



# HANGAR NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST WEEDWACKER  
AEROSQUADRON  
AMA CHARTER # 1651  
March 2020

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron  
P.O. Box 2044  
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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..

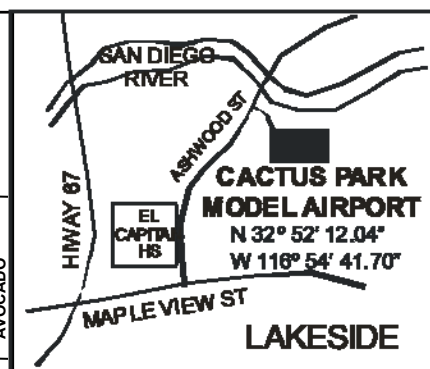
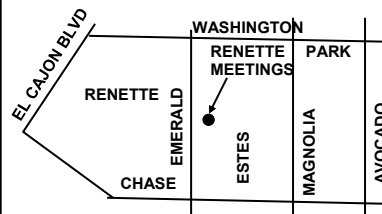
## R/C Schedule 2020

Due to the general orders to avoid large crowds and Stay At Home, the Club is not scheduling ANY activities, not participating in community projects. We will let you know when we are allowed to schedule meetings and activities.

## YES, The Field Is OPEN

Read the President's message. So Far, the County has not issued a closure notice that affects Cactus Park. The club is not scheduling any activities, but we are a flying club, and to do that, we go to Cactus Park. Be prudent, be safe, but above all, enjoy the opportunity to fly. No handshakes, no hugs, but enjoy each other's company.

NEXT MEETING:  
**NOT SCHEDULED**  
Renette Park





# HANGAR NEWS

## Meeting Minutes Mar 2020

### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm in the East Meeting Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Club Officers in attendance were the President and Vice President. The Secretary and Treasurer were called away and couldn't attend.

There were 14 people in attendance, not bad considering the meeting date change and rainy weather.

### Guests/New Members

Eric Duggie came back to visit and join. He and his father Mel have rejoined the ranks - welcome back guys!

### Approval of Minutes as presented in last month's Hangar News

The minutes were approved - moved by Ron Keith, seconded by Bill Simmons.

### Treasurers report

There was no treasurer's report this month.

### Safety Officer Report

Ron reminded us again that, if we use supplies from the First Aid kit, to let him or a club officer know, or leave a note in the pin box.

Masks in the First Aid kit are to protect First Aid responders from blood and bodily fluids and are NOT effective against COVID-19. Please leave the kit contents for First Aid only.

Safety Observations by members: At the field one day in March, a modeler was test-running an e-powered model which was properly restrained. In this case, the battery compartment cover was set on the work bench behind the prop arc. Oddly, the turbulent airflow pulled the foam cover back around and into the spinning prop, scattering foam popcorn all over the place.

Lesson: Establish a fairly wide FOD perimeter around spinning propellers!

Fire Fighting and Safety Training will be held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Events

**Swap Meet - Saturday 3/14/20**, may be moved to the 21<sup>st</sup> (rain date) [Presidents note - yes, it was

moved to 3/21, as of the date of this writing.]

**Estate Sale - Saturday March 28**, 8am to 2pm. Frank Gagliardi passed his personal invitation to the Weedwackers, and asked to hold it close (i.e., not for the public). It's his way of offering the items to Miramar and Weedwacker members as thanks for contribution for the Toys for Tots events. Flyers and information are published by email.

**Lakeside Western Days Parade - Saturday 4/25/20**. Our application is submitted.

Our theme this year is "Roaring into the 20's".

Matt Arnold of Floatasia, along with Rich and Ryan Crutchfield offered the use of a formal float again this year! Since their float isn't pre-decorated for other events, we have our choice of colors! Ryan Crutchfield has a wide variety of photos from previous Floatasia events and will recommend a color scheme.

The club will contribute monetarily to the cost of the decorative materials (as it's a bare float), and the amount will be determined and presented to the club at the April meeting.

At the same time, the San Diego Aerospace Museum (SDASM) offered their 20' flatbed trailer as a float, and the club had already agreed to help them with upgrades and maintenance likely to include sanding / priming frame (removing some rust).

