



HANGAR NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST WEEDWACKER
AEROSQUADRON
AMA CHARTER # 1651
November 2015

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron
P.O. Box 2044
Lakeside, CA 92040

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HANGAR NEWS is printed for the members of the
FIRST WEED WACKER AEROSQUADRON 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 Don Westergren, 3942 Calavo Dr., La Mesa, CA
91941.

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..

R/C Schedule 2015

Nov 7	Sat	Veterans Day Fly In, Miramar RC Flyers
Nov 8	Sun	2:30 PM Service for Howard Merritt
Nov 14	Sat	Swap Meet, 7:30 Cactus Park
Nov 15	Sun	Fun Fly, Cactus Park
Jan 8	Fri	Annual Awards Banquet

Service for Howard Merritt

Please join us Sunday afternoon, November 8th, at 2:30pm to
celebrate the life of Howard Leroy Merritt. Allen Airways
Flying Museum directions: North Marshall Ave. 100 yards west
from the base of the Gillespie control tower. Signs will direct
you to parking and the hanger.

November Club Officer Election

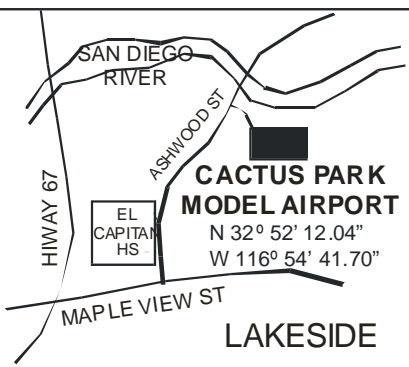
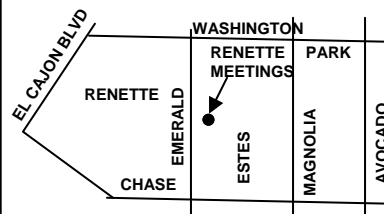
The election for 2016 club officers will be held at the November
meeting. Nominations can be made before the election. The
new officers will start their terms at the December meeting.

2016 Club Membership

Membership renewal will start at the November meeting. You
must have your AMA 2016 membership in order to renew with
the club.

Note: The club membership is 155, with 16 newsletters sent to
other clubs, hobby shops, etc. There are 119 members that get
their newsletters by email.

NEXT MEETING:
Tues. Nov 3, 7:00
Renette Park





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Meeting Minutes October 6, 2015

Bruce Allen

The meeting on October the 6th 2015, was called to order by the club President, Keith Miller at 7:00 PM and the membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance in the direction of the flag provided. In attendance were 28 attendees, including board members; Vice President Jeff Koskey, Treasurer Scott Graupmann and Secretary Bruce Allen.

Opening Comments:

We recently heard from Glen Merrit that his father Howard Merrit had sadly passed away.
July 7th 1936 – September 28th 2015

Elsewhere in this Hangar News is a bio from Glen, his father was very active in all aspects of aviation & was an active member of the Weedwackers for many years.

Our condolences to Glen & his family for this loss.

We will inform the club once we know of any services.

Don Madison

Had several new boxed Model Kits from a deceased member for sale, take a look at the break. All proceeds go to the widow.
(I picked up a Multiplex Gemini biplane same as the one I lost to the plane eating trees..)

New Members

Garry Lamb – Has been flying for a while & has taken the Electric Seminar. Welcome Gary!

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion for acceptance

Proposed: Ron Keith. Seconded: Don Madison.

Unanimous

(Oh yeh!)

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance: \$11,551.93. Income: \$76

Expenses: \$537.76

Current Ending Balance: \$11,090.17

Motion for acceptance

Proposed: Steve Ellis Seconded: Rich Crutchfield. Unanimous

Safety Officer

Ron Keith – Fire fighting training is required by the County once a year only. Ron said that he has an organization that has all the props etc for different types of fire. Company requires 10 days notice, requires power source (generator). Safety equipment provided.

Suggested 2nd week in December Saturday the 12th?

Maker Fair

Scott – As mentioned in the last Hanger News this is an event that covers a lot of different activities, in our case we were in the Aero Space museum in the Pavilion of Flight with a good area 25 x 25 ft for our site, which meant we could display several planes & also do a demo of making a foam board Vulcan. We had a Fight Simulator setup for people to try.

