



Hangar News

July 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>

Club Officers Email: info.weedwackers@gmail.com

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 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

Swap Meet, Weedwackers Saturday Aug 8th

Pylon Races Saturday Aug 15th

AMA National Model Aviation Day Saturday Aug 22nd

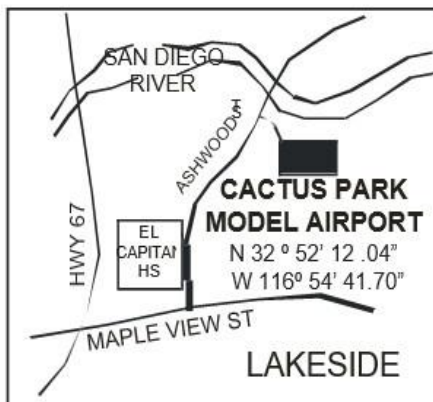
Next Meeting:

Saturday **July 11th** 2026 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying.

*** Note, this is the **SECOND** Saturday of the month. **There is no meeting on Saturday July 4th.**

Headlines

Charging Station capabilities are advancing, thanks to Mark Lukens, Jeff Coskey and others.



Hangar News

Meeting Minutes 06 June 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 16 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes: Vernon Gilmore moved the minutes of the May 2nd, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Craig Graham. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: \$14,882.06 May 1st, 2026

Income: \$870.27

Expenses: \$1,137.90

Ending Balance: **\$14,614.43** May 30th, 2026

Balance May 1st, 2025: \$13,085.43

- Armed Forces Day Fly-in accounting
 - 26 paid to eat + (16 pilots@10.00) \$290.00
 - Food Cost \$268.47
 - **Net Food Cost \$21.53**
 - Raffle Income \$198.00
 - Raffle Cost \$454.58
 - **Net Raffle Cost \$256.58**
 - **Net Cost to Club \$211.53**

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

General Notes:

- Lock the gate! We've had a few instances where the gate has been left open. The club now has a camera positioned to monitor all entering and exiting.
- No visitors/new members at the meeting.

Field Maintenance:

- The County came in this past week and did some work but not to our standards. Richard Brown will finish it. They are done with all they can do this year due to a shortage of crew. A field clean-up day to retrieve parts from crashed planes was floated.

Upcoming Events:

- Field closed at 1:00 PM today for a wedding at the Polo Field. Opens at 6:00 AM Sunday.
- Field closed at 1:00 PM Saturday, June 13th for a wedding at the Polo Field. Opens at 6:00 AM Sunday.
- Discount Hobby Swap Meet on June 21st.
- Next club meeting – July 11, 2026.
- August 1st – Club Meeting.

- August 8th – Swap Meet
- August 15th – Pylon Races – need to look for a new racer; FMS is done with T-28's. We may consider the Rare Bear made by Hobby King.
- August 22nd – AMA National Model Aviation Day and we're doing a Fun Fly to go along with it.

Old Business: None.

Safety Officer Report: Let Ron know if you use something so that he can keep it fully stocked.

Rule review:

Please ensure you use a LiPo bag when charging. No exceptions.

New Business:

Jeff Coskey moved to allocate \$500 for the rest of the solar supplies including used solar panels (6) and miscellaneous charges to retrofit the existing charge stations. Single batteries will be tied together to power the East, West and Middle charge stations. Ideally Kirk Meade will be able to continue supplying batteries as needed. Three panels will support the East and three panels will support the West. The plan is to disassemble the current panels on the East and move them to a new station in the middle. Seconded by Craig Graham. The motion was approved.

Thank you, Mark Lukens, for all the work to design and set up the charging systems.

We had a crash at the polo ground recently. Be careful not to fly in that area.

After the panels get installed, we'll use the spare panels as patch panels for winter protection.

Painting the shed should be done before the heat of July – plan & color TBD.

