



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Sky Crafters

EAA Chapter 1268
Sonoma Skypark Airport
21870 Eighth Street East, B-5
Sonoma, CA 95476
MAY 2026



WALT'S WACO BY WILL CAMPBELL

Or should I say, one of Walt's Wacos

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Vice President: Darrel Jones, 707-799-6382
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Pietenpol Build Team Leader: Michael Wray, mdwray33@gmail.com

FIRST THINGS FIRST

This month's meeting is this Tuesday, May 12. 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 the Bookers and Schakes serving carnitas with all the trimmings.

Our program will be William Johnson as our speaker for Tuesday meeting. William will graduate from Solano College a few days after our meeting. He's in the A&P program there. William is a whiz with car mechanics and motorcycles and an avid aviation fan. Also, he's part of the next gen aviation, 21 years old.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

Hi everybody -

We are a week out from Airport Day. Lots of details are coming together, and thank you for those who have volunteered the last few days. We can still use a few more folks on Thursday afternoon, anytime Friday, or Saturday. Lots of opportunities for set up, marshalling cars and volunteers, runners to refill supplies for the burgers, spotters (helping the people moving cars, planes, trailers, etc. to not run in to anything), taking money for drinks, food, and more!

Confirmed static displays are Cessna 421 and Cessna 182, rock band, tethered balloon, Pet's Lifeline, USAF Recruiter, Aviation Explorers, EAA 1268, antique airplanes and cars, CHP Helicopter, Reach Helicopter. Activities are silent auction, face painting, arts and crafts table, hay rides, RC airplanes and show, paper airplane flying contest, tethered balloon rides (wind permitting). Food will be EAA Hamburger lunch, freshly made corn dogs, vegetarian wraps, ice cream, soft drinks, wine, and beer truck.

If anyone has a classic car or airplane you would like to show off, we still have room for some displays. Give Darrel, Ray, or myself a call and let us know.

We conducted our Ray Scholar interviews last Sunday and Monday. We will be making a decision in the next week so that we can get training scheduled with Mike Smith Aviation and started in June. Applicants are extremely competitive: for starters all have GPA's between 3.8 and 4.2! It's great to see such hardworking students!

We hope you all spread the word to friends and neighbors about Airport Day, and we look forward to seeing you out there.

Robin

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have a few significant items this month.

Ray scholar

First, we have another Ray scholar private pilot, with Jack Laipply passing his check ride last week. Jack started last fall as out last 2025 Ray scholar, and powered through his flight training, written exam, and oral and practical flight checks.



Jack with DPE Jennifer Watson

Congratulations to Jack, who joins an ever-increasing number of young pilots that EAA Chapters 1268 and 1232 have helped start on the way to their aviation careers.

Flying club

Speaking of Ray scholars, we have a number of recent scholars who have successfully earned their private pilot certificates and now need to build time to qualify for their instrument and commercial ratings. I've talked with Robin and other pilots around the airport, trying to come up with ideas for finding an airplane for their use.

Ideally, there could be a non-equity flying club that they could join and use the club airplane without having to purchase a share of that airplane. Even a minimal cost of joining an equity flying club can easily run \$5,000 to \$10,000, much more than a pilot starting their career could afford.

If you have a basic trainer type airplane, such as a Cessna 150/152, that is underutilized, consider making it a club airplane that the new Ray scholar pilots could "rent" at a reasonable hourly rate as members of a not-for-profit non-equity flying club.

Barbecue trailer

We asked Todd Walker if we could borrow his barbecue trailer for the upcoming Flying Tails fundraiser this Saturday, May 16. He didn't loan it to us; he gave it to us.

It's a beautiful rig, with two good-sized barbecues, a three-burner stovetop, a storage cabinet and a nice, long oak butcher block counter, all mounted on a heavy-duty trailer.

We are working to spruce it up, power washing it and refurbishing the burner elements in the barbecues. Some additional sanding and painting will spruce it up even more, so let me know if you can help out.

It's a very generous gift to Chapter 1268, and we are appreciative and very grateful for Todd's generosity.



The barbecue trailer Todd Walker built and then gifted to Chapter 1268.

The Flying Tails Animal Rescue fundraiser will be this Saturday, May 16. If you haven't yet, give Robin a call and let her know you can help out. We'll be cooking hamburgers on Todd's barbecue.

That's about it for this month. See you at the airport!

Thanks, Darrel

EAA 1268 TREASURER REPORT **May 2026**

The treasurer's report will be in the next newsletter since our Treasurer is in El Salvadore this week.

Membership Dues are being accepted for 2026! Contact me if you are unsure of your membership status. Please send your dues to the address below or see me at the meeting!

EAA Chapter 1268
PO Box 234
Vineburg, CA. 95487

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

YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles Day for this month was Sunday, May 10. We had a marine layer over the whole area that didn't break until a few minutes after 11. As soon as the clouds cleared, the airplanes were in the air.

