



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95476

APRIL 2021



CHUCK YEAGER WITH THE MAGNIFICENT SKYPARK CREW

I've run this before, but thought it would be a nice tribute on his passing

## **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President/AE: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747

Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382

Secretary: Nelleke Cooper, 707-938-5587

Treasurer: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901

Membership: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901

Young Eagles: BK White, 707-996-1335

BOD: Jeanette Woods, 707-996-4563

BOD: Paul Seibert, 707-939-7491

BOD: Marsi Fahraji, 415-686-5254

BOD: Roland Gangloff, 707-935-1832

Web editor: Gretchen McDougall

BOD/Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382

### **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The January meeting is this Tuesday, April 13. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.

The general membership meeting will start at 7 pm., also on Zoom.

Use this link to join a Zoom test meeting to try out your connection.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002262083-Joining-a-test-meeting>

### **THIS MONTH'S UPDATE**

#### **Saturday hamburgers at Sonoma Skypark**

First is the news that Colin Traynor, the new Sonoma Skypark manager, won't have time to put on the Saturday hamburgers. Colin has asked EAA Chapter 1268 if they can take over for the airport.

Ron used the Saturday hamburgers to finance our Chapter's Air Academy participants' airfare expenses, while the Chapter paid for their room, board and tuition.

If the Chapter takes up the duties, we would then handle the income and use it for airfare after paying expenses.

We would need a chairperson who can make the calls and assemble a team of volunteers to set up, prep, cook and clean up each Saturday.

Ron was buying the hamburger patties at the Broadway Market meat department, so he always served exceptional quality hamburgers.

The soft drinks and other supplies came from Costco.

We would probably need a team of about six people to cover every Saturday on a rotating basis. The Saturday hamburger barbecue has always been popular with both local pilots and those from surrounding airports.

Robin will be talking about whether the Chapter will consider taking over the barbecue at the meeting. Give her a call or send an email to [robntat@aol.com](mailto:robntat@aol.com) and let her know you will help keep this popular event going at Sonoma Skypark.

Sonoma County has relaxed the COVID restrictions so we could actually start setting tables up outside and distanced inside, and have people wear a mask while ordering and picking up their hamburger or hot dog.

It would be a wonderful return to some semblance of normalcy.

#### **Flight training scholarships**

As we told you last month, we qualified for another \$10,000 Ray Aviation Scholarship for young pilots ages 16 to 19 to earn their private pilot license.

Last year we helped Nathan Wilson successfully get his private ticket. He has gone on to fly here as well as fly light sport in Europe while studying there. He is looking at different colleges for advanced training to pursue a career as a professional pilot

Roland Gangloff has volunteered to chair the scholarship committee and has done some research and has organized the committee, as well as drafted a scholarship application form.

This year we have two potential candidates for scholarship support, Sebastian Johnson and

Phillip Lachman. Sebastian will turn sixteen in June and Phillip just turned sixteen. They both are highly motivated to learn to fly and will be ready to solo soon.

The scholarship committee met last week to discuss a plan to finance both students through their check rides. They have both been flying with Richard Craig since they were fourteen in Ron Willis' Tri-Pacer and are through their dual cross-country flights.

They will need to study for their written test, take that this year and complete their solo, night and instrument requirements for private pilot. The hope is that they will both be ready for their check rides on or near their seventeenth birthdays.

The full cost of private pilot training is about \$15,000. Because they both have as much flight time as they do, the cost of completing training should be about half that.

The Chapter 1268 officers have committed to using funds from scholarship contributions to the general fund to pay for whatever isn't covered by the Ray scholarship. To do so, they will be asking Chapter 1268 members for contributions to the youth flight training scholarship fund.

We would eventually like to carry a reserve of about \$20,000 in the scholarship fund for future youth scholarships. For now, we will work to raise funds to see Sebastian and Phillip through to their private check rides.

### **Flying club**

We now have a fully approved flying club at Sonoma Skypark. All we need now are airplanes, hangar space and members.

