



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

JUNE 2024



KATE LLODRA, AGE 6, FUTURE PILOT  
How would you ever have known?

## **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**President:** Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747  
**Vice President:** Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382  
**Secretary:** Nelleke Cooper, 707-486-2505  
**Treasurer:** Ray Gallarate, 650-421-3781  
**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)  
**Saturday barbecue Chair:** Marilyn Seibert, 707-479-5712  
**Building/Newsletter:** Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382, wd6bor@vom.com  
**Membership Chairs:** Don and Ligia Booker, 707-938-9461

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The January (June) meeting is this **Tuesday, June 11**. 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 chefs for the month will be Wayne and Celia Schake and Don and Ligia Booker, who will be cooking up chili, cornbread, salad and dessert.

Our program will be a presentation by Steve Lehmann on Sonoma County WWII military aviation history

**We have a new Treasurer, Ray Gallarate, and a new mailing address, EAA 1268, PO Box 234, Vineburg, CA 95487-0234. Please send your \$20 dues renewal checks to EAA 1268, PO Box 234, Vineburg, CA 95487-0234.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hi everybody -

After not doing ANY career day/outreach type of events for a really long time, I got to do two in Vallejo last month. The kids, both little and

really tiny were lots of fun and very excited to hear about airplanes. It will be interesting to see what sticks over time, but I expect to see some the 7/8 years olds eventually out for rides at the airport and am looking forward to visiting future classes.

And speaking of outreach projects, we have some promising ones in the works. The Chapter's Energizer Bunnies, Don and Ligia Booker, have volunteered to be our spokespersons at upcoming Farmer's Markets in Sonoma as well as staff a booth at the upcoming Petaluma Airport open house next Saturday.

If you were at the meeting in May, you might have noticed the theme that the Chapter needs help with all of our current projects - our weekly barbecue, the aircraft build, and increasing our membership among other things. We are hoping to see results from these efforts, as well as the Chapter Blast for the upcoming meeting will generate interest so that we can show off our gem of a club.

The open house at Petaluma Airport next week (Saturday, June 15, from 10 am to 3 pm) looks like a great event, and we are encouraging everyone to fly or drive in and support their venue. The Pancake Breakfast, Corvette displays, more food, and airplane contests sound like a great way to kick off summer and dust off your airplane if you haven't been flying much. There should be some fun airplanes on static display as well. It also counts as a Display Day credit if you'd like to bring your airplane over to soak up some rays!

Thank you again Don and Ligia Booker (Membership Chairs) for picking up the charge to increase our public visibility and membership. Come say hi to them next weekend at Petaluma, and we will let you know when the paperwork is in place for them to be at the Farmer's Market and beyond.

I also wanted to thank our fabulous Board members - multi-hat wearer Darrel Jones, Ray Gallarate, Marsi Allard, Gretchen McDougall, our Saturday Barbecue Chair Marilyn Seibert, Flight Advisor Steve Silver, Ground Schooler and Pietenpol Project Coordinator Yayoi West, and Pietenpol Project Build Team Leader Michael Wray.

Roland Gangloff you are in our thoughts and we will be so happy to have you back with us when you are able. To all of you, your hard work and consistency is the backbone of our Chapter. Thank you!

Robin

### **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I'll start by explaining why the First Things First always says that "the January meeting will be" regardless of the actual month. We had a member who delighted in finding editing errors in the newsletter. He would bring it to the meeting and make a great show of telling everyone about the mistake. One of the treasures he found was that "January meeting...". He seemed so delighted that I never corrected it, since he derived such pleasure from finding that I had made the SAME MISTAKE AGAIN!

I don't think he ever caught on. I kinda miss him.

I have just a few things. First, we've been invited to attend the PAPA Petaluma Airport open house next Saturday, June 15, from 10 am to 3 pm. Mark Spongberg had asked if we could have a Young Eagles rally that day, but we are too stretched as it is doing there ta Skypark monthly.

I suggested that members could come to the open house and offer individual eagle rides, not as a Chapter 1268 formal event. I have the forms and information packets if any of you would like to do that.

It is a display day, so you can take your airplane over and get something good to eat, look at some cool aviation stuff and get credit for your historical aircraft display.

We're still looking for a barbecue co-chair to help Marilyn and Marsi. We've been having some great help, but we could always use more.

I haven't begged for money in a few months, but we still need funds for the Pietenpol project and restroom remodel. Let us know if you've got some extra cash in the cookie jar and we'll help you out. It's even tax-deductible.

