



# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

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

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

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Dan Cummins  
President

## Message from the President

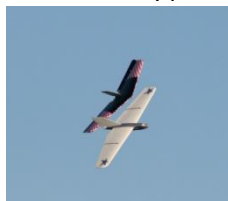
April 2015 had it all.....we had successful monthly contests (TD and DLG), the winds were favorable all month at the Torrey bluff, and members had a chance to participate in other flying events (Weasel Fest and the Dave Kellogg Memorial Fly-In) throughout the southwest.

Coming up in May, we have the International Hand Launch Glider Festival on May 2nd and 3rd at the TPG Poway field.

This event has pilots from all over the world coming to compete at our humble Poway field for two days. The event is open to all DLG pilots, or folks that just want to come out and watch the competition. If you haven't been to an International, I encourage you to check it out....but be warned, you might get the DLG bug, and that can be very addictive!

After the International, we have the TPG Monthly TD contest on Sunday the 10th at the Encinitas field.

The very next weekend, we have the Torrey (foam only) Classic on the 16th. This year, we are putting a twist on the Classic by making it a "**foam only**" event. The objective will be to have fun and introduce pilots to the in's and out's of different types of slope racing.



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## Message from the President (continued)

To finish out the month (Memorial Day weekend), a contingent of TPGulls will be heading north to participate in the Power Scale Soaring (PSS) Festival hosted by the Inland Slope Rebels on the 23rd and 24th. Pilots gather at the top of the Cajon Pass to fly scale warbirds every year. These PSS planes are very fast and many are works of art.

So that my friends is shaping up to be a great month to be a RC glider pilot! All of these events are loads of fun. If you haven't had chance, I encourage you to check out as many of the events as you can.

That's all I have for now, I gotta get back to building stuff for the Torrey Classic and the PSS Fest.

Till next month!

Fly more often, fly safe, and build something cool!

R,

Dan Cummins  
Torrey Pines Gulls  
2015 President  
[TPGulls@gmail.com](mailto:TPGulls@gmail.com)

## 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.torrepinesgulls.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:

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

## What do **YOU** think?

TPG is happy to announce a few new additions to our website 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.

Under development, we'll soon 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/>.



Dale Gottdank

## Newsletter Update - Dale Gottdank

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

**Please send 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 website 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 in the Newsletter and on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at:

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

## News from the Slope – Ray Pili



Ray Pili

*Another awesome April is in the books. Hope the taxman gave you back some of your hard earned dollars, or at the very least left you some play money.*

Dan, an Air Force veteran from Maryland, stopped by to obtain his rating early April. He flew a Parkzone radian with the propeller disabled. Dan and his family seemed to enjoy the sunny afternoon at Torrey.

Dan is the tall guy.

SDSU Spring break was early April and our own John Blaske took advantage to put the books down and throw out his new Vampire. Unfortunately, there are no pictures of John's Vampire, but John did take a great picture of Ian throwing out his Ka8.



Which reminds me, to remind you of the Torrey Foamy Fun Fly on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. A shortened F3F and MOM course will be setup to challenge the group. Lunch will be provided to all Gulls members. New members can sign up for the remainder of 2015, with the Gulls for a special \$30 deal, which then qualifies the new member for a free lunch. A non-perishable food donation bin will be set up and all are encouraged to donate. Raffle will include another fantastic NCFM M60 kit and two Libelle kits from Dream Flight.

As I'm writing this update, a light drizzle is falling. Much needed precipitation, but not enough to keep the lawn green at the Gliderport. This last picture shows how brown the grass is getting, if you can see past Ian celebrating another great flight and handcatch with his 4M Orca.



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

### *Safety reminder:*

We all seem to remember to check out receiver batteries before each flight, but remember to check your transmitter battery too. Two weeks ago I was flying using my trusted Hitec Aurora 9 when the low transmitter voltage alarm went off, showing 10% left on the gas tank.

By the time I walked up the hill and landed, maybe 2-3 minutes after acknowledging the first alarm, my transmitter battery pack was down to 3%. This is with a 2 Cell Lipo.

There are various Lipo voltage discharge curves on the net. Seems like they are all for 1 C for higher discharge rates. The “knee” seems to be around 3.6 volts; where the slippery slope drastically increases. The “knee” voltage a 500ma discharge maybe a little lower, but using these high discharge rates gives us a margin of safety.

