



# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2017

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

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

Editor – Dale Gottdank

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Dan Cummins

## Message from the President

Howdy Gulls,

I am very excited that the 2017 flying season is upon us. A wet start to our San Diego winter has provided some great conditions at Torrey Pines. Slope activities are ramping up with our Season Opener Fun Fly coming up on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at Torrey Pines. The following week,

Saturday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, the Gulls will be hosting a League of Silent Flight rating attempt at our Poway field. A group of us will be taking on the LSF II challenge of a 30 minute thermal flight.....should be a good excuse for a day of flying!

I am also excited to announce that the Torrey Pines Gulls will host the Torrey Classic F3F race for the Southern California Slope Racing season opener, hopefully in March. We are still trying to nail down a date that doesn't conflict with the potential return of a full scale flying season this year at Torrey Pines. Once again, this year's TP Classic will include a foam 60" racing class. Although the foamies aren't likely to win overall, those members without monster composite race planes will be able to compete against the clock for bragging rights with their foam flying buddies and a fun day of racing!

This year's overall flying calendar is filling up quick. Most months we have at least two or three weekends with a contest or event scheduled throughout the year. Be sure to check out the TPGulls website and RCGroups for event schedules and information.

## Message from the President (continued)

Also, I want to remind everyone that if you haven't renewed your TPGulls membership, you can do so quickly by sending a PayPal payment of \$60 to [steve@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:steve@torreypinesgulls.org). You should include in the note section your AMA #, either RENEW or NEW MEMBER, and your contact email address.

Till next month.

Fly more, build something cool, and learn something new!

Cheers!

Dan Cummins  
2017 TPGulls President



Ray Pili launches my NCFM M60 foamy at last year's Torrey Classic F3F race.

## 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**

**Send pictures, or maybe even an article!** 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've seen 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 informative article from Eric Metzdorff about vacuum formed servo covers, and we'll be continuing our series on the club's history. Also, check out Ian Cummings' excellent photos of a full-scale glider fly-by at the cliff, and some Poway field activity from John McNeil and Chuck Norris.**

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).

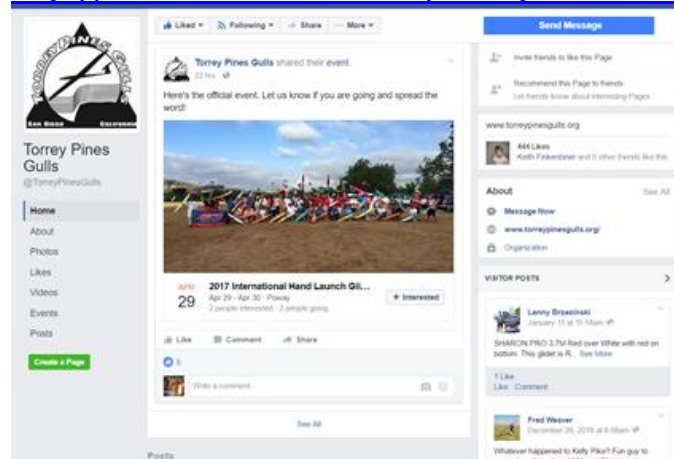
We have a **QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS** link in the drop-down menu that appears when you scroll over **TORREY PINES GULLS** next to **LOCATIONS, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP...** If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. for the board, here's your chance.

## Check out the TPG Facebook Page

From John Blaske:

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:**

**IHGLF (International Hand Launch Glider Festival) Announcement!**

## 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**.

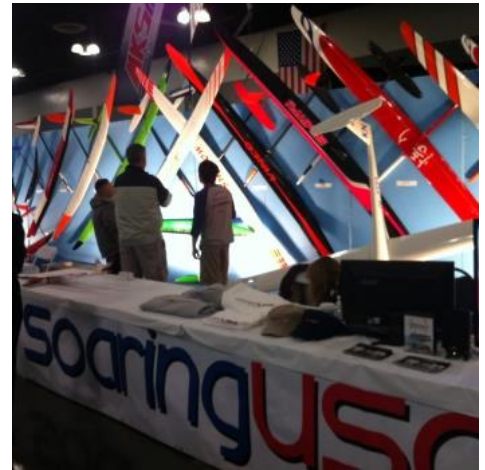
## News from the Slope – Ray Pili, Slope Coordinator



Ray Pili

Hope you're enjoying the New Year, Slopers!

