



# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)  
AMA Charter Club 129

Web Site: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)

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Dan Cummins  
President

## Message from the President

### Welcome Torrey Pines Gulls!

February was a great month to be a RC Glider pilot! The westerly winds are becoming more of a regular occurrence at the Torrey Pines Glider port and the TPG 2015 TD & DLG season is off to a great start.

This month I would like to reflect on some of the issues the TPG Board is working on.

For 2015, the board will continue to focus on how our club can expand the VALUE to each of the members and the community while promoting member participation. To do that, we have added member specific benefits such as discounted entry fees to monthly contest and upcoming events. We are experimenting with more slope-centric and fun fly events to introduce people to flying Torrey. We will have more events that will include how-to mentoring to allow pilots an introduction to competitive disciplines they haven't tried before. Lastly, the TPG website is being re-worked to make it easier for members to quickly access information on rules, scheduled events, and history.

The board is seeking feedback about how club can provide more value to the members, so shoot me an email with your ideas!

Till next month,

Check out the new TPG website, build something cool, and try something new!

R,

Dan Cummins  
2015 TPG President  
[TPGulls@gmail.com](mailto:TPGulls@gmail.com)

## What do **YOU** think?

TPG is happy to announce a few new additions to our web site at [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

We now have a **QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS** link in the drop-down menu that appears when you scroll over **TORREY PINES GULLS** next to **LOCATIONS, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP...** If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. for the board, here's your chance.

We also have a TPG Forum Page where you can sign up and log in to join in discussions and check on the latest TPG news. There are currently three individual forums, The **Contest Forum**, **From The President** and the **General Forum**. Check it out at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/tpg-forum-page/>.

## Join the Yahoo Forum!

From Lenny Brzezinski:

The Yahoo forum was formed Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999. There are over 200 members in the Yahoo Group. This group has many things to offer for the club. It is a way of communicating with each other. If you have any concerns you can post them here including other questions about almost anything having to do with flying, building, finding another person, and so on.

If you are new to the club, the website will give you a lot of information about the club. On the website there is a link that you can use to join the group. This group is moderated. Please use this group for flying related items. You can post on the Yahoo group files, photos, polls, members, and calendar. All of these sections are available to any member. I hope that your experience with this group will be great. Click the link below for more information:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/forum.htm>



## Check out the TPG Facebook page, too.

From John Blaske:

If you haven't had a chance yet, check out our TPG Facebook page for more information, photos, videos, etc.

<http://www.facebook.com/TorreyPinesGulls>



Dale Gottdank

## Newsletter Update - Dale Gottdank

We're into March, enjoying a great 2015 for the Torrey Pines Gulls and remember, to make this newsletter even better:

**Please send some articles!** They don't have to be a "novel," just a paragraph or two about something that interests you related in some way to RC soaring...even something interesting you happened upon on the internet. I'd like to have the newsletter published by the first week of every month. If there's a project you're working on, don't just post it on RCGroups...share it with your club!

To make the timely issue possible, I need the club members' support and help in providing me with **recent** pictures, articles and any upcoming events. If there are too many, we'll save some for the next issue.

**Please send in your articles or photos ([dgottdank@gmail.com](mailto:dgottdank@gmail.com)) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month so they can be included in the monthly newsletter.** The newsletter can be found on the Torrey Pines Gulls web site at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>

## Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

As we did during 2014, TPG will continue to host monthly contests, fun fly events, and onsite clinics. General meetings will coincide with non-competitive events throughout the year. Be on the lookout for upcoming details and scheduling for all TPG and related events on the Torrey Pines Gulls web site at:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org> and  
<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

## News from the Slope – Ray Pili

### *Happy Daylight Savings Time!*



Ray Pili

February was another light wind month, but there were a couple of nuggets to get your sloping fix. Luckily the big golf tournament did not hinder access to the slope to take advantage of the wind pushing the dense cloud layer in. The Goodyear blimp patiently waited for the marine layer to depart before taking overhead video.



### **The 2015 Torrey Pines Gulls Rating/Fun-Fly/Swap Meet on Saturday Feb 21**

was a roaring success. What a great turnout! We had over 12 new ratings, the majority from new members, but also from guests outside of San Diego County. 25+ RC Pilots attended, some bringing their kids, spouses and parents. Over 50 planes littered the RC mound and pits. The weather forecast for the fun fly looked questionable with rain, drizzle forecasted early in the week, but the weather gods gave us a break, with sunny skies by noon and a nice south westerly/west breeze from 8-12 mph till after 4pm.

Pilots started arriving about 11 am with over cast skies and no breeze greeting them. Most assembled light wind gliders, Bird of Times, the popular Ka-8s, and even DLGs. Swap meet planes were laid out by the red logs along with the materials Bill Lamping had given away on RCGroups, Bags of fittings, rolls of covering and new stuff, carbon tow, aileron stock, balsa and various building materials.

