



# THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter  
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport  
21870 Eighth Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95476

FEBRUARY 2017



## ROBIN AND AIR EXPLORER MOMS GETTING' TOGETHER AGAIN

Robin recently got some of our past Air Explorer and Young Eagles moms together for a little social hour. It's good to see old friends' faces once more.

Let's hope they stop by Sonoma Skypark for a visit soon.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President/AE: Robin Tatman, 707-553-2747

Vice President: Don Booker, 707-938-9461

Secretary: Nelleke Cooper, 707-938-5587

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: Marsi Fahraji, 415-686-5254

BOD/Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-  
996-4494

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

The February meeting is this **Tuesday, February 14**. 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 Bill and Jan Wheadon. They will be serving their famous chili, cornbread, salad and ice cream dinner.

Our speaker/program will be the EAA Chapter video (unless something else comes up by meeting time.)

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

**2017**

Bill will give his report at the meeting.

### **YOUNG EAGLES**

Young Eagles day is Sunday, February 12 this month. BK will have his report at the meeting this Tuesday.

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.

### **AIR EXPLORERS**

Greetings everyone-

I'm still here! Just flying out and about lately and missing Darrel's deadlines for the newsletter.

What's been going on the last few months:

In December the Air Explorers missed a fly out due to weather and lack of volunteer planes/pilots but instead got a great opportunity to see how business and flying can successfully mix. Michel Oltramare, a relatively new hangar owner at Sonoma Skypark gave the boys a tour of his recently purchased Kodiak. They got to climb in and around the airplane (which is similar in looks to a Cessna Caravan) and asked all kinds of questions about the equipment, configuration, performance, mission, etc.

Not everybody ends up becoming an airline or corporate pilot, and Michel is a great example of someone who is successfully combining his

love of flying with running his businesses - and doing it safely as well. I like to expose the Explorers to as many facets of aviation as possible, and really appreciate the time he spent showing us around.

As an added bonus, his son Cedric was there as well as Ben Presten. They gave us quite an airshow with their collection of RC airplanes. Cedric has already started flying lessons and I hope he will be another Skypark teenager to get their pilot's license before their driver's license!

Later in the month the weather improved, and on a VERY cold Sunday morning, Ron Price, Leon Scarborough, and Bill Wheadon came out and flew several Explorers. Each pilot was able to come up with an individual flight tailored to the current flight experience of each Explorer and do something new and different. Will, Mack, Heiko, and Avery all got flights that they were ecstatic about. For Will it was the first time in Ron's airplane (sporty on the take-off roll!) as well as the first flight since getting his Private license in October. That was a popular event that I hope to duplicate again when the weather looks good. Thank you again Ron, Leon, and Bill for volunteering their time and airplanes - it was very much appreciated!

For the next year, my seniority on the 747 will continue to degrade as we park airplanes - the fleet is scheduled to retire on December 31, 2017. As a result, I will have even less control over my schedule and will most likely be missing more meetings since my days off are forced into only two blocks during the month.

The Explorers and parents are stepping up to help out, and Mack Liss found a speaker for the January meeting. Our parent advisors were there to support in my absence as Marc Ashton had a previous commitment as well.

Mack invited and coordinated a Marine Recruiter who had over 20 years in the Marines as an aircraft mechanic. He talked about his career as well as what the boys need to be thinking about now in High School if they want

to pursue a career in either the military or civilian aviation. Grade point average (3.4 minimum), course selection (math and science), and even involvement in sports were discussed.

Apparently he was a great speaker and may be a good one for an upcoming EAA meeting. I'll keep you posted. And kudos to Mack Liss for arranging that as well as Bryan Liss, Deborah Waller, and Rane Daigle for their help in being there.

A blast from the past:

My involvement in the airport and Air Explorers picked up in 2012. I am on a second generation so to speak of "kids", as the first group - Daniel Shulte, Amir Fahraji, and Garrett Porter are now in their second year of college already. The youngest at the time - Ryan and Aiden are nearly seniors.

Flying full time and trying to run the Air Explorers don't always mix very well, and quite frankly I wouldn't still be doing this if it weren't for the commitment of the parents - past and current all included. Their full support and appreciation of what I try to do keeps me engaged. Getting to know them individually is an absolute pleasure.

this last year I have been missing the involvement of the original mom's (and the dad's are fab as well, but it just worked out that I spent more time with the mom's in the first few years). They are a very busy bunch of accomplished women, and I haven't wanted to lose track of them or their sons as time passes. I was finally able to get almost everyone together on January 28 at La Dolce Vida Wine Bar in Petaluma to reconnect and get an update on their boys. Gill Shulte, Margo Porter, Tina Fasano, Kelly Hennessey, and Marsi Fahraji (yes - our Marsi!) were able to come. We were just missing Connor's mom, Lynn who is now a licensed Therapist with a very busy practice. Here are their updates:

As you all know, Daniel is still very much around working at the FBO in Santa Rosa and

building flight time. He has decided not to pursue a degree in weather at the University in Reno - because it didn't have enough directly to do with flying. He has started on his instrument rating. He finished his film (which we need to talk about having a Premier), and recently moved to Sebastopol. Gill is still running a very successful day care business out of her home and has recently welcomed a new grandchild to the family.

