



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma SkyCrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport
21870 Eighth Street East
Sonoma, CA 95476

MARCH 2025



WALT BOWE'S WILDCAT AT ALA DOBLE

Another stunning photo by Will Campbell! Thanks, Will.

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

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Membership Chairs: Don and Ligia Booker,
707-938-9461

Flight Advisor: Steve Silver,
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Pietenpol Chairperson: Yayoi West, 707-364-
9257

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

FIRST THINGS FIRST

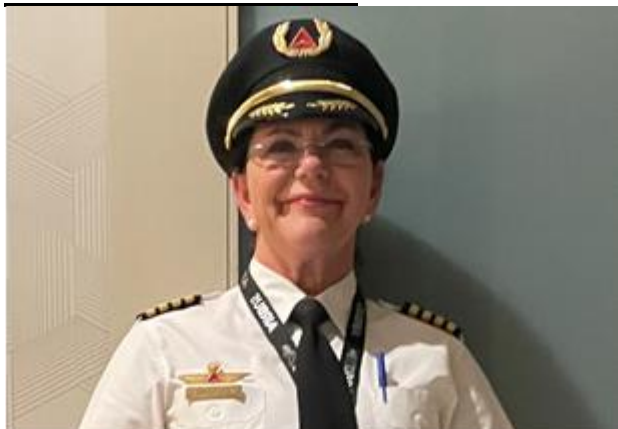
This month's meeting is this **Tuesday, March 11**. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner is at 7:00 p.m. after the Board of Directors' meeting, and is \$10.00 per person. Our chef for the month will be Marsi Allard, again. Marsi did the February dinner and has stepped in to also do the March dinner.

Our program will be the EAA Chapters video for March.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

Hi everybody!

Like a lot of people, I've had a virus that I've been fighting for the last several weeks so have felt out of it. Darrel on the other hand has been extremely busy with interviewing and setting up our Ray Scholar and Air Academy Scholarships. As mentioned before, he came up with the brilliant idea of sharing Ray Scholar slots with other Chapters who don't want to manage the paperwork or have the funding. I will let Darrel update you on all the things he is doing.

Marsi Allard is providing dinner for us on Tuesday. I would like to point out that Marsi also cooked for us (a beautiful French stew no less) last month in February. She also manages our weekly Saturday barbecue twice a month. Plus, she is a member on our Board of Directors. We have no one signed up to volunteer for dinner for the rest of this year. Would the rest of the chapter please, please, please sign up for a Celebrity Chef dinner sometime during the year? It is not fair to have one person doing 40% of the cooking and other responsibilities of the Chapter. You don't have to do anything fancy, and you can team up with other members to dinner. We can provide lots of ideas to anyone willing to help us out! Thank you!

Hope to see you at the meeting on Tuesday. Lots of updates!

Robin

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Coming out of winter, suddenly there's lots going on at Chapter 1268.

First up is that we have partnered with Chapter 1232 at Gness Field in Novato to get two more Ray scholarships of \$12,000 each for young prospective pilots 16 through 19 to get their private pilot's license. These are matching funds scholarships, with the Ray Foundation contributing 75%, or \$9,000, and the local Chapter contributing 25%, or \$3,000.

Chapter 1268 identified two young people, Finley Skaggs and Alex Gosselin, as Chapter 1268's scholars. The Board of Directors interviewed both of them and feel they are excellent candidates for these scholarships.

Both Finley and Alex are long-time 1268 Young Eagles and volunteers at the Saturday barbecues. They both plan on pursuing careers in aviation, so Chapter 1268 is giving them a boost to speed them on their way. They will both start training soon and should have their private pilot checkride by the end of summer.

Kristen Hannum Gregory has an Air Explorer Post at Napa Airport, and is partnering with Chapter 1268 and 1232 to help two of her Explorers get started in their aviation careers.

Chapter 1232 doesn't currently have the resources or staff to administer their Ray scholarships, but they have had a successful Ray scholar earn their private certificate in the past. That lets them apply for two matching funds scholarships.

Working with Ken Mercer at 1232, I applied for two scholarships with the understanding that I would administer them and that we would find the scholars and matching funds. That is where Kristen comes in.

The Napa Air Explorers has some grant funding that they can use for the matching funds. They also have well-qualified candidates. One of them, Roger Flores Chacon has been coming to the Chapter 1268 Young Eagles rallies for many years. Another, Aldren Domingo, already has a first-class medical certificate and student pilot license, but doesn't have the funds for flight training. They were the two candidates the Chapter 1268 Board interviewed at the meeting last month.

Working with Kristen, Ken and the EAA Ray Scholarship office, we are able to help four young people achieve their dreams of learning to fly and earning their first license.

