



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

NOVEMBER 2023



WALT BOWE'S WACO 9 FLOWN BY ANDREW KING  
Photo by Nigel Hitchman over Broadhead in July of this year

## **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**President:** Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747

**Vice President:** Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382

**Secretary:** Nelleke Cooper, 707-938-5587

**Treasurer:** Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901

**BOD:** Don Booker, 707-938-9461

**BOD:** Marsi Allard, 415-686-5254

**BOD:** Roland Gangloff, 707-935-1832

**Web editor/Young Eagles:** Gretchen McDougall  
gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com

**Speaker coordinator: position open**

**Dinner coordinator:** Sindy Mikkelsen

[sindymikkelsen@att.net](mailto:sindymikkelsen@att.net)

**Building/Newsletter:** Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382, wd6bor@vom.com

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The January meeting is this **Tuesday, November 14**. 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 \$10.00 per person. Our chef for the month will be Gene Marcinkowski.

Our program will be a presentation by Mike Smith, owner of Mike Smith Aviation in Napa.

## WOMEN IN AIRPLANES



Who else this month but one of Delta Airlines newest Captains, our own President Robin Tatman, show here with one of her crew members.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have just two items I want to cover.

The first is that we need a type A personality to take over as our Membership Chairperson. Someone who can go down our current membership list and call a few others to help calling some other pilots and Young Eagle families. Sounds a bit like a pyramid scheme, but that will be what it takes to build our membership post-COVID.

Kathy Carmichael had that super power, but she is now splitting her time between Sonoma and her home town, Malin, in southern Oregon. If you would like to be our next super hero, please give me a call or send me an email and I'll help you get going.

The second thing is the same one I mention in every newsletter; we are looking for donations

to the scholarship fund, which is in pretty good shape right now, but especially to the restroom renovation and Pietenpol Chapter build funds. We are at the end of the year, so instead of paying a big tax bill, consider donating to the Chapter, which is a 501.c.3 non-profit, and helping us move those projects along.

Thanks, and I'll see you Tuesday evening at the meeting.

Darrel

## EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER REPORT November 2023

One bank deposit was made in October totaling \$2,271.00. Included in the deposit was \$1,100 in donations for the Richard Cooper Memorial Fund, \$20 in dues renewal, \$151 in receipts from our October dinner, and \$1000 from our Saturday BBQ fundraiser. Our CD account earned \$15.83 in interest.

Expenses for the month was one check for \$115 which was reimbursement to our September dinner chef for dinner supplies purchased

Total chapter funds are \$42,168.38 distributed in the following accounts:

Checking account	- \$ 29,092.26
Savings account	- \$ 7,651.54
CD account	- \$ 5,424.58
Total account funds	\$42,168.38

As I reported in my October Treasurer's report, Redwood CU made a mistake on our September statement by charging our account for a check (\$5,000) that was written on a different account. I called RCU and got the charge dropped.

That's all for now – any questions? If so, shoot me an email or give me a call – bill.wheadon@gmail.com. 707-224-3901

Bill

## YOUNG EAGLES

What a day we had today. Young Eagles Day was this Sunday, November 12. As is usual, we were looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events. We lucked out with the pilots, since we had Robin Tatman in her Cessna 120, Ken Thornton in his RV6, George Bachich in his Legend Cub, Steve Crawford, from Petaluma, in his Autogyro MTO Sport, Ken Callendar over in his Cessna 182, Gardner Bride's nephew Bill Banner all the way from Salt Lake in his 182, and my 182. In all, we hauled 34 Young Eagles and five adults.

Gretchen was definitely working overtime with registration, so when we start up again in January, please consider coming out and giving her a hand filling out the certificates.

I was very relieved that we had as many pilots as we did this month because I had put an announcement in the local paper. With the beautiful weather and a little publicity, we had our hands full.

