



# Hangar News

Dec 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, 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](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

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](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:

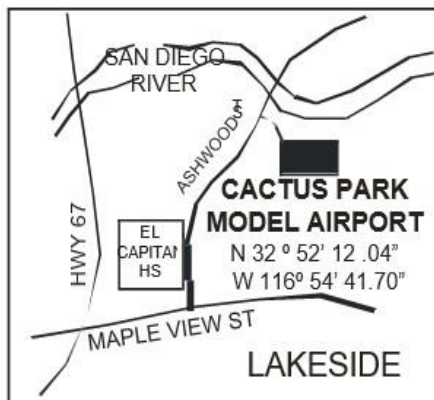
Saturday December 6th, 2025 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

**Annual Awards Banquet, Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>**, VFW Carter Smith Post 5867, 12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside CA

Reminder, we don't hold a regular club meeting in January, replaced by the banquet.

### Field Closures Following Rain

For the time being, the County has instructed the Club to close the field during a rain event (of any measurable amount) to extend for five days after the conclusion of rain. The Board will email notifications of closures, and the gate lock will be temporarily disabled for member access. Please be patient while Ron continues to meet with the County. He's struggling to get them to understand that sink holes are formed underground, and not by surface water effects. The County also lost track of where they placed the 'hot zone cap' fifteen years ago (between the runway and the chain link fence).



# Hangar News

## Meeting Minutes 01 Nov 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:** Keith Miller moved the minutes of the October 4th, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Lester Moore. The motion was approved.

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

Starting Balance: \$12,433.49 October 1st, 2025

Income: \$0.00

Expenses: \$236.88

Ending Balance: **\$12,196.61** October 31st, 2025

- Balance October 31st, 2024: \$14,156.42

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

### **General Notes:**

- Ron is still discussing a variety of issues with the County Director of Burn Site and Land Fill related to the asphalt, sink hole, standing water in low spots after rain, etc. They will give us a decision in 1 week regarding any modifications to our use of the area.
- The main gate must remain closed at all times when club members are present and only locked when the last person leaves for the day. The North Gate needs to stay locked at all times – and it does!
- Keith Miller reminded the group that the runway has always been a paved section of the county's property.
- The 5 day "no fly" rule following rain is still in effect.

**Field Maintenance:** None

### **Upcoming Events:**

- November 8<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day Fly-in/Toys for Tots Drive – Brian Knutson is cooking. Thank you, Brian! David Roche is judging. We are looking for volunteers to assist as usual and also to bring a dish to share. No raffle.

- November 15<sup>th</sup> Swap Meet/Toys for Tots Drive continues.
- Rain Date 11/22 for both – The swap meet would take precedence if both are rained out.

**Old Business:** None

### **Safety Officer Report:**

- Always take a fire extinguisher with you to retrieve a downed plane.

### **Rule review:**

- Rule 20 – Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited within the boundaries of Cactus Park in accordance with San Diego County Ordinance, 41.118 and 4.118.5.
- Simply stated...No smoking or vaping on the premises, even in your car!

### **New Business:**

- Welcome to Ruben Vasallo, a new member getting back into the hobby.
- We will be raking the BBQ area immediately after the meeting in preparation for the Veteran's Day Fly-in next Saturday.
- Richard Brown will blow the pit area on Friday morning.
- John Loerke moved that by acclamation the existing board members will continue for 2026. Seconded by Keith Miller. The motion was approved.

**Good of the Order:** None

Keith Miller moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

## Nov 2025 President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving!

We should be able to fly the day after Thanksgiving. The County is adamant about not flying for five days after it rains. Even if it sprinkles the County does not want anyone entering the field **five days after it rains.**

# Hangar News

I recently purchased a rain gauge for the field but regardless of the amount collected the County is holding firm with the five-day restriction. There was major reconstruction in Bonsall due to rain damage, so they have issued a blanket order for all burn sites and landfills. Our field is located over a landfill, so they are concerned about the possibility of sink holes due to subterranean water. This is a costly repair, so they are trying to avoid any additional expense. I will open the field the night before we can fly.

