



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport
21870 Eighth Street East
Sonoma, CA 95476

MAY 2018



MSGT. SCOT HUMPHREYS, AND CREW

That's Captain Bob on the left, the ever-lovely Vina Smith next, Msgt. Humphreys in the middle, Cap't Andy and Cap't Robin on the right. I'll tell you more later...

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President/AE: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747
Vice President: Walt Eastland, 707-501-8984
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
BOD: Jeanette Woods, 707-996-4563
BOD: Paul Seibert, 707-939-7491
BOD: Marsi Fahraji, 415-686-5254
BOD/Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-996-4494

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The May meeting is this **Tuesday, May 8** (early this month). 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 chef for the month will be Ron Willis and John Thomason, with their road kill special.

PRESIDENT'S/AIR EXPLORER REPORT

Greetings everyone! I am currently in the back of Richard Martin's DC-3 happily typing away WITH internet and cell service. One of our other co-pilots, Rob Dehoney is in the right seat, so I get to sit back and enjoy the ride from the back of the airplane this trip.

We are on our way back from the Planes of Fame Airshow where we participated as a static exhibit. We met several people who are planning on going to Normandy in May 2019, and got to go on board their airplanes. The weather was very warm, but it was worth it to see so many beautiful warbirds flying. Many veterans spoke about their experiences in WWII, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam. It was the best example of living history I have had the privilege of seeing. It is very gratifying to note that we do a similar thing at Sonoma Skypark: just on a slightly smaller scale and with more civilian classics.

The budget that they have at Planes of Fame must be immense. I don't ever remember seeing so many huge hangars with such highly polished floors!

Along those lines, our annual Family Fun Day is coming up in two weeks on Saturday, May 19 from 11:00am - 3:00 pm. We are opening our doors to Sonoma once again for a free lunch and opportunity to see our lovely airport. We have some wonderful raffle prizes, and are getting a great line up of cars and of course our own airplanes to display. Look for the link for the brochure, and the airport web site will be updated shortly.

As usual, we are soliciting volunteers from our ranks - that would be you! We are particularly short on folks to man the barbecue to grill hamburgers and hot dogs, and floats to help set up in the morning and break down in the evening.

We will be missing a few heavy hitters this year - Ron Price will be attending one of his granddaughters graduations in Michigan, and several of my trusty Air Explorer parents will be out of state as well. So, if you can wow us with your barbecuing prowess, or just help us set up, we'd really appreciate the help. Please call or email me, Darrel, or Ron.

Thanks! I'll have updates on the Air Explorers, and the flight school next month.

Robin

EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER REPORT **May 2018**

Bill will give his reports at the meeting

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles day is Sunday, May 13. 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 or by calling him at 707-996-1335.

MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK

Movie night for May is **Saturday, May 26 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), courtesy of Walt Lewis and his Amazing Real Movie Theater Popcorn Popping Extravaganza Machine.

See you at the movies on Skypark Movie Night, **SATURDAY, May 26** at 6 p.m.

DINNER SCHEDULE

We have our celebrity chefs for 2018 so let us know if you would like to take care of your favorite month in 2019. 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
2018 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Roland Gangloff
FEB	Ernie Ganas-Tri-tip
MAR	Rich & Nelleke Cooper- c. beef
APR	Ron Price & Frank Russo
MAY	Ron Willis & John Thomason-road kill
JUN	Don Booker & Wayne Schake
JUL	Darrel Jones- meat(s) and salad
AUG	Robin Tatman
SEP	Richard Craig & Les Lucas
OCT	Air Explorers
NOV	Marsi F., George T. & Howard H.
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	Bill & Jan Wheadon

SPEAKERS

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

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
2018 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Katie Greenwood/ Dr. Howard Donner-Truckee Tahoe
FEB	Avery Cruz- Air Academy
MAR	Dave Alexander- Canary Is. crash
APR	March AFB Air Show report
MAY	Family Fun Day plans
JUN	Roland Ganglof-Al Smith, Alaska bush pilot

