



Hangar News

Nov 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 November 1st, 2025 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

Elections for Club Officer November 1st Club Meeting

- Nominations are open

Cleanup, BBQ area and Field Sat Nov 1st after the club meeting

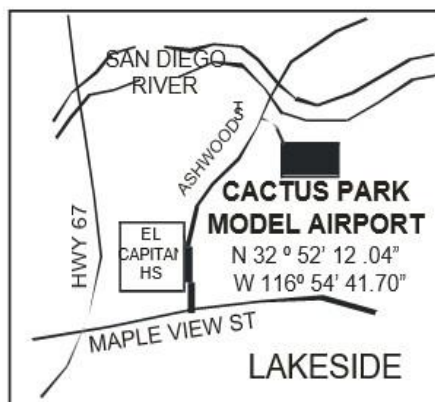
Veteran's Day Fly-In and BBQ Saturday Nov. 8th

Celebration of Life – Todd Ferguson Sunday Nov 9th. Details inside

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

Pylon Races Saturday Nov 22nd.

(Rain date for both the Vet Day and Swap Meet events will be Saturday Nov 22nd with no expectations that both would be rained out.) If they are, the Board will call an audible.



Hangar News

Meeting Minutes 04 Oct 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, and the Secretary. A total of 17 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: Keith Miller moved the minutes of the September 6th, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Lyle Black. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$12,711.71 September 1st, 2025

Income: \$141.00

Expenses: \$419.22

Ending Balance: **\$12,433.49** September 30th, 2025

- Balance September 30th, 2024: \$10,517.44
- \$50 income from Lester Moore: John Loerke lost his plane in a tree and gave it to Lester after it was retrieved. Lester rebuilt it, sold it for \$150, repaid himself \$100 for the price of the receiver and gave \$50 profit to the club. Thank you, Lester!

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

General Notes:

- Reminder to close the gate behind you. The gate must be closed (not locked) at all times when members are present. The last person out for the day is expected to lock it.
- Ron is meeting with a County official on Tuesday 10/14, at the field to show her our proposal for the runway extension (40' x 60').
- Due to the sink hole that was patched, the County wants to impose a wait period of 5 days after a rain before allowing anyone to drive on the property. This will also be a topic of conversation on the 14th.
- Ron will also discuss the gate situation with the County lady in an attempt to relax the requirement to keep it shut at all times.
- No visitors or new members present today.

Field Maintenance:

- The County initially added gopher screen to the hill to cover the old hazmat area. The screen was not the correct solution and it slid down and had to be torn out and disposed

of. Now the area is covered with a special dirt that was mined 100' below the surface. It has been compacted on the hill to keep it in place. A reserve pile remains for the future as needed.

Upcoming Events:

- November 8th Veteran's Day Fly-in/Toys for Tots Drive – Brian Knutson is cooking. Thank you, Brian! Looking for volunteers to assist as usual and also to bring a dish to share. No raffle.
- November 15th Swap Meet/Toys for Tots Drive

Old Business: None

•

Safety Officer Report:

- "Stop putting other than airplane batteries and/or vape remains into the battery disposal cans."

•

Rule review:

- Rule 20 – No smoking or vaping on the property. It's a county ordinance: 41.118 & 41.118.5
- All batteries must be charged in a LiPo bag regardless of where you are charging. Big thank you to Butch Weiser for donating LiPo bags to the charge stations and affixing them with chains so they are permanently in place when needed.

New Business:

- There was a lengthy discussion regarding last month's proposal to update rule 24 to allow RC cars to be on the runway as long as they give way to all aircraft that are taxiing or landing. A variety of opinions were shared, both pros and cons. Ultimately, a vote was taken and the majority decided to leave the rule as is, with no change to the wording.

Good of the Order:

- Brian Knutson shared his SE5A – a new biplane by Eflite.
- Frank G. has a collection of electrics that he was given by a friend to sell – Toys for Tots will get ½ of the proceeds, around \$500.
- Frank G. is planning to sell his personal RC inventory early next year due to his health issues. Wishing you all the best, Frank!

Keith Miller moved and Frank Gagliardi seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Oct 2025 President's Message

Hangar News

Hello all.....

I was hoping to have news from the County on things I am working on for the good of the club. The meetings that were scheduled were postponed until 27 October. Wish me luck!

There are cones placed parallel to the runway and the sinkhole; please do not remove. I am trying to prove a point to the County. Let me handle this!!

The Veterans Fly In is just around the corner – 8 November. Prior to the event I would like to clean up the BBQ area. A work party after the 1 November club meeting would be the best time – the more people that help the less time it will take to spruce it up! Please bring a rake; I will supply the trash bags. I will also bring donuts for the volunteers.

Upcoming events:

- BBQ cleanup work party – 1 November
- Veterans Fly In – 8 November
- Swap Meet/Toys for Tots – 11 November
 - If the Veterans Fly-In or Swap Meet cancel due to rain, then the new date will be 22 November. The likelihood of both cancelling is slim to none. If rain does occur on both dates, we will reschedule accordingly.
- Toys for Tots – 11 November. If you bring a toy, your sellers fee is waived. Please bring an age-appropriate new toy. Do not forget the teenagers.

I would like to thank Mark Lukens for putting the cover on the shed to protect the rollup door. His design worked very well and keeps the critters and leaves out of the shed. Thanks Mark!

The next meeting is Saturday, 1 November at 0900.

The turnout has been steadily increasing. Thanks for attending. As always, if you have any questions or anything to report, feel free to call me.

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

A couple of months ago I discussed PLF (propeller load factor).

