



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

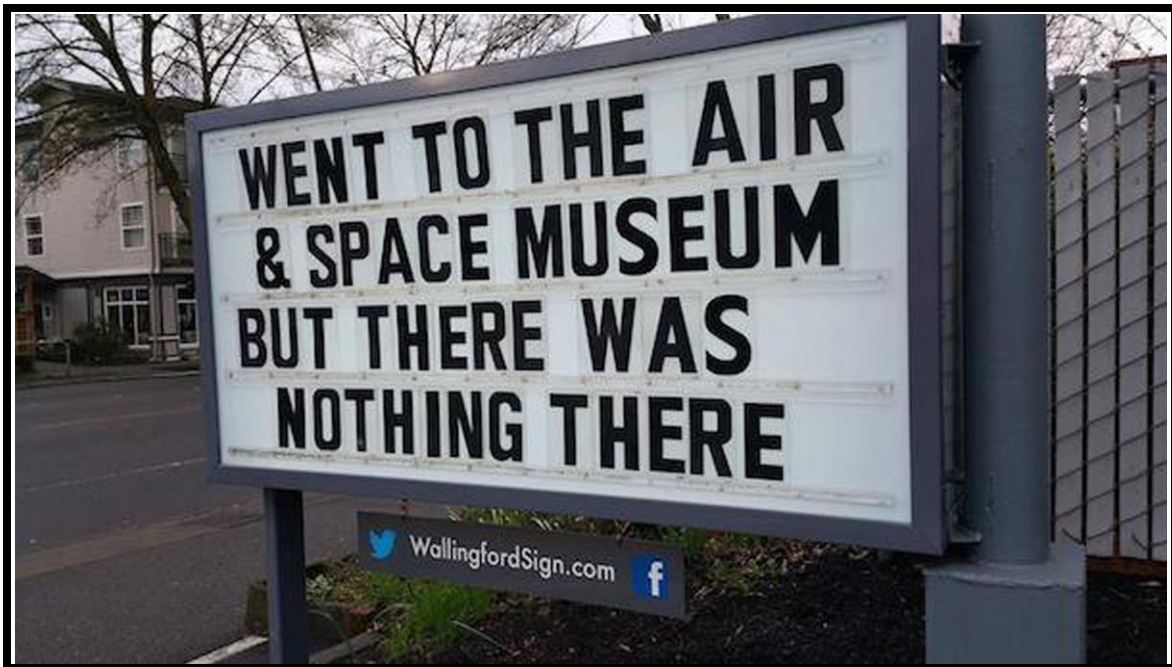
EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

JUNE 2020



OK, THE SHELTER IN PLACE IS GETTING TO ME...

I thought this was funny and found myself laughing way too long.

## **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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

Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382

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: Roland Gangloff, 707-935-1832

Web editor: Gretchen McDougall

BOD/Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The January meeting is this **Tuesday, June 9.**

But we won't be meeting at the old clubhouse.

Les Goldner suggested that we hold a Zoom meeting. If anyone would like to organize that I would be happy to pass it along to the email list. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m. on the fromickly the of blixifitch.

(Hopefully that's not obscene in some language in which I am not fluent.)

Dinner is at 7:00 p.m., or usually a little earlier at my house. Not to infer that you are all

invited to my house. Someday maybe. Not now.

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

The president (ours) is out flying big airplanes, so we will have her report when she returns. I don't know what that other president is doing. (Sly political commentary that is too obscure to understand. Sigh.)

### **VP's REPORT**

Well, I don't know quite what to tell you. It's after 7:00 pm on the day after our regular meeting and I still haven't gotten the newsletter out.

Time seems to take on a whole new meaning when we shelter in place.

I've been busier than I have in years, but just not on projects that generate income. I've put in the standby generator, which involved crawling under the house to install the 1-1/4" gas pipe and electrical cable. It was a two Tylenol night that night.

I finally got around to refurbishing and repairing my ham radio antenna tower and beam antenna in the back yard. That was a little project that had been waiting for several years. I wasn't sure I was still up to the task, but I strapped on my fall harness and work belt with the gorilla hook (I'll tell you all about that someday), and up I went.

When I was a much younger man it would have only taken a few days, but it was the better part of a week to get all the rusty metal painted and the broken wires spliced and the deteriorated coax cable replaced. I'll be hiring a much younger person to do the job next time.

