Hangar News

December 2026

Newsletter of the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron

AMA Charter #1651

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron
Web: http://www.weedwackers.org

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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, news@weedwackers.org
Webmaster: Vernon Gilmore
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Richard Brown 619-887-7273*
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Butch Weiser 619-713-6096
Dick Milhausen 619-561-5323
Lester Moore 619-742-1202*
*AMA Introductory Pilot Program Instructors

Designated fee handlers:
Butch Weiser, Lester Moore

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.org.
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.

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting:
Saturday **Dec 5th** 2026 9:00 am at our Ron Smith Memorial Flying Field.

Veteran's Day Fly-In – "More Rain Date" Saturday, Dec 12th 2026 8:00 am
Annual Awards Banquet, January 9th 2027. Reminder, there is NO regular club meeting in January as it is replaced with the banquet.

Correction

Brian Knutson's name was misspelled in the last edition. My apologies, Brian!

Headlines

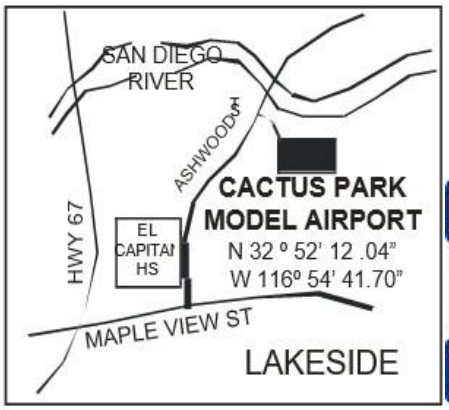
Club Elections are complete. **Your new officers are**:

- President: Jeff Coskey
- Vice President: Vernon Gilmore
- Secretary: Lyle Black
- Treasurer: Richard Brown
- Safety Officer: Ron Keith

The following members make up the remaining Board of Directors: Mark Gray, Keith Miller
**Note the updated email addresses to the LEFT.*



Due to continued rain delays and the County's mandate to "keep off our lawn" for 5 days, the **Veteran's Day Fly-In is rescheduled for Saturday, Dec 12th**.



DISCOUNT HOBBY WAREHOUSE

Hangar News

Meeting Minutes 07 Nov 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 23 club members were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes:

Vernon Gilmore moved the minutes of the October 3rd, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Frank Gagliardi. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance: $13,879.46 October 1st, 2026
Income: $363.33
Expenses: $1,007.62
Ending Balance: **$13,235.17** October 31st, 2026

- Balance October 31st, 2025: $12,196.61
- 2027 membership renewal payments are being taken as of November 1st. Reminder if you use the PayPal website to select Friends and Family to ensure the full $80 is received by the Weedwackers club. Richard has all the name tags printed and they are available at the field (just ask a club officer) upon receipt of payment.

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

General Notes:

- Ron has been dealing with the county this past week as they are looking for ways to shut our club down from using the property. One of the inspectors came to the gate during the recent rain shut down and saw some planes flying and assumed they had violated the locked gate notice and threatened to send a warning letter. The inspector did not realize the flyers had walked on to the field from the East Gate as allowed and had not driven on the property. Through discussion Ron was able to address the issues and get the situation smoothed over (for now).
- Reminder to spin the lock tumblers every time you open and close the gate. Failure to do so can allow the gate to be opened and the property accessed by unauthorized person(s) with their vehicles and put the club access in further jeopardy.
- Officer elections will be held during this meeting based on the nominations received. Jeff Coskey has agreed to move into the President role and Ron Keith will step away as President but retain the Safety Officer Role. Vernon Gilmore has been nominated for VP.
- No first-time guests or new members are present today.
- Ron turned the meeting over to Jeff @ 9:11 AM.

Field Maintenance:

- Jeff will get with Mark Lukens to discuss plans to enclose the power station and make it an independent solar station.
- With the cooler weather, now would be a good time to repair/add additional panels on roof (rain is coming).
- Install 2 solar panels on the West charging station – coordinate with Mark Lukens.

Upcoming Events:

- Veterans Day Fly-in on 11/14 may have to be rescheduled due to rain. "El Nino is in command." Rain date is 11/21.
- Pylon Races – currently set for 11/21. May have to move it to a later date as well.
- Annual banquet – January 9th, VFW in Lakeside.