While Floatasia will provide a float this year, the club will continue to honor our agreement with SDASM, not only as thanks for use of their trailer last year, but as a matter of maintaining a relationship within the aerospace industry. And, if necessary, we'd like to keep the trailer on tap as a backup.

**TEDx Kids - Saturday 5/2/2020** - Bruce is tracking and details will follow.

**America on Main Street - Saturday 5/16/2020** - We'll bring static displays and flight simulators (nearly identical to TEDx, but w/out the flight demonstration).

**Scale Fly-In - Saturday 5/23/20** POC's are expected to be Art Flores and Dick Milhausen, pending confirmation by Keith. Originally planned for May 16<sup>th</sup>, the new America on Main Street event created a conflict. We'll move the Scale Fly-In to Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a rain date of May 30<sup>th</sup>.



# HANGAR NEWS

## Old Business:

The **County Lease** proposal was reviewed by the Board. Recommended changes were sent to the County and are still under review.

Our **PayPal account** is established for renewals with a button on our web site. PayPal can also be used now to take direct payments for future sale of donated materials that the club might acquire.

**Fun-fly results:** The event was awesome - great weather and excellent food! We had 9 participants ages 11 to 73, 9, competing in four events.

See the Presidents message for details.

## Field Upgrades:

- Special thanks go out to **Mark Huyser** for refurbishing the metal-framed wooden benches. Thanks Mark!
- **Jeff Coskey** spent many hours refurbishing and repairing many of our benches and also installed all of the lime green retention sticks. Nicely done young man!

## New Business

Don Westergren recalled many stories of his life and activities with his late friend Paul Ross. Paul Ross passed away February 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year and was a Weedwacker for many many years. His stories included racing memories shared with many fellow members including Ron Smith, Don Rice, Steve Shepersky, Glenn Merritt and Don Gullihur, to name a few. Bob Ross, (Paul's son) is hosting a Memorial Service on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm at the SDASM, Gillespie Field. [Presidents note - this was later cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions.]

SEFSD T-28 Races - The Silent Electric Flyers of San Diego (the "Mission Bay" club) is running a series of "spec-class" races based around the FMS 800 mm T-28 RTF model. The information we have thus far indicates that the racing series doesn't appear to be open to just anyone - the races might be for SEFSD members only. The information on their website indicates that the race season is a very well thought-out series of events with very clear guidelines. For those Weedwackers who are interested in racing, membership at SEFSD

might be very worth while!

## Other New Business from members

Bill Simmons got a kit for Christmas that came with "Bondic" adhesive which cures with UV light. He described that it works well, and even did some engine repairs with it. Information can be found on [www.notagluue.com](http://www.notagluue.com).

Arnold Lipschutz initiated a discussion about charging lithium iron phosphate (LiFe) batteries while installed in a model. With respect to our field rules, this is currently allowed. However the consensus at the meeting is that, if doing so at home, it's always wise to continuously monitor any lithium-based charging activity.

However, recently Glenn Merritt recognized that our electric safety protocols are due for review, so Keith took action to ensure this topic is included.

Arnold also asked "What makes foam-safe CA "foam-safe"?". There was much speculation with no definitive consensus.

Julian Sonderegger initiated a very interesting discussion based around his new Jumper TX radio system. The conversation included its telemetry capabilities and compatibility with other various spread-spectrum receiver brands.

## Drawing for free membership

No drawing this month (Scott not present to draw).

## Raffle

No raffle was held due to the limited attendance.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm, moved by Ron Keith, second by Vernon Gilmore.

**DISCOUNT  
HOBBY  
WAREHOUSE**





## President's Message April 2020

### COVID-19 Implications

Here's a regurgitation of an email I sent out on 3/19, just moments before the Governor of California issued EXECUTIVE ORDER N-33-20 ordering all residents to stay home. That is, except as required for continuity of certain operations identified by CISA (some federal branch - Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency).

