



# HANGAR NEWS

## NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST WEEDWACKER AEROSQUADRON AMA CHARTER September 2023

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron  
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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..

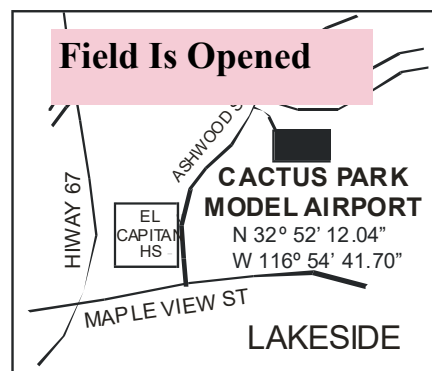
## R/C Schedule

Aug26 Sat FMS T28 v2 Pylon Race, Cactus Park

Sept 2 Sat Club Meeting Cactus Park 9:00 AM

The heat of Summer is still upon us—at least for early September. So stay out of the Sun and stay hydrated. Spyders are out in force, so be careful when you set up a chair or lean against a table. Read about Ron Keith's episode with a Black Widow Spyder.

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





# Hangar News

## Meeting Minutes 05 Aug 2023

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 09:01 am at the field. Club officers present were the President, Vice President, Treasurer and the Secretary. A total of **23** members signed the roster. The meeting was kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of minutes:** Approval of the minutes of the June meeting was moved by Lyle Black, second by Kurt Mead, approved.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Scott disclosed a clerical error in last months report. Specifically, one of the United Site Services bills was recorded as a credit in the register the balances reported today are corrected.

Opening Balance      \$8,439.13

Income                      \$80.00

Expenses                 \$859.40

Ending Bal:             \$7,659.73

No motions were made for approval.

### **Safety Officer Report:** Ron covered a wide variety of Safety issues

**AED:** The AED is back online and in the safety cabinet. Ron investigated a company who provides an annual service for \$150 which includes AED battery maintenance. He concluded the cost was unnecessary since he can order batteries as needed without a service. Ron asked that the AED be kept on the shelf of the cabinet (when the cabinet is open) to ensure it's not inadvertently left outside the cabinet when everyone's gone home. They're expensive. Further discussion concluded that, if members need access to the frequency pins (Remember those? Yep, still in use.) that the AED be placed on the ground right in front of the cabinet so that people locking up for the day remember to stow it.

A Fire Fighting training session is planned for January next year.

Ron asked the membership to let him know if there's anything that needs to be added to the First Aid kit. Pete Pease moved that morphine be added. Mark Huyser said he'd supply. Ok, the morphine thing was in fun.

### **Field Maintenance:**

**Runway Maintenance:** Jeff briefed the membership on a hot-pour crack filling machine (as was emailed to the club on 7/24/2023). The cost of the machine and raw material is less than what we'd pay a contractor.

This the RY10 Asphalt Crack Fill Machine at \$1,300. Rough calculations for our estimated 2000 linear feet of 1/2" deep, 1/2" wide average cracks will need about 240 lbs. of material which is ~\$850. This spawned some conversations on the state of the treasury and ideas for raising funds.

*(On that tangent, ideas were floated that we could have a big event and charge entry fees. [Keith's personal observation: This topic came up frequently for more than ten years with no one stepping up to execute. Secondly, our field geometry and facilities won't likely support monetarily beneficial events.]*

*Also suggested was to expand the club to R/C car enthusiasts to gain more income. This also has been raised many times in the past with no one to execute. One member (Chuck Aguilar) took an action to begin investigation again, with the going-in understanding that 1) car members would be club members subject to the same AMA and club rules and fees 2) the county must be consulted to understand if we can 'add' dirt to the upper lot to make a track and 3) the runway could be used for car events*



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*focused on flat-track courses.)*

Glen Merritt led a discussion that the runway is our focal point, and that funding large expenses such as the banquet should be addressed as those events come up. The club subsidies for the banquet may be eliminated or the format may be changed based on available funds. Consensus was that the runway issues should be addressed and funded now.

Keith Miller moved and Glen Merritt seconded a \$2,000 allocation to procure the hot-pour machine and material to get us started on a solid round of runway crack care. The motion passed unanimously.

**County weed work planned:** The County was scheduled in July to cut back the growth in the EPA capped area between the bare wire and chain link fences north of the runway. [That work was completed the week after this meeting.]

**Rules Review:** Rule #16 Badges are required to be worn when flying. Ron also reminded that our FAA numbers must appear on the outside of our planes.

## **Previous events:**

**Pylon Races:** The July event was attended by only five pilots, so we ran three 10-lap heats with a final Gold heat. One of the safety rules Glen briefs is that, if there's a mid-air collision from which either or both planes continue flying, they must both land immediately, regardless. This proved to be a factor in that dad and son Glen and Max in fact did just that. Both landed right away, and it turned out that Glen's T-28 had suffered control surface hinge damage that could have led to loss of control had he continued racing.