Robin, Richard and I bought John Milles' Taylorcraft BC12-D to eventually put into the

club for tailwheel training. Ideally, we would find a two-place tricycle gear airplane like a Cessna 150/152 for pilot training and a four place aircraft for members to use for travelling.

That, and a few people with border collie instincts for organizing to get things going.

The purpose of setting up a flying club here at Sonoma Skypark is to bring affordable aviation to Sonoma Valley.

There are many pilots who started flying with great enthusiasm but who soon faced the realities of the costs of insurance, maintenance and hangar rent, as well as the initial cost of buying an airplane. A \$50,000 airplane purchase is a big glup for someone who wants to occasionally fly for pleasure or to a vacation destination for the weekend.

That same airplane owned by ten pilots would only cost \$5,000 each, still a not-inconsiderable sum. Since it would be a club airplane and not someone's livelihood, it would only need to pay expenses and not the FBO's payroll.

The \$15,000 cost of a private pilot's license would be reduced considerably if the cost per hour for a 150 was \$60 instead of \$120 at a flight school.

The focus of Chapter 1268 has long been to introduce young people to flying and to get them involved to keep general aviation healthy. Once we have the club up and running, we will be going into the local schools to let our young people know what opportunities there are at Sonoma Skypark for them to start and pursue a career in aviation.

If the idea of participating in a flying club appeals to you, give me a call or send an email. There is still lots of planning to do and

budgeting to determine the actual costs and organization of the club, but we have a good start.

### **WOMEN ON MOTORCYCLES**



You can tell who are the leaders of the pack.

### **PRESIDENT'S/AIR EXPLORER REPORT**

Hi everyone!

I just got back from Sydney this morning - my second trip "solo" after training. Typical trip - lots of stuff worked great, and some didn't that required work arounds. If I haven't mentioned it, the A350 is really a big computer dressed up as an airplane.

The biggest challenge this time of year though is the weather. It's the in-between time between summer and fall with lots of warm unstable air morphing in to big weather systems that produce a lot of turbulence. Deviations of 100 miles around thunderstorms are common with lots of bumps. We are still in quarantine the entire layover and that is expected to continue through October.

There are some good signs though - the 3 dozen or so Quantas wide bodies that have been parked on the crossing runway and

remote parking since last summer are gone, reportedly back in service. Also of note: loads are increasing, reservations for the summer months are up, and Delta is releasing the center seat block May 1. Another piece of exciting news: United Airlines is not only hiring now, but putting in place their own ab initio training program. I haven't heard the details of where, when, and how, but it's a real "thing". So, good signs that the recovery from the pandemic is in progress.

So, this brings me to the subject of our scholarship committee. They have met several times, including last week. I'm asking Roland to give a summary of the progress, and at the meeting we'd like to talk about fund raising both inside and outside of our EAA chapter.

The pilot shortage has never gone away - the pandemic just forced the airlines to kick the can down the road so to speak. Most of the major and national airlines will lose up to half of their seniority list (from a few years ago) in the next 8-10 years. Anyone who can get their ratings and get a job in the next 5- 6 years are going to have a good shot at a great career, and that's where we as a chapter can help out some motivated and deserving kids head towards that goal.

We are in the process of coming up with a thoughtful and well-structured program. So, please tune in tomorrow night and we can share our thoughts with you, and see what ideas and comments you all may have. We have 2 great Ray Scholarship candidates in mind for this year.

Thanks! Robin

**EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND  
TREASURER REPORT**  
**APRIL 2021**

Treasurer Report – There was one deposit made to our account in March for \$160. Dues renewal totaled \$160 and we earned interest in our savings account of \$2.62 and \$12.13 in our CD account.

