



Hangar News

Oct 2025

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron
AMA Charter #1651

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

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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

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*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 October 4th, 2025 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

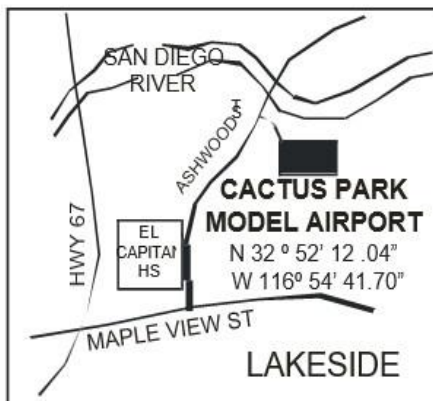
Elections for Club Officer November 1st Club Meeting

- Nominations are open

Veteran's Day Fly-In and BBQ Saturday Nov. 8th

Swap Meet and Toys-for-Tots Drive Saturday Nov. 15th

Welcome new members Jason (left) and Jona Hammond (center)!



**DISCOUNT
HOBBY
WAREHOUSE**

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Meeting Minutes 02 Aug 2025

Mark Gray

Meeting Minutes 6 September 2025

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 21 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: Vernon Gilmore moved the minutes of the August 2nd, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by David Roche. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$13,467.85 August 1st, 2025
Income: \$166.67
Expenses: \$922.81
Ending Balance: **\$12,711.71** August 31st, 2025
• Balance August 31st, 2024: \$6,196.85

Table Repair Fund: \$900.00
Expenses: \$1,255.22
Current Balance: **\$(355.22)**

- Dick Milhausen made a motion to approve a \$520 expense (already accounted for in the expenses above) for the January 2026 banquet [editor's note; this is the full venue cost for the event, up \$70 from last year to pay VFW for a bartender] which will be held at the VFW in Lakeside. Dean Nickol seconded. The motion was approved.
- Added 1 new member in August.
- The club agreed to absorb the overspend on the table fund. The project is complete and no further reporting is needed.

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

General Notes:

- Ron emphasized the need for all club members to take pride in the field. Clean up after yourself. Someone left pistachio nut shells scattered on the ground at station #4 last week which had to be cleaned up by another member the next day. Unfortunate!

- Discussion about expanding the ability to operate RC cars on the runway – will require a modification of the current rule which states: **Cars may be operated on the runway when no aircraft are flying or on the runway. Cars must leave the runway when a pilot is ready to taxi out.**

- The proposed rule change would allow cars on the runway at any time as long as they give way to planes/helicopters that are taking off or landing. The understanding is that planes are primary, cars are secondary.
- The rule change will be presented and voted on at the October meeting.
- Two new members were present and introduced. Jason and Jonah Hammond. Jonah is 12 and is in flight training with Lester Moore. Welcome!

Field Maintenance:

- There was a good turnout for the shed cleaning work party in August. Thank you! All members are encouraged to participate.
- The helicopter pad needs to be redone.
- Discussion regarding the most efficient way to get rid of used paint. In the end, Keith Miller volunteered to take used paint to a paint store for disposal. Thank you Keith!
- Ron is still in communication with the County about letting us keep the gate open while members are present. Stand by.
- The club is seeking asphalt bids for a 2400 SF, 2" thick runway extension at the West end. We have a \$13,000 bid and are seeking another. A club member has volunteered to cover all or the majority of the cost. There is also an option to open up for donations from other members. Stand by for more information.
- Need a cover over the roll up door to prevent leaves and debris from causing damage.

Upcoming Events:

- September 13th, wedding at polo grounds. The field will close at 1:00 PM.

Old Business: None

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Safety Officer Report:

- Snakes have been spotted in the forest at the East end of the runway. Exercise extreme caution when retrieving a plane, etc. in any of the surrounding areas of the runway.

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Rule review:

- Shut the gate behind you. For now, this is a hard requirement imposed by the County.

New Business:

- Keith Miller got a bid of \$850 to clear and haul off the maze of shrubs at the East end of the field. The club decided to hold on that for now as we will first try to get the County to handle it.
- Art Flores advised that we will not be able to fly at the dairy in October. Maybe next year.
- Nominations for board members for 2026 are open. There was a recommendation that the current board retain their positions.
- Vernon Gilmore volunteered to dispose of the old BBQ. Thank you, Vernon!
- The picnic area needs to be cleaned before the Veterans Day Fly-in on 11/8.

