

# SONOMA SKYPARK NEWS

## MARCH 2014

**AIRPORT HAPPENINGS** - The first big rain storm of our wet season greened everything up around the airport and in the hills. The wet weather slowed down the flying activity on some days but **Ben Presten** was able to solo their Champ on his sixteenth birthday, Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup>. Ben had to finish school that day before he could jump in the Champ and show his instructor **Andy Smith** that he had the skills to solo that day. Armed with Andy's endorsement he took off proudly in front of his parents and the gathering airport crowd to perform three excellent take offs and landings. Those of us at the airport were lucky to share in Ben's wonderful birthday dessert made by his mom, Debbie Presten. I want to say CONGRATULATIONS and thanks for sharing your big accomplishment, Ben.

**Jim Clark & Jerry Gustafson** continue to make good progress on the restoration of **John Thomason's** Piper PA-18 in hangar L-3. **Scott Thomason** was at Skypark Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> giving rides in John's RV-9 to his mother-in-law, wife Jessica, brother and his brother's girlfriend. It was a warm Sunday afternoon, just perfect for rides. Scott & Jessica's 4 month old beautiful little daughter was mostly enjoying being passed around while daddy flew. Scott starts his airline career with **Southwest Airlines** today! Yesterday **Kyle Cooper** re-started his airline career returning to **United Airlines**. Last month Kyle's sister, **Kirsten Cooper Dahm** returned to United Airlines after a long furlough. **Josh Brownell** another Skypark alumni re-started his airline career with **Atlas Air**, cargo airline on February 24. I'm always happy to learn that the young pilots of Sonoma Skypark are enjoying careers that they prepared for here at our airport.

**Arve Kvistad** visited Skypark with his wife and three children in the middle of February from Norway. Almost 20 years ago Arve was a newly licensed flight instructor working at our airport. He returned to Norway many years ago but always stayed in touch. Arve is flying Boeing 737-800's for a European air carrier. **Yayoui West** made her Cessna 150 available to Arve for family rides and tours of the area. The Kvistad's said they were enjoying a "Norwegian summer" in the sun as they were getting their rides.

The community celebration of **Jeanne Williams** Life was last Saturday at the **Schell-Vista Volunteer Fire Station**. The wind was too strong for our planned "Missing Women" formation but the rain held off so the standing room only crowd was able to attend a very nice service sponsored by the Volunteer Fire personal and Jeanne's close friends. She was a long time member of The Sonoma Valley Chorale so they performed a very moving musical tribute in

honor of their friend. A very nice luncheon was served and friends from a well lived life were able to linger in conversation.

**Saturday Bar-B-Que** – We will resume the Hamburger and Hot Dog menu this Saturday at noon in the Skypark Club House. We serve from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm. \$5.00 covers your choice plus a drink, chips and a cookie. Profits go to sending young people to the EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**Special Guest to Visit Sonoma Skypark** EAA Chapter 1268 will be hosting **EAA Vice President, Jeff Skiles** on Monday night, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. Jeff Skiles is on an EAA Grassroots Tour of EAA chapters around the country gathering and disseminating information to make EAA a better organization. This meeting is open to everyone, member or not of EAA. Please RSVP the airport office if you plan to attend to help us with our planning. Phone 707-996-2100. EAA members will be receiving separate notices of this meeting.

### **Airport Calendar**

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|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March</b> | <b>8 &amp; 9</b> | <b>Display days for historical aircraft from noon to 4 pm.</b>                                                                           |
| <b>March</b> | <b>9</b>         | <b>Young Eagle flights for youth age 8 to 17. Flights start at 9 pm and continue until noon. Come to the airport and fly or help out</b> |
| <b>March</b> | <b>11</b>        | <b>EAA Chapter 1268 meeting at 7 pm. Dinner and drinks are \$6.00, Everyone is welcome.</b>                                              |
| <b>March</b> | <b>28</b>        | <b>Movie night. Movies &amp; popcorn are free. Pizza &amp; drink are \$5.</b>                                                            |
| <b>March</b> | <b>31</b>        | <b>Jeff Skiles EAA Grassroots Tour. Social at 6 pm program at 7 pm</b>                                                                   |

**Tailwinds, Ron Price**



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