

## Fun Fly, BBQ, Ratings

Marty Dine, VP

February 18th marked our second annual Fun-Fly/Ratings Day and Barbeque. Originally, this event was conceived as a way to make it easier for the club pilots to schedule getting their required ratings flights and waivers completed for Torrey Pines Gliderport at the beginning of the flying season, but it has grown into much, much more.



Good food prevailed through spotty winds, but still made for a great flying event.

By opening our doors to all pilots who are AMA members, we have developed the event into a vehicle for the club to reach out to, and recruit more people. In the two short years we have hosted it, we have attracted participants from all over Southern and Central California. Several have joined the AMA, and specifically to be able to participate in the event. Further, some of them were so impressed, they joined the Gulls as well.

This year we have had a pretty sketchy start to the “windy season”. Lots and lots of days with little or no breeze, interspersed with depressing Santa Ana Easterlies. Needless to say, as the date grew closer, the natives were restless and we were a bit nervous about how the

Wind Gods would treat us at the bluff. Thankfully, we had an ace up our sleeve -- Barbeque! Not just any barbeque mind you, but legendary marinated Tri-Tip (and LOTS of it!) imported from one of the best butchers in the West, if not the Country. Say what you like, but we sloper-types are a hungry lot, and not ones to turn down a free lunch! Hence, our typically svelte figures. As Carl Spackler from Caddy Shack would say, “So, uhhh, at least I got that going for me.”

The day of the event dawned bright, sunny and... still. Spectacularly so, in fact. When I arrived at the bluff, the sock was barely twitching, and when it did, it was showing out of the South. The Pacific was a vast, glass-like, slick blue expanse--not a good sign. Only one other soul was there (club stalwart and former Club President, Parvis), and he was looking around, wondering if he had rolled out on the wrong date! I reassured him that today was indeed the day, and set about unloading lots of refreshments, snack stuff and my planes. I was confident that it was going to be a good day, but not so sure we'd be doing any flying. By the time I had unloaded, parked and walked back to the pits, the sock had quietly bounced to life, albeit



Lots of participants with ships ranging from foamies to sleek, composite speedsters!    sti  
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out of the South. As the velocity built, the direction also moved towards the West, and it became flyable. I tossed my trusty Blue steed into the building breeze, and as if sensing lift was afoot, everyone starting arriving, quickly assembling planes and hucking them off the cliff! Soon the pits and the sky were full of sparkly toys. We had defied the odds and done it again--flying, and flying well on a day when many had said we wouldn't.

While all of the activity in the sky and on the ground was going on, members Tim Gantz and



Winds were light, but some of the braver souls managed nice flights, although they

Mark Wood were manning the grill and preparing the beast. Lots of the days participants generously brought a mountain of good food and treats to complement the tasty barbeque. Let's put it this way, I don't think anyone left the bluff hungry that day!

Is there anything better? There was a ton of fun flying and several of us spent a lot of the afternoon conducting ratings checks (when we weren't eating, flying or jawboning), so as a result, there are several newly minted "rated" Torrey pilots ready to enjoy one of the most spectacular places to fly sailplanes on Earth. We made some new friends, and got the chance to hang out with some of the characters that make sloping in Southern California so cool. It was a great event. If you missed it, be sure to make it out for the next one, and bring your buddies. It's not a bad way to spend the day at the bluff!

**Next Club Meeting**  
**April 10, 2011**  
**Automotive History Museum**  
**Balboa Park**  
**San Diego CA**

## Coming Up for the Gulls

Mark Canfield, Pres.

### Torrey Pines Classic – March 24th & 25th – Torrey Pines

This is a big one. Held at the famous Torrey Pines Gliderport, it brings some of the best slope racers in Southern California (and then some) for two days of "against the clock" slope racing. Weather rules, but frequently it is the best flying of the year!

### US F3F Team Selects – May 4th, 5th & 6th – Point Fermin

Not only greatflying at a beautiful site, this counts to select a sloping team for the US.

### 60" Man on Man race – April 22nd – Grass Mountain

Check with the slope guys to find this place and learn more of the event!

### Schweitzer Fun Fly – March 30th – Torrey Pines

Schweitzers of all sizes abound at this scale oriented fun fly at the Gliderport. Eye-popping craftsmanship!

### Katie Martin Tribute Fly-in – June 9th – Torrey Pines

More fun at this recent addition to traditions at the Gliderport.

### TD Fun Fly / Clinic – May 5th or 6th – Encinitas

Another great day to fly with your friends and make new ones. Good food, too. I'm guessing there will be efforts to introduce slopers to TD flying, led by masters of the craft! Still, we expect plenty of woodies in addition to the composite sophisticates

### International Hand Launch Glider Festival – April 28th & 29th

This is the big one. Truly international in scale and showing off some of the best fliers in the game. The cast is made up of

not only hot shots, but lots of "regular" guys who just love to fly, compete and enjoy. Poway is the place and we can guarantee a spectacular show.

## March Club Meeting



Gary Fogel gave a great presentation about FAA, Torrey Pines Gliderport and Full Scale flying at the Bluff.

Bill Eckles: Ed

Gary Fogel joined us to speak about his experiences with the FAA and the issue connecting our hallowed hobby with controlling abusive flying from other "models" such as drones, helicopters and other conceivably dangerous and intrusive smaller, unmanned aircraft. His talk dug into some of the less obvious intricacies involved and provided very provocative points of view.

We all need to keep abreast of the developments on the legislation. The best source will be the web site at ["modelaircraft.org/."](http://modelaircraft.org/) This AMA site will connect you with up to date information and understanding. When offered the opportunity, PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR OPINION! Other interested parties from commercial airlines to private, recreational pilots will be expressing theirs and we want yours to count, too!

Gary has co-authored a book called "Quest for Flight" which will be released in October. It promises to be interesting to all of us "locals."