



Hangar News

April 2026

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

AMA Charter #1651

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

Sign up for Email Delivery of the Newsletter:

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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 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.

Upcoming Events

Armed Forces Day Fly-In, Pylon Races and BBQ Saturday May 16th

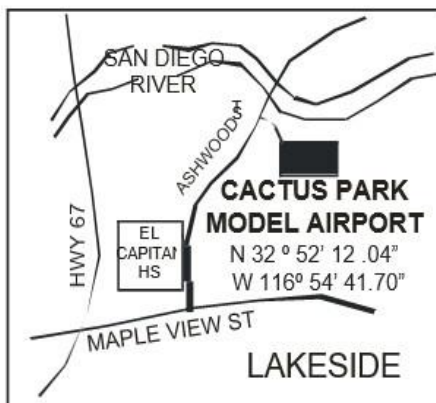
- David Roche will be the Race Director for some T-28 racing, and Art Flores will host the Scale Fly-In.
- We'll hold a BBQ and invite members to bring a Pot-Luck item.

Next Meeting:

Saturday May 2nd 2026 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field followed by junk removal from around the sheds.

Headlines

Event Lock to be used when guests are invited to our field, and a Red Lock will be in use for rain days.



Hangar News

Headline News

To accommodate field entry during club events to which we've invited the public, we'll add a green Event Lock to the front gate daisy chain. The combination will be provided to guests such that they can enter the Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field without a club member having to meet them there. Signage will be posted to ensure they close and lock the gate behind them. The lock will only be in place during events.



During rain days when the County mandates that we cannot drive on the property 5 days following a rain event, a Red Lock will replace the "WW" lock in the front gate daisy chain.

Meeting Minutes 04 Apr 2026

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, Secretary, & Newsletter Editor. A total of 20 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: Keith Miller moved the minutes of the March 7th, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Vernon Gilmore. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$15,028.23 March 1st, 2026
Income: \$1,245.00
Expenses: \$792.81
Ending Balance: **\$15,480.42** March 31st, 2026
Balance March 31st, 2025: \$13,833.03

Club donation by Melvin Ashdown netted out \$280.00 at Swap Meet.

Sellers at Swap Meet 21 = \$105.00

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

General Notes:

Richard spent an hour or so with Jessica (Asset Management Division, Real Estate Services, County of San Diego) last Thursday/Friday. He reminded us that the

county agreed to grant our club a rain exemption in a letter dated 2/27/2026. Then there was a push by club members to allow the gate lock to remain open whenever someone was present at the field. Richard made the request to Jessica. She said she would take the request to the Land Fill entity of the County as that was their jurisdiction and get back to him with their decision. In about 1.5 hours Jessica came back and advised that Land Fill had rescinded the rain exemption granted in February and would continue to require the gates to be locked at all times because the County is responsible for all State of California mandates (which includes keeping the property locked at all times since it has been designated as a burn site). The County's opinion is that the \$500 we pay per year in lease is not really worth the administrative hassle they have to deal with. However, the Weedwackers club is the only organization that is authorized to use the property as long as the State mandates are complied with. The county is concerned that if the State comes in and finds the property unlocked they will be issued a \$3000 fine which they want to avoid. Therefore, the 5-day lockout for rain (County mandate, see letter dated 3/27/2026) and the "gate locked at all times" (State mandate) are in effect immediately and going forward.

The county will amend our lease to reflect the 5-day closure following a rain event.

We can still use the East gate to access the property to avoid driving on the cap and fly after a rain event.

Rain anywhere in the county constitutes a rain event at our site. Ron will use his judgement to assess when to lock out for a rain event at our site.

Welcome Leif Woodahl who is joining the club today. Leif moved back to SD from Georgia and has an electric Carbon Cub.

Butch Wisner made a motion and Steve Shepersky seconded to form a committee to investigate obtaining a phone that could be used to give access to guests that want to come into the field. The motion was approved.

Red Lock idea – used by Mission Bay Silent Flyers to protect their field after a rain event. The way it would work would be for any board member (only board members would have the combination) to be able to remove the regular lock and install the red lock which would signal the 5-day lockout for rain. That way more than 1 person can help facilitate the process.

Design, Build, Fly – UCSD Engineering competition; Keith is hosting them this week. On Sunday, 4/12, they will do their test flight. We will not need to close the field, just pause while they are here.

