Hangar News

November 2026

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

AMA Charter #1651

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

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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 22nd 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), 10295 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



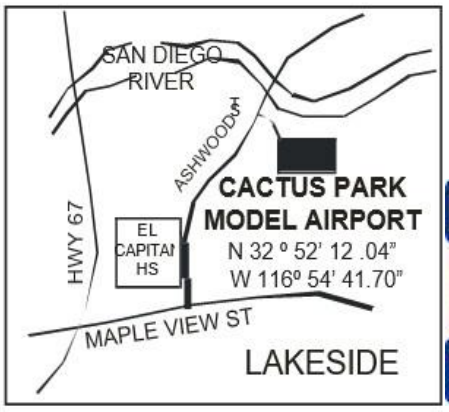
Next Meeting and Officer Elections:
Saturday **Nov 7th** 2026 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

Veterans' Day Fly-In, Sat Nov 14th
Pylon Races, Sat Nov 21st

Headlines

Current nominations and candidates for club officer positions are:

- Jeff Coskey is running for President.
- Ron Keith is stepping down as President and withdraws his nomination as Vice President.
- Ron will run to continue as Safety Officer.
- Lyle Black for Secretary seat. Mark Gray is stepping down
- Richard will run to continue as Treasurer.
- As is always the case, nominations will remain open through the November meeting at which time elections take place.
- Alex Chu is designated as Field Marshal



DISCOUNT HOBBY WAREHOUSE

Hangar News

Meeting Minutes 03 Oct 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. A total of 14 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes:
David Roche moved the minutes of the September 5th, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Alex Chu. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: $14,099.93 September 1st, 2026
Income: $242.00
Expenses: $462.47
Ending Balance: $13,879.46 September 30th, 2026
Balance September 30th, 2025: $12,433.49
Simpson Estate Sale revenue - $631.00 to date with a few planes left
Parts left at the gate: $411.50

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

General Notes:

- Officer nominations for 2027 are due today. Voting will take place at the November meeting.
- Jeff Coskey is running for President.
- Ron Keith is running for Vice President & Safety Officer.
- The Secretary position is opening up. Lyle Black has been nominated.
- Alex Chu would like to be considered for a Field Marshall.
- Jeff Coskey reported that a motion light is ready to be installed at the gate with 5 clamps (tomorrow or Sunday). He also requested that after it's been up a month or so that someone who transits past the field at night back up to it to ensure it works. It is only designed to be a deterrent.
- Rain only closed the field for 1 day this past week. Ron is using his discretion to make the call.

Field Maintenance:

- Upcoming work party to repair/restore the heli pad. Ron asked for volunteers. The idea now is to replace the wood and to support it with 6-8 cinder blocks. Alex Chu suggested we keep it as low to the ground as possible. The blocks can be laid on their side and that will give about 8" clearance which will be fine for weedwacking.
- Jeff needs help to get the tar machine to the front of the shed today so he can take it to Hemet on Wednesday.
- Mark Lukens is planning to enclose the charging station near the middle of our pit area and make it independent. Jeff is bringing some wood specifically for that purpose that he will leave by the trailer. Note: it is not garbage.

Upcoming Events:

- Swap Meet/Toys for Tots on 10/17/2026. Ron will be on site at 6:15 and would be glad for any volunteers to help with parking. Toys should be wrapped.
- Need to keep an eye on the sellers to prevent swapping items before 7:00 AM. Set up at 6:45 AM; Buying starts at 7:00 AM. Buyers will be held behind the berm until 7:00 AM.
- Veterans Day BBQ on 11/14 – Brian Knutsen will cook. As always, anyone that wants to bring a side dish or dessert to share is appreciated.
- Pylon races on 11/21 – Note: Discount Hobby has 6 ea of the 800 mm T-28 in stock.
- Save the Date: January 9th, 2027 will be the annual club banquet – Jeff asked for raffle donations to offset the rising costs of RC kits. The cost of kits is about $100 more than a year ago.

Old Business:

- None

Safety Officer Report:

- None

Rule review:
Rule 18: Parking is permitted in designated areas only; at least 15 feet clear of the pit area.

- Please don't park your car in front of the shed.

