



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2018

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

Own Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 3 Club Meetings, Contests and Activities
Newsletter This Month
- 4 Club Membership Update
- 6 What do **YOU** think?
TPG Facebook page
Yahoo Forum
- 7 Club Flying Site Panoramas
- 8 News from the Slope
- 10 Club Competition Activity
- 11 LSF (League of Silent Flight) Report
- 12 AMA Expo West 2018 – Ray Pili
- 16 TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel
- 20 Photo of the Month Contest
- 29 Club Officers and Contact Information
- 30 Quote of the Month



Craig Hanson

Hello Gulls!

Its time again to pay our club dues. In supporting our club we maintain and insure our own flying sites in our community.

Also, don't forget our Annual Holiday Party on Dec. 12 at 6:00 pm at AleSmith Brewing Co. We have our own room (inside and outside) called the Dugout.

We'll have pulled pork, dinner rolls and maybe pork ribs with sides including coleslaw, beans, shrimp cocktail and lumpia. Ice tea and coffee will be included. No-host bar. Address is 9990 AleSmith Court, San Diego, CA 92126

Please bring 12 Christmas Cookies (your favorite homemade if possible).

Please rsvp by December 5 to TPGulls@gmail.com or text me at 858-212-4208, so we can give our host a head count.

Keep an eye on the upcoming events in this newsletter and on the website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Till next time,

Craig Hanson
2018 TPG President
858-212-4208



Howdy there Gulls!

We are happy to announce that this year's *TPG Holiday Party* will be held on *Wednesday December 12th* at the *AleSmith Brewing Company, 9990 AleSmith Court, San Diego, CA 92126 (off Miramar Road)*

Cost will be *\$10* per person for members and guests, payable at the door. Come hungry! There will be plenty of food!

Doors open at *6:00 pm*, and we will kick off the 2016 awards sometime after *7 pm*.

Please *rsvp* by *December 5* to TPGulls@gmail.com or text me at 858-212-4208, so we can give our host a head count.

Hope to see you there!

*Craig Hanson
Torrey Pines Gulls
2018 President*



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'll be continuing our series by Gary Fogel on the club's history, with 1984 Modeler of the Year, John Menard. Also, we have Ray Pili's AMA Expo story of his niece's first RC and full-scale flights.

Please send in your articles or photos (dgottdank@gmail.com) by the **25th** 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

Hi Gulls!

We're nearing that time again to renew our memberships in our club. I expect to get renewal forms to all our members during the month of December and respond to your applications with a new membership card and a new key to the thermal fields we use.

For you slopers who spend time at the Gliderport bluffs, it is also time for Robin and the gang to be renewing memberships for 2019. While you're at it, be sure to check your AMA membership in order to keep it current and active.

While we only kept our membership level from 2018 this last year, we've maintained plenty of guys to keep the quality of our club as high and as active as it has ever been.

Thanks for all your support and let's get ready for a super fun year to come. Let's make 2019 another gang-buster time and even better than last. Isn't it great that we get to fly all year long? The guys back east and north have already packed it in for the winter.

Happy flying,

Bill Eckles
Membership Chairman



August 25th Fun Fly (Ray Pili photo)

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
- ✓ 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 students \$30 per year
- ✓ Juniors under 15 years \$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.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?

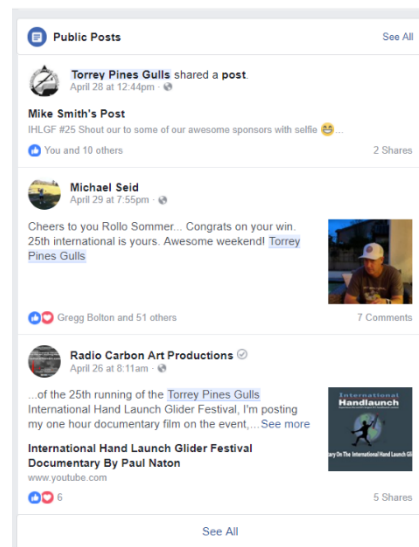
You can express your opinion at: www.torreypinesgulls.org.

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

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

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



Join the Yahoo Forum!

The Yahoo forum was formed Oct. 18th, 1999 by club member Lenny Brzezinski. 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, 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 Ian Cummings' immersive panoramas of our world class flying sites; the world famous Torrey Pines Gliderport, Poway Flight Center, where each year the club sponsors the IHLGF (International Hand Launch Glider Festival) and the Encinitas Flight Center. Clicking on the pictures takes you to our sites:

Click on this photo to visit the Torrey Pines Gliderport.



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



Click on this photo to visit the TPG Encinitas Flight Center.



News from the Slope – Ray Pili, Slope Coordinator



Ray Pili

Hi Gulls!

Our last Fun fly of the year was on November 24, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The forecast was for 3-4 mph from the south, looking like a bust.

But wouldn't you know it; the weather forecast guy was totally out to lunch and we were greeted with west winds over 10 mph starting from around noon on.