Richard Brown moved to allocate \$800 for the August Fun Fly (BBQ & Raffle). 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 9:19 AM.

Hangar News

June 2026 President's Message

Greetings and Happy Fourth of July!!

June has been hot and windy so with this combination you need to be aware of wildland and vegetation fires! 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.

The Club bought a camera to monitor the entrance gate but placing it at the most advantageous position has been somewhat of a challenge.

We hope it will give us what we need to obtain the license plate number of the person that continues to dump at the front gate. I informed County of the latest incident that requires cleanup. If anyone would like some of the logs that were left, feel free to take any or all from the site.

Mark Lukens recently installed charging stations and so far they are working very well. When you see him say thanks for his effort! Mark also donated all of the new medical aide items and replenished our first aid kit. Jeff Coskey and I picked up eight solar panels that will be installed in the near future. Thank you Jeff for your assist in transporting the panels and storing them in the shed.

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

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 11 July 2026 at 0900.

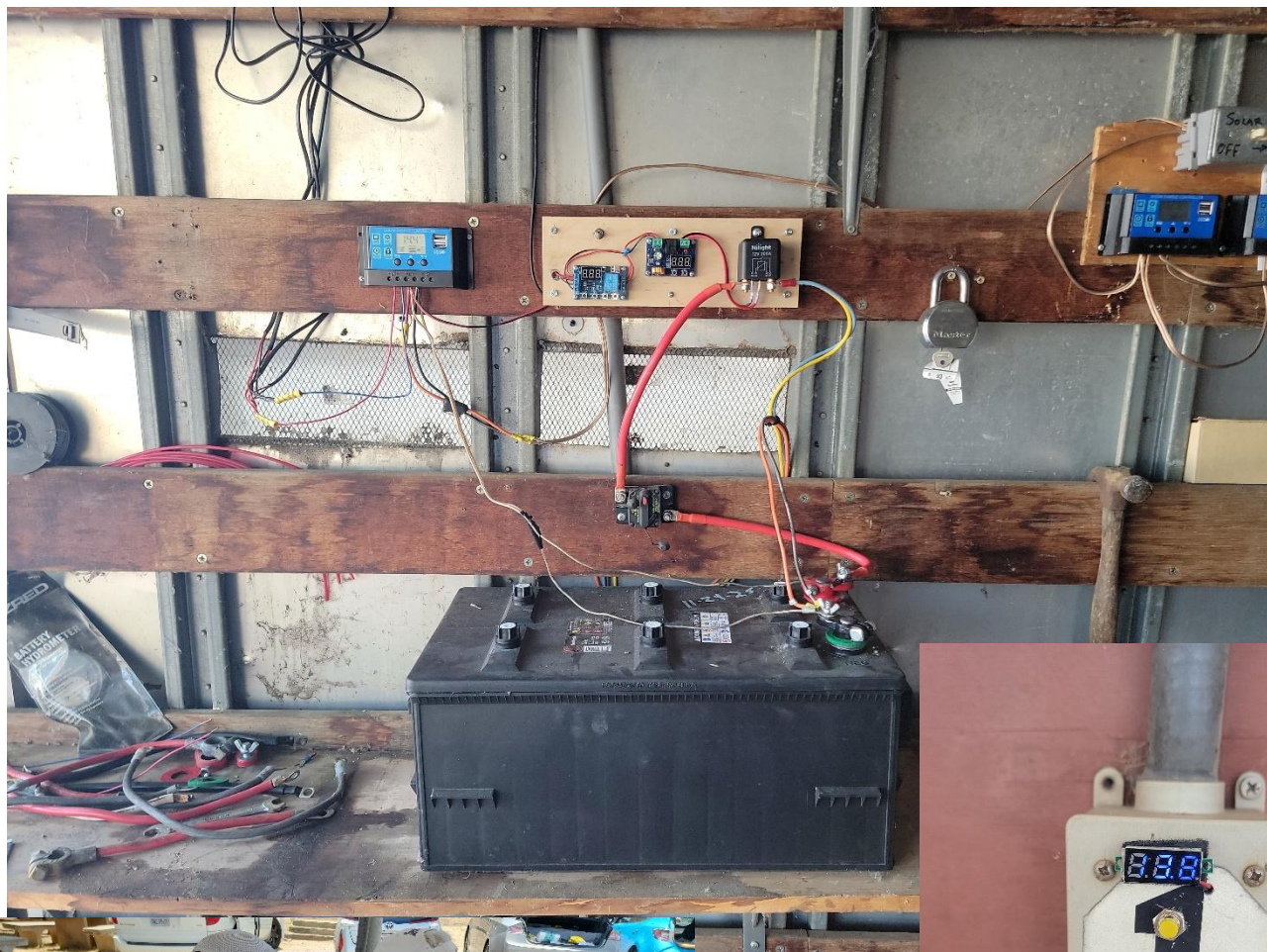
Please take the time to read your emails. They provide updates regarding access to the field and any other pertinent information that you need.