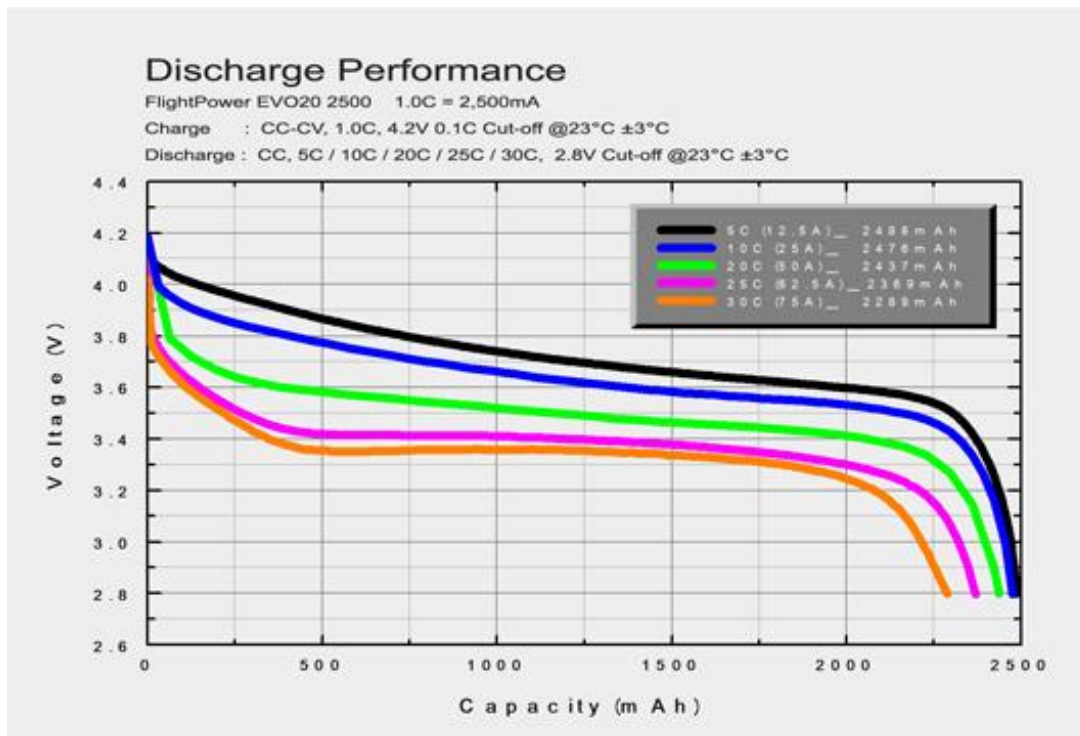


Table 1 <http://www.wattflyer.com/forums/showthread.php?t=21333>

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

### Foamy Fun Fly (F<sup>A</sup>3)

Mark your calendars for the **Torrey F<sup>A</sup>3 (Foamy Fun Fly)** scheduled for **May 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Plan on a little Man On Man, F3F, HighStart and Foamy Acro action.

So tune up your NCFM and Steve Drake models, get your LEG PSS planes charged up, and polish the wings of your Ka-8, EZ Stlyers and Radians for a day of fun flying at Torrey.

TPG is providing free lunch for members and \$10 lunch for non-members.

The regular \$10 day fee is required for all pilots.



M60's MOM – Photo Credit: Greg



Ka-8 Goofing off – Photo Credit: Andy



G-V-60 – Photo Credit: Steve Drake



Radian



EZ Glider HighStart – Photo Credit: YouTube guy

Till next month, Blue Skies,

Ray

## Club Competition Activity

### Thermal Duration

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#### Winchmaster – Mark Canfield



Mark Canfield

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Thermal Duration contests, check the following page on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <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 website: <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.

## 2015 International Hand Launch Glider Festival

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The International Hand Launch Glider Festival is coming up this weekend..... May 2-3, 2015. Check out the link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website.

#### And, from Gary Fogel:

Here is a link to an article I wrote regarding the IHLGF that is being featured in the digital version of the Model Aviation magazine. Hopefully it encouraged some additional participation this year's contest.

