



# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2016

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)

Editor – Dale Gottdank

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Ron Schark Update
- 3 Club Meetings, Contests and Activities  
Newsletter Update
- 4 What do YOU think?  
TPG Facebook page  
Yahoo Forum
- 5 News from the Slope
- 9 Steffen Peters – TPG's Olympian
- 10 Eric Metzдорff Photo Feature
- 21 Club Competition Activity
- 22 LSF (League of Silent Flight) Report
- 23 Club Membership Update
- 24 Torrey Pines Gulls Apparel Store
- 25 Club Sponsors – Thank You!
- 26 Photo of the Month Contest
- 37 2016 Club Officers & Contact Information
- 38 Quote of the Month



Dan Cummins

## Message from the President

Howdy Gulls,

Summer 2016 is coming to a close as I write this. The summer season has been full of activities. Ray Pili has kept the slope busy with a couple of fun flies, and the Thermal guys have kept the monthly TD and DLG contest going throughout the summer. As

usual, some of the events had more participation than others due to everyone's summer vacation schedules, but there has been a steady supply of opportunities to fly most of the summer, and that's a good thing!

I myself have enjoyed a spectacular summer flying season at Torrey. The west-southwest breeze has been more predictable than in the last couple of years, so we have enjoyed a great soaring summer season at the Torrey bluffs. The fall flying season kicks off next week. We have TD and DLG monthly contest to finish out the year strong, a couple more LSF attempt events, and hopefully some more slope racing! The TPG board is planning to have a Holiday/Awards dinner on Tuesday December 13th, so save the date!

(continued next page)

## Message from the President (continued)

Last up, I want to encourage everyone to consider stepping up and participating on the TPG board. We can always use some new ideas to the club on track, and planning for future sustainment. If you have ever thought you might be interested being on the TPG board, we meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Kearney Mesa Denny's at 6 pm.....stop by and check out how we make the TPG bacon!

Well, that's all I have for now. Be sure to check the TPGulls website calendar for upcoming events!

Till next month, fly more, host a flying event, and think about joining the TPGulls board..... we always need some new ideas!

Cheers!

Dan Cummins  
Torrey Pines Gulls  
2016 President

## Ron Scharck Recovering from an Injury in Texas

We recently received this news from Keith Finkenbiner regarding long-time TPG member Ron Scharck:

Ron was fishing with his brother in early June on Galveston Bay, when he accidentally fell overboard in shallow water and quickly got back into the boat. That night, he noticed swelling and black spots on his right leg and went to the emergency room. They diagnosed flesh eating microbes and rushed him to Weatherford Hospital, where his right leg was amputated above the knee.



Ron Scharck

He was moved to TIRR Memorial Hermann The Woodlands - Inpatient for rehab, to be near his family in Houston. You can reach him at 619-913-4949, or email him at [scharck@kw.com](mailto:scharck@kw.com). I know he would like to hear from modeling friends.

Keith Finkenbiner

## Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

As we did last year, TPG will continue to host monthly contests, fun-fly events, and onsite clinics. General meetings have morphed into competitive and non-competitive events throughout the year. Be on the lookout for upcoming details and scheduling for all TPG and related events in the Newsletter, Newsletter Calendar in this issue and on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at:

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



Dale Gottdank

### Newsletter Update - Dale Gottdank

Please contribute to our ***GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER***

*Please Send Pictures! Send an article,* perhaps. It doesn'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! **This month, we have an article about pilot (and equestrian) Steffen Peters from Ian Cummings and a great photo feature from Eric Metzdorff.**

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 website at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>

## What do YOU think?

You can express your opinion at: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

We 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.

## Check out the TPG Facebook Page

From John Blasko:

If you haven't had a chance yet, check out our TPG Facebook page by clicking the links below:

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



RECENTLY POSTED:  
August 27<sup>th</sup> Scale Fun Fly

## 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. On the TPG website, [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org), you can follow the [YAHOO FORUM](#) link in the drop-down menu that appears when you scroll over [TORREY PINES GULLS](#) next to [LOCATIONS, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP](#).