We still need cooks for September, October and November. We also need speakers or programs for those same months. Our phone numbers and emails are all over the newsletter, so find one and give us a call or drop us an email.

Beg, beg beg...is that all that guy does? Better than sniveling and whining. More details and news in the minutes later in the newsletter.

See you at the meeting.  
Darrel

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

**June 2024**

The treasurer's report is as follows...

Checking	\$2,550.35
Savings	\$22,466.86
CD	\$15,681.47

Deposits:  
Membership Dues \$159.52  
May Mtg. Dinner \$80.00

Debits:  
Michael Wray (Pietenpol Expenses) \$859.49  
Petaluma Pilot Training  
Hayden Holbrook Ray Scholarship \$2,480.90

Ray Gallarate  
Treasurer

## YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day for June was Sunday, June 9. The complication this month was that there were NASCAR races at sears Point Raceway, so there was a TFR over the raceway. Fortunately, it didn't cover Sonoma Skypark or Sonoma Valley.

We had a good turn out of pilots and aircraft, which was fortunate since we gave thirty-five rides. A great big thanks to George Bachich, Mark Shackford, Rick Palumbo from Gness, and Ken Kopilevich flying his first Young Eagles rides. Steve Crawford and Paul Hollingworth came over from Petaluma with their gyros. Finally, my 182 was back in operation so I was able to fly Young Eagles for the first time in six months.

Our super heroine Gretchen McDougal did her very professional job of doing registration again, as well as bringing Krispy Kream donuts for the pilots and Young Eagles.

I want to also that Rony Kurniawan for bringing a big pot of spaghetti and meatballs for lunch for the pilots and crew. He had worked on the Pietenpol project yesterday morning, helped with the barbecue at lunchtime, and turned leftover hamburger patties into a delicious meal for all of us after the crowds left. Look later in the newsletter for a nice graduation photo of James and his proud parents.

As is usual, we are looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events. Let us know you will be joining us and helping out by sending an email to Gretchen at [gretchen.mcdougal@gmail.com](mailto:gretchen.mcdougal@gmail.com) or me at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com).

## CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT

Michael is still looking for adult and youth participants in the Pietenpol build project. He has put together a list of tasks broken down into simple wood, metal and assembly jobs. Go to

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1buRUI Me1Row0rMdGEjwYLODjP0ArXEoswZM0kGgMHcw/edit?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_m&ts=66341726](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1buRUI Me1Row0rMdGEjwYLODjP0ArXEoswZM0kGgMHcw/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=66341726) to view the list.

Come out to the clubhouse on Saturday morning to join the fun.



James Kurniawan and Michael with one of the CAD drawings James did for the Piet project.

## SATURDAY BARBECUE

The Saturday barbecue is changing times for food service. Because most of the guests arrive and order between noon and about 12:45, the crew is standing around from then until 1:30 before they can start cleaning up the kitchen.

Service will now be from **noon until 1 p.m.** It may take a few weeks to get the late arrivals trained, but it will make it fairer for the volunteers who come out every Saturday to prep, cook, serve and clean up.

Marilyn is still looking for someone to be the on-site coordinator on Saturdays, alternating with Marsi. Marilyn will continue as barbecue chairperson, arranging supplies and coordinating the volunteers.

## EAA 1268 SATURDAY HAMBURGER VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Marilyn and Marsi have the regular Saturday barbecue going every Saturday from noon to about 1:30. Regular burgers and hot dogs are

\$10 and include chips, a drink and cookie, with a double burger going for \$13.

This is Chapter 1268's major fundraiser for scholarships for sending our local Young Eagles to the EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh each summer and also to contribute to our part of the Ray Scholarship matching funds private pilot training for youth.

Marilyn is taking care of the logistics as well as running the barbecues with Marsi. She told me that she would like to have another volunteer to alternate doing the actual barbecue with Marsi while she concentrates of the logistical portion of the barbecue. Please give her a call at 707-479-5712 to let her know you can help out with this enjoyable and important Chapter activity.

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

### **GROUND SCHOOLS**

Yayoi has started ground school again at Sonoma Skypark in the clubhouse on Monday evenings. Call or text her at Yayoi West, 707-364-9257 for information on the classes, and to let her know you will be attending.

Students and pilots attending will need to buy a copy of the Jeppsen Private Pilot textbook, 2018 edition, from Sporty's, Jeppsen.com or another pilot supplier.

The classes will be every Monday from 6 to 8 pm. The classes are for everyone from students working on their private pilot license to any pilots wanting a refresher course.