The cleaning frenzy continues. I've gone through the garage, the shop, the shed and am now working on my "office". I would show you a picture of the room but I know that some of you would be calling social services to do a welfare check on me.

A little side note about writing the newsletter is that I sawed into my ring finger on my left hand while clinging to the mast on top of the tower, and now hit "cap locks" whenever I go for a "s" or an "a" on the keyboard with the Band-Aid on the tip of that finger. I'm not a touch typist you know, so when I finally look up, I see a couple paragraphs that have to be retyped in lower case.

Enough of my whining. I hope you are all having some fun while social distancing.

Nathan Wilson, our long-time Young Eagle, Air Academy participant and Ray Aviation scholar soloed today at Napa's Mike Smith Aviation. He called, quite excited, and told me that he is planning on taking his written for private pilot this Friday.

I can't begin to tell you how excited I am that Nathan is able to pursue his passion for flying. Thanks to the support of Chapter 1268, the encouragement of John Thomason in urging me to apply again for the Ray Aviation scholarship, and especially for the EAA in promoting this program, we should have a new private pilot very soon.

Nathan's situation is especially special (is that an alliteration or a metaphor?). He has flown with Richard Craig in John Thomason's Tri-pacer, but couldn't solo because of the insurance restrictions on John's airplane.

Just in the nick of time Nathan's scholarship was approved by EAA and Bill Wheadon dropped the first deposit check off at the flight school. The complication is that Nathan has just graduated high school and is going to college in Europe in August.

Nathan is very focused and I have no doubt that he will achieve his goal of earning his private pilot license before he has to leave.

I want to thank everyone who has made it possible for Nathan to earn his pilot's license,

and especially want to thank Kimberly Smith at the flight school and John for transforming his love of flying into something so tangible.

We received word that John is in Queen of the Valley hospital for treatment of a tumor on his esophagus. He will be staying a few more days to build his strength, but should be home soon. The Energizer Bunny has nothing on John.

I'm still trying to get a handle on Earl Broderick's recent passing. Earl very generously let me use his 172 to work on my instrument ticket. Since he left this world, I've been having a tough time getting back out to airport and pulling out an airplane and going flying. Jeanette very generously has let me fly her wonderful 172. I had been using Jeanette's airplane for Young Eagles and Earl's for the instrument work because he had a WAAS GPS and I could fly RNAV approaches. Jeanette has a nice Garmin 430, so I'll just continue flying the RNAV and pretend that I'm using the VORs.

Don't tell anyone.

I miss my friends at the airport, but know that we will be together again in the hopefully not so distant future.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy each day as it comes.

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

We got boatloads of money! Well, we are fiscally solvent, but don't get your hopes up. If you hear about me taking a luxurious trip to foreign lands, it's all a lie. I'm sheltering in place. The treasury is safe.

**YOUNG EAGLES**

I think I especially miss Young Eagles. It's always a good excuse to spend money on fuel, and it has the added benefit of getting to share

our love of flight with some really bright, enthusiastic young people.

It's pretty tough maintaining six feet of separation in the cockpit of the planes we fly. You are even closer in a Stearman, although it is in an outside environment. Several local flight schools have begun scheduling lessons again, so hopefully we will figure out how to give Young Eagles rides safely in the near future.

**MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK**

Movie night for June and future months will be by Netflix, Amazon Prime or some other streaming service. I recently watched a good flying film from Britain from WWII. It was "Journey Together" and starred Richard Attenborough of Jurassic Park fame. It is available with an Amazon Prime membership.

He played a washed-out pilot cadet who went on to navigator training. It was made in 1945 so it was intended to show that there were other important jobs besides being a pilot. Good flying scenes with Stearmans, Avro Ansons and Lancaster bombers.

I have a good friend, Jim Hill, who retired from the Air Force as a Colonel, and who flew as a navigator on B-47s and B-57s. I told him to watch the movie and let me know if Attenborough knew what he was doing.

We're looking forward to having Rafe's Skypark movie night again soon. He is working with the Sonoma International Film Festival to put on a drive-in movie at Sonoma Skypark. They have it scheduled for July 3 and 4. Go to the SIFF website at <http://www.sonomafilmfest.org/> for updates and information.

