



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268  
Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East, B-5  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
MARCH 2026



AVRO AVIAN 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:** Marsi Allard, 415-686-5254  
**BOD:** Mark Shackford, 707-363-3166  
**Web editor/Young Eagles:** Gretchen McDougall [gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com](mailto:gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com)  
**Speaker coordinator:** Kimberly Sanders Smith, [flywithsmith@gmail.com](mailto:flywithsmith@gmail.com) 916-607-4023

**Dinner coordinator:** Cindy Mikkelsen  
[sindymikkelsen@att.net](mailto:sindymikkelsen@att.net)  
**Saturday barbecue Chair:** Rony Kurniawan,  
[rony.kurniawan@gmail.com](mailto:rony.kurniawan@gmail.com)  
**Building/Newsletter:** Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382, [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com)  
**Membership Chair:** position currently open  
**Flight Advisor:** Steve Silver,  
[skyparksteven@gmail.com](mailto:skyparksteven@gmail.com)  
**Pietenpol Chairperson:** Yayoi West, 707-364-9257

**Pietenpol Build Team Leader:** position currently open

### **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

This month's meeting is this Tuesday, March 10. 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 Robin and Darrel (again) and will be spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and dessert.

Our program will be a presentation by Jeff Rose, dentist and aircraft restorer, and Reno Air Race Biplane category racer. Jeff runs and coaches aircraft fabric work in Rio Linda CA.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

Hi everybody!

It's so lovely to hear people complaining about having to mow their lawns so much again. Spring has sprung!

First of all, please put Saturday May 16, 2026 on your calendars. EAA 1268 and Flying Tails are going to do a joint fundraiser at Sonoma Skypark to benefit our two nonprofits. Ken Wayne will be bringing their Cessna 421 to showcase along with animals from the wildlife rescue and some of our local rescues. There will be live music, food, vintage cars, and airplanes on display, ice cream truck, silent auction, tethered balloon rides (wind

permitting) and more. We will be closing the airport at 10:00 so that Jeff can finish up his balloon rides for the day and we can set up. Tentative hours are going to be 12 to 5.

We could really use everybody's help! If you know of folks that would like to be there to promote their business or have fun activities like face painting for example, please let us know. We haven't had a family fun day in several years and it is exciting to have a community event that showcases our beautiful little airport and benefits two great nonprofit groups that give back to our communities. Stay tuned!

Unfortunately, I have a conflict on Tuesday and won't be at our meeting. Darrel could really use some help with dinner. We don't have a scheduled chef for this Tuesday so if anybody can show up a little bit early and help him put it together that would be much appreciated.

For the first time ever, we have more Ray scholar applicants than we have scholarships. We will be meeting later in the month to interview all of our applicants and decide who gets the slots. Very exciting!

Happy flying!  
Robin

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

I have just a few items this month. First, we have two applicants for the Air Academy scholarships, RJ Reynolds and Dane Miller. RJ attended the Air Academy last year and Dane travelled to Air Venture with Sindy Mikkelsen and Tim Bloodgood.

We have five qualified applicants, as well as one from 2025, for the Ray scholarships, \$12,000 each, toward their private pilot flight training. The Board will schedule interviews later this month or in April. Our current Ray scholar, Jack Laipply, should be ready for his private check ride this month.

Robin organized AED training in the clubhouse with Ryan McCracken and Dane from the Schellvista Fire Department. It was well attended and we now have more people at Skypark who know how to use the automatic external defibrillator donated to Skypark by Jeff Spearr from Sonoma Ballooning.



AED training in the clubhouse

Chapter 1268 received word that we have achieved gold level chapter recognition from the national EAA. You will see another gold banner hanging in the clubhouse soon! Thanks to everyone who made this possible, especially our officers and volunteers who contribute so much of their time.



Jack Laipply receiving his Lightspeed ANR headset from President Robin Tatman.

Thanks,  
Darrel

## EAA 1268 TREASURER REPORT March 2026

The Treasurer's report is as follows...

Checking	\$1860.85
Savings	\$24,615.80
CD	\$20,823.69

The CD has been rolled over for another 6 months at 4.0%.

### Deposits:

Donations	\$55.68
February Mtg.	\$145.00 Thank you to Robin Tatman for donating the dinner proceeds!
Dues	\$215.00
Burgers	\$862.00
EAA ACH	\$5400.00 Ray Scholarship funds for Jack Laipply flight training.

