



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 2021



ERIC PRESTEN AND FRIENDS UNDER THE WING OF THE BLERIOT
Any day is good under an airplane wing, making wonderful memories.
Thank you, Will Campbell, for the excellent photos.

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, February 9. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m.

The general membership meeting will start at 7 pm. There hasn't been much business, so

after a short meeting we will have Yayoi West give a presentation.

Presentation is about NASA MARS 2020 Mission PERSEVERANCE ROVER

I am planning for 45minutes including Q&A. I can make it shorter/longer if better.

I will talk brief information about Perseverance by using Keynote, and show some videos.

Please include the following information in the newsletter.

Perseverance will touch down on Mars on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, at approximately 12:30 p.m. PST.

The NASA TV broadcast from Mission Control starts at 11:15 a.m. PST/2:15 p.m. EST.

Tune in to watch live at:

<https://www.youtube.com/nasa>

All the exciting information about the rover can be found here:

<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/timeline/landing/>

As I said at the last meeting, I have placed printed materials of Perseverance Rover for members at Skypark office.

They are placed at the bottom of Skypark apparel cabinet.

Thank you,
Yayoi

Use this link to join a Zoom test meeting to try out your connection.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002262083-Joining-a-test-meeting>

WOMAN ON A MOTORCYCLE



Perhaps someone's mom, someday. Maybe not the day of this photo.

EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER REPORT FEBRUARY 2021

Treasurer Report – Since this article is being written before the end of the month, I don't have a bank statement yet for the month of January but I can give you a report based on my calculations:

Our three accounts total \$13,886.40 in chapter funds. This is broken down in the following accounts:

Checking account - \$8535.09
Savings account - \$ 115.78
CD account - \$5235.40

That's all for now – any questions? If so, shoot me an email – bill.wheadon@gmail.com.

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

YOUNG EAGLES

This from BK:

Once again, I don't have any "STUFF" to send. Just waiting in the warm-up area to get flying again. Jeez, by the time we get to fly again all our current planes will be antiques. Keep up the good work.....B.K.

We are all looking forward to flying Young Eagles again. As always BK White is looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events for when we get back in operation.

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

We have talked about having a Zoom movie night but the details haven't been confirmed yet. We'll let you know when and if we get that program going.

Catherine and I usually watch two or three movies a week. Last night we watched Ingmar Bergman's 1957 film "The Seventh Seal".

It's about a Swedish knight returning from the crusades during the years of the plague in the middle ages. Fascinating exploration of our search for meaning in life and our relationship with God. This is the film where the knight Antonius Block plays a game of chess with Death for his life.

I recommend that you don't watch it right now. There are no flying scenes in it and we already have COVID, so we don't need to add the Black Plague.

I'm going to dig out my copy of "Only Angels Have Wings" as a good uplifting mood enhancer. I've had a think for Jean Arthur ever since I watched "Shane" at the Sequoia Drive-In in Visalia when I was much younger.

I would watch "Airplane!" again, but I just watched it recently. My silly movie tolerance is pretty high, but I wouldn't want to subject Catherine to that one too often.

And don't call me Shirley.

I can't wait until we are vaccinated and are back in the clubhouse with Rafe watching the incredible films he shows, eating pizza and drinking an adult beverage with friends.

Until then, we'll just have to depend on Netflix, You Tube and Amazon for our flying movie fixes.

DINNER SCHEDULE

We will reschedule our chefs when we start having meetings again. 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
2021 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Dinner at home
FEB	Dinner at home
MAR	Dinner at home
APR	Dinner at home
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY - ?

SPEAKERS

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. Here's where I see if any of you are actually reading this newsletter or if it just goes into your spam folder.

We would like a member to be our speaker chairperson. EAA has a list of virtual speakers on the EAA website. You would just need to go through the list, choose some potential speakers and then contact them to schedule them for our Zoom meetings. Your help will be much appreciated.

