

THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the Sonoma Skycrafters EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport 21870 Eighth Street East Sonoma, CA 95476

DECEMBER 2025



DE HAVILLAND DRAGON RAPIDE OVER ALA DOBLE Owned by Charles Sommers from Sacramento and photographed by Will Campbell. This airplane is featured in the December Sport Aviation.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Robin Tatman, 707-853-2220 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: Don Booker, 707-938-9461 BOD: Marsi Allard, 415-686-5254 Web editor/Young Eagles: Gretchen

McDougall gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com

Speaker coordinator: position open

Dinner coordinator: Sindy Mikkelsen

sindymikkelsen@att.net

Saturday barbecue Chair: Rony Kurniawan,

rony.kurniawan@gmail.com

Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-799-

6382, wd6bor@vom.com

Membership Chairs: Don and Ligia Booker,

707-938-9461

Flight Advisor: Steve Silver, skyparksteven@gmail.com

Pietenpol Chairperson: Yayoi West, 707-364-9257

Pietenpol Build Team Leader: Michael Wray, mdwray33@gmail.com

FIRST THINGS FIRST

This month's meeting is the Sonoma Skypark Holiday party, which will take place Friday, December 12, in George Bachich's hangar, N-3, at Skypark, same as the past two years. 5:30 pm appetizers and beverages, 7:00 pm dinner.

Please bring a dish to share, if your last name begins with:

A through G: Green salad or pasta salad H through L: Hot dish M through R Dessert S through Z Appetizers

Skypark will provide ham, turkey, and beverages. We suggest you bring an unwrapped child's gift for the Schell-Vista Fire Department Toy Collections.

We need volunteers for setup, serving, and cleanup. RSVP and/or volunteer directly to Robin Tatman robntat@aol.com (707) 853-2220

There will be no official business conducted, and the program will be visiting with our EAA 1268 and Sonoma Skypark friends.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

Happy Holidays!

First up, our joint Airport and EAA Holiday/Christmas Party is this Friday, December 12. We hope you can make it! George Bachich is generously hosting us (again) in his hangar. Thank you, George! We are looking for people to help set up and decorate tables. Please RSVP to me if you can bring a dish (see the invitation below) or help set up or break down.

We will be having a raffle for a beautiful basket donated by Sindy Mikkelsen. It will be on display at the party for you to take a peek at before the drawing. All proceeds go directly to the Chapter. Also, if you would like to bring an unwrapped gift, the Schell Vista Fire Department will be donating them to kids locally.

This year has been a great year for the Chapter. Our Young Eagles rallies have been steadily gaining in participants. Our November event had 46 kids sign up for rides. We have expanded our volunteer pilot roster but can still use more! Our Saturday Hamburgers is stronger than ever and continues to generate critical funds for our Ray Scholars and Air Academy scholarships. We are slowly updating the club house, completing the bathrooms last year, installing a new water treatment system last month, and replacing the refrigerator and freezer during the summer.

I hear over and over again from people at our rallies, meetings, and barbecue how welcome you, our members, make them feel. Thank you! You all are a very special group, and I'm so happy to be around such great people.

Hope to see you at the party next week, hamburgers the rest of the year, or next year. Cheers!

Robin

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's almost the new year and we will be starting the process of planning Chapter 1268 events and projects for 2026. We need cooks for our dinner meetings. Don't be shy. Step right up and let us know that you would like to share a favorite recipe or dinner with the chapter. We usually plan for thirty, although last month was a blow out, but everyone got fed. You can team up with another member to furnish the meal. I'll put the Napa Chapter's list of suggestions at the end of the newsletter for inspiration.

We need speakers and programs for the meetings. Especially, we need one person who can make a few phone calls and put together the speaker schedule for eleven meetings. Other chapters have names and contact information to share, so you wouldn't be working alone in the wilderness. Please send me an email or give me a call and let me know you can help.

I want to thank Ken Mercer and the folks at EAA Chapter 1232 at Gnoss Field in Novato for voting to contribute \$3,000 to the Ray scholarship fund to cover the matching funds Chapter contribution for one of our scholars.

We have been able to offer four Ray scholarships in 2025 by partnering with Chapter 1232 this year, with our latest Ray scholar, Jack Laipply, staring his flight training in November. I will have the application forms for our 2026 scholars ready this month, so have any potential candidates contact me to get the application. Applicants need to be 16-1/2 through 18 to apply for a \$12,000 flight training scholarship.

