



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95476

NOVEMBER 2016



THE MEETING IS ON ELECTION NIGHT, SO MAYBE WE SHOULD  
TALK ABOUT THIS PILOT'S CAR DASHBOARD.

We wouldn't want to lose old friends talking about politics, would we?

## **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President/AE: Robin Tatman, 707-853-2220  
Vice President: Don Booker, 707-938-9461  
Secretary: Marsi Fahraji, 415-686-5254  
Treasurer: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901  
Membership: Bill Wheadon, 707-224-3901  
Young Eagles: BK White, 707-996-1335  
BOD: Jeanette Woods, 707-996-4563  
BOD: Paul Seibert, 707-939-7491  
BOD/Building: Darrel Jones, 707-996-4494

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The November meeting is this **Tuesday, November 8**. 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 \$6.00 per person. Our chefs for the month will be, once again, Bill and Jan Wheadon.

Our speaker will be Dr. Ann Kottler, AME.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS THIS MONTH**

We had nominations for officers last month and will have elections after asking for any additional nominations from the floor at this meeting.

Nominated are:

President: Robin Tatman

Vice President: Don Booker

Secretary: Nelleke Cooper

Treasurer: Bill Wheadon

Marsi Fahraji has agreed to keep helping the Chapter by serving on the Board of Directors. The other Directors are Paul Siebert, Jeanette Woods and Darrel Jones. We have flexibility on the Board concerning the number of Directors in the Chapter, so if you would like to join us let us know.

The Board of Directors will also discuss distribution of the Family Fun Day proceeds to the Sonoma Mentoring Alliance and the Aviation Explorers. The net receipts were \$1145 this year.

### **EAA 1268 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER REPORT** November 2016

**Membership Report** - This month's membership report will feature my occasional member profile article which this month features one of our somewhat new members, **Ron Willis**. You've probably seen Ron if you've spent any time around the Sonoma Skypark Airport, usually in the company of John Thomason. I decided to feature Ron after speaking to his wife at Jack's wine cave dinner in September when she told me of his single-minded pursuit of a private pilot license. I asked Ron to give me a bio to aid in my writing this article. Below is his submission which I was able to reproduce with only minor editorial changes:

Ron Willis (the other Ron)

I was born in Newport, Oregon and was raised in Lincoln City, Oregon. After High School I went to California to work in the TV and stereo business where I repaired them at home and in the shop.

I received a college education in electronics and was drafted in 1966 by Uncle Sam for the Army (100,000 people were drafted every month). I was transferred to Germany and ended up in Belgium (just lucky as most were going to Vietnam). I was one of ten Army personnel with a secret clearance that monitored messages on a microwave system. Yes, there were nuclear weapons on the base. After the Army and some more college I went back to California to work in the TV repair business but the company folded after 15 years. I then went to work for a cable company and ended up a Supervisor for 25 years - after 31 years I retired in 2014.



One of the people I worked with was Calvin Wojciechowski and he introduced me to Skypark and John Thomason (and so many

more). I helped rebuild the 1954 Super Cub that John now owns. I received encouragement from many to get my private license. Thanks to John and others I am now soloing and ready to finish up. I can't forget to thank Richard Craig who is my CFI. The most discouraging thing is that pilots say that I will only use about 20% of the information that I've been learning. Editor's note- *Ron--you'll be continuing to learn more new information and skills as your flying endeavors proceed.* I have now been to Oshkosh 3 times and all I can say is that it is an experience everyone should enjoy.

At SkyPark, I have never met a friendlier bunch of people. They go out of the way to help and are always friendly. There are so many great stories, and knowledge that they share. The EAA for Young Eagles is amazing and the pilots who donate time and their aircraft are great. This has increased my interest in aviation. I could not have wished for a better place to spend some of my retirement years. Thank you all - Ron

**Treasurer Report** This month's checking account income and expenditures almost balanced, with a check written to the EAA Air Academy of \$1200 for 2017 tuition countered by three donations totaling \$1183 to the Air Academy. Our current account balance is \$9680.88.

That's all for now – see you at the meeting.  
Bill

### YOUNG EAGLES

Hey Darrel: Usual pitch, need help etc. etc. Might also mention that this will be the LAST Young Eagles event for this year. Nov. 13th. Have fun B.K.

As always BK White is looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events. Let him know you will be joining us and helping out by sending him an email to [eagle1@vom.com](mailto:eagle1@vom.com) or by calling him at 707-996-1335.

Marsi tallied our Young Eagles flights for the year. The following is the score so far.

