



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

SEPTEMBER 2023



WE SAY GOODBYE TO CAPTAIN RICH COOPER THIS MONTH

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Don Booker, 707-938-9461

Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382

Secretary: Yayoi West, 707-364-9257

Treasurer/Membership: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901

BOD: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747

BOD: Marsi Allard, 415-686-5254

BOD: Nelleke Cooper, 707-938-5587

BOD/Membership Chair: Roland Gangloff,
707-935-1832

Web editor/Young Eagles: Gretchen
McDougall gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com

Speaker coordinator: Roland Gangloff 707-
935-1832

Dinner coordinator: Sindy Mikkelsen
sindymikkelsen@att.net

Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-799-
6382, wd6bor@vom.com

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The January meeting is this **Tuesday, September 12**. 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 a surprise chef of international fame. (Or infamy). Come out for dinner and the meeting to meet our cookie of mystery. Please let me know if you can give me a hand with the prep.

Our program will be reports by our Air Academy participants and our Ray scholars. They will be talking about what Chapter 1268's scholarship support has helped them achieve toward furthering their flying goals.

WOMEN IN AIRPLANES



Since we profiled Tammy Jo Shults in the August newsletter, I thought I would put in this photo Kimberly Smith sent of Tammy Jo, Mike and her at a Women in Aviation International conference. I'll have a photo of Kimberly with astronaut Wally Funk in a future newsletter.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Things will slow down a little as fall turns to winter, but summer has been a busy one for Sonoma Skypark and EAA Chapter 1268.

The first news is the most important this month. Don Booker is up and about. He was with Ligia at the service for Rich Cooper at the Sonoma Veteran's Cemetery, and his handshake was just as strong as ever with that big grin lighting up the whole day.

If you missed it, Don had a brain bleed and had surgery last month. The surgery went well and he is on the mend. I'll be filling in for him for the time being, but we're all looking forward to having him back in our group.

Our program Tuesday will feature our Ray Scholars Thomas Rickard, Sebastian Johnson, Kate Llodra and Luis Membrilla. Former 1268 Ray scholar has obtained his ratings and is building hours instructing in Arizona.

We will also have our Air Academy scholarship recipients, Finley Skaggs, James Kurniawan, and Ivy and Iris Morrison. I'm attaching their thank you letters to this newsletter as separate PDFs. Be sure to read them to get a sense of what we do in Chapter 1268.

We have been looking for someone to take over for Don as president and Bill and treasurer. Robin Tatman has stepped in to take over as president and Ray Gallarate and George Bachich have both volunteered to be treasurer. We'll sort that out at the Board meeting and have one as our new treasurer and the other as our newest Board member.

We will be having some repairs made to the shop hangar roof so it doesn't rain harder inside than outside in a storm, as happens now. We have many valuable tools and our priceless Pietenpol project to keep dry.

Now for our brief monthly commercial: we are still working to raise enough money to take

care of those repairs as well as do the necessary repairs to the clubhouse restrooms. While we are slowly inching up to our goal of raising \$30,000 for the restroom, we are still a long way away from that goal. If you have decided to do something better with that money you were thinking of spending on a new Rolls Royce, please consider making a donation to our repair fund.

If you want to donate the whole \$30k, we'll dedicate the restroom to you. What a deal! David Kendall has started the inventory of the tools recently donated to Chapter 1268. The end goal is to have a Chapter 1268 Tool Crib of tools that members can check out to use on their projects. It looks as if we will wind up with a very extensive collection.

We still need volunteers to help with the Saturday barbecue. As you all know, the barbecue is Chapter 1268's major fundraiser for the scholarships we give for the Air Academy and flight training for youth.

Marilyn pointed out that with the rising cost of supplies, the profits have been declining, so the Board agreed to raise the price from \$8 to \$10 for a hamburger or hot dog, chips, drink and a cookie. The double burger will go from \$10 to \$13. You won't be able to find that good of a deal at any other sit-down restaurant in Sonoma. Marilyn buys quality supplies and the whole team takes great pride in serving a delicious lunch every Saturday.

We have reserved spaces for our 2024 Air Academy participants. We have four spaces in Basic Camp and two in Advanced camp. We will have applications available by October, so let us know if you have a good young candidate for next summer.

Ray scholar applications open November 1, with our Ray scholar candidates selected in January. The Ray scholarship is a flight training scholarship of \$11,000 for young persons ages 16 through 19 to help them earn their private pilot certificate.

Chapter 1268 participates in a matching funds program that pays for two scholarships per chapter. The Ray Foundation now pays 75% of each scholarship, with the Chapter paying the balance.

