



# Hangar News

June 2025

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron  
AMA Charter #1651

## First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

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**President: Ron Keith** 619-312-0968

**V-P: Jeffrey Coskey** 619-913-1455

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

**Treas: Richard Brown** 619-887-7273

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

**Newsletter Editor:** Keith Miller 619-405-0192

**Webmaster:** Vernon Gilmore  
[webmaster@weedwackers.org](mailto:webmaster@weedwackers.org)

### 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

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\*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.

## Headlines:

### Upcoming Events

#### Next Meeting:

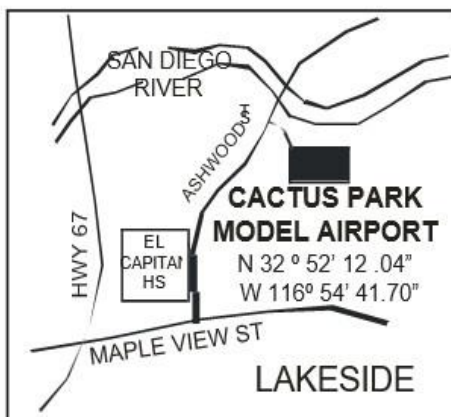
Saturday June 7th, 2025 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

#### Pylon Races, Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>

**The County approved the removal of the fence!** Read the President's Message inside.

**Armed Forces Day Fly-In** was a great event. Results and photos inside.

**Altitude Ceiling** is still 400'.



**DISCOUNT  
HOBBY  
WAREHOUSE**

# Hangar News

## Meeting Minutes 3 May 2025

Mark Gray

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM at the field. Club officers present were the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and the Secretary. A total of 16 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of minutes:** Frank Gagliardi moved the minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Vernon Gilmore. The motion was approved.

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

Starting Balance: \$13,833.03    March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025  
Income:                    \$494.69  
Expenses:                \$236.88  
Ending Balance:    **\$14,090.84**    April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025  
    • Balance April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024: \$8,234.01

Table Repair Fund: \$900.00  
Expenses:                \$768.74  
Current Balance:    **\$131.26**

Lyle Black moved the treasurer's report be approved as submitted. Seconded by Craig Graham. The motion was approved.

### **General Notes:**

- Ron Keith gave a positive report regarding on-going relations with our neighbor and generally commended the club members for following the new guideline for flying over his property. He gave a reminder not to fly East of the airplane windsock and to avoid flying over his structures except for larger aircraft that may need a longer final. Be sure to take a Field Marshal and the crash bag with you if you have an incident on his property.

### **Field Maintenance:**

- Richard Brown & Ron Keith will install a concrete step for the porta potty.
- Need some volunteers to help clean up the BBQ area on Saturday, May 10, before the fly-in on May 17. Bring rakes & brooms, etc.

- Jeff Coskey is still re-covering tables with plywood.
- Need to get rid of the railroad ties, about 10 – Todd Ferguson volunteered to load them up tomorrow.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- May 17, 2025 – Armed Forces Day Fly-in.
  - Art Flores is the event coordinator.
  - Brian Knutsen will cook burgers and hot dogs.
    - Need volunteers to help him.
  - Jeff Coskey & Ron Keith will obtain the raffle prizes.
  - Richard Brown will run the raffle.
- May 24, 2025 – Pylon Races

### **Old Business:**

- The fence is on track to be removed within the next 30-60 days.

### **Safety Officer Report:**

- Reminder to use the crash bag any time there is a crash. You never know if there will be a fire.

### **Rule review:**

- Please ensure the gate lock gets rolled to ensure it is locked when you leave the field. Daisy Chain it. Recently the gate has been left completely open and unlocked.
- Reminder to wear your badge while at the field.

### **New Business:**

- Lester Moore made the motion to approve the purchase of a new mower/trimmer (DR Premier, \$686.36). Seconded by Frank Gagliardi. The motion was approved.
- Frank generously donated \$300 toward the mower.
- Discussion about possibly being able to extend the ceiling altitude from 400' to 700'. If we can confirm that we are in G airspace then the ceiling is 700'. More research and input to follow.

### **Good of the Order:** None

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Steve Leibold moved and Kevin Pothier seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

## May 2025 President's Message

Greetings!

