



THE FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter
of the Sonoma Skycrafters

EAA Chapter 1268

Sonoma Skypark Airport
21870 Eighth Street East, B-5
Sonoma, CA 95476

JULY 2026



THE BROADHEAD PIETENPOL REUNION IS NEXT WEEK

It's the best way to spend time before AirVenture at Oshkosh

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

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Speaker coordinator: Kimberly Sanders

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Dinner coordinator: Cindy Mikkelsen

sindymikkelsen@att.net

Saturday barbecue Chair: Rony Kurniawan,

rony.kurniawan@gmail.com

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

Membership Chairs: currently open

Flight Advisor: Steve Silver,

skyparksteven@gmail.com

Pietenpol Chairperson: Yayoi West, 707-364-9257

Pietenpol Build Team Leader: currently open

FIRST THINGS FIRST

This month's meeting is this Tuesday, July 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 **\$15.00** per person.

Our chef for the month will be yours truly, who

will be barbecuing chicken and sausage, with

sides of green and potato salads and a dessert.

I've never had anyone tell me they went away hungry.

Our program will be a special one. Mike Smith is planning on bringing his Tiger Moth over for show and tell. He will talk about his airplane's history, the history of Tiger Moths before and during World War II, and his experiences flying rides in them in Australia.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Captain Robin Tatman, Chapter 1268 President

Hi everyone -

Summer is in full swing, and many aircraft owners are feverishly putting the final touches on their aircraft builds to head for Oshkosh. And many are already headed to Broadhead, or doing the curiously loop to Oshkosh first to reserve a camping spot, and then doubling back to Broadhead. I learned about this odd loop in 2016 when I took my first trip to Oshkosh at the last minute and left the keys to my rental car at the registration desk. Everything was closed by the time I realized my mistake. I ended up spending the night in a tent that had been set up and vacated by those 1268 folks going to the event in Broadhead. Boy was I grateful for that tent! It included a cot which kept me out of the mini flood from an overnight TRW shower. Safe travels to all of our members that are heading to the airshow.

It is with great sadness that I report that last week we lost one of our own from Sky Park, Randy Peterson. Randy was one of those larger-than-life guys - a fabulous mechanic, builder, fabricator, race car driver, business

owner, husband, dad. He was a race car driver first, and pilot later in life. On behalf of the chapter, I wish to extend our condolences to his wife Sheila, daughter Maeve, and son Finn. I will miss hearing about his exploits and the many projects that he was always working on.

Our Aviation Explorers are taking on bigger roles in Young Eagles! Last month was a test drive, and tomorrow (Sunday) they will be there in force to help with registration, an information booth, conduct formal ground school, and provide safety officers to safety escort parents and kids across the flight line. Their goal is to make sure that parents and kids are fully engaged (as in not on their phones) in a great aviation experience when they show up for Young Eagles.

In the past long wait times due to overcast and weather have produced significant waiting time for participants and their parents. Not so much now! A big thank you to Kristin Gregory and the Air Explorers for helping round out our Young Eagles event experience.

See you tomorrow and Tuesday!

Robin

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This month's report is a difficult one for several reasons.

First is that we lost one of our Sonoma Skypark pilots, Randy Peterson, in an aircraft accident near Pasco, Washington, over the Columbia River.

Randy was an avid and talented pilot, owning and regularly flying his Cessna 310, Piper J-3 Cub, his Super Cub and a beautiful Cessna 195 on straight floats.

Randy was a talented mechanic who had a business building race cars, and restoring and selling Corvettes, Corvairs and anything else that he happened upon. He had restored the 195 and flew it off the Napa River.

He was a familiar face at Sonoma Skypark. He wasn't a member of EAA Chapter 1268, but he was one of our community of pilots.

We send our condolences to his family.

Several of our other members have lost their partners and loved ones these past few years. Our words might offer little solace, but I hope you know that we are thinking of you and your loved ones.

The last little bit of not-great news I have to share is that I really muffed it with the Ray scholarships this year.

In November I usually apply for two scholarships through our Chapter 1268 and two through Chapter 1232 in Novato. It had become pretty routine, and because we have a successful record of graduating private pilots, we are usually automatically approved for the scholarships.

We would have been, that is, if I had remembered to click the "submit" button at the end of the online application forms.

The officers interviewed and chose four scholars, each who would receive \$9,000 from the Ray Foundation and the Chapter matching amount of \$3,000, for a total of \$12,000 each.

I only realized that the Ray Foundation hadn't received our application when I had the scholars try to complete their applications on the EAA website.

The upshot is that I appealed to our members and the Sonoma Skypark pilots and shareholders for donation to make up at least two of the scholarships for 2026.