We already have one candidate in Hayden Holbrook, who has been participating in Chapter 1268 activities for the past several years. The Board and scholarship committee will be reviewing his application at the meeting this Tuesday.

One last little item from Tom McCaw, from PAPA in Petaluma, is the Clear Lake Splash-In on Sept 23-24. This link has the information on the event:

<https://www.clearlakeflyingclub.com/Splash-In-2023-Seminars.pdf>

Now, on with the rest of the newsletter.

Darrel

EAA 1268 TREASURER'S REPORT **SEPTEMBER 2023**

One bank deposit was made in August totaling \$665. Included in the deposit was \$450 in donations for the Richard Cooper Memorial Fund, \$30 in dues renewal, and \$185 in receipts from our August dinner in which our chef refused reimbursement for his expenses – thank you Rony!

Our CD account earned \$15.73 in interest.

Expenses totaling \$3300 were for two checks written to Petaluma Pilot Training Center to cover flight training for one of our Ray Scholars. We had received a check for that amount from EAA in the previous month.

Total chapter funds are \$39,478.39 distributed in the following accounts:

Checking account - \$ 26,436.26
Savings account - \$ 7,648.65
CD account - \$ 5,393.48
Total account funds \$39,478.39

That's all for now – any questions? If so, shoot me an email or give me a call – bill.wheadon@gmail.com. 707-224-3901
Bill
Membership Chairman and Treasurer

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day is Sunday, September 10. 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, then come on out to Skypark to join us for the fun.

2023 DINNER SCHEDULE

We have some of our celebrity chefs for 2023 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
2023 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Will Campbell, Nelleke Cooper
FEB	Sindy Mikkelsen
MAR	Marilyn and Bob Avrit
APR	Don and Wayne (+Ligia and Cecilia)
MAY	Sindy Mikkelsen (again)
JUN	Marsi Allard
JUL	Darrel- barbecue
AUG	Rony Kurniawan
SEP	Marsi Allard
OCT	?
NOV	Gene Marcinkowski
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	?

SPEAKERS

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

Contact Speaker Coordinator Roland Gangloff 707-935-1832 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
2023 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Yayoi West- Chapter build project
FEB	Pietenpol video “Finding Flight”
MAR	Yayoi West- total eclipse Apr 20
APR	Stephen Brosseau. 5000hrs flying w/o an engine
MAY	Art Hayden, Mt. Flying, South Africa, Alaska &etc.
JUN	George Bachich. Acrobatic antics; inverted spin recovery
JUL	Bruce Janigian: ret. U.S. Navy Captain; Experiences in Ukraine and Crimea, Russia
AUG	Paul Hollingworth: Gyrocopters, history of development and his history of flying them. What he flies and why he loves doing so
SEP	Air Academy report
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

2023 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

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

DATE	EVENT
9/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
9/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/13-17	Reno Air Races- Reno, NV
9/22-24	MCAS Miramar Air Show- San Diego, CA
10/7-8	California Int’l Airshow- Salinas, CA
9/23	Skypark Movie Night-TBA
9/22-24	California Capital Air Show- Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA

10/6-8	San Francisco Fleet Week- San Francisco, CA
10/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/?	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA
10/13-15	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA
10/?	Planes of Fame Air Show- China, CA
10/28	Skypark Movie Night-TBA
11/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
11/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
11/25	Skypark Movie Night-TBA
12/2	Skypark Xmas Party
1/1/24	New Years' Day 1 st Flight
Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
August, 2023

The Board meeting was called to order at 6 pm by President Don Booker.

Don suggested that Chapter 1268 set up an information table at the Sonoma Plaza during Vintage Festival the weekend of September 29-30. Don suggested that members can have information on Young Eagles and other EAA programs for the public, and that members can answer questions about Chapter 1268 programs and activities at Sonoma Skypark.

Yayoi suggested that we could have complimentary coupons for a free hamburger for first-time guests.

Space is available at no cost for non-profit organizations for public education.
Board Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Marc Ashton, from the Petaluma Pilot Training Center, was present and talked about Chapter 1268's Ray scholar. They are trying to schedule Luis Membrila's private pilot check ride since

he has completed his training and is ready for his check ride.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Dinner was a delicious Chicken Tikka Masala over Basmati Rice, salad and dessert, all prepared by Rony Kurniawan, whose son James was one of our Air Academy participants, and who got our new flight simulator going with David Kendall.

He's a great addition to Chapter 1268. He and James are also on our Pietenpol building team.

Rony thanked Chapter 1268 for making a wonderful experience possible for James and him at Oshkosh this summer.

