



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

NOVEMBER 2025



RIDING THE STORM BY WILL CAMPBELL

## **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

**BOD:** Don Booker, 707-938-9461

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McDougall [gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com](mailto:gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com)

**Speaker coordinator:** position open

**Dinner coordinator:** Sindy Mikkelsen

[sindymikkelsen@att.net](mailto:sindymikkelsen@att.net)

**Saturday barbecue Chair:** Rony Kurniawan,

[rony.kurniawan@gmail.com](mailto:rony.kurniawan@gmail.com) 707-812-5256

**Building/Newsletter:** Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382, [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com)

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

**Flight Advisor:** Steve Silver,

[skyparksteven@gmail.com](mailto:skyparksteven@gmail.com)

Pietenpol Chairperson: Yayoi West, 707-364-9257

Pietenpol Build Team Leader: Michael Wray,  
[mdwray33@gmail.com](mailto:mdwray33@gmail.com)

### **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

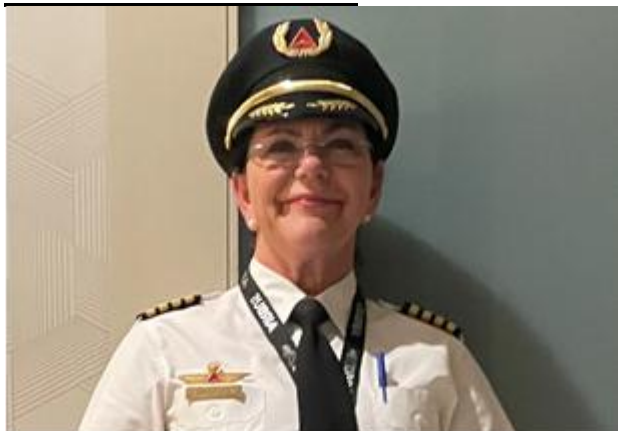
This month's meeting is this **Tuesday, November 11, Veteran's Day**. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner is at 7:00 p.m. after the Board of Directors' meeting, and is \$10.00 per person. Our chefs for the month will be Robin and Darrel, with roast turkey and all the trimmings.

Our program will be a presentation by Andy Werback about his Lancair project and experiences taking it back to Oshkosh to win Grand Champion. This from Andy:

I'll be doing a presentation on building and flying a Lancair Legacy – 2012 Kit Built Grand Champion at Oshkosh. You might have noted that somebody used a picture of it for the Lancair Legacy Wiki page...(wasn't me).

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

Happy Black Friday Month!

While lots of shoppers have sales on their minds, around here we have flying on our minds. Finally, some great flying weather has arrived! We have Young Eagles tomorrow (its Saturday as I write this) and I am anticipating a great turnout with our lovely weather. I am

looking forward to very light winds and smooth air!

Our speaker on Tuesday will be Andy Werback. He is going to be talking about Lancair aircraft. Last month, Lindsay Bennet and family made some of the best pulled pork that I have ever had. Some lucky folks got to take home leftovers because they made enough for about 50! This week, Darrel is roasting a turkey, and I am providing the classic sides - stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and the like. So, anyone who shows up will get two turkey dinners this year.

The joint Airport/EAA Christmas party will be on Friday, December 12. Darrel is posting the invite in the newsletter. Please RSVP to me - phone or email. It would be great if you can let me know what you want to bring, but if you don't know just surprise us. If you would like to help us set up, that would be great too, but not required! Once again, George B. has graciously volunteered his very large hangar to host the party. Thank you, George!

I am happy to report that our new water filtration system has been installed by Culligan in the club house and is up and running. The water in the restrooms and kitchen is UV sterilized and softened, and there is a reverse osmosis filter at the sink in the kitchen. Darrel will be hooking up the ice maker in the refrigerator so we can begin making ice.

Once again, I want to thank Marilyn Siebert so much for being the Hamburger Chair and Coordinator for the past three years. She was at it mostly by herself in the beginning, but shouldered the load anyways until she finally got more help. One of our Coordinators, Rony Kurniawan has officially stepped in to the Chair position. Thank you Rony for volunteering and giving Marilyn a much-deserved break! As an added bonus, Ilario Gallo will be assuming a Coordinator role starting in January. Happily, Marilyn will be around to help when needed and keep us on our toes.