<http://www.modelaviation.com/IHLGF2014>

**Come to the IHLGF 2015!**

Gary

## Dave Kellogg Memorial at Dave's Beach

On Saturday, Martin Taraz hosted the annual Dave Kellogg Memorial Fly-In (Celebrating Dave's 62<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, at Dave's Beach. Here's a link to the occasion of his passing in 2006:

[Dave Kellogg, April 5, 1948 - October 18, 2006](#)

As Ian Cummings said:

Great fun today!!!! Thanks to all that put this on, and Mr Robert for the most excellent brats. I got some video of the gaggle of Kates flying over Dave's Beach.

**Here are some photos of the event (from Grea Houck):**



Ian Cummings (who sent this photo) noted that there were at least 6 Ka-8s in the air at one time!

<https://vimeo.com/126022425> (Video Link)



...and of course, a fun-filled gathering of the usual suspects!

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## Dave Kellogg Memorial at Dave's Beach (continued)



## Harris Nelson, 1938-2015



### **From Matin Taraz:**

I have received the sad news that Harris Nelson passed away today (Monday, April 27) at the age of 77.

Harris was the [chief designer](#) and original part owner of North County Flying Machines otherwise known as NCFM.

His ubiquitous flying machines, such as Moth, M60 and Shrike, to name a few, have been flying around the world for the better part of the past quarter century.

I wish to pass my condolences to his friends and family.....

### **From Derek Choice:**

Most certainly, the modeling community lost a brilliant mind this past weekend, as Harris crossed the great divide. I could easily write 100 or more pages on what he has contributed to not just the modeling community, but the world, in general.

Here in the RC realm, he is best known as co-founder of NCFM (North County Flying Machines), the designer of The Shrike, The Spyder, The Elf, The Snark, The Moth, The M-60, The HP-60, Bluto, The Halfpipe, among many others. He introduced Spyderfoam back in 1995 and pioneered the use of thinned Goop on fuselages as an alternate covering method.

Harris began building stick & tissue models in the 1940's and never stopped pushing design limits, and building techniques, beyond the norm. In the past few years, he went back to his roots and began working on a series of free-flight prototypes, convinced that a few new approaches would win competitions... his walls are presently an immense, vertical hanger for those ideas. Unfortunately, he was not physically able to get out and fully test their efficacy to see what worked and what didn't. Based on some of our test flights on the old NCFM driveway a couple of years back, they do, indeed, have merit (as the tops of many avocado trees, and clouds, will attest).

To me, personally, he was a second father, friend, mentor, experimental humorist, just to scratch the surface. He leaves a great legacy that will live on far into the future, in many different ways. And, if you knew Harris, to this you know he would say (and probably verbatim), "Damn it, S-T-F-U!! Don't write that kind of SH\_T about me!"

You'll be missed, dude!

## Club Membership – Bill Eckles



Bill Eckles

Our membership continues to grow slowly. We're now standing at 85, thanks to some new members last month. Still, we can benefit from a few more renewals hoping to get to the three-digit mark. The club's board of directors is doing a great job getting more value into the annual dues by providing food and drinks at fun-fly events as well as a reduced competition fee for contests.

**Please, participate!** You'll be glad you did, and the club will appreciate it as well. Meanwhile, urge that breeze to turn on-shore while spring is still on our minds.

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.torreyпинesgulls.org](http://www.torreyпинesgulls.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 age 15 and under \$5 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.torreyпинesgulls.org](http://www.torreyпинesgulls.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 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, newsletter and Facebook page 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.



**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)



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

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### Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



**April Winner** – David Klein in front of a massive thermal at the Gator West World Cup (Steve Condon)



May – Craig Hanson enjoying the afternoon at the Gliderport (Ian Cummings)



**May Co-Winner** – Ka-8's over Ellwood at this year's WeaselFest in Santa Barbara (Dan Cummins)

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### Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Club Pres., Dan Cummins, and Shelby the Slope Dog at Torrey (Matin Taraz) Ian Cummings launching his Ka-8 at Torrey (John Blaske)



**May Co-Winner** – Brian Laird's P-51B Mustang at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dave Kellogg Memorial Fly-In at Dave's Beach (Greg Houck)

## Club 2015 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	10	Mark C.	30	<a href="http://socalsooperacing.com">socalsooperacing.com</a>	17 VVRC	2-3 IHLGF	
June	14	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. **Check the TPG Website for updates.**  
The SC2 schedule could change on availability of club field's check website: [sc2soaring.com](http://sc2soaring.com)



### Quote of the Month:

“All the calculations show it can't work.  
There's only one thing to do: make it work”

— *Pierre Georges Latécoère,*  
*early French aviation entrepreneur*