The General meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Don. He gave a report on the business discussed by the Board and then introduced our speaker for the evening.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm

The program for the evening was a fascinating presentation by Paul Hollingworth about gyrocopter aviation.

He had a very well-prepared slide and video presentation detailing the theory, construction and operation of gyrocopters, as well as photos and videos of many of his flights around the state and the country.

Paul left his audience seriously considering how to get a gyrocopter into their hangar.

Paul has been flying Young Eagles here at Sonoma Skypark, and is one of the most popular flights for both our Young Eagles and adult volunteers.

OTHER NEWS

The local newspaper, the Press Democrat, ran an article in the Saturday edition highlighting a ride Paul gave to our own Gardner Bride around San Francisco Bay and over the USS

Hornet, which Gardner had flown from in Panthers in the 1950's.

Either one of the following links should take you to the article in the paper for photos and the rest of the story as it was originally published in the Petaluma Argus Courier.

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/petaluman-veteran-treated-to-gyro-copter-flyover-of-iconic-navy-vessel/?artslide=0>

https://eedition.pressdemocrat.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=a840b465-f995-4251-a26c-982487e2637c



As a young man he attended Parks College in St Louis, and earned a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. The greatest adventure of his life began when he joined the U. S. Navy and flew E1 sub-hunters off aircraft carriers. This precision flying honed his piloting skills and he became a part of history participating in the Cuban Missile Crisis.



CAPTAIN RICH COOPER **REMEMBERED**

Richard William Cooper aged 86 flew west from the Sonoma Valley with family by his side on August 5, 2023. The cause of death was Parkinson's disease. Born in Goshen, NY, on January 24, 1937 to Julia Gurda and Gary Cooper, he was the oldest of four children. At the age of 12 his mother passed away and his father was in the TB sanitarium. He was raised by his uncle on the farm in Pine Island, NY.



His Airline pilot career began at Pan American World Airways where he spent most of his career flying the Boeing 747 around the world. It was here in 1968 he met his wife Nelleke on a Boeing 707 somewhere above the Pacific. They married in 1970 and moved to Diamond A into the home they had built together.

In 1987 he became a Captain for United Airlines after Pan Am sold the Pacific Division. His leadership and dedication to aviation and family extended to community. The Diamond A Recreational center community can thank

Richard's best friend Wayne Schake who persuaded Richard into being the President for many years. The two of them made quite a team and one never really knew who was in charge. In springtime when you walk the path around the Recreation Center and you see beautiful daffodils blooming think of all their contributions.



Thanks to Phil Danskin for the balloon photos

Richard loved all aspects of aviation. He flew one of the first hot air balloons in the Sonoma Valley in the 1980's. He promoted interest in aviation careers for young people and became actively involved at Sonoma Skypark Airport on 8th St E. In addition, he was the Young Eagles Coordinator for many years and flew over 55 Young Eagles to inspire them to reach for the skies. Flying small airplanes and going

to air shows with his wife, family, and friends was one of his favorite activities.

Richard enjoyed his many friends and loved taking his wife Nelleke along on his on trips. His many interests included playing tennis, working in the yard and growing flowers, hunting wild pigs with his brother-in-law and son, water skiing at Lake Berryessa, flying little airplanes, enjoying their home and beautiful view, reading, especially about history, investing and science. Richard was curious and loved learning and thinking. Later in life he wrote his Memoirs Dancing on a Tightrope recalling his most memorable experiences.

On a personal level, Richard liked to have a good laugh, appreciated witty humor, and would really be present with a person when he spoke with them. Though he was not a talkative person, he was a very social person, had many friends, and was well-loved by many.

He is survived by his wife Nelleke, daughter Kirstin and granddaughter Haley, son Kyle and his wife Sarah, grandchildren, Wyatt and Sierra Cooper and his sister, Virginia Baker. He is preceded in death by his sister Marie Giveans.

If you have any tall tales of the 6'4" man and would like to celebrate his life with us please join us at the memorial service in honor of Captain Richard Cooper on September 8th at 10:30 a.m. at Sonoma Veterans Cemetery, 126 First St W, Sonoma, followed by a Celebration of his life at 11:30 a.m. at the Diamond A Recreation Center, 18843 Spring Drive, Sonoma.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to EAA 1268, 1021 Stonebridge Drive, Napa, CA 94558 in order to continue his legacy of making a positive impact on the lives of young people as they work towards aviation careers.

He will be deeply missed.

Send me your news for your newsletter!

Sonoma Skyrafters
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 2023! SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

REMEMBER! THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF SONOMA SKYRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT 7 P.M., AT THE SKYRAFTERS' 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 SKYRAFTER 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