Some of you were either at Hamburgers last month, or the last EAA meeting when Kevin Horn did a spur of the moment training on CPR (the new version). After the meeting I got to thinking that having an AED in the club house or on the airport premises would be a great thing. When I looked into it, I was surprised to see that the cost was between \$1500 and \$2000 - out of our EAA's budget range. Long story short, through one of Jeff Spears balloon pilots Sean, the idea was proposed to Jeff. An AED is now on its way to the airport and will be installed around the airport office in the next couple of weeks. THANK YOU, JEFF! This is a wonderful safety upgrade for everyone. I hope we never have to use it!



Finally, on another happy note, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sindy Mikkelsen and Tim Bloodgood who got married on October 18 in Oregon, roughly half way between Seattle and the Bay Area. Unfortunately, no one from the Board was able to make it up there to attend. I am betting that there was a very fun party afterwards, and I am

hoping they will share pictures with us. We wish them all the happiness, and hope they visit their family in Santa Rosa frequently so we can see them.

See you on Tuesday.

Robin

### **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Where to start? I really shouldn't leave this until last.

I'll get the business part out of the way by asking you all to take part in the annual Chapter survey that I'll be forwarding to members separately from the newsletter. We were able to get our gold level recognition from the national EAA for having enough members respond to the survey. We need nine out of eleven points, and the survey response gives us one of those.

I just completed the survey and it took less than ten minutes.

I want to thank Jeff Spearr, owner of Sonoma Ballooning here at Sonoma Skypark for his generosity, both for buying an AED for Skypark and for filling the propane tanks for the Chapter 1268 Saturday barbecues, at no cost to the Chapter, from his tank used for his balloon operation. Check out his website at <https://sonomaballooning.com/>

Last Saturday Roger Flores-Chacon and Aldren Domingo, our two most recent Ray scholar private pilots, gave a talk on their flight training and check rides at the Chapter 1232 breakfast meeting at Scanlon Aviation at Gness Field in Novato.

Roger and Aldren were able to get their scholarships because Chapter 1268 partnered with Chapter 1232 and the Napa Aviation Explorers to qualify for two additional matching funds scholarship through 1232. Chapter 1268 administered the scholarships and the Aviation Explorers use some grant funding to provide the matching funds.

Kristen Gregory, Post Advisor for the Aviation Explorers, was there to see Roger and Aldren receive their private pilot Ray scholar polo shirts and pins. The Chapter 1232 members in attendance gave a warm, rousing welcome to Roger and Aldren. We will all be working together again to provide two more scholarships for 2026.



Aldren and Roger with their shirts and pins.

Rick Beach hosted their talks, then gave an excellent presentation on accident causes and solutions based on data collected from the Cirrus organization and public records. Scanlon Aviation is the premier west coast Cirrus service and training center. I asked Rick to join us next year to present his program at one of our meetings.

Pat Scanlon suggested that our Ray scholars might be able to use his flight simulators to continue their instrument and commercial license training. I'll be checking with him to see how that might be accomplished.

Robin, Ray and I met with the technology instructors at Sonoma Valley High School recently with the goal of spreading the word to our local high school students that we have youth-oriented programs to help young people pursue an interest and career in aviation. We told them about the Young Eagles program, the Ray scholarships and the Pietenpol building project at Sonoma Skypark.

We've had local high school students working on the Pietenpol project, but they have graduated and gone on the college. Hopefully,

we'll get a new crew of eager young people out at Skypark to continue the project.

See you at the meeting tomorrow.  
Darrel

### **EAA 1268 TREASURER REPORT** **November 2025**

The Treasurer's Report is as follows.