We also shared a small area with a kid who had designed a Virtual Reality flight simulator with 3D goggles, quite amazing.



Bruce – An organization that's close to my heart, I have been a Judge at their competitions for 9 years: "Our mission is to show students of every age that science, technology, and problem-solving are not only fun and rewarding, but are proven paths to successful



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careers and a bright future for us all”.

They Had a half size arena with 2 of our school teams demonstrating this year's game.

Check out <http://www.usfirst.org/>

Volunteers: Scott Graupmann, John Irwin, Jeff Coskey, Hank Leichner, Mark Eiger, Ben Graupmann, Roger Graupmann & Bruce Allen

Race Report – Lance, Last race on Sunday 25th, see flyer. Need more attendees! (Flyer already sent out)

Fun Fly – 15th Nov. (See Presidents Message)

Calendar of Events

Nov 14 Sat Swap Meet, 7:30 Cactus Park

Nov 15 Sun Fun Fly, Cactus Park

Jan 8 Fri Annual Awards Banquet (Planning to start in October)

Club Elections

Elections will be held in November, nominations for the posts to be submitted in October through November meetings. All the current officers have agreed to stand for the next year (poor fools!) Elected officials to take up Post at the December Meeting.

County Agreements etc

We had a meeting with Aliah from the County regarding the new agreement which is going well, we should have a draft soon. The current “Maintenance Agreement” will be replaced by a “Licence Agreement” which is simpler with less language.

While she was with us we took her out to look at the ‘stupid fence’ she took photo's of it & talked about how much can be removed. Not sure if anything can be done as it was mandated by the EPA.

Rain water run off collection who, is responsible? We are still negotiating this.

Talked about the Runway, & she mentioned that there is a project coming up that may be able to help us, no guarantees. We believe she understands how bad the Runway is.

While there is a possibility of the County helping,

we will forgo any major expenditure on the runway.

Jeff has some ideas about patching etc, look out for a field closure for day or two to take some action!

Eucalyptus Tree lost a major branch (Broke a Blue Plastic Chair!)

County came out & trimmed the tree back, lost some shade but should be safer!

Swap Meet November 7th

Donation Table, Jeff will have separate table for pretty much anything members want to get rid of (no wives please...), member to put a suggested price on the item & all monies would go to the club funds which could help Ted & maybe the sainted runway repair!

PS Anything not sold at close of play must be taken home by the member!

(Donators are not required to pay the Sellers fee (\$5), unless they will have a normal Sellers Table.)

A Flyer will be sent out. Coffee will be available...

Ron Keith will collect money at the gate with the help of Gary Rold

(Note The date has already been moved to Saturday the 14th of November The MRCF will be holding a well-attended Veteran's Day event which is traditionally the Saturday before Veteran's day)

Annual Banquet Friday January the 8th 2016

It Will be at the Carlton Oaks Country Golf club. Menu to TBD. Give Ted time to buy Raffle Prizes, the normal amount the club provides for the prizes is \$1500 Main draw, & \$250 for the ladies.

A **lot** of discussion was had over whether the club should buy the new boxed models from Don to replace some of the cost of the raffle or supplement it. The decision was to stay with the original cost etc.

Proposal to give Ted the \$1750 for Banquet Raffle prizes



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Proposer Lee Main, Second Lance Edmunson, Unanimous

TBD – How much should the Club subsidize the meal? Last year we charged \$25 / ticket \$45 / couple for additional guest \$20. The Club subsidized each ticket \$7 - 8. Next meeting to confirm

Anyone know of a DJ who could provide the music?? (Bruce – I can provide music but aren't no DJ...)

Ray Betancourt – 10/12/1930 – 3/20/15

Memorial Service with full military honors will be held at 10/09/15 at 13:30 hrs. at the Miramar National Cemetery.

AMA / FAA – Proximity to airfields, we were asked by the AMA if we within 5 miles of an active airfield, we are about 3 miles from Gillespie. Keith is working with the AMA to determine any issues. Stay tuned!

Ron Smiths Plaque – Jeff is working with vendors on a 4' x 4' Stainless Steel sheet. (See Pres's notes in this Hangar News).

