



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport

21870 Eighth Street East

Sonoma, CA 95476

JULY 2025



ROGER FLORES-CHACON, ALDREN DOMINGO AND ALEX
GOSSELIN, CHAPTER 1268 AND 1232 RAY SCHOLARS
ALL SOLOED!

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: Don Booker, 707-938-9461

BOD: Marsi Allard, 415-686-5254

BOD: Roland Gangloff, 707-935-1832

Web editor/Young Eagles: Gretchen McDougall gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com

Speaker coordinator: position open

Dinner coordinator: Cindy Mikkelsen
sindymikkelsen@att.net

Saturday barbecue Chair: Marilyn Seibert,
707-479-5712

Building/Newsletter: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382, wd6bor@vom.com

Membership Chairs: Don and Ligia Booker,
707-938-9461

Flight Advisor: Steve Silver,
skyparksteven@gmail.com

Pietenpol Chairperson: Yayoi West, 707-364-9257

Pietenpol Build Team Leader: Michael Wray,
mdwray33@gmail.com

FIRST THINGS FIRST

This month's meeting is this **Tuesday, July 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 \$10.00 per person.

Our chef for the month will be yer editor, who will be blackening some chicken and sausage, with a side of potato, macaroni and green salads, and Catherine's buttermilk cake and a treat from Robin for dessert.

We still need someone to provide dinner for September, October and November. Last month I included the suggested meals list from the Napa Chapter 167. Take a look at it and see what you would like to cook up. We plan for 30 people, although the last two months only saw about 20 members joining us for dinner.

Our program will be a tour of Steve Silver's hangar, with Steve talking about some of his aviation memorabilia from his career in the Air

Force, flying U-2s among other things, and his experiences as an airline pilot.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

> Happy Summer!

>

> It's here and we've had some beautiful flying weather in the last week. No a.m. overcast and much lighter winds. I am hoping we will have similar weather for Young Eagles next weekend.

> July is one of the few months when our monthly meeting falls before the Young Eagles Rally. So, I said that right, our monthly meeting is this Tuesday, July 8th. Darrel is barbecuing, so I wouldn't miss dinner! I'll be contributing dessert. Young Eagles is the following Sunday, July 13.

> The Saturday barbecue was packed today, and I want say a big loud THANK YOU!! to our dedicated regulars who always show up. If you know folks who come but aren't members getting these newsletters, please extend my thanks and appreciation for your long-standing support. I stopped by today for a moment, and enjoyed watching everyone chow down on burgers and visit.

> Your support is helping us to provide scholarships to no less than 10 teenagers, ages 14-17. Six are headed (if not already there) to Air Academy Camp at Oshkosh, and four are Ray Scholars working on their private pilot

licenses. We are providing them with life changing opportunities on many levels. At our meeting in October, you will have a chance to hear how their experiences have impacted their thinking and plans for their future. Our recent students who have soloed are fired up about their training!

> Darrel will be making his annual trip to Broadhead and Oshkosh leaving around the middle of the month. While he is happy to be there for his own reasons, I am VERY happy to have him there to keep an extra eye out for our “kids” while they are at Air Academy. It’s nice to see a known face in a foreign land at times, and for many of our attendees it is their first real solo LONG cross-country trip.

> Last weekend, if you were at the airport, you may have noticed some funny looking tall antennas East of the Batto hangars, along with some different looking radios. That was the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club, VOMARC having their annual drill and contest.

> We store their antennas here on the airport as part of the Sonoma County Emergency Response Plan (I may not have that name exactly right, but you get the picture). In case you didn’t know, Sonoma Skypark Airport plays multiple important roles in the County’s plan.

> VOMARC has been doing this every year for a long time, but it’s the first time I happened to be there and got to meet several of their members. I’ve been interested in getting involved with Ham radio for quite a while, so it was quite fun for me to meet, watch, and find out a little more about them. And boy do they know how to cook!

> Why were they there? First of all, to put up, test, and use their equipment to make sure everything is working. Second, to practice their skills in a remote environment using alternative power in case of a real emergency with cell and land lines not available. Third -

the contest part: contact as many other ham operators using voice, digital and Morse code in a 24-hour period. They were here the full 24 hours and made over 400 contacts. Pretty cool!

> A long time ago I took a class in Morse code which turned out to be very helpful using HF radio in jets when I went to work for Northwest Airlines flying the Pacific, Atlantic, and Polar routes. I solicited Ed Jacobson, the VOMARC president, to be a future speaker, and to give our scholars and future aviators a class in Morse code. He was pretty darn fast with the Morse! Most memorable though, similar to EAA 1268, they are a group of people that loves good food and has a “Ham” habit. Lovely folks!

> On Tuesday, our own Steve Silver will be our guest speaker. After dinner we will migrate to his hangar to get a tour of all of his very cool military and airline memorabilia. See you then!

>

> Robin

VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT

This will be short (don’t thank me yet) because I’m doing the newsletter with a cranky computer that doesn’t want to do what I want, so it’s off to the shop Monday morning.

The big news is that our three Ray scholars, Roger Flores-Chacon, Aldren Domingo and Alex Gosselin have all soloed and are expected to take their check rides either in July or August, well before school starts. We will have one more Rau scholar starting before October.

The Chapter finally received the restroom contribution from the Skypark Board, although it was \$7,000 instead of the \$9,500, we were told to expect. We are very grateful for any contribution that helps our Chapter 1268 mission; helping kids and having a good time.. Our next large purchase is a new refrigerator for the clubhouse kitchen. Robin is researching that one, so we should have it in sometime this month.

I will be heading off the Oshkosh and Brodhead for the Pietenpol reunion and AirVenture next week after Young Eagles. I'm planning on leaving July 15 so I can be at Brodhead in time for the spaghetti dinner Thursday. Some would think the meals are the most important part of both events. I do.

I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. I plan on doing a blog again and sending it to Gretchen to post on the Chapter 1268 website, so check in during the two weeks and see what mischief I've gotten into.

My only hope is that I don't get Covid again.

See you at the meeting,
Darrel



There seem to be gremlins climbing all over that airplane. Maybe they're just checking fuel levels in the wing tanks. They are all smiling, though...

EAA 1268 TREASURER REPORT **July 2025**

The Treasurer's report is as follows...

Checking	\$1384.50
Savings	\$23,644.76
CD	\$20,279.29

Deposits:

Burgers	\$1114.21
Young Eagles Burritos	\$154.52
June Mtg.	\$50.00

Expenditures:

Cash Deposit Fee	\$5.00
Check Cancellation fee	\$22.00 (Leo Kevan lost check)
Michael Wray	\$703.79
(Pietenpol fittings manufactured)	
Tommy Egnew Air Academy Airfare	\$613.55
Leo Kevan Air Academy Airfare	\$424.99
Mike Smith Aviation	\$1696.94
(Ray Scholarship Flight Training for Roger Flores-Chacon and Alex Gosselin)	

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

Please send your dues renewal checks to EAA 1268, PO Box 234, Vineburg, CA 95487-0234.

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day for this month is Sunday, July 13. As is usual, we are looking for volunteer pilots, ground crew and registration helpers for our monthly Young Eagles events. Let us know you will be joining us and helping out by sending an email to Gretchen at gretchen.mcdougall@gmail.com or me at wd6bor@vom.com.

CHAPTER PIET BUILDING PROJECT

Michael has asked me to get some more photos of Pietenpols at Brodhead, focusing on turnbuckles and cable runs, as well as how other builders have done brakes, rudder pedals and a steerable tail wheel.

The original Pietenpol was very simple and used a tail skid for slowing, so it wasn't very steerable on the ground. The plans by Bernie Pietenpol are very basic, so there is considerable variation in the finished airplanes.

Michael and Ray are fitting the tail group and figuring out the control cables now. They are usually in the shop hangar Saturdays from about 9:30 to 11, so come on down if you would like to help. They are looking for more teenage and adults to join the building team to help keep the project moving along.

SATURDAY BARBECUE

Marilyn, Marsi and Rony 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 Marilyn, Marsi, Rony and their devoted crew 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 looked at the basic aerodynamic principles of flight: thrust/drag and lift/weight.

This month, let's look briefly at a key factor in determining the amount of lift a wing generates. Angle of Attack (AOA) is the angle between the wing's chord line and the oncoming airflow, and it directly influences the pressure difference between the upper and lower surfaces of the wing, which is the primary cause of lift.

Increasing the angle of attack generally increases lift, up to a point, by increasing the amount of air that is deflected downwards by the wing. However, exceeding a certain critical angle of attack (the stall angle) will cause airflow separation from the wing's upper surface, leading to a significant decrease in lift and an increase in drag.

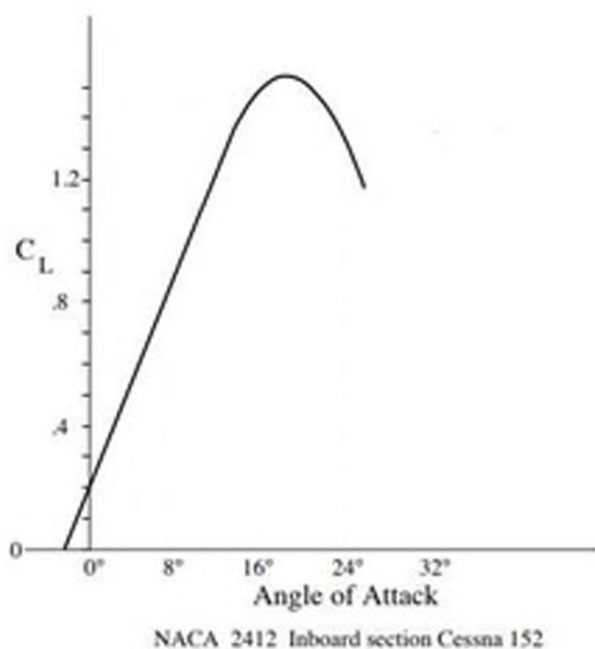
While most general aviation aircraft and commercial airliners do not have a gauge to display the angle of attack (AOA) of the aircraft, understanding optimum AOA is fundamental to our flights.

We use AOA all the time when we fly, we just don't reference a specific AOA directly. We use an approximate airspeed to match the optimum AOA. For example:

Best Angle of Climb (V_x) speed maximizes altitude gained over a certain distance. It's achieved at a lower airspeed than V_y , meaning the wings need to be at a higher angle of attack to generate the necessary lift for a steep climb. The best angle of climb airspeed (V_x) does vary with the weight of an aircraft, but since we don't have AOA gauges, most pilot operating handbooks use a fixed airspeed to approximate V_x . In reality, a heavier aircraft will require a higher airspeed to achieve its maximum angle of climb. This is because a heavier aircraft needs to generate more lift to overcome its weight, and it does so by flying at a higher angle of attack, which in turn requires a higher airspeed.

Best Rate of Climb (V_y) speed maximizes the rate at which the aircraft gains altitude, measured in feet per minute. While it results in a faster climb, the angle of climb is shallower compared to V_x , and the angle of attack is generally lower.

You can visualize this relationship using a lift coefficient versus angle of attack graph. As the angle of attack increases, the lift coefficient (which is a measure of how effectively the wing generates lift) also increases. However, at the critical angle, the lift coefficient drops sharply, indicating a stall.



Pilots can adjust the angle of attack by changing the pitch (nose up or down) of the aircraft. For example, during takeoff, the pilot increases the angle of attack to generate enough lift for the aircraft to leave the ground. During landing, the angle of attack is also increased to slow the aircraft down and maintain lift at lower speeds.

Next month, we will discuss what happens when the aircraft exceeds its critical angle of attack.

GROUND SCHOOLS

Mike Smith Aviation at Napa Airport is also 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, 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.

2025 DINNER SCHEDULE

We have some of our celebrity chefs for 2025 but let us know if you want to take an unfilled month. Hot dogs, chili or pizza are perfectly fine. Our meal coordinator is Sindy Mikkelsen at 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 so I can include you in the newsletter dinner schedule.