Checking	\$2023.01
Savings	\$19,266.69
CD	\$20,554.31

#### **Deposits:**

Sat. Burgers	\$1672.00 (This includes September's proceeds of \$900)
Donations	\$10.00
Dues	\$60.00

#### **Expenditures:**

Lindsay Bennett	\$228.72 (Sept. Mtg. Dinner Re-imbursement)
Mike Smith Aviation	\$1498.84 (Ray Scholar, Alex Gosselin flight training)
Culligan Water	\$2300.00 (Deposit for Clubhouse water purifier installation)
Darrel Jones	\$659.95 (Receipts submitted thru 10/6/25)

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 Day for this month is Sunday, November 9, and it was another barn-burner. Eagles ride, and were able to fly most of them with eight pilots. Thanks to Robin Tatman, Steve Crawford, George Belden, George Bachich, Ken Callander, Mark Shackford, Paul Hollingworth and Rick Palumbo for making it possible to get that many flights in, and to Gretchen McDougal for handling the sometimes-frantic registration process. We



have families showing up at 8:00 am to get in line for a ride, with many coming from miles around.



Roger Flores-Chacon conducting ground school at Young Eagles last Sunday.

Ligia Booker helped again with registration and brought pastries donated by Lucky market here in Sonoma this month. Calvin Wojciechowski was there again keeping an eye on the ramp to keep people from being shredded by a propeller. The Napa Aviation Exploders set up an information table and conducted ground school using Bob Berwick's 1926 Travel Air biplane.

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](mailto:gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com) or me at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com).

### **SKYPARK CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Friday December 12, in Hangar N3, same as the past two years. 5:30 pm appetizers and beverages. 7:00 pm dinner. Please bring a dish to share. If your last name begins with:

- A through G: Green salad or pasta salad
- H through L: Hot dish
- M through R: Dessert
- S through Z: Appetizers

Skypark will provide ham, turkey, and beverages. We suggest you bring an unwrapped

child's gift for the Schell-Vista Fire Department Toy Collections.

We need volunteers for setup, serving, and cleanup. RSVP and/or volunteer directly to Robin Tatman [robntat@aol.com](mailto:robntat@aol.com) (707) 853-2220

### **CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT**

Ray Gallarate and his niece Mia are working on the elevator control cables. Come out Saturday and join us to see the progress.

### **SATURDAY BARBECUE**

Rony and his enthusiastic crew of Saturday coordinators, 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, Rony, Marsi, Julia, Robin, Ilario 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

Human factors engineering is the study of how humans and machines interact to improve safety, efficiency and performance. The human-machine dynamic is a constantly evolving relationship that changes as technology advances.

As we continue our discussion about different elements of human factors, I want to emphasize the importance of these factors, and reiterate the importance of not only recognizing these factors as they relate to us as aviators, but emphasize that at the end of each discussion we should discuss mitigating strategies as well.

While our discussions need to be relatable and applied to our general aviation flying, some of my illustrations and examples will come from commercial aviation. There are a couple reasons for this: first, commercial aviation has the deep pockets to invest money in human factors research, and second, according to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), human factors are causal in 25% of commercial accidents, but are causal in 70% of general aviation accidents. While the two types of flying have some significant differences, we need to take the opportunity to recognize and implement some of the strategies employed in commercial that are applicable to our flying.

With that foundation, let's get into our next human factors topic: communication.

Communication seems like such a basic concept. After all, we have been talking since we were two years old...not quite so fast! While talking is the physical act of uttering words, communication is the broader process of creating and exchanging meaningful messages that are understood by both the sender and receiver. In aviation, a miscommunication can be critical, and even the difference between life and death. Whether we are operating in non-tower environments, or communicating at some of the busiest commercial airports in the world, the techniques for effective communication remain the same:

Use clear language: Avoid ambiguous or vague terms. Use clear, explicit aviation phraseology that everyone understands. A good source of proper phraseology is the Airman's Information Manual (AIM).

Practice Active Listening: Ensure that you are actively listening. Don't make assumptions. If there is any doubt about the communication...clarify. I use the phrase "say again" on a regular basis to clear up any ambiguity.

Visualize communication: use communications to maintain your situational awareness. Use the communications to/from other aircraft to determine how it might affect your aircraft and your decision-making process.

Summarize and confirm: Repeat critical instructions to confirm understanding, especially for unusual or complex clearances.

Document complex messages: don't rely on your memory for complex messages. Write down clearances or instructions to ensure compliance.

Until our next human factors topic next month, please discuss and learn from each other's experiences, mistakes and lessons learned to incorporate mitigation strategies into our aviation planning and execution.