New Business

Boundaries – After an incident when a member was out looking for a downed plane came across a lady on horseback who asked what he was doing trespassing on her leased property? We are looking into who owns the property as it is not part of the Herring ranch as far as we know.

Beware of Horses, they kick!

Boundaries on our big map have melted off, the Board will take care of this.

Free Membership – William H Moore



Model Sharing

Paul Hogue – Showed a Static model. He spoke in great length on its history etc. Below is an extract from Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_XB-70_Valkyrie

“The **North American Aviation XB-70 Valkyrie** is the prototype of the **B-70 nuclear**-armed, deep-penetration [strategic bomber](#) for the [U.S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command](#). [North American Aviation](#) designed the Valkyrie bomber as a large, six-engine aircraft capable of reaching [Mach](#) 3+ while flying at 70,000 feet (21,000 m).

The introduction of the first Soviet [surface-to-air missiles](#) in the late 1950s put the B-70's near-invulnerability in doubt. In response, the US Air Force began flying its missions at low level, where the missile radar's [line of sight](#) was limited by local terrain. In this role, known as *penetration*, the B-70 offered little more performance over the [B-52](#) it was meant to replace. It was, however, far more expensive and had shorter range. A number of alternate missions were proposed, but these were of limited scope. As the strategic role passed from bombers to [intercontinental ballistic missiles](#) (ICBMs) during the late 1950s, manned bombers were increasingly seen as an anachronism.”

Good of the Order

Hobby People (El Cajon) offers on Fuel Was \$24 / Gal currently discounted to \$18.

Raffle:

Steve Ellis	Servos
Keith Miller	Fuel
Lee Main-	LiPo Battery
Steve Ellis	Rubber Bands & 67 Ticket
Ron Keith	CA glue Voltage Checker
Rich Crutchfield	Grab Bag
Hank Leichner	Dean Plugs
Lee Main	LiPo Checker

Expense – Tickets & Prizes - \$79.28

Income \$148

Net \$68.72

Motion to Adjourn:

Keith we're adjourned....



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President's Message Nov 2015

Upcoming Fun-Fly

Our Fun-Fly for October was a non-starter. My guess is that it was due largely in part to the forecast for heat and wind coupled with the subsequent TFRs for the "VIP" visit. We'll try again on November 15th. Please see the included flyer.

Events will include a taxi course, most loops/rolls in a given time period, the Jelly Bean Haul, and 7-11 Craps (a timed event based on a roll of the dice).

Ron Smith Memorial

We have the sheet metal identified with a vendor selected. We have a CAD drawing, and we're ready to start cutting metal. I'd like to provide each of you the opportunity to see the design before the first cut (included here). The placard will be cut from 1/8" stainless steel and mounted to a square-tube powder coated frame. If all goes well, the unveiling may occur at our Annual Banquet, 1 year after Ron's passing.



Swap Meet - Date Change, Donation Area

Originally planned for Nov 7th, we've moved our next swap meet out one week to Saturday November 14th. This is to deconflict with the Miramar Radio Control Flyers' annual Veteran's Day event on the 7th.

Our VP Jeff Coskey will be setting up an area specifically dedicated to receive your donations of any kind that will be sold to raise club funds. Please take an hour or so to rummage through your shop, garage or storage shed and bring out any items that you simply don't need anymore.

The rules of engagement are: 1) Jeff will arrange to monitor the donated items until they're sold and 2), if it doesn't sell, please stop by on your way out to take it back home with you. The intent is to raise club

funds, not to be a place to discard your unwanted stuff.

Grumblings

Yes, some activities and projects within the club take time and seem to get stretched out. Our runway surfacing has been on the table for over a year, and Ron Smith's memorial placard still isn't hanging. Our wind sock is now merely a hole on a pole, and we still have that stupid fence in our way. I normally don't get on a soap box but.... Here are my rules for club tasks and projects:

1. If you have a great (or even mediocre) idea, I highly encourage you bring it up at the field or at a meeting. But don't bring it up to the club unless you've got options for a solution and are willing to participate to some level to accomplish the task.
2. If you're unhappy with the progress being made or the quality of the outcome, step up to make it faster or better. And lastly,
3. Keep in mind that every bench, fence, piece of pavement, special event (and so-on) are the fruits of some poor sap who volunteers their time, effort, resources and often cash to help better the club. Be one of those saps, or simply be quiet and enjoy what we have.