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 some of our celebrity chefs for 2024 but let us know if you can take an unfilled month. 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	Robin T.- spaghetti
FEB	Nelleke C., Will C- barbecue and trimmings
MAR	Grace Warden – corned beef and cabbage
APR	Marsi A., Mark and Catherine S. -
MAY	Stan Russell- baked potato night
JUN	Wayne, Celia, Don and Ligia
JUL	Darrel- barbecue
AUG	Gene Marcinkowski/Smith
SEP	
OCT	
NOV	
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	?

### **SPEAKERS**

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



Contact President Robin Tatman at 707-553-2747 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	Steve Silver- flying the U-2
FEB	Robin Tatman- Chapter 1268 plans and projects for 2024
MAR	Marc Ashton- flight training
APR	Phil Danskin- How those WAC charts have changed!
MAY	Rick Beach- Cirrus accident update
JUN	Steve Lehmann- Sonoma County WWII military aviation history
JUL	Yayoi West
AUG	Charlie Taylor- PCAM- Tales of a Cat Officer
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
6/8-9	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
6/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am
6/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/15	PAPA Petaluma Airport open house & display day
6/22	Napa Young Eagles rally
6/22	Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee
7/13-14	California Capital Air Show- Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA
7/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm

7/13-14	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
7/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
7/18-21	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/22-28	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
8/10-11	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
8/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am
8/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/17-18	Wings Over Camarillo Airshow
9/7-8	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
9/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am
9/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/27-29	MCAS Miramar Air Show- San Diego, CA
9/28-29	California Int'l Airshow- Salinas, CA
9/?	Wings Over Wine Country
10/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/11-13	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA
10/12-13	San Francisco Fleet Week- San Francisco, CA
10/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
10/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/?	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA
10/?	Planes of Fame Air Show- China, CA
11/9-10	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
11/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
11/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
12/?	Skypark Xmas Party
12/7-8	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
1/1/25	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every <b>Saturday Noon to 1:00 pm</b> Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

## **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

Board of Directors Meeting

May 14, 2024

Board meeting called to order at 6:00 pm. Officers present were President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Chapter Pietenpol Build Chairperson and Ground School Instructor Yayoi West, Chapter Pietenpol Build Team Leader Michael Wray and Membership Cochair Don Booker.

Robin talked about transitioning Young Eagles registration to online registration. After discussion, it was decided to explore online registration for fifteen Young Eagles at each rally to reserve space for walk-ins, since that has been our traditional registration method.

Darrel talked about getting the Young Eagles registered for a free membership in the Chapter if they have applied for student membership in the national EAA. He proposed getting them on the email list for the newsletter with the thought that they and their parents would be a good source for new Chapter members.

Michael gave a report on the Pietenpol build project. He said that most of the young build team members were graduating from high school and going off to college, creating a need to recruit new youth members for the build team. He also said that the Chapter build project needed additional adults to help with the build and to supervise the youth members. It was suggested that appealing to other chapters for people who have built projects and who might like to participate in the Chapter Pietenpol build.

Yayoi and Michael talked about having the young people build practice wood, fabric and aluminum projects like are done at Oshkosh during the Air Academy sessions. Ray offered some old Citabria ribs for practice.

Michael prepared a task list that he posted online so people could see what tasks needed to be done. The link is:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1buRUI Me1Row0rMdGEjwYLODjP0ArXEoswZM0kGgMHcw/edit?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_m&ts=66341726](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1buRUI Me1Row0rMdGEjwYLODjP0ArXEoswZM0kGgMHcw/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=66341726)

Robin asked Darrel to send out a Chapter Blast inviting EAA members in the area to an event in a effort to increase membership in the Chapter. He will send a Chapter Blast for the June meeting.

Michael said that we need to schedule a work day to clean and organize the Chapter shop hangar.

Don reported that he and Ligia plan to staff an information table at the Tuesday Farmer's Market in the plaza. They will also have an information table at the Petaluma Airport open house in June.

Roy Myers has offered to donate a Shopmaster multi tool to the Chapter workshop. Someone will need to go to Novato to pick it up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Dinner was baked potatoes with all the trimmings furnished by Stan Russell.

The speaker was Rick Beach from Gnos Field, who gave an updated report on the Cirrus accident at Sonoma Skypark.

## **WOMEN IN AIRPLANES**

I asked Kate Llodra, our most recent Ray scholar to earn her private pilot's license, to write an essay about herself and her flight training. Kate has graduated high school and will be starting college at Embry-Riddle this fall.

This is what she sent.