**DINNER SCHEDULE**

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

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	Meeting cancelled
MAY	Meeting cancelled
JUN	Meeting cancelled
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY ?
Standby	?

### **SPEAKERS**

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. We have some great ones standing by in the wings

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-NASA
APR	No meeting
MAY	No meeting
JUN	No meeting
JUL	?
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
6/14	Young Eagles cancelled
6/27	Skypark Movie Night-cancelled
7/12	Young Eagles 9 am ?
7/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm ?
7/16-19	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in cancelled
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 ?
<b>9/12 ?</b>	<b>Skypark Family Fun Day! ?</b>
9/13	Young Eagles 9 am ?
9/16-20	Reno Air Races ?
9/26	Skypark Movie Night ?
9/29-30 ?	Wings Over Wine Country ?
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 ?
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! Currently cancelled	

### **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

There are no minutes of the May meeting since it wasn't held. Les Goldner suggested having a Zoom meeting, so if anyone would like to organize that I will get the info out to the members by email.

### **FROM OUR PETALUMA FRIENDS**

This email summary of the PAPA news is from Tom McGraw of the Petaluma Area Pilots Association. He edits the PAPA newsletter. I encourage our Sonoma area pilots to consider joining PAPA for newsletter and good company.

Well, another month of shutdowns and limited access. Unfortunately, it appears we're moving into June with more of the same but at least with the hope that things will be loosening up. So, again, no PAPA dinner meeting this month. In addition, after contact with City of Petaluma staff, our planned June Display Day open house is also not going to be allowed.

A couple of interesting items in the POST for June: we have an interesting real-life story of Capt Eddie Rickenbacker, WW-I ace, of his survival story during WW-II. It was a hair-raising experience so don't skip over it. And, as always, your crack (cracked?) staff here are the POST found an interesting article from the FAA related to those of you who may be up for a flight review during these Corona virus times giving you a three month extension given all those who participate in their Wings Program. Details are in the POST. If you've participated in a Wings Program workshop, you know how educational these are.

Petaluma Airport's very own on-site restaurant: the '29'r Diner' is now open for take-out and outside seating. So, let's all get out to O69 and support our airport businesses! We especially love their "Flying Aces" for breakfast...

That said, there are a number of fly-out locations with restaurant access. Airport Commission member Rick Duste would like to let you all know that the Wing's Café in Auburn is open for patio dining. Also, Panera Bread and Fenton's near Nut Tree Airport are open for both patio and inside dining. So, get out there and aviate!

Finally, we'd like to announce that we have a new Airport Manager: Dan Cohen. He started on 6/1 and is busy getting up to speed with Airport projects, budgets and the rest. Your Airport Commission Chairman met with him on Tuesday and the discussion was valuable and fruitful. Dan's experience extends to a

number of jobs at various airports, most recently serving as Airport Safety Manager at SFO. He is quite familiar with FAA Grant Assurances, running projects and staff management. He clearly wants to continue the success of our Airport and is well aware of how critical the contribution and input from PAPA members has been in the past and continues to this day. His comment: "We're all in this together" is a key to his approach to airport management.

Once the virus shutdown of City offices is lifted and you have a moment, drop by to say 'hello' to Dan. So, until hopefully next month when we can all get together again, fly safely, have fun and celebrate our ability to levitate ourselves above all who are otherwise 'landlocked' and expand your horizons.

Tail winds,  
Tom McGaw

Thomas McGaw Consulting  
Airport Development & Business Planning  
707-762-3724

**BONUS MATERIAL! AT NO  
ADDITIONAL COST! FREE TO LUCKY  
SUBSCRIBERS! ACT NOW! OPERATORS  
ARE STANDING BY! WELL, SITTING,  
ACTUALLY...**

Ernie Ganas sent me a great link to a Vimeo on-line video trailer for the Duxford Flying Legends airshow in England in 2014. It runs about two and a half minutes. Click the link below.

Thanks Ernie! (I never did hear from him after calling him Ernie Gann last month.)

[Flying Legends](#)

And here's another fun one from Ernie:

[Speed Check](#)

**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 JUNE MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, 9 AT 7 P.M., IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS. I'LL BE THINKING OF YOU, WHEREVER YOU ARE.**

---

**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**