The other news is that we are partnering with Kristen and the Napa Air Explorers to send a total of five young people to the Air Academy at Oshkosh this summer. Chapter 1268 will pay the expenses for two of the participants and the Air Explorers for three.

I'll be meeting with the candidates and their parents this Sunday after Young Eagles.

Moving on, we have Calvin Wojciechowski to thank for organizing a Basic Med event at Sonoma Skypark last Saturday. Calvin got his Basic Med from a doctor in Fremont, and in

talking to the doctor, found out that he was willing to come up to Skypark to put on a Basic Med clinic in the clubhouse.

Calvin got the word out and wound up with twelve people who got their Basic Med in one very busy afternoon. Calvin said that if there is continuing interest in our pilots getting their Basic Med, that he would continue organizing these clinics at Sonoma Skypark.

Let Calvin know if you are interested and he will get working on the next clinic.

We have the steel for the repairs to the shop/restroom building door structure. The cantilever support beams are severely rusted and there is a risk of one of the beams failing. We will weld support posts in at the end of the beams and then weld doubler plates to the side of each beam.

The beams will need to be wire brushed and primed before we can do the welding. It will be dirty work, but I think the whole job can be completed in a day. Please let me know that you can give us a hand. I'm planning on doing the work sometime this month.

An upcoming project will be to upgrade the electrical service for the installation of a pizza oven that Rafe Tomset would like for restarting his monthly movie night. The Skypark Board of Directors have already approved paying for half the cost of the restroom remodel and has expressed interest in helping with other projects for the clubhouse.

A little health and welfare news is that Nelleke Cooper is recovering well from a hip replacement, Roland Gangloff is still dealing with multiple health issues but hopes to be back out to help with Young Eagles soon, and Kathy Carmichael has surgery scheduled in the near future for a serious problem she has been dealing with for a while.

Please let them know that you are thinking of them and that we all wish them a speedy recovery.

That's about all I can think of at the moment, other than to remind you that your generous donations help support the many scholarships Chapter 1268 grants to young people interested in aviation.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Darrel

EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
AND TREASURER REPORT
March 2025

Checking	\$2,698.16
Savings	\$22,303.30
CD	\$16,253.01

The CD matured on 2/26/25, I have added funds and rolled it over for another 6 months. It will mature on 8/26/25.

Deposits:

Saturday Burgers	\$781.61
Member Dues	\$265.00
Donations	\$100.00

Expenditures:

Clubhouse Alarm System	\$556.00
Petaluma Pilot Training Center (Final payment for Ray Scholar Hayden Holbrook flight training)	\$4276.29
Pietenpol parts	\$336.29
Staples (Office supplies)	\$34.37

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

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day for this month was Sunday, March 9. It was a glorious, brilliant winter day, with nice cold, dense, still air and hills and valleys greening after the winter rains.

Something is obviously working for Chapter 1268 and its Young Eagles program. We flew thirty-three Young Eagles with nine pilots flying seven airplanes and two gyros! It looked like the ramp at SFO around Skypark for a few hours this morning.

Thanks to Steve Crawford, back after having his gyro down for six months, Rick Palumbo, George Belden, George Bachich, Ken Kopilevich, Paul Hollingworth, Dan Roseland and Ken Callandar. I had the 182 out there in the mix also.

Gretchen was a flurry of forms and activity, as she ably shepherded the kids through registration, with Ligia Booker in there filling out certificates and doing whatever she could to help.

Calvin W., of BasicMed Clinic fame, was on duty on the ramp, sitting beside Mark Shackford, making sure none of the kids or parents walked into a running prop.

Kristen Hannam Gregory was there with her Air Explorers, who helped set up and then took their own Young Eagles rides. The Post officers took turns taking their rides in one of the two gyrocopters that flew over from Petaluma.

As I reported in the Vice President's column, three of the Air Explorers will be going to Oshkosh and the Air Academy this summer. I had an orientation in the clubhouse after Young Eagles, and had a very positive response from all out candidate families.

We even flew three Eagles rides after the Young Eagles event was over.

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.



Luis Membrilla, one of our Ray scholars and now a licensed pilot, has come back and has been helping out at Young Eagles. He's actually been flying a 172 from Petaluma. This is just a teeter totter I picked up for you to practice coordinated flight around Skypark. I've only seen it spin in once.

CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT

It's been too cold for any gluing, but Michael and Ray turned the fuselage around so they could begin fitting the tail assembly on.

Michael is still looking for students and adults to help work on the project on an ongoing basis to keep the progress moving along.