Boundaries, Choppers, Quads and Micro-RC

I had an opportunity to talk to a couple of our helicopter guys and reminded them that flying south of the red and white safety line is prohibited. What we don't often remember is that, once a helicopter leaves the ground, guess what? It's flying. I'm here to ask all of you rotor-heads (quads and copters alike) to walk your craft out just beyond that line and take off from there. Yeah, it's hard to do. But we need to maintain the established distance between people and flight in all cases. This also includes all those super tiny 3 oz micro planes. The rules don't have built-in if/then statements or what-if clauses. It's simple. Don't fly south of the safety line. Period. Thanks!

Officer Nominations and Elections

Now that I have your blood pressure up a little, we'll be voting for club office seats at the November 3rd meeting. All four of the current club officers have agreed to run for an additional term, but if we receive any nominations for candidates between now and the meeting, then an election we shall have!

The current nominees, as of this writing, are:

President Keith Miller



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**DONATE YOUR ITEM TO
HELP THE FIELD FUND!**

***ANNOUNCING*
THE WEEDWACKERS
THRIFT STORE
NOVEMBER 14TH @ the SWAP
MEET!**

Do you have some things that have been gathering dust?

Are you comfortable letting them go to help The Weedwackers Field Fund?

We can help it get a new home! So please bring the good stuff!

Here is the plan!

Let Jeff Coskey know you have something to donate when you pay for your Swap Meet space. He will arrange to get the items from your car, truck or space to the Thrift Store Space.

Thrift Store Space will be located at the West end of the runway to facilitate easy drop off or your donations.

Bring Aardvarks to Zyzzyvas, No limit on what to bring. If it is useful, it should sell!

One Rule; Donated items must go back home with you If they do not sell.

Any questions call Jeff at 619-913-1455 if you need more information.



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

**Hours: 7:30 am – 11:30 am
\$5 Seller's Fee ----Buyers Free Refresh-
ments Available**

Information:

DON MADISON (619)-296-1510

Note: This is a revised date to avoid RC ceremonies honoring Veterans Day





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Howard Merritt

July 7th, 1936 - September 28th, 2015

By Glen Merritt

Born July 7th, 1936 to Eva and Ralph Merritt, Howard Leroy Merritt was a 2nd. generation native San Diegan.

He attended Hoover High, graduating in 1953. When he was a lad of but 19, my dad began working for a local defense contractor, General Dynamics, as an apprentice in their aircraft factory. He would remain at General Dynamics, or one of their divisions for a staggering 35 years. Howard enjoyed early retirement at 55, after working as a draftsman, loftsmen, engineer and cost estimator. He proudly worked on Convair's Atlas missile program and several other successful aeronautical programs during his long tenure at GD.

When I was 5, Dad got me a Cox PT-19, U-control model airplane. There was a real U-control model airplane facility under the departure end of runway one seven at Gillespie field. That was the start of my love for airplanes. We built plastic models, flying models, R/C models starting in the '80's when we joined the First Weedwacker Aero Squadron R/C club. I built the planes, and Dad and I would fly them. He was an active member of the Weedwackers up 'till 2005.

Dad took me to Brown field in 1971 for the California 1000. It was a 1000 mile air race featuring modified WWII fighter aircraft. This was a super-deluxe dream come true. P-51's, Bearcats, Seafurys, a P-38. Since then, I had wanted to go to Reno for the annual National Championship Air Races. In 1986, our great friend Steve Shepersky, my dad and I drove to Reno and spent a week at the races. We were hooked. The 3 of us went to Reno from 1986 thru 1991. I had to skip 1992 'cause my wedding was the week after the NCAR. Howard, faced with attending alone, volunteered to be a pylon judge. He attended every NCAR event from '91 through 2014 as a volunteer pylon judge. Dad loved it. He really valued the friends he made while at the



aces and the opportunity to live in the motor home on the field during race week was unparalleled cool.

