



# HANGAR NEWS

**NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST WEEDWACKER  
AEROSQUADRON  
AMA CHARTER # 1651  
June 2022**

First Weedwacker Aero Squadron  
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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 2

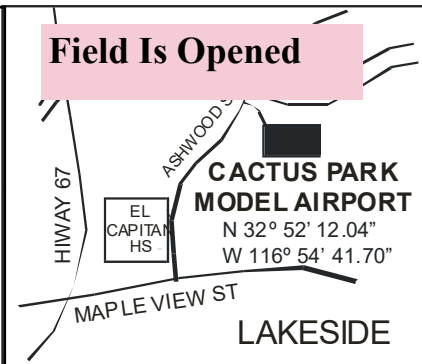
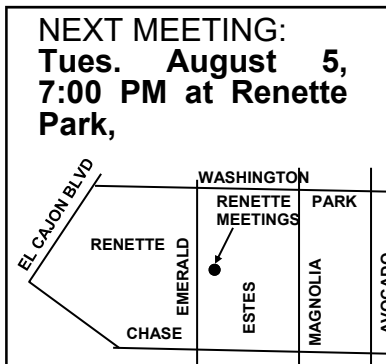
July 5 Tue Club Meetin CANCELLED  
 Aug 5 Tue Regular Club Meeting Renette Park 7:00 pm  
 Sept 6 Tue Club Meetin CANCELLED  
 Oct 4 Tue Regular Club Meeting Renette Park 7:00 pm  
 Nov 1 Tue Regular Club Meeting Renette Park 7:00 pm  
 Dec 6 Tue Club Meetin CANCELLED

## Some Club Meetings are CANCELLED

Due to very reduced attendance at our regularly scheduled meetings at Renette Park, the meetings in July, September, and December are cancelled.

Regular meetings will be held at Rnette Park on Aug 5, Oct 4, and Nov 1, 2022.

There is a possibility of the club holding a meeting at Cactus Park on a Saturday morning if there is special business to deal with. Notice in the newsletter or special email announcements will be made if there are any changes.





# Hangar News

## Meeting Minutes June 7th, 2022

Bruce Allen

The meeting on the June 7th, 2022, was called to order by the club Vice President at 7:00 PM and the membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance in the direction of the flag provided. In attendance were **Ten**, including board members, Secretary Bruce Allen, Vice President Jeff Coskey, Treasurer Scott Graupmann. The President Keith Miller was unable to attend.

### **Opening Comments**

(Be sure to add your attendance raffle ticket to the tub for the drawing at the January banquet include your name)

No Raffle tonight low attendance!!

**Ron's Tips! (NEW)** If you have a useful tip let Ron know & you could get a valuable Raffle ticket!

### **Approval of Minutes in last month's Hangar News**

Proposed: Gerry Conklin, Second: Ron Keith  
Unanimous

### **Treasurers Report**

| Date      | Item         | Amount   | Total             |
|-----------|--------------|----------|-------------------|
| 5/3/2022  | Balance      |          | \$9,816.24        |
| 5/10/2022 | Services     | (381.57) | \$9,434.67        |
| 5/20/2022 | Checks       | (39.73)  | \$9,394.94        |
| 6/7/2022  | Deposit      | 279.41   | \$9,674.35        |
| 6/7/2022  | Deposit      | 225.00   | \$9899.35         |
|           | Net          | 83.11    |                   |
|           | Income       | 504.41   |                   |
|           | Expenses     | (421.30) |                   |
|           | <b>Total</b> |          | <b>\$9,899.35</b> |

**Proposed** Ron Keith Second: Gerry Conklin:  
Unanimous

### **Safety Report**

#### Polo Field Boundary

Several calls were received from Polo Club Owners or members over the last month. they involve proximity to/or over the Polo Field. Asking members to keep a watchful eye

while you are at the field. Please start your turn early and do not fly past the Windsock. Possibility of reinstating the Windsock lookout during flight operations.