As a reminder, our flying field is part of Cactus Park, operated and managed by San Diego Parks and Recreation. The Weedwackers operate under a Reservation and Maintenance Agreement. Even with the stay-at-home order, I can't tell a member that they're not allowed to use the park, and the club doesn't have direct authority to "close" the park. Only the County can do that. And the Club is not in a position to enforce CDC and California state orders. That's up to each of you to do. I'm not going to reiterate all of the precautionary elements that we've all heard a billion time a day. If individual members wish to use the park, and the Board says they can't, then the club would be in violation of our agreement with County Parks. That is, until such time that County Parks officially closes the park. As of this instant, that hasn't happened.

The club will **suspend regular monthly club meetings** at Renette Recreation Center. While our monthly gatherings are significantly smaller than defined by the County order (50 people), the average age of our attendees is in the high-risk range. *[now 10 people as of 3/18, and staying home as of 3/19]*

**Suspend (for now) all public-related activities** such as the Lakeside Parade and TEDx Kids.

The Lakeside Chamber of Commerce hasn't cancelled the parade (yet), at least per their website and the parade Facebook page. However planning and execution carries cost to the club, which we may wish to defer. I envision both of those events will go away.

Events going into May can be considered

later (America on Main Street, Scale Fly-In).

**The field remains OPEN for flying operations**

This comes with some caveats and considerations.

With respect to orders issued by the [San Diego County Health Officer](#), the club is not organizing any events or gatherings. This seems to be a major source of confusion. The flying field, in all aspects, is a recreational park not too different than a public park, hiking trail or fishing hole. Those who choose to visit the park and partake of its open air facilities may do so at their leisure, taking full precautions as outlined by the County and [CDC](#). This is in keeping with the [County Health Order](#). The distinction I draw between "gatherings" and individual park use is this: We're (the "club") not asking you to come out at any specific time. If you do decide to fly, you're all smart enough to observe social separation and published precautions. Sure, mornings are when we would normally be at the field. If you are one that considers that a gathering, then don't go in the morning - go in the afternoon, or just don't go. If you arrive at the field and there are 10 people there, spread out! It's easy.

[County Parks](#) *has* closed some of their facilities, playgrounds and pavilions. But their park gates remain open, on purpose. Their recommendations follow the County order quite clearly, focusing on social distancing which is easily followed by modelers at our field. A quote from the County Parks site: "Parks offer sunlight, solace and a break from social isolation. For this reason, gates will remain open at all other County parks and preserves – but we strongly urge all park guests to keep their hands clean, avoid touching their faces and to maintain a safe social distance of 6 feet per the CDC."

We're not fully equipped to sanitize our physical structures, tables, fencing, equipment, etc. The [AMA](#) does recommend taking that into consideration. However the conditions at our field are not so different than those at other public parks, and are surely *much* better than the conditions at any grocery store. The club *does* provide a hand-washing station at the



# HANGAR NEWS

field, and members should consider wiping down their flight stations and local equipment before use. Bring a little spritz of disinfectant spray cleaner or bleach water. This is no different than the long-running standard practice at public gyms at which people often wipe down the bench or barbells before (and after) use.

## **On LiFe batteries:**

At the last meeting (see the minutes), we discussed charging precautions for LiFe (lithium iron phosphate) batteries.

By the letter of the current rules and charging protocols, LiFe batteries can technically be charged at the field while installed in a model.

**Field 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).

**CEAP Protocol:** 2. All lithium polymer based batteries must be charged on the designated charging tables in a fireproof container. A commercially available container is preferred. 2. If table space is limited, charging may be conducted on the asphalt surface of the pit area, provided the LiPo container is at least ten feet from any flammable materials (models, fuel, work benches).

So LiPo's shall be charged on a table and away from models, and all other chemistries should follow similar protocols, "shall" and "should" having intentionally different definitions.

As mentioned at the meeting, we'll confer with Glen and determine if the protocols need revision.

## **Previous Events:**

Our Fun-Fly in March was likely the last event we'll host at the Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field for the foreseeable future. Thankfully, we had an awesome turnout, a ton of fun and some great food!

Participant ages ranged from 11 to 73, with 9 participants competing in four events: the Can-Can, Fly and Taxi, Bomb Drop and Dixie Death. Here's a brief description of the

events:

**Can Can:** Tie an empty soda can to a length of string and tie the string to the airplane. Fly the airplane in such a way as to touch the can down into the circle target rings. Three attempts are allowed; if the can touches the runway on a pass, it counts as an attempt. Highest score wins. Points are awarded by circles, 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2 points. A touch on the runway outside of the circles receives 1 point.

