Chapter would be available to students willing to contribute work needing to be done at Skypark such as watering or rolling the grass strip for landings and additional volunteer work. Financial contributions from different sources, such as the Napa Valley Pilots Association and Petaluma Pilots Association Chapter may also be available.

Darrel talked about the upcoming Memorial planned by Scott Thomason for his Dad, John Thomason, on August 1 at 4:00 pm. The event will be catered at John's hangar with social distancing observed and wearing masks. John was one of the original founders of Sonoma Skypark, always finding different ways to promote aviation for young and old enthusiasts by making an airplane available and supporting

Young Eagles and Air Explorers. His many friends will miss visiting with him at Skypark.

Our web designer, Gretchen McDougal put a notice on the website that Saturday Barbeques and Young Eagle events will be postponed till further notice.

Delta Airlines is retiring Robin's airplane, the Boeing 777 and she will be transferring over and be in training for the A350 in the coming months.

Board Meeting Adjourned 7:00 pm

General Zoom Meeting called to order at 7:15 by President Robin Tatman

There were some distant online members: Frank Russo from the East coast, Walt Eastman from Texas and Travis Jungroth from Mexico. Other members present Ron Price, Mark Shackford, Bill Wheadon, Bob Avrit, Les Goldner, Gene Marcinkowski, and Michael Wray, our presenter for the evening.

The officers presented their reports from the Board Meeting to the online Members and reported Nathan obtaining his Private Pilot license. Robin was the first to congratulate him as she was there to greet him upon completing his check ride flight.

Bill straightened out the billing for the Ray Scholarship as we originally only received \$4000 with \$6000 still to come.

Michael Wray gave a wonderful informative presentation about building a replica of a WWI airplane, a Vickers Gun Bus, in 1965, at the Old Brookland Race Track and Aerodrome in Surrey, England. Michael grew up in England. His father being an aviator. Michael got to fly a Tiger Moth on his 17th birthday and was an engineering apprentice at Vickers Armstrong, Ltd where they built the Viscount VC10 jet, popular in Africa due to the fact that it handled shorter runways and had excellent hot and high performance. It took several years to build the

replica of the Vickers F.B.5. It was a military biplane had a 36 ft wingspan and the first plane built for air-to-air combat, making it the first fighter aircraft.

The airplane replica is on display at the Royal Air Force Museum London on the old Hendon aerodrome. After several questions Robin thanked Michael for the informative and interesting presentation.

Ron Price mentioned that there was lots of flying at Skypark with people wearing masks and keeping a safe social distance.

Membership meeting adjourned 7:55 pm.

FROM NATHAN WILSON, PILOT

I asked Nathan to write a couple accounts of his flying for the newsletter. Here is one of his articles.

My second passenger after my check ride was my mom. I was so excited to finally take her up and show her everything I learned at Sonoma Skypark and Napa Airport after these five years of hard training.

On the drive up I was so prepared and ready to take a passenger up. We got there and waited out some weather and continued to preflight and go up! I briefed her about all the safety concerns and I was surprised that she didn't know anything about airplanes. I have been around airplanes for so long, I am used to everyone knowing what I'm talking about.

We took off and headed west, over our house and other familiar areas. She was shocked to see everything from above and how clear it was 2,500 feet up. We proceeded to do a bay tour, around the clouds and over San Francisco. A beautiful day and I had so much fun flying. We then cruised back home talking and enjoying the view from up above. I will never forget this flight in my life, and I hope to take more people up.



Nathan's mother, Anne-Andre', Nathan and Robin. Nathan received his Ray Scholar shirt and pin and a set of Lightspeed headsets

My Third flight after passing my check ride was with my best friend, like a cousin, Tanner Roth. He has been following along with my training since the beginning and has been on cross country flights with me and my instructor, Richard Craig.

We flew at Sonoma Skypark Airport together as kids with the Young Eagles. Years later, it is amazing to take him up alone and was something unforgettable.

I planned out a cross country trip to go to Monterey, CA with him, however it seemed a bit overcast. We took off anyways and flew down the bay, getting tossed around different controllers, and finally made it down to San Jose, CA. Here we started to see that our destination was going to be foggy.