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
2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Socially distanced gathering
FEB	Yayoi West-Mars mission
MAR	?
APR	?
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

2021 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

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

DATE	EVENT
2/14	Young Eagles cancelled
2/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm - Zoom
2/26	Skypark Movie Night cancelled
3/14	Young Eagles cancelled

3/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
3/26	Skypark Movie Night cancelled
4/11	Young Eagles - ?
4/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
4/23	Skypark Movie Night - ?
5/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
5/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
5/28	Skypark Movie Night - ?
6/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
6/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
6/25	Skypark Movie Night - ?
7/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
7/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
7/21-25	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in - ?
7/26-8/1	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh - ?
7/23	Skypark Movie Night - ?
8/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
8/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
8/27	Skypark Movie Night - ?
9/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
9/11 ?	Skypark Family Fun Day!
9/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
9/15-19	Reno Air Races - ?
9/24	Skypark Movie Night - ?
9/18-19	Wings Over Wine Country - ?
10/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
10/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
10/22	Skypark Movie Night - ?
11/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
11/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
11/26	Skypark Movie Night - ?
12/3	Skypark Xmas Party - ?
1/1/22	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 12, 2021

The Board meeting did not have a quorum so the officers present, Bill Wheadon and Darrel Jones talked about airplanes instead.

The General membership meeting started on Zoom at 7:00 pm. There was no official business to discuss so the members visited and shared their recent flying and other experiences.

There was no official program for the evening.

General Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM

THE OTHER NEWS...

NATHAN WILSON FLYING IN FRANCE

I received this from Nathan Wilson, our Ray Scholar who earned his private pilot's license this last year. He is studying in college in Belgium.

The past summer I was lucky enough to go to the south of France to see some family, and while I was there, I took advantage of an opportunity to fly an ultralight aircraft.

My grandfather has a good friend who owns a plot of land in the rolling hills of Provence. He proposed to take me flying for a day. My mom and I drove over to his house, and he showed me the aircraft. He had it stored in a barn and towed it out with a lawnmower. There was no concrete, the entire plot was grass and dirt.

Once it was out of the hangar, we got in the plexiglass cockpit. There were bucket seats, sticks, a glass cockpit, and that was it. A very light plane with barely any accessories in it. He fired it up and we taxied 20 feet to his runway. A large strip of dirt and grass with cones on the side, all going downhill.



The takeoff was easy as the aircraft was so light. He then let me take the controls as soon as we were in the air. I flew over landmarks I knew from childhood, certain lakes roads, and houses. It was a lot of fun to see a new view from the sky as well as fly in a different country.

He told me to fly back to his strip after a while, and I couldn't find it. He assumed the controls at one point and the next thing I knew we were headed straight for a mountain. After looking around for a bit I realized where the strip was and we were headed straight for the ground.

He pulled up at the end for the smoothest landing you can get on that uphill dirt strip. We taxied back and it was an incredible flight overall. I had a lot of fun and can't wait to get my European private pilot's license conversion so I can fly solo in Europe.

HERE IS REMEMBRANCE FROM LESLEY ABOUT HER DAD JOHN MILES.

John Kenneth Miles
aka Grumpy
July 27, 1926 - December 25, 2020

I heard him leave. It was like someone had tossed a small rock against the side of the

house. Not a pebble and definitely not a boulder but a crack, a thud.

That was earlier than the phone call at 1:35 am from hospice. The kind voiced nurse said, " Mr. John Miles passed yesterday, Christmas night at 11:57."

I had tried to close my eyes to sleep, my watch vigilantly recorded my heart rate 95, 91, 88 the low. It was not a night of peaceful rest, downstairs the birds nest fern had flown from the table and crashed to the floor.

And....

I knew the transition was afoot.