By now you've had a chance to find the Christmas gift you really wanted.



Santa's toy box

- Check out the club's calendar for the Torrey Fun Fly events. We'll use the Fun Fly events for the President Dan, Veep Ian and others to discuss club news and upcoming events.
- Torrey Kickoff will be Saturday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring your new toys or your everyday glider and enjoy the green LZ.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> and Sept 30<sup>th</sup> we'll try something new, with a fun fly followed by a brewery tour.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> is the Foamy Fun Fly; July 22<sup>nd</sup> is the TWF/PNF Fun Fly, and August 26<sup>th</sup> is the Scale Fun Fly.
- Other events scheduled at the Gliderport are: April 2<sup>nd</sup> TPSSS Scale Meet, April 8<sup>th</sup> F3F Torrey Classic and June 3<sup>rd</sup> Katie Martin Memorial.

Speaking of Torrey, our own Ian has a pretty green thumb and cleared the parking spot of invasive Russian tumbleweeds.



## News from the Slope (continued)

Our brutal, January San Diego storms have been atypical by not having the accompanying clearing winds we're used to. But there have been flyable days in January, and one of the most memorable was the 21<sup>st</sup>.

We had 20+ mph over the bluff from day break and by noon the RC mound was full of planes. Greg brought a handful of PSS planes.



Greg's KAOS pitcheron with canopy brake and his B-17

Mike and Stephan flew a pair of Saltos. Others enjoying the bluff were Ed, Dan, Eric, Craig, and Mike. About midafternoon, Mike called in a full scale Stemme owned and flown by Mario Scolari for a flyby.



See page14 for some more great pictures of the flyby from Ian Cummings.

Here are a couple of links to YouTube videos of the flyby, one from the cockpit, and one from the Gliderport:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K17Z4uAC6wI>

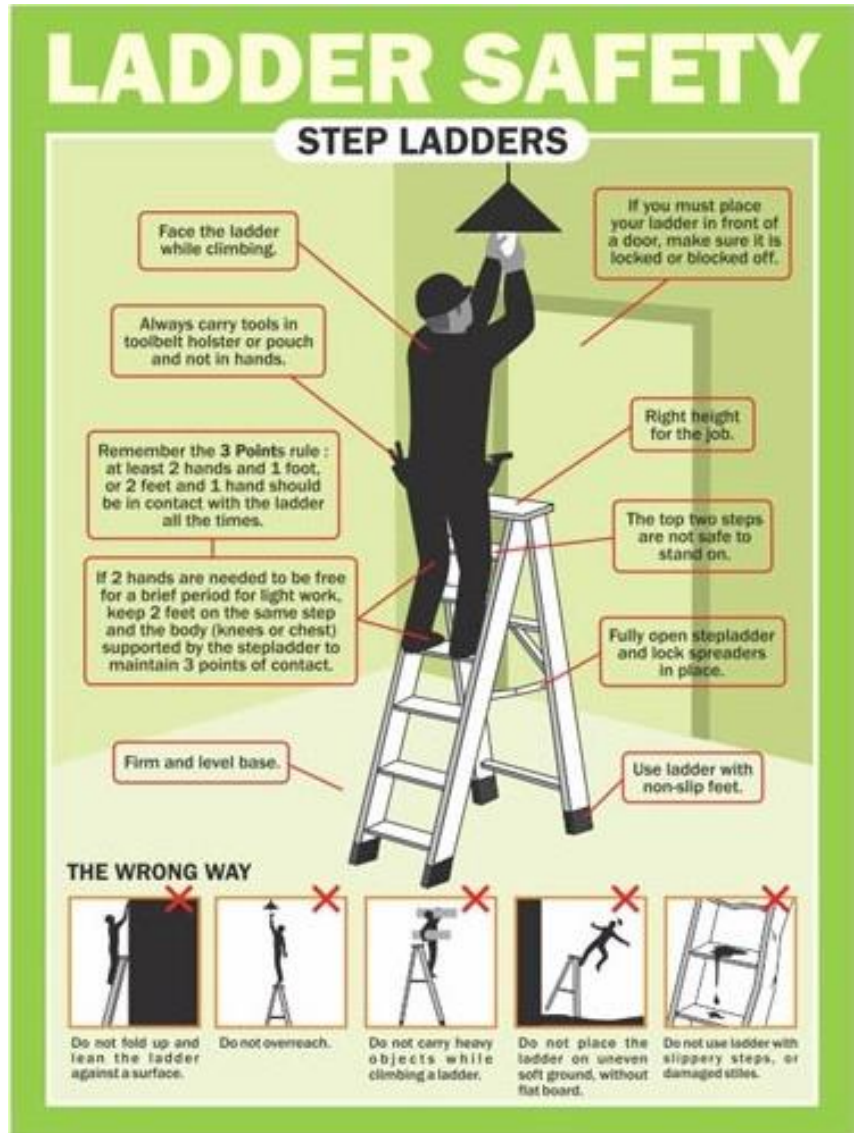
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbiUNm6gHrw>