Please pay attention to the Field Marshalls If a Field Marshal says that's wrong, please take notice because he can ground you, in accord with our rules!

We are receiving far too many complaints from the Polo fields whether justified or not, if you are not sure of the boundaries ask a Field Marshal, look at the diagrams, check field layout etc. Ask!

**Comment-** Gillespie field is not far from us is it possible a Polo player could mistakenly think the A/C he sees is a large R/C one? TBD

A long & complicated discussion ensued over the issues with the Polo field and the possibility that some members are not aware of or unable to see the boundaries. There were many comments and suggestions for trying to be within our boundaries and ensuring the members are both aware and in compliance. It was obvious that further discussion would be needed to formulate a plan of action.

Further monitoring of the situation with the Polo field will be determined, one suggestion was made that we situate ourselves at the boundary of their field & observe our operation to see where we may be overflying.

### **Fire/Ambulance**

**"Call 911"**

Because you ARE all wearing your badges you know to get the info, flip it over:

"Cactus Park on Ashwood Street"

Lat 32° 52' 12.04" N

Long 116° 54' 41.70 W

Tell the responder First Weedwackers R/C club at Cactus Park if they are not sure tell them the geometric locations as on the card.

You will also have to post someone with a cell phone, at the beginning of the road to be seen



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clearly waving a Red Flag so that the Fire Service can see you & they can be directed to the incident.

Non-emergency number 619-390-2350

## Upcoming Events

Check the Calendar at our Website  
<http://www.weedwackers.org/ww/>

Fun Fly Sat June 11th  
(I have no notes on this event)

**Firefighting /Safety Training**  
Moved to July. TBD

**Model Sharing**  
Julian Sonderegger – See video on Julian which I will put up on our Facebook page.

**Drawing for Free membership**  
Larry Bagalini

**Raffle**  
No Raffle today

Meeting finished 7:47



## President’s Message July 2022

Thanks again to Jeff and the Board for hosting our last meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> in my absence. Not to brag, but I was on an *awesome* vacation to Scotland and London. Of course, we had to be COVID tested the day before our return flight to the US. Let’s just say that our two-week vacation turned into three weeks. We thought we had colds. Of course, three days after our eventual return, the US lifted that requirement!

**Club Meetings:** The **July Meeting** (regularly at Renette Park, 7pm), is **CANCELLED**. Historically our July meeting sees very low attendance.

In general, meeting attendance has dwindled significantly. The word “abysmal” was recently uttered. We’re confident there are many factors which include lingering COVID fears, high gas prices (long drive), reduction in actual “modeling” activities, and my inability to create incentives or events that draw members.

The Board is considering a set of options. The first step is to simply reduce the meeting schedule to a minimal set needed for administrative functions. To that end, we’re cancelling the regular meetings in July, September, and December. Meetings will be held in August, October and November (election month). For now, the meetings will still be at Renette Park.

The next step going into 2023 will probably be to hold meetings at the field. Other clubs (SEFSD in Mission Bay, Palomar and previously Miramar) held meetings the morning of club events. We believe the attendance will be a larger subset of our membership, and it will save the club a few hundred dollars a year in meeting room fees.

We’ve also cancelled the runway striping and maintenance day in August. Our stripes are fine. That being said, we may call for an impromptu crack-filling morning (early morning, while it’s cool out). Keep your eyes on your email in-box.

**Polo Field Incursions** – I continue to get phone calls and text messages from the polo field complaining of models overflying the property. Two factors are key. Firstly, we *do* have members who continue to fly close to or beyond the



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boundary which is currently established as the windsock east of the field. Secondly, I'm confident that the ranch observers likely have the same lack of depth perception that some of our members have. That's not to say that they're wrong, but I've received a complaint call while sitting at the windsock with all models flying within bounds. So, I know they may have faulty perception as well. At the last club meeting (see minutes), it was thought that possibly the horse people might mistake full-scale Gillespie traffic for our models. That's not the case. Ron met with the owners late this month and they're quite aware of the distinction between full-scale and model aircraft.