## News from the Slope – Ray Pili, Slope Coordinator

We had two Summer Fun Fly events at Torrey:

- Pointy Nose/Twisty Wing Fetish and
- Scale Fun Fly



Ray Pili



Oran Bloodsworth, unquestionably the West Coast King of PNF/TNF, brought a fleet. Conditions were a bit south at a flyable 12+ mph.



Just a portion of Oran's PNF/TWF fleet.

## News from the Slope (continued)



L – R...Sam and Oran

Next was the Scale Fun fly Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. Conditions were perfect; sunny, 70's, 12-16 mph straight in. Finally the wind gods smiled on us lowly slopers.

Welcome to Ethan and Jason, who were checked out to fly Torrey. These guys flew more than anyone on Saturday.

A young man, Taz, with his grandparents, Jay and Bob were the first to arrive. Taz's father flew with the TPGulls 40+ years ago. Taz got a chance to stir the sticks flying my finely tuned race Ka-8 with Dan's buddy box. When they left, Dan gave Taz a Torrey F3F shirt. Jay and Bob said this was the highlight of Taz's vacation.

There was plenty of air for PSS Airacobras, Mustang, L-39 and some 3-4 M T-tailed scalies, as well as a couple of sorties of KA-8 swarms, followed by touch and goes. Jim (Pismo) Scott and Greg (HowstheWind) Houck had the technique down well, with multiple double touch and goes.

NCFM's Matin Taraz brought out his latest creation, called the "Hybrid," a pitcheron, F/G fuse, EPP wing (M-60-ish) with a cruciform tail. Brain Laird was the test pilot. Check out the maiden flight video here: <https://vimeo.com/180503833>



### News from the Slope (continued)



Scale Fun Fly – Photo by Justin



Maiden flight of the Hybrid. Brian Laird on the sticks. According to Brian, she flies inverted effortlessly!



Matin with the Hybrid at Torrey



The Hybrid – F/G fuse, covered EPP wings and balsa tail feathers.



## News from the Slope (continued)

Finally, Membership Chairman, Bill Eckles has a beautiful new Plastic Fantastic in his quiver:



Bill and George with a sexy Espada R.

### *Safety tip:*

Building Season is coming up. One of the most common tasks when building is sanding. One of the most common materials we sand is balsa, and balsa dust (any dust) can cause lung irritation. Here is a big list of wood types and their toxicity:

<http://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/wood-allergies-and-toxicity/>



To minimize dust inhalation, sand outdoors, setup proper ventilation when sanding indoors, purchase a dust collector, or wear a dust mask. Also, consider using a razor plane to rough out the shape before final sanding.

*Blue Skies,  
Ray Pili*



## Steffen Peters – TPG's Olympian

Many of you know Steffen Peters as the guy that flies those big beautiful scale sailplanes at Torrey Pines; but you may not know he is also a professional/competitive equestrian, representing the United States in the sport of Dressage.

Steffen recently returned home from the Summer Olympics in Rio with his horse "Legolas" and a bronze medal around his neck. This was his fourth time competing in the summer Olympics and his second earned Olympic bronze medal. Steffen also competes in numerous other international equestrian events and has received a good number of medals, including gold at the Pan Am Games. In addition to competing, Steffen also trains other equestrians at his stable complex in Carmel Valley.



Steffen with his bronze medal from the Rio Olympics and an adoring fan. Photo and comments by Ian Cummings.



## Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff

Back in July, Eric got these shots with a Mobius camera on his Radian. He managed to get some great views, and in the process, buzz some local pilots, Shelby the Slope Dog and indigenous wildlife. Enjoy!





Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff



Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff





Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff



Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff





## Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff



Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff





Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff



Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff





Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff



Torrey from the Air – Eric Metzdorff





## Club Competition Activity

### Thermal Duration

---

#### Thermal Coordinator/Winchmaster – Mark Canfield

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Thermal Duration contests, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/event/thermal-duration-contest-september/> or contact Mark Canfield at [mcanfield5@roadrunner.com](mailto:mcanfield5@roadrunner.com)



Mark Canfield

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

---

#### F3K Coordinator – Tim Traver

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Hand Launch/DLG contests, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/discus-launch-glider-series/> or contact Tim Traver at [TimTraver@gmail.com](mailto:TimTraver@gmail.com)



Tim Traver

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. and in this RCGroups thread: <http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=2580257>

## LSF Report – Ray Pili



### Summer 2016 LSF Report

We had two LSF events planned for August:

- Man on Man Foamy race at Dave's beach, August 6<sup>th</sup>
- Poway Thermal day, August 13<sup>th</sup>

The Man on Man race didn't happen. A combination of extremely north wind and pilot schedules worked against the event. But as typical, an hour after we called the race, the wind turned straight into the bluff.

Aug 13<sup>th</sup> was another Smoking Hot Poway Saturday. John, Chuck, Don and I flew DLGs. A new Gulls Member, Justin, showed up with his Ka-8. El Presidente Dan arrived around noon.

There was good lift and I got 22 minute flight trying for my 30 minutr LSF III Thermal task. I had a hard time seeing the plane ~15 min into the flight, way south past the creek, so I left the lift to fly closer and lost almost all my altitude by 17 minutes. John and Don were in a thermal that I joined at launch height for what would have been a nice save, but no joy.

Justin flew his Ka-8 on a hi-start for the first time. On his second launch, he achieved his 5 minute thermal task for LSF 1, with a flight duration of 5:21.



## Club Membership Update – Bill Eckles



Bill Eckles

Since the mid-year mark of July, we experienced a slight revitalization of memberships with its “half-price” reduction in price. While they continue slightly behind last year, our club remains at a healthy level, above our budget estimate and generating an active and enjoyable collection of Soaring Society pilots.

The past month's warm weather patterns generating popping thermals at the inland fields and frequent on-shore breezes at the Gliderport made enjoyable, if not exciting flying conditions. We currently stand at 96 active members and an outstanding welcome to new ones. While we don't expect a flurry of activity through the remainder of the year, we do plan to remain the pattern for other soaring clubs in Southern California's welcoming flying conditions. Please continue to remind friends and fellow pilots of the benefits of joining our group.

Fly safely and enjoy the ride!

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 website 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 \$60
- ✓ July through September \$30
- ✓ October through December \$60 (gives you a jump on next year)
- ✓ Full-time college students \$30 per year
- ✓ Juniors under 18 years \$15 per year
- ✓ 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**

## Torrey Pines Gulls Apparel Store

The Torrey Pines Gulls Apparel Store is in business. We anticipate adding a DLG version of the logo soon, and we're open for any other additions down the road. Follow this link, <http://tpgstore.qbstores.com> or click on the images below to access the TPG Apparel Store. Choose from short and long sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies!



Product ID: A312-027-2942  
Digitally Printed Gildan Ringpun Crew Sweatshirt

Your Price  
**\$28.28**



Product ID: A382-027-1680  
Digitally Printed Gildan Hooded Sweatshirt

Your Price  
**\$38.44**



Product ID: A322-009-9993  
Digitally Printed Gildan Hooded Sweatshirt

Your Price  
**\$33.64**



Product ID: A123-020-2034  
Gildan Printed Classic Long Sleeve Tee

Your Price  
**\$20.62**



Product ID: A270-020-1936  
Gildan Printed Classic Long Sleeve Dark Tee



Product ID: A134-020-7031  
Printed Gildan Ultra Cotton Tee



Product ID: A270-017-1937  
Printed Gildan Ultra Cotton Dark Tee



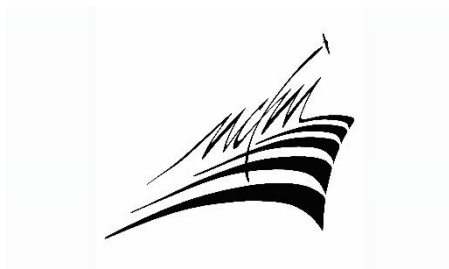
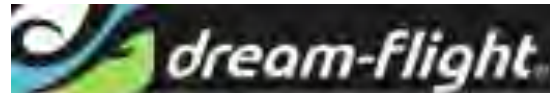
Product ID: A134-020-7031  
Gildan Ultra Cotton Classic Fit Ladies Tee



## 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 website 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 **AND will appear on the following year's club membership card**). 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.