**FLY AND TAXI:** Aircraft must start its take-off run from the right side of centerline of the bullseye, going west. Time starts when the wheels leave the ground. The aircraft must lift off between the bullseye centerline and the take-off line just to the west, and then perform 3 loops, 3 rolls and then land between the lines going to the left, with the rollout crossing the take-off line. The aircraft must then turn around and taxi right back over the start line at which time stops. Not landing between the lines, not landing on the runway, or leaving the ground during the taxi will score zero. Shortest time wins.

**BOMB DROP:** Everyone gets a wooden dowel on a small plywood plate and some rubber bands to mount on their plane. Bombs are nuts or small PVC rings with small streamers attached. Points are awarded by circles, 10, 8, 6, 4, and 2, and 1 pt for landing anywhere on the paved runway. Everyone gets 3 good drops. It's fun watching someone fly the bomb while the plane hits the ground somewhere else!

**Dixie Death:** Shortest time to take off, do 3 each rolls, loops, (in any order), then do a touch and go then do 3 each rolls, loops (in any order), then land.

No, I didn't practice the events ahead of time, but somehow I scored highest. There were a few accusations of "rigging" - OK, I get that! 2<sup>nd</sup> went to Kevin Pothier, and 3<sup>rd</sup> was a tie between Glen Merritt and Eric Byrd - Glen won the coin toss.

Kevin Pothier brought vegetarian chili, Bobby prepared a full chili dog spread with cheese's, onions and all the fixins; Bruce provided free coffee; One of the Chula Vista members brought some snacks!





# HANGAR NEWS

Thanks to Glen for running the event and Ron Keith as the official scorekeeper and assistant chef.

While the purpose of the events is not to “make” money, we do collect entry fees and food donations to offset the cost. In this case, with the huge turnout, we came out a little ahead!

Expenses:

Entry fees +\$90

Food donations + \$85

Prizes - \$35

Food/supplies - \$111

Net - +\$29

## Upcoming Events:

As expected, all future events are cancelled or on hold pending reality of the world around us. This includes the Lakeside Parade, TEDx Kids, America on Main Street, the Scale Fly-In, etc.

What’s really a shame is that, as we discovered at the meeting, Matt Arnold and the

Crutchfields (sounds like a band.....) offered up the use of a true float from Matt’s company “Floatasia”!

The parade being on April 25<sup>th</sup> is definitely within a window of uncertainty, given the COVID-19 precautions in place. The parade web site and Facebook pages are woefully outdated with no indication of cancellation, but we’ll have to assume no-go. If the world changes miraculously inside of three weeks, we might be able to crash out a float, but I’m not planning on it.

**New Members** - We’ve had *many* new names join our ranks in the past two months! Most Recently, Tim Frederick and Ron Taylor joined us! Welcome, guys!

Current membership is recovering from a low of 83 in January back up to 109 members.

*Remember - “The road of life is paved with flattened squirrels that couldn’t make a decision.”*

Keith

	Can-Can (Bulls-eye)		Fly and Taxi (short time wins)		Bomb Drop (Bulls-eye)		Dixie Death (short time)		Overall	
Name	Score	Points	Time	Points	Score	Points	Time	Points	Score	Rank
Jeff Coskey	5	2	00:45.6	2	8	4	00:52.7	6	8	7
Kevin Pothier	19	8	00:37.4	7	12	6	00:49.3	7	21	2
Glen Merritt	7	3	00:32.5	8	18	8	00:42.6	9	19	3
Jeremy Miller	16	6	00:38.6	5	13	7	00:56.0	4	18	5
Tom Gibson	3	1	00:38.7	4	1	1	01:02.3	2	6	9
Rhett Harding	18	7	00:43.5	3	5	3	00:53.7	5	13	6
Eric Byrd	15	5	00:37.5	6	18	8	01:06.0	1	19	3
Keith Miller	22	9	00:32.2	9	9	5	00:45.8	8	23	1
Dayton Allen	12	4	01:00.0	1	3	2	00:59.7	3	7	8



# HANGAR NEWS

## Pictures of the Fly-In by Bruce Allen.

