



HANGAR NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST WEEDWACKER AEROSQUADRON AMA CHARTER December 2023

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron
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Tim Peterson Richard Brown

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Butch Weiser* Dean Nickol*

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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 AEROSQUADRON 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 Don Westergren, 3942 Calavo Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941.

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..

R/C Schedule

Dec 2 Sat Club Meeting Cactus Park 9:00 AM

Jan 13 Sat 4:00 PM Club Awards Banquet, VFW Lakeside

January Awards Banquet

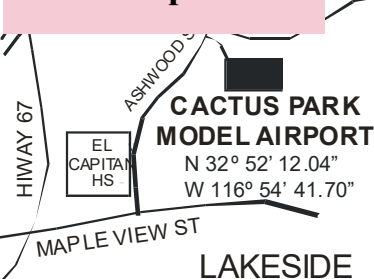
The Banquet this year is different and a lot less expensive for the club. Bring models to show and share. It starts at 4:00 PM and we have to clean up at the end. We will all have a good time. You must pay ahead, we don't have extra food for latecomers.

Jeff has run the crack filler machine on parts of the runway. We will see how well that works over this coming rain season.



NEXT MEETING:
Sat Dec 2, 9:00 AM
at Cactus Park
Lakeside, CA

Field Is Opened





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Meeting Minutes 28 Oct 2023 (November meeting)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 09:00 am at the field. Club officers present were the President, Vice President, Treasurer and the Secretary. The meeting was kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Comments: Ron asked that membership refrain from any discussions with the tenant of the property immediately to our east (setting up the nursery). Please allow the club officers to deal with him. In addition, Ron is also working directly with the property owner who is much more personable.

The “no trespassing” signs were posted at the recommendation of the Sheriff to help the tenant and owner in dealing with vandalism caused by vagrants. The dogs on the property are friendly, and the property owner has no problems with us retrieving planes that might land there.

Ron thanked Mark Lukens for the pool noodle work he recently did, adding fresh pads to the restraining pegs and we think also to the eastern fence.

New Members: Steve Olejnik is rejoining as a member who used to be a Weedwacker when the field was on Mission Gorge Road in Santee. Steve transitioned to full-scale and built an RV -7. Welcome, Steve!

Approval of minutes: Keith Miller moved for approval of the November meeting minutes published in the newsletter. Frank Gagliardi seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurers Report:

Beginning Balance:	\$6,142.71
Expenses:	\$53.84
Closing Bal:	\$6,088.87

The report was approved without discussion.

Club Officer Elections: All four club officer positions were elected by acclamation. Ron Keith (President) and Jeff Coskey (Vice President) retain their seats. Congratulations and many thanks to Mark Gray (Secretary) and Richard Brown (Treasurer) to step up in relief of me and Scott!

Safety Officer Report: Ron reported that Band-Aids are re-stocked at the request of a member. The process works! Ron is planning a Safety Training event in January to include firefighting, use of the fire blankets, Mr. Sock and will also have an instructor to go over AED use.

Field Maintenance:

Trash bins: Waste Management was called to deliver a new recycle bin (blue). They say they left one by the front gate. We don’t have it. Scott took action to ask again. (It’s apparent that the delivery guy isn’t the same as the folks who pick up the trash, and that he doesn’t have a phone to call the office to get the combination.)

Shed Roof: Still incomplete. Sunday November 12 is planned for a roof tear-off working party starting at noon.

Runway Maintenance: A working party is planned / scheduled for Sunday November 5th at noon to lay tar in the cracks.

Rules Review: Absolutely no flying in the pits. Ron indicated a member was flying a helicopter in the pit area which is absolutely not allowed. (He was kinda wound up, so don’t do THAT again!).

Upcoming Events:

Pylon Races at the Weedwackers is normally every 4th Saturday of the month. There will be no races in November and December as they fall in or around the major holidays. Racing will continue in January 2024.

Glen thanked all of those who participate and assist (calling cuts and spotters). [Keith’s quick report: Max Merritt won the day after some very tight close-quarters racing! At one point, five airplanes were all in the same quarter lap and were taking the turns very tightly and without any



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mid-air collisions! Except for that Keith guy who clobbered the west pylon flag...]. Fun!!! Glen, THANK YOU for running this event!

Swap Meet and Toys for Tots drive: (will be OBE at time of publication) The swap meet will be held on Saturday Nov 4th at 7am. All proceeds go to Toys For Tots. Frank Gagliardi and Lester Moore are coordinating to turn cash to toys and present the final stash to the organization.

Veteran's Day Fly-In: Keith Miller moved for a \$600 raffle budget. Rank Gagliardi seconded. All except Steve Shepersky approved (grinch).

