



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

SEPTEMBER 2020



## JAY, BOB AND RON AFTER A LOVELY FLIGHT

It was a moody day for the sky but a beautiful day for a Travel Air ride

### **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, September 8**. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m.

The general membership meeting is at 7 pm on Zoom, after the Board of Directors' meeting.

Our program will feature Charlie Becker from the national EAA office talking about the nuts and bolts of starting a flying club.

A little biographical information about Charlie follows.

Charlie Becker, EAA Lifetime #515808

Director of Chapters, Communities & Homebuilt Community Manager

Sonex completed, Building a Super Cub clone

Check out my build:

<https://eaabuilderslog.org/?s=cbecker>

EAA Chapter 252 Past President  
www.eaa252.org

EAA—The Spirit of Aviation

Charlie also presents the monthly Chapter video with news and updates from the EAA.

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

Hi everybody!

I am so happy that Darrel is in charge of the newsletter! I like to write, but personally it takes me hours to compose something I feel comfortable to share, so I am grateful every month that he puts out the newsletter, with or without a contribution from me, without complaint.

First of all, I have some happy updates on what I call "The Sonoma Skypark Effect". I am referring to all of those wide-eyed, young kids that cycle through our little airport and get bitten by the aviation bug by our collective

enthusiasm about flying. Our little slice of heaven has such a wonderful effect on people.

First up is Jaden Washington. He never flew with Young Eagles, and doesn't know a thing about Air Explorers, but his grandfather Louie has been a longtime friend of Bob Berwick and actually sold Bob his beautiful '62 Corvette.

Bob got an email from Louie's daughter and said that her son wanted to know something about careers as a pilot. That was about 2 years ago. He was 19 and on track to compete in the 2024 Olympics as a weightlifter. He was pretty quiet and didn't say much, but you could tell that he liked the airplanes, liked talking to Bob, and over the next few years I corresponded with both Jaden and his mom about training, schools, building time, etc.

He started flying and getting his ratings.

Thursday, I got an email that he completed his CFII! He's no longer competing as a weightlifter - he's decided that flying is a lot more fun and has his sights set on an airline job.

Next is Mary Ross. Tat flew with Mary's grandfather in Flight Test at United and taught her mom Vlasta how to fly when she was 17 (along with two other sisters and a brother.) She worked for me as an instructor, and then I flew with her at Atlantic Coast airlines when she was a Captain and I was a First Officer (be nice to people who work for you - you never know who will be senior to you!) She's been at UPS now for 24 years.

Mary came along and up until her 17th birthday was set on being a doctor. Then the switch was flipped and she decided overnight to be a pilot. Last summer she got her private.

On January 1 of this year, Bob and I flew her and her mom (in separate airplanes) up to the New Year's Day fly-in. Mary ended up flying both legs in the C-120, and we all talked a lot about career progression and what's the best thing to do next. I check in on her about every

6 weeks. Since then, she's finished her Instrument, Commercial, and CFI.

Yesterday she texted me that she finished her CFII. She's 19 and on fire getting her ratings and building time. She loves Skypark and can't wait to be back to build some tail wheel time.

Finally, we have Kira Hernandez. You most decidedly won't know Jaden or Mary, but you will have probably seen Kira at several Young Eagles events over the last year. I've got to spend time talking with her, and she took my advice to apply for every scholarship she could get her hands on.

Last Wednesday she texted me to tell me that she had been awarded one of the PAPA \$2,000 scholarships towards her PPL. She is very excited (and applying for more scholarships). I am looking for ways that we can help her out.

That PAPA scholarship is very tricky, and most people don't even fill out the application correctly and get rejected.

As you all know, the airline industry is on its head right now and that is likely to continue for a while - just like everything else COVID. I spend a ridiculous amount of time keeping up with rapidly changing events, bids, statistics, and an awful lot of rumors. I've been on reserve since March and will be through October 31 when my lovely B-777 will be retired at Delta.

I've been awarded the A350 which is the newest generation wide body Airbus. Moving from a Boeing to an Airbus is never a pleasant experience due to the major differences by the manufacturers in the role of the pilot flying the airplane. But, it's supposed to be a good airplane once you figure out which buttons to push in what order.