The good news is that we had some very generous donations, including a \$6,000 matching contribution that we've been able to fulfill, and another \$5,000 one that we are currently working to match.

Our goal this year is to provide two \$12,000 scholarships to replace the ones we didn't get this year, and then get two from the Ray Foundation for 2027 for the other two scholars the Chapter had selected for 2026.

Just like flying, I should have used a checklist. Next November, please remind me to click the "submit" button.

Final note: we still need dinners for August, October and November! Please sign up now!

Thanks,
Darrel

EAA 1268 TREASURER REPORT **2026**

Here is the Treasurer's report for June...

Checking	\$1920.05
Savings	\$26,115.77
CD	\$21,108.63

Deposits:

June Mtg. Dinner	\$234.46
Burgers	\$1133.18
Donations	\$5550.00 (Thank you to all who have donated to the Ray Scholarship fund!)

Expenditures:

Robin Tatman supplies)	\$584.99 (Airport Day
Darrel Jones supplies)	\$1100.28 (Airport Day
Robin Tatman supplies)	\$84.12 (Clubhouse
Ray Gallarate supplies)	\$337.41 (Airport Day
Culligan Sonoma	\$65.00 (Hi-Cap rental fee)

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 January 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, July 12 this month.

There was a high overcast, but we had good visibility and no winds in the morning, so we were able to start flying at 9 am. We had seven pilots, including Pedro Millikan, an instructor with Mike Smith Aviation. Mike and Kimberly donated the use of one of their 172s for Pedro's use in helping Chapter 1268 with our Young Eagles rally.

We flew twenty-seven Young Eagles, and had enough pilots that we were done by noon, which is unusual because of late starts with low clouds from the summer marine layer.

Thanks to Kristen Gregory, the Air Explorer Post Advisor, the Napa Aviation Explorers have really stepped in with their members doing registration, staffing an information table for the Young Eagles and their parents, handling marshaling to keep visitors safe on the ramp and conducting ground school sessions for the Young Eagles waiting for their ride.

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 and Julia 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 element of fatigue. This month, let's discuss our final human factors element of situational awareness.

In aviation, situational awareness is the pilot's mental picture of the flight environment. It requires perceiving elements in the environment, comprehending their meaning, and projecting future status. The importance of acknowledging situational awareness issues and implementing mitigation strategies cannot be overstated since loss of situational awareness continues to be a primary causal factor in human-error-related aviation incidents.

Situational awareness (SA) is a dynamic, continuous process rather than a static state. It operates across three hierarchical levels:

Level 1: Perception: Gathering information through scanning, cross-checking instruments, and listening to air traffic control.

Level 2: Comprehension: Synthesizing the gathered data to understand how external variables—like weather, traffic, and aircraft performance—affect the flight.

Level 3: Projection: Forecasting how current circumstances will evolve, allowing the crew to stay "ahead of the aircraft".

Even highly experienced aviators are susceptible to losing situational awareness due to human physiology and environmental stressors. Common cognitive roadblocks include:

Task Saturation and Tunnel Vision: When faced with a high-workload emergency, pilots often fixate on a single problem, inadvertently ignoring crucial instruments or warnings.

Automation Complacency: Relying heavily on autopilots can lead to passive monitoring. Pilots who disengage mentally from active flying often struggle to comprehend the immediate situation if the automation fails or behaves unexpectedly.

Fatigue and Boredom: Extreme fatigue overloads the brain, causing it to randomly drop vital information. Conversely, understimulated environments can lead to complacency and a loss of active scanning.

Confirmation Bias: Pilots sometimes cling to their initial mental model despite real-world evidence pointing to the contrary, such as ignoring changing weather conditions based on an outdated forecast.

As we examine the threats to aviation, we also discuss our mitigation strategies. Our number

one method to address the threat of loss of situational awareness is an acknowledgement of our limitations, and application of proven strategies including: Crew Resource Management (CRM), Fatigue Risk Management, Standard Operating Procedures, and Checklists.

Not only do we have established processes and specialized training, but we also have constantly evolving technologies to help us improve and maintain situational awareness. Safety nets like terrain and traffic displays provide immediate cognitive backups.

Additionally, with the advancement in the realism of simulator training, we can take advantage of simulator scenarios to immerse ourselves in high-stress, dynamic situations.

A breakdown in a pilot's situational awareness will continue to be a significant contributing factor in aircraft accidents. We can mitigate the threat through acknowledgement of our personal limitations, use of proven processes and procedures, and the use of the technological advancements to aid our awareness.

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 well-informed group.