Garret Porter is attending college in Montreal, freezing over the winters, and loving it. He is studying French and is still interested in designing and building airports. I am hoping to have him come to an EAA meeting sometime this year on a break. Margo is now living in Petaluma but still works at the farm out on the coast.

Ryan is now attending a Technical High School as of last year and is doing really well.

He is still interested in aviation and flying, but is very busy with his classes. Study groups for projects are always on Sundays which conflict with Young Eagles. I am hoping to see him at meetings a little more frequently this year.

Tina, who is still our treasurer for Air Explorers, has a crazy busy job as an accounts manager.

Aiden has decided that he loves flying, but not as a career. He has switched his focus to art and is doing very well. Kelly has taken a year off from work (she recruited Tina to work at her old company), and has been extremely busy looking after her kids and doing major fund raising for their charter school.

Amir is in his second year of college. He is currently getting general ed requirements out of the way and deciding where he wants to go from there. Marsi keeps very busy at the Law Offices where she currently works, as well as trying to keep our EAA meetings and minutes on track!

Everyone had a great time catching up - they are a fun, lively group! We've decided to make

it a regular event, and introduce members of our current group who want to join in.

What's up for February -

We have our regular meeting Sunday, February 12 after Young Eagles. There will most likely a second meeting on the 26th with more flying, a guest speaker, or tour depending on the weather. I'll report on that next month.

Robin

### **MOVIE NIGHT AT SONOMA SKYPARK**

Movie night is scheduled for **Saturday, February 25 starting at 6pm**. As always, Rafe will have a feature presentation that is sure to please.

**Free admission.** 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, February 25** at 6 p.m.

### **DINNER SCHEDULE**

We are lining up our celebrity chefs for 2017 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 this year so far is:

Month	Cook	Meal
<b>2017 DINNER SCHEDULE</b>		
JAN	Robin T.	Meatloaf
FEB	Bill & Jan W	Chili
MAR	Ron & Frank	Cooler
APR		
MAY		

JUN		
JUL		
AUG		
SEP	Air Explorers	
OCT		
NOV		
DEC	XMAS	PARTY

### **SPEAKERS**

We are always, continually, everlasting looking for speakers for our monthly programs. Marc Ashton said that he might have a couple, but we need to fill the card for the rest of the year. Richard Craig had a couple flight instruction stories at Saturday hamburgers that will make a good program. Come tell your story.

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	Idaho FBO
FEB	EAA video	
MAR	Mud wrestling	
APR		
MAY		
JUN		
JUL		
AUG		
SEP		
OCT		
NOV		
DEC		

### **IA DOING ANNUALS AT SKYPARK.**

I have an IA coming from Iowa (Chad Wille) to do annuals the first week of March for one week. Let me know if you have anyone interested.

Thanks John Thomason

Call John at 707-938-1909 to schedule an annual inspection for your plane.

## **2017 EAA 1268 CALENDAR**

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

DATE	EVENT
1/8	Young Eagles 9 am
1/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
1/28	Skypark Movie Night
1/31	Air Academy application deadline
2/12	Young Eagles 9 am
2/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
2/25	Skypark Movie Night
3/12	Young Eagles 9 am
3/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
3/25	Skypark Movie Night
4/9	Young Eagles 9 am
4/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
4/22	Skypark Movie Night
5/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
5/14	Young Eagles 9 am
5/20	Skypark Family Fun Day
5/27	Skypark Movie Night
6/11	Young Eagles 9 am
6/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/24	Skypark Movie Night
7/9	Young Eagles 9 am
7/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/22	Skypark Movie Night
8/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/13	Young Eagles 9 am
8/26	Skypark Movie Night
9/10	Young Eagles 9 am
9/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/23	Skypark Movie Night
10/8	Young Eagles 9 am
10/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/28	Skypark Movie Night
11/12	Young Eagles 9 am
11/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
11/25	Skypark Movie Night
12/?	Skypark Xmas Party
1/1/17	New Years' Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight
Every Saturday Noon to 1:30 pm Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

## **EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES**

The Board meeting was called to order by President Robin Tatman at 6:00 pm. Present were Bill Wheadon, Treasurer, Don Booker, Vice President, BK White, Young Eagles liaison, Paul Siebert and Darrel Jones, Board members. Guests were Marc Ashton and Jan Wheadon.

