



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport
21870 Eighth Street East
Sonoma, CA 95476

FEBRUARY 2024



ASK ME ABOUT A TOP OVERHAUL TURNING INTO A MAJOR OH
Rewiring the panel is just a side note. What could go wrong?

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747
Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382
Secretary: Nelleke Cooper, 707-938-5587
Treasurer: Ray Gallarate, 650-421-3781
BOD: Don Booker, 707-938-9461
BOD: Marsi Allard, 415-686-5254
BOD: Roland Gangloff, 707-935-1832
Web editor/Young Eagles: Gretchen McDougall gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com

Speaker coordinator: position open
Dinner coordinator: Sindy Mikkelsen
sindymikkelsen@att.net
Saturday barbecue Chair: Marilyn Seibert,
707-479-5712
Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-799-
6382, wd6bor@vom.com
Membership Chairs: Don and Ligia Booker,
707-938-9461

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The January meeting is this **Tuesday, February 13**. 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 \$10.00 per person.

Our chefs for the month will be Nelleke Cooper and Will Campbell. Will is barbecuing the meat and Nelleke will be preparing teriyaki rice, salad and dessert.

Our program will be President Robin talking about the plans and projects for the upcoming year.

We have a new Treasurer, Ray Gallarate, and a new mailing address:

**EAA 1268
PO Box 234
Vineburg, CA 95487-0234.**

Please send your dues renewal checks to EAA 1268, PO Box 234, Vineburg, CA 95487-0234.

WOMEN IN AIRPLANES

This month, Women in Airplanes is an article on Bessie Smith later in the newsletter. American Experience has a documentary on her on PBS.

American Experience is also showing a new documentary on airline flight attendants called "Fly With Me" on February 20 on PBS.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anything I have to report is in other sections of the newsletter. Send me an email with anything you have for the newsletter or if you would like to give a presentation at our meeting.

EAA 1268 TREASURER'S REPORT **February 2024**

The Chapter had a problem with issuing checks this month. As a result, I had to order new checks. The charge for the new checks will

show in the February statement. No checks were written in January for this reason.

I transferred \$20,000 to Savings from the Checking account as a result the balances are as follows:

Checking	\$7,402.21
Savings	\$33,931.26
CD	\$5,471.83

Deposits:

Dues Collected	\$465.00
January Mtg. Dinner	\$195.00
Donations	\$535.00
Saturday BBQ	
December	\$789.00
January	\$211.00

Regards-
Ray Gallarate, Treasurer
650-421-3781 cell

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day for February was Sunday, February 11.

It started out to be a very interesting, and somewhat stressful day.

The marine layer is pretty normal around here, but with enough pilots, we usually get the Young Eagles flow by noon.

Today we started out with a marine layer that didn't lift until about 10:30, and only two aircraft, George Bachich in his Cub and Steve Crawford with his gyro from Petaluma.

Gretchen is a super hero in the way she organizes and runs the registration, but even super heroes can have a challenging day.

The fog finally lifted enough at Smith Ranch in Marin for Ken Callandar to sneak out with his 182 to join the crew at Skypark. Ron Price also brought the Vagabond out and flew two flights to help out.

Thankfully, it was a relatively light day for our Young Eagles rally, with fifteen kids and one adult flown. There were a few kids who weren't able to wait to fly. We usually wrap up by 11:30, but our pilots flew until after one o'clock to get everyone who stayed into the air.



George and Evan Buckley in the Cub

We want to give a big thank you to George, Steve, Ken and Ron for flying all those Young Eagles, one kid at a time.



Steve and Elio Eeo in the gyrocopter

We will be reaching out to the other local EAA chapters to ask for pilots who have completed the youth protection training to come over to help. Having too many pilots is certainly preferable to having too few.

As is usual, we are looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our

monthly Young Eagles events. Let us know you will be joining us and helping out by sending an email to Gretchen at gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com or me at wd6bor@vom.com.



Ken and a Young Eagle in his 182

CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT

Michael Wray and the build team are installing the fittings he recently had made. They are working through some questions concerning the engine mount right now.

Stop by the airport a little early and check out the project before the Saturday barbecue.