If you have a two-place airplane, the Young Eagles especially enjoy getting to sit in the right seat and taking the controls. Ken Callendar's 182 has the rear seats out, so his was a two place airplane for the day. Fortunately, enough of our Young Eagles agreed to fly in the back seat, so we were able to get everyone who came out into the air with Bill and my 182s.

Please consider doing the youth protection training and coming out to give a hand in 2024. It's very rewarding.

My last flight of the day was with two of my great-grandkids, Lincoln and Norah. Lincoln had flow right seat with me in September, with Norah in the back seat. Today Norah sat on a cushion and flew in the front. They both had a great time, and we ever were able to fly over their house.



Gardner Bride with his nephew Bill Banner at Oshkosh 2018.



Lincoln and Norah after the flight.

Let us know you will be joining us and helping out by sending an email to Gretchen at

gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com or me at wd6bor@vom.com.

One more Young Eagle related item is that Jorge Oros is a dad. Jorge was one of our first Young Eagles and has gone on to a career in aviation.

I received this from Jorge after asking about his new family and his current career.



Thanks! His name is Jorge just like me lol and her name is Karla. Jorge turned 7 months on October 18, still not crawling but his getting there. Karla has just graduated from the university of Tucson and is currently just tending to the baby full time. I am currently flying a King Air C90 for Guardian flight, a 135 medical company.

## CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT



The Pietenpol fuselage is coming along nicely. Michael asked for a meeting to plan the next stages of construction, so we met recently at the shop hangar to talk about the project.

Yayoi West, Michael Wray, Ron Price, Ray Gallarate and I all met and discussed the engine installation, fuselage building details, and progress inspections as the project continues.

Ray volunteered to ask as the technical advisor, since his career was in aviation repair and maintenance. He will be checking in on the building session at least once a month to answer questions and discuss possible solutions to any questions that come up.

The project is at the stage that the metal fittings need to be fabricated and installed for the engine, landing gear and wing attachment. I volunteered to order the necessary metal to supplement whatever I have in my hangar, and to work with the project build team members on the fabrication of the fittings.

Chapter 1268 members are encouraged to attend a build session on Saturday mornings and join in with their skills.

Yayoi is the Chairperson of the Pietenpol Chapter 1268 Build Project in charge of organizing and administration, so contact her with any questions about scheduling. Michael is the Build Team Leader, so he is directing the actual construction.

The team meets every Saturday morning from 9:00 to 11:30 at the clubhouse at Sonoma Skypark. Check with Yayoi to make sure they will be there before you come out.

### **SATURDAY BARBECUE**

Marilyn and Marsi will be taking a well earned break from running the Saturday hamburgers during December. They will continue them through the rest of this month and then restart in January. If anyone wants to step in to cover December, please give Marilyn a call at 707-479-5712 or email her at [windsong11@icloud.com](mailto:windsong11@icloud.com).

The Saturday barbecue is getting more popular all the time, with the crew selling out of fifty hamburgers last Saturday, as well as selling lots of hot dogs.

These Saturday barbecues are not only an important social activity for Sonoma Skypark and Chapter 1268, but are also the main funding source for our Air Academy scholarships. Chapter 1268 is unique in that it sends up to four Young Eagles to Oshkosh each year to experience aviation building and flying.

### **GROUND SCHOOLS**

Yayoi is pausing ground school at Sonoma Skypark in the clubhouse on Monday evenings until she gets more students. Several of her students were Chapter 1268's Ray scholars who have completed their private pilot flight training and taken their check rides. She currently has only one student attending. Call or text her at Yayoi West, 707-364-9257 for

information on when she plans on restarting the classes.

If you have any flight planning gear, such as a plotter, E6B or anything usable for ground school classes, please bring them to the meeting or drop them off at the clubhouse.

Mike Smith Aviation at Napa Airport is also holding free ground school classes on Saturday mornings. The schedule for those classes is:

#### November Schedule

Nov. 11th: Cross Country Planning

Nov. 18th: Wind Correction E6B

Nov. 25th: Thanksgiving weekend no class

Contact Kimberly Sanders Smith at 916-607-4023 for more information.