Our three accounts total \$14,394.03 in chapter funds. This is broken down in the following accounts:

Checking account - \$9005.09  
Savings account - \$ 118.40  
CD account - \$5270.54

That's it for now – wishing you a safe new Spring season and hopefully the chance to gather in person soon. Any questions – shoot me an email ([bill.wheadon@gmail.com](mailto:bill.wheadon@gmail.com)) or a call at 707-224-3901

See you at the meeting,  
Bill Wheadon  
Membership Chairman and Treasurer

**YOUNG EAGLES**

This from BK:

Once again, I don't have any "STUFF" to send. Just waiting in the warm-up area to get flying again. Jeez, by the time we get to fly again all our current planes will be antiques. Keep up the good work.....B.K.

We are all looking forward to flying Young Eagles again. As always BK White is looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events for when we get back in operation.

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

[eagle1@vom.com](mailto:eagle1@vom.com) or by calling him at 707-996-1335.

**MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK**

We have talked about having a Zoom movie night but the details haven't been confirmed yet. We'll let you know when and if we get that program going.



I recently re-read Ernie Gann's "Island in the Sky". I love the movie for the magnificent flying scenes of DC-3s, especially the one of them coming up through the clouds to fly in a formation of four. I was delighted to find that the movie was filmed faithfully following the book. No great surprise, since Gann wrote the screenplay, John Wayne was the star and William Wellman the director. Wellman was a WWI pursuit pilot and made "Wings", which won the first best picture Oscar in 1927.

**DINNER SCHEDULE**

We will reschedule our chefs when we start having meetings again. Contact Robin at robntat@aol.com or 707-553-2747. You can also let me know at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com) and I'll put you on the roster.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cooks/Meal
<b>2021 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Dinner at home
FEB	Dinner at home
MAR	Dinner at home
APR	Dinner at home
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY Dec 3
Standby	?

**SPEAKERS**

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. Here's where I see if any of you are actually reading this newsletter or if it just goes into your spam folder.

We would like a member to be our speaker chairperson. EAA has a list of virtual speakers on the EAA website. You would just need to go through the list, chose some potential speakers and then contact them to schedule them for our Zoom meetings. Your help will be much appreciated.

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.

Month	Speaker/Member/Subject
<b>2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Socially distanced gathering
FEB	Yayoi West-Mars mission
MAR	Kerry McCauley- ferry pilot
APR	Flight scholarship discussion
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

**2021 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

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

DATE	EVENT
4/11	Young Eagles - cancelled
4/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm - Zoom
4/23	Skypark Movie Night - cancelled
5/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
5/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
5/28	Skypark Movie Night - ?
6/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
6/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
6/25	Skypark Movie Night - ?
7/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
7/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
7/21-25	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in – It's on! Plan to be there
7/26-8/1	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh – It's on! Plan on attending
7/23	Skypark Movie Night - ?
8/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
8/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
8/27	Skypark Movie Night - ?
9/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
<b>9/11 ?</b>	<b>Skypark Family Fun Day!</b>
9/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?

9/15-19	Reno Air Races - ?
9/24	Skypark Movie Night - ?
9/18-19	Wings Over Wine Country - ?
10/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
10/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
10/22	Skypark Movie Night - ?
11/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am - ?
11/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm - ?
11/26	Skypark Movie Night - ?
12/3	Skypark Xmas Party - ?
1/1/22	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse are on hiatus for now.	

### **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

EAA 1268 Board of Directors Zoom Meeting  
March 9, 2021

The Board Meeting was called to order by  
President Robin Tatman at 6:15 pm.

Present online were: President Robin Tatman,  
Vice President Darrel Jones, Treasurer Bill  
Wheadon, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, and  
Director Roland Gangloff.

Discussion on candidates for Ray Scholarships.  
2 possible candidates, Sebastian Johnson and  
Phillip Lachman

The Ray Scholarships only applies to obtaining  
a Private License and has to be completed in a  
one-year period. Age limit range is from 16 –  
19 years old.

Darrel mentioned we may have enough money  
in the Treasury to help more than one student  
with scholarships. With the Ray Scholarship  
there is a formal structure in place with  
interviews and special forms for students to  
complete.

