



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95476

DECEMBER 2023



I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW SANTA SOMETIMES GETS A LIFT FROM  
THE USS ENTERPRISE, DID YOU?

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com)

**Membership Chair:** Don and Ligia Booker,  
707-938-9461

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The December meeting was at the combined Sonoma Skypark/EAA 1268 Christmas party on December 16. No official business was conducted, but all reports are that everyone had an enjoyable evening. Thanks to George Bachich for hosting the party in his hangar. A special thank you to Marsi for organizing the party and to Marilyn and everyone else involved for teaming up to make it all happen.

The January meeting will be **Tuesday, January 9.**

This goes at the top of the newsletter, because having something good to eat at our monthly dinner meeting is at the top of our priority list for our members.

This from Sindy, our dinner coordinator:

Happy New Years!

It's time we kick this year in gear and start with scheduling our fabulous cooks for 2024. You already know, it's not that difficult and if you need your expenses reimbursed, that's available to you too. If you're interested but not sure what you need to do, or what you can/should do, just reach out, we're here to help.

Thank you!

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

## Month Cooks/Meal 2024 DINNER SCHEDULE

JAN	???
FEB	???
MAR	???
APRIL	???
MAY	???
JUNE	???
JULY	???
AUG	???
SEPT	???
OCT	???
NOV	???
DEC	Christmas Party

The other top priority for the Chapter is our fundraising drives to fund our scholarships, our restroom renovation and our Chapter Pietenpol build project.

The scholarships are in good shape at the present time, but the restroom fund is only at about \$5,000 of the estimated \$30,000 we need for materials. The majority of the work will be done by Chapter volunteers, but we can't get started until we receive some more funding. If you've used the restrooms recently, you know that they are in dire need of an upgrade.

The Chapter Board approved an advance of \$5,000 for the Chapter Pietenpol project against future fundraising. The project involves several of our Young Eagles, Air Academy participants and newly minted young pilots. The original budget was \$17,000, of which we've raised a few thousand.

Each of these funds is a worthwhile investment in the future of aviation here at Sonoma Skypark, and in general aviation overall. You still have a few days to make a tax-deductible donation to EAA Chapter 1268, a 501.c.3 non-profit, before the end of the year. Send your check to Bill Wheadon at the address on the last page of this newsletter.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

With the December meeting being the annual Skypark Christmas meeting, I thought I would take a little more time to write the December newsletter. Well, it's Christmas Day, so I should get going on it.

I was up in Ashland the first two weeks of December remodeling my daughter Jenny's two showers. After some long days working to get them done, I was glad to be heading back down Highway 5 to home, my own bed, Catherine and my two dogs, Tillie and Odie (short for Matilda and Odious).

I won't be flying Young Eagles in January because the 182 is down for a top overhaul and panel upgrade. I'm hoping everything is

completed by February. I've asked for more pilots and airplanes for January in the Young Eagles report, but I'll repeat it again.

The other repetitious requests are for donations to our scholarship, restroom and Chapter build projects, as well as for chefs and speakers for 2024. Don't delay, the new year is almost here.

Recent news is that Ligia Booker was in the hospital for some work, but is home again and doing well. Don felt left out, so he went in also for an overnigher, just for the hospital food and attention from the nurses. We'll send them our prayers and wish them both good health and much happiness in 2024. They're both very special members of Chapter 1268.

I'll have a January newsletter out before the meeting. Until then, contact Cindy and let her know you can do the January dinner.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,  
Darrel

**EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  
AND TREASURER REPORT**  
**December 2023**

One bank deposit was made in November totaling \$880.00. Included in the deposit was \$30 in dues renewal, \$50 in receipts from our November dinner – thank you Gene Marcinkowski and Sons, and \$800 from our Saturday BBQ fundraiser. Our CD account earned \$15.37 in dividends.

Expenses for the month was one check for \$186 which was used for purchase of supplies for the Pietenpol, our chapter build project

Total chapter funds are \$42,880.49 distributed in the following accounts:

Checking account - \$ 29,789.00  
Savings account - \$ 7,651.54  
CD account - \$ 5,439.95  
Total account funds \$42,880.49

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

**WOMEN IN AIRPLANES**



#Happybirthday to "Early Bird" Bernetta Adams Miller! Miller was the fifth woman in the United States to receive a pilot's license and completed her flight tests by moonlight! At that time, it was known as the International Aviator's License, and its holders have become known as "Early Birds."

In 1886, Canton, Ohio, Miller was born. After becoming interested in flying, she enrolled for instruction at the Moisant Flying School at Hempstead Plains on Long Island, New York. By October 7, 1912, Miller was chosen to demonstrate the Moisant-Blériot monoplane to the United States Army at College Park, Maryland.