I'll continue to be based in Los Angeles, and probably fly the same routes that I have been - Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Sydney and hopefully Europe next summer (all dependent upon COVID of course)

The training footprint is about 6 weeks when you get into school, and it takes 5-6 weeks of home study before you start school. I will be glad when I am done with training and back to a more normal schedule. I'll see you around the airport!

The current pandemic is taking its toll on all of us, often in very personal and unforeseen ways. I hope that all of you are staying healthy and safe amidst all of the current turmoil going on. While I am definitely in training mode, I am always happy to hear from anyone who wants to pick up the phone or send a digitized "hello I'm out here!"

Hugs!

Robin



From Jan Johnson, Stinson L-5, "Betty", driver

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

**September 2020**

**Treasurer Report** Now that Nathan Wilson has completed his training and is now a fully certificated Private Pilot, our expenditures for his training which has been reimbursed through the Ray Scholarship program has come to an end. The only other activity involving chapter funds was a \$50 donation to the Air academy in memory of John Thomason and a \$15 dues renewal.

At the end of August our chapter holdings total \$13,930.42 in the following accounts:

Checking	\$8630.66
Saving	\$ 111.61
CD	<u>\$ 5188.15</u>
	\$13,930.42

That's all for now – any questions email or call me – contact information is in the newsletter.

Stay safe. See you at the meeting,  
Bill Wheadon  
Membership Chairman and Treasurer

### **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.

Somehow, I did watch a few flying movies on You Tube recently.

“Task Force” is a studio post-war film made in 1949 on the eve of the Korean war. It stars Gary Cooper, Jane Wyatt, Walter Brennan and a cast of the Hollywood regulars in a film about

the establishment of Naval aviation, from the Langley, our first aircraft carrier, through World War II and the Battle of Midway to the dawn of the jet age.

Cooper plays a retiring carrier commander reminiscing about his long career through that time as he leaves his ship for the last time for civilian life.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

This from IMDB:

On the day of his retirement, Rear Admiral Jonathan L. Scott reflects on his role in introducing aircraft carriers to the U.S. Navy. After World War I, there was a general

downsizing of the military. There were only limited opportunities to create a carrier-bound air capability. The aircraft were not designed specifically for landing on a flat top and several deaths occur during training. Over the years however, Scott is one of several men who pursue their dream of aircraft carriers and aircraft specifically designed for that purpose. Their worth is proved in World War II at the Battle of Midway and throughout the war.

Written by [garykmcd](#)

Another one was “Wing and a Prayer” from 1944 starring Don Ameche and Dana Andrews.

From IMDB:

An aircraft carrier is sent on a decoy mission around the Pacific, with orders to avoid combat, thus lulling Japanese alertness before the battle of Midway. All the men have their individual worries and concerns, but become increasingly frustrated at their avoidance of combat, for reasons unknown to them. But in the end, all get their chance to fight. Written by [Rod Crawford <puffinus@u.washington.edu>](#)

Although definitely a propaganda film from the war, it also had lots of great aviation sequences and credible performances, along with the usual clichés. It was nominated for an Oscar.

Both are free on You Tube and may be available from other sources on-line, without commercials, for rent.

The last one I watched was “Flat Top”, 1952, with Sterling Hayden and Richard Carlson. Stay away from it if you know the difference between a Wildcat, Hellcat, Helldiver and a Corsair. At any point they all show up as the same airplane. Lots of repetitious gun camera footage shown repeatedly as fire from the ship. Go figure. It must have been free.

I had to watch a chick flick after three flying movies, especially war movies, to make it up to Catherine for putting her through them. She had a good book during the flying scenes

though so I think she might have missed some of the plot.



### 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
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.

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	Chapter video for August
SEP	Charlie Becker EAA flying clubs
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY?

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.

### 2020 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

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

DATE	EVENT
9/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm Zoom
9/12	<b>Skypark Family Fun Day! cancelled</b>
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 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm (someday) Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse! Currently cancelled	

### EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting  
August 11, 2020

This was my first time hosting a Zoom meeting so it was a bit disorganized to put it kindly.

There wasn't really any business conducted during the Board meeting, so "nothing to report, Sir".