By noon the RC mound and pits were full of planes and slopers. The first plane in the air was a Parkzone Ka-8. One of our new Members Dan, was the first to obtain a rating. Dan is a student at UCSD flying a Ka-8 and is fond of built up old school gliders.

Lunch tickets were provided by the club to the attendees, which were redeemed at the Cliff Hanger Café for a sandwich, chips and a drink. At times the line was long but quickly forgotten when the food was ready.

Our new member Dan helped gather sloper names for the Raffle NCFM M60 Kit. El Presidente Dan pulled the lucky winners name from our raffle bucket. The big winner was Gary Lee, who joined the club Saturday morning. What a lucky son of a gun.

**(continued next page)**

## News from the Slope – Ray Pili (continued)



By mid afternoon the overcast was replaced with puffy cumulus nimbo stato cirrus sloping clouds with a nice 10 mph breeze. By mid afternoon the godfather of PSS Brian Laird and his disciples, Pismo and Greg hucked their ultralight weight PSS P-39s and Bf-109s off the bluff. These lightweight PSS planes were around 20 oz and can fly in winds that support a weasel. Oran was flying his Pointy Nose, twisty wing fetishes about.

Amerdeep give both OCKim and myself a DLG lesson on trimming the plane and launching, got to get ready for the DLG Poway event on the 28th.

Kudos to Gabe and the Paraglider Staff on enforcing the window rules and to the Cliff Hanger Café for the great lunch sandwiches.

At the end of the day, everyone that wanted a rating received one; everyone that wanted to fly did so. A few wing cores, parts and planes were sold or traded, a couple cans of food were donated and the give-aways were given away.

We will have to plan another Fun Fly late Spring or early Summer.

Also, Bill Eckles, our Membership Chairman created new signs for the RC parking area to replace the old ones that were beaten up by the sun and weather.



February started like a Lamb but ended like a Lion, which should bode well for March onshore Madness winds.

Till next month, Blue Skies,

Ray

**p.s. For more pictures of the Fun Fly event, see the next page and some of the Photo of the Month entries**

### News from the Slope – Ray Pili (continued)



Lee Patterson, Greg, Jim, Brian (TFLG), ?, ?, Marty



Marty flying a Ka-8



Greg, ? (a Gulls Member from Vista area),  
Matin, Marty, Vepr, looking over Ka-8's



Will holding his Willow with Mr. Kim looking on



George; Maiden flight of his Blended Wing Fighter Jet



L to R; Marty, Jim, Matin, Dan, Ray and Greg

## F3J in the Desert – 2015) – Steve Condon

The annual F3J in the Desert event just keeps getting better every year. This event is the kick off to the J-Tour circuit and fields some of the top pilots in the country. It is two days of solid soaring competition held at Schnepf Farms in Queen Creek, AZ on Thursday and Friday, February 19-20.

This year Team TPG (the “Max Men”) consisted of Mario Scolari, Mike Smith, Steve Condon, Scott Condon, Tom Watson and our AZ TPG member, Darwin Barrie. Other club members at the event were Larry Jolly, Tom Kiesling, Mark Canfield and

The weather was perfect with mostly headwind or light down/cross wind launches and great soaring conditions. Sometimes it was just “launch, point and hang” conditions, other times it was “all you can eat” and other times it was “feast or famine.”

After the 8 preliminary rounds, TPG’s own Mario Scolari came out on top with very consistent scores. He made all his times (but one- the throw-out) and was killing it in the landing zone! Mike Smith was our second team member in the fly-off at 4<sup>th</sup> place. Both of them did well despite the difficult conditions in the finals and ended up with Mario 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mike in 5<sup>th</sup>. Tom Kiesling was 8<sup>th</sup> and Larry Jolly was 9<sup>th</sup>. Way to go Team TPG!



L-R Toby Herrera (1st), Thomas Cooke (2nd), Mario Scolari (3rd), Skip Miller (4th) and Mike Smith (5th).

(continued next page)

## F3J in the Desert – 2015) – Steve Condon (continued)



Mike getting his award from CD Phil Renaud



Mario getting his award from CD Phil Renaud

## F3B Activity – Steve Condon

Major F3B Contest coming to Perris (just off the 215 freeway), CA March 20-22 (**This coming weekend**) and we need helpers! Contact me at [steve@brandedmg.com](mailto:steve@brandedmg.com) and let me know if you can help.

The “**Gator**” F3B contest normally held in Florida is coming to the west coast as The **Gator West** and is an official F3B World Cup event. The contest is currently VERY short on helpers. TPG's own Tom Watson has volunteered to CD the event and other organizers include TPG's Tom Kiesling, Kyle Paulson and also David Olson from the Bay Area. Dave is coordinating the volunteers so if you can come out to help – even for just a few hours – it would be a big contribution to the success of the event and greatly appreciated. Dave can be reached at: [dave@benchmarklitho.com](mailto:dave@benchmarklitho.com) or 707-4791.