### THANKS TO ALL PILOTS & GROUND CREW:

Bill Wheadon, 18 flights  
Tim Bloodgood, 11 flights  
Frank Russo, 15 flights  
Bill Sommers, 6 flights (need 4 more)  
Ron Price, 16 flights  
Leon Scarbrough, 18 flights  
Kirsten Dahm, 5 flights (need 5 more)  
Walt Eastland, 24 flights  
Jim Lachendro, 3 flights (need 7 more)  
Kyle Cooper, 5 flights (need 5 more)

TOTAL FLIGHTS FROM JAN-OCT = 121

### AIR EXPLORER UPDATE

The latest on Air Explorers -

Since we cancelled the camping trip last month, I have been working to secure more volunteer airplane seats for the Explorers. I will have something concrete to report on next month.

Congratulations are in order for William Schoeffler, currently our oldest Air Explorers.

He is our second (after Daniel Shulte) to get his Private Pilots license. I am really pleased about that, and all of you Young Eagles volunteers should too - all those rides and friendly, encouraging faces of yours really lit a fire under him to make that rating happen before he graduated from high school. Thanks to all of you for your wonderful enthusiasm!

I am also very excited that he has decided to apply to the Air Force Academy as his number one choice for colleges. I just finished a letter of recommendation for him last week.

At our next meeting this Sunday I am hoping to nail down a date either the last weekend of November or sometime in December before

Christmas to schedule a day fly out either to Columbia, Half Moon Bay, or Sac Exec.

I had a nice conversation with John last week, and work on the Tri-Pacer is progressing, and hopefully the airplane will be up and running in the next 2 months. More good things are coming!

As always, thank you so much for all of your support!

Robin

### AIR ACADEMY 2017

This came in from the Air Academy office in Oshkosh:

We received EAA Chapter 1268's reservations for the EAA Air Academy along with the \$1200 deposit. You have 2 places reserved in each of the following camps:

- Basic Air Academy Camp Session 2 from June 26-July 1, 2017
- Advanced Air Academy Camp Session 1 from July 18-26, 2017
- Advanced Air Academy Camp Session 2 from July 28-August 5, 2017

Thank you for all you do to help youth experience the joy of aviation.

Scott Cameron

I will try to have the applications for Chapter 1268 scholarships out in the next week since we have moved our application deadline up a month to January 31, 2017.

### MOVIE NIGHT AT SKYPARK

Movie night for November will (may?) be **Saturday, November 26.**

I haven't heard from Rafe yet, so I'll let you know if the movie is on for November when I hear.

Pizza is always available for \$5 per person, including beverages, and complimentary

popcorn just to whet your appetite (or spoil it), courtesy of Walt Lewis and his Amazing Real Movie Theater Popcorn Popping Extravaganza Machine.

See you at the movies on Skypark Movie Night, **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26** at 6 p.m.

### DINNER SCHEDULE

We are lining up our celebrity chefs for 2016 so let us know if you would like to be one of our famous chefs for the upcoming year. Contact Robin at [robntat@aol.com](mailto:robntat@aol.com) or 707-553-2747. You can also let me know at [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com) and I'll put you on the roster.

The schedule for NEXT year so far is:

Month	Cook	Meal
<b>2017 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>		
JAN		
FEB		
MAR		
APR		
MAY		
JUN		
JUL		
AUG		
SEP		
OCT		
NOV		
DEC	XMAS	PARTY

### SPEAKERS

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

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>2017 SPEAKER SCHEDULE</b>		
JAN	Jan Wheadon	FBO in Idaho
FEB		
MAR		
APR		

MAY		
JUN		
JUL		
AUG		
SEP		
OCT		
NOV		
DEC	J. O. Elffe	Av Presents

This from Jan:

Jeanette is doing me a favor and scanning some photos of my time helping my first husband to run an FBO in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. I thought it might be fun to riff on them for one of our EAA meetings, maybe in January or February. Let me know if you think the club would enjoy a half-hour talk on the subject.

I have a title: "Running an FBO in the Wilds of Idaho".

Thanks! Jan

Thanks Jan! (Darrel)

We also have Wayne Flower slated to talk about radio control flying, specializing in soaring for an upcoming meeting.

**2016 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

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

DATE	EVENT
11/8	1268 Meeting 7 Pm
11/13	Young Eagles 9 Am
11/26	Skypark Movie Night
12/?	XMAS party at Sonoma Skypark!
12/24	Skypark Movie Night
1/1/17	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs!	

**Bill Mason, cookie extraordinaire'**

Bill and Beth were Schellville regulars flying their Stearman "Big Red" all over the place. Bill has been to our meetings and out on a

Saturday or two. Have him tell you some stories when you see him.



**FOR SALE STUFF**

Bill Ewertz sent this over for the newsletter.

I know you have lots of tubing but now I want to sell the stuff I have. Can you put an ad in the EAA newsletter for me?

I have the following:

- 3/8 x 19.5 ft.
- 3/8 x 13.5 ft.
- 7/8 x 16.5 ft.
- 7/8 x 20.5 ft.
- 3/4 x 20.5 ft.
- 1/2 x 20.5 ft.