In the end, we need to keep our flights well away from that eastern boundary. We need to manage the perception our neighbors have. The guidelines that we have posted at the east end of the pit are provide a pretty good description of using the power line towers atop the hills as visual cues. It's the huge sign on the fence. You can't miss it. Here's It looks just like the Flight Boundaries image below. Go read it! Any model flying more than a hundred feet away should be kept (visually) to the LEFT of those towers. Models flying close to the runway are at much less risk of approaching the polo grounds as long as they don't go beyond the white pump-house just beyond the fence.

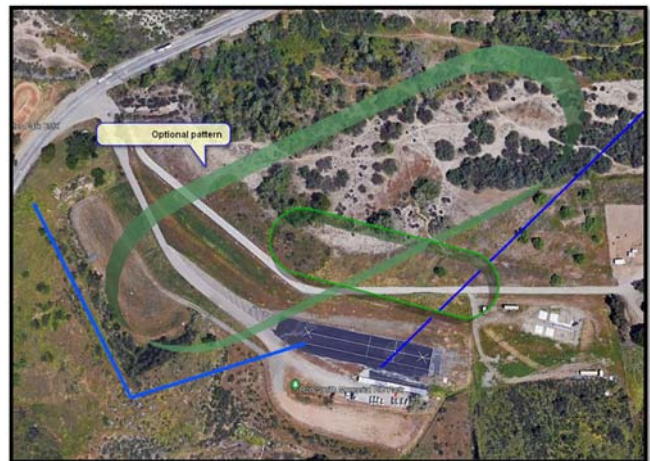
Pilots with large and/or fast models can fly at an angle to the runway and take advantage of our recent rule change (see the third figure here).

There's absolutely NO REASON for models to fly any further east than that. Landings should be executed with the final turn over the white pump house.

I strongly urge all of you to practice short-field landings, staying within our fence line if possible, or using the pump house as an eastern limit. We all think that our depth perception is great, but as I observed during a balloon bust event (during our Fun Fly), many of us have really crappy depth perception!

I'll do my best to engage with and further empower our Field Marshals to help to monitor this situation.

For an additional aid, Ron Keith acquired a rather large bright orange jet (hollowed carcass) that will be mounted to the windsock pole for greater visibility. This won't be a challenge to see how close you can get to it, so get that thought out of your mind. But it will help bring the boundary into our peripheral vision during flight.



**Flagpole is UP!** – As I mentioned last month, a lot of hard-workers erected the flag pole we acquired from MRCF. Flags were flown at the Scale Fly-In and at our Fun-Fly. This is AWESOME!!!

**Building and Flying:** I don't have any observations or tales to share from members. I was out of the country for a few weeks and missed a lot of weekends at the field. I'm thankful to those mentioned in the June meeting minutes who contributed and shared!

**This Time Last Year** – John Hood passed away. We resumed regular in-person meetings following the pandemic.

## **Recent Events**

**Armed Forces Day Scale Fly-In** – The Armed Forces Day Scale Fly-In worked out well enough, with a hiccup or two. Due to a few factors including weather, it was delayed to the week after Armed Forces Day. Then there was an unfortunate SNAFU which tied up the raffle prizes (making them unavailable



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for the event). Short story – Art had the prizes staged in his daughter’s car which was repossessed and impounded the day before the fly-in! The car and prizes have all been recovered, and the prizes will be offered during our upcoming National Model Aviation Day event in August.