New Business:

- None

Good of the Order:

- Ken Lawrence is highlighted in this month's AMA magazine (again) for his design and enlargement work (up to 150%) of a couple sets of airplane plans. Congratulations Ken! The Weedwackers recognize you as our "Modeler".

Mark Lukens moved that the meeting be adjourned.
The meeting adjourned at 9:28 AM.

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September 2026 President's Message

Ron Keith

Happy holidays -

We had enough rain in October to close the field for multiple days, and more is predicted in the next week. We sent out an email to notify members of the field closure due to inclement weather. Some read their email, some did not!

I have wanted to repair the helo pad for some time and was hoping those that use it would step up and volunteer to help. Only Rich Brown, Jack Williams, and Butch Weiser stepped up. I picked up the plywood sheets and they put them together. The only task left to complete is to paint the "H" and it is done!

Jeff Coskey and I put up the new motion light at the gate and it is very bright. It illuminates the entire entrance gate. I hope it will stop the tree trimmer bum from dumping his trees. Time will tell.

The swap meet was smaller than usual, but we did well for TOYS4TOTS. The rainy weather probably kept most folks from attending. We can still collect more money for the TOTS at the **Veterans Fly-in on 14 November, Saturday. The next meeting is on 7 November**.

I hope I lived up to your expectations as President when you voted for me several years ago. I have to admit that Keith Miller made it look easy. I was amazed at the time and energy required to keep Weedwackers open to our members. It was a challenge and once in a while we won. Weedwackers is still the best club, and we are still flying on the best field in the San Diego area.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support during my tenure as President. I encourage you to provide the same support to our new President, Jeff Coskey! In the meantime, I am on the wait list for knee replacement surgery and will be in recovery mode whenever that happens!

I am going to step down from my position as Vice President; however, I will continue as Safety Officer. Keith Miller will fill in as interim VP until the position is filled.

Have fun in the air and great landings!!

Ron

Editor's Corner

Keith Miller

When you see Ron at the field, be sure to thank him and acknowledge the *significant effort* he demonstrated during his four-year tenure. BZ to you, Ron!

In the event that we have no candidate to fill the VP position by election day, I'm willing to act as VP pro tem, pending approval of the remaining officers. Per the bylaws:

Article 3; D. Vacancies:

(1) Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment by the remaining officers, such appointee to serve until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected. Appointments will be ratified by vote of the membership at the next meeting.

The Board will seek nominations for a candidate to fill the Vice President seat.

Foam-Tac Hinge Repair



Linked below is an article describing the use of FOAM-TAC for repairs of various foam surfaces including repair of damaged foam hinges. I think this may be useful for 1.2-meter models or smaller. Larger models may deserve actual hinge points.

The author repaired a fully split rudder hinge by first checking that the torn edges could be aligned and fit together. He applied a thin bead of Foam-Tac to both sides of the tear, pressed the pieces together, then pulled them slightly apart for a few seconds. Once the adhesive became tacky and formed strands across the gap, he pressed the pieces together again and wiped away excess glue with a dry paper towel. Joining the edges took about a minute; he then left the rudder for a couple of hours to cure.

The cured joint remained flexible, about as flexible as the thin foam hinge itself. The author found that the rudder was held firmly while moving with no noticeably greater resistance than the model's other live hinges. Model Aviation



Photos of the Month

At the beginning of October, Steve Morton was able to save his model even though the ESC smoked. Nicely done!







Lester Moore continues to lead the charge with yet another youthful student.

Photos of the Month

Ken Lawrence recently completed and maidend his latest Old School Model Works kit, a “Barnstormer”. She is amazingly graceful in the air!
As is his normal practice, he applied Callie’s Graphics in the true livery of the barnstormer days, displaying an advertisement on the bottom wing.



The model is a 60” (59.6”) span with 863 square inches of total area.

It weighs just over four lbs but floats as if it weighs only two. He described the only challenge being the application of the long vynyl graphic on the bottom wing, as it came from Callie in one long piece (without the Signal Gasoline logo). Getting it properly alinged and fitted across the servo covers took a bit of patience.

Very well done, sir!!

And for those who hadn’t noticed, these photos were doctored by AI to remove the chain link fence that was behind Ken. Amazing!!!





Photos of the Month



Photos of the Month

Pylon Races

Saturday Nov 21st, 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

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