## News from the Slope (continued)



If you're anything like me, you can't store planes in the house, and you have to be creative in storing your planes in the man cave. Hanging planes from the ceiling is a very popular solution. Planes are up high so they are unlikely to be damaged by items falling on them, hanger rash, or rug rats.

Being vertically challenged, I need a ladder to store and retrieve my ceiling mounted planes. I've successfully come down from a ladder without using the rungs a time or two, luckily without a plane in my hand.



So please take time to read this ladder safety poster from our friend, Google.

Take your time; stay balanced and live to fly again.

*Blue Skies,  
Ray*

## Vacuum Formed Servo Covers – Eric Metzdorff



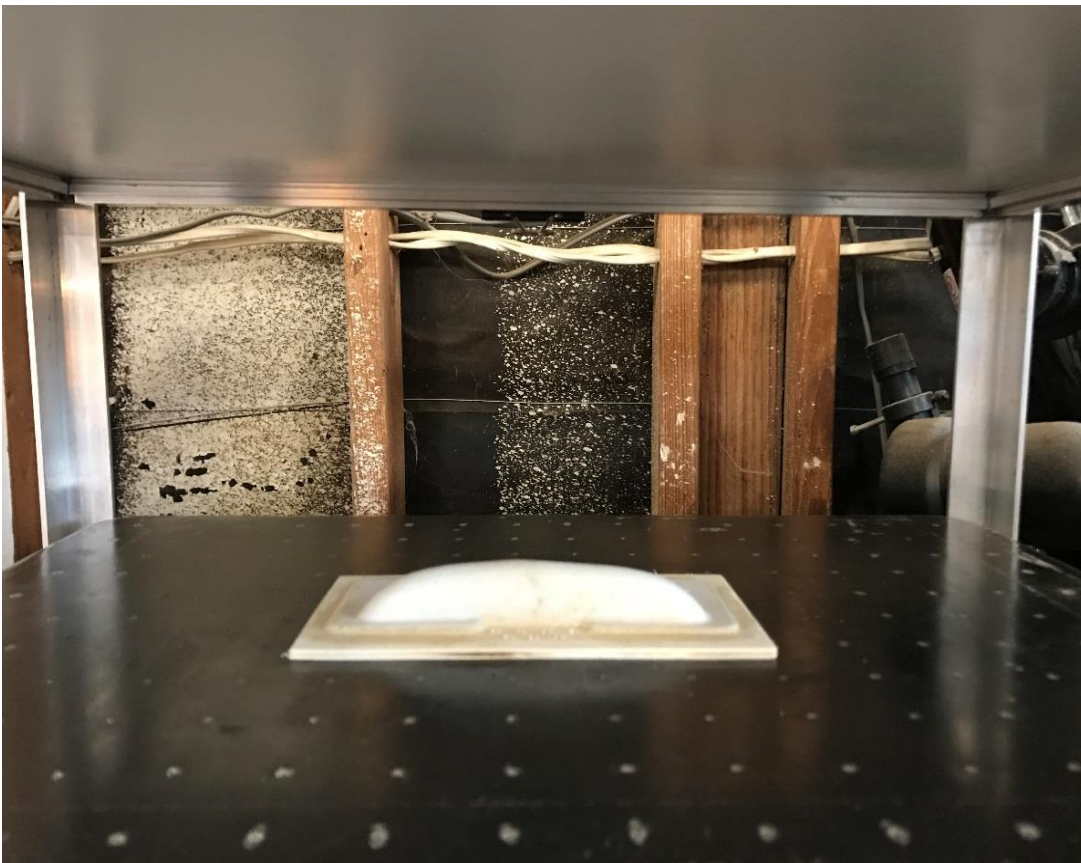
I bought this kit online for a cheap price. Now I know why. After inventory, I found that the servo covers provided consisted of 3 rights and 1 left and the one left I had was broken. So, after hot gluing to some scrap wood and filler, I had myself a simple tray mold (top) to pull a bunt from (below). I applied a layer of PVA to mold and filled with some Fix-ALL I had laying around. I wasn't sure Fix-ALL would work, but it did. The flipped over mold casting fell out and I glued it to a ply sheet to secure from cracking and chipping. This is good enough for a half-hearted attempt at making new servo covers using Fix-All.