Other TPG members flying in the event include current F3B Speed World Record holder David Klein, Mike Smith, Steve Condon, Tim Traver and former club member, Aaron Valdes. There will also be a team of 6 pilots from Chile. Please contact Dave and let him know you are willing to help. Thank you!

## Club Competition Activity

### Thermal Duration

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Mark Canfield

#### Winchmaster – Mark Canfield

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Thermal Duration contests, check the following page on the Torrey Pines Gulls web site: <http://torreypinesgulls.org/upcomingcomp.htm> or contact Mark Canfield at [mcanfield5@roadrunner.com](mailto:mcanfield5@roadrunner.com) More information may be shown in the F3X Vault site (<http://www.f3xvault.com>) as TPG coordinates with the Vault for contest sign-ups, tasks, results, etc.

### Hand Launch

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Tim Traver

#### DLG Coordinator – Tim Traver

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Hand Launch/DLG contests, check the following page on the Torrey Pines Gulls web site: <http://torreypinesgulls.org/upcomingcomp.htm> or contact Tim Traver at [TimTraver@gmail.com](mailto:TimTraver@gmail.com) More information may be shown in the F3X Vault site (<http://www.f3xvault.com>) as TPG coordinates with the Vault for contest sign-ups, tasks, results, etc.



Bill Eckles

## Membership – Bill Eckles

With two full months behind us, the membership roster has expanded with several new members. That's good, and we're looking forward to these new guys providing even more friendships over the years. The responses to my inquiries, however, have not shed much light on why we also have several *non-renewals*. Most common is simply that busier bodies have less time for such fun activities as steering unpowered gliders around the sky or that some of our membership has relocated for job opportunities. Pretty reasonable explanations, don't you think?

Well, I was thinking, I've never understood why we have no female members of our club. At the holiday party when significant others are in tow, I meet awfully nice females, some of whom seem knowledgeable about flying. Maybe they would also make good flying partners. You know, these planes we fly look good; they can be gentle and relaxing; they respond to kind, electronic instruction and they provide an outlet for creativity. All these characteristics are not limited to one gender or the other. Just a thought.

We have members who have not "re-upped" (I keep track of that stuff), so don't be surprised if you get another reminder. The club needs the continued support of an active membership to provide the benefits we've grown accustomed to (fun flies, three flying sites, contests, flying hardware such as winches, as well as *holiday parties*.)

Currently at 81 members, we're a healthy club. I expect more to sign up or filter in as the year progresses. Rest assured, we want and need you to join us in sharing the many positive aspects of this fine sport. We look forward to seeing you!

Bill Eckles  
Membership Chairman

### Every year we need a good strong membership to continue to provide the services we offer:

- ✓ Access to three Flying Fields in La Jolla, Encinitas and Poway.
- ✓ Quarterly (or thereabouts) fun-fly clinic events to be held at our thermal soaring fields and at Torrey Pines Gliderport, where members will have ample opportunities to take advantage of our trio of excellent flying sites. Be on the lookout for upcoming details and scheduling.
- ✓ A group of guys who can answer just about any question you might ask, and do it with a smile.
- ✓ Contests that bring out world class competitors from around the globe.
- ✓ Competition and help for you, regardless of your skill level.
- ✓ A holiday party that's the envy of most gourmands in Southern California.
- ✓ A web site for current and past information [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)
- ✓ An interesting monthly newsletter with current information to help keep members informed
- ✓ We are an AMA Chartered Club #129, with benefits - field Insurance etc.

Dues are as follows:

- ✓ Dues for the membership (calendar) year are as follows for submissions during.
- ✓ January through June are \$60
- ✓ July through September are \$30
- ✓ **October through December are \$60 (gives you a jump on next year)**
- ✓ Juniors age 15 and under \$5
- ✓ Receive a *credit* of up to \$20, ten for each of up to two half-day work sessions helping the club.

If you haven't re-upped yet, or would like to join the club for the first time, go to [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org) and click on the tab "Membership". We'll make it as simple as possible to continue your membership.

**Note: TPG membership information will not be shared or sold and will only be used to contact members for purposes of TPG business**

## Club Sponsors

The Torrey Pines Gulls members would like to thank all the sponsors for their donations and supporting Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society. Without the support of these fine companies, the success of many of the Club events would not have been possible.

To our members, when you are thinking of buying a hobby-related item, please consider these outstanding companies first. Please click on vendor's logo to go to their web site for more information.