Can you tell I offered to write up the minutes of the meeting?

Board Meeting adjourned somewhere before 7 PM

The general membership meeting started at 7 pm. We had some visitors from the far east coast with Frank Russo checking in. He not only has hair on his head, unlike some of us, but is now sporting a very distinctive beard.

It's always good to see Frank, although I know he had to stay up late to attend the meeting.

I had invited Jim Roberts to join also but he is fast asleep in Knoxville by the time it gets to be 7 pm on the left coast.

The officers didn't have much to report since we hadn't made any important decisions at the Board meeting.

The General Meeting adjourned sometime shortly after 7 PM and the program for the evening was some videos from EAA.

The first was a nice one of Ron and Chris Price in his Luscombe 90 flying over Wisconsin in 2019 during Oshkosh. Since Ron has retired, he has lots of time to polish all that beautiful aluminum.

We showed a couple more EAA videos, including one from a high desert fly-called "Finding the spirit of Aviation in the Back Country High Sierra Fly In. Lots of people having lots of fun. Made me want to attend someday.

We will be having another actual speaker with Charlie Becker from EAA this month.

### **ZOOM MEETINGS**

I know some of you have been having a little difficulty making Zoom work.

To have video as well as audio you will need a web camera. If you are using a smart phone or tablet you can use the built-in camera and microphone. I found a good webcam on Amazon for a little over \$30 that simply plugs into a USB port and rests on the top of your monitor.

You can download the Zoom client software through an app store on you Android tablet or phone, or on your Ipad or Iphone. I believe that if you click on the link in the invitation you will be taken to the Zoom website to download the program.

I use my desktop for the meetings but I also have it on my phone. You will need connection to the Internet, either through a network or by wireless or cell service.

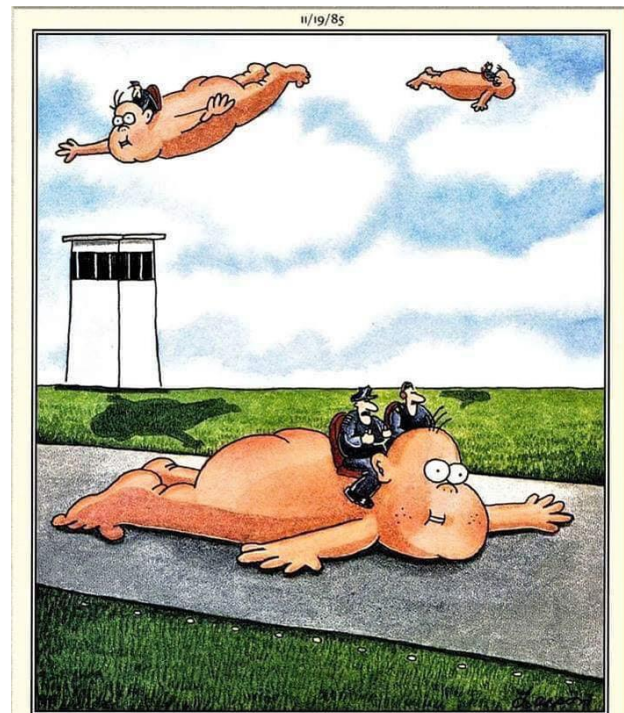
Here are a few links to Zoom tutorials and the website to get you started.

Getting started: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

Audio, video and sharing: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/201137166>

Zoom help center: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

Zoom software download: [https://zoom.us/download#client\\_4meeting](https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting)



"Fuel ... check. Lights ... check. Oil pressure ... check. We've got clearance. Okay, Jack—let's get this baby off the ground."

Download the software and "let's get this baby off the ground". See you tomorrow.

**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!

This is the space where I used to put the address label. I realized I could put little public service announcements here since we are an electronic, 21<sup>st</sup> century outfit now.

This newsletter goes out to a lot of people. I am only sending the link for the Zoom meetings to active members to make the meetings a little more manageable. If you would like to receive the links for the Zoom meetings, please take a minute and fill out this application, include a check for \$15 (a measly \$15 buck, I always say) and send it along to Bill Wheadon, our Treasurer and Membership Chairman. He will send your email address along and I will put you on the active members email list.

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