SATURDAY BARBECUE

Marilyn, Marsi and Rony 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!

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, Marsi, Rony and their devoted crew 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

In previous months, we discussed contributing factors and mitigation strategies in aircraft accidents. We saw that the vast majority of aircraft accidents are caused by pilot error. In fact, over the past 10 years, the percentage has remained fairly constant at approximately 75%.

While we can assume that human error will continue to be the major factor in aircraft accidents, we need to recognize our limitations and implement mitigation strategies in our flight planning and execution to lessen the impact as much as possible.

While many of these mitigation principles are somewhat subjective, and difficult to measure, it is important that we constantly assess and adapt during the flight to the maximum extent possible. Additionally, and equally important is the end of flight debrief to ascertain where we succeeded and where we could have made improvements.

The post-flight debrief does not necessarily need to be a formal process. However, it would be a wasted opportunity for us to improve if we don't discuss what we learned from the flight, and what we could have done differently to make the flight more effective or increase the safety margin.

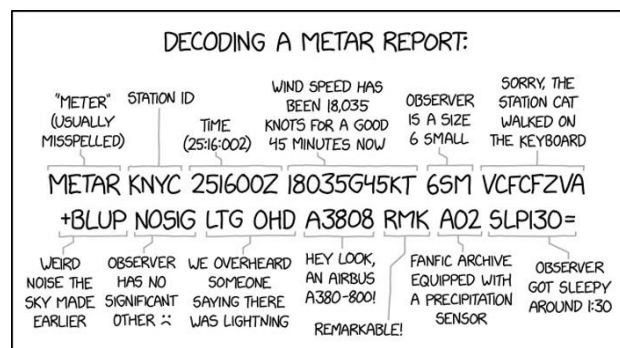
Really, the question to yourself, or to the other pilot(s) is: what went well on the flight? What could have gone better? There is a myriad of crew resource management subtopics on how to conduct the debrief that you can research online, but really just a candid, frank discussion about the flight is all that is needed to make the most of that flight, and improve for the next one.

In the Air Force, we used the term “hangar flying.” It was a great opportunity to share experiences, mistakes, and lessons learned with other aviators to make us better pilots. I don’t have enough lives to make all the mistakes myself. I need to learn from others to hopefully not make the same mistakes myself.

I challenge you to think about the aspects of each flight. Think about what went well. What could have gone better. After flying for 45 years, I am still waiting to fly the perfect flight. Don’t be afraid to share your experiences and mistakes with others to make yourself, and them a better pilot. As ashamed as you might be to share a mistake or lesson learned with others, you will not be the first pilot to make that particular mistake. Share that experience, and try to prevent someone else from making the same error. There are plenty of different errors for us to experience without experiencing ALL of them ourselves!

IMC/VMC CLUB

I’m still looking for people interested in a monthly one-hour meeting to talk about flying safety, discuss a scenario-based question and do a little hangar flying.



We need five people to get the club started, so all you new pilots wanting to learn more, and all you old pilots willing to share your experience, give me a call or send me a text or email and we’ll get you signed up.

GROUND SCHOOLS

Yayoi is pausing ground school at Sonoma Skypark in the clubhouse on Monday evenings until she gets more students. 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.

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

2025 DINNER SCHEDULE

We have some of our celebrity chefs for 2025 but let us know if you want to take an unfilled month. 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- again!
APR	?
MAY	The Bookers and the Schakes- carnitas
JUN	?
JUL	Darrel Jones- barbecue
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC ?	XMAS PARTY
Standby	?

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 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Ken Wayne- Flying Tales animal rescue
FEB	Yayoi West- X-59, First Flight is scheduled in 2025
MAR	EAA Chapter video
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.

DATE	EVENT
3/8-9	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day – 12 to 4 pm
3/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am
3/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
3/15	NAF El Centro Air Show
2026	Wings Over Solano- Travis AFB, Fairfield
4/1-6	Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, FL
4/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
4/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day – 12 to 4 pm
4/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am
4/25	Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show- Half Moon Bay, CA
11/8	Estrella Warbirds Wings & Wheels- Paso Robles, CA
5/10-11	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm

5/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am
5/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/26-28	Oregon Int'l Air Show- McMinnville, OR
5/?	Skypark Family Fun Day!
6/7-8	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
6/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am
6/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
2026	Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee
3/22-23	California Capital Air Show- Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA
7/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
7/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am
7/17-20	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/21-27	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
8/9-10	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
8/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
8/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
	Wings Over Camarillo Airshow
9/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/13-14	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
9/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
TBD	MCAS Miramar Air Show- San Diego, CA
10/4-5	California Int'l Airshow- Salinas, CA
9/?	Wings Over Wine Country
9/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/13-14	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
9/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
TBD	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA
10/10-12	San Francisco Fleet Week- San Francisco, CA
10/11-12	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
10/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
TBD	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA

TBD	Planes of Fame Air Show- China, CA
11/8-9	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
11/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am
11/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
12/?	Skypark Xmas Party
12/13-14	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
1/1/26	New Years' Day 1 st Flight
Every <u>Saturday Noon to 1:00 pm</u> Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

February 11, 2025

Board meeting called to order at 6:15 pm

Present were President Robin Tatman, VP Darrel Jones, Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Board members Don Booker and Marsi Allard, and Skypark Airport manager Mark Shackford.