We kept going with the clouds in the distance preparing different airports to land. Finally, we made the decision that we couldn't land at

Monterey and had to divert. After scouting a few airports, we decided to just head back up the bay. From there we flew over to Hayward, CA and landed for some fuel. Then we flew back to Napa, CA and Tanner loved every minute of the flight. I can't wait to take him up again and hopefully he will become a pilot out of Sonoma Skypark or Napa Airport soon.

DISCLAIMER: STOP READING HERE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO READ SERIOUS STUFF

That's the extent of the fun stuff, such as it is. Don't keep reading if you don't want to hear what you might consider a boring, insulting lecture from me. This is just an expression of my heartfelt concern.

I went to John Thomason's memorial at Skypark last Saturday and have been having disquieting feelings since.

It was nice seeing everyone and by and large everyone was wearing masks and socially distancing.

Scott gave a lovely eulogy for his father, as did John's stepsons and some of his friends. It was wonderful hearing about having John as a loving father and of his involvement with his children, from Scouting to aviation.

The flyover and missing man formation was one of the best and most moving I've seen, and I've seen a few. The formation of those short-winged Pipers was rock-solid and the missing man climbing into the western sky was what every pilot would hope for his own send-off.

I did notice some people not wearing masks or distancing. Especially the people bringing the food in to the table in John's hangar. It looked like it might be a serve-yourself buffet but I didn't hang around to find out.

I know denial isn't just a river in Egypt, but I watched several people visiting mask-less-the entire time I was there. I have more of a

science-based belief system instead of faith-based. I left praying, though, that none of my friends at Skypark Saturday would be infected with coronavirus.

I know that taking precautions has assumed a philosophical or principled conflict that motivates some individuals to refuse to take precautions to stop the spread of the virus. I have had many individuals, who I previously thought were rational and intelligent, tell me masks don't work and that it is all a huge conspiracy to control the population.

You've heard about the term "Army Intelligence" being an oxymoron? I've reached the conclusions that "rational human being" is also. There's also Forrest Gump's quote "stupid is as stupid does."

My daughter Lolly and her husband Zac just went to the hospital this morning (Thursday) to have a COVID test. They had been working on a job that is now shut down for two weeks because one of the workers is sick with COVID. They all wear masks on the job but evidently, he didn't some place else.

We've just had a new great-grandson arrive three weeks ago and now worry about him and his mother. Catherine has asthma and I have an autoimmune condition that puts us a high risk of serious illness or death if we contract COVID. If I seem to be obsessed with masks, social distancing and washing hands, it's for good reasons.

Remember when I said that denial isn't just a river in Egypt? I've read and listened to Dr. Fauci, the highly respected life-long epidemiologist, and Dr. Mase, the Sonoma County Public Health officer, and believe what they are telling us. Dr. Fauci just said again that if we the people of America wore masks, socially distanced and followed safe practice

guidelines, we would be back to a more normal existence within six weeks. Hanging out in bars or at parties with no masks and believing you have no risk doing so just doesn't cut it.

Rigorous contact tracing, widespread testing with immediate results and wearing masks has worked for many other countries around the world. Our rugged individualism has worked only to make us the country with the highest number of infections and deaths in the world.

I don't want to be the bearer of the tragic news in this newsletter that some of our members have died of COVID. I'm only hoping to convince at least some of you to look for your information from credible sources and to take precautions that could save your friends and loved ones.

I hope that none of you will even consider quitting the Chapter because of this editorial. I work at your pleasure and you can fire me at any time. I hope we are all able to be together when this is all behind us and can get back to lying about our incredible flying adventures.

I warned you to stop reading if you didn't want to hear anything serious. This has been my opinion only, and does not reflect the official position or views of EAA Chapter 1268.

I take full responsibility for what I've written here. With great power comes great responsibility, (if you can find me to hold me responsible.)

That's what's so great about being your editor. That and the high pay, the glory and the occasional free drink.

Take care and stay safe.
Darrel

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 JULY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 AT 7 P.M., ON ZOOM! AN EMAIL WILL GO OUT TO THE MEMBERS WITH THE LINK TO THE ZOOM MEETING. DOWNLOAD THE SOFTWARE AND CLICK ON THE LINK. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET 6 P.M. BEFORE THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 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

