



Hangar News

Jan 2026

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

Safety Officer Ron Keith

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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

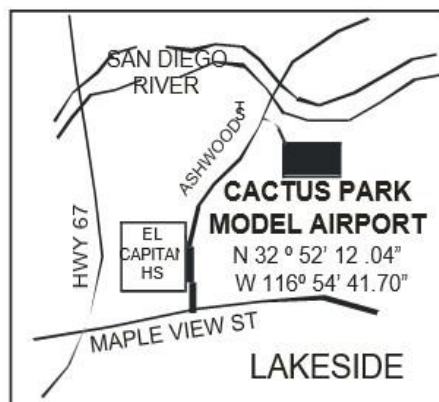
Annual Awards Banquet January 10th at 4:00 pm, VFW Carter Smith Post 5867, 12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside CA

Kevin Roche's Celebration of Life and Aviation January 17th, 1pm at the EAA Chapter 14 at Brown Field right next to the tower. Gate code #1918. All are welcome.

Next Meeting:

Saturday February 7th 2026 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

**** There is no meeting in January, replaced by the Annual Awards Banquet.**



**DISCOUNT
HOBBY
WAREHOUSE**

Hangar News

Meeting Minutes 06 Dec 2025

Keith Miller (standing in)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM at the field. Club officers present were the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. A total of xx club members were present (the sitting Secretary forgot to grab the roster...). The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes:

- John Loerke moved the minutes of the November 1st, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Lester Moore. The motion was approved.
- Discussion on the Editors Corner from that newsletter (related to the club rule requiring FAA registration card and number on members' aircraft):

Glen Merrit commented that the club has no need to have or enforce FAA Registration requirements. "The AMA doesn't want us to enforce FAA regulations. The field is not at risk if members are found in violation of FAA requirements; only the individuals are at risk."

It was noted that SEFSD (Mission Bay) were found in violation of FAA regulations and shut down briefly, but that appears to be a one-time instance on the very heels of the new regulations. There have been no other known instances of FAA interactions locally.

Kevin Pothier questioned Glen's AMA source. Glen replied with a request to the Board to ask the AMA. (Richard Brown took for action.)

[Editor's note, post meeting: Richard spoke with the AMA's Director Government Affairs. The AMA doesn't have a stance specific to clubs' enforcement of FAA regulations, but they do concur that, if a club institutes such a rule, they back the club's enforcement of such a rule.]

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$12,196.61 October 31st, 2025

Income: \$360.00

Expenses: \$816.61

Ending Balance: **\$11,739.80** November 30th, 2025

- Balance November 30th, 2024: \$15,920.14.
- From the Veteran's Day event, there were 12 pilots, 18 aircraft presented. Food Revenue was \$170.00, with food cost of \$258.71; net -\$88.71.

Steve Shepersky moved the Treasurer's report be approved as submitted. Seconded by Vernon Gilmore. The motion was approved.

General Notes:

- Ron continues to interact with the County on matters of rain restrictions, gate operations and runway improvements.

- The County disapproved any addition of asphalt to the site, therefore there will be no extension of the runway.

Field Maintenance:

None

Upcoming Events:

- Annual Awards Banquet January 10th at 4:00 pm, VFW Carter Smith Post 5867, 12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside CA
- Kevin Roche's Celebration of Life and Aviation January 17th, 1pm, EAA Chapter 14 at Brown Field right next to the tower. Gate code #1918. All are welcome

Old Business:

- The 5 day "no fly" rule following rain is still in effect. Glenn Merrit commented that the policy is "unsustainable" with respect to club operations. Ron responded that it doesn't matter – all County landfills (and clubs on those landfills) are under the same restriction. He posed that the club should seek legal action to block the five-day post-rain restriction. Kevin Pothier noted that, given the grand scheme of things, we're just a "blip" on their balance sheets.

Ron and Richard will meet with County supervisors in January to support the Club's stance. Ron mentioned that we need to tread carefully. The north gate was found unlocked at least once which is a major concern with the County [Editor's note: which is a violation of our lease].

The lease is in effect through 2030 (no rain restrictions). The County will add language specific to the five-day rain restriction at that time. *[Editor's note: The Club doesn't wish to press that matter at this time.]*

- For now, the main entrance gate can still remain unlocked during Club operations, but still must be closed at all times.

Glen will look for historical club documentation that established policy that the gate is to remain open at all times that the Club is present, being a "public park".

In the meantime, prospective new members or guests will need to be made aware that they can enter and to close the gate after passing.

- Night flying:

Mark asked if night flying is permitted. No. The club specifically forbids flying after dusk (and included this in the lease) due to complete lack of light outside of our field boundaries (lost aircraft, firefighting, lots more).