JUL	
AUG	
SEP	
OCT	Air Academy participants
NOV	
DEC	XMAS PARTY

2018 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

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

DATE	EVENT
5/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
5/13	Young Eagles 9 am
5/19	Skypark Family Fun Day
5/26	Skypark Movie Night
6/10	Young Eagles 9 am
6/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/23	Skypark Movie Night
7/8	Young Eagles 9 am
7/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/19-22	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/23-29	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
8/12	Young Eagles 9 am
8/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/25	Skypark Movie Night
9/9	Young Eagles 9 am
9/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/22	Skypark Movie Night
10/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/14	Young Eagles 9 am
10/27	Skypark Movie Night
11/11	Young Eagles 9 am
11/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
11/24	Skypark Movie Night
12/7	Skypark Xmas Party
1/1/18	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
April 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:04.

Present were Robin Tatman, Walt Eastland, Bill Wheadon, BK White, Paul Seibert and Darrel Jones.

Bill will pick up a new roaster/food warmer for the clubhouse. The treasurer's report is in the newsletter.

Paul announced that the Jenny was at March AFB in Southern California for their 100th anniversary air show.

BK reported that they had five pilots and aircraft for Young Eagles in March. He will brief the pilots on the pattern to be flown at the start of each Young Eagles day.

Robin will re-register the Air Explorers for the new year. She also said that the Napa pilots involved with their Tri-Pacer donated four shares to the Air Explorers. She is working to set up scholarships for training for young pilots from the local high school and Sonoma Valley.

Robin is working with Kathy Carmichael to organize Sonoma Skypark's annual Family Fun Day open house. This is an important community outreach event to let the Sonoma Valley community know who we are and why Sonoma Skypark is important to Sonoma Valley. She is asking for volunteers to help.

Board Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

The officers gave their reports to the members.

It was announced that the Calaveras Fly-in is April 28 and 29.

General Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM

Dinner was provided by Ron Price and Frank Russo, and consisted of baked potato, chili, corn, beans, salad, toppings and ice cream.

The program for the evening was a presentation by Paul, Ron, Chad Willie, Robin and Darrel about the March AFB air show..

THE STORY...

THE DC-3 GOES TO MARCH AFB

You might be wondering what the picture on the cover is all about. Well, let me tell you a little about the participants.

Richard Martin has a beautifully restored, historically significant DC-3. Richard talked about his obsession at an EAA meeting last year. His DC-3 is the second ordered by the General Hap Arnold in 1938 for command transport. It was delivered in 1939 and designated a C-41A, the first being a C-41. It was built as a DC-3 with a special interior, with four bunks in the forward cabin and four swivel chairs in the rear.

Later Douglas DC-3 military variants were the C-47 Gooney Bird we are all familiar with. The C-47 was a different airplane in that it had a reinforced floor and large cargo door instead of the standard passenger door. There were less than 500 DC-3s build but over 10,000 C-47s produced for the war.

Richard's C-41A was sold as surplus after the war and converted to an executive transport seating 14. It was purchased by Atlantic Richfield Company in 1957 and flew for them until 1970. Richard restored his C-41A to the executive transport configuration used by ARCO.

March Air Force Base is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Because Hap Arnold had been a base commander for March before the war, Richard was invited to bring his C-41A/DC-3 down for the weekend in early April.

Captain Bob has been flying the DC-3 for Richard and Andy and Vina Smith have been doing the honors as tour guides and ground crew.

Here's where the story begins.

We left Napa on Wednesday for a lovely flight down to March AFB near Riverside. We arrived, checked into our rooms, which were in the enlisted barracks, and then ferried Richard, his wife and her friend down to the civilian FBO which shares the field with the base.

To do so we had to drive out the main gate of the base on the north end, around the field to the south end, and drop off the folks who were going to meet Bob and Matt, his co-pilot. They were going to fly a sunset flight for some paying passengers, and Richard and his crew were going along.

All Bob and Matt had to do was to taxi the DC-3 from the ramp on the base to the ramp in front of the FBO. All Vina, Andy and I had to do was go back on base and ferry Bob's rental car back to the FBO so everyone could return to their quarters after the flight.