Old Business:

- Thank you to Ron Keith, Richard Brown, and Jack Williams for the repair work done on the helo pad. Just need the red H repainted. Ron said he would take care of painting the H.
- Light was installed at the front gate by Jeff and Butch and was angled toward the street initially. After reading directions it was determined the light should be 10-12' off the ground to see 25'. It was adjusted for 20'. It may require further adjusting, shortening of the light pole, move closer to the fence, etc. Jeff's goal was to keep it out of the rock throwing area. Ron reported the light is pretty bright.
- Jeff assisted Model Masters in Hemet on 10/7 which went well. He wants to continue working with them and continue the mutual camaraderie between clubs. Another goal in helping them is to get a 50% discount offer to our members to join their club and have access to their field. They have a large open flying field and a lot of good things going on. It's a different atmosphere.

Safety Officer Report:

- The County made it clear that no one in the club should be taking any action to remediate squirrels. They will handle all rodent control activities.

Rule review:

- Call the Fire Department (911) at the first sigh of any smoke.

New Business:

- Rain date for Veterans Day Fly-in.

- Toys for Tots donations are still being taken. Need to wrap up soon so Lester can purchase the gifts.
- Brian Knutson is cooking hamburgers and hot dogs at the Veterans Day event.
- Jeff is encouraging club members to get involved with the Leader Member program offered by the AMA. This is an avenue to get involved with the AMA and to learn of ways to help and promote our club.
- Monthly meeting topics include 6 ways to grow your club, 6 ways to keep your flying site, 4 ways to increase your on-line presence, 6 ways to build the next generation of your club, partnerships in membership, etc.
- The December meeting will be how to get club volunteers.
- 2027 – use of Facebook, Facebook groups and websites, and working with other clubs, etc.
- Jeff encourages increased attendance at our club meetings. Good attendance today compared to the recent past.
- Election of Officers:
  - Jeff Coskey – President by acclamation (transition from Vice President)
  - Vernon Gilmore – Vice President/Webmaster
  - Richard Brown – Treasurer by acclamation
  - Lyle Black – Secretary
  - Keith Miller – Newsletter Editor by acclamation
  - Ron Keith – Safety Officer by acclamation (transition from President)
- There was a unanimous vote via the show of hands to approve the acclamations, and new board members.
- The by-laws need to be realigned to include (as they did in years past) the Safety Officer position as a Club Officer.
- Keith Miller proposed a change to the by-laws regarding the collection of fees and dues. They currently state that only club officers may collect fees and dues but that is not how we do business. The change would allow field marshals and instructors to also collect money and pass it along to a club officer. Keith Miller will coordinate the wording change with the board and present it for formal voting and change.
- Proposal to add the 5-day rain rule to the by-laws to formally have it documented.
- The County agrees the Weedwackers have been good stewardship of the property.
- Jeff posed the question, "What can we do as a club that would add value from the County's perspective to the use of the property? Until they see us as more than just a group of "old guys" flying airplanes their perspective will not likely change.
- There was a lengthy discussion about the number of attendees who have RSVP'd for the Veteran's Day Fly-in and BBQ, the amount of food to buy, and the current financial condition of the club. At the end all agreed it was a good idea to offer a free BBQ and not be concerned about having excess food. Someone will buy it back if necessary.
- Frank Gagliardi moved that the club absorb the cost of the BBQ for the Veteran's Day Fly-in so that attendees may eat for free. Lester Moore seconded. The motion was approved.
- There will be a donation bucket to offset the cost of food for anyone so inclined.
- Toys for Tots is still collecting funds (see Frank Gagliardi).
- A club email (Mark Gray) will be sent to alert everyone to the change.

Good of the Order:

- Ken Lawrence showed off his old school model works latest plane called Barn Store. It's like a Semi Jenny with similar outlines but not exactly the same; 60" wingspan, Rimfire 25, 4 cell battery; maidened a couple of weeks ago with Lester Moore as the main pilot. Ken has flown it a few times since; it is a nice and smooth flyer; used Cali Graphics for advertising – The Flying Circus.



Jeff Coskey moved that the meeting be adjourned.
The meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Hangar News

President's Message

Jeff Coskey 11/20/2026

Dear Weedwacker Members,

Thank you for your support in electing me president for 2027. I had expected to take office in January, but I'm honored to step into the role now and look forward to serving the Weedwacker membership through 2027.

I'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Ron Keith for his time, leadership, and willingness to volunteer over the past several years. I'm grateful for his service and wish him well. Although many members of the Board of Directors will be new, I'm committed to making the transition as smooth as possible.

My vision is to grow our membership and strengthen participation and connections among San Diego-area clubs. One resource that may help us do that is the AMA's **Membership 360** webinar series. As I mentioned at our last meeting, I encourage everyone to explore the webinars on the AMA website.

