



# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2017

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

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

Editor – Dale Gottdank

## Message from the President



Dan Cummins

Howdy Gulls!

Summer 2017 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!

Many of us have enjoyed a very consistent summer of flying this year. The scale guys usually fly on Mondays; the VP, Ian flies on Tuesdays when he's not teaching; some of us sneak out after 2 pm on Wednesdays for a mid-week break, and you can usually count on having company on Friday afternoons. This summer we have had great representation at the cliffs most weekends. Weekends are always a little crowded with tourist and paraglider traffic, but we all help each other out with spotting callouts to make the traffic and stray tourist are a bit more manageable. The fall flying season kicks off in just a couple of days. We have TD and DLG monthly contests on the calendar to finish out the year, a couple more LSF attempt events and another fun fly at the end of September. The TPG board is planning to have a **Holiday/Awards dinner on Tuesday of December 5th**, so save the date!

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## Message from the President (continued)

Last up, I want to encourage members to consider stepping up and participating on the TPG board. We can always use some new ideas to keep 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 Del Mar 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  
2017 President



Scale Glider Fun Fly at the Gliderport (Ray Pili photo)

## Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts monthly contests, fun-fly events, LSF (League of Silent Flight)) Soaring Accomplishment Program 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 and on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at:

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



## Newsletter This Month - Dale Gottdank



Dale Gottdank

Please contribute to our **GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER**

**Send pictures, or maybe even an article!** It could be just a paragraph with some photos from a great soaring day ...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 excellent article from Will Bushnell about his introduction to the Torrey Pines Gliderport and we'll be continuing our series by Gary Fogel on the club's history with the 1975 Modeler of the Year.**

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. If there are too many, we'll save them for the next issue. The newsletter can be found on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>

## Club Membership Update – Bill Eckles



Bill Eckles

Our chore now is to get wound up for 2018, as we added only one new member since the last newsletter.

It has been a very good summer though, with some excellent flying at the Gliderport, contest activity in slope combat, hand launch and thermal duration, lots of individual activity "off-campus" and significant activity improving LSF levels.

We'll begin planning the New Year in October/November and back at recruiting new memberships in December/January. Enjoy the rest of the year and get some new building going for winter's down time.

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.

## What do **YOU** think?

You can express your opinion at: [www.torреypinesgulls.org](http://www.torреypinesgulls.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>



## 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.torреypinesgulls.org](http://www.torреypinesgulls.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.**

## Club Flying Site Panoramas – Ian Cummings

Here are Veep Ian Cummings' immersive panoramas of our world class flying sites; the world famous Torrey Pines Gliderport and the Poway Flight Center, where each year the club sponsors the IHLGF (International Hand Launch Glider Festival). Clicking on the pictures takes you to the Torrey Pines Gliderport during a recent TPG fun-fly event and the Poway Flight Center during this year's IHLGF. Enjoy! Stay tuned for Ian's panorama of the Encinitas Flight Center.

**Click on this photo to visit the Torrey Pines Gliderport.**



**Click on this photo to visit the TPG Poway Flight Center.**



# News from the Slope – Ray Pili, Slope Coordinator



Ray Pili

It's the most wonderful time of the year: Back to School!!



There were two Fun Fly events at Torrey this summer.

June 26<sup>th</sup> was the Twisty Wing/Pointy Nose Fetish Fun Fly. Unfortunately, no one took pictures which means the flying was good!

August 26<sup>th</sup> was the Scale Fun Fly attended by over a dozen pilots bringing 3 dozen planes. Conditions were overcast with light west winds with lift from 11 till past 5 pm.



Gregg Bolton's "scale" Nyx



Mark B on the Buddy Box with Ian. Mark is getting back to RC Gliders.



How many slopers does it take to CG a Discus?

## News from the Slope (continued)



Justin T. and Jester Mike



Eric and his nephew, Ryan



Jester Mike getting ready to throw out the Discus.

## News from the Slope (continued)

September 30<sup>th</sup> is the next Fun Fly. Bring out your vintage sailplanes and planes to sell/swap.