Field Maintenance:

Load up Ron's truck with junk for the dump right after

Hangar News

the meeting on May 2nd.

Upcoming Events:

Fire Extinguisher demonstration today following the meeting.

4/25/26 – Fun Fly; Keith Miller will run it.

5/16/26 – Armed Forces combined with Pylon Races (David Roche)

Old Business: None.

Safety Officer Report: AED battery has been replaced & Ron is purchasing new pads at a cost of about \$100.

Rule review: None.

New Business:

Mark Lukens is working to resolve the issues with the charging stations. The system is undersized for the demand. We have good batteries but they get drained and then the solar panels are not able replenish the battery. He will give a list of options and cost.

Good of the Order: None

Keith Miller moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM.

April 2026 President's Message

Greetings everyone!

Please read the “Hanger News” – Keith Miller as always did an excellent job of putting together the newsletter with recent news, events, and photos. Keith – thank you for the write-up.

Rain is predicted so the Fun Fly event may have to be rescheduled. Stay tuned and read your emails!

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 2 May 2026 at 0900. Immediately after the meeting I would like assistance to load my truck for a dump run and then unload at the dump. This little project should not take more than 30 minutes. There is a lot of stuff around the shed and BBQ area that we do not need. If there is something you would like, feel free to take it with you when you leave the field.

Please take the time to read your emails. They 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

Editor's Corner

East Gate Access Plan

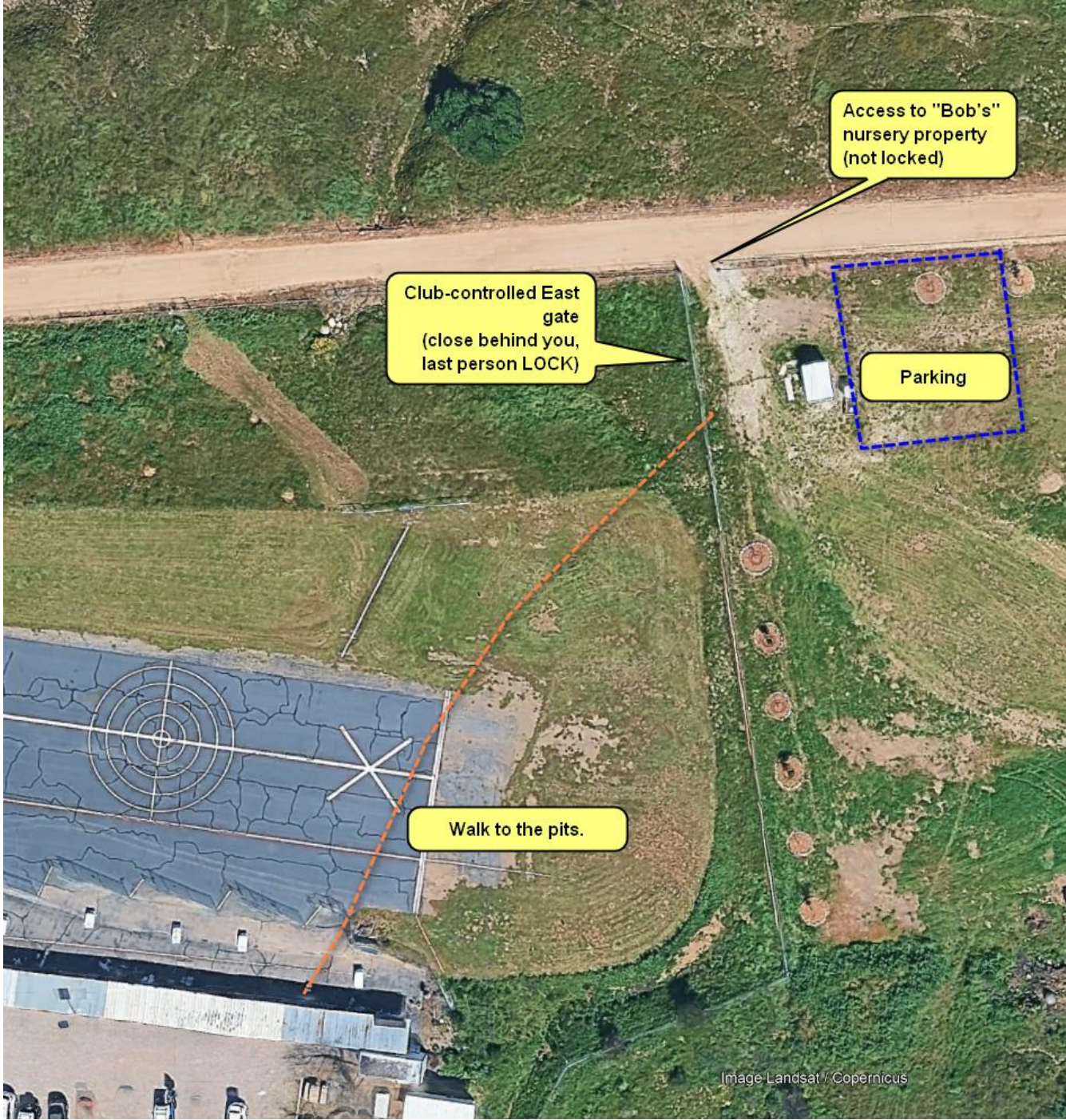
Given the County's latest decision to uphold the **5-Day Rain Shut-Down period**, the East Gate Access Plan is back in effect. During those days, the Board will replace the West gate access lock with a **Red Lock**, preventing member vehicle access down the normal driveway. **Note:** This plan is in only in effect during periods when the main West gate vehicle access is under the 5-day rain restriction. The Board will issue an email if and when such a shut-down is in place, and the website will be updated with the current status and a count-down to re-opening.