I will also have applications for Air Academy scholarships ready this month for young people ages 14 through 18. Priority will be given to youth who have been participating in Young Eagles and other Chapter 1268 activities.

My airplane should be back in operation by the end of the month, so things will be looking brighter for the new year. It's been killing me to be grounded during Young Eagles and to not be able to pull out the airplane and take a relaxing flight to the coast and back.

I've been watching old flying movies to quell my addiction. Old friends such as Island in the Sky and Only Angels Have Wings have helped greatly. I watched the Blue Max again after many years just to see some World War I flying. It would have been a great movie if they had just left out George Peppard and Ursula Andress. Oh well, there's always Dawn Patrol with Errol Flynn and David Niven.

Iris Morrison, one of our Air Academy scholarship recipients, has started an aviation club at her high school in Ukiah. She has offered to come down to Skypark with some of the members to help with a Saturday barbecue. She would also like to bring her group down for a special Young Eagles flight, so we will plan that for spring.

We are doing the Chapter renewal now and will get points in our Chapter rating if enough members participate in the Chapter survey online. Please log onto the EAA Chapter survey and give our parent organization your feedback.

EAA CHAPTER SURVEY

Thanks, Darrel

EAA 1268 TREASURER REPORT December 2025

The Treasurer's report is as follows...

Checking \$1463.01 Savings \$18,812.69 CD \$20,623.03

Deposits:

Donations \$500.00 (Thank you Bill

Wheadon!)

Dues \$200.00

November Mtg. \$346.00 (Thank you Robin

Tatman for donating the Turkey!)
Burgers \$1105.00

Expenditures:

Darrel Jones \$824.00 (Receipts for Clubhouse water system prep for Culligan purifier installation)

Culligan \$2184.00 (Balance paid for Clubhouse purifier installation.)

Culligan \$61.00 (Monthly equipment rental and service fee)

Membership Dues are being accepted for 2026! Contact me if you are unsure of your membership status. Please send your dues to the address below or see me at the January meeting!

EAA Chapter 1268 PO Box 234 Vineburg, CA. 95487

Regards, Ray Gallarate, Treasurer 650-421-3781 cell

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day at Sonoma Skypark is taking the month of December off, so we look forward to seeing all our very much appreciated volunteer pilots, registration and ground crew at Skypark when we start the new year on January 111, 2026.

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

CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT

The EAA Chapter 1268 Build Team will be meeting to discuss the ongoing project, in light of the fact that we haven't had members step forward to work on the project and that we don't currently have young people from the local high school involved at this time.

Ray Gallarate spoke at Sonoma Valley High School during Career Day about careers in aviation maintenance. Robin Tatman will speak at a future Career Day about careers as a pilot.

The Build Team has met with the local technology instructors at the high school, but recruitment remains a continuing effort.

We would like to get the word out to other chapters that we welcome involvement by builders from those groups who can commit to regular participation to keep the project moving along. Contact Michael Wray, at mdwray33@gmail.com to learn more about the project.

SATURDAY BARBECUE

Robin, Marsi, Rony, Julia and Ilario and their enthusiastic crew of cooks and servers are continuing to serve lunch to the hungry pilots and Sonoma Skypark friends every Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. The regular Saturday barbecue features a delicious hamburger or hot dog lunch, complete with chips, drinks and a cookie for \$10. The camaraderie is free!

The regular crew is taking the month of December off, so George Thompson has stepped up to coordinate the barbecue for the month. It's unofficially a "cook your own hamburger" month, but George would welcome any and all help putting things together and getting the patties on and off the grill. Because it's a more informal barbecue, George will be collecting "donations" for the burgers.

The regular crew will be back in January. 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 our priceless volunteers for their very valuable, and enjoyable, contribution to the Chapter.

EAA 1268 FLIGHT ADVISOR



Captain Steve Silver on the flight deck of the Boeing 777

Last month we discussed the importance of clear communication and the exchange of meaningful messages that are understood by both the sender and receiver. We recognized that in aviation, a miscommunication can be critical, and even the difference between life and death

This month, let's move onto our next human factors topic of Complacency.

Complacency is the result of relaxing our vigilance. This lack of awareness can lead to missing important signals or becoming inattentive to our flight environment. This complacency often arises from routine activities such as basic ground operations, or overconfidence after repeated successes such as routine/repetitive flight profiles.

