



# Hangar News

April 2025

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron  
AMA Charter #1651

## First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

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**Sec: Mark Gray** 619-993-6548

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15198 Picturesque Point  
El Cajon, CA 92021

### Field Marshals:

Vernon Gilmore, Ron Keith, Dick Milhausen, Gary Rold, Tim Peterson, Richard Brown

**Fun Fly Chairman** Keith Miller

**Race Chairman** Glen Merritt

**Safety Officer** Ron Keith

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### Instructors:

Scott Graupmann 858-945-6969

Keith Miller 619-405-0192

Jeff Coskey 619-913-1455

Butch Weiser 619-713-6096

Dean Nickol 619-208-7906

Dick Milhausen 619-561-5323

\*AMA Introductory Pilot Program Instructors:

Scott Graupmann, Glenn Merritt, Jeff Coskey, Butch Weiser, Bruce Allan, Larry Bagalini and Keith Miller

**HANGAR NEWS** is printed for the members of the FIRST WEED WACKER AERO SQUADRON and its contents do not necessarily reflect the policies of the club. Editorial deadline is the 15th of each month.

Articles, news items and classified ads should be sent to [news.weedwackers@gmail.com](mailto:news.weedwackers@gmail.com).

Articles originally published in this newsletter may be reprinted and published by modelers and club newsletters. We ask that credit to the author and this newsletter be acknowledged in the reprint. We will do the same.

**CLUB FIELD:** Cactus Park (East), Ashwood St. (1/4 mile N-E of El Capitan High School) in Lakeside, CA. Please be sure the last flyer to leave locks the pin box and the gate.

## Upcoming Events

### Next Meeting:

Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

### Headlines:

#### Bylaws Revision Proposed

A motion was made to the Board to revise the bylaws specifically **to eliminate the \$50 initiation fee for new members**. The Board unanimously approved to carry the motion which must be followed by a club vote at the next meeting (April).

#### Current text:

Article 5. Finances

B. Initiation Fee

(1) Each new Regular Member is assessed a one-time initiation fee in the amount of \$50.

(2) The initiation fee is due and payable upon application for membership. If an application is rejected for cause by the Board of Directors, the initiation fee shall be returned to the applicant.

(3) The initiation fee is waived for new Junior Members.

(4) Only one initiation fee is required for each Family Membership accepted by the Board of Directors.

#### Proposed text:

Delete the entire section B.

#### Vote for the change on Sat April 5<sup>th</sup>: Per the bylaws.....

The proposed change is published here per Article 4, and will be brought to vote at the next regular club meeting on April 5th. A minimum of 10 percent of the total Club membership must be present for a vote to amend the Bylaws. For the proposal to be accepted, the affirmative votes must be a minimum of 70 percent of the number of members present. (The 10 percent and 70 percent criteria will be rounded to the nearest whole number, i.e., 70 percent of 36 (25.2) will be rounded to 25.)

#### Since Last Meeting:

**Pylon Racing:** David Roche took charge as Glen stayed home sick. Five pilots started a series of 4 races; David, Jeff Coskey, Keith and Jeramy Miller and Jim Elgie. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> heat, Jeff's canopy popped off and landed in the dirt road only to have some clown drive right over it. There was a spare on-site, so he finished. Jim took first with David, Keith and Jeff taking the remainder of the spots.

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Mark Gray

## Meeting Minutes 1 March 2025

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM at the field. Club officers present were the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and the Secretary. A total of 14 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of minutes:** Ron Keith moved the minutes of the February 1, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Keith Miller. The motion was approved.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Starting Balance: \$19,037.90 February 1, 2025  
Income: \$1,040  
Expenses: \$740.39  
Ending Balance: **\$19,337.51** February 28, 2025

- Balance February 28, 2024: \$9,191.45

Table Repair Fund: \$900.00  
Expenses: \$636.59  
Current Balance: **\$263.41**

Keith Miller moved the treasurer's report be approved as submitted. Seconded by John Loerke. The motion was approved.

### **General Notes:**

- Reminder to pay 2025 dues, 27 have not paid yet. If you have not paid dues, you are not eligible to fly.
- Badges must be worn at all times while at the field.
- Slurry seal on the runway is tentatively planned for next Saturday, including repainting of the lines.
- Reminder to take home anything that is not sold at the swap meet or brought to the field – please don't leave any personal items behind.