### **SAFETY**



### **REMINDER**

All pilots who fly Torrey must:

- Be an AMA Member
- Have Signed the Gliderport Liability Waiver and paid the Day Use Fee
- Been Rated by TPG or TPSSS
- Follow the Blue Sky Rule

**No exceptions.**

**Repeat, No exceptions.**

If you see Burt Rutan walk up and launch a model Catbird, you as a Gulls member should challenge him to make sure he's rated and has signed in at the Gliderport.

If you see our past president Marty flying his Espada like a drunken sailor, ignoring the Blue Sky Rule, say something.

If the skies get crowded, spot for each other. Help each other out.

**Blue Skies,**

**Ray**

## 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-September/>, 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>

## LSF Report – Ray Pili



### September 2017 LSF Report

Congratulations to Eric M. for completing his LSF I Tasks. This is a photo of Eric just before he launched into a 7+ min. flight to complete the TD Task.



If you're interested in a list of LSF achievers, LSF Secretary Skye posted this link on RCGroups:

<http://www.silentflight.org/images/M...e-2Aug2017.pdf>

## LSF Report (continued)

Last week at the Scale Fun Fly Eric M completed his LSF II 1 hour Slope Task while Justin T. completed his 15 min Slope Task.



Eric and his Windward after a 1 hour slope flight



Justin's 26 min Slope Flight

This fall, a Slope Combat contest is planned. Dates and location will be posted on RCGroups, TPG Facebook and other social media.

**Blue Skies,  
Ray**

## 100 Days at Torrey Pines – Will Bushnell

When Will Bushnell had an opportunity to temporarily relocate from the East Coast to San Diego in 2014, he embarked on a journey that would lead to an epic slope soaring adventure. He recounted his experience in an excellent article recently published in the September issue of RCSD (Radio Controlled Soaring Digest). This is part 1 of the article with part 2 to follow.

The first page of the article is reprinted here. To read the rest, click on the link below. Enjoy!

# 100 DAYS AT TORREY PINES

Will Bushnell. will.bushnell@gmail.com

***“Do you know of anyone willing to go to San Diego for six to nine months?”  
Email from my boss.***

***“Me!” My immediate reply.***

So began a slope soaring adventure of a lifetime. I had been flying RC sailplanes since 1978 and though I had done some sloping it had never been enough. Right after sending the reply I Googled the biotech where I would be working and saw it was two miles inland from Torrey Pines!

This all started in March 2014, by May I was in an apartment in La Jolla Shores, three miles from the Torrey Pines (TP) Gliderport. Six to nine months was extended to one year. The company paid to move some household goods which included a large, coffin sized, plywood box full of sailplanes. I was very busy with my new job and used most of May

to get up to speed but also, while my planes were in transit, to get “legal” at Torrey Pines.

Getting “legal” included joining the Torrey Pines Gulls, signing the 11 page release form at the TP Gliderport (and paying \$150 for the last half of the year). The Gliderport now requires a videotaped legal release and the price has gone up to \$200, the daily fee is \$10.

The next important step was getting in touch with the TP Gulls check pilots to be cleared to fly without supervision. Marty Dine was the club president at the time and bent over backwards to make sure I got set up to fly, thanks Marty. Bill Eckles, the membership chairman also worked hard to make sure I got connected. It took till the end of May when it all came together: me, glider, west wind. Bill Eckles.

**To continue, click here.**



*The warning sign for spectators as you approach the Torrey Pines Gliderport and RC launch area.*

For anyone who is not a current subscriber, you can be automatically notified when the next issue of RCSD is posted by becoming a member of the [RCSoaringDigestYahoo! group](#).

## TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel



### This Month: Alex Mladineo, 1975 Modeler of the Year

In 1974, the club was pleased to have new member Alex Mladineo take the reigns as newsletter editor. Larry Fogel and Ken Banks supplied material, while Alex went through the monthly trouble of diligently typing it all up, making copies by hand, and distributing through the US Mail. Under Alex's stewardship, the newsletter became re-titled as the more formal "Journal of the Torrey Pines Gulls RC Soaring Society."