The schedule for this year so far is:

Month	Cooks/Meal
2025 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Sindy Mikkelsen- paella
FEB	Marsi Allard
MAR	Marsi Allard, Robin Tatman, Nelleke Cooper- corned beef
APR	Sonoma Ballooning Adventures
MAY	Don and Ligia Booker, Wayne

	and Cecilia Schake
JUN	Robin Tatman
JUL	Darrel Jones- barbecue
AUG	Marsi Allard and Nelleke Cooper
SEP	?
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC ?	XMAS PARTY
Standby	?

SPEAKERS

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs., so let us know if you can help out by taking on this important job. We can give you contact information for other local Chapters so you can find speakers they have had.

Contact President Robin Tatman at 707-553-2747 or send an email to me at wd6bor@vom.com so we can get your program or speaker information into the newsletter.

Month	Speaker/Member/Subject
2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Ken Wayne- Flying Tales animal rescue
FEB	Yayoi West- X-59, First Flight is scheduled in 2025
MAR	Renee Bowman, Safety Auditor De-Ice Team for Delta Airlines
APR	Al Delsin- WWII training accident
MAY	Will Campbell- the Philippine Mars flying boat
JUN	Yayoi West- NASA report
JUL	Steve Silver- hangar tour
AUG	?
SEP	Carl Molesworth- P-40 history
OCT	Air Academy/Ray scholar participant report
NOV	Andy Werback- Lancair Grand Champion
DEC	XMAS PARTY

IMC/VMC CLUB

We're still looking for members for the IMC/VMC club. Let me know if you want to belong to this exclusive group.

This Month's Question:

Question: Autopilot systems in general aviation aircraft can be a tremendous asset for managing the inflight workload. However, they do require additional knowledge for safe operations.

Besides the basic system operating procedures, what three items might be considered most important knowledge items regarding autopilot system operations?

Answer to last month's question:

Question: You're about to depart on an IFR flight and although icing is not specifically forecast for your area, conditions include visible moisture and temperatures nearing freezing. At what point should you turn on your pitot heat?

Answer: Pitot heat should be turned on whenever there is a possibility of icing conditions. This includes situations where the temperature is at or below freezing and there is visible moisture, such as clouds, rain, or fog. The pitot heat helps prevent ice from forming on the pitot tube, which could lead to inaccurate airspeed readings.

It's important to note that pitot heat is an anti-icing device, not a deicing device. This means it should be activated before ice starts to form, rather than after ice has already accumulated.

Best practices, as indicated by page 10-32 of FAA-H-8083-15B, Instrument Flying Handbook, suggest the pitot heat should be turned on prior to departure.

Some Pilot Operating Handbooks provide specific guidance as to the use of pitot heat. For example, the Before Takeoff Checklist for the Piper PA-46 says to turn on the pitot heat for flight into icing conditions when visible moisture below +5 degrees C is anticipated or encountered.

Additional information on the topic can be found in AC 91-74B, Flight in Icing Conditions.

2025 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

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

DATE	EVENT
2026	Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee
7/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
7/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am
7/17-20	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/21-27	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
8/9-10	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
8/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
8/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/16-17	Wings Over Camarillo Airshow
9/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/13-14	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
9/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
TBD	MCAS Miramar Air Show- San Diego, CA
9/?	Wings Over Wine Country
9/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/13-14	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
9/14	Young Eagles 9:30 am
9/26-28	Oregon Int'l Air Show- McMinnville, OR
TBD	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA
10/4-5	California Int'l Airshow- Salinas, CA
10/10-12	San Francisco Fleet Week- San Francisco, CA
10/11-12	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
10/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
TBD	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA

TBD	Planes of Fame Air Show- China, CA
11/8	Estrella Warbirds Wings & Wheels- Paso Robles, CA
11/8-9	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
1/1/26	New Years Day
Every <u>Saturday Noon to 1:00 pm</u> Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

EAA 1268 Board of Directors Meeting
June 10, 2025

Present President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, Board of Directors, Don Booker, Marsi Allard.