Roland asked about the \$984.84 refund from  
Michael Smith and Bill explained that it was  
part of the Chapter 1268 contribution Nathan  
Wilson's Scholarship, which he had not been  
able to use as he left to go to school in  
Belgium. Update on Nathan from Robin.  
Nathan missed flying so much; he decided to  
come back to the US to complete his ratings.  
Robin was asked by Nathan and his Mom to  
write a letter of recommendation for him to  
Cochise College, where Jorge Oros is  
instructing. Cochise offers Private, Instrument,  
Commercial, CFI ratings and Multiple engine is  
available as well.

Darrel received an approval letter from the IRS  
regarding 501-c7 non-profit status to establish  
a Flying Club and sent off the application to the  
State of California for state non-profit status.  
The club has the Articles of incorporation and  
the Bylaws. David Leiting from EAA has  
materials and resources to help with recruiting  
members.

Robin mentioned that we have several  
experienced fundraisers in our group from the  
Air Explorers. Kelly, Gretchen and Marsi were  
mentioned. The Chapter cannot be involved in  
a Flying Club, but if an airplane was donated to  
the Chapter, it can sell it to the Flying Club and  
not be involved with its ownership. The funds  
the Chapter would receive for the sale of the  
airplane could be used for flying Scholarships.

Darrel said we need to fill our calendar with  
possible speakers for our meetings. He  
mentioned that EAA has a list of speakers for  
Zoom meetings and asked Board members to  
help find speakers. Roland will volunteer for a  
future presentation. Roland has a friend with  
who he flew in Alaska. He has tremendous  
experience flying Chinooks and Roland is trying  
to set up a date for him to be our speaker.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm.

General Membership Zoom meeting called to order by President Robin Tatman at 7:05 pm.

The officers gave their reports to the Membership.

Update from Yayoi West, our NASA Ambassador, regarding Perseverance, the Mars Rover. It landed successfully on Mars. It used Solar panels for the journey to Mars, but once there it uses Nuclear, Plutonium for the landing and electrical needs.

Bill's financial report is in the Newsletter. Any questions please call Bill.

Darrel reported that he was able to get another Ray Scholarship and we are looking for candidates. Darrel and Bill have been working on re-establishing our Chapter's California non-profit status, which should be approved soon. Darrel asked the Membership to try to find speakers for our meetings.

Our guest speaker this evening was Kerry McCauley to tell about his adventures as a ferry pilot over a 30 year time span. He delivered small airplanes to locations around the world reminiscent of Charles Lindbergh's famous Spirit of St.Louis crossing of the Atlantic. He was a fascinating story teller and had many near death experiences. Malfunctions included fuel systems failures across the Atlantic, delivering airplanes to Africa and getting caught in a thunderstorm over Portugal. His book Ferry Pilot, Nine Lives over the Atlantic is available on Amazon and on his website [www.kerrymccauley.com](http://www.kerrymccauley.com). His stories were hair raising and he was a great story teller.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm.

### **OTHER MEMBER NEWS**

This from Marsi:

Dear wonderful family of friends,

Amir's new life adventure, education and career in the military - U.S. Army.

Please send him a TEXT of support. Address forthcoming in 30-days.

Text: (747) 214-7633

Email: Mr.Amir.Fahraji@gmail.com

He leaves on Monday, March 29, for Fort Sills, Oklahoma, and will be there for 12 weeks. Boot camp.

Transfers to Fort Sam Houston post, in San Antonio Texas for training as a practical nurse - six months.

Then 52 weeks training as a licensed practical nurse (MOS 68-C) in one any 104 military hospitals in US and Europe. No middle East stations.

Warm regards,  
Marsi

### **WOMEN IN AIRPLANES**



Louise Thaden, winner of the 1929 Powder Puff Derby, and the 1936 Bendix Trophy Race with Blanche Noyes.

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

**Sonoma Skycrafters**  
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 2021!** SEE YOU THERE! (This message is for when we are back in the clubhouse. For now, just mail a check to Bill at the address below.)



**REMEMBER! THE APRIL MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7 P.M., ON ZOOM. LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP GETTING ON ZOOM. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE 6 P.M. BEFORE THE 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**