Good of the Order: None

Keith Miller moved and Vernon Gilmore seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.

Sep 2025 President's Message

September has been slow so there is not too much to report.

Thanks to all who have maintained flight boundaries with only two A/C crashes on the polo grounds property. I spoke to the owner regarding the incident. He is happy that we are working to comply with the rules of the club. He thanked us for closing the field for the weddings. Due to scheduled events at the polo grounds, we will be closing the field twice in October (October 4th and 17th). An email and signs will be posted as a reminder.

We are still waiting for the County to approve the runway extension.

You really have to be alert and keep your eyes open for snakes. Two were seen in the ditch southeast of runway and sheds. I recently spotted a roadrunner with a small rattlesnake hanging from his beak! At our next monthly meeting I will review do's and don'ts of snake

encounters.

If you have to relieve yourself – try to make it to the outhouse in the parking lot. Please use it since we pay for this convenience. I do not want to hear about a club member being bitten while standing in the bushes watering the flowers.

The County is still requiring that we shut the gate after entering and leaving. Locking is not needed until last member leaves for the day. We are still waiting for approval to allow us to leave the gate open. In the meantime, please continue to abide by their rules and close the gate.

Reminders:

- a. Last one out locks the gate
- b. Watch speed in parking lot
- c. Stay behind fence at runway when flying
- d. When revving up engines to tune or make adjustments, try to keep it short. I think 10-15 minutes is excessive.
- e. “If you see something, say something.” If you see anything you think I should know – please call me at any time.

The next meeting is Saturday, 4 October at 0900.

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

Ron
(619) 988-7667 – cell

Please note, the house phone has been disconnected
(619) 312-0968

Editor's Corner

Keith Miller

As a Field Marshal, I conducted a spot check of FAA recreational sUAS registration numbers one day in September. The first six models I checked had none. Other than my own, two others did have the required numbers. Please take the necessary steps to mark your models with the required FAA recreational drone pilot

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registration numbers. And don't forget to ensure your registration is current.

TOOLS EXPLAINED

[source – Facebook anonymous]

DRILL PRESS : A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL : Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh sh*t'

DROP SAW : A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

PLIERS : Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

BELT SANDER : An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW : One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

WISE-GRIPS : Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH : Used almost entirely for lighting on fire various flammable objects in your shop. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race..

TABLE SAW : A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK : Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

BAND SAW : A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after

you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST : A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER : Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER : A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

PRY BAR : A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER : A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER : Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

UTILITY KNIFE : Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

ADJUSTABLE WRENCH: aka "Another hammer", aka "the Swedish Nut Lathe", aka "Crescent Wrench".

Commonly used as a one size fits all wrench, usually results in rounding off nut heads before the use of pliers. Will randomly adjust size between bolts, resulting in busted buckles, curse words, and multiple threats to any inanimate objects within the immediate vicinity.

Son of a bitch TOOL : Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'Son of a b*tch' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

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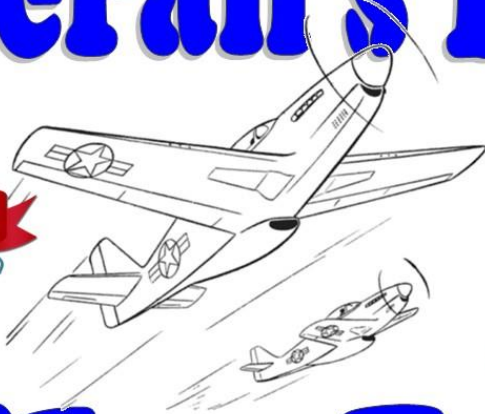
Photos of the month

Jona Hammond with dad Jason pose with Instructor Lester Moore. Jona joined the club last month and is just a flight or two away from completing his Primary Flight Training Program. Welcome and congratulations guys!



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Veteran's Day



Fly-In

Saturday, Nov 8th, 2025



Events include:
Open Scale Presentation and Flying
Awards for:
Best Sport/Civilian
Best Military
Judges' Choice
Best Flight

Schedule:

8:00-9:00 AM Check in

9:00 AM—1:00 PM Flying

11:00 (approx.) - LUNCH

NO Landing Fee

\$5 for Lunch—Pay when you pick up your plate.

Toys for Tots drive continues.



Event Coordinator
David Roche (619) 733-2632

Rain Date: Sun, Nov 9th

www.weedwackers.org