In 1997 I decided I was going to fulfill a lifelong ambition to learn to fly. The plan was to buy a small airplane, get a couple of partners and learn to fly. We would keep the airplane for 2 years, and then sell it. Dad was 61, and surprised me when he said he wanted to be a partner and learn to fly. We began the search for a plane to purchase by visiting a local pilot at Gillespie field that had a 1967 Cessna 150 for sale. The owner, Tom Murray and his family had restored the plane the prior year. Tom was a skilled scale modeler and had expertly detailed the plane to look like a 1930's naval trainer. It was love at first sight. Our friend Eric Atno, Dad, and myself began a partnership that lasted for 12 years when both Eric and I stopped flying 3171 X-ray. Dad loved flying and kept the plane active and the annual current. I started flying again in January of this year, so I could fly with him as his health allowed. One of his dreams was to have Cessna around for Max so he could learn to fly. Dad lived to see Max graduate from ground school this summer in preparations for taking flying lessons. All this made life perfect.

Our local airport hosts a chapter of the





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Commemorative Air Force, or CAF. Dad began to volunteer at the “Air Group One” hanger in 2003. His good nature and abilities were embraced by the AG-1 members and he developed some great friends who all shared a vision to keep historic aircraft alive and flying. He was proud of the work he did for the Air Group, and was a “force-of-nature” working 14 hour days during their annual air show event. One of his most treasured days was during the last air show weekend in June, while in failing health, when the members of the air group dedicated the Saturday show to Howard for the years of service to the Air Group. His friends at Air Group One helped make life perfect.

My mom and dad were married for 59 years. Their love and dedication to each other is the one thing I hold most precious in my life. Their respect for each other was endless. When dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2003, mom became his best advocate. Fortunately after treatment the cancer went into remission for many years. Last September while at Reno, I had a feeling it might be his last trip. He was in some pain and not moving well, the cancer had returned and was starting to make life less perfect. The last several months saw Howard’s health decline, through the many doctor appointments, medicines, treatments, through the loss of his ability to fly and drive, through every single day and night my mom was there for him. There can be no better parents and grandparents than my mom and dad anywhere or anytime. They were the best team, role models and people I have been fortunate to know. And they made a perfect life together.

Dear Friends,

Please join us Sunday afternoon, November 8th, at 2:30pm to celebrate the life of Howard Leroy Merritt.

Few people enjoyed life more than Howard. We will host a memorial service and lite dinner to observe the 80 wonderful years of his life with family and friends. Bring your Howard story to

share, as we celebrate together how this happy and caring man touched all our lives.

We would like to thank Mr. Bill Allen for the generous donation allowing us to hold this celebration at the Allen Airways Flying Museum, at Gillespie field airport.

Allen Airways Flying Museum directions:

North Marshall Ave. 100 yards west from the base of the Gillespie control tower. Signs will direct you to parking and the hanger.

Please no flowers are necessary. If you wish to honor Howard, the family suggests a gift to Air Group One, <http://ag1caf.org/donate/> or The American Cancer Society.

If there are any questions, please call Glen at 619-405-5731

Note: Howard joined our club in Oct 1985 and for many years he ran the clubs monthly and annual banquet raffles. He was awarded a Life Membership to the club for his service.



Fun Fly

Sunday Nov 15th, 2015
9:00 AM to 12:30

Possible Events:

- Taxi slalom
- Jelly Bean Haul
- Bomb Drop
- Climb 'n Glide
- 7-11 Craps!
- Loops and Rolls (Flight Drill)

Classes: One class fits all

Prizes - The winner of each event as well as the overall points winner will take home some terrific prizes!!

Schedule:

9:15 Pilots Meeting and Safety Briefing

9:30 Warm-up and trim flights; Sound measurements

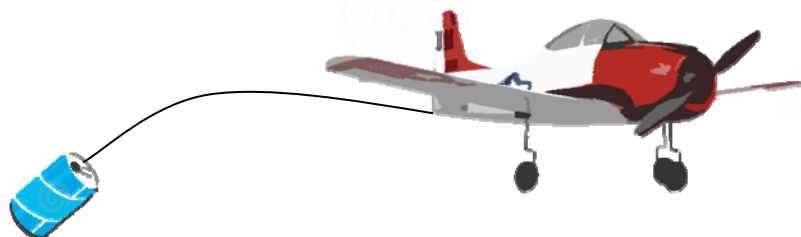
9:45 Start the events

The field will be **closed to regular flying** from 9:45 until the event concludes, usually around 12:30.

Pick your plane carefully!

Events may require both good ground and airborne handling.

\$10 Entry Fee



CD
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