



Hangar News

Aug 2025

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron
AMA Charter #1651

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

Sign up for Email Delivery of the Newsletter:

news.weedwackers@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.weedwackers.org>

Club Officers Email: info.weedwackers@gmail.com

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, Butch Weiser, Steve Shepersky, Dick Milhausen, Gary Rold, Richard Brown, Keith Miller

Fun Fly Chairman Keith Miller

Race Chairman Glen Merritt, David Roche

Safety Officer Ron Keith

Newsletter Editor: Keith Miller 619-405-0192

Webmaster: Vernon Gilmore

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

Dick Milhausen 619-561-5323

*AMA Introductory Pilot Program Instructors:

Scott Graupmann, Glenn Merritt, Jeff Coskey, Butch

Weiser, 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.

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 August 2nd, 2025 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

Field Closed for an afternoon polo grounds wedding.

Saturday August 2nd, 2025 1:00 pm

Working Party – Shed Cleanout directly after the meeting.

Saturday August 9th, 2025 9:00 am.

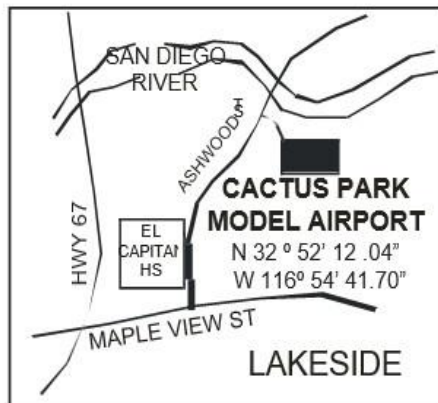
Swap Meet at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field

Saturday August 16th, 2025, 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM

The Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field gets a facelift and rejuvenation!

- The bare-wire fence is GONE and the surround landscape is smooth!
- New shed roll-up door
- Tree stump removed from picnic area
- Tables all freshly painted
- Restraining pegs were recently renewed.

And MUCH more – read Ron's message inside.



**DISCOUNT
HOBBY
WAREHOUSE**

Hangar News

Meeting Minutes 5 July 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 15 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: Steve Shepersky moved the minutes of the June 7th, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Vernon Gilmore. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$13,085.43 May 31st, 2025

Income: \$3,865.00

Expenses: \$1,067.15

Ending Balance: **\$15,883.28** June 30th, 2025

- Balance June 30th, 2024: \$7,670.34

Table Repair Fund: \$900.00

Expenses: \$1,022.00

Current Balance: **\$(122.00)**

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

General Notes:

- The field will be closed from July 8th to July 23rd while the county takes down the fence and works on the West bank & hill. After discussion it was agreed they should take the entire fence down. The field will be open to flying on the weekends and during the week after 4:30 PM.
- Art will bring his skip loader next Saturday to move the safe.
- The plan is to clean the shed at the same time which includes getting rid of all the radios.
- A Big Thank You to Jeff Coskey for organizing the Dick Halbert estate sale. The

biggest success was the next day at Discount Hobby Warehouse. Total revenue to the club is \$3,635.00.

- Jeff has a SlowBee that needs a rudder available for anyone interested. *[Editor's note – it may be a Lazy Bee ARF, similar to this picture.]*



Lazy Bee

Field Maintenance:

- Richard is still painting tables.

Upcoming Events:

- July 19th, wedding at polo grounds. The field will close at 1:00 PM.

Old Business: None

Safety Officer Report:

- There was a car accident on Ashwood at the field entrance last week. Reminder to use extreme caution when driving out onto Ashwood. Ron will request that the County cut the tree back to allow better visibility to the East. Ron will also request the County to improve the driveway.
- If you get cut, first apply direct pressure to control the bleeding. Evaluate the need to go to the ER. Apply the sock from the first aid kit as needed for bleeding prior to heading to the ER.

Rule review:

- The only place you can charge batteries is at charging tables. Do not charge on a metal table.

New Business:

- The tree stump in the picnic area needs to be removed. Jeff's neighbor has a tree stump grinder.

Hangar News

- Keith Miller moved that the club allocate \$250 to remove the stump. Lyle Black seconded. The motion was approved.
- Items are missing from the first aid kit (gloves & scissors). Let Ron know if you use something so he can replenish the kit.
- No news on the neighbor. No negative comments.
- The bins for used, old, damaged LiPo batteries have become a repository for other kinds of batteries and trash. Reminder that only LiPo model batteries are to be placed in the battery bins for disposal. Please do not put trash of any kind in them. Ron will continue to collect the LiPo batteries as they accumulate and soak them in a salt water bath for about a month and dispose as a courtesy to club members. Alternatively, it was mentioned that Discount Hobby will take your used LiPo batteries and dispose in the same manner.
- The website is up and running. Take a look and give Vernon input. Send him pictures, etc. to add content. Eventually we will have a forum for buying and selling. Email Vernon - lordbond@gmail.com.