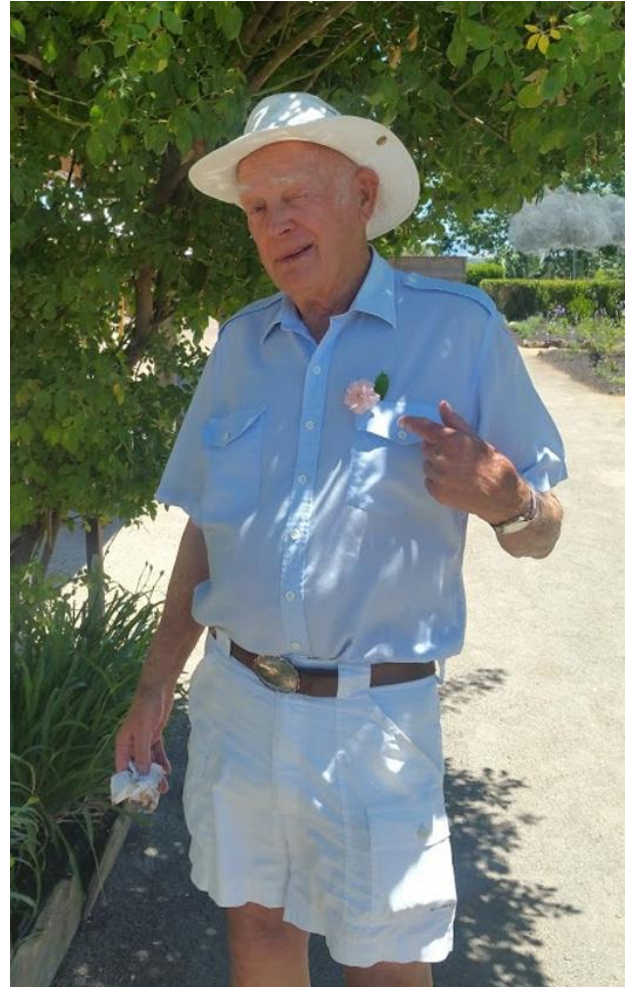
Covid-19 took him. Initially he wasn't ready, but that didn't mean he didn't become ready. His last heard words by family, "Oh s**t." The littlest one had shared, specifically warned not to, "Grumpy, I am so sorry you are going to die." Apparently, a surprise, his reaction was hard not to understand. But perhaps it gave him time to prepare. That was two days ago.

Such a long life of curiosity; of people, dogs, cats, birds, plants, airplanes and friends. His smile included you and leveled the playing field, we are equal.

Several years ago, at Christmas I'd asked him to teach us about music. A violin prodigy, he played a solo with the San Francisco philharmonic orchestra at 12, he shared with us his love of music. The iPad lesson started with the drum and then the flute, the pipes of Ireland, evolving prehistory. The beginnings of music through the ages, and then the evolution of his life experience of music unfolded. His favorite song ended our lesson, Imagine by John Lennon.

Music continually played in the background of his expansive life; flying his antique Taylor craft, driving Blanco, the 64 Chevy Impala

convertible, hiking, traveling everywhere alone so that he could experience life and connection on his own terms. He never met a woman he wouldn't flirt with nor a dog he wouldn't pet.



In his late '70's he got Lasik surgery in preparation for a month-long trip down the Colorado River at high water in March. Not for the faint hearted, he was worried he would lose his glasses and not be able to see the crests and valleys of the class 10 rapids. His dream to fly in the navy was curtailed by the damn glasses but eventually at 50 he became a pilot. Picking of course a taildragger, he flew across the country multiple times and then to Alaska above miles and miles of uncharted territory in his 80's. Everywhere he went he made a friend and shared a joke..." Did you

hear about the fire at the circus? It was intense!”

As a parent his adventurous spirit provided complexity. We shared joy in nature, stories, and ultimately simple visits the last 9 months separated by glass as we could not touch and pantomimed and tried to hear.

He was truly present as he shared time and that ball of the foot bouncing energy with grandchildren and the greats too. Loving teaching about everything from poetry to astronomy, his boundless interest in the world was at its best when shared with children.

It is raining as they move his body to the coroner, Covid-19 has specific protocols that leave us lacking. I know that a drop of rain will land on his outstretched hand and he will look at it with wonder and joy, how beautiful, how ironic and how sad, tears fall, remember...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I am not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one...

MICHAEL BRANTSEG, JANUARY 23, 2021

Ben Freelove sent the following information on a Sonoma Skypark pilot and homebuilder who recently passed away.