Alex found the TPG through a circuitous route. Working as a process engineer for a company in Rancho Bernardo, he was first introduced to RC sailplanes when his boss began building a Windward as a diversion. Many in the company became interested with the plans and progress, and soon Alex visited a local hobby shop to purchase a kit.

Once the gliders were built, they would fly from a hill near Rancho Bernardo, before Alex finally had the idea of going to the Gliderport to hook up with other RCers. He started flying regularly at Torrey, and also at Hourglass Field, the Gulls thermal location near Mira Mesa.

Alex rapidly took to thermal duration contest formats. For instance, at the 1975 North-South Meet in Bakersfield, Alex placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall in standard class precision duration. He also became a contest director and helped organize meets – for instance one of the first club "build-and-fly" contests was CD'd by Alex on July 12, 1975 at Torrey. At these events, a load of balsa (typically donated by Mark Smith of Mark's Models) would arrive at Torrey by pickup truck early in the morning.



## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Alex Mladineo mentoring a TPG student pilot at Hourglass Field after his LSF Championship.

This was dumped in the pit area and builders would gather to check out the wood and select their grain. At 9:30 the contest would begin and, as was so eloquently reported by Alex in the newsletter "by 11:30, 5 tons of wood were reduced to 50 lbs. of planes and 9950 lbs. of scrap wood and shavings." The first glider to launch, fly successfully and land back on top of the cliff was declared the winner. On that day in 1975, the winner was Ken Banks with his plane called "Haven't the Slightest Idea". Other creative aircraft names that day included "Don't Tell Me to Name It," "The Mess," "Kiss of Fire," and "Oh God."

Alex's tenure as newsletter editor ended in 1976 and he began to focus more on contest soaring but was awarded the Modeler of the Year trophy at the club banquet on January 31, 1976 for his efforts to run the newsletter and bring new modelers into the club. He took first place at the club thermal contest in February 1976 and, along with Al Doig, Ed Hoppe, and Randy Warner began training other new pilots to fly in contest formats. They established a "pro-am" format where thermal contests were scored using different constraints based on the pilot classification. For instance a pro would have to land in a small circle while an amateur would have to land in a larger area. Pros were assigned to amateurs at the start of the contest and helped with suggestions throughout the morning.

Most pilots, like Alex, were flying Windfree sailplanes. In about 1976/1977, Alex switched to a Windrifter. The 1977 NATS were held in Riverside at March AFB.

The RC soaring component was held to the SE of that location, closer to Gilman Hot Springs. Someone should have just named it "Gilman Hot" because it was hot enough without the springs – the daily temps during the contest were 110F. Alex came in 8<sup>th</sup> in the Modified Standard Class. At the 1977 LSF Tournament, held at Dominguez College near Los Angeles, Alex flew superbly, earning him first place in Standard out of 47 contestants! This put him on the national scene. After watching Skip Miller fly at the NATS with an Aquila, Alex knew he had to have one and enjoyed that for the rest of his time in RC soaring. He began on the LSF achievement program, and got stuck at Level IV and the difficulty of XC soaring. Unfortunately, in the early 1980s, he had to focus on his business and family obligations. He drifted away from RC soaring in pursuit of other life goals and hobbies. He would, on occasion, pop back in at Torrey to see the latest happenings.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Alex Mladineo at Hourglass Field in 1977 successfully completing his 2-hour LSF Level V thermal duration flight.

I had the pleasure of chatting with Alex on August 13, 2017. He is now in his mid-80s and he and his wife have enjoyed 60 years of marriage. He still lives in San Diego and was pleased to hear that the club is researching this early history. He wished to be remembered to TPGers.

I also wish to thank Alex as he (along with many others at the time) helped teach me to fly. My brother David Fogel was a weekly student of Alex's in 1976 and at the 1977 NATS, David took first place in the junior category with Alex right along his side as his spotter. His patience and ability to take time with others who were learning was very inspirational.