Another method of evaluating engine or motor performance is by determining the horsepower or wattage generated by the prop.

$$HP = (RPM^3 \times D^4 \times \text{pitch}) / 1.4 \times 10^{17}$$

$$\text{Watts} = k \times RPM^3 \times D^4 \times \text{pitch}$$

(Where k (propeller constant) is generally 5.3×10^{-15} if pitch and diameter are in inches, and power is in watts.)

Remember, that's at the propeller. If using a WattsUp watt meter to measure power through an electric power setup, that measurement is in watts being pulled from the battery. Much energy is "lost" as dissipated heat (in the motor, ESC and battery), propeller efficiency and even generation of sound at the prop tips (tied to "tip losses").

Dividing propeller watts by battery watts gives a rough indication of your electric systems efficiency.

(Efficiency of a nitro go gas engine might be covered later.)

I've made many such measurements showing my e-propulsion systems to be between 31% and 85%. The lowest are on my little AeroScout (small screaming pusher) using the stock Eflite 5" prop. That improved to 68% using an APC-E propeller. My best performer at 85% is a Scorpion 1190KV motor pulling nearly 1000 watts with a high-current ESC.

Your milage may vary.

Hangar News



The Family of Todd Alan
Ferguson
invites you to

A Celebration of Life

Bring stories and memories
of Todd.

November 9, 2025

11:00am

Lakeside Community Center
9841 Vine st, Lakeside CA
92040

Celebration of Life for our fellow member Todd Ferguson will be held on Sunday November 9th, 11am - 3pm, Street Tacos, Dress Casual

Hangar News

Photos of the Month



Brian Knutson brought his EFlite SE5A for show-and-tell at our October meeting. He's VERY HAPPY with this model.

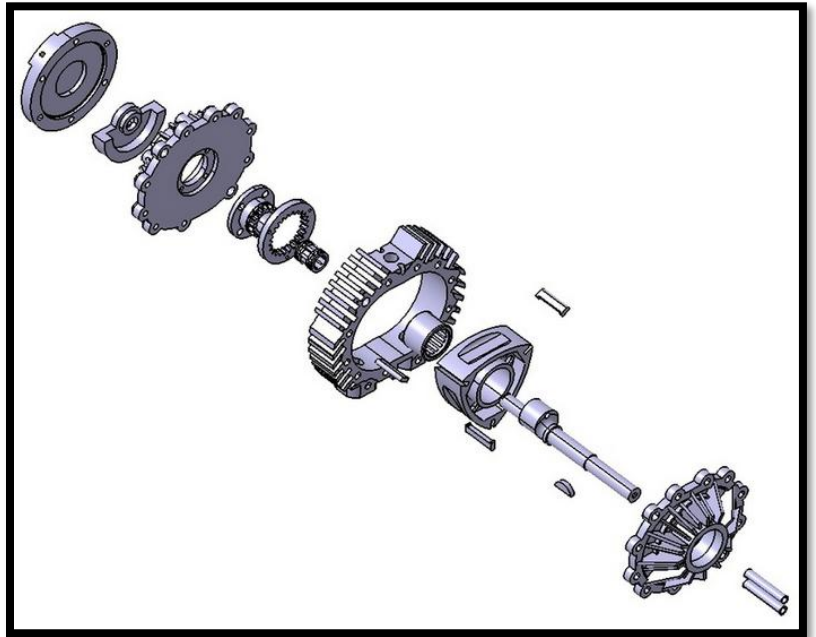


Jona Hammond, our newest Youth member, completed his Primary Flight Training Program solo. Congratulations, Jona, and BZ to his fine instructor Lester Moore.

Hangar News



Trent Alford showed off a great running OS Wankel 30.



This cutaway of the Wankel shows its internal components, including the triangular rotor, the eccentric shaft, the rotor housing, and the apex seals with their springs.



A close-up of the Wankel rotary engine

Hangar News

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: Sat, Nov 22nd

www.weedwackers.org

Hangar News



First Weedwacker Aerosquadron

Lakeside, CA

R/C Model SWAP MEET

Toys for Tots Drive

Sat. Nov 15th, 2025

(Rain date Sat Nov. 22nd)



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

Hours: 7:00 am – 11:00 am

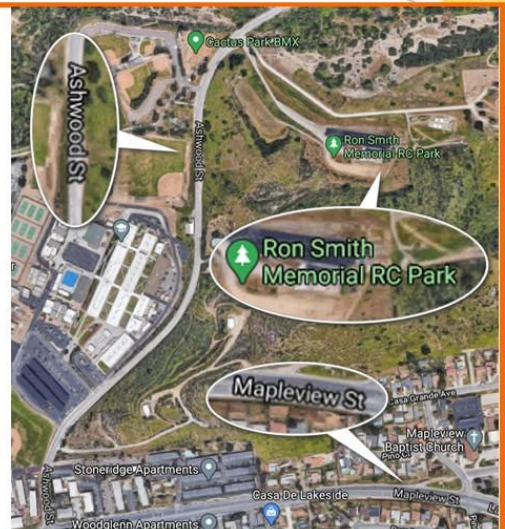
\$5 Seller's Fee

Buyers Free

Information:

Buyers and sellers are encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift appropriate for boys and/or girls from ages 6 to 16 valued at \$10 or more. Cash gifts will also be accepted. Seller fees are waived with a gift.

Event Coordinator: Keith Miller (619) 405-0192
10295 Ashwood Street
Lakeside CA
1/4 mile N-E of El Capitan High School in Lakeside
N 32 ° 52' 12.04", W 116° 54' 41.70"



Hangar News

Pylon Races

Saturday Nov 22nd, 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

David Roche
(619) 733-2632