The Veterans Fly In was a huge success. I want to thank Brian and Phyllis for cooking and rebuilding the BBQ. *[Editor's note: John Loerke's wife Sandy provided the baked beans, and Ron brought his signature potato salad.]* I am happy to report that we collected a substantial amount of money for Toy for Tots. Lester Moore and his wife are in charge of shopping, much thanks! I also want to thank Frank Gagliardi for his time, energy, and effort in support of the Toys for Tots drive. And, of course, thanks to all members that donated.

The swap meet has been cancelled until next year.

The next meeting is Saturday, 6 December at 0900. I will have quite a bit of information to share at this meeting so please plan to attend.

Please take the time to read your emails. The emails provide updates regarding access to the field and any other pertinent information that you need.

I will be at the field, Friday, the day after Thanksgiving to install yellow pool noodles on the fence at the east end of the runway in case anyone would like to help. 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

## Editor's Corner

Keith Miller

A field-marshal's check of members displaying their FAA numbers on their models was recently conducted; 4 out of 6 members failed. Given that the club's use of the field could be at risk if an FAA Marshal should visit the field, this requirement was added to our Field Rules a few years ago. Members failing to have their FAA registration card on their person and on their models could lead to disciplinary action by the Field Marshals and the Board. Please ensure you're models are marked.

On a personal note, it was great to see this small fleet of my Dad's estate being flown by Lyle Black. Left to right, Super Sportster 40, Quest 50, Tiger II 60 (with an overgrown rudder).



Kevin Roche, David's father, passed away on November 7th. Kevin was always there at the field with his son and, while not a member, was a recognized fixture and part of the family. Our condolences go out to David and his family., During the

Veterans' Day Fly-In event, our Secretary Mark Gray said some words and held a moment of silence for Kevin.



# Hangar News

## Veterans' Day Fly-In



### Results of the Veterans' Day Fly in held on November 8<sup>th</sup>:

Best Sport/Civilian: Steven Leibold, Ultimate AMR 60

Best Military: Trent Alford, Fokker D.VII

Judges Choice: Lyle Black, PT-17 Stearman

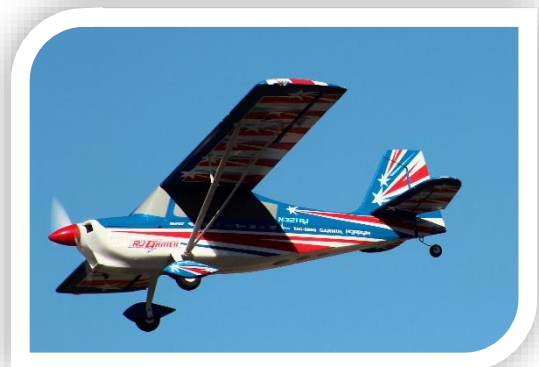
Best Flight Performance: Eric Zanutto, A-10 Warthog

Best Static Display: Frank Gagliardi, T-28 Trojan

Each received a framed certificate recognizing their achievement and a custom award hand-crafted (ok, laser-crafted or printed) by Mark Lukens.

A full library of images can be found at this Google Drive link.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FlyIIRDifej-81c4Y79dLK\\_8iVqqbrEFS?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FlyIIRDifej-81c4Y79dLK_8iVqqbrEFS?usp=sharing)



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*Judges Choice, Lyle Black, PT-17 Stearman*



*Best Military, Trent Alford, Fokker D.VII*



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*Best Sport/Civilian, Steven Leibold, Ultimate AMR 60*



*Best Flight Performance, Eric Zanutto, A-10 Warthog*



# Hangar News



*Best Static Display, Frank Gagliardi, T28 Trojan*



*Moment of Silence in Memory of Kevin Roche*



# Hangar News





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*Awards fabricated by Mark Lukens*

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## Photos of the Month



*Steve Shepersky with his unique Modeltech Mach Racer (circa 2006) flown with an OS 40 SF moves around the sky at a good*



*Clean-up crew for the picnic area Nov 1st included Brian Knutsen, Kevin Pother, Butch Weiser, Keith and Jeramy Miller, David Roche, Lester Moore, Mark Gray, led by Ron Keith.*