### **Field Maintenance:**

- The County is taking the north fence down within a couple of months.
- The gentleman doing the runway will be here today at 10:30 to discuss the details, coverage areas, line painting, moving the target, etc.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Next Saturday [March 8] is the Swap meet – 7:00-11:00 AM.

**Old Business:** None.

### **Safety Officer Report:**

- Reminder to call out when you need to go out onto the field.

### **Rule review:**

- Rule 21 – Charging of Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries at Cactus Park shall be in accordance with the posted Weedwacker Lithium Polymer Battery Charging Protocol (and should be followed when charging batteries of any type).
- When charging batteries, please ensure they are in a lipo bag.

### **New Business:**

- Keith Miller moved and Dick Milhausen seconded that we allocate \$5000 to resurface and repaint the runway. The motion was carried.
- Andy and Sam Reary are visiting – Welcome!
- Dick Milhausen proposed that the club eliminate the \$50 initiation fee to be more competitive with the other clubs. This requires a vote to change the by-laws. The board unanimously approves the proposal. It will be added to the newsletter and voted on at the April Meeting.

**Good of the Order:** None

Keith Miller moved and Brian Knutsen seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 AM.

## President's Message

Greetings everyone!

If you have not been to the field this week, please come by and check out the runway! The new seal and lines look great!

- One of the projects I have been working on is the storage shed door. It will soon be replaced with a set of doors that will be easier to open and close. I was told exiting the door is dangerous, so it has to be replaced as soon as possible. I should have all the bids in by the 25th or 26th of March. After the doors are replaced I would like to organize a work party to paint the sheds. If you would like to help, let me know.
- Pit roofs still need to be patched.
- The County agreed to remove the fence just north of the runway in the next few months. No date yet when this will happen but as soon as we know we will send out a notice.
- The pit tables are almost finished. Anyone interested in providing assistance, please contact Jeff.
- Upgrade to the Weedwackers website is in the works. The Board had a meeting to discuss changes and improvements. Thanks to

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Keith Miller and Vernon Gilmore for their hard work to get this project off the ground!

- The \$50 initiation fee required for new members will be discussed at the April 5th meeting. Do we keep it or eliminate the fee - \$160 membership plus the \$50 initiation fee - can be costly for new members. We will discuss and put it to a vote. [Editor's note - \$160 is the AMA and club membership fees combined.]
- I would like members attending the April 5th meeting to bring brooms to sweep the west end of the runway. It is a small job; 10 to 20 minutes tops (more brooms less time). I will bring donuts for all the helpers!

Do not forget to wear your badge at the field and display the required FAA identification numbers on your aircraft.

If you have any questions, feel free to call.

Ron  
(619) 988-7667

## More News:

**Ken Lawrence continues to amaze....** Ken's Polaris was shown in the April issue of Model Aviation (AMA).



## Polaris

Ken Lawrence (El Cajon, California; email: [mkaway@cox.net](mailto:mkaway@cox.net)) is now flying his newest Old School Model Works (OSMW) airplane, the Polaris. "I've named it 'Erin,' and you can immediately see why!" he wrote. "I was on an Irish kick when it came to the finish, and you can see how it turned out!"

The wingspan is 50 inches and he's using the OSMW-recommended BadAss electric motor that turns an 11 x 6 BadAss wooden propeller on a 3,600 mAh 4S LiPo battery. The covering is UltraCote white and lime green, with graphics by Callie Graphics.

"It is an excellent flier, with *no* bad habits, and it flies as smoothly as though it were on rails!"

## New Youth Member:

Steve Shepersky introduced 11-year-old Ashton Hopkins to his first flights at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

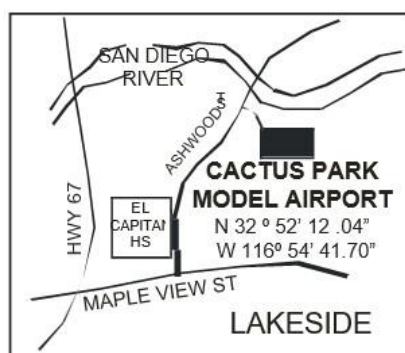


**Swap Meet Pics:** Here's some snapshots from our March Swap Meet, courtesy of Julian Sonderegger.





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