When I first started flying, each time I flew was challenging and exciting. I was very methodical in my flight preparation, maybe even to a fault! After 27,000 hours of flight time in various flight environments, I see many recurring patterns that would make it easy to not to prepare mentally for each flight. There is a tendency to become complacent because "I have seen it all before." In reality, each flight is different, and I need to be vigilant to operate the aircraft safely.

This tendency to become complacent is similar to driving a car. When we first started driving, it took all of our mental attention just to operate the vehicle. Now, driving is so routine that we don't even think about the basics we were taught when we first started driving. When is the last time you thought about your hands at the "9 and 3" position on the steering wheel, or adjusted all the mirrors on your car before you drove? We become complacent in driving because we do it every day, and it all seems the same.

In aviation, this complacency can be deadly. We need to treat each flight as a unique flight, and address the threats and differences for that particular flight and mitigate as appropriate.

Commercial aircraft manufacturers recognize the danger of complacency, and build in safeguards to the aircraft to recognize, and attempt to mitigate errors caused by complacency. As an example, on commercial aircraft, we have a takeoff warning horn that alerts the pilots to deviations in takeoff configuration. There are similar warning systems in place for landing configuration deviations to alert the pilot. In general aviation aircraft, we don't have that luxury, and must be even more vigilant. We need to not only cross-check all the parameters/configurations of our aircraft, but also be hyper-vigilant about our surroundings.

Advances in aviation technology and automation have unequivocally enhanced safety in general aviation and commercial aircraft. The downside is that reliance on this technology can make us more susceptible to complacency. Use the terrain and traffic features on your aircraft's avionics package to enhance your awareness, but don't let that cause you to lose your situational awareness of the terrain around you, or make you lackadaisical about clearing visually for other traffic.

An interesting example of complacency in commercial aircraft is the autothrottle on the

Boeing 777. When we land, the autothrottles retard the thrust levers to idle at a prescribed radar altitude. If a go-around is accomplished, the throttles advance to go around power with the touch of a button. However, if the aircraft wheels touch down, and the landing is subsequently aborted, the autothrottles do not advance automatically. A common error is for pilots to assume that the autothrottles will always control the thrust levers. Mitigation of this threat is accomplished through a required briefing item on the approach brief that if the wheels touch down, and a subsequent goaround is accomplished, the throttles must be manually advanced. Additionally, the other pilot is required to confirm that the proper goaround thrust setting has been achieved.

Complacency is a tough human factors element. We become safer pilots as we gain experience, but with that experience, we must be vigilant to the threats and dangers of complacency.

While the hour threshold varies with different studies, there is consistent data that shows accident rates go down as experience levels go up, but then go back up again as the pilot becomes more seasoned before going down again with more experience. One study places this threshold at the 100-hour mark. Just when we think we are figuring this flying thing out, complacency can come and bite us! Stay sharp, stay vigilant every time you fly.

IMC/VMC CLUB

The EAA Chapter 1268 IMC/VMC club is still looking for additional members. Let me know if you want to belong to this exclusive group. They even let me join.

This Month's Question:

Question: NTSB accident data suggests that spatial disorientation may be a precursor to many general aviation accidents. What three sensory elements do pilots rely on to maintain proper orientation, and what causes the disorientation?

The November question: What does it mean to be established on an instrument approach?

Answer: While some pilots may believe they must be within a specified distance of a fix or geographic point, such a condition, while helpful in maintaining situational awareness, is not necessarily required. The following references suggest that the aircraft must be on the centerline of the subject course, and at the assigned or prescribed altitude.

According to the FAA Instrument Procedures Handbook, FAA-H-8083-16B, Chapter 4: For aircraft operating on unpublished routes, an altitude is assigned to maintain until the aircraft is established on a segment of a published route or IAP. (Example: "Maintain 2,000 until established on the final approach course outbound, cleared VOR/DME runway 12.") The FAA definition of established on course requires the aircraft to be established on the route centerline. Generally, the controller assigns an altitude compatible with glideslope/glidepath intercept prior to being cleared for the approach.

From the AIM:

When operating on an unpublished route or while being radar vectored, the pilot, when an approach clearance is received, must, in addition to complying with the minimum altitudes for IFR operations (14 CFR Section 91.177), maintain the last assigned altitude unless a different altitude is assigned by ATC, or until the aircraft is established on a segment of a published route or IAP. After the aircraft is so established, published altitudes apply to descent within each succeeding route or approach segment unless a different altitude is assigned by ATC.