Here is a link for Mike's obituary:

<https://www.cahillfuneralchapel.com/obituary/michael-brantseg>

I think anyone who knew Mike or spent time would be struck by his energy and attention to detail. He was a true homebuilder in every sense of the word. He even learned how to do

upholstery so he could finish the interior his RV-7, it looks completely professional.

He wanted to paint the airplane himself, and even though he wanted a difficult color (silver), he simply removed all the paint and started over when the first attempt wasn't to his standards.

Throughout his battle with cancer Mike was unstoppable. He would routinely be out at the airport working on his airplane, or hand building archery bows just days after receiving heavy doses of chemotherapy. Never a complaint, and always willing to lend a hand or help with a project.

He will definitely be missed out at Sky Park.

EAA WEBINARS COMING UP

There are always ongoing EAA webinars scheduled. Take a look at this website for information on registering.

We're excited to announce our **February and March webinars** that you can enjoy from the comfort of your home. EAA webinars are free to all aviation enthusiasts. Preregistration is recommended, as space is limited.

ATC and You: How to Make the Most of Flying VFR
Wednesday, February 10, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenters: Richard Kennington and Bob Obama
| Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

[Register Now ›](#)

Flying Procedures into Canada
Tuesday, February 16, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenter: Luke Penner | Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

ATC and You: Balancing IFR Flying and the Efficiency of Controlled Airspace

Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenters: Richard Kennington and Bob Obma
| Qualifies for FAA WINGS credit.

Owner in Command: Things I Wish I Knew
Before I Knew Them
Wednesday, February 24, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenter: Sebastien Seykora | Qualifies for
FAA WINGS and AMT credit.

Panthers and Beyond
Tuesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenters: Dan and Rachel Weseman |
Homebuilders Webinar Series

How Mags Fail
Wednesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenter: Mike Busch | Qualifies for FAA
WINGS and AMT credit.

Bong: America's Ace of Aces
Tuesday, March 9, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenter: Chris Henry | Museum Webinar
Series

Pushing Past TBO - Running your Rotax Engine
"On Condition"
Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. CST
Presenter: Prof. H. Paul Shuch | Qualifies for
FAA WINGS and AMT credit.

Rolling Fear Upside Down with Aerobatics
Tuesday, March 16, at 7 p.m. CDT
Presenter: Cecilia Aragon

Sling Aircraft Kits
Wednesday, March 17, at 7 p.m. CDT
Presenter: Mike Blyth

SNAGGED! Dealing with Defects Safely and
Legally
Wednesday, March 24, at 7 p.m. CDT
Presenter: Sebastien Seykora | Qualifies for
FAA WINGS and AMT credit.

Engine Care Items Every Pilot Should Know

Wednesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. CdT
Presenter: Bill Ross | Qualifies for FAA WINGS
and AMT credit.

FROM OUR GNOSS FILED NEIGHBORS

NOISE COMPLAINTS (CONTINUED)...

We all know better than to fly directly over the homes south/southeast of the airport, but it still happens and the County still gets complaints (sometimes multiple) when it does. Many times, a little research on our part shows that their complaint might actually be justified.

GFCFA occasionally gets noise complaints, too, and while we always direct them to Dan Jensen, we also note that we (the flying community) understand their frustrations and go out of our way to educate our local pilots of the established standard pattern which avoids such overflights.

We've talked about this a lot, but we have a couple of local pilots who take the attitude "they shouldn't have bought a house close to an airport". GFCFA isn't going to step in and become the "enforcer", but we will try to contact individuals in obvious cases. It's incumbent upon each of us to speak up when we witness something we know is wrong. Our neighbors are smart, and it's only a matter of time before they learn how to track down registered owners. In fact, it's already been done.

If you fly over there, be courteous.

Some links from the Gness Field newsletter:
[Vintage Aircraft Bridges](#)

[Ski Flying in a Piper J-3 Cub! | Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome](#)

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 2021!** SEE YOU THERE! (This message is for when we are back in the clubhouse. For now, just mail a check to Bill at the address below.)

REMEMBER! THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT 7 P.M., ON ZOOM. LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP GETTING ON ZOOM. 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:
Bill Wheadon, Treasurer
1021 Stonebridge Drive
Napa, CA 94558