"Of course, I had no illusions as to why I was sent to College Park to demonstrate the monoplane to the U.S. government officials who were exclusively devoted to the idea of the biplane. [ . . . ] The Moisant apparently calculated that I could overcome some of the fears others might have of the monoplane. I suppose that this was on the basis of the idea

that if a mere woman could learn to fly one, so surely could a man."

Miller also served in WWI, working for the Women's Overseas Service League Infantry Division in France as a canteen worker. For her actions, she was awarded the Croix de Guerre, a French military decoration, in 1919.

The WASP Legacy Campaign is our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date. With a goal of \$100k by July 2023, we will be able to work with our writer, advisors, and editor to finish a rough cut of the film. Be a part of preserving this important and often forgotten history of our early female aviators.  
[bit.ly/WASPLegacyCampaign](http://bit.ly/WASPLegacyCampaign)

### **YOUNG EAGLES**

Chapter 1268's first Young Eagles Day for 2024 is Sunday, January 14. As is usual, we are looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events. My 182 is down for a top overhaul and panel upgrade, so I won't be able to fly that day. We will need all the pilots and planes we can muster that day.

Let us know you will be joining us and helping out by sending an email to Gretchen at [gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com](mailto:gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com) or me at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com).

### **CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT**

Michael Wray sent in this great article about the Piet Chapter 1268 build project.

#### **> High School Student brings Computer Aided Design to the Pietenpol Air Camper**

>  
> The EAA chapter 1268 Pietenpol Air Camper construction project was set up as another way to interest teenagers in aircraft and to get them hands on building one. In the last year, many have been involved.

>  
> Amongst the most active has been James Kurniawan.

>

> The Air Camper dates back to 1929. It was the culmination of 10 years experimentation with various wing and fuselage designs as well as engines to power them. Bernard Pietenpol's friend Orrin Hoopman drew all the plans for the Air Camper, and also bought the first one built.

>

> The drawings are fairly small size – 18" x 24" and are subject to a great deal of interpretation. Of the hundreds of Air Campers built, no two are identical. One area where the drawings are more sketches than detail designs is the "turtle back", the streamlined fuselage top, which runs from the rear cockpit back to the tail plane.

>

> James suggested this would be a great area to apply CAD technology. Using Auto Desk Fusion 360 software, James laid out the turtle back and produced full size detail drawings which can be transferred to a laser cutter which will cut the plywood formers.

>

> Pietenpol and Hoopman would give two thumbs up to James' application of computer technology to the 1920's design.

>

Michael also arranged to have some of the metal fittings fabricated in Napa by a shop that will cut them using high pressure water jet and then bend and weld them up. He came up with a very elegant solution to what could have been a roadblock to progress for the building team.

Thanks again to Yayoi and Michael for making this great Chapter 1268 project a reality.

Michael also ordered and received a Corvair conversion manual from FlyCorvair and William Wynne. I have a couple core engines and quite a few parts I will be donating to the project, so it's not too early to start work on the powerplant for the Pietenpol. Let Michael and Yayoi know if you're interested in helping on the engine build.

### **SATURDAY BARBECUE**

Marilyn and Marsi will back with the regular Saturday barbecue starting up again January 6.

This is Chapter 1268's major fundraiser for scholarships for sending our local Young Eagles to the EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh each summer.

Thanks again to Marilyn and Marsi for their very valuable, and enjoyable, contribution to the Chapter.

### **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, old sectional charts 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.

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.

### **2024 DINNER SCHEDULE**

We have a completely open schedule for our celebrity chefs for 2024, so let us know which month you want to be the most beloved member of the chapter for the evening. 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>2024 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	?
FEB	?
MAR	?
APR	?
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
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](mailto: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>2024 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	?
FEB	?
MAR	?
APR	?
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

**2024 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

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

DATE	EVENT
1/1/24	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every Saturday starting January 6, Noon to 1:30 pm, Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

**EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

Board of Directors Meeting  
November 14, 2023

Board meeting called to order at 6:20 pm. Present were outgoing Treasurer Bill Wheadon, incoming Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, Chapter build project Chairperson Yayoi West, Board member and Membership Chair Don Booker and Vice President Darrel Jones. Also present was Kimberly and Mike Smith from Mike Smith Aviation in Napa.

Yayoi suggested that the Chapter get a post office box at the Vineberg post office to assure timely delivery of Chapter correspondence. The Board approved getting a post office box.

