

SONOMA SKYPARK NEWS

JANUARY 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR, I wish all of you a healthy and fulfilling year ahead.

To get things started in an aeronautical manner on New Year's Day, the Petaluma Area Pilots Association (PAPA) is hosting a chili & corn bread lunch. They are serving from 11am to 1pm at their club house along-side the approach end of Rwy 29. A number of Skypark pilots are planning on flying over there. I hope you are one of them.

Our airport Christmas party was a really nice evening and a good beginning to the holiday season on Friday night December 7th. **Kathy Carmichael & Jeanette Woods** organized us, starting with the decorating gang on Thursday night. **Marilyn & Bob Avrit** created the festive table center pieces that added the final touch to the table settings. Friday night brought wonderful hor d'oeuvres and drinks expertly poured by **Rafe Tomsett & Debbie Presten**. We enjoyed many excellent salads and vegetable dishes to accompany the roasted turkey and ham. **Gardner & Shelia Bride**, owners of **Petaluma Coffee Company** provided lots of super coffee to accompany the numerous tasty desserts brought by the guests. The guest were very generous donating toys for the "Toys-for-Tots" collection and the sale of the Christmas Center Pieces provided \$200 for the Air Explorer Post 1268. It was a fun evening with good food and good fellowship.

Sam McIntosh was able to get away from his nursing duties and join us at the Christmas party to report that **Bea McIntosh** was showing lots of improvement. Sam expressed his thanks to all of you that have expressed concern. I am happy to report that **Bea** was able to return home just before Christmas and is making good progress with her rehabilitation.

Carneros Aviation, our flight school has been very active in December in spite of the rainy weather. They are one of the featured articles in the quarterly glossy magazine "**Sonoma**" accompanied by wonderful pictures inside and outside the plane flying over the valley. They have received their FAA paper work for scenic tours so bookmark: www.AirplaneTours.com for the occasion when you need a unique gift or have visitors who would enjoy a Tour over Sonoma and Napa Valley or an Aerobatic Ride!!! Carneros Aviation: 707-939-8333, www.carnerosaviation.com.

2013 looks to be a good year if we don't go too far off the fiscal cliff. All of our winery neighbors are going full speed ahead finishing a record harvest for the 2012 vintage. EAA Chapter 1268's Young Eagle program always attracts eager young faces and willing pilots always appear to share the flying experience each month. Early this coming year we will see the

topping out of the Historical Lighted Airway Beacon Tower in the center of our parking lot. Bev Morgan started collecting money for the Memorial Beacon Fund purchase in 2002. It took a while but I think it will be a notable educational asset for the future. We will have to get Bev to return and cut the ceremonial ribbon. The Skypark motor glider fleet has grown recently and the respective owner/pilots are all checked out so we should see more glider activity. The amphibian airplane fleet has grown to three so Skypark should be represented at the Clearlake Sea Plane Fly-in. On January 8th Curtis Presten turns sixteen and plans to solo in the Champ. From now on he will be cooking burgers for gas money on Saturday! As the rest of us mature, it is always encouraging to see another sixteen year old take to the skies.

CALENDAR

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| January | 8 | EAA Chapter 1268 Dinner meeting at 7:00 pm with a speaker following dinner. Everyone is welcome. |
| January | 12 & 13 | Display days from noon to 4:00 pm for aircraft of historical significance. |
| January | 13 | Young Eagle airplane rides. Rides from 9:00 am to noon for young people age 8 to 17. |
| January | 25 | Movie Night at the airport club house. Free popcorn and drinks at 6:00 pm, pizza and drinks at 7:00 pm for \$5.00, followed by the featured film. This month's feature will be announced by Rafe. |

Tailwinds, Ron Price



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