We are still running a deficit in our fundraising efforts for the project, so please consider supporting this wonderful educational opportunity for our local youth by donating to Chapter 1268's Pietenpol Chapter Build Project. Make checks out to EAA Chapter 1268 and send them in to EAA 1268, P.O. Box 234, Vineburg, CA 95487.

SATURDAY BARBECUE

Marilyn and Marsi are back with the regular Saturday barbecue starting up again January 6.

This is Chapter 1268's major fundraiser for scholarships for sending our local Young Eagles to the EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh each summer.

Thanks again to Marilyn and Marsi for their very valuable, and enjoyable, contribution to the Chapter. They can always use help cooking and serving, so let them know you can pitch in for them

Marilyn told me that the patio heater in the clubhouse isn't working. Perhaps one of you can bring a few tools to the Saturday barbecue and troubleshoot it for her.

GROUND SCHOOLS

Yayoi is pausing ground school at Sonoma Skypark in the clubhouse on Monday evenings until she gets more students. Call or text her at Yayoi West, 707-364-9257 for information on when she plans on restarting the classes.

If you have any flight planning gear, such as a plotter, E6B, old sectional charts or anything usable for ground school classes, please bring them to the meeting or drop them off at the clubhouse.

Mike Smith Aviation at Napa Airport is also holding free ground school classes on Saturday mornings.

The classes are held at the flight school at 2000 Airport Road, Napa 94558, 200 yards north of terminal building.

This free ground school coaching session for the Private Pilot Knowledge test is for student pilots, rusty pilots, anyone interested in learning to fly. Everyone is welcome! You'll need to purchase a book, available on site: Gleim Private Pilot Test Prep, \$22.95.

The classes are ongoing. The schedule for upcoming classes is:

Feb. 17th, Week 6: Airplane Performance and Weight & Balance

Feb. 24th, Week 7: Aeromedical Factors and Aeronautical Decision Making

March 2nd, Week 8: Aviation Weather

March 9th, Week 9: Aviation Weather Services

March 16, Week 10: Navigation Charts and Publications

March 23rd, Week 11: Navigation Systems

March 30th, Week 12: Cross Country Flight Planning

Contact Kimberly for more information.

Kimberly Sanders Smith

CFI Smith Aviation Napa

707-345-6526, cell 916-607-4023

Mike Smith Aviation Napa

2024 DINNER SCHEDULE

We have some of our celebrity chefs for 2024 but let us know if you want to take an unfilled month. Hot dogs, chili or pizza are perfectly fine. Our meal coordinator is Sindy Mikkelsen at sindymikkelsen@att.net. Let her know you can provide the meal for a meeting and she will put you on the schedule. Copy me at wd6bor@vom.com so I can include you in the newsletter dinner schedule.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cooks/Meal
2024 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Robin T.- spaghetti
FEB	Nelleke C., Will C- barbecue and trimmings
MAR	Grace Warden – corned beef and cabbage
APR	Marsi A., Mark and Catherine S. -
MAY	Stan Russell- baked potato night
JUN	Wayne, Celia, Don and Ligia
JUL	Darrel- barbecue
AUG	Gene Marcinkowski/Smith
SEP	
OCT	
NOV	
DEC	XMAS PARTY

Standby	?
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SPEAKERS

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs.

Contact President Robin Tatman at 707-553-2747 or send an email to me at wd6bor@vom.com so we can get your program or speaker information into the newsletter.

We're still looking for a permanent speaker coordinator so we can take a rest, so let us know if you can help out by taking on this important job. We can give you contact information for other local Chapters so you can find speakers they have had.

Month	Speaker/Member/Subject
2024 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Steve Silver- flying the U-2
FEB	Robin Tatman- Chapter 1268 plans and projects for 2024
MAR	
APR	Charlie Taylor- PCAM- Tales of a Cat Officer
MAY	
JUN	
JUL	
AUG	
SEP	
OCT	
NOV	
DEC	XMAS PARTY

2024 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

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

DATE	EVENT
2/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am
2/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
3/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
3/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
3/9	NAF El Centro Air Show
3/16-17	Wings Over Solano- Travis AFB, Fairfield
4/9-14	Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, FL