Guests were Marc Ashton, Kristen Gregory and Aldren Domingo.

Officer reports:

Darrel Jones reported on the Air Academy and Ray scholarship applicants. He talked about the current applicants going through the scholarship process.

Ray Gallarate gave an update on the Pietenpol project.

Ray reviewed his treasury report.

Nelleke was absent due to hip replacement surgery, so Darrel took notes. (Very badly. Robin had to bail me out. Thanks, Robin!)

Robin talked about the recent thefts at the airport. Mark Ashton gave an update of an occurrence at Petaluma at the beginning of January where a suspect piggybacked illegally on to the airport and made several attempts to

hijack various airplanes. Fortunately, he was unsuccessful, but was not apprehended.

She also reported on the Flying Tails fundraiser, and possible opportunities for chapter members to volunteer moving rescued animals.

The Board members then interviewed two Ray scholar candidates, Roger Flores Chacon and Aldren Domingo.

Board Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Dinner was provided by Marsi Allard. Marsi cooked a delicious dinner of Beouf Bourguignon, rolls, salad, red wine and dessert.

General meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

President Robin Tatman gave a report for the officers and the interviews.

General Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

The program for the evening was a presentation by Yayoi West on the new supersonic aircraft being developed, the X-59. She gave a great presentation on the modernization of supersonic aircraft to make aircraft suitable to carry passengers in the next 10 years.

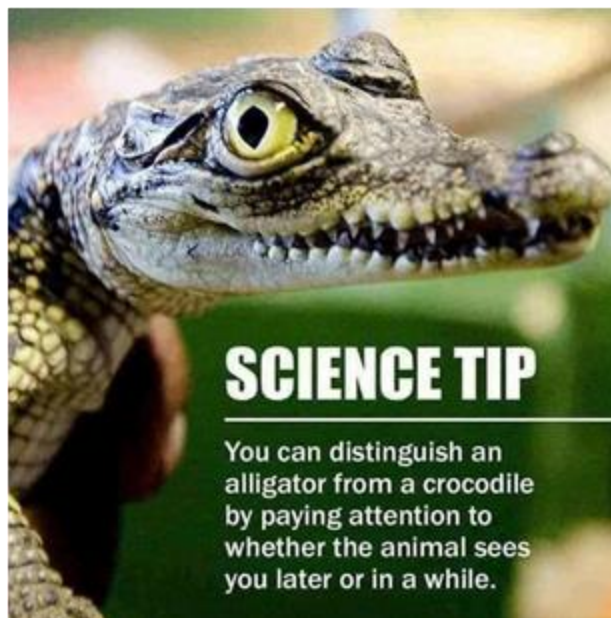
OTHER NEWS

A good one from Tim Steers:

WE WERE WAITING TO TAKE OFF AT AROUND MIDNIGHT FROM LAX TO NEW ZEALAND—A VERY LONG FLIGHT ALMOST ENTIRELY OVER WATER WITH VIRTUALLY NO LAND IN BETWEEN. WE WERE DELAYED BECAUSE OF A “MALFUNCTION.”, THE PILOT CAME ON THE INTERCOM AND EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS WAITING FOR A REPLACEMENT PART AND THAT IT WOULD BE ARRIVING SHORTLY.

GROANS WERE AUDIBLE THROUGHOUT THE FULL 747. HE THEN SAID: “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I SHARE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT. BUT WE’RE GOING ON A LONG FLIGHT, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WOULD RATHER BE ON THE GROUND WISHING I WERE IN THE AIR, THAN IN THE AIR, WISHING I WERE ON THE GROUND.”

AFTER A MOMENT OF STILLNESS, APPLAUSE ERUPTED.



WOMEN ON MOTORCYCLES



Elsie Reigner on the Lewis machine gun. Those are some serious women. Don't mess with 'em!

Send me your news for your newsletter!

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 2025!** 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 MARCH MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, MARCH 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: Regular - **\$20 per year.**
Student, through 18 - **FREE**

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:

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