In addition, please follow these guidelines:

1. Access through Bob's gate/Nursery for parking. The gate has a loop to hold it closed; the first person in should open it, and the last person out must close and loop the gate.
2. Please plan your entry and exit to avoid impeding Polo traffic.
3. Park in the gravel area along the north side fence. Do not park beyond the cones, as there are many obstacles in the tall grass.
4. Access is walk-on only (during a 5-day rain restriction).
5. The Eastern gate must remain closed except when entering or exiting the field. It must never be left standing open.
6. Reminder that the club-controlled Eastern gate must be closed at all times, and locked when the last member leaves.
7. Please shorten your flight approaches to avoid hitting a parked vehicle. The pilot is fully responsible for any damage caused should a collision with a parked vehicle occur.

Hangar News



Pictures of the Month

Fire Extinguisher Training: Our Safety Officer and President, Ron Keith, conducted training on the use of fire extinguishers on April 4th, focusing on identifying expired extinguishers, and the PASS method: Pull the pin, Aim and the base, Squeeze the lever, and Sweep side-to-side across the base of the fire.

He reminded us to stay upwind of the fire to allow a closer approach to the base and a clear view of the aim point.

Mentors at Work: What makes our club great is the willingness of members to assist others during training flights or even just as a spotter.



Ron going over use of fire extinguishers



P.A.S.S.



Steve Morton working with Mike Wolfe during setup and flights of a powered glider.

Pictures of the Month



Wayne supervising Rich supervising Ryan.



Wayne Aymar spotting for a fellow member (missed the name)



Jason Hammond and Jeramy Miller tearing into Jonah Hammonds transmitter gimbals.



John and Brian hanging out, talking shop.

Pictures of the Month



Lyle Blacks resurrected Fokker D.VII sounds and flies beautifully with a YS 1.20.



Part of the gang.



More of the gang.



Good to see David Pothier back at the field!

Pictures of the Month



The poster features a central illustration of a biplane flying over a checkered flag. To the left, a cartoon character wearing a hat and sunglasses is grilling food. Below the character is a blue and white model airplane. To the right, a red and white model airplane is shown in flight. The background is decorated with stars and stripes. The text is in various fonts and colors, including blue, red, and black. A vertical banner on the right side reads 'and Pot Luck'.

Armed Forces Day

Saturday, May 16th, 2026

Scale Fly-In & Pylon Racing

Schedule:
8:00-9:00 AM Check in
9:00 AM—1:00 PM Flying
11:00 (approx.) - LUNCH and Raffle
\$10 Landing Fee
\$5 for Burger/Hot Dog Lunch
(participating pilots eat FREE!)
Scale and Semi-Scale models
welcome—ARFs too!

Awards for:
Best Civilian
Best Military
Judges' Choice
Best Flight Performance

Event Coordinator
Ron Keith
619-312-0968

Event site: Weedwackers are located at:
10295 Ashwood Street
Lakeside, CA
Across from the BMX track
Visitors will be provided with an Event Gate Code.

www.weedwackers.org