



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport
21870 Eighth Street East
Sonoma, CA 95476

OCTOBER 2025



APPROXIMATELY 25 YEARS OF AVIATION ADVANCEMENT

Another of Will Campbell's incredible aviation photos.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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707-938-9461

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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, October 14**. 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 Lindsay Bennet, one of our Air Academy scholars' mother. She will be bringing pulled pork with trimmings.

Our program will be presentations by the Air Academy participants covering their experiences at Oshkosh during their Air Academy participation this summer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

Hi everyone!

It is so lovely to have cooler fall temperatures, finally, rolling in to Sonoma!

I was gratified to get a few items off of my To Do list this last week. We have been discussing for a while now the benefit of having the tap water checked in the club house with the possibility of installing a water treatment system. I finally made an appointment with Culligan, and Darrel, Ray, and I met with their rep last Thursday. We

discussed several different options based on the layout of the airport, the water source (well), and the water storage system. The water is not unsafe to drink, but there are reasons why sometimes it doesn't taste good or smells like sulphur. Installing a UV water sterilizer, a water softener, and a reverse osmosis system would give us safer, very clean drinking water.

By softening the water, we can take advantage of the ice maker and water dispenser in the new refrigerator, and stop buying bottled water. This will help offset the cost of system. The water is very convenient, but it has an environmental and biological cost. The softened water will also add longevity to the water heater as well. We will share our findings with the Board on Tuesday. We will keep you posted before any changes are made.

The other thing on my mind has been our banking arrangement. Our local credit union has odd fees that are difficult to work around, along with very low interest rates on savings. I called around and found a few banks, one in particular that is California based that has free checking and high yield savings accounts for business. And no fees for anything that we would use. I have passed on the information for Ray to take a look at. Even with the feds lowering the rate a quarter of a point, the increased interest rate that we would get could generate quite a bit of extra cash compared to what we get now. I think the streamlined services would save Ray some valuable time as well.

We got wonderful news last week that one of our weekly hamburger coordinators, Rony, has stepped up to fill Marilyn's very big shoes overseeing the Saturday Barbecue. Thank you Rony!! That is such welcome news. The transition is taking place as we speak, and Marilyn will be able to enjoy some well-deserved time off in a few weeks. Happily for us, she will still be available to fill in once in a while and be as involved as she would like to be. I cannot overstate what a fantastic job she

has done, and how much we all appreciate her hard work.

Two other noteworthy items from the EAA: The EAA Aviation Scholarship Application window is now open, and the Volunteer of the Year Award nomination window is now open as well. More information and details for both are on the website, EAA.org.

Next Tuesday, our guest speakers will be our scholarship recipients from Air Academy. I am really looking forward to hearing about their experiences and take aways from the event.

See you there!

Robin

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have found a candidate for our fourth Ray scholarship for 2025 in Jack Laipply, who has been taking lessons at Skypark and has 18 hours so far. He lives in San Francisco and started an aviation interest club at his high school.

He will transfer to Mike Smith Aviation in Napa so he can attend ground school and continue his flight training.

We have reserved six slots for the 2026 Air Academy session for young people 14 through 18. Working with our Young Eagles and the Napa Aviation Explorers, we sent six young people to the Air Academy this year, which represents a record number for us.

Through the generous donations by our members and the success of the Saturday barbecue, we were able to fully fund the tuition, room and board, and airfare for all six, in combination with the EAA Campership awards.

Robin has an article in this newsletter with information on making tax-deductible donation through your pension plans to our scholarship funds.

I want to thank Will Campbell again for letting me use some of his incredible aviation photography for the newsletter. Remember, these are Will's personal property and you need to ask his permission to use any of them. Will's photos are high-level professional quality and many of his works have appeared in commercial publications

Will has done photo shoots at the Reno air races and at Walt Bowe's Ala Doble field in Esparto. He is also an accomplished sailor, and has a Bird sailboat named #22 Hummingbird that he sails and races on San Francisco Bay.

Will also has an incredible Datsun 2000 that he races as well as driving on the road.



Take a look at Will's Facebook page to enjoy more of his aviation and sailing photos. Will puts a slideshow on at the regular Tuesday evening meetings for members to enjoy during dinner.

Another "thank you" shout out goes to Sindy Mikkelsen for all her support for Chapter 1268. She provided dinner at the January and September meetings and just donated a classic collector bottle of bourbon. I had a flyer of the gift basket containing the bottle of Flare bourbon, the collectors' bag, the Glacier Rocks stainless steel ice cubes and the four bourbon glasses.