Gretchen was up organizing the Young Eagles, ably helped by Marsi. Ligia came in with cookies, with a special heart shaped box for Gretchen, and another box for the pilots.

We had a good turnout of pilots, with George Bachich, George Belden, Rick Palumbo, Dan Roseland, Steve Crawford in his gyro, Robin Tatman and Mike Smith over from Napa. I finally had my 182 back together, so I was able to fly Young Eagles after nine months of the airplane being down for engine work.

Calvin and Mark kept the ramp area under control, and altogether, Chapter 1268 flew twenty-eight Young Eagles.

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

The Chapter 1268 Pietenpol building project is currently on hold until we find another Build Team leader and some young people to take part. Please let us know if you are eager to scratch your airplane building itch by helping.

SATURDAY BARBECUE

Robin, Marsi, Rony, Julia and Ilario 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 our priceless volunteers 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 discussed the human factors topic of lack of assertiveness, and how not speaking up with concerns or questions can lead to problems.

This month, let's discuss the human factors element of norms. Norms, or unwritten rules are shared expectations and informal rules that shape behavior within groups. While formal regulations, procedures, and checklists are critical, informal norms often determine whether rules are followed within the organization or, workarounds are accepted or tolerated.

Let's look briefly at: The types of norms, why the norms matter, and most importantly, how we can mitigate the threat of norms.

Types of Norms:

-Descriptive Norms: The established, observable behaviors and practices typically followed

-Injunctive Norms: The widely shared beliefs about how pilots ought to behave.

-Local vs. Organizational Norms: differences between accepted Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and local norms

Why the Norms Matter:

-Normalization of Deviance. Small, tolerated deviations from procedures can become accepted practice until they contribute to an accident.

-Compliance Erosion: When pilots see peers routinely violate a rule without consequence, their motivation to comply drops.

-Communication and Assertiveness: As we discussed assertiveness last month, norms that discourage questioning or challenge reduce the likelihood that a pilot will speak up about a safety concern.

-Decision-making bias: Accepted group norms influence risk tolerance, go/no go decisions which can affect safety margins

-Diffusion of Responsibility: Norms about roles can lead individuals to assume others will catch mistakes and speak up.

Mitigation Strategies:

-Leaders must model and enforce established standards

-Encourage assertiveness and non-punitive reporting of deviations

-Flight training should reflect real operational pressures which help pilots practice correct responses.

Norms are powerful determinants of safety culture in aviation. While formal procedures (SOPs) protect against risks, unwritten habits and accepted shortcuts can erode safety margins. By identifying, acknowledging, and actively challenging dangerous shortcuts, aviation professionals can ensure safety remains the top priority.

IMC/VMC CLUB

The EAA Chapter 1268 IMC/VMC club is still looking for additional members. Let me know if you want to belong to this exclusive group.

This Month's IMC Question:

Many pilots consistently use a 65 or 75 percent power setting in cruise. Under what conditions would a best range or best endurance power setting be warranted, and how can you set them?

The April IMC question:

What factors can affect the planned fuel consumption and fuel reserves during a cross-country flight, and how can you deal with them?

Answer:

Various factors will affect the fuel consumption for a cross-country flight, including:

- Winds aloft: Changes in wind speed and direction. Obtain updated winds aloft data to aid in selecting an appropriate altitude.
- Altitude: Affects winds speed and direction, and fuel efficiency. Make changes as needed to optimize range.
- Power setting: Manifold pressure and mixture settings. Verify proper settings. Consider changing power settings to increase range if necessary.
- Changes in routing due to weather and traffic. Monitor fuel consumption and flight progress. Notify ATC if fuel concerns arise. Make a refueling stop as required.
- Changes in destination due to wind, ceilings, or visibility conditions. Stay ahead of changing conditions and make changes promptly.
- Fuel loss: Fuel contamination, loss of fuel cap, leaking fuel sump, or a faulty fuel selector

can reduce fuel availability. Preflight procedures must be performed to detect problems before departure. Verify fuel flow from all tanks early in the flight.

April VMC question:

We know that a thorough weather briefing is critical for a cross-country flight, but what are some sources of weather information we can access during flight to get updates?

April VMC answer:

Pilots generally have access to a variety of sources for enroute weather, including the following:

- ASOS, A WOS, and A TIS at airports along the route of flight can provide the most up-to-the-minute weather conditions available. Frequencies are listed with the airport information on aeronautical charts.
- Enroute Flight Advisory Service (EFAS) is available via FSS on 122.2 MHz. This service is also available via some VO Rs and RCOs. Check the communications box for VO Rs. An "R" after the frequency means FSS receives only on the frequencies listed above the box, with the name of the FSS listed below the box. For these, you must listen on the VOR frequency, so turn up the volume on the Nav side of your radio. When transmitting, identify the station to which you are listening.
- Enroute weather is typically available via ADS-B, as well as such applications as ForeFlight.
- Listen in on ARTCC, or contact them for updates (available on a time-permitting basis). Pilot Reports are often available and of timely value.