The AMA describes Membership 360 as a collaborative effort to support membership retention and growth, bringing together AMA staff, districts, Leader Members, club officers, and members. Members can help clubs grow, welcome newcomers, and support the future of model aviation.

The six webinars are hosted by current and former AMA leaders and offer about six hours of material in total. They cover challenges and ideas that many clubs—including ours—may recognize. I've found that the experiences and issues discussed are often common across RC clubs. Even if watching a webinar feels like a small step, an idea or solution may inspire a way you can help our club thrive.

Our next meeting is December 5, followed by our banquet 9th of January. Watching a webinar—or even part of one—before then would be a great way to start setting the tone for a successful year. You don't need to watch all six; choose a topic that interests you, and come ready to share an idea or takeaway.

Our membership includes people with a wide range of experience, including teaching, engineering, mechanics, and information technology. These are valuable resources for our club. I served 24 years in the Navy and now work as a civilian MH-60 Seahawk technical representative supervisor, supporting Sailors around the world in keeping our helicopters flying. That experience has reinforced for me how important teamwork and sharing knowledge are to accomplishing a mission. I believe those same strengths can help our club succeed.

Find the Membership 360 webinars:
Visit the AMA Club Toolkit:
https://www.modelaircraft.org/ama-club-toolkit

To find the webinars from the AMA home page, hover over **Programs**, select **Club Toolkit** under **For Clubs**, choose **Chartered Clubs & Flying Sites**, then select **Webinars** in the left-hand column.

I look forward to supporting the Weedwacker membership. Together, we can help our club prosper and make every flying day safe and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Jeffery S. Coskey
President

Editor's Corner

Keith Miller

Bylaws Revision

Recent reviews revealed that portions of the bylaws from 2022 were inadvertently deleted during the most recent published 2025 version. The following resurrections will be made as an administrative action and don't require club approval.

Article 3. ORGANIZATION

A. Officers

(5) The Safety Officer shall be responsible for training and oversight of all activities conducted by the membership within the boundaries of the field. He shall maintain postings of the AMA Safety Code upon club bulletin boards. He shall perform annual training events to include, at a minimum, basic firefighting training as it applies to the operations and hazards that members may face at the flying field. He shall maintain firefighting and first aid equipment to the greatest extent practicable within the club's operational scope and funding available.

Article 5. FINANCES

B. Dues

(6) The Newsletter Editor is exempt from dues during the period of his or her service. The Newsletter Editor is responsible for creating, editing and publishing a monthly newsletter to include minutes of recent club meetings, summaries of events and

any articles appropriate for sharing with the membership.

(7) If the club has an active web site, the Webmaster is exempt from dues during the period of his or her service. The webmaster is responsible for posting monthly newsletters, publishing calendar events, urgent bulletins and photo galleries of club events.

Article 6. RESIGNATION, TERMINATION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION, EXPULSION AND REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

C. Disciplinary Action

(4) Field Marshals

a. Field Marshals are appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors. **Club Officers are, by definition, Field Marshals**.

Proposed CHANGE to the bylaws (*this change does require club approval at the next meeting)*:

Article 3. ORGANIZATION

Currently:

A. Officers

(3) … Club fees and dues may be collected by any club officer. Event related fees may be collected by any designated event coordinator.

Proposed change:

(3) … Club fees and dues may be collected by any club officer, ***or designated individuals***. Event related fees may be collected by any designated event coordinator.

Basis: This change will reflect the way we've actually been conducting business. Certain members have been designated by name to collect fees. Those members generally assist the Officers in bringing on new members and collecting applications and their associated fees.

Rules Revision - New proposed rule:

26. On and for five days following a rain event, vehicle traffic is prohibited on the premises. Foot traffic is permitted via the east gate.

Basis: This rule is proposed to formally capture the strict requirements being imposed by the County and, as such, violators would be held to appropriate disciplinary actions.

Hints and Tips

I struggle with fiberglass patchwork, most specifically when trying to cut the cloth and laying it onto a surface. The edges always fray and I end up with fiberglass strings all over the place. Here are some tips that I plan use.

For thin fiberglass cloth, the cleanest approach is usually to cut the piece slightly oversized, wet it out in place, then trim it after the resin cures.

