

SONOMA SKYPARK NEWS

JANUARY 2015

I WANT TO WISH EVERYONE READING THIS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!!

2014 was a year of continuity for SkyPark with some sadness, joy and accomplishment. On January 12 SkyPark lost a major spark plug when "Jeanne Williams" suddenly passed away. Jeanne and her deceased husband Jim had been part of Sonoma SkyPark, Inc. since its beginning in 1986. They were both accomplished pilots and were among the first of the owners to build a hangar here in 1987 (B-1). Jeanne was always willing to help with projects at SkyPark and served as President, Treasurer, CFO and Bookkeeper for our Board of Directors. Another SkyPark aviation personality went West on January 31, when "Tat" Tatman passed away. Tat had a long career in aviation starting in the days of lighted airways. Tat's wife Robin Tatman is the leader of our local Air Explorer Post in addition to flying for Delta Airlines.

April 1st Phil Cabaud and his son John Cabaud, Jr. formed Air Sonoma Aviation to offer flight instruction, flight introductions, rides and rental aircraft. They have been quite successful in teaching young and old the art of flight. Seventeen year old Colin Trainer was John's last student to earn his Private Pilot license on December 23, 2014. Congratulations are due to both of them.

The spring rains never showed up so SkyPark experienced considerable flying in spite of rising fuel prices. Our EAA Chapter 1268 hosted EAA VP Captain Jeff Skilles and several other guest speakers with very good messages. Our young airline alumni (relatively speaking) were called back to work during the spring and a couple of them started new airline careers. The Presten boy's solo experience continued with Ben's solo on his sixteenth birthday, February 18th. On June 5, the SkyPark pilots and friends hosted our almost annual "Sonoma SkyPark Family Fun Day". It continues to attract a crowd with airplanes and automobiles on display, raffle prizes, silent auction, parachute bingo and hay wagon rides for the young at heart. The weather was beautiful and our chefs served up close to 500 hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings. The event raised \$3,000 for the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance and the Post 1268 of the Air Explorer's.

Sunday, August 24 started off with a big shake at about 4 pm. It was a 6.0 earthquake centered about six miles South East of the airport. Very little damaged occurred at the airport or in Sonoma. Downtown Napa and the Browns Valley area suffered extensive damage.

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Late in the fall we did extensive asphalt crack filling and some complete asphalt replacement. Rain came too soon to complete the job with a total overcoat of the runway and taxiways. Early in the summer of 2015 this job will be completed and work will start on the hangar taxiways.

Friday night, December 5th more than a hundred SkyPark friends gathered for our annual Christmas Party. It is always a nice way to get into the Holiday Spirit with friends and enjoy an abundance of good food contributed by the attendees. Welcome winter rains had already begun to fall on the night of the party but they didn't seem to dampen our spirits.

Seventeen inches of rain fell in December and with the exception of four hangars in N row and a few leaky roofs the airport weathered the storms quite well.

Every Saturday Hamburgers and Hot Dogs are served in the clubhouse from noon to 1:30 pm, rain or shine. Rafe Tomsett shows an aviation oriented film with an introduction that only Rafe can script. The evening starts with a serial film and free popcorn and the feature film is accompanied with pizza and drinks for five bucks. That's hard to beat!

CALENDAR

January 10th & 11th ----- Aircraft Display days. January 11th ---- Young Eagle rides from 9:00am to noon. January 13th ---- EAA Chapter 1268 dinner meeting. 6 to 9 pm.
January 14th ----- Petaluma Area Pilots Association dinner meeting at 5 pm at Petaluma airport clubhouse. January 24th ----- SkyPark Movie night at 6 pm Serial & popcorn, 7 pm pizza followed by feature film. TBA

Tailwinds, Ron Price

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