### Expenses:

Robin Tatman	\$176.49 Clubhouse and burger supplies.
Mike Smith Aviation	\$5403.50 Ray Scholar Jack Laipply flight instruction.
Culligan Water	\$69.00 Monthly service fee.

Membership Dues are being accepted for 2026! Contact me if you are unsure of your membership status. Please send your dues to the address below or see me at the January meeting!

EAA Chapter 1268  
PO Box 234  
Vineburg, CA. 95487

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

### YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day for this month is Sunday, March 8. Last month was a challenge in a couple respects. First, we couldn't start until 10:30 because of fog. The second was that because of some of our volunteer pilots being out of town, their airplanes being down for annual or maintenance or other issues, we only

had George Bachich to fly. He put in two flights, but we cancelled the rest of the Young Eagles for the month.

It looks as if we will have a similar challenge this month, with only three pilots currently available. Compared to November and January, when we had nine and ten pilots, this month will be a bit thin.

We are letting the Young Eagles and parents know that we are short of pilots when they arrive, and we will prioritize first-time Young Eagles first. If you have your Youth Protection training and background check done and current, please join us Sunday before 9 for the pilot briefing and we'll get a few more kids into the air.

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).

### **CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT**

The Chapter 1268 Pietenpol building project is currently on hold until we find another Build Team leader and some young people to take part. Please let us know if you are eager to scratch your airplane building itch.

### **SATURDAY BARBECUE**

Robin, Marsi, Rony, Julia and Ilario 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 our priceless volunteers 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

Last month we discussed the human factors topic of Distractions. How distractions are a subtle, yet powerful contributor to human error. They interrupt attention, break task flow, and increase the likelihood of mistakes.

As we continue our human factors discussion for the next few months, let's move on to the threat of lack of teamwork.

In the high-stakes world of aviation, safety is rarely the product of a single, isolated action. It is the result of a complex, interconnected system where pilots, air traffic controllers, and maintenance personnel work together. However, one of the most critical, yet frequently overlooked human factors in aviation safety is the lack of teamwork. A lack of teamwork compromises safety by allowing minor errors to cascade into catastrophic events.

Aviation is a team sport. Even when a technician works alone on an engine or a pilot acts as pilot-flying, their work is implicitly linked to others. A lack of teamwork isn't just about personal disagreements; it refers to a breakdown in cooperation, communication, and mutual support.

Effective teamwork ensures that:

- Safety nets are in place: Multiple sets of eyes catch errors before they become accidents.
- Information is shared: Key information regarding aircraft status or operational hazards is not hoarded or lost.
- Roles are clear: Everyone understands their responsibilities, reducing confusion in emergencies.

A lack of teamwork rarely stems from a desire to be unsafe. Instead, it is usually a product of organizational, cultural, or personal factors, including:

- Cultural Hierarchies A, rigid, authoritarian culture where junior members are afraid to speak up or challenge the decisions of a senior leader.
- Conflicting Priorities: Departments or groups of individuals acting in silos. For instance, maintenance focusing on speed over quality, or cliques within the organization acting in their own self-interests.
- Lack of Trust and Respect: When team members do not respect each other's expertise, they are less likely to collaborate effectively.
- Poor Communication: Vague, ambiguous, or incomplete information sharing between team members.

A lack of teamwork has played a significant role in numerous aviation incidents.

- Fatal DC-8 Charter Crash: (1991) Maintenance teams failed to communicate effectively with the flight crew regarding a low-tire pressure issue, leading to a fatal accident.
- Air France Flight 447 (2009): Poor coordination and ineffective teamwork among the pilots during a stall scenario resulted in a loss of situational awareness and 228 fatalities.
- Asiana Airlines Flight 214 (2013): A breakdown in crew coordination regarding automation and standard operating procedures (SOPs) during approach led to a fatal crash in San Francisco.

In our General Aviation flight environment and interaction in EAA events, communication and a teamwork will enable us to create a safe

operating environment where individualism is replaced by a team mentality where we all support each other and work toward our common goals.

We can mitigate the risks associated with a lack of teamwork by ensuring everyone is working toward the same objective—safe completion of the mission. We accomplish this by encouraging all team members to speak up when they see something. Additionally, regular debriefings are vital to review performance and improve future collaboration.