Safety Officer Report:

- *[Editor's note: Since the December meeting, we had a recent occurrence of an un-restrained model going full-throttle and leaving a work table. Fortunately, there were no injuries, but the model caught fire due to a stalled ESC. All powered models must be restrained at all times in the pits, regardless of "throttle cut" switches.]*

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Rule review:

Rule 14 – Don't taxi in the pits. Also, members are reminded that we are required to stand behind the fence when flying.

New Business:

- Officers collecting funds:

Richard asked Club Officers to ensure that, when collecting cash from members for dues or banquet tickets, to write up a receipt and leave a copy in the receipt book. No need for that when collecting checks.

- Roster in cabinet:

Richard placed a paper copy of the club roster with names and phone numbers for the purpose of contacting members should they leave something behind. The roster is in the 3-ring binder behind the MEMBERSHIP tab.

- Banquet

Food/catering cost went up by only 80¢ per plate, so the cost of the banquet will remain at \$25 per person.

When paying for banquet spots, members are asked to be prepared to order beef or ham. Seats must be paid for before Jan 1st.

The bar will be open this year for purchase. [Editor's note: Thanks Richard!]

Richard asked that guests not scarf down rolls before dinnertime. Last year, we ran short on rolls.

Based on last year's total cost (\$1979.58 for food, utensils and drinks, \$1,250 total for raffle prizes, Richard moved for a funding allocation this year of \$4,000. Butch Weiser seconded the motions which passed.

The club will recoup most of the raffle cost, and tickets will offset the food and venue cost depending on attendance.

Drinks planned will be A&W, Orange Crush, Coke/Diet Coke and water (+ the cash bar).

Members are asked to contact the Board to help on the day of (Jan 10th) at 1pm for setup, and again just prior to the event 4pm start for last-minute preparation.

As has been the norm, John and Julie Weaver (Discount Hobby Warehouse) will be our guests.

2026 Calendar of Events:

Members are asked to provide inputs for events we might wish to hold in 2026.

New Members:

A new member Steve visited today. Sorry; didn't get his last name.

Good of the Order:

None

The meeting adjourned without motion at 9:45 AM.

Dec 2025 President's Message

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays!

2025 has been a challenging year for the Club - trying to separate horses from airplanes, field closures due to weddings at the polo grounds, weather, and construction on the field. Plus, we had to change the flight path due to a difficult neighbor, and the construction kept the field closed for numerous days. The biggest obstacle has been the County. Now the latest hurdle is the newest rules regarding field usage after rain. Multiple days of rain are predicted for the holiday season which unfortunately will keep us closed for **five days after the last day of rain**. I will attach the County lock and remove the Weedwacker lock so there will be no accidental opening to the field.

I will open the field the night before we can fly. An email will be sent out when it is safe to fly again - **FIVE DAYS AFTER THE LAST DAY OF RAIN**. Let me reiterate. 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 until **five days after it rains**. We lost our swap meet for winter 2025 because of the new regulations.

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.

The County also wanted the gate to be locked at all times. We compromised and agreed that the gate will be **shut** after entering but not locked. We want to leave the gate open when anyone is at the field. If you use the **north gate** to retrieve a plane, it must be locked behind you.

The battery disposal can in the pits is for RC batteries only! Please refrain from discarding other batteries or vape pens. It is County regulation not to vape/smoke/drink alcohol on County property.

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The next meeting will be on Saturday, 7 February 2026 at 0900. The banquet is on 10 January 2026. Please purchase your tickets prior to 31 December so that we will have an accurate head count for the caterers. The banquet starts at 4:00pm at the VFW in Lakeside, same location as last year.

I would like to thank everyone for complying with the new regulations. I am still working with County about repairing the west end of our runway.

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.

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.

Ron
(619) 988-7667

Editor's Corner

Keith Miller

Congratulations to Ruben Vasallo for completion of his official check flight. Welcome to the club, Ruben!

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron Annual Awards Banquet

**Saturday 1/10/2026
4:00 pm**

*Admission—\$25 per person
Beef, Ham and all the fixins'
And the bar will be open!*

- including -

*Model of the Year Competition and Presentation
Big Raffle!*

Tickets must be paid by Jan 1st. No exceptions.



**VFW Carter Smith Post 5867
12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside CA**



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CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Thomas Kevin Roche
12/20/37-11/08/25

January 17, 2025
1:00 P.M.

Brown Field
1409 Continental St.
San Diego, CA. 92154
(Gate Code #1918)

****The event will be held adjacent to the
Tower****

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Photos of the Month



Glenn Merrit maidens the Curare gifted by Otto Diefenbach. Flies beautifully!

