



Hangar News

August 2026

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>

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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 David Roche

Safety Officer Ron Keith

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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

Swap Meet, Weedwackers Saturday Aug 8th

Pylon Races Saturday Aug 15th

AMA National Model Aviation Day Saturday Aug 22nd

Next Meeting:

Saturday Aug 1st 2026 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying.

Headlines

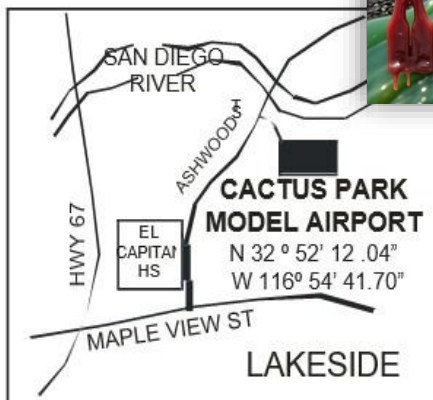
August is FULL of events!

A **Rules Revision** (Rule #19) is proposed and will be voted upon at the Aug 1st meeting.

Our street address (10929 Ashwood St.) is explained inside. Read on for more details!

For the pylon races, bring your Aero Scouts too!!!

STAY COOL!



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Meeting Minutes 04 July 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 14 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: Vernon Gilmore moved the minutes of the June 6th, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Dick Milhausen. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$14,614.43 June 1st, 2026
Income: \$250.74
Expenses: \$596.88
Ending Balance: **\$14,268.29** June 30th, 2026

- Balance June 30th, 2025: \$15,883.28

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

General Notes:

- Note the field address as needed in an emergency situation: 10295 Ashwood St., Lakeside, CA
- Keep the wind at your back in the event of a fire.
- No guests or new members were present this month.
- Current membership – 136 members.
- Richard Brown installed and repositioned a camera at the main gate a month ago. Thank you! It has taken 1000 pictures in the past 5 days and still has ¾ battery life. It captures images very well except not at night. See motion for a camera with increased functionality below.
- Thank you, Mark Lukens, for donating to the first aid kit.
- Eight solar panels have been procured and are being stored in the shed until we can formulate an installation plan. We plan to have three charging stations.
- There was some discussion about the need for power to charge the cell phone that will be used to give guests and visitors access to the field. More to come.

Field Maintenance:

- Richard Brown has been mowing and maintaining the grounds through the summer. Thank you!

Upcoming Events:

- August 1st – Club Meeting

- August 8th - Swap Meet
- August 15th – Pylon Races
- August 22nd – Fun Fly (BBQ & Raffle); AMA National Model Aviation Day)

Old Business: None.

Safety Officer Report:

- Reminder to take a fire extinguisher with you to retrieve a downed plane. This is especially important during the summer months with the high heat and variable winds. Refer to Ron's President's message for additional information.

Rule review:

- #4 – In case of any fire event witnessed by a member at the Cactus Park site or surrounding area, the Lakeside fire department will be called upon immediately in order to respond. Call 911.
- #10 - Pilots must stand behind the fence in one of five flight stations for takeoff, flight and landings (5 planes maximum at any time). Refer to Rule **Error! Reference source not found.** regarding Station "H" for helicopters.
- #18 - Parking is permitted in designated areas only; at least 15 feet clear of the pit area.
- #19 – Ron Keith made a motion to rewrite rule #19 per current County requirements as follows: **Gate must be locked at all times (when members are present and when no one is present). Each person entering or exiting the field is responsible to lock the gate behind them.** Seconded by Jeff Coskey. The motion was approved.
- #21 - Charging of Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries at Cactus Park shall be in accordance with the posted Weedwacker Lithium Polymer Battery Charging Protocol (and should be followed when charging batteries of any type).

New Business:

- Jeff Coskey made a motion to spend up to \$125 (Keith Miller recommended we allocate \$250 to ensure desired functionality) to purchase a camera that will capture night images. Seconded by Steve Sheperski. The motion was approved.
- The RC collection of the late Bruce Simpson (Santee resident but not a Weedwacker club member) was donated to our club in June. Jeff Coskey picked up all the items in Santee and is storing them in the storage container at the field. Jeff will catalog and take photos of the items. They will be offered for sale following the August club meeting. Any leftovers will be taken to the

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August swap meet. All proceeds will be added to the Weedwhacker's general account.