- The Fly-In on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Armed Forces Day, was a huge success. With thanks to Art Flores for running the event and to all that participated in the potluck lunch. There was also a lot of pilot participation! Thank you to all that helped make it a successful event!
- The new Weedwacker website will be up and running soon.
- We had an issue on Sunday when someone flew over Jake (tenant east of field) and his property at the pump house. Jake was upset with this last incident, and it took quite a while for me to calm him down. **Until further notice, please do not fly over his property.** Try to avoid any confrontation with Jake. If there is an issue, please call me ASAP! (619) 988-7667
- The snakes are everywhere! Just a reminder, if you have to retrieve a downed plane, be aware of your surroundings. I recommend you consider using a long stick in front of you as you walk and when reaching for a plane, check first for critters. If you come across one, try to avoid it and notify others of the location.
  - If you are bitten, move away and have someone call 911. If possible (from a safe distance) take a picture of the snake so medical personnel can identify the snake for the correct antivenom. Stay calm! Do not run back to the pits; walk away from the snake. Sit down then administer first aid. Fire Department will arrive in a few minutes. Do not take drugs for pain or apply ice. Clean wound with soap and water. Do not try to suck out venom from the wound, cover with a clean, dry bandage. Send somebody to the street to direct fire department to victim.

- The pit tables are almost finished. Special thanks to Frank Gagliardi for donating an additional \$300 toward the pit table repairs.
- Replacement of storage shed door is still on “to do” list. The door will be replaced in the near future.
- Rich Brown and I added a cement step to the front of the porta potty so please use caution and watch your step!
- We are still having a problem with the stealthy tree trimmer who dumps his trash on our property. I spoke with County and they are discussing adding cameras to catch this guy.
- **The County approved the removal of the fence!** They will also cut down and remove any potential fire hazards. This will take place in July; the field will be shut down that day. I will notify everybody when the field will be closed.

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:

### FAA Altitude Ceiling

The AMA announced in April: “This email conveys a significant update regarding operational guidelines for all AMA flying sites in uncontrolled airspace. Effective immediately, the maximum allowable altitude for model aircraft operations at AMA-sanctioned sites in **Class G Airspace** has been increased.”

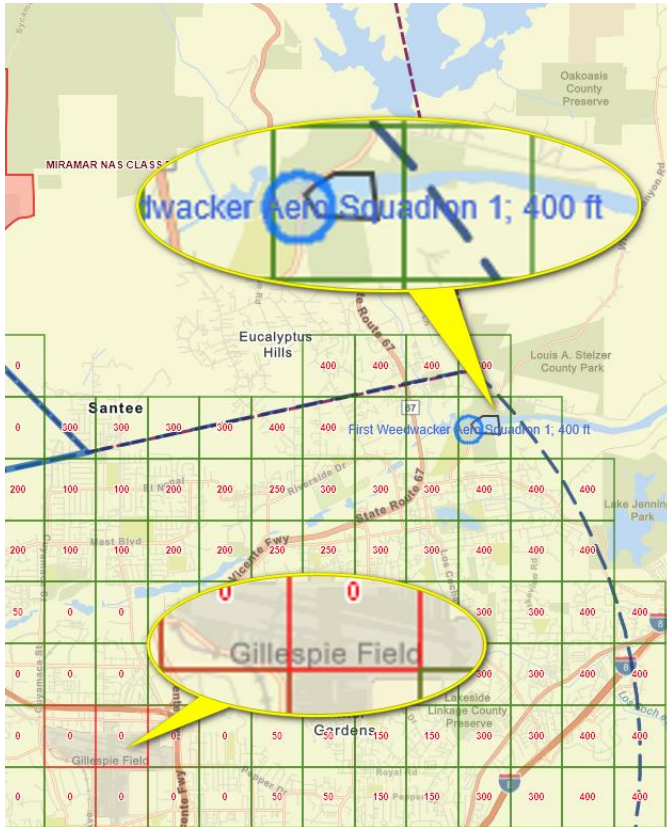
This ***doesn't apply to our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field*** which is within the **Class D airspace** of Gillespie Field.

Our ceiling is still 400 feet.

It also doesn't apply when flying from our own personal property. The extended altitude limit applies only to FAA-registered AMA clubs that are within Class G airspace.



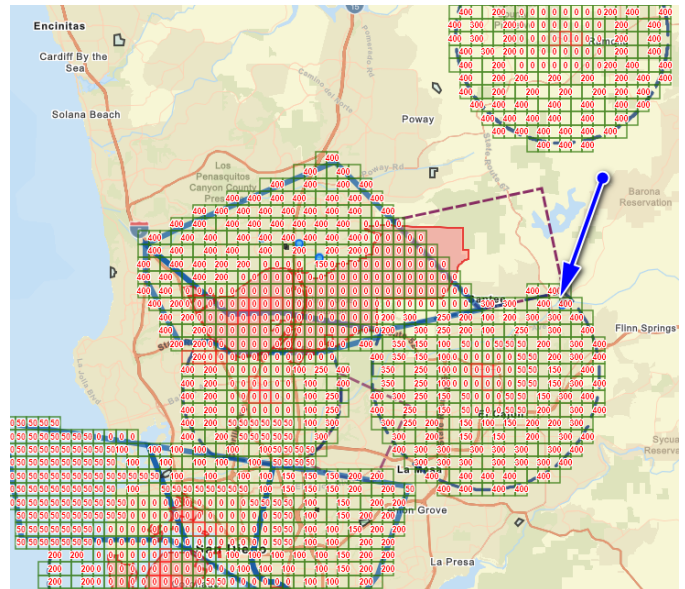
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The FAA site [“Visualize it: See FAA UAS Data on a Map”](#) which shows all FAA/AMA recognized clubs and FRIAs (of which we are both) across the US.