•
Good of the Order: None

Vernon Gilmore moved and Richard Brown seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 AM.

June 2025 President's Message

Greetings everyone!

July was a productive month:

- 1) Jake is gone effective 1 August! The modified flight rules will be eliminated and will return to the original flight pattern.
[Editor's note: An official revision to the rules is proposed in the Editor's Corner below.]

- 2) The plane-eating fence was removed.
- 3) We replaced the antiquated shed door with a new roll-up door.
- 4) The large useless safe was removed and hauled away – thank you Art Flores!
- 5) The tall weeds were cut down to ground level.
- 6) The low hanging branches on the pepper trees at the gate entrance were trimmed for better visibility.
- 7) BBQ area is free of tree stumps! The hazard has been eliminated.

I personally hired Frank Camarda to remove two stumps from my property. I highly recommend him if you ever need his expertise (stump removal and tree trimming). His phone number is (619) 647-8998.

The County workers should finalize the remaining work on the field by the end of July.

We will have a swap meet at the field on 16 August, 0700 – 1100. I need volunteers to help with parking for buyers and sellers. I will collect \$5.00 at the gate from sellers and as always, buyers may attend at no cost.

I would like to clean out the shed on 9 August. A lot of items need to be thrown out. Due to the amount of rat droppings in the shed, the dust on the floor could be a potential health hazard. I will provide masks and gloves for all participants. The more volunteers we have the quicker we can complete this task. Please call me if you plan to volunteer.

A special thank you to everyone for working around the County schedule while they were on site. The appearance of the park has improved considerably. We will be back to normal hours soon.

Hangar News

The next meeting is on Saturday, 2 August at 0900. On the same date a wedding is scheduled at the polo field. Our field will be closed at 1300 (1:00pm).

Just a reminder to wear your badge at the field and display the **required** FAA identification numbers on your aircraft.

I will be unavailable 27 July – 1 August – fish are calling again! 🐟🔪

Ron
(619) 988-7667

Editor's Corner

Keith Miller

Rule Change Proposal

Per the Presidents Message regarding opening up the flight pattern, and in accordance with our Bylaws, the following rule revision is proposed for a vote at the next regular club meeting:

Rule #11 regarding flight boundaries will revert to the description prior to the last June 2024 revision.

Officer Recognition

The Club Officers have really stepped up to make our flying site way more better and enjoyable and keeping our club motoring along!

On the following pages are some photos of the recent changes we've seen. When you see our Board again, give them your thanks!

- Richard Brown has been sanding and painting many of the pit tables and starting benches, as well as keeping the greenery well-groomed!
- Ron Keith spent many hours of his personal time coordinating with County Parks to remove the bare-wire fence and managing landfill

management activities on the south-west hill. He initiated action for the pepper tree at the entrance to be trimmed way back to deter the recurring trash-dumping that was going in under it's cover. And the sinkhole we battle every few years was or soon will be filled and patched (again) by the County.

- Jeff Coskey continues to upgrade many of the larger work tables with sheet metal tops which is a significant improvement. He's had several members chip in to help and I really appreciate their contribution.
- Mark Gray recently renewed our five-year County Parks lease.
- The Board general convinced Art that the best way to safely store his cash is in a safe! So Art took the big ol' safe from our shed so we have more room for our gardening tool.

See the photo gallery below.

Recycling

What's wrong with this picture?

Firstly, NO, Styrofoam is NOT recyclable; not in San Diego, not in Santee, and not in Lakeside.

Waste Management scolded us in the past and refused to empty our blue bin due to it having non-recyclable material inside. Secondly, when you un-pack your new toy, do it at home and dispose of the packing material there. The club is NOT your personal waste disposal service. A member did mention to me that our membership is a cross-section of society, but c'mon now – be reasonable!



Hangar News

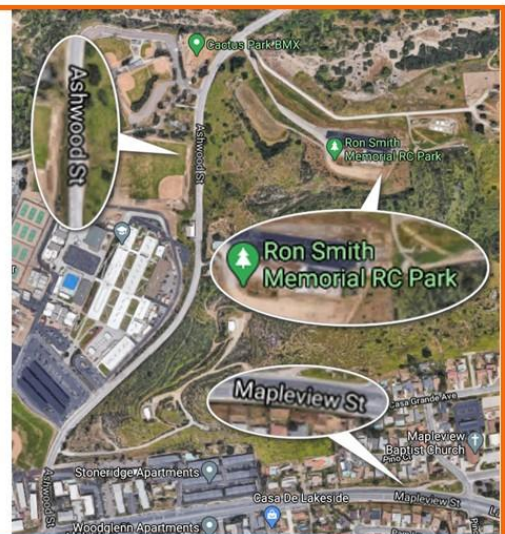


**Site: Ron Smith Memorial Field
(SD County Cactus Park, Lakeside)**

Hours: 7:00 am – 11:00 am
\$5 Seller's Fee
Buyers Free

Information:

Ron Keith (619) 988-7667
10295 Ashwood Street, Lakeside CA
N 32 ° 52' 12.04", W 116° 54' 41.70"



Hangar News

Photos of the month

This is what Dean Nickol's 3-meter Fox glider looks like taking off from his custom-designed dolly. Very nicely done!



And this is what Dean's Fox looks like flying and landing as soon as he realized he'd forgotten to install the wing spar!



Hangar News

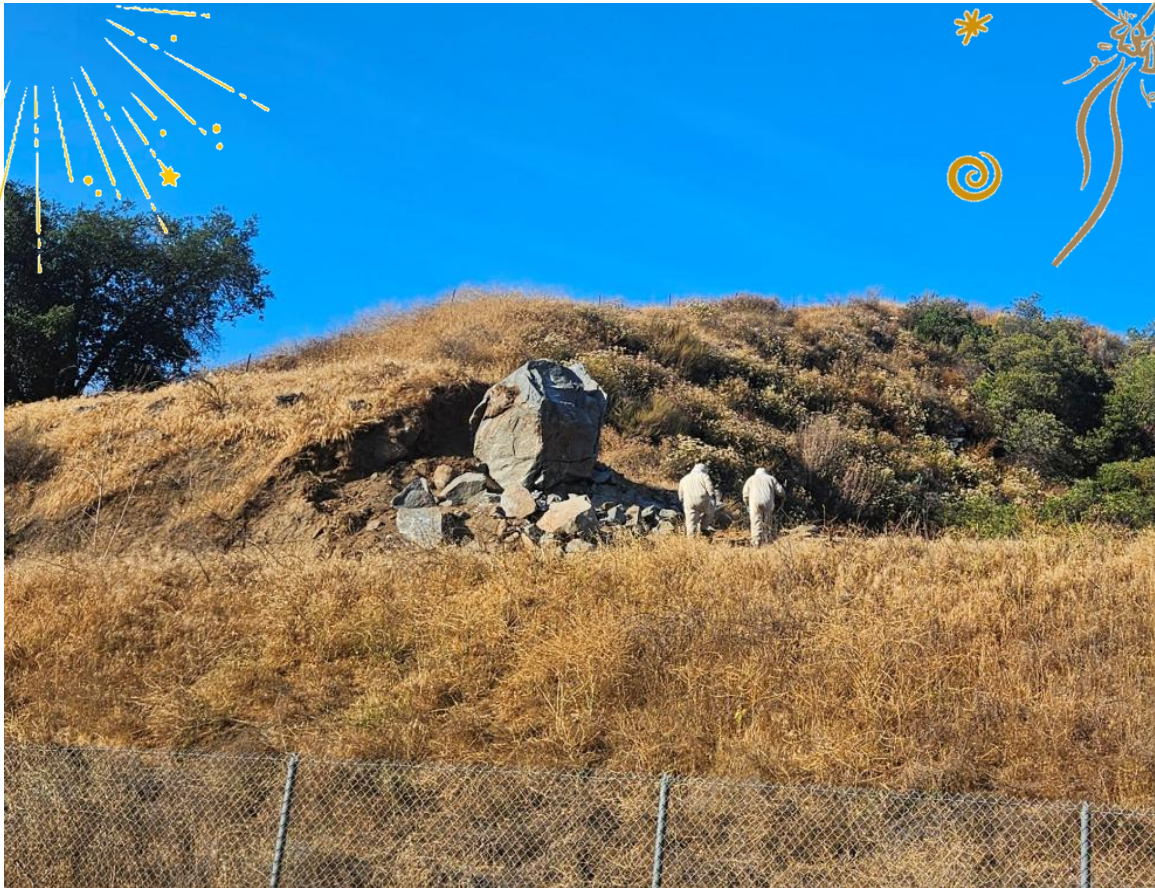
Field Renovation and Overhaul



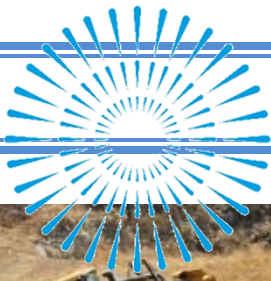
Hangar News



Hangar News



The Bee Army at work



Hangar News



Hangar News



Hangar News