Good of the Order: None

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

July 2026 President's Message

Ron Keith

Greetings all - August is scheduled to be a busy month:

- 1) Swap Meet - 8 August. I will collect \$5.00 from the sellers at the gate at 0630, buyers get in free. If you do not sell what you bring, please take it with you when you leave.
- 2) Pylon Races - 15 August. The more pilots racing the better the show. So, join in the fun!!
- 3) AMA National Model Aviation Day – 22 August. BBQ/hamburgers and hot dogs. You are welcome to bring anything that will supplement the lunch (I will bring potato salad). If you decide to contribute, call me before the BBQ so we can coordinate and avoid duplicates.
- 4) Most members are great about closing and locking the gate. Thanks for the effort – much appreciated! However, a few others need to try a little harder. Just remember, the County can and will close us down if they find the gate unlocked.
- 5) Try not to fly over the polo field. I get a call once in a while from the owner. We do not want to anger our neighbor. Remember, there are expensive horses and children learning to ride at the polo field. We do not want to harm anyone or any creature at the field.

On July 20th, the County sent a landscape team to mow the area north of the road leading to the Polo grounds and river vegetation. They did a great job and when I went to talk to them they were enjoying our planes in the air. I also warned them to be alert for snakes! They reported that they saw two so be careful if you crash.

July has been another hot and windy month! Our

field is cut short, but it is still very dry and potentially could be a problem from crashed aircraft. Please take a fire extinguisher with you when retrieving crashed planes. If you do not see the crash site, take two people with fire extinguishers and notify other members that you have crashed. **Be on the lookout for smoke!!** Remember “**wind at your back**” if fire is present. Call 911 immediately if you cannot control the problem (fire). An additional problem is critters (snakes) hiding in the shade so take extra precautions when retrieving planes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you see a problem with the field.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 1 August at 0900.

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

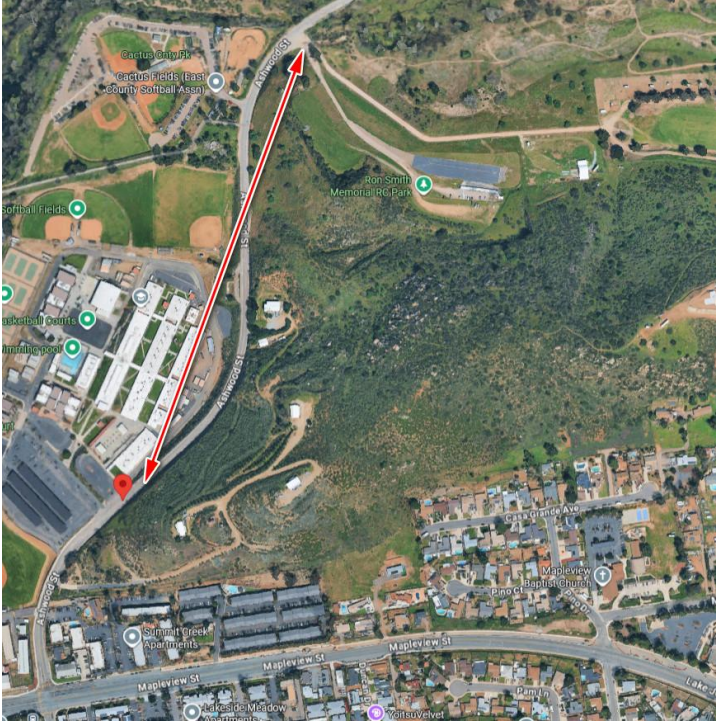
Keith Miller

Vernon reminded me that our published street address (10295 Ashwood St) causes recurring confusion for many reasons, so I thought I'd do some digging and publish what's hopefully a good clarification. Here's what I found recently that actually makes sense.

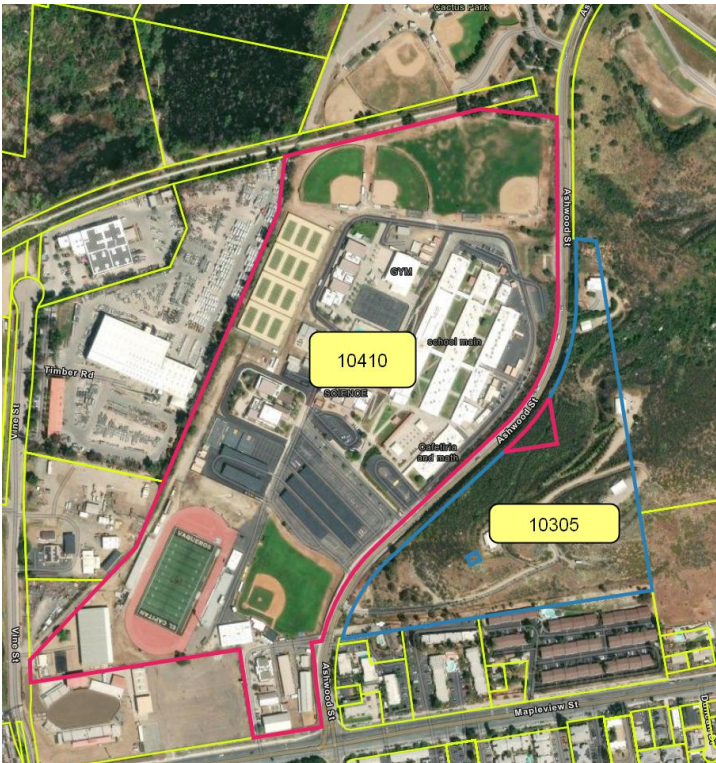
BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front): 10295 is a general location for a “known public site”, not a piece of taxable property. The address is assigned to the entrance to our club field.

