

Skypark Community News

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Edited by George Bachich

Building an RV8

Jon Kibrick is making beautiful progress on his RV8. Fuselage wiring, plumbing, and control rods are in, the turtle deck is on, the panel is installed and filled with Garmin screens and avionics, and the engine mount is on. Wings and tail are essentially finished, so could be installed now to make the RV look more like an airplane, but Jon prefers not to have to walk around them while finishing the fuselage work.



He is currently creating custom mounts for the remote avionics units which he has chosen to install forward of the instrument panel. Space is tight between the panel and the forward baggage compartment, so every millimeter counts. Access will be pretty restricted once he completes everything, so he has been spending a lot of his time planning, designing, fabricating, positioning, and

fitting the mounting trays so the units can be easily removed for maintenance later on.



After three years working on this project, Jon says “the building part” of building a kit airplane is amazingly easy. The hard parts are learning all the new skills required to do it, and designing and fabricating custom features that are not part of the kit. But Jon obviously gets a lot of pleasure and satisfaction out of learning those new skills and solving those problems.

Jon is not just a first time aircraft builder; he claims not to have built anything before, so has had to learn to use tools some of us grew up using. He has learned a lot about cutting, drilling, and riveting, and has discovered and acquired some nifty new tools to make those jobs easier. Jon is a perfectionist, so if something does not turn out to his liking, he sets it aside before completing to figure out how he can course correct and do a better job. He is grateful for the assistance and advice he has received along the way from some of the more experienced builders at Skypark.

Jon has no schedule for completion. He works on the RV six to eight hours a day, two or

three days a week, and spends additional time planning and thinking about it. He expects his engine to arrive in a couple of months, so wants to be ready for that. Van's Aircraft says the RV8 is a 1500 hour project, but Jon thinks the actual building time may be a bit less than that. However, the educational part, which he has been enjoying immensely, could easily add another 1500 hours or more.

Jon claims he would rather fly than build, but building has apparently also become a passion, because when confronted with the idea that it might be better to sell the kit and buy a finished RV8 so he can fly right away, he shakes his head. No, he will finish, then fly the RV he built himself. He's not just making an airplane, he's making a machine that can fly. It will always be his machine and built to top tier standards and personal customizations.

Sonoma Skypark Flying Club

Jeff Spear reports that the Sonoma Skypark Flying Club has recently acquired a Cessna 177 Cardinal, which it keeps in a west end hangar.



Jeff says the club is now comprised of two distinct LLCs, one for each airplane. Three of the club's members are moving up from the Cherokee to the Cardinal, which opens up three Cherokee memberships for sale. The club is not seeking new Cardinal members at least until after the current three members have completed their checkouts in it. Anyone interested in joining the Cherokee club can contact Jeff Spear at (949) 637-5830 or Josh Little at (707) 481-8142.

Mosaic explained

Anyone confused about the new MOSAIC regulations announced at EAA Air Venture this year should check out the clearly written article by Jay Wiles posted on the AOPA website. After a brief description of the new rule Jay lays out in FAQ format all you ever wanted to know about MOSAIC. If this link does not work, copy and paste the url into your browser.

https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2025/august/14/mosaic-explained-faq?utm_source=epilot&utm_medium=email

EAA helps make new pilots

Skypark's EAA Chapter 1268 has been doing great work. The Ray Scholarship program managed by Darrel Jones has expanded its reach to sponsor four \$12,000 scholarships each year by cooperating with the Novato Chapter to qualify for two more slots in the scholarship program, and by working with Napa's Aviation Explorer's program run by Kristen Gregory to get more great scholarship candidates and additional matching funds.

Two of this year's Ray Scholarship recipients have already got their private pilot's license and a third is well on his way. Roger Flores-Chacon and Aldren Domingo passed their check rides in August.



Roger, Aldren, and Alex

Alex Gosselin soloed in June, has accumulated about 30 hours, has passed his written, and expects to do his solo cross country soon, but can't qualify for a check ride until he turns 17 in December.

The fourth scholarship recipient's progress has been delayed by a medical issue which hopefully will soon be favorably resolved. If that does not go well, another recipient will be selected to receive that scholarship.

The chapter, in cooperation with Napa Aviation Explorers chapter, also sent six kids on full scholarship to the EAA Air Academy Summer Camp in Oshkosh this year. Those scholars will be reporting on their experiences at the Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 pm dinner meeting. Come to the meeting if you want to see Chapter 1268 in action and perhaps find yourself inspired to participate.

EAA Chapter 1268 is a great asset to Skypark that plays a key role in making Skypark such a wonderful place. Its Young Eagles rallies provide a steady stream of potential scholarship candidates, its Saturday barbecues generate scholarship funds and provide opportunities for young and eager future pilots to rub elbows with seasoned pilots by working in the kitchen. Its cooperation with like-minded folks at Novato and Napa Airports bring more matching funds, good scholarship candidates, and more scholarship program slots. Chapter 1268 is a well-oiled machine doing great work that is definitely worthy of your support. If you are not currently a member of Chapter 1268, please consider joining. It is a great organization run by dedicated volunteers that will put to good use any assistance you might offer. Whether you participate as a volunteer, a financial supporter, an advisor, a cheerleader, or all four, you will be justifiably proud to be part of it.

Membership applications are available in the clubhouse or from chapter treasurer Ray Gallarate. If you request it, Skypark Community News will also email you one.

Board meeting and office open house

The next Skypark Board meeting will be at 3:00 pm on Saturday November 15, and will be followed at 5:00 pm by an open house providing either onsite baked pizza or onsite barbecued ribs, and showcasing the new office and its collection of aviation photographs.

Nadine Oros Carranza, Commercial Pilot



Nadine Oros Carranza recently obtained her Commercial pilot certificate. She was introduced to aviation by her older brother Jorge when she was very young. She says following Jorge around Skypark and watching him progress in his career has always filled her with happiness and inspiration.

At the start of 2024 Nadine began formal flight training at Fly Cochise (P03) in Douglas, Arizona, where she is also completing a degree in Pilot Technology and working toward becoming a Certified Flight Instructor. Nadine wants to instruct not only to build flight time but also because she believes that teaching someone to fly is one of the most rewarding experiences a pilot can have. Her long term goal is to fly for an airline and, hopefully, be based closer to Sonoma.