4/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
4/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
4/28	Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show- Half Moon Bay, CA
5/11	Estrella Warbirds Wings & Wheels- Paso Robles, CA
5/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
5/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
5/18-19	Oregon Int'l Air Show- Hillsboro, OR
5/?	Skypark Family Fun Day!
6/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am
6/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/22	Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee
7/13-14	California Capital Air Show- Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA
7/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
7/18-21	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/22-28	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
8/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am
8/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/17-18	Wings Over Camarillo Airshow
9/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am
9/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/27-29	MCAS Miramar Air Show- San Diego, CA
9/28-29	California Int'l Airshow- Salinas, CA
9/?	Wings Over Wine Country
10/12-13	San Francisco Fleet Week- San Francisco, CA
10/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/?	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA
10/11-13	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA
10/?	Planes of Fame Air Show- China, CA
11/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
11/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
12/?	Skypark Xmas Party
1/1/25	New Years' Day 1 st Flight

Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm
Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the
clubhouse!

EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
January 9, 2024

Board meeting called to order at 6 pm.

Present were President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, outgoing Treasurer Bill Wheadon, incoming Treasurer Ray Gallarate and Board Member Marsi Allard.

Bill gave his year-end treasurer's report.

Darrel reported that Hayden Holbrook will be Chapter 1268's first Ray Scholar. He also said that Grace Warden is interested in applying for the Chapter's second matching funds Ray scholarship. Chapter 1268 has been approved for two matching funds Ray scholarships for 2024.

Darrel reported that Finley Skaggs will be attending Advanced Air Academy camp under aa Chapter 1268 scholarship.

Darrel reported that Don and Ligia Booker will be Chapter 1268's new membership chairs. They will contact past members and other local EAA members to recruit them for Chapter 1268 membership. Darrel will get current and past Chapter 1268 rosters to them for that effort.

Ray reported that he will be transferring the bank accounts to the new officers.

Darrel asked for help finding speakers for the monthly dinner meetings.

Nelleke reported that \$2575 has been donated to Chapter 1268 for Rich Cooper's memorial.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

Robin provided a wonderful dinner of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and cake. Twenty-five people enjoyed the meal and the company of friends.

The General meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Robin and the officers gave their reports to the members. Robin also asked for volunteers to provide dinners for our monthly meetings. She then introduced our speaker for the evening, Steve Silver.

The General Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

The program for the evening was a fascinating presentation by Steve Silver about his experience in the Air Force, including his time flying the Lockheed U-2 "spy plane". His experience also included time in helicopters out of Moffitt Field, refueling from C-130's in the "perfect Storm", and many other exciting stories from his career before he became a Captain for United Airlines.

OTHER NEWS

PAPA- Petaluma Area Pilots' Association

I talked to the new president of PAPA, Mark Spongberg, about an event they are hosting next Saturday, February 17, at the Petaluma Airport. They will have a taco truck for lunch and spot and dead-stick landing contests.

Mark talked about increasing public exposure for aviation and the airport at Petaluma, including the idea of having a Young Eagles rally there. I told him 1268 didn't have the resources to do that on our own, but suggested involving the EAA Chapters at Gness Field, Santa Rosa/Sonoma County Airport and Napa Airport.

We have a need for additional Young Eagles pilots and could use this as an opportunity to recruit new members and pilots. If you have time, plan on going over to Petaluma next Saturday and start networking, rubbing elbows

and getting acquainted with other area pilots.
And eating a taco or two.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE ON PBS

February is Black history month, so I thought that this item that Roland Gangloff sent would be most appropriate. This is from the PBS American Experience website. They have a documentary on Bessie Coleman at the PBS American Experience site. The excellent programming on PBS warrants your support and a donation. KQED is pledging this month. Just sayin'.

The documentary has support provided by: Liberty Mutual Insurance and American Experience, PBS



Bessie Coleman was the first African-American woman, and also the first woman of Native-American descent, to hold a pilot's license. Coleman grew up in a cruel world of poverty and discrimination. She was born in Atlanta, Texas, one county over from Paris, Texas, where whites lynched at least nine Black men between 1890 and 1920. African Americans

were barred from voting through literacy tests, poll taxes, economic reprisals and terrorism. They couldn't ride in railway cars with white people, nor use a wide range of public facilities set aside for whites. When young Bessie first went to school at the age of six, it was to a one-room wooden shack, a four-mile walk from her home. Often there wasn't paper to write on nor pencils to write with.

