



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 2020



SOME PICTURES JUST MAKE YOU SMILE

Mia and Robin smiling and flying. Thanks for sharing the smiles!

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

The January meeting is some **Tuesday, hopefully in the not-so-distant future.** The Board of Directors will meet someday at 6:00 p.m. Until then, they will just email to take care of Chapter business. We'll let you know if and when that happens.

Dinner is at whatever time you have dinner at your place tonight. We'll look forward to being back to our regular dinner time of 7:00 at the old clubhouse.

PRESIDENT'S/AIR EXPLORER REPORT

Robin is working on her report and I will forward it as an addendum to the May newsletter when it is ready.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I was going to start my report exploring Existential Angst but decided that since I'm I pilot, and am writing for pilots, we know the meaning of life so don't suffer from Existential Angst. A little BO maybe, but only if it's Friday and we haven't bathed since last Saturday.

I'm going to have to start bathing again. I'll decide about shaving once I get through that chore.

The meaning of life? Find something to do and then do it. If the weather's good and you can fly today, that would give meaning to life. If you can't fly today, I guess you can think about flying today.

That's what I love about the kind of pilots who hang around the airport or join our Chapter. They don't fly just to get there. They fly to fully experience life.

I've been keeping busy around the house and the hangar. I talked about putting the greenhouse together for Catherine last month. I think I've created a monster. Catherine has been planting seeds as fast as she can open the seed packets, and then transplanting the starts into the raised beds. She had so many starts that she's been giving the extras away.

Beatrix Potter had Peter Rabbit; Catherine has the neighborhood squirrels. She will come out into the garden in the morning only to find some of the starts she planted the previous afternoon dug up by squirrels looking for walnuts buried last fall. Maybe they are there,

maybe not, but that doesn't slow down those industrious squirrels.

The bees have kept me busy as well. I helped Bob Berwick, of Coastal Air Tours Travel Air fame, set up a hive on his place on Denmark Street here in Sonoma. I've been collecting bee swarms and had one hived for a few weeks waiting for a home.

I hadn't anticipated that they would object to being moved out of their cramped quarters into a brand-new luxury hive. Bob didn't have his bee jacket yet but I invited him and Robin to watch while I transferred the colony into his hive boxes.

The bees didn't like it at all. I was being Mr. Bee and holding up a frame of brood when I looked up to see Bob and Robin running for the house, with Bob swatting at his hair. Robin, trooper that she is, only got stung twice, but poor Bob got one right on his upper lip.

He looked a little like J-Lo puckering up for a big kiss after things calmed down. I felt bad about letting the bees get out of control (like I could ever control bees), but Bob was very gracious about the whole debacle and smiled in that funny, big upper lip way of his as I backed out the driveway.

On another note, I had an email from Ken Mercer over at Gness saying that Ernie Gann had gone into the hospital for a body transplant or something, but was sent home and told to take two aspirin and call the surgeon in the morning. If Ernie gives me an update after reading this, I'll send it along and let everyone know how he's doing.

I did take the Stinson out last week but stayed in the pattern and shot landings, with each one a harrowing struggle to not wreck the airplane. I've been flying Earl Broderick's and Jeanette Woods' 172s while working on getting my instrument rating and flying airplanes with the tailwheel in the front has just about ruined me as a pilot.

I'm sad to report that we lost Earl a little over a week ago to cancer. I considered Earl a good friend and a real straight shooter whom I respected and admired. He had two hangars at Skypark and loved flying his 172. He will be missed by many.

So, life goes on. It's hard to not be able to sit around, without masks and closer than six feet, and just swap heroic stories about our personal flying adventures, with a cold drink in hand. I miss our regular monthly meetings. I miss flying the bright, eager Young Eagles and the occasional squirrely kid (Catherine could understand the squirrel part). I miss the ease of life that I never had to think about.

But I know that life will go on and things will get better. It's hard to be diligent about wearing a mask in public and washing hands so often that my fingers seem permanently wrinkled. This is our new normal, our reality for the time being. I know that if we do what is needed now this crisis will pass and we will be able to have the same ease of normal life and contact with our many friends that we had before.

There is that old saying "be good, and if you can't be good, be careful." Wear your mask, wash your hands, and stay safe and healthy until we can get together again.

Darrel

EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER REPORT
May 2020

I haven't received any changes in the report that Bill submitted last month.

We will be administering a Ray Aviation Scholarship but that money will not be considered part of our general fund. We will have an update for you next month.

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles was cancelled for April and May, and will probably be cancelled until such time that social distancing is no longer required for health and safety.

The April newsletter had information on taking or updating your Young Eagles pilot training. This would be a good time to do that so you will be ready to fly Young Eagles when we resume the program.

MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK

Movie night is usually the fourth **Saturday of the month at 6pm in the Sonoma Skypark clubhouse**. Due to the pandemic the airport movies are on hold.

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

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 will update our dinner schedule when the time is right

The schedule for this year so far is (was):

Month	Cooks/Meal
2020 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Robin T
FEB	Bill & Jan W
MAR	Nelleke and Rich C
APR	Ernie G- Tri tip
MAY	Marsi A.
JUN	Darren and Carole
JUL	Darrel- bbq
AUG	Gene or Will?
SEP	Ron & John -Roadkill Special
OCT	Richard, Sandra & George
NOV	Air Explorers
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	Papa Murphy's

SPEAKERS

This was our schedule for speakers for the upcoming months. We will reschedule them when it is safe to resume our monthly meetings. Until then just consider them our future 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
2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Gene Marcinkowski- Hamilton
FEB	Bruce Jamigian- Jimmy Doolittle
MAR	Yayoi West
(APR)	Michael Wray, FB-2 (future)
(MAY)	Wayne Flower, RC flying (future)
(JUN)	Angwin Flight Training program (future)
(JUL)	?
(AUG)	Roland Gangloff (future)
(SEP)	?
(OCT)	?
(NOV)	Air Academy reports-cancelled
DEC	XMAS PARTY

2020 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

We always remain ever hopeful. The following schedule of events was what had been planned before the pandemic. Consider the following listing informational only for planning purposes for next year.

We have shifted to a virtual world for most of our interactions and experiences. Send me any exciting, thrilling, terrifying or just plain fun (virtual) events you have for the calendar.

DATE	Previously scheduled events
5/10	Young Eagles

5/12	1268 Meeting
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 Unknown status
7/20-26	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh Cancelled
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
9/12 ?	Skypark Family Fun Day! Unknown status- will probably be cancelled for this year
9/13	Young Eagles 9 am
9/16-20	Reno Air Races Unknown status
9/26	Skypark Movie Night
9/29-30 ?	Wings Over Wine Country Unknown status
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 Unknown status
1/1/20	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

April 14,2020

The April meeting was cancelled. There are no minutes of the meeting.

Send me your news for your newsletter!

Sonoma Skyrafters
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 REGULAR MEETINGS OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC. THEY WILL RESUME WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.

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