## Photo of the Month Contest

Each month club members may submit photos of an activity related to soaring and the newsletter editor will post a winner to be chosen by the Board of Directors. A yearly winner will be selected from among the monthly winners and will receive a prize (their photo will be used as the website and newsletter masthead). Needless to say, horizontal format photos are preferred. Email your photos (.JPG format preferred) to Dale Gottdank at [dgottdank@gmail.com](mailto:dgottdank@gmail.com). Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description.  
Torrey



**January Winner** – KA-8 at Torrey Sunset (Andy Grose)



**February Co-Winner** – Mike Smith introducing the next generation to RC Soaring (Doug Cronkhite)



**February Co-Winner** – Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine)



Mike Smith introducing the next generation to RC Soaring (Doug Cronkhite)

**Photo of the Month Contest (continued)**



Phil Davy on the day he DS'd his Skywalker to 140 mph at Bill's Hill (Ian Cummings)

Osprey at Liberty Station (Jordan Gottdank)



GoPro view of the RC pit area at Torrey taken during the February Fun-Fly (Ian Cummings)

**(March Winner)** GoPro view trailing a Ka8 taken during the February Fun-Fly (Ian Cummings)



**Quote of the Month:** (from a forwarded email – from Ray Pili)

I have a friend here in Encinitas whose father was a doctor (Dr. Jim Savage) who, after the war, was a close personal/social friend with the man who filmed this emergency landing. (Dr. Jim Savage)  
 This is the apex of the "Greatest Generation"! It says so much about those many who today we have virtually forgotten. Be sure to watch it all the way through to get the full emotional impact of an unsung hero.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=ie3SrlLlcUY&sns=em](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ie3SrlLlcUY&sns=em)

## 2015 Club Officers & Contact Information

President	Dan Cummins	<a href="mailto:TPGulls@gmail.com">TPGulls@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Marty Dine	<a href="mailto:mdine@quattrogolf.com">mdine@quattrogolf.com</a>
Past President	Marty Dine	<a href="mailto:mdine@quattrogolf.com">mdine@quattrogolf.com</a>
Secretary	Dan Cummins	<a href="mailto:dc812@cox.net">dc812@cox.net</a>
Treasurer	Don Lockhead	<a href="mailto:donloch@sbcglobal.net">donloch@sbcglobal.net</a>
Membership	Bill Eckles	<a href="mailto:tunabiker1@hotmail.com">tunabiker1@hotmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Dale Gottdank	<a href="mailto:he4gott@gmail.com">he4gott@gmail.com</a>
Winch Master	Mark Canfield	<a href="mailto:mcanfield5@roadrunner.com">mcanfield5@roadrunner.com</a>
DLG Coordinator	Tim Traver	<a href="mailto:timtraver@gmail.com">timtraver@gmail.com</a>
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	<a href="mailto:mike@themapsmith.com">mike@themapsmith.com</a>
Thermal Coordinator	Mark Canfield	<a href="mailto:mcanfield5@roadrunner.com">mcanfield5@roadrunner.com</a>
Slope Coordinator	Ray Pili	<a href="mailto:rpili2001@gmail.com">rpili2001@gmail.com</a>
Safety Officer	Ray Pili	<a href="mailto:rpili2001@gmail.com">rpili2001@gmail.com</a>
SC2 Representative	Keith Finkenbiner	<a href="mailto:keithone@cox.net">keithone@cox.net</a>
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	<a href="mailto:steve@torreypinesgulls.org">steve@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Historian	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:gfogel@gmail.com">gfogel@gmail.com</a>
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Marty Dine	<a href="mailto:mdine@quattrogolf.com">mdine@quattrogolf.com</a>
TP Soaring Council (AMA)	To be filled	

Dan Cummins  
President



Marty Dine  
Vice- President



Dan Cummins  
Secretary



Don Lockhead  
Treasurer



## 2015 Contest & Activity Calendar (subject to change)

Month	RES/ TD	CD	HLG	Slope Race	SC2	Other	Meeting
January (postponed due to weather)	2/ 1	Mark C.	31	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	25 DSH		
February	8	Mark C.	28	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	15 SWSA	21 & 22 Phoenix	21 Fun-Fly
March	8	Cliff H.	28	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	22 SULA	23-24 TPG Classic	12
April	12	Tom W.	25	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	26 SWSA	12-13 Fresno	9
May	17	Mark C.	30	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	17 VVRC		
June	7	Keith F.	27	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	28 HSS	8th Slope Race	22 Encinitas
July	12	Tom W.	18	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	19 ISS		
August	9		15	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	23 TOSS		
September	13	Keith F.	19	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	20 SULA		7 Torrey Pines
October	11	Steve C.	24	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	18 TPG	3-4 Visalia	
November	8	Mark C.	21	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	15 Rain Date		12
December	13	Mike S.		<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>			10

Note: Calendar subject to change at any moment without warning or notice.

The SC2 schedule could change on availability of club field's check website: [sc2soaring.com](http://sc2soaring.com)