The winners of the event are:  
Best Civilian: Paul Roche P-51 Strega  
Best Military: Trent Alford DR-1  
Judges Choice: Lyle Black PT-17  
Best Flight Performance: Jeramy Miller: P-51 Miss America

**Fun-Fly** – On June 11<sup>th</sup> we held a fun-fly. Eight entrants challenged the breeze and heat for a bit of fun. We tried a Balloon Bust, but that didn’t work out well. With the balloons tethered to the runway on 10’ crepe paper streamers, the breeze pushed them very low to the runway making it nearly impossible to hit or tear free. As an alternative, we simply released balloons from the west end of the runway with a 10’ streamer, but they climbed so fast that pilots really had a hard time even getting close. Only Jeramy seemed to have a few close attempts. Note to self – we just won’t mess with that event anymore!

We ran the favorite Can-Can, with Glen taking high score.

Our last event before lunch was the Climb-n-Glide in which pilots climb for 30 seconds and then shut off their motor, landing on the runway dead-stick. Bonus seconds were added if they come to a stop inside the target circles. Max Merritt’s time was just 11 seconds shorter than his dad’s best time, but Max earned 20 bonus seconds with his tailwheel touching the center bullseye circle, taking the event.

The overall placing was Glen in 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by Eric Byrd in 2<sup>nd</sup> (he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Can-Can), and Jeff Coskey in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mark Huysen brought home the Best Crash award, going straight in at full power while chasing balloons.

Ron Keith took care of lunch with burgers and dogs, complete with all the fixings and baked beans to boot! Mr. Bob also provided some hors d’oeuvres. Thanks guys!

| Name               | Can-Can<br>(Bulls-eye) |        | Balloon Bust |        | Climb-n-Glide<br>Long time wins<br>mm:ss.ss |        | Overall |      |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|---|--------|---------|------|
|                    | Score                  | Points | Score        | Points | Time  | Points | Score   | Rank |
| Glen Merritt       | 20                     | 8      | 0            | 0      | 02:22.0                                     | 7      | 15      | 1    |
| Max Merritt        | 4                      | 1      | 0            | 0      | 02:33.0                                     | 8      | 9       | 4    |
| Jeff Coskey        | 13                     | 4      | 0            | 0      | 02:01.2                                     | 6      | 10      | 3    |
| Jeramy Miller      | 16                     | 5      | 0            | 0      | 01:46.0                                     | 3      | 8       | 5    |
| Keith Miller       | 16                     | 5      | 0            | 0      | 01:41.4                                     | 2      | 7       | 7    |
| Eric Byrd          | 18                     | 7      | 0            | 0      | 01:46.6                                     | 4      | 11      | 2    |
| Julian Sonderegger | 6                      | 2      | 0            | 0      | 01:13.1                                     | 1      | 3       | 8    |
| Dominik Amato      | 11                     | 3      | 0            | 0      | 01:54.5                                     | 5      | 8       | 5    |

## Upcoming Events –

**Sat 28 May, Safety and Firefighting Training** 9am-10am at the field

**Sat 9 Jul, Pylon Racing** 9am-noon

**Sat 13 Aug, National Model Aviation Day Pot-Luck and Fun-Fly** 9am-noon

**Sat 27 Aug, Pylon Racing** 9am-noon

**Palomar Flyers update:** As many of you may know, the Palomar club is losing their field (at the I-15 at the 76) to housing development. Their last newsletter mentioned that they must leave their current site by the end of this year. Some good news is that they’re working a temporary lease of County landfill property at Aerie Road Landfill in Valley Center. They may have a permanent site available at Old Milky Way & San Pasqual Road — Escondido. Let’s wish them luck!

**New members:** We didn’t have any new joins in May or June, so we’re unchanged from last month. Our membership consists of 112 regular paying members, 13 Juniors (under the age of 19), and five lifetime members totaling 130 strong. We’re 11 to 91 years old, averaging 58.69.

“They say marriages are made in Heaven. Then again, so is lightning and thunder.”  
Keith



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## Scale Fly In May 28

Best Civilian Paul Roche P-51 Strega

Best Military Trent Alford DR-1

Judges Choice Lyle Black PT-17

Best Flying Jeremy Miller P-51 Miss Ameerica





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Scale Flyin May 28, 2022