The classes are held at the flight school at 2000 Airport Road, Napa 94558 200 yards north of terminal building.

This free ground school coaching session for the Private Pilot Knowledge test is for student pilots, rusty pilots, anyone interested in learning to fly. Everyone is welcome! You'll need to purchase a book, available on site: Gleim Private Pilot Test Prep, \$22.95.

### **2023 DINNER SCHEDULE**

We have some of our celebrity chefs for 2023 but need to fill the schedule for 2024. Hot dogs, chili or pizza are perfectly fine. Our meal coordinator is Sindy Mikkelsen at [sindymikkelsen@att.net](mailto:sindymikkelsen@att.net). Let her know you can provide the meal for a meeting and she will put you on the schedule. Copy me at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com) so I can include you in the newsletter dinner schedule.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cooks/Meal
<b>2023 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Will Campbell, Nelleke Cooper
FEB	Sindy Mikkelsen
MAR	Marilyn and Bob Avrit

APR	Don and Wayne (+Ligia and Cecilia)
MAY	Sindy Mikkelsen (again)
JUN	Marsi Allard
JUL	Darrel- barbecue chicken/sausage
AUG	Rony Kurniawan-tikka masala
SEP	Darrel-roast chicken
OCT	Marsi and Ligia- enchiladas +
NOV	Gene Marcinkowski
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	?

### **SPEAKERS**

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

Contact Vice President Darrel Jones at 707-799-6382 or send an email to me at wd6bor@vom.com so we can get your program or speaker information into the newsletter.

We're still looking for a permanent speaker coordinator, so let us know if you can help out by taking on this important job. We can give you contact information for other local Chapters so you can find speakers they have had.

Month	Speaker/Member/Subject
<b>2023 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Yayoi West- Chapter build project
FEB	Pietenpol video "Finding Flight"
MAR	Yayoi West- total eclipse Apr 20
APR	Stephen Brosseau. 5000hrs flying w/o an engine
MAY	Art Hayden, Mt. Flying, South Africa, Alaska &etc.
JUN	George Bachich. Acrobatic antics; inverted spin recovery
JUL	Bruce Janigian: ret. U.S. Navy Captain; Experiences in Ukraine and Crimea, Russia
AUG	Paul Hollingworth: Gyrocopters, history of development and his history of flying them. What he flies and why he loves doing so
SEP	Air Academy/Ray scholar report
OCT	Anne-Andre Wilson- Nathan's Young Eagles experience

NOV	Mike Smith
DEC	XMAS PARTY

### **2023 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

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

DATE	EVENT
11/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
11/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
12/2	Skypark Xmas Party
1/1/24	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

### **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

Board of Directors Meeting  
October 10, 2023

The Board meeting called to order at 6:16 pm. Members present were outgoing Secretary Yayoi West, outgoing President Don Booker, outgoing Treasurer Bill Wheadon, incoming Treasurer Ray Gallarate, incoming Secretary Nelleke Cooper and Vice President Darrel Jones. Also present were Pietenpol Build Team Leader Michael Wray and Marc Ashton from Petaluma Pilot Training Center.

Yayoi West will continue as Pietenpol Project Chairperson in charge of organization and planning.

Michael brought up the issue of who will own the Pietenpol and how will liability be addressed. Ray suggested that the project will need to be sold as-is with the buyer assuming all liability for airworthiness. Consensus is that the Chapter will own the project during construction and that it will be sold as-is upon completion and recommended by Ray. The aircraft will be sold with a formal written sales agreement detailing those requirements. The Chapter will consult with the national EAA office for the means of doing so.

Michael asked about the continued funding for the Chapter Pietenpol build project. Darrel proposed that the Chapter designate \$5,000 from the club treasury to be advanced against the ongoing fundraising for the project so that there would be no delay in the progress of construction. The board voted to approve \$5,000.

Ray informed the Board that a young person from Schellville, Mathew Jackson, is interested in working on the project. The Board asked Ray to encourage him to join the building team, with Michael having the authority to evaluate his suitability and direct his work.