New artificial turf installed at the Torrey Pines Gliderport picnic table/pit area by L-R: Ray, Kevin, Mike, Sean, Robert (Ray P. & Kevin B.)



January Winner - Mr. Robert (Peterson) & son Cam flying their Skua at Torrey (Greg Houck)



### Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Plane mounted camera view from Phil Davy's Xperience Pro Carbon 3.3 at Torrey



Camera catches Phil flying the Xperience



Come to papal!



February Winner – Phil Davy's Xperience Pro Carbon 3.3 camera view flying inverted over Torrey

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Screenshot – Ka-8 DS'ing at Bill's Hill (Phil Davy)



Screenshot – Ka-8 DS'ing at Bill's Hill (Phil Davy)



February 6, 2016 Torrey Fun Fly (Ian Cummings)



Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Kat's Spirit Elite with seagull in pursuit at Torrey (Ian Cummings)



Kat's Spirit Elite with seagull at Torrey (Ian Cummings)



Kat flying his Spirit



March Winner – Sunlight under a Spirit Elite and a Torrey Pines Gull (Ian Cummings)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Launching foamies at the Torrey Classic Slope Race (Ian Cummings)



Launching moldies at the Torrey Classic Slope Race (Ian Cummings)



Tight turn at the Torrey Classic Slope Race (Ian Cummings)



Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Torrey Sunset (Ray Pili)



April Winner – Torrey before El Niño Squall (Ray Pili)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Winner – Shelby the Slope Dog at Torrey (Bob Scheidt)



The joy of DLG (Cliff Hunter)



WeaselFest (Greg Houck)



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



B-24 Witchcraft on approach about 1.5 miles out at John Wayne Airport (Pete Rissman)  
Pete has one SERIOUS lens!!!



June Winner – WeaselFest (Greg Houck)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



July Winner – Nice sequence showing Airacobra mid-air at the 2016 FakeFest (Greg Houck)



More FakeFest Airacobras (Pete Rissman)



Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



(August Winner) Launching over Cajon at the 2016 FakeFest (Pete Rissman)



Dynamic Racing – Phil Davy and Scott Magner – Ascot and Precision (Phil Davy)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Ward Hagaman's Scirocco at FakeFest 2016 (Matin Taraz)



(September Winner) Greg Houck's Heinkel at FakeFest 2016 (Dan Cummins)



## Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Dan Cummins	<a href="mailto:TPGulls@gmail.com">TPGulls@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Ian Cummings	<a href="mailto:icumming@earthlink.net">icumming@earthlink.net</a>
Past President	Dan Cummins	<a href="mailto:TPGulls@gmail.com">TPGulls@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	To be filled	
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>
Communications	Dale Gottdank	<a href="mailto:dgottdank@gmail.com">dgottdank@gmail.com</a>
Winch Master	Mark Canfield	<a href="mailto:mcanfield5@roadrunner.com">mcanfield5@roadrunner.com</a>
F3K 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	To be filled	
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	<a href="mailto:steve@torreypinesgulls.org">steve@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Historian	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:garyfogel@gmail.com">garyfogel@gmail.com</a>
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Ray Pili	<a href="mailto:rpili2001@gmail.com">rpili2001@gmail.com</a>
TP Soaring Council (AMA)	To be filled	

Dan Cummins  
President



Ian Cummings  
Vice- President



Secretary

Don Lockhead  
Treasurer





## Quote of the Month:

*“My favorite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' because it actually tells you something.”*

*~Groucho Marx*



Torrey Sunset – Photo by Marty Dine