Asking \$350 for all but will be open to offers.

Thanks,

Bill 707-938-1465

## **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

October 11,2016

The Board of Directors' meeting was called to order by Vice President Don Booker at 6:00 pm. Present were Treasurer Bill Wheadon, Young Eagles liaison BK White, Board members Paul Siebert, Jeanette Woods and Darrel Jones.

Bill announced a fly-out to Mercy Hot Springs October 29.

Darrel updated the Board about the Air Academy scholarship program. The Board decided to move the application deadline UP TO January 31 to make it possible to interview the applicants in February.

Bill and Jan Wheadon volunteered to provide the November diner.

There will be a Nut Tree Air Fair the weekend of October 15 with Young Eagles rides and a dinner-dance Friday night.

Air Academy participant parent Gretchen McDougal has volunteered to help with the Chapter website.

BK reported that there were 19 Young Eagles flown in October by five pilots, Leon Scarborough, Frank Russo, Bill Wheadon, Kyle Cooper and Tim Bloodgood. Ground crew and registration were John Thomason, Marsi Fahraji, Colin Traynor, Ron Price and Rich Cooper.

This month will be nomination of officers for 2017.

The Christmas party will be Friday, December 2.

Family Fun Day for 2017 will be May 20. The date was chosen to avoid conflicts with local graduations and family vacations.

Robin Tatman has the paperwork necessary to start a flying club at Sonoma Skypark to provide low cost instruction for our Young Eagles and Aviation Explorers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Dinner was provided by the Aviation Explorers at to cost to the members as a thanks you for the Chapter members continuing support of the Explorers. Dinner was lasagna, salad, cobble by Rane and ice cream. Parents Bryan, Rane, Gretchen and Elke put things together with the Air Explorers helping.

The general membership meeting was called to order at 7:45 by Vice President Don Booker.

Nominations for officers were:

President: Robin Tatman

Vice President: Don Booker

Treasurer: Bill Wheadon

Secretary: Nelleke Cooper.

The officers gave their reports to the membership. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

The program was a report by Air Academy participants Heiko Gmirr, Hugo Halley, Andrew Daigle and William Schoeffler.

Then we went home after another nice meeting.

## **LONG TIME SKYPARK GUY GONE**

John (Jack) Francis Strehl, 77, passed from this earth on 9/17/16 surrounded by his brother, Brian, and his longtime caregiver, Yara Tikoilakeba, at his home in Sonoma after a long illness under the care of Hospice by the Bay.

Mr. Strehl was born on August 3, 1939, in Paterson, NJ. He graduated from Bergen Tech. He served in the U.S. Army with the 10th Cavalry Regiment of the 4th I.D. out of Ft. Carson, CO.

Jack spent the majority of his working life in electronic components with major OEMs,

Texas Instruments and National Semiconductor, before starting his own distribution company, Spectrum Electronics, in Northern California. He moved to Sonoma in 1998. He was instrumental in establishing the present-day Sonoma Skypark Airport. Jack had a lifelong love of planes, go-cart racing, hang gliding, and snow skiing. He owned quite a collection of planes over the years. He could often be found flying them out of Sonoma Skypark, in addition to North and South America. He enjoyed attending air shows and sponsoring and racing his T-28B at the Reno Air Races. Among his other passions later in life was flying remote-control planes at Sonoma Skypark. For about 10 years he enjoyed annual trips to Mexico with men who shared a passion for fishing. He also had a love of dogs and had four whom he loved.

He was preceded in death by his father, Francis Phillip Strehl; his mother, Mary Flynn Strehl; his ex-wife, Arlene (Daniels) Strehl; and a 9-year-old sister, Kathleen Strehl.

Survivors include his brother, Brian (Sisene) of San Andreas; two nieces – Alisha Burnes (NYC) and Alanya Anderson (San Andreas); and four nephews – Ethan Anderson (SF), Ian Anderson (SF), Devin Strehl (San Andreas), and Shae Strehl (South Lake Tahoe).

A celebration of Jack's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send

donations to: Air Explorers Post 1268, Attention: Robin Tatman, 6267 Pebble Beach Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591, in memory of Jack. Arrangements are with Duggan's Mission Chapel, 525 West Napa Street, Sonoma, CA. Cremation will follow and his ashes will be spread at a later date.



**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 2016!** SEE YOU THERE!

**REMEMBER! THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AT 7 P.M., AT THE SKYCRAFTER'S CLUBHOUSE HANGAR B-5 AT SONOMA SKYPARK AIRPORT. DINNER STARTS AT 7 PM, SO DON'T BE LATE!  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE 6 P.M. BEFORE THE MEETING**

**SKYCRAFTER 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**