When Coleman turned 23, she headed to Chicago to live with two of her older brothers, hoping to make something of herself. But the Windy City offered little more to an African American woman than did Texas. When Coleman decided she wanted to learn to fly, the discrimination she faced based on race and gender meant that she would have to travel to France to realize her dreams.

It was soldiers returning from World War I with wild tales of flying exploits who first interested Coleman in aviation. She was also spurred on by her brother, who taunted her with claims that French women were superior to African American women because they could fly. In fact, very few American women of any race had pilot's licenses in 1918. Those who did were predominantly white and wealthy. Every flying school that Coleman approached refused to admit her because she was both black and a woman. On the advice of Robert Abbott, the owner of the Chicago Defender and one of the first African American millionaires, Coleman decided to learn to fly in France.

Coleman learned French at a Berlitz school in the Chicago loop, withdrew the savings she had accumulated from her work as a manicurist and the manager of a chili parlor and, with the additional financial support of Abbott and another African American entrepreneur, she set off for Paris from New York on November 20, 1920.

Coleman was the only student of color in her class, but within seven months she achieved her goal. She was taught in a 27-foot biplane that was known to fail frequently, sometimes in the

air. During her training Coleman witnessed a fellow student die in a plane crash, which she described as a "terrible shock" to her nerves. But the accident didn't deter her: In June 1921, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale awarded her an international pilot's license.

When Coleman returned to the U.S. in September 1921, scores of reporters turned out to meet her. The "Air Service News" noted that Coleman had become "a full-fledged aviatrix, the first of her race." She was invited as a guest of honor to attend the all-Black musical Shuffle Along. The entire audience, including the several hundred whites in the orchestra seats, rose to give the first African American female pilot a standing ovation.

Over the next five years Coleman performed at countless air shows. The first took place on September 3, 1922, in Garden City, Long Island. The Chicago Defender publicized the event saying the "wonderful little woman" Bessie Coleman would do "heart thrilling stunts." According to a reporter from Kansas, as many as 3,000 people, including local dignitaries, attended the event. Over the following years, Coleman used her position of prominence to encourage other African Americans to fly. She also made a point of refusing to perform at locations that wouldn't admit Blacks.

Coleman took her tragic last flight on April 30, 1926, in Jacksonville, Florida. Together with a young Texan mechanic called William Wills, Coleman was preparing for an air show that was to have taken place the following day. At 3,500 feet with Wills at the controls, an unsecured wrench somehow got caught in the control gears and the plane unexpectedly plummeted toward earth. Coleman, who wasn't wearing a seat-belt, fell to her death.

About 10,000 mourners paid their last respects to the first African American woman aviator, filing past her coffin in Chicago South's Side. Her funeral was attended by several prominent

African Americans, and it was presided over by Ida B. Wells, an outspoken advocate of equal rights. In an editorial in the Dallas Express, the South's oldest and, at the time, most widely distributed Black newspaper, remarked, "There is reason to believe that the general public did not completely sense the size of her contribution to the achievements of the race as such."

Coleman has not been forgotten in the decades since her death. For a number of years starting in 1931, black pilots from Chicago instituted an annual fly over of her grave. In 1977 a group of African American women pilots established the Bessie Coleman Aviators Club. And in 1992 a Chicago City Council resolution requested that the U.S. Postal Service issue a Bessie Coleman stamp. The resolution noted that "Bessie Coleman continues to inspire untold thousands, even millions of young persons with her sense of adventure, her positive attitude and her determination to succeed."

FINALLY, A LITTLE HUMOR

This from Don Booker:

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal ideas from many is research.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure...

A couple items from the Curmudgeon column in The Funny Times, compiled by Jim Winokur:

Immediately after Orville Wright's historic 12-second flight, his baggage could not be located. – S. Harris

Why don't they make the whole plane out of that black box stuff? -Steven Wright

Send me your news for your newsletter!

Sonoma Skycrafters
EAA Chapter 1268
PO Box 234
Vineburg, CA 95487-0234

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 2024! SEE YOU AT THE MEETING! MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: EAA 1268, PO BOX 234, VINEBURG, CA 95487-0234 IF YOU WON'T BE AT THE MEETING.

REMEMBER! THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 7 P.M., AT THE SKYCRAFTERS' 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:
Sonoma Skycrafters EAA Chapter 1268
PO Box 234
Vineburg, CA 95487-0234