Raffel tickets are available in the clubhouse in the Saturday barbecue tote, with a jar in there to put your tickets in. Be sure to write your

name and phone number on the ticket going in, since you don't need to be present to win. Tickets are \$5 each, and the winning ticket will be drawn at the Skypark Christmas party.

The breakfast burritos Marsi and Ilario were preparing for sale as a fundraiser at Young Eagles just didn't sell enough to justify the time and effort that went into the preparations, so they are discontinued.

Donuts donated by local merchants are still available to the kids, adults and pilots. Thanks go to Ligia Booker for contacting the merchants and getting the donut donations for the rallies. Gretchen had been bringing donuts when she came up to do the registration at Young Eagles, but she was spending about \$75 a month, all of which she donated to the Chapter.

Thanks to Marsi, Ilario, Ligia and Gretchen for their many contributions to Chapter 1268.

I watched the movie "Reach for the Sky", the biography of Douglas Bader, on YouTube recently. Lots of actual airplanes, including Avro 504s and Hurricanes, as well as some decent model work. Kenneth More made Bader seem almost like a nice guy. Fascinating story though.

I didn't think I had that much to report this month, but I guess I can just run on when I get started. That may explain why people pale and walk the other way when they see me coming.

EAA 1268 TREASURER REPORT **October 2025**

The Treasurer's report is as follows.

Checking	\$3119.56
Savings	\$21,271.69
CD	\$20,488.31

Deposits:

Sat. Burgers	\$1100.00
Sept. Mtg.	\$175.00
Young Eagles Burritos	\$161.00

EAA Ray Scholarship ACH \$3600.00

Expenditures:

Mike Smith Aviation \$4831.98 (Flight Training for Ray Scholar Alex Gosselin)

EAA Air Academy Balance Due. \$180.00

Deposit Currency Fee \$5.00

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

Please send your dues renewal checks to EAA 1268, PO Box 234, Vineburg, CA 95487-0234.

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles on September 14 was a record setting day with ten pilots flying 37 Young Eagles, with another four Eagles flown after the Young Eagles rally finished. Skypark looked like SFO on a busy day at times.

Young Eagles today, October 12, was another beautiful day, with blue skies, no wind and ten pilots flying 38 Young Eagles and four Eagle flights after the rally. Thanks go to Kimberly Smith and Jenny Hollingworth for ably handling registration, and George Bachich, Mark Shackford, Geoge Belden, Steve Crawford, Paul Hollingworth, Kevin Horn, Ken Kopilevich, Ken Thornton, Rick Palumbo and Pedro Millikan from Mike Smith Aviation for flying all those Young eagles..

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

Robin, Ray and I are meeting with the Technology instructors at Sonoma Valley High School Wednesday, October 15, about having them and some of their students participate in the Chapter 1268 Pietenpol build project.

The project started as a way for local youth to get some exposure and experience with aviation technology through building an actual airplane.

The students working on the Piet have all graduated, so it is time to recruit the next crew. We will invite the instructors out to the clubhouse shop for a tour of the project and a hamburger.

We are also looking for other Chapter members who can come out on an ongoing basis to help tutor the students and lend a hand to the construction. If you're handy with tools and would like to take part, contact Michael at mdwray33@gmail.com to make arrangements for joining the team.

SATURDAY BARBECUE

Marilyn, Marsi, Julie, Robin 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, Julie and Robin and their devoted crews for their very valuable, and enjoyable, contribution to the Chapter.

Marilyn will be "retiring" this month, but still helping out, with Rony taking over as overall coordinator. See Robin's President's report for an update of Saturday 'burgers.

EAA 1268 FLIGHT ADVISOR

In previous months, we briefly discussed some of the specific elements of human factors and their effect on safety. Some of the topics we

discussed included crew resource management and personality types.

In the coming months, I would like to discuss more topics under the umbrella of human factors, how it contributes to safety, and most importantly, how we can mitigate the risks associated with human factors elements.



Captain Steve Silver on the flight deck of the Boeing 777

The first human factors topic we will discuss is fatigue. FAA circular 117-3 discusses fitness for duty. While advisory circular 117-3 addresses fatigue as it relates to airline trade organizations, we can apply the principles and lessons learned to our general aviation operation as well.