Slime. An obsession, to the point that my family banned it from the house, moving me into the garage, as it was a messy infatuation to say the least. Then, I became interested in soldering, and yet again took my fascination to the garage where I made different light configurations and an FM radio. Next was coding, so I built a robot, and coded different paths for it, all which ended in making other robots fight each other. These interests began in 6th grade science class and continued onto chemistry in high school.

At last, I fell in love with aviation, and this was the obsession that stuck, the one that spurred me out of the garage, ushered me outside, launched me in the sky, to see a different perspective. I hadn't fully understood what I was meant to do as a science buff with all these kinesthetic obsessions, until my first training session when I gripped the yoke, looked down at the Sonoma mountains without fear and a sense of direction that almost felt second nature.

I'll never forget the first time I did a cross-country flight, or the time that I planned my first solo ride. These moments made that ten-year-old girl tickled pink with pride, and the seventeen-year-old in me, with her very own pilot's license now, determined to strive to study aviation. I have always been an analytical

thinker, but I believe what sets me apart as well is my ability to think outside the box and take initiative to explore my strengths with hobbies outside the classroom. I have no doubt that I am capable now of learning anything that piques my interest and the sky's the limit in my pursuit of knowledge.

At 17, I feel like one of the lucky ones to have discovered several of my individual qualities and capabilities, and just as importantly, a love of aeronautics and aerospace. I am confident that I possess strong skills to continue a career in this field. My dedication and passion for flying along with my leadership skills makes me a strong asset in this field.

There are several paths within the aeronautics and aerospace fields that I could pursue with interest. I enjoy learning about the mechanics of aircraft just as much as piloting. This interest began when I started building a Pietenpol plane at my local airport chapter as a fundraiser, while simultaneously taking weekly flight lessons. Alongside this team, I learned about the structure and functions of each part of the aircraft.

Throughout my training for my pilot's license, I have been able to fly many different aircraft types. This is an exciting time to explore this quickly evolving industry. I attended a lecture by Nathaniel Lee, 527th Aggressor Squadron Chief of Future Operations of the US Space Force about his experiences working in the agency, which I found fascinating and inspiring.

I've always been an adventurous thinker and with every new experience my love for flight and space deepens.

We wish Kate and all our other Young Eagles and Ray scholars success and happiness in their futures.





Another of Chapter 1268s Ray scholars, Thomas Ricard, just passed his commercial checkride. He and his family will be moving out of state, so he will continue his flight training at another location. We'll keep you updated on his progress. Thomas is pictured with his check pilot, Kathryn Stanley.

### **OTHER NEWS**

Chapter 1268 member and one of our most dependable Young Eagles pilots, George Bachich, puts out the Sonoma Skypark Airport newsletter. It is always informative and entertaining reading. I encourage you to send George and email and get on his mailing list for the electronic edition. His email is [gbachich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbachich@sbcglobal.net)

We had a number of our Ray scholars and other young pilots graduate from high school, including Luis Membria, James Kurniawan and Kate Llodra. I'm sure there are a few more, but it's wonderful seeing them going on to the next stage of their careers and lives.

Luis is building cross country time so he can continue working on his instrument ticket. He has also just landed a job at Petaluma Airport as an apprentice mechanic working in the shop servicing Rotax engines.



James Kurniawan and proud parents at his high school graduation.

I had a couple of other things, but it's getting late and I don't want to try filling up another page, so you'll just have to wait until next month. (Actually, I'll probably just send out another email before then, so don't worry your pretty little heads.)

**Send me your news for your newsletter!  
PHOTOS ALSO!**

**Sonoma Skycrafters**  
EAA Chapter 1268  
PO Box 234  
Vineburg, CA 95487-0234

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY, AND MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER. DUES ARE STILL A MODEST TWENTY BUCKS, SO BRING SOME CASH FOR DINNER AND A BIT MORE TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2024! SEE YOU AT THE MEETING! MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: EAA 1268, PO BOX 234, VINEBURG, CA 95487-0234 IF YOU WON'T BE AT THE MEETING.**

**REMEMBER! THE JUNE MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, JUNE 11 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: **\$20 per year.**  
Student membership: **FREE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number, home: \_\_\_\_\_ work: \_\_\_\_\_

**EAA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXPIRATION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AIRCRAFT OWNED OR BUILDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

Your \$20 check should be made payable to: **EAA Chapter 1268**

**Please mail your dues to:**  
**Sonoma Skycrafters EAA Chapter 1268**  
**PO Box 234**  
**Vineburg, CA 95487-0234**