Darrel reported that the new shop gutters and roof repairs were completed at a cost of \$500, which was below the budgeted amount of \$2,500. He also bought a rolling toolbox for approximately \$300 for the loose hand tools donated to the Chapter.

Marc reported that Luis Membrilla will need fifty hours before completing his instrument training. PPTC requires that trainees obtain renter's insurance before renting airplanes from the school. Luis may be able to get another PAPA scholarship.

Marc also reported that Hayden Holbrook is getting closer to soloing. Hayden is one of the Chapter's Ray Scholar candidates for 2024.

Darrel reported that Roland is dealing with some health issues and will need to step back from some of his duties for the time being.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Dinner was provided by Marsi Allard and Ligia Booker and consisted of enchiladas with all the trimmings, and flan for dessert.

The General meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

The officers gave their reports to the members. There were no other items brought up for discussion or action, other than an observation

by Darrel that the Chapter needs to focus on building our membership in the new year.

General Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

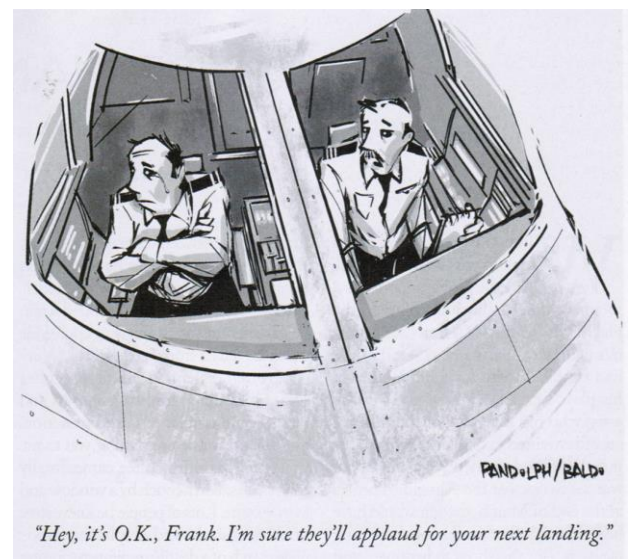
The program for the evening was a presentation by Anne-Andre Wilson about her son Nathan's experience coming to Sonoma Skypark as a Young Eagle, going to the Air Academy and then being selected as Chapter 1268's first Ray Scholar for his private pilot training at Mike Smith Aviation in Napa.

Nathan was able to join the meeting and presentation on Zoom from his home in Arizona, and both Anne-Andre and Nathan showed photos and talked about his experiences up to the present day as a flight instructor.

There were a number of questions for both of them from the members, and a round of applause at the end of the presentation.

### OTHER NEWS

There will be TFRs covering Sonoma Skypark for the rest of this week. Check those NOTAMs before you go flying.



We have a number of airline pilots in our Chapter who could relate to this. I personally never have to worry about my passengers

applauding after a landing. They are usually too busy screaming or crying.

### **Thomas Rickard, IFR pilot**



Big news is that one of our recent Ray Scholars, Thomas Rickard, passed his instrument check ride Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. I first heard the news from his obviously very proud mom Chelsea.

### **John Knebel, RIP**

The last bit of news, especially poignant this month, is that John Knebel passed away last month. We had a couple photos Marsi took of him when she had lunch with John and Howard in the October newsletter. I hadn't heard how he was doing and was delighted to see his smiling face.

I'll try to have more on John in the next newsletter.



### **WOMEN ON MOTORCYCLES**



Do you think John might have appreciated this? I just thought "flying away" when I saw it.

Fair skies and tailwinds John.

**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 2024! SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!**

**REMEMBER! THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 7 P.M., AT THE SKYCRAFTERS' CLUBHOUSE HANGAR B-5 AT SONOMA SKYPARK AIRPORT. DINNER STARTS AT 7 PM, SO DON'T BE LATE! 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**