A quick background for FAR 117: In 2009, Colgan Air Flight 2407 got into an aggravated stall. The crew did not respond appropriately to the stall, and the aircraft crashed and killed all 49 people on board. As part of the accident investigation, one of the contributing factors was fatigue of the pilots. The FAA contended that more stringent/defined rest rules were required to ensure safe flight operations for airlines.

While we do not have duty day restrictions in general aviation, the risks associated with fatigue is a very real consideration, and a risk factor we need to consider every time we fly. We need to ask ourselves every flight if we are

fit to fly. Fatigue is just one of the aspects of our fitness, but one of the more insidious factors because as pilots, we tend to marginalize or skew our admission of fatigue because we think it makes us seem weak. Pilots tend to be goal-oriented, and want to complete the mission (flight). However, there is no shame in recognizing and disclosing that we are fatigued. We should never fly if we are significantly fatigued or not fit to fly for any reason. There is a classic saying that the hardest airplane maneuver is the 180-degree turn. (turning around, and not pushing the weather). However, an equally hard admission is to say "I am fatigued, and not fit to fly." That training flight/cross country trip will always be there the next day.

Fatigue is generally broken down into four types: Transient, Cumulative, and Circadian.

Transient fatigue is acute fatigue from severe sleep deprivation or extended wake within a day or two.

Cumulative Fatigue builds up over several days or weeks due to insufficient recovery sleep.

Circadian fatigue comes from the body's internal biological clock (circadian rhythm) which relates to sleep-wake cycles.

Mitigation of the first two factors is fairly straight forward. We need to prepare for each flight by ensuring we get adequate rest. Rest requirements are different for everyone. Listen to your body, and figure out how much sleep you need to perform at the highest mental levels.

Circadian fatigue is a little more insidious. We could do an entire discussion on Windows of Circadian Lows (WOCLs)...and we may do that in coming months! The short description of WOCL is the time of the daily corresponding to the minimum core body temperature. It is the time of day when people feel most sleepy and are least able to perform.

The circadian body clock produces two times of peak sleepiness in 24 hours: For most people on a normal routine, this occurs in the early morning between 3 and 5 AM, and in the early afternoon around 3 to 5 PM.

While flying in the 3 to 5 AM period is generally commercial pilots operating on the "backside of the clock," the 3 to 5 PM circadian low can be a factor for us on a regular basis. An awareness of our WOCL allows us to avoid flights during those times, or at least recognize our body's limitation and increase our vigilance.

Fatigue can be a real aviation threat. Adjust your schedule/commitments to ensure adequate rest in preparation for your next flight. Do not fly if you are significantly fatigued or not fit to fly for any reason.



GET THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR DONATION BUCK!

Do you have an IRA account (Traditional, Rollover, and SEP all qualify)? Are you 70 1/2 years old (or more)? If you meet both of those conditions, there is an IRS approved program to capture 100% of Qualified Charitable Donations. The end of the year is coming, which means it's time to review your

deductions and maybe avoid paying some taxes.

For most folks, if you are nice enough to donate to qualified charities (aka 501(c)(3)) like our EAA Chapter, about 30% of the amount donated reduces your tax bill. So, if you donated \$100 to a charity, then your tax bill would be reduced by about \$30. Taking advantage of QCDs can allow you to take the full \$100 off of your tax bill.

In order to qualify, you must:

Have an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) and be at least 70 1/2 years old. (OK, I'm repeating myself.)

Under this program, you can contribute a bunch of dough (up to \$108,000 per year!) directly from your IRA to one or more charities. This allows you to lower your taxable income which reduces overall tax liability, reduces your AGI (Adjusted Gross Income), and can count towards fulfilling RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) obligations if you have them. It can also lower Medicare premiums by reducing IRMAA obligations which is based on AGI. Even better, you can still take advantage of the program if you don't itemize and take the standard deduction.

Ok, now what? First of all, if you have a financial planner, tell them you are interested in making a QCD. If you don't have one, call your brokerage house where your IRA resides and tell them that you are interested in making a QCD. I called Charles Schwab, Fidelity, and Etrade just to see what they had to say about it. They all said you have to fill out a form which will generate a check that goes to your chosen charity. Charles Schwab allows you to generate three donations on one form. Sometimes you can do it online yourself, and sometimes they will do it for you, all for different reasons. The reps at all three companies were helpful and can guide you through the process.