## Vacuum Formed Servo Covers (continued)



Side by side photo. The cast can be cleaned up a bit if needed. For mine, it was smoothing out the area where there was a chip in the original cover.

Initial run on the vacuum form table. A lot of real estate for one set of covers. I'm working on another bunt to form 4 at once. I loaded up a sheet of .03 styrene plastic, heated till forming temp reached and place over bunt.



Bunt on vacuum table and plastic hanging above being heated.

## Vacuum Formed Servo Covers (continued)



Voila, a replacement set of covers! The good thing, is now I can make replacements quickly and in any color! Time to make another mold to make better use of a sheet of plastic.

I could form up to four of these molds per sheet, but for now, 4 covers is enough.

The last photo (below) shows side by side comparison of originals and duplicates. That reminds me of another advantage: color selection. ABS plastic I know of comes in many colors; polystyrene, I'm not so sure.

I found a set online that looked like they were close but not exact and I couldn't be sure of the size. This set was \$7 for (2) of them, plus shipping. I think this set cost me pennies in material and only a little time. Far better! If you have a hideous set of blisters, cracked and gooped with glue, this could be the answer.





## TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel



### This month: Jim Haldy and the birth of TPG

As I mentioned last month, we'll be relating some of the Torrey Pines Gulls' history through the years since its founding. We'll do this by following the names engraved on the Mark's Models Outstanding Member (Modeler of the Year) Award Trophy plaques.

Last month, we learned a bit about Mark Smith, the creator of the Trophy. This month, Gary has provided some information about the first Award recipient (Jim Haldy) and the early history of the TPGulls.



## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



The Torrey Pines Gulls began to form in the late 1960s. RC was actually used at Torrey for model sailplanes as early as about 1955 by amateur radio operators, but the activities were sparse and there was no formal club. In addition, there were regular full-scale sailplane activities that could sometimes pose a crowded situation. By the late 1960's, more pilots were using the Gliderport for RC, and members of the newly formed Harbor Slope Soaring Society in Orange County (the first AMA club dedicated to RC soaring) would also come down to Torrey on occasion.