GROUND SCHOOLS

Mike Smith Aviation at Napa Airport is 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.

2026 DINNER SCHEDULE

We are signing up our celebrity chefs for **2026** so let us know which month you would like to take to provide dinner for our regular meeting. 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
2026 DINNER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Darrel and Robin – roast chicken, potato and green salad, dessert
FEB	Robin and Darrel – lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert
MAR	Darrel and Robin – spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread and dessert
APR	Marsi Allard – meatloaf, roasted vegetables with potatoes, dessert
MAY	The Schakes and Bookers - carnitas
JUN	Ray Gallarate – pizza, salad and dessert

JUL	Darrel- barbecue chicken and sausage, salad, dessert
AUG	?
SEP	Annette Goodfriend, Seth and Izzy Olyer -
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY
Standby	Costco?

SPEAKERS

We are always, continually, everlastingly looking for speakers for our monthly programs. Kimberly Smith has generously volunteered to be our speaker coordinator, so let her know you have a presentation for our Chapter or know someone else who does.

Contact Kimberly at flywithsmith@gmail.com or 916-607-4023, 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
2026 SPEAKER SCHEDULE	
JAN	Headset presentation to Ray scholars, update report
FEB	Ben Marsh, notable restorer and aviation writer
MAR	Jeff Rose, aircraft restorer, Reno Air Race Biplane category racer
APR	Mike Smith – flight training challenges today
MAY	William Johnson – A&P training
JUN	Dean Chmiller from the California passport program
JUL	Michael Smith has flown a few Tiger Moths.
AUG	?
SEP	Pete Monteleone became a pilot inspired by his grandfather
OCT	?
NOV	?
DEC	XMAS PARTY

2026 EAA 1268 CALENDAR

Send me any exciting, thrilling, terrifying or just plain fun events you have for the calendar for 2026.

DATE	EVENT
5/9-10	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
5/10	Young Eagles 9:30 am
5/12	1268 Meeting 7 pm
5/15-17	Oregon Int'l Air Show- Hillsboro, OR
TBA	Skypark Family Fun Day!
6/6-7	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
6/7	Young Eagles 9:30 am
6/9	1268 Meeting 7 pm
6/21	Benton Air Fair- Redding, CA
TBA	Truckee Tahoe Airshow, Truckee
7/11-12	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
7/12	Young Eagles 9:30 am
7/14	1268 Meeting 7 pm
7/16-19	Brodhead Pietenpol Fly-in
7/20-26	EAA AIRVENTURE at Oshkosh
8/8-9	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
8/9	Young Eagles 9:30 am
8/11	1268 Meeting 7 pm
8/14-16	Oregon Int'l Airshow- McMinnville, OR
8/15-16	Wings Over Camarillo Airshow
9/8	1268 Meeting 7 pm
9/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
9/13	Young Eagles 9:30 am
9/25-27	MCAS Miramar Air Show- San Diego, CA
9/26-27	California Int'l Airshow- Salinas, CA
TBA	Wings Over Wine Country
9/12-13	Central Coast AirFest- Santa Maria, CA

10/9-11	San Francisco Fleet Week- San Francisco, CA
10/10-11	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
10/10-11	California Capital Air Show- Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA
10/11	Young Eagles 9:30 am
10/13	1268 Meeting 7 pm
10/17	Food Truck Fly-In, San Martin
TBA	Planes of Fame Air Show- Chino, CA
11/7-8	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
11/8	Young Eagles 9:30 am
11/10	1268 Meeting 7 pm
12/?	Skypark Xmas Party
12/12-13	Sonoma Skypark Historical Aircraft Display Day- 12 to 4 pm
1/1/27	New Years' Day 1 st Flight
Every <u>Saturday Noon to 1:00 pm</u> Skypark Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in the clubhouse!	

EAA CHAPTER 1268 MINUTES

April 14, 2026

Present: President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Secretary Nelleke Cooper, Board of directors: Marsi Allard, Mark Shackford, Kimberley Smith.

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Robin Tatman at 6:20 pm

Discussion was held regarding Saturday BBQ, noting that two participants have left for college.

Francine, who regularly attended the Saturday BBQ with her husband, passed away on Easter Sunday at the age of 93. Ron Price, shared that Francine had been a flight attendant on the TWA Constellation many years ago. Marsi Allard will be ordering flowers from the EAA Chapter to be sent for Francine's memorial celebration.