The problem arises in that, when searching our address in Google Maps, the red pushpin shows up adjacent to the entrance to El Capitan High School and not our entrance. This is a glitch in Google Maps since our address is meant to specifically define our club location. Just to see if Google is listening, I submitted a correction to place the pushpin at our entrance. Let's see if that sticks.

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The physical properties (taxable plots) on either side of that pushpin are El Cap High School (10410 Ashwood) and private property to the East (10305 Ashwood).



“Cactus Park” (which includes our field) is a part of Parcel ID 7601417200 at 10610 Ashwood. Punching that address

into Google Maps puts the pushpin in the middle of the baseball fields just west of the BMX track. That parcel includes our piece of land.

But our club is published all across the internet as 10295 Ashwood, which is all good as long as we can get Google to show it properly. My edits to Google Maps are currently in a “pending review” status.



This is why it’s important that, when we call for Emergency Services at our 10295 Ashwood address, that we post a member at our gate to wave down the responders. If they go to where Google Maps has the pushpin, they’ll go to El Capitan High School.

If Google updates their maps based on my suggested input, the pushpin will appear right at our entrance which will help. I’m not holding my breath.

Reference sites:

<https://gis-portal.sandiegocounty.gov/arcgis/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=f1b69ba9d3dd4940b8d1efcc9dac2ac4>

<https://app.regrid.com/us/ca/san-diego#p=/us/ca/san-diego/san-diego/629837&t=property>

https://geo.sandag.org/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=1d105857933641e0a8496d2769b31aacc#data_s=id%3AdataSource_1-1951f287896-layer-36%3A97333

Photos of the Month

All in one morning, Jonah prangued a T-28 and also flew a new-to-him E-flite Sportix.



Kevin Pothier demonstrated true patriotism while preparing for flight on our nations semiquincentennial birthday.



Photos of the Month

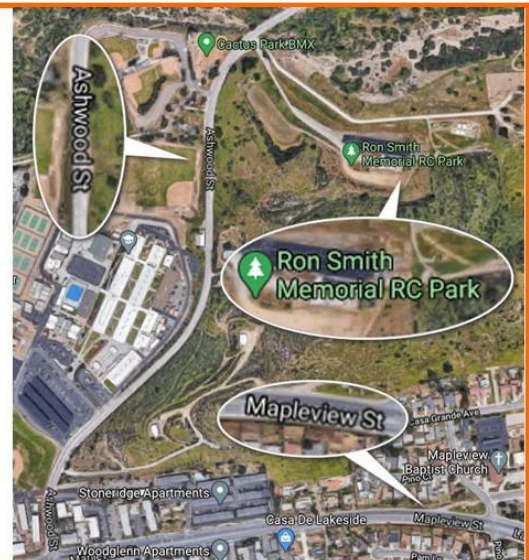


**Site: Ron Smith Memorial Field
(SD County Cactus Park, Lakeside)**

Hours: 7:00 am – 11:00 am
\$5 Seller's Fee
Buyers Free

Information:

Ron Keith (619) 988-7667
10295 Ashwood Street, Lakeside CA
N 32 ° 52' 12.04", W 116° 54' 41.70"



Photos of the Month

Pylon Races

Saturday August 15th, 2026

Classes: FMS 800mm T-28 Trojan, AeroScout S2
1.1m RTF

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)

T-28 Class

FMS T28 v2 (the 800mm version).

AeroScout Class

- The model must be flown with no external modifications.
- The model must be flown with the stock ESC.
- **Batteries** must be LiPo 3S 2200 mAh standard voltage (4.2v/cell peak). High-voltage LiPo packs aren't permitted (those that can be charged to 4.35 v/cell).
- **Prop:** Any prop can be used.

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 Director
David Roche (619) 733-2632



Photos of the Month



AMA NATIONAL MODEL AVIATION DAY 2026

Saturday, Aug 22nd, 2026

Fun-Fly and BBQ & Raffle



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 for FREE!)



BBQ



Event Coordinator
Ron Keith
619 988-7667

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

www.weedwackers.org