Annual Awards Banquet: Ron polled the attendees – everyone wants a banquet. Ron and Richard are actively searching venues. Ron will do a site survey at the Lakeside Community Center at Lindo Lake. They charge \$80/hour for the space which can handle 60 people. Catering would be separate which Ron and Richard are also looking into. The tentative date is Saturday January 6th.

Richard is also looking into the Hacienda near Parkway Plaza.

The time of day will be determined by the Board.

Glen polled the Board if any consideration was made to hold an event at the club field. In discussion, Ron and Richard plan to hold an event that families and spouses would enjoy attending. However, there was continued discussion that an event at the field could easily be catered by a lunch truck (with a minimum buy-in that would be very affordable).

Bylaws Revisions to manage finances

Following up to close the loop from the October meeting, the motions for dues increase (to \$80) and to stop the monthly drawing for free membership were published and presented, with the approval from the October meeting standing. There was no further discussion. Keith will publish the final version and put a fresh club application in the binder.

FRIA Update: Keith briefed the club on our current application to be recognized as an FAA-Recognized Identification Area (FRIA). Our application (as are all clubs) is passed through the AMA. The FAA rejected our first submission because the satellite image we (Keith) submitted was taken while the temporary structures were going up for that shrimp farm. They also had concerns that we fly over a “public road”, that being the easement driveway provided to the polo field by the Helix Water District. Our rebuttal provided recent satellite imagery showing only the pumphouse as well as a copy of the maps showing the Helix easement.

The FAA came back with an additional request that we provide them written concurrence from the polo grounds that they're OK with us flying over the dirt road. Glen Merritt offered assistance in that his wife worked in the Helix Water District who should actually be the entity that signs such a letter. Keith has that for action. The FAA also asked that whoever owns the Ron Smith RC Model Airplane Park grant permission to fly over the park. Duh.

Good of the Order: From Bruce Allen, the museum at Gillespie Field is holding an event and swap meet of their own on November 4th from 9am to 3pm. That will make a great transition for folks departing our early swap meet.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 am followed promptly by pylon races.





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November 2023 President's Message

November has been a very busy month.

The runway crack filler has proven to be what we need to maintain the runway. About a third of the cracks have been filled thanks to Jeff Coskey, Steve Shepersky, Lester Moore, and several others. Thank you for taking the time to help.

The shed roof has been temporarily repaired. The permanent repairs will be completed sometime in the future. The work party included Jeff Coskey, Kevin Pothier, Julian Sonperegger, Craig Graham, and I helped a little.

The turnout for the swap meet was smaller than expected. When I told the sellers that the fee to sell would be donated to Toys for Tots, they were happy to give more.

Rich Brown and Dick Milhausen removed weeds, mowed, and removed leaves and debris around the BBQ area. Thanks guys! Rich also handled the raffle and collected just over \$400. A big thanks to all who bought tickets at the Veterans fly in.

The funds in our treasury are low this year due to field maintenance and no estate sales. And has anybody bought a propane tank lately? It cost \$70. I was surprised.

Rich Brown and I researched several places to hold our banquet. Unfortunately, the Elks Club was too expensive. Rich even offered to hold the banquet at his home. The Lakeside VFW at Lindo Lake Park will be the location of our banquet on January 13, 2024, at 4:00 pm. The banquet will be catered BBQ followed by plaques and awards, raffle, and model sharing. We will collect money prior to the event. The cost will be \$25 per person due by January 1, 2024. No pay at the door. Board members will take payment.

New Board members will start December 1, 2023. They are Mark Gray, Secretary, and Rich Brown, Treasurer. Keith Miller and Scott Graupmann are stepping down after serving a very long time in those positions. They will still be around as pilots. Job well done! Thanks guys.

The gentleman at the nursery to the east was a little upset with some of the members flying overhead. I explained we were changing "downwind to final". We will stay west of the white pumphouse when on landing approach. I gave him my card to contact me with any concerns. He does not have a problem with a crash or if a plane lands in his lot, we are allowed to retrieve parts through the gate. The No Trespassing and Beware of Dogs signs were not posted for us. He had a problem with people hopping the fence at night and stealing. The Sheriff told him to post signs or they would not be able to do anything about the thieves. In the future, let me deal with him if there is a problem.

Hope this brings you up to date. If you have any questions, feel free to call.

Ron
(619) 988-7667



First Weedwacker Aero Squadron Annual Awards Banquet

**Saturday 1/13/2024
4:00 pm**

*Admission—\$25 per person
Beef, Ham and all the fixins'
- including -*

*Model of the Year Competition and Presentation
Big Raffle!*

Tickets must be paid by Jan 1st. No exceptions.



**VFW Carter Smith Post 5867
12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside CA**





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Views of Veterans Day Scale Flyin Nov 11, 2023