Lack of teamwork is a potent, silent, killer in aviation. It breaks the chain of safety and can turn preventable errors into tragedies. By acknowledging this human factor and actively fostering a culture of communication and mutual respect, aviation professionals can ensure they are not just working together in the same place, but working together safely.

### **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 knowledgeable group.

This Month's Question:

Besides airframe icing, what types of icing must a pilot be aware of when operating in conditions of visible moisture?

The February question:

You've recently had a cold and were taking a twice daily over-the-counter (OTC) medication to relieve sinus congestion that could cause drowsiness. How long should you wait after taking this medication before flying?

Answer:

According to the FAA Medical Facts for Pilots safety brochure on medications for flying, you should wait "5 times the maximal pharmacological half-life of the medication; or 5-times the maximal hour dose interval if half-life information is not available. For example, there is a 30-hour wait time for medication that

is taken every 4 to 6 hours." In this case, with a medication that can only be taken once every 12 hours, you should wait 2-1/2 days (60 hours) after the last dose before flying.

According to this reference, other types of medications that require a 5-times wait time for the effects of the medication to wear off include:

- Allergy medications
- Muscle relaxants
- OTC dietary supplements
- Pain medications
- Pre-medication or Pre-procedure drugs
- Sleep aids
- Any medication, Over the Counter (OTC) that carries a label or precaution warning that it may cause drowsiness or advises the user to be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery.

For a list of OTC medications that pilots can take and still be safe to fly, go to [FAA.gov/go/pilotmeds](http://FAA.gov/go/pilotmeds).

### **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, or 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.

### **2026 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/Meal
<b>2026 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Darrel and Robin – roast chicken, potato and green salad, dessert
FEB	Robin and Darrel – lasagna salad garlic bread and dessert
MAR	Darrel and Robin – spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread and dessert
APR	Marsi Allard – meatloaf, roasted vegetables with potatoes, dessert
MAY	The Schakes and Bookers - carnitas
JUN	?
JUL	Darrel- barbecue chicken and sausage, salad, dessert
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	Costco?

### **SPEAKERS**

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. Kimberly Smith has generously volunteered to be our speaker coordinator, so let her know you have a presentation for our Chapter or know someone else who does.

Contact Kimberly at [flywithsmith@gmail.com](mailto:flywithsmith@gmail.com) or 916-607-4023, 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>2026 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>	
JAN	Headset presentation to Ray scholars, update report
FEB	Ben Marsh, notable restorer and aviation writer
MAR	Jeff Rose, aircraft restorer, Reno Air Race Biplane category racer
APR	Shannon Swager, military display aircraft patented smoke generators
MAY	?
JUN	?
JUL	?
AUG	?
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

### **2026 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

Send me any exciting, thrilling, terrifying or just plain fun events you have for the calendar for 2026.

DATE	EVENT
3/7-8	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day – 12 to 4 pm
3/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am
3/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
3/14-15	NAF El Centro Air Show
3/21-22	Lemoore Air Show
4/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
4/11-12	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day – 12 to 4 pm
4/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
4/12-13	March Field Airshow
4/14-19	Sun ‘n Fun, Lakeland, FL

4/25-26	Wings Over Solano- Travis AFB, Fairfield
4/26	Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show- Half Moon Bay, CA
TBA	Estrella Warbirds Wings & Wheels- Paso Robles, CA
5/9-10	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
5/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
5/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
5/15-17	Oregon Int’l Air Show- Hillsboro, OR
5/16	Flying Tails benefit open house at Sonoma Skypark
6/6-7	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
6/7	Young Eagles 9:30 am
6/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/21	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA
TBA	Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee
7/11-12	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
7/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
7/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/16-19	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/20-26	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
8/8-9	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
8/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am
8/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/14-16	Oregon Int’l Airshow- McMinnville, OR
8/15-16	Wings Over Camarillo Airshow
9/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
9/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am
9/25-27	MCAS Miramar Air Show- San Diego, CA
9/26-27	California Int’l Airshow- Salinas, CA
TBA	Wings Over Wine Country
9/12-13	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA

10/9-11	San Francisco Fleet Week- San Francisco, CA
10/10-11	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
10/10-11	California Capital Air Show- Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA
10/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/17	Food Truck Fly-In, San Martin
TBA	Planes of Fame Air Show- Chino, CA
11/7-8	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
11/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am
11/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
12/?	Skypark Xmas Party
12/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
1/1/27	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every <b><u>Saturday Noon to 1:00 pm</u></b> Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

### **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

Board of Directors Meeting  
February 10, 2026

Present: President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Board of Directors: Mark Shackford.