# 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

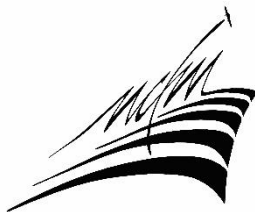


Product ID: A334-42-8226  
Gildan Ultra Cotton Classic Fit Ladies Tee

## 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.



**January Winner** – Torrey rainbow (Ray Pili)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



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



**March-April Winner** – Spencer Lisenby DS'ing his Kinetic Transonic DP 130 (Phil Davy photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



**May Co-Winner** – from Steve Condon: F3J in the Desert that is now in a new location in Sandy Valley, CA/NV. Beautiful sod farm site. Here is a shot of the mass launch from our end of the flight line. Awesome! Mike Smith launching Tom Watson's Maxa. Mario Scolari running the winch. Scott and I timing. (Steve Condon photo)

*Editor's note: Steve informs me that there are 12 planes in this mass launch!*

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)

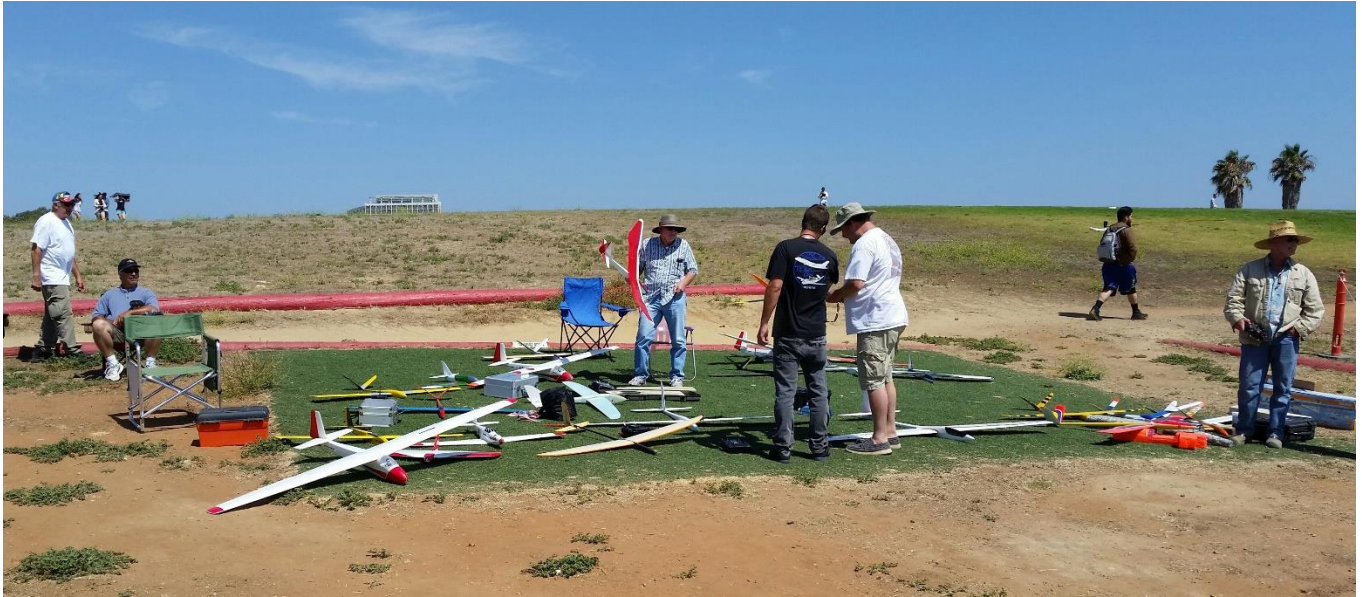


**May Co-Winner** – Ray Pili launching during the F3F Torrey Classic (Steve Allen photo)



**Summer Winner** – Nyx over Torrey (Greg Bolton photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



July PNF TWF Fun-Fly at Torrey (Dan Cummins photo)



Shelby the Slope Dog keeping Justin Tolman company at the end of the day. Justin accomplished his LSF 15 minute slope flight earlier in the day. (Justin Tolman photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



**September** Winner – Glider meets jelly during the PNF TWF in July (Dan Cummins photo)

## 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:

*“Waking your kids up for school the first day after a break is almost as much fun as birthing them was.”*

*~ Jenny McCarthy*



Torrev Sunset – Photo by Martv Dine