By about 1969, several locals thought it was time to form their own AMA club, called the Torrey Pines Gulls. Chief in this effort were Jim and Kelly Pike, a father-son team that spent many hours soaring at Torrey together (more on the Pikes in a later story).

Jim Haldy was another pilot who helped the club through its formation. Jim served as one of the first Contest Directors for the club and also helped to spearhead the formation of the newsletter as the official club "Comm. Officer". He flew in both slope and thermal contests, and also regional contests representing the Gulls.

For instance, back in those days there used to be an annual "North/South Meet" between the clubs from northern California and southern California. The contest had several components to it, and Jim came in tenth overall, as the third best TPG pilot at the meet (there were over 93 pilots, total). Despite the contest being held in Bakersfield, TPG was the main organizing club with Haldy and Irv Stafford doing a lot of the work. In appreciation of his many efforts on behalf of the club in its early formation, Jim was given a special plaque by the club president Buck Faure in February of 1973.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

I believe this started the tradition of having a "modeler of the year" but it wasn't called that yet. In 1973, Jim helped acquire a new thermal field for the club called the "Palomar Field" for bi-monthly thermal contests. This field was located in San Marcos, on Rancho Santa Fe Road. (I believe the North County Clouds later used the same field for thermaling.) Unfortunately, for reasons that are unknown to me, by June of 1974 Jim moved to Idaho. He left some rather large shoes to be filled by other club members. The June 1974 newsletter featured a "going out of town sale!" - Most of Jim's fleet. This included a Windward ("winner of more TPG contests than any other Windward") for \$35 without the radio, an orange and white Foamy 1-26 for \$25, and an unnamed "super ship," which Jim used to place 8th overall at the 1973 League of



A couple of Windward kit photos found in a web search on an old "for sale" posting.

## Full-Scale Flyby – Ian Cummings

Yesterday, January 21<sup>st</sup> was pretty spectacular at Torrey, capped off with a flyby by TPG member Mario Scolari flying his full scale Stemme S-10 sailplane through "the office" followed by a couple of beach runs. It all happened pretty fast, but I managed to get some good shots of the office run. Enjoy!



## Full-Scale Flyby (continued)



## Full-Scale Flyby (continued)



## Full-Scale Flyby (continued)



## Full-Scale Flyby (continued)



## Club Competition Activity

### Thermal Duration

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Cliff Hunter

#### TD Coordinator – Cliff Hunter

For thermal duration contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

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-February/>, or contact Cliff Hunter at [cfhunter@att.net](mailto:cfhunter@att.net)

Additional 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

#### F3K Coordinator – Tim Traver

For DLG contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

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)

Additional 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: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2820127-2017-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-and-Clinic-Series>

Also, check out the upcoming International Hand Launch Glider Festival (IHLGF) scheduled for late April, in this RCGroups thread: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2744337-IHLGF-2017-24th-Annual-International-Hand-Launch-Glider-Festival> and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/581142412076887/>

## Poway Field Activity – Chuck Norris & John McNeil



Chuck and Amardeep

On Saturday morning, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Chuck and his buddy Amardeep Dugal (rexnutia on RCGroups) maiden a new bagged-wind DLG that they built. Here's a link to the post from Chuck on RCGroups:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=36751318&postcount=479>



Highly visible color scheme

## Poway Field Activity (continued)



Amardeep launching

## Poway Field Activity (continued)

Also, John McNeil flew his new Concept CX4 for the first time today.

It weighs about 260g with four MKS DS75k servos. The radio is Frsky Taranis. It was a turbulent day for testing, but shows a lot of promise



John with his CX4



John flying the CX4



...and coming in to land.

## LSF Report – Ray Pili



### February 2017 LSF Report

Dates have been set for the 2017 LSF events.

Events are planned for every other month starting in February:

February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Poway Thermal Field
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Desert
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Poway/Dave's Slope Combat
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Poway/Dave's MoM
October 14	Poway Thermal Field
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Poway Thermal Field

Events at Poway will be the traditional Landing and Thermal tasks. These events have also been a friendly way to introduce a friend to RC Gliders.