Board Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Membership Meeting called to order at 7:50 by President Robin Tatman

Dinner for the evening was provided by Marsi Allard and Nelleke Cooper and consisted of Caesar salad, roasted potatoes, roasted vegetables, meatloaf, tiramisu cheesecake and strawberry shortcake.

Treasurer Ray Gallarate reported that Square has been added as a payment option for the Saturday BBQ and other EA payments. He noted that there is an additional 2.7% processing fee associated with its use.

Ken Wayne from Flying Tails provided an update on the upcoming Fundraiser May 16.

- Ken hopes to get at least 30 volunteers involved.
- Set-up for the event will take place on Friday prior to the Saturday fundraiser.
- Admission for children under 12 will be free. Adult admission will be \$25
- Lunch options, including corn dogs and hamburgers, will be available for \$15
- Beer and wine will also be available
- Activities will include an ice cream truck, face painting, and an art table
- The police department will also participate in the event
- The Civil Patrol and the Air Force will be present
- The event will also serve as an opportunity to demonstrate Sonoma Skypark's capabilities for disaster relief efforts

Ron Price provided an update on one of the Chapter's early Young Eagles participants, Jorge Oros. Jorge began at Sonoma Skypark and worked at the office. Later he attended Cochise College in Arizona, where he became Chief Flight Instructor. Since then, he has been flying for an air ambulance company and is now interviewing with Southwest Airlines.

Kimberly Smith introduced her husband Michael, owner of Mike Smith Aviation.

Michael discussed the challenges in today's flight training environment and emphasized the importance of understanding each student's individual needs. He shared that many students who were unsuccessful before came to Mike Smith aviation and were able to succeed within a short period of time. One of the advantages of Mike and Kimberly's school is that they have their own repair shop, reducing delays in aircraft maintenance and preventing interruptions in Flight training.

Kimberly stressed the importance of having a financial and training plan in place to help students obtain their pilot licenses without running out of money before completion.

Membership meeting was adjourned 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Nelleke Cooper, Secretary

WOMEN IN AIRPLANES



Ruth Elder

WOMEN ON MOTORCYCLES



1937. A 26-year-old Black woman pulled into a Mississippi motel on a 1928 Indian Scout. The clerk told her there was no room for her. She slept upright on the bike. She did this most nights for months at a time. She crossed the United States alone — eight times. She rode dispatch for the US Army in WWII. She owned 27 motorcycles. She was arrested for riding while Black. She kept going. Her name was Bessie Stringfield. The town called her the Motorcycle Queen of Miami.

I haven't had one of these in the newsletter for a while. For you motorcycle buffs out there.

It's always nice having a little extra room at the end of the newsletter.

OTHER NEWS



Stinson L-5 over the Me-262 it just shot down.

Send me your news for your newsletter!

Jan Wheadon originally gave this to me. Take a look and let us know what you would like to bring. I'm sure Costco has other meals that would be great. Chapter 1268 reimburses our cooks for their expenses at the meeting.

A Dozen Easy Dinner Menus

How much to buy? You are aiming for 30 servings –

1. Costco Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Salad, Bread and Butter, Ice Cream (aka the Norm Special)
2. Sliced ham; heat and serve macaroni and cheese casserole; green salad; bread and butter; cookies
3. Costco frozen meatballs in a bag heated up in gourmet spaghetti sauce from a jar; bow tie pasta; green salad; bread and butter; cookies
4. Sloppy Joes, green salad, dessert
5. Baked potatoes with toppings: grated cheese, sour cream, canned chili heated up, sliced green onions; green salad; dessert
6. Chili beans with corn bread; green salad; ice cream
7. A variety of pre-cooked sausages, heated up on your grill at home; Costco potato salad; sauerkraut from a jar; rolls and butter; green salad; dessert
8. Pre-made lasagna from Costco; salad; bread and butter; dessert
9. Salad Bar – good for a warm evening: Anything goes: Tuna salad, egg salad, chicken salad, sliced deli meats, macaroni salad, potato salad, any other salad from a deli; bread and butter; green salad; cheese cake for dessert
10. Sandwich Bar – Also good for a warm evening: sliced deli meats, sliced cheeses, sliced tomatoes and onions, lettuce, sliced bread or rolls, mayonnaise, pickles, mustard. Something chocolate and decadent for dessert.
11. Nachos -- Heat up a huge can each of : bean less chili, nacho cheese, refried beans, black beans and corn. Put a large bag of Cost Co tortilla chips out. Also have: grated cheese, chunky salsa (two different kinds) sour cream, hot sauce, chopped green onions, sliced olives. Ice cream for dessert.
12. Birds Eye Garlic Chicken – Complete meal in a bag from Costco; green salad; bread and butter; dessert



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 TO **PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2026**, OR MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: EAA 1268, PO BOX 234, VINEBURG, CA 95487-0234.

REMEMBER! THE MAY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, MAY 12 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