This Month's IMC Question:

You are approaching for landing on runway 32 at a large and busy airport that has inbound regional airline traffic landing on 36. While on final, the tower requests you to Land and Hold Short of runway 36 for landing traffic. This reduces your available landing distance on 32 to 2,000 feet. Are you required to accept the land and hold short request? Why should or shouldn't you accept, and what are the potential consequences of accepting or declining the request?

The July VMC question of the month:
Many pilots find their ADS-B to be an invaluable tool for collision avoidance. Besides ADS-B, what are the best strategies for visually scanning for traffic, and is it still necessary to scan visually if you're using ADS-B?

The June IMC question:
Loading an aircraft to ensure proper weight and balance is critical to flight safety. What are the flight characteristics of an aft-loaded airplane (aft CG)?

Answer:

An aft-loaded aircraft requires little downward force on the horizontal stabilizer to maintain level flight; thus the wing loading is reduced, and fuel economy and airspeed are slightly increased. However, the aircraft has reduced stability in pitch, making it more difficult to control. The aircraft may easily over-rotate on takeoff, and may tend to float on landing. Stall speed is higher, but stall recovery is more difficult or impossible.

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 Cindy 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/M 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	Air Academy scholars' reports?
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
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	Rio Vista Airport Day
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	Rio Vista Airport Day
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

June 9, 2026

Present: President Robin Tatman, Vice President Darrel Jones, Treasurer Ray Gallarate, Secretary Nelleke Cooper

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

Robin reported that additional adult volunteer coordinators are needed to assist with the Saturday barbeques. Darrel will prepare a volunteer sign-up spreadsheet for the barbeque schedule. The spreadsheet will be published in the newsletter and posted in the clubhouse.

Robin mentioned that Kristin Gregory introduced a new format for her Air Explorer program. The program will now consist of three sessions each year-summer, fall and winter.

Active participation in meetings and Young Eagle events is expected of all Air Explorers. They are encouraged to provide a more interactive experience at Young Eagles events by teaching ground school and assisting Gretchen with registration and wherever help is needed.

Robin announced plans to install a television in the airport office so Sporty's Ground School can be taught there. Students who complete the assignments will receive logbook endorsement stamps as verification of their completion.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

President Robin called the Membership meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Robin thanked Ray and Norma Gallarate for a delicious dinner of pizza, salad and dessert.

She summarized the key topics discussed during the Board Meeting and provided the membership with an update on the actions being taken.

Speaker for the evening was Dean Chmiller, a founding officer of the Fly California Passport Program. The program is designed to encourage flying, support local airports and

keep the airports active. To date, there are 239 California public use airports that the organization has set up.

David himself has flown into 529 airports. He is an engineer by profession. His licenses include Commercial Pilot, Multi-engine, Glider pilot, Sea plane, CFI single-and multi engine,

The program is also designed to create a unique learning experience flying into all the different airports. Pilots purchase a passport and collect stamps and patches to prove they have landed at the designated airports.

Following the presentation, David had passports available for purchase. Several chapter members purchased passports and expressed interest in participating in the program. More information about the program is available at <https://flycapassport.com>

Ken Wayne of Flying Tails thanked the Chapter for hosting the May 16 fundraiser. He noted that several competing events were taking place in Sonoma that day, many of which had not been publicized in advance, resulting in lower attendance than anticipated. Robin suggested placing greater emphasis on the silent auction at future fundraisers, as it proved to be one of the primary sources of proceeds.

Darrel mentioned that the Chapter has now successfully sponsored nine student pilots in earning their Private Pilot Certificates through the Ray Aviation Scholarship program. The approved recipients of the scholarships this year are: Izzy Olyer, Elio Eeo, Finley Skaggs and Dane Miller.

The Membership meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted
Nelleke Cooper, Secretary

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 32 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 Costco 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



We've come up with a signup sheet for Saturday hamburgers volunteers. There will be one posted in the clubhouse also. Please contact Robin or Marsi to get your name on the list.

**EAA 1268 SATURDAY BURGER
VOLUNTEER SIGNUP SHEET**

DATE	COORDINATOR	COOK	SERVER 1	SERVER 2	NOTES
7/18/2026					
7/25/2026					
8/1/2026					
8/8/2026					
8/15/2026					
8/22/2026					
8/29/2026					
9/5/2026					
9/12/2026					
9/19/2026					
9/26/2026					
10/3/2026					
10/10/2026					
10/17/2026					
10/24/2026					
10/31/2026					
11/7/2026					
11/14/2026					
11/21/2026					
11/28/2026					
12/5/2026					
12/12/2026					
12/19/2026					

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 JULY MEETING OF SONOMA SKYCRAFTERS EAA CHAPTER 1268 IS THIS TUESDAY, JULY 14 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