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Pylon Races** at the Weedwackers is every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. **In August, this will be on the 26<sup>th</sup>.** (SEFSD (Mission Bay) hold their every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.)

**National Model Aviation Day** was originally slated for Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>. The event was cancelled due to lack of interest and likelihood of high temperatures.

**Fun Fly Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup>** is TBD. [Keith's post-meeting comment; Unless an Event Coordinator wishes to run Fun-Fly events, they've been cancelled based on poor turn-out over the past few events.]

**Swap Meet and Toys for Tots:** Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Veteran's Day Fly-In:** Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Drawing for Free Membership:** At each meeting, we hold a random drawing from names on the club roster. If the member is present at the meeting, they win a free membership for the following year.

Drawing for August: Shawn Stone. Sorry – must be present to win!

**Show and Tell:** None this month

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.

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## **Addendum:**

### **Battery Fire, Quick Response, 8/19/2023**

A member pushed when he should have pulled resulting in a hard impact of a LiPo powered foamie. The members on-site took immediate action to put eyes on the approximate wreck area when they saw the smoke.

Craig Graham hustled to the scene with the Crash Kit and Steve Shepersky also responded right away.

Fortunately, the crash site was in the dirt road just across from the west end of the runway. The battery had ejected on impact and landed on the road. It had burst into flames but it was clear of the dried brush.



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Along with the quick and proper actions by the first responders, other modelers who were flying at the time stayed high until the situation was under control.

## Prop Strike, 8/18/2023

On Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>, John Loerke was the recipient of a very nasty and deep cut to the top of his forearm that required significant stitching.

John had set his transmitter throttle cut safety switch, but when reaching to open the battery compartment, he hit the throttle lever. The motor went to full power and the strike was hard enough to break off one of the blades.

John agreed to let us share his lessons.

While he occasionally has flown alone, he was fortunate to have been with other members who could take him to the emergency room. One member sacrificed a shirt to put pressure on the wound. Lesson: while not a “rule”, members are strongly urged to avoid flying alone. (Reminder to all, we do have “Mr. Sock” in the First Aid kit that could also be used to apply pressure.)

This was one of those instances of which we’ve emphasized to members that, regardless of transmitter motor cut switch conditions, something could go wrong. Any time a battery is plugged in, the prop must be considered live. Lesson: Any time the motor battery is plugged in, treat the model as if the propeller is or can be running any time.





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## All Hands,

For the September / October timeframe start thinking about nominations for Weedwackers Board positions.

Last week I was informed about a large spider in the outhouse. No joke, the black widow and cobweb was massive, one of the biggest I have ever encountered. I thought I'd have to burn down the outhouse to chase her down. Fifteen minutes later the damn thing decided she had had enough so the fight was on. With me armed with Raid and one angry spider in an outhouse we were a sight to behold.

She jumped on my hand - the hand holding the can of Raid. At this point I didn't know if I should smash, flick, or switch hands and spray. After performing the spider dance along with a few choice words I managed to shake her off when she moved up my arm with amazing speed. I switched hands and proceeded to cover the spider, my arm, the spider web, toilet, and paper towel dispenser with a half can of Raid. I won, she is dead, and four days later I think I still smell like Raid.

We had an injury (prop strike in forearm); the kill switch was off and throttle was bumped. The cut required a visit to the ER and nine stitches. This is a reminder for everyone to BE CAREFUL! The member did not know we have a first aid kit in the pin box, so at the September meeting we will have a short first aid demonstration. The return of Mister Sock.

On the north side of the field at the gate, a fire extinguisher is in the ground under the WW stepping stone. In case of a fire you won't have to return to the pits if you need another one. If this scenario happens let me know. A shout out to **Steve Shepersky** for doing all the work so we can have an extinguisher in the field. Thanks, your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

There was a small sink hole at the southwest corner of the paved runway. The Hilary tropical storm and ground critters added to the problem. I notified County and they responded quickly to make repairs. They are always good about following up when problems arise.

The tree is overgrown near the BBQ and picnic area. We need to put together a work party to trim back the branches.

The next meeting will be 2 September 2023, at 0900 at the field.

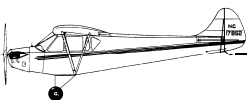
If you have any ideas to improve Weedwackers, bring to the meeting for discussion or reach out and let me know.

Ron  
(619) 988-7667

Don Western  
3942 Calavo Dr.  
La Mesa, CA



AMA Charter # 1651  
AMA Leader Club



NEXT MEETING: Saturday September 2, 9:00 AM  
at Cactus Park