Anything else? Yes, four important things to note:

1. Don't wait until the last minute (like December 31 at 4pm) to initiate the process. Most brokerage houses have deadlines around the first or second week of December. It can take up to two weeks to get the check cut, verify the charity, and get it mailed out. It must be received by the IRS by December 31.
2. Two of the representatives I talked to suggested that you have the check (which will be made out to the charity) mailed to your home address for you to deliver to your charity. This way you can make a copy of it to save for documentation.
3. Once the charity has received the donation, have them send you a receipt, again for documentation. (Ray will be happy to do this!) The IRS may ask for it if you ever get audited. This will make your CPA less cranky.
4. Have the correct name and address of your charity available when you start the process. You don't usually need their EIN.

If we are lucky enough to consider your interest in donating to us, here is our info. We are a qualified 501(c)(3).

Sonoma Skycrafters EAA Chapter 1268
P.O. Box 234
Vineburg, CA 95487
EIN 68-0437795

Disclaimer: I am in no way a CPA, CFP, or any other sort of qualified financial guru. If you have questions, check your own experts, or the IRS website via Google. I am happy though to share what I know.

Robin

GROUND SCHOOLS

Mike Smith Aviation at Napa Airport is 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.

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 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, 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	Dane, Joyce and Scott Miller
OCT	Lindsay Bennet- pulled pork
NOV	Robin, Darrel and ?- turkey
DEC ?	XMAS PARTY

Standby	Costco?
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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	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

2025 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

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

DATE	EVENT
2026	Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee
TBD	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA
10/4-5	California Int'l Airshow- Salinas, 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
10/26	Schellville/Sonoma Valley Airport Props, Pistons & Pasta On The Runway Open House
TBD	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA
TBD	Planes of Fame Air Show- China, CA
11/8	Estrella Warbirds Wings & Wheels- Paso Robles, CA
11/8-9	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
1/1/26	New Years Day
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
September 9, 2025

Board meeting called to order at 6 pm. Present were President Robin Tatman, VP Darrel Jones, BOD members Marsi Allard, Don and Ligia Booker.

Robin thanked Marilyn Seibert for her years of managing the Saturday barbecue and Mark Shackford for everything he does to keep the clubhouse up and running. Marilyn will be retiring as Chairperson but will still be involved as a very active volunteer helping coordinate the Saturday barbecues.

Robin reported that she has contacted Culligan to have them test the water at the clubhouse and to give us some recommendations for treating the water to make it potable for use as drinking water and in the icemaker.

Darrel gave a report on the Ray scholarship program. We have had two scholars pass their check rides, another will be ready on his 17th birthday in December, and a fourth applicant has been identified and will be interviewed

with his parents this month by the Chapter officers.

Darrel also reported that he has reserved six spaces at the 2026 Air Academy for Chapter 1268 scholarship recipients.

Darrel will update the Air Academy and Ray scholarship rosters so they can be given, with a current Chapter 1268, to Ligia Booker for a membership drive to invite those families to join Chapter 1268.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6.50 pm

Dinner was lasagna, pizza and salad ordered and donated by Sindy Mikkelsen and served by Scott Miller, Dane Miller's father.

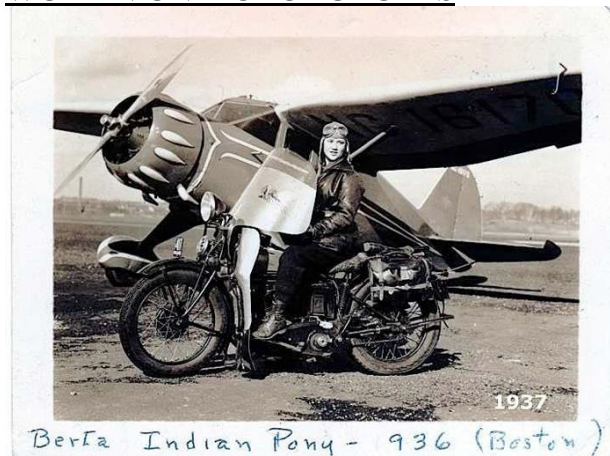
General meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Robin reported on the Board actions and talked briefly about upcoming Chapter 1268 projects and events.

General Meeting adjourned at 7.45 pm

The program for the evening was presentation by our two newest private pilots, Roger Flores-Chacon and Aldren Domingo, who talked about their flight training and check rides.

WOMEN ON MOTORCYCLES



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 2026!** 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 OCTOBER MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 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