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Robin Tatman at 6:10 pm.

Marsi reported that the proceeds from the Young Eagles Burrito breakfast totaled \$135. A total of 30 burritos were sold and the burritos were handmade on site by Ilario and Marsi. Marsi also reported that a minimum of 5 people are needed to cover the Saturday BBQ.

Robin made a motion to award a \$1,000 scholarship to Luis Membrila to assist with his instrument rating. Luis is a former Ray Scholarship recipient who has been very helpful to the Chapter, including volunteering in the kitchen and flying Young Eagles. Ray reported that our responsibility for the Ray scholarship we have committed to is \$6,000. Therefore, funds are available to support the \$1,000 scholarship for Luis. Marsi seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Luis has also applied to PAPA for a possible scholarship contribution.

Ray mentioned that the Treasurer report will be in the Newsletter.

Robin reported on her research for the new refrigerator as discussed previously. A plan was made to confer with Marsi and Marilyn. Together, they will decide whether to proceed with purchasing a 27-29 cubic foot unit from a special offer at Costco.

Ray reported that the credit union charges a \$5 fee for cash deposits exceeding \$1,000. Ray will check whether other banks, such as U.S. Bank, offer options without this fee.

Aldrin took the Private Pilot written test and passed with a score of 90%. Air Explorer leader, Kristin Gregory presented him with a Bose headset donated to him by the foundation. Darrel makes sure requirements are met and checks on the progress of the Scholarship recipients and consequent payments will be provided by the Ray foundation. Our Chapter makes up \$3,000 towards each Ray recipient student.

A motion was made by Darrel and seconded by Marsi that we pay half of the tuition expenses for the Napa Aviation Explorer students attending the Air Academy this summer, which will add up to between \$500-\$700 per student for three campers.

New Ray scholarship applications open up November 1. The Air Explorers may have two candidates. Darrel wants to apply as soon as possible as we don't want to lose the available scholarships. He will apply for two from Chapter 1268 and two from Chapter 1232 at Gness Field

Board meeting adjourned 6:55 pm

Membership meeting called to order by President Robin Tatman at 7:40 pm

Guest Steve Joffe

Robin welcomed Steve Silver, Skypark Board member and our Chapter's Flight Advisor.

A delicious dinner of sloppy joes, squash and salad was served by Robin and Marilyn Siebert. Robin reported the items discussed at the Board meeting, including a report on the current recipients.

- 4 Ray scholarships, Roger, Aldrin, Alex, plus one candidate to be determined
- Aldrin completed written with 90%
- James Ray Scholarship \$12,000 each, chapter contribution 25%
- With slots available from other chapters able to secure 4 scholarships this year
- The Ray- and Air Academy scholarships have enabled us to support ten kids in getting involved in aviation this year.

Young Eagles report by Darrel. 26 Young Eagles were flown. Pilots, George Bachich, Robin Tatman, Rick Palumbo, Ken Callandar, Kristin Gregory, Darrel Jones and Kevin Horn. The breakfast burritos served by Marsi and Ilario were a success and raised \$135.

Steve Silver reported that the Skypark Board had approved \$9,500 towards the bathroom remodel.

Marc Ashton announced that the Petaluma Airport would have a Public Relation Open House on June 21. They expect + 2000 people.

Yayoi West, our NASA ambassador, gave a very informative presentation about the happenings in our own Milky Way, and the coming of the June Summer Solstice, when one of our Earth poles has its maximum exposure towards the Sun.

She spoke about planetary Defenders, Super Novas, Cosmic wrecks, Giant collisions, and explained that when 2 little stars crash they become one bigger star. The biggest stars are in the center of our galaxy and move the fastest.

Membership meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

Submitted by Nelleke Cooper

Send me your news for your newsletter!

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 FOR DINNER AND A BIT MORE TO **PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2025!** SEE YOU AT THE MEETING! MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: EAA 1268, PO BOX 234, VINEBURG, CA 95487-0234 IF YOU WON'T BE AT THE MEETING.

REMEMBER! THE JULY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, JULY 8 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