### **IMC/VMC CLUB**

The EAA Chapter 1268 IMC/VMC club is still looking for additional members. Let me know if you want to belong to this exclusive group. They even let me join.

This Month's Question:

Question: What does it mean to be established on an instrument approach?

The answer to the September question:

Question: You're flying a personal aircraft under Part 91 and wish to carry some fireworks

that will be used for celebration at a private party. Can you legally transport the fireworks in your airplane?

Answer: No. According to FAA's General Operations (Part 91), "Private pilots can carry dangerous goods for personal use aboard their personal aircraft without being regulated, as long as they are not transporting it in commerce (i.e., in furtherance of a commercial enterprise)." However, fireworks are prohibited from being transported by air as they are classified as explosive hazardous materials under 49 CFR Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMRs). HMRs are applicable to all pilots and flight operations.

### **GROUND SCHOOLS**

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.

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 are signing up our celebrity chefs for 2026 so let us know which month you would like to take to provide dinner for our regular meeting.

Hot dogs, chili or pizza are perfectly fine. Our meal coordinator is Cindy Mikkelsen at [sindymikkelsen@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com) so I can include you in the newsletter dinner schedule.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cooks/M Meal
<b>2025 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>	
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 and Darrel – roast turkey with all the trimmings
DEC12	XMAS PARTY
Standby	Costco?

### **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](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com) so we can get your program or speaker information into the newsletter.

Month	Speaker/Member/Subject
<b>2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>	
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
11/8	Estrella Warbirds Wings & Wheels- Paso Robles, 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
12/12	Skypark Xmas Party
12/13- 14	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
1/1/26	New Years Day
Every <b><u>Saturday Noon to 1:00 pm</u></b> Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

### **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

October 14, 2025

#### Board of Directors Meeting

Present: President Robin Tatman, Vice  
President Darrel Jones, Treasurer Ray  
Gallarate, Secretary Nelleke Cooper,

The Board Meeting was called to order by  
President Robin Tatman at 6:25 pm.

Robin and Ray discussed inquiring with  
different banks as to obtain higher returns on

our saving and CD accounts as well as reducing  
fees for cash deposits. Several banks with  
lesser costs don't have offices and operate only  
online, which eliminates cash deposits.

Darrel, Ray and Robin set up an appointment  
with technical instructors from Sonoma Valley  
High School to promote interest in our  
programs, especially help with building the  
Pietenpol. They will also discuss for our  
Chapter to be present at the High School Career  
Day.

With the winter upon us Darrel has committed  
to overhauling our gas heaters and making sure  
they are in working condition.

The Skypark Internet connection has not been  
functioning in the Clubhouse. Darrel obtained  
the hardware to set up the Internet connection  
needed in our building.

Further discussion as to the findings of the  
Culligan inspection of our water system and the  
necessity to improving the purity of the water.  
Darrel and Ray will also have to make some  
modifications to our plumbing.

The Board brainstormed on the idea of a Thank  
You gift to Marily Siebert for her invaluable  
contributions setting up and overseeing the  
highly successful Saturday BBQ's. Marilyn is  
stepping back but will be available if needed  
and Ronny has agreed to take over her position.

Board Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm

General Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

Robin thanked Lindsay Bennett for the  
delicious dinner of pulled pork sandwiches,  
coleslaw, with cookies and ice cream for  
dessert. She also thanked Jeff Spears for his  
donation to fill our propane tanks.

There were several parents and guests of the  
Air Academy students.



Ray reported the Treasury report will be in the newsletter.

Excellent Presentations for the evening were given by Air Academy attendees:

Common favorite themes were: Flying in B-47 helicopter, flying in the Red Bird Simulator, tig welding, building aileron wing ribs, staying in the Air Academy lodge, walking around Air Venture, getting a deeper understanding of aviation and making new friends with same interests.

Retired Fire Fighter Kevin Horn pointed out the importance of administering timely Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). He explained that during the first 15 years of his career, they didn't save patients. With CPR the recovery rate increased to 50%. He brought a mannequin and showed each one of us how to put our hands together and push on the victim's chest while timing ourselves with "Staying Alive."

**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 MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, 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**