Darrel bought new cabinets for the Chapters videos and books, with room for the Air Explorer library. The cost was \$326.00.

The Chapter received letters from the Sonoma Mentoring Alliance, EAA Air Academy and the Air Academy participants from last summer. They will be scanned and included with the next newsletter.

Bill is working on updating the Chapter roster for inclusion in a future newsletter.

The Board voted to approve having the Treasurer move the Chapter checking account to Redwood Credit Union to facilitate local access.

Robin will send the 2017 Air Academy Chapter scholarship applications to the Air Explorer members. The deadline for applications has been moved up to January 31.

Darrel will have the Wi-Fi system installation for the club house finished by the next meeting. Darrel reported that Ron Price hosted a barbecue on New Year's Day. The Board agreed to support a New Year's Day barbecue and day of flying. The weather this year was beautiful with a number of pilots flying to welcome the New Year.

Rich Cooper continues to recover from his fall from a ladder recently. He has been spotted on Saturday in the clubhouse having a hamburger.

BK reported that the January Young Eagles Day was rained out. He has received the

insurance for Young Eagles for the upcoming year.

Robin reported that Leon Scarborough, Ron Price and Bill Wheadon flew Air Explorers on December 11. The Air Explorers got from 45 minutes to an hour stick time.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7 pm. Dinner was furnished by Robin Tatman and included meatloaf, mac and cheese, Hawaiian dinner rolls and an ice cream Sunday bar.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:45 by President Robin.

The officers gave their reports to the members present.

Marc Ashton from Petaluma announced that a private pilot ground school is being offered at the Petaluma campus of the Santa Rosa Junior College for \$175 for the spring semester. He also announced that PAPA (the Petaluma Pilots Association) has scholarships available for flight training for high school and college age applicants. Information and an application form is at [www.papapetaluma.org](http://www.papapetaluma.org).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

The speaker for the evening was Jan Wheadon who talked about her experience running a FBO in Idaho in the early '70s with her husband. She was licensed as her husband George's first student in 1967 in a J-3 Cub. They bought a FBO in the wilds of Idaho which they ran together through the birth of their son until her husband's untimely passing. She moved back to Chicago where she married Bill. Jeanette had scanned photos showing Jan as a

We received a nice card from Gretchen McDougall, Hugo Holly's mom, thanking the Chapter for helping Hugo attend the Air Academy in Oshkosh last summer. We owe a big thank you to Gretchen for helping us get the Chapter website back up and current.

young wife and mother, as well as a partner with George in the FBO, Cessnas, snow and all. She sure looked cute in her Oshkosh overalls riding a bike around the airport.

### **From Anna Mayfair Diaz:**



**Marin History Museum Presents**  
**Plane Crashes on Mt. Tamalpais?**

Thursday, February 23, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Elks Lodge, 1312 Mission Ave., San Rafael



#### ***Featured Speaker: Matt Cerkel***

Join the Marin History Museum for a presentation by Matt Cerkel, an expert on Mount Tamalpais. During his 22 years as a ranger with the Marin Municipal Water District on Mt. Tamalpais he has found and photographed many plane crash sites. Matt will share with us the stories of these crashes.

Presently Matt Cerkel is the President of Park Rangers Association of CA. He is also a peace officer, a wildland firefighter, a field training officer, a firefighting instructor and historian.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00  
Parking available at rear of Elks Lodge  
To RSVP or for more information, contact [info@marinhistory.org](mailto:info@marinhistory.org) or call 415-382-1182

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

CONSIDERING HOW VERY TIGHT-KNIT THE AVIATION COMMUNITY, IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE HOW WELCOMING IT HAS BEEN TO AN UNKNOWN, BUT INTERESTED, YOUNG MAN. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE WARM RECEPTION, FROM THE YOUNG EAGLES FLIGHTS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP TO AIR ACADEMY.

HUGO'S TIME AT THE ACADEMY WAS CATHARTIC. HE RETURNED INSPIRED, ENERGIZED, AND WITH THE COUNSELOR-GIVEN NICKNAME OF "CAPTAIN SMILEY."

HE WAS PROUD TO SHOW OFF THE PROJECTS HE DID IN WORKSHOP, AND RETURNED WITH NEW FRIENDS IN PLACES NEAR AND FAR.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SENDING HIM. I KNOW THE SCHOLARSHIP ADDED MEANING TO THE EXPERIENCE.

With gratitude,  
Gratidão  
Hugo Heuers (Hugo Heuers mom)



Leon and Heiko taxiing in on a beautiful day in December.

We've put the letters from the Sonoma Mentoring Alliance and Air Academy at the end of the newsletter.

**Sonoma Skycrafters**  
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 2017!** SEE YOU THERE!

**REMEMBER! THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 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**

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**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 Whealon, Treasurer  
1021 Stonebridge Drive  
Napa, CA 94558**