The Board meeting was called to order by President Robin Tatman at 6:00 pm.

Robin reported on the planning meeting with Ken Wayne and Luis Rivas from Flying Tails animal rescue. They will have another meeting on 2/21. They are planning a benefit airport open house on May 16 at Sonoma Skypark.

Saturday burgers were discussed concerning the increase in the cost of beef and other supplies. It was decided to leave the pricing the same for now.

Ray reported that Venmo is working again for the Saturday barbecue. He also reported that the CD has rolled over at 4%.

Darrel reported on the 2026 Air Academy and Ray scholarship applications. The deadline for Air Academy scholarship applications is February 28. Chapter 1268 provides full scholarships covering tuition, room, board and travel expenses to Air Academy participants.

The Chapter has more Ray scholar applicants than available scholarships this year, so the board will conduct interviews to pick the best candidates for the \$12,000 Ray scholarships. The Chapter 1268 contribution is \$3,000 in matching funds.

The business meeting was adjourned at 6:50. Dinner was provided by Robin and Darrel and consisted of lasagna, green salad, garlic bread and dessert of flan and cake.

The Membership Meeting was called to order by President Robin Tatman at 7:30 pm.

Robin gave the members a report on the items discussed in the business meeting. She then presented a Lightspeed headset to Jack Laipply, the current Chapter 1268 scholar, who has both soloed and passed his written exam. Jack should be ready for his checkride in March.

The speaker was Ben Marsh, a long-time vintage and warbird restorer who has had extensive experience at the Reno Air Races. He had a wonderful slide presentation showing some of the unlimited racers he worked on at Reno. Ben has a local connection from Sonoma Valley/Schellville Airport.

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

Jan Wheadon originally gave this to me. Take a look and let us know what you would like to bring. I'm sure Costco has other meals that would be great. Chapter 1268 reimburses our cooks for their expenses at the meeting.

### A Dozen Easy Dinner Menus

How much to buy? You are aiming for 30 servings –

1. Costco Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Salad, Bread and Butter, Ice Cream (aka the Norm Special)
2. Sliced ham; heat and serve macaroni and cheese casserole; green salad; bread and butter; cookies
3. Costco frozen meatballs in a bag heated up in gourmet spaghetti sauce from a jar; bow tie pasta; green salad; bread and butter; cookies
4. Sloppy Joes, green salad, dessert
5. Baked potatoes with toppings: grated cheese, sour cream, canned chili heated up, sliced green onions; green salad; dessert
6. Chili beans with corn bread; green salad; ice cream
7. A variety of pre-cooked sausages, heated up on your grill at home; Costco potato salad; sauerkraut from a jar; rolls and butter; green salad; dessert
8. Pre-made lasagna from Costco; salad; bread and butter; dessert
9. Salad Bar – good for a warm evening: Anything goes: Tuna salad, egg salad, chicken salad, sliced deli meats, macaroni salad, potato salad, any other salad from a deli; bread and butter; green salad; cheese cake for dessert
10. Sandwich Bar – Also good for a warm evening: sliced deli meats, sliced cheeses, sliced tomatoes and onions, lettuce, sliced bread or rolls, mayonnaise, pickles, mustard. Something chocolate and decadent for dessert.
11. Nachos -- Heat up a huge can each of : bean less chili, nacho cheese, refried beans, black beans and corn. Put a large bag of Cost Co tortilla chips out. Also have: grated cheese, chunky salsa (two different kinds) sour cream, hot sauce, chopped green onions, sliced olives. Ice cream for dessert.
12. Birds Eye Garlic Chicken – Complete meal in a bag from Costco; green salad; bread and butter; dessert



Been there, done that...



This also...

**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 TO **PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2026**, OR MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: EAA 1268, PO BOX 234, VINEBURG, CA 95487-0234.

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**REMEMBER! THE MARCH MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, MARCH 10 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**