GROUND SCHOOLS

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.

They will be offering an instrument ground school for a nominal fee.

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.

2025 DINNER SCHEDULE

We are signing up our celebrity chefs for 2026 so let us know which month you would like to take to provide dinner for our regular meeting. Hot dogs, chili or pizza are perfectly fine. Our meal coordinator is Sindy Mikkelsen at 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 so I can include you in the newsletter dinner schedule.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cooks/Meal	
2025 DINNER SCHEDULE		
JAN	Sindy Mikkelsen- paella	
FEB	Marsi Allard	
MAR	Marsi Allard, Robin Tatman,	
	Nelleke Cooper- corned beef	
APR	Sonoma Ballooning Adventures	
MAY	Don and Ligia Booker, Wayne	
	and Cecilia Schake	
JUN	Robin Tatman	
JUL	Darrel Jones- barbecue	
AUG	Marsi Allard and Nelleke Cooper	
SEP	Sindy Mikkelsen, Dane, Joyce and	
	Scott Miller	

OCT	Lindsay Bennet- pulled pork
NOV	Robin, Darrel - turkey dinner with
	all the trimmings
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	Costco?
2026 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	?
FEB	?
MAR	?
APR	?
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	Darrel- barbecue
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

SPEAKERS

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

Contact President Robin Tatman at 707-553-2747 or 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		
2025 SI	2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE		
JAN	Ken Wayne- Flying Tales animal		
	rescue		
FEB	Yayoi West- X-59, First Flight is		
	scheduled in 2025		
MAR	Renee Bowman, Safety Auditor		
	De-Ice Team for Delta Airlines		
APR	Al Delsin- WWII training accident		
MAY	Will Campbell- the Philippine Mars		
	flying boat		
JUN	Yayoi West- NASA report		
JUL	Steve Silver- hangar tour		
AUG	AirVenture 2025 reports		

SEP	Ray scholar presentation
OCT	Air Academy participant report
NOV	Andy Werback- Lancair Grand
	Champion
DEC	XMAS PARTY
2026 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	?
FEB	?
MAR	?
APR	?
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

2025 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

Send me any exciting, thrilling, terrifying or just plain fun events you have for the calendar for the rapidly approaching new year 2026.

DATE	EVENT	
12/12	Skypark Christmas party	
12/13-	Sonoma Skypark Historical	
14	Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm	
1/1/26	New Years Day	
Every Saturday Noon to 1:00 pm		
Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the		
clubhouse!		

EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting November 11, 2025

Present: President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, Board of Directors: Don Booker

No official Board Meeting was conducted as board members were occupied with

preparations for dinner.

The Membership Meeting was called to order by President Robin Tatman at 7:00 pm.

Dinner was provided by Robin and Darrel. Nelleke assisted with set up and clean up. Dinner consisted of Roast Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, creamed spinach, salad and pumpkin pie.

Attendance was significantly higher than usual. While membership meetings typically have 15-20 attendees, this meeting had 40 participants, which created challenges in accommodating dinner. However, with Robin's preparations it worked out well.

There were multiple guests in attendance. Jorge Oros brought his siter Esmeralda and his brother Joel, Seth and Izzy Olyer, Annette Goodfriend, Dominic Cerniglio, EAA Chapter 124 President, Joyce and Dan Miller. Darrel had invited possible candidates for scholarships to stay after the meeting.

Ray Gallarate reported that the Treasury Report is in the Newsletter.

Robin updated that the installation of the new water filtration system is complete.

Robin reported that scholarship funding has been made possible through the income from Saturday hamburger sales. She thanked Marilyn Siebert for her initiative and for having raised approximately \$40,000-\$45,000 over the past few years. Our Chapter initially awarded 1-4 Academy and 1-2 Ray Scholarships per year and is now able to reward 4-6 Academy and 4 Ray scholarships. Robin thanked Ilario Gallo for joining Rony Kurniawan with the coordination, organization and supervision of the hamburger sales.

She also thanked Kevin Horn for locating an AED and Jeff Spearr, Sonoma Ballooning for covering the cost. Ron Price assisted in identifying the appropriate location for installation.