Darrel reported that he is working on a Standard Operating Procedures manual for the Chapter and asked the incoming and outgoing

officers to send him outlines of the duties of each office to be compiled into a reference for all present and future officers.

Darrel reported that he and the Chapter Ray scholarship applicant for 2024, Hayden Holbrook, will apply to the Ray Scholarship office in the first week of January for approval for Hayden's matching grant scholarship from Chapter 1268.

Yayoi reported that the Pietenpol fuselage is substantially complete. She is ordering a fabric sample kit from Stewart Systems. She also has asked if they can offer a discount for our youth program. The Stewart System of fabric and finishes is water-based and safer to use.

Bill gave his treasurer's report and he and Ray discussed the transition of the treasurer's duties after the first of the year.

Don volunteered to be the membership chairman, and Ligia also volunteered to go through the Chapter rosters to contact those members who haven't renewed their membership for the past two years to encourage them to rejoin the Chapter.

Bill will send Don and Ligia rosters for the past few years with contact information so they can start a membership drive. Darrel will work with them to send out a national EAA email blast to EAA members in the surrounding area.

Don also suggested that the Chapter recruit a Chapter 1268 librarian to organize the many books that have been donated to the Chapter and make them available for check-out for members.

Kimberly Smith reported that Mike Smith Aviation hosts an on-going private pilot ground school at their facility at the Napa Airport. Members can contact Kimberely for more information.

Don suggested that a display case be installed in the clubhouse for items donated to the Chapter for sale for fundraising.

Darrel reported that he applied for two matching funds Ray scholarships with the Ray Foundation for 2024. Because Chapter 1268 has successfully sponsored five young people who earned their private pilot license, we should be automatically approved for the scholarships. The total amount of each scholarship will be \$11,000, with Chapter 1268 contributing 25% of each scholarship and the balance coming from the Ray Foundation.

Board Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm

Gene Marcinkowski and his sons provided a delicious dinner of chili, salad, French bread and dessert. Thank you, Gene and family, for the November dinner.

General meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

The officers gave their reports and greeted guests attending the meeting.

General Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

The program for the evening was a presentation by Mike Smith, owner of Mike Smith Aviation in Napa.

Mike talked about his career, which varied from flying rides in Tiger Moths in Australia to working as Deputy Administrator for the Australian equivalent of the FAA. He also flew R&D aircraft developing advanced instrumentation and navigation equipment.

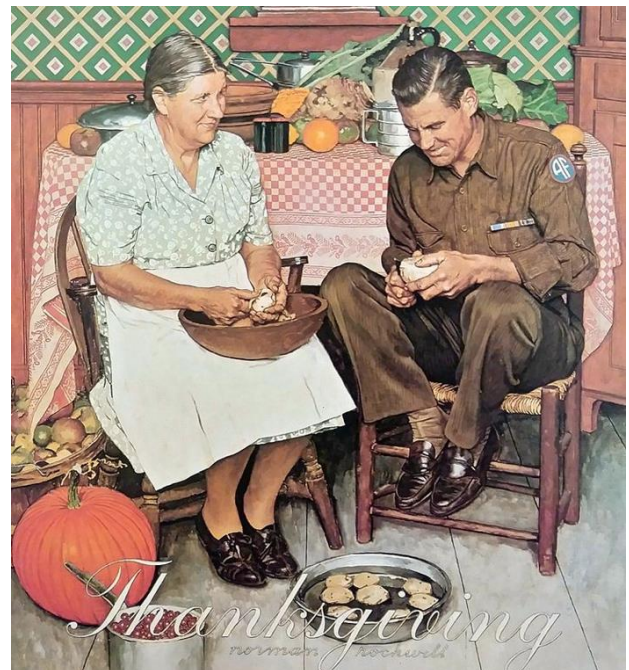
He talked about his personal connection to Sonoma Skypark from flying with John Carmichael, working on and earning his seaplane rating.

He also worked as a consultant in Angola and Kenya bringing their air traffic control systems up to international standards so their aircraft could fly into and out of other airports around the world.

Mike is a delightful speaker and the members were both entertained and educated about international aviation.

### **OTHER NEWS**

This is a fun little Santa computer animation: <https://www.pond5.com/stock-footage/item/32430079-santa-claus-flying-airplane-cartoon-loop>



I was going to put in something funny to wrap up, but this seemed better tonight, even though it's for Thanksgiving.

I've been listening to Christmas carols all day. Stan Fredberg's "Christmas Dragnet" is on right now. Put's me in the mood.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays.

**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 DECEMBER MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 WAS THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 16! THERE WAS NO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

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**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**