



Hangar News

April 2026

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

AMA Charter #1651

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

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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

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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.

Upcoming Events

Fire Drill and Extinguisher Training Saturday Apr 4th after regular meeting.

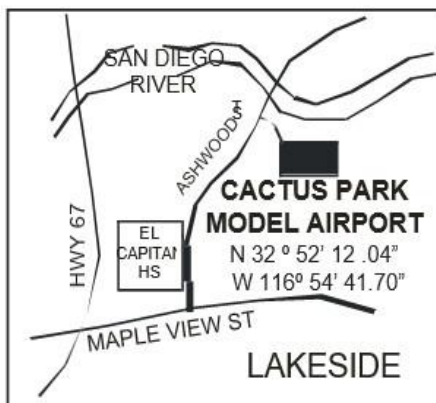
Fun Fly Saturday Apr 25th.

Next Meeting:

Saturday April 4th 2026 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field followed by Fire Fighting Training

Headlines

No significant headlines this month. Fly and STAY SAFE!



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Headline News

Nothing in the Headlines...

Meeting Minutes 07 Mar 2026

Mark Gray

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM at the field. Club officers present were the Treasurer and the Secretary. A total of 14 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: Ken Lawrence moved the minutes of the February 7th, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Keith Miller. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$15,168.99 February 1st, 2026
Income: \$320.00 (4 new members or renewals)
Expenses: \$460.76
Ending Balance: **\$15,028.23** February 28th, 2026

- Balance February 28th, 2025: \$19,337.51

Glen Merritt moved the treasurer's report be approved as submitted. Seconded by Brian Knutsen. The motion was approved.

General Notes:

- Welcome Arthur Deptala, in the process of becoming a member.
- A piece of orange plexiglass (3 foot square) was mounted to the plane on the windsock pole to make it more visible.



Thank you for the efforts of Richard Brown, Ron Keith, Craig Graham, & Lester Moore who worked on it.

- *[Editors note: Being 3ft x 3ft, the orange diamond is the size of a standard 1.2m foamie ARF. If your 90-size scale or aerobatic plane looks as big as the diamond, you're out of bounds. Don't do it.]*
- Reminder to ensure the padlock is locked behind you. Jeff Coskey has requested that all the tumblers on the padlock be rotated rather than just one to ensure it is truly locked.
- Ron Keith has contacted the AMA per the discussion in February. Their input is pending.
- Richard Brown has taken the action to contact Jessica Kirkland (Project Manager, Asset Management Division, Real Estate Services) from the County regarding our desire for them to rescind the "closed/locked gate at all times" mandate.
- Butch Weiser has purchased a camera per the discussion in February – Jeff Coskey and Vernon will work on installing it.
- Swap Meet next Saturday – we'll stage a person at the gate to monitor entering and exiting.
- Check out the club website for up-to-date club information (www.weedwackers.org).

Field Maintenance:

- Richard and Dick continue mowing efforts to keep the field clean and well groomed.

Upcoming Events:

- Fire Drill on 4/4/2026.

Old Business:

- Glenn Merritt reported on the pylon racing 2 weeks ago. We had pylon races with 9 entries (a record high) which turned out great because we had participation from the SD Electric Flyers. But he didn't feel like we had good participation from the Weedwackers due to the locked gate mandate. Richard Brown reiterated that he would contact the County on this topic.
- During discussion on the above topic it was noted that the County has the right to make changes to the lease.

Safety Officer Report: None this month as Ron is not present, however a safety note was made:

- Reminder: Do not taxi in the pits; throttle cut should be engaged when your plane rolls to your flight station and hand-pushed to the pit area.

Rule review: Wear your badge at the field.

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New Business: None.

Good of the Order:

- Ken Lawrence – shared 2 planes, Stevens Aeromodel kit (Flying Flea) that is pretty small, good for indoors. Ken then enlarged the plans by 150% and made a larger version of the same plane with balsa donated by Dick. It's ready for maidening with a cobra motor, 950 mAh, 3 cell battery and AS3X.



Keith Miller moved that the meeting be adjourned.



The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Mar 2026 President's Message

April is just a few days away, Happy Easter to all!

I am sorry I did not attend the March meeting. The cold or flu found me, took its toll, and grounded me at home. Thanks to Rich Brown for stepping in during my absence.

I spoke to County workers about the height of the weeds on the cap. I was told they would address this after the growing season in May when the weeds turn brown. The Club is not responsible for growth on the cap.

The swap meet was a success with about 20-25 sellers. The Club took in about \$100.00. I sold donated planes and accessories from Mel Ashdown at the swap meet and collected \$280.00 for the Club. Thanks Mel!!

Recently the gate to the field broke at the lower hinge. I wrapped a chain around the pole so it would not fall off. I located a new hinge that we installed - it works great. We will spot weld in the near future, so the hinge does not shift. Thank you to Art Flores, Rich Brown, Lester Moore, Ken Kanine, and Craig Graham for helping with this project.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 4 April 2026 at 0900. A fire drill will follow after the meeting. If you attend and need a fire extinguisher, I have a few that I will give away.

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.

Ron
(619) 988-7667