## Progress on Tables

Jeff and Todd Ferguson worked tables 5/4/2025 and 5/10/25. They’re looking REALLY NICE!



# Hangar News

## Pylon Races

Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Class:** FMS 800mm T-28 Trojan

**Schedule:**

7a-9a Practice and warm-up flying, field is open to all flying.

**9:00 Pilots Meeting and Safety Briefing**

**9:15 Start the events**

The field will be **closed to regular flying** from 9:00 until the event concludes, usually only an hour.

**WHERE:** Ron Smith Memorial RC Flying Field (Weedwackers)

**Plane Details:**

The **ONLY** plane we will be racing is the **FMS T28 v2 (the 800mm version)**.

You can purchase one at [Horizon Hobby](#) or any hobby store that has them in stock.

- **ESC:** This plane comes stock with a 20A speed controller which in our testing, rides the edge of safety. For this reason we are allowing any ESC you wish to install in your plane but you must stick with the stock motor.
- **Prop:** We will allow the stock 3-blade prop or an APC 7x6E.
  - **Gyro:** The stock plane comes with an orange gyro and a bunch of servo / receiver wires. Feel free to pull out that dead weight if you want.
  - **Battery:** The only limitation on the battery we have is that it must be a 3 cell battery. Pilots have had success with 800mAh to 2200mAh in size.
  - **Markings:** Each plane will be expected to have a **unique marking so spotters and pylon judges will be able to identify your plane. It can either be a color scheme (paint job) or a VERY visible decal with a number. Be creative!**

**Race Details**

- Three qualifying heats of five laps each followed by three medal rounds (bronze, silver and gold) at 10 laps each. Plan your battery size accordingly.
- Starts will be from the air.
- Left turns around the pylons. No cutting! Pylon judges will deduct your score if you turn prior to the pylon.
- Take off will commence 30 seconds prior to race start
- Each pilot will have his/her own spotter to call out when they cross the lap / finish line. Spotters can be anyone at the field not currently flying in the race.
- We will have up to 5 planes running in a single heat. Fly safe!

**Contest Directors**

Glen Merritt (619) 405-5731

David Roche (619) 733-2632





# Hangar News

## Armed Forces Day Fly-In

### Winners

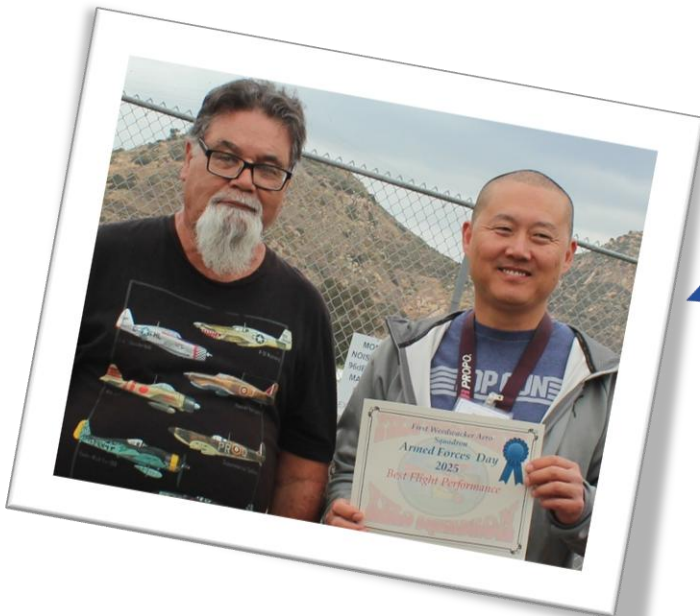
Best Civilian: Steve Shepersky – Percival Mew Gull

Best Military: Mark Davis – OV-10 Bronco

Judges Choice: Trent Alford, Folker D-7

Best Flight Performance: Kevin Pothier – B-1 Lancer

The complete photo album can be viewed at this [Google Drive link](#).



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*Best Civilian*  
*Steve Shepersky, Percival Mew Gull*



*Best Military*  
*Mark Davis, OV-10 Bronco*



*Judges' Choice*  
*Trent Alford, Fokker D-7*

*Best Flight Performance*  
*Kevin Pothier, B-1 Lancer*





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