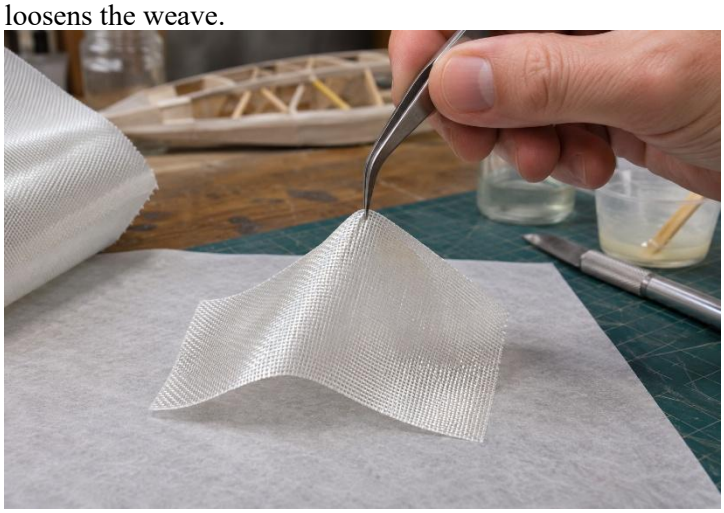
- **Use a very sharp rotary cutter** on a self-healing mat, or sharp dedicated scissors. Dull blades tend to push and pull the strands instead of cutting them.



- **Hold the weave still while cutting.** Lightly sandwich it between release paper or clean plastic film, or secure the edges outside the cut line with low-tack masking tape. Cut through the tape, then peel it away gently.



- **Avoid handling the cut edges.** Lift the piece by its middle or with tweezers; pulling or brushing the edge loosens the weave.



- **Tack the cloth at the center first.** Apply resin there, then work outward with a small brush or squeegee. Dab near the edges rather than scrubbing across them.



- **Trim after cure when possible.** Leave a little extra cloth, then use a sharp blade or sand the cured edge to the final shape.



- For tiny pieces, **cut on a template** and keep the cloth supported on its backing until it is positioned.

A light coat of resin or a tiny amount of thin CA can lock an edge before cutting, but it may make the edge stiff or harder to wet out smoothly. Test that method on a scrap first.

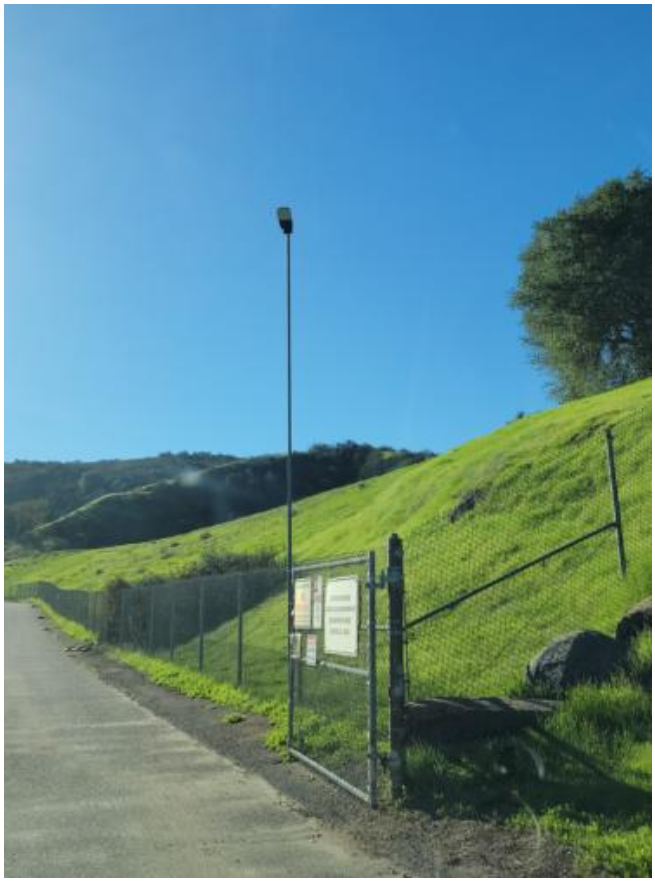
East Gate Access Plan (reminder; instituted May of this year)

Given the County's mandate for a **5-Day Rain Shut-Down period**, the East Gate Access Plan is 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.



New Security Light at entrance to discourage late-night trash dumpers.

Photos of the Month

Pylon Races

Saturday ~~Nov 21st~~, 2026

December 5th after the club meeting.



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

FIRST NEED HACKER
AERO SQUADRON

Photos of the Month



Photos of the Month

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday 1/9/2027

4:00 pm

Admission—$25 per person
Beef, Ham and all the fixins', catered by the BBQ Pit.
And the bar will be open!
- including -
Model of the Year Competition and Presentation
Big Raffle!
Tickets must be paid by Jan 1st. No exceptions.

VFW Carter Smith Post 5867
12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside CA

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS