

SONOMA SKYPARK NEWS

APRIL 2013

AIRPORT HAPPENINGS- Spring is in the air and we are experiencing April showers today. Check your log books, both pilot and plane for currency. If you need a pilot bi-annual see one of the Skypark flight instructors right now. MacDonald Aircraft will be happy to help you with an aircraft annual inspection. **Jorge Oros** has the airport all mowed and looking real nice. Yesterday he cleaned out miscellaneous debris from in back of and between hangars, with a little help from the good ole' Presten boys **Curtis** and **Ben**.

Curtis Presten soloed on his sixteenth birthday, January 8th, demonstrating three perfect landings in their Aeronca Champ. **Andy Smith** was Curtis's instructor with some tutoring from his proud father. Congratulations Curtis!!!

The January/February issue of "PILOT GETAWAYS" features Skypark's **John Carmichael** on the front cover flying a float plane over a beautiful lake outside of Whitefish, Montana. There is an extensive article inside showing John giving float plane instruction last summer. **John & Kathy** plan to return to the Flathead Valley this June to give more instruction for Seaplane Ratings.

Another Skypark media personality is **Paul Seibert** and his Curtiss Wright Jr. that appeared on the front cover of a recent Pacific Flyer paper accompanied by a nice write up by Paul on the Jr's flying characteristics. It is nice to see our plane owner/pilots recognized in the press.

Near the end of February **Eric Presten & I** helped a couple remove some old airplanes and parts from their property before they got destroyed by bulldozer. We put them on the far side of the runway at the West end of the airport. The sale of these parts & planes will help pay their hospital bills. If you or someone you know took some of these parts before we removed them to **Jeannie William's'** Hangar for sale. We would appreciate them being returned anonymously to the airport office or in front of Hangar B-1.

We lost one of our local motor glider pilots on February 13. **Gary Gammal** was a Sonoma resident and active glider pilot until recently being diagnosed with cancer. A memorial Mass was said at St. Francis Solano Church on February, 20, 2013. RIP Gary.

The **YOUNG EAGLES** flight program has experienced wonderful weather for the last three months. Our EAA Chapter 1268 organizes rides for young people age 8 to 17 on the second Sunday of each month except December. There have been 20 to 30 young people with their parents, grandparents or mentors participating from 9 AM to 12 PM on Sunday morning, Donuts, bagels, juice and coffee are served and volunteers are most welcome. Come and meet some of your neighbors.

VISITORS Last August a young couple landed mid-day at Skypark in a real nice Piper J-3 Cub. They started to explain that they were on a forty eight state aerial tour with plans to write a book about their adventure and how it relates to life, when I interrupted them and told them I had seen their plane at Oshkosh, Wisconsin in July and read about their plans in the daily newspaper at the convention. Jorge and I welcomed them to Sonoma, some shade and a cool drink of water. They stayed overnight and promised us a copy of the book, "When it's finished". Last month a signed copy of "Fly The Airplane" arrived for both of us. It is a warm personnel story about two enthusiastic pilots who find each other with a mutual passion for aviation. www.holladayaviation.com

Tailwinds, Ron Price *Rov*

CALENDAR

- April 9 EAA Chapter 1268 meeting. Dinner at 7 PM followed by a speaker. All are welcome.
- April 13/14 Display Days from noon to 4:00 pm for aircraft of historical significance.
- April 14 Young Eagle airplane rides. Rides from 9:00 am to noon for young people age 8 to 17.
- April 20 Calaveras County Air Faire. From 8 am to 5 Pm with breakfast, bratwurst lunch and tri-tip dinner. www.eaa484.org
- April 26 Movie Night at the airport clubhouse. Free popcorn and drinks at 6 pm, pizza and drinks at 7:00 pm for \$5.00 donation followed by the feature film, "Night Flight".
- April 27 FAA Safety Stand Down, Saturday at 2 pm, in the Skypark Clubhouse. This event is sponsored by Carnerous Aviation and Sonoma Skypark Airport. "Wings" credits.
- May 4 Cloverdale Airport open house. 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bar-B-Que at noon.

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