As always, if you have any questions or anything to report, feel free to call me.

Ron
(619) 988-7667



Photos of the Month



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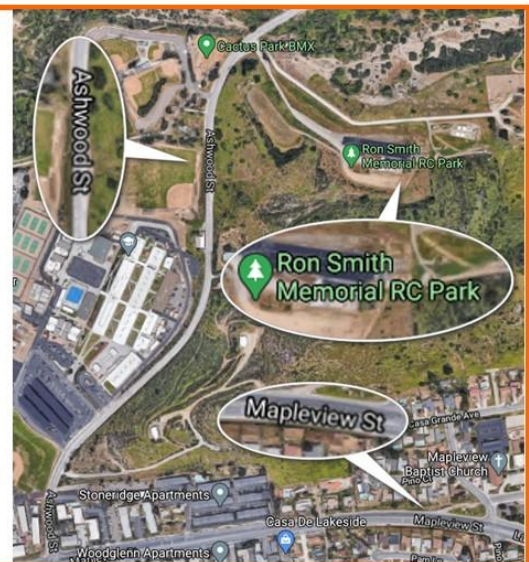


**Site: Ron Smith Memorial Field
(SD County Cactus Park, Lakeside)**

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

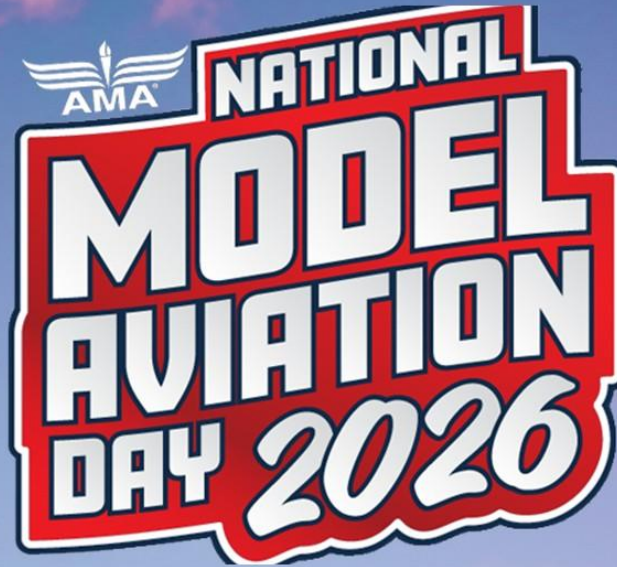
- Three qualifying heats of five laps each followed by three medal rounds (bronze, silver and gold) at 10 laps each. Plan your battery size accordingly.
- Starts will be from the air.
- Left turns around the pylons. No cutting! Pylon judges will deduct your score if you turn prior to the pylon.
- Take 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



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)



Event Coordinator
Ron Keith
619-312-0968

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