Guest speaker for the evening was Andy Werback, past President of EAA Chapter 124, Santa Rosa. Andy told us about his 50 years of flight experience and building a Lancair Legacy FG. While waiting for the engine he decided to build a Skybolt, in order to be able to fly upside down. The Lancair Legacy earned the Grand Champin Award at the Oshkosh Air Venture 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Submitted by Nelleke Cooper, Secretary

OTHER NEWS

I don't have any scruples about stealing content from other great newsletters, so here are some video links from the Gnoss Field newsletter. When I have to fill up some space at the end of the newsletter, I'm driven to desperate measures. Forgive me. (And thanks to the original creators!)

<u>Incredibly High Resolution, Close Up</u> <u>Air-to-Air Videos</u>

Beautiful 1925 Waco 9 Dawn Flight 2022 Idaho Backcountry Flying. Many airstrips visited with tons of detailed info on each.

Flying yourself to the Bahamas!

Everything You Need to Know | Treasure

Cay Arrival

MAINE | An Aviation Short Film

Sekiyado jet powered ultralight Möwe replica (click both links to find out what a Möwe is)

This from Gretchen McDougal, our Young Eagles liaison and uber registration powerhouse, as well as our beloved webmiester.

I have a dear friend who has the Texas Barnstorming Museum in Hallettsville, TX. In addition to the collection of planes and cars, Jim Baker teaches local kids to fly, offers an airplane mechanic's scholarship, and also teaches an aviation mechanics course at the local high school.

To help support this endeavor, the Texas Barnstorming Museum has an annual raffle; this year it's for a beautifully restored 1946 Piper J-3 Cub.

Tickets are \$50 each, or 5 for \$200.

You can read more about the plane here: https://www.whereolddogsfly.org/support/raffle

and more about the Texas Barnstorming Museum here:

https://www.whereolddogsfly.org









Thanks to Sparky Shultz for his many years of supporting bush pilots and World War I aces. Much better than George Peppard.

Send me your news for your newsletter!

Jan Wheadon originally gave this to me. Take a look and let us know what you would like to bring. I'm sure Costco has other meals that would be great. Chapter 1268 reimburses our cooks for their expenses at the meeting.

A Dozen Easy Dinner Menus For The Napa Airport Pilots' Association

How much to buy? You are aiming for 32 servings –

- 1. Costco Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Salad, Bread and Butter, Ice Cream (aka the Norm Special)
- 2. Sliced ham; heat and serve macaroni and cheese casserole; green salad; bread and butter; cookies
- 3. Costco frozen meatballs in a bag heated up in gourmet spaghetti sauce from a jar; bow tie pasta; green salad; bread and butter; cookies
- 4. Sloppy Joes, green salad, dessert
- 5. Baked potatoes with toppings: grated cheese, sour cream, canned chili heated up, sliced green onions; green salad; dessert
- 6. Chili beans with corn bread; green salad; ice cream
- 7. A variety of pre-cooked sausages, heated up on your grill at home; Costco potato salad; sauerkraut from a jar; rolls and butter; green salad; dessert
- 8. Pre-made lasagna from Costco; salad; bread and butter; dessert
- 9. Salad Bar good for a warm evening: Anything goes: Tuna salad, egg salad, chicken salad, sliced deli meats, macaroni salad, potato salad, any other salad from a deli; bread and butter; green salad; cheese cake for dessert
- 10. Sandwich Bar Also good for a warm evening: sliced deli meats, sliced cheeses, sliced tomatoes and onions, lettuce, sliced bread or rolls, mayonnaise, pickles, mustard. Something chocolate and decadent for dessert.
- 11. Nachos -- Heat up a huge can each of: bean less chili, nacho cheese, refried beans, black beans and corn. Put a large bag of Cost Co tortilla chips out. Also have: grated cheese, chunky salsa (two different kinds) sour cream, hot sauce, chopped green onions, sliced olives. Ice cream for dessert.
- 12. Birds Eye Garlic Chicken Complete meal in a bag from Costco; green salad; bread and butter; dessert





Sonoma Skycrafters

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

MEMBERSHIP <u>DUES ARE DUE</u> IN JANUARY, AND MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER. DUES ARE STILL A MODEST <u>TWENTY BUCKS</u>, SO BRING SOME CASH TO <u>PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2026</u>, OR MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: EAA 1268, PO BOX 234, VINEBURG, CA 95487-0234.

REMEMBER! THE DECEMBER MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THE SKYPARK CHRISTMAS PARTY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 5:30 P.M., AT THE GEORGE BACHICH'S HANGAR, N-3 AT SONOMA SKYPARK AIRPORT. DINNER STARTS AT 7 PM, SO DON'T BE LATE! THERE WILL BE NO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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