You know those nice young people at the front gate? The ones with the M-16 slung over their shoulder and that big caliber semi-automatic pistol on their hip? They hadn't received the list of the air show participants yet because we had showed up a day early. They said we needed to go over to the visitor's center and get a pass or we couldn't get back to our rooms, with all our luggage and jammies. Not wanting to start a firefight, we complied.

The nice folks at the visitors' center, who were also armed, puzzled over the problem for a few minutes, before turning us over to the capable hands of Msgt. Humphreys.

Did I mention that this was after 8:00 in the evening?

Msgt. Humphreys commented that he was usually long gone home by this time, but summoned the proper pass documents on his computer and finally had Vina, Andy and me legal to re-enter the base.

We mentioned that we had a whole bunch of people at the FBO off base who would be returning from a sunset flight and who would also like to sleep in their own rooms that night.

Msgt. Humphreys looked at us, looked at the clock, looked back at us and said that he just might still be there when we returned. Maybe.

The three of us drove through the gate, made a dash to the parking lot for Bob's car, caravanned back out the gate for the FBO, where we broke the news to Richard and Bob that they might be sleeping in the cars that night.

When we returned to the visitor's center, Msgt. Humphreys was thankfully waiting patiently for us. Another forty-five minutes and we were all on the way to our rooms. We finally made it to Applebee's at 10:00 pm for dinner.

This all on our first day at the March AFB 100th anniversary celebration.

Now about that photo on the cover of this month's newsletter.

I ran into Msgt. Humphreys in the performers' lunch room Friday. I greeted him warmly and thanked him for his patience getting our passes so late at night. Instead of being grouchy about the bother I appreciated having a great story to tell when we got home. He seemed a little embarrassed about our late night adventure, but I invited him to come out and see the airplane.

We walked out and I turned him over to the crew, who gave him the deluxe tour. Robin took him up to the cockpit, sat him the left seat, and talked to him about the airplane for over a half hour.

When he finally finished his tour, he was so grateful that he gave Bob his service star from his tour in Iraq to carry on the DC-3 on the trip to Normandy and Berlin next summer. I took a photo of him with the crew, and ran after him

when he had walked away to get his contact information so I could send a copy of the photo.

His genuine appreciation for the attention he received and his visible emotion moved me and made me realize what an incredible experience we shared when we opened up Richard's beautiful airplane for him to see.

It made my weekend. I hope to have many more like it.

MORE OF THE STORY... **THE JENNY GOES TO MARCH AFB**

The photo below is of Frank Schelling's 1918 Curtis JN-4H Jenny trainer. Frank meticulously restored the Jenny over thirty-two years and went on to win Grand Champion awards at airshows wherever he went.

Frank was invited to bring his Jenny down to March Reserve Air Force Base for their 100th anniversary air show April 7 and 8. The base, being established in 1918, used Jennys to train the first American aviators destined to fly over France during World War I.

Frank has a regular crew who disassemble the Jenny, load it on a truck, reassemble it at its

destinations, show it, and then reverse the process to return the Jenny to its home at Schellville.

Paul Seibert, Ron Price, Rafe Thomset, Jerry and Tony are all part of the crew. I'm drawing a blank as to who the rest of the crew were, other than Eric Presten, who flies the Jenny and helps Frank with the complex process of making everything fit in the truck and getting it apart and back together. Ben Presten, Eric's son, joined the crew for the trip to March AFB.

The Jenny is a later model than the original JN-4. It is powered by a Hispano-Susua 150 HP water-cooled V-8 engine, compared with the earlier models using a Curtis OX-5 90 HP engine.

The Jenny was enthusiastically received at March, the crew had a wonderful time, and I would like to think that Frank had reason, once again, to be gratified and proud of his accomplishment.

He and Patricia even got to fly home on the DC-3.

Send me your news for your newsletter!



Frank Schelling's Curtis JN-4H at the March AFB 100th anniversary air show in southern California. Note the Ford Model T parked beside it.

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 2018!** SEE YOU THERE!

REMEMBER! THE MAY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, MAY 8 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