The Desert event will be an introduction to the Distance Goal and Return task. LSF III has a 1 Km Goal and Return task

Combat and MoM will be an opportunity add contest points and experience, in addition to the club's regular monthly events.

Helpful Links:

<http://www.silentflight.org/lsf-program/lsf-tasks/>

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

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?832596-Post-the-results-of-your-LSF-duration-distance-or-landing-tasks>

Blue Skies,

Ray

## Club Membership Update – Bill Eckles



Bill Eckles

We're off to a good start in memberships, in spite of my losing the software for the cards. Most are using the web site to renew memberships, which works fine; and the numbers look good.

We already have over 70 sign-ups from a budgeted goal of 100. A few were new from late last year, a few newly connected fliers and a nice response from our long standing members. We still expect to hear from more of our active membership of last year or the year before.

Thanks to all the support both this year and from prior years, as our dues are the primary means we have to keep our club vital. Spread the word among your friends who fly and share your experiences with your buddies. Let's try to expand interest into the community about this fun and challenging hobby.

Fly well and fly safely,

Bill Eckles  
Membership Chairman



NAN Shadow at Torrey (Greg Houck)

## Club Membership Update (continued)

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 such as field Insurance, etc.

### Dues are as follows:

For the membership (calendar) year, 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: A312-237-3942  
Digitally Printed Gildan Ringspun Crew Sweatshirt

Your Price  
**\$28.28**



Product ID: A382-537-7660  
Digitally Printed Gildan Hooded Sweatshirt

Your Price  
**\$38.44**



Product ID: A325-998-9995  
Digitally Printed Gildan Hooded Sweatshirt

Your Price  
**\$33.64**



Product ID: A125-820-3814  
Gildan Printed Classic Long Sleeve Tee

Your Price  
**\$20.62**



Product ID: A295-262-7395  
Gildan Printed Classic Long Sleeve Dark Tee



Product ID: A124-102-7033  
Printed Gildan Ultra Cotton Tee



Product ID: A290-217-9572  
Printed Gildan Ultra Cotton Dark Tee

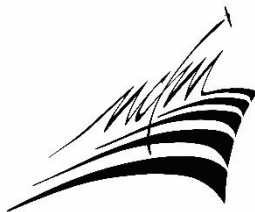


Product ID: A334-42-8226  
Gildan Ultra Cotton Classic Fit Ladies Tee

## Club Sponsors – Thank you!

The Torrey Pines Gulls members would like to thank all the sponsors for their donations and for supporting the 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.



A blustery day in late November (Ian Cummings)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



NAN Shadow over Torrey (Greg Houck)



NAN Shadow over Torrey clouds (Greg Houck)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Nice launch at LSF attempt day (Ian Cummings)



January Winner – Torrey rainbow (Ray Pili)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Dingb (Dave Bell) launching Brown's Minimoa at Camperdown (Matin Taraz)



Full-scale Stemme S-10 flyby at Torrey...outbound (Ian Cummings)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Pterodactyl over Camperdown (Glenn – salisbug on RCGroups)



February Winner – Full-scale Stemme S-10 flyby at Torrey (Ian Cummings)

## 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:icumings@earthlink.net">icumings@earthlink.net</a>
Past President	Dan Cummins	<a href="mailto:TPGulls@gmail.com">TPGulls@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Dan Cummins	<a href="mailto:TPGulls@gmail.com">TPGulls@gmail.com</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>
Communication Officer	Dale Gottdank	<a href="mailto:dgottdank@gmail.com">dgottdank@gmail.com</a>
Winchmaster	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	Cliff Hunter	<a href="mailto:cfhunter@att.net">cfhunter@att.net</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



Dan Cummins  
Secretary



Don Lockhead  
Treasurer





**Quote of the Month:**

*“Do I have a date for Valentine’s Day?  
Yes. February 14<sup>th</sup>.”  
~Dwight Schute*



Torrey Sunset – Photo by Marty Dine