A Past Gull's Member Mike Slean came back to visit after moving out of state, the Infamous Oranator rumbled in on his suicide shifting Indian and Newsletter Editor Dale stopped by for a visit and some stick time (thanks to Jim Birkett).

See you guys next year.



News from the Slope (continued)



Thomas and Randy... Their planes look the same...see below.

SAFETY



TIP

We all know what planes we fly don't we? Some of us can tell who is flying just by observing what planes are in the sky, "Mark must be here. I see his Bird of Time up there". But sometimes we end up flying some else's plane for a split second before realizing its not responding to our control input, then frantically searching the skies for our airplane, and seeing it just as it impacts terra firma.

Keep your eyes on your plane, especially when the skies are full.

Blue Skies,

Ray

tpgslope@gmail.com

Club Competition Activity

Thermal Duration

TD Coordinator – Cliff Hunter



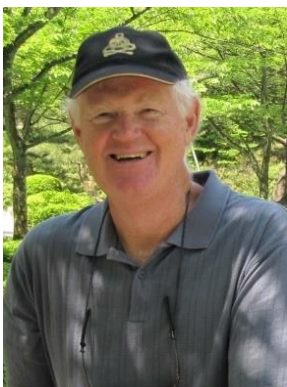
Cliff Hunter

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-december/>, or contact Cliff Hunter at 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 / DLG



Don Lochhead

DLG Coordinator – Don Lochhead

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 Don Lochhead at donlochr@sbcglobal.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. and in this RCGroups thread: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2820127-2017->

LSF Report – Ray Pili



Happy Holidays!!!!

We did not have a scheduled LSF day in November, but a group of TPG members met up at Poway the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Don, John, Gary, Ken, Justin and another John (a student of Gary's) resisted the urge to spend money and work on our DLG skills.

The morning started out cold and drizzly, but by 9-9:30 am the overcast was breaking up and the sun was peeking through, mixing up the chilly air.

Longer flights were being achieved but peaking at launch height. Next thing you know my Flitz has been floating around at tree top height for over 4 min, so I flip on the count up timer. Soon I've hooked up with a nice thermal and get a couple of hundred feet in over the park. Near the 20 minute time and I'm getting low over the tree line along the north side of the field. Luckily, I spot a snipe towards the east side of the field and snag that thermal and end up way over the school; lift everywhere. Next thing, I see 27 minutes on the timer, so I start spiraling down to get over the field around 30 minutes. So I finally get my 30 min TD tasks with adequate witnesses!!!! What a great feeling. Now my last task to complete for LSF III is the 1K Goal and Return.

Dec 8th is the last LSF day of the year. Justin will be CD and we'll also be holding an introduction to DLG clinic for anyone interested in DLG.



Blue Skies,

Ray

tpgslope@gmail.com

AMA Expo West 2018 – Ray Pili

For 2018, AMA created an AMA Expo West at the Pomona Fair Grounds November 2-3-4. For the past years I've brought my niece and nephew to the January AMA Expo at Ontario. They enjoyed the rocket building classes, driving the RC Cars, building rubber powered propeller planes and seeing the flying demos.

When I mentioned that the show was moved to November, they wanted to go. My nephew could not go so my niece Chelsy tagged along. We van pooled up with Ian, Mike, and Mark, leaving Oceanside Saturday 8 am; arriving Pomona around 9:10 am. We parked, bought tickets and strolled to the fairground buildings which had not opened yet. So, we strolled



out to the outdoor flying area where we met TPG Ex-President Dan and RCGroups PGR Pete, How's the Wind Greg, Mark Wood and another San Diego RC celebrity Frank G., who were in charge of the flying field schedule of Vendor sponsored demos and open fly.

The RC flying field is over a grass field, 200 by 800 feet bordered by large 100 foot football light towers to the north and a flight line to the south. Flying within the boundaries and below a 400 foot ceiling was strictly enforced by the team mentioned above. To the West there was a drone field, adjacent to a control line field. About 2 miles further west is Brackett

Field. There was a NOTAM over the AMA field, but occasionally a full scale would fly over, which was reported to the tower.



AMA Expo West 2018 (continued)

Frank and Dan had a number of Horizon Hobbies Mini Apprentice stabilized planes for guests to try RC flying. Chelsy was invited, and though she did not show it, she was excited to try flying RC planes. Dan got the plane flying and handed the transmitter to Chelsy who seemed to get the hang of it quickly. She flew laps around the field with Dan and Frank's coaching until it was time to land. Chelsy was already talking about flying again next year.



Ian Cummings photo

Dan and Frank were busy with the other kids waiting in line to try flying, so we headed to the fairground building, where I heard there was an EAA Booth with information on the EAA Young Eagles Program at Brackett Field.

AMA Expo West 2018 (continued)

The EAA Young Eagles program introduces kids 8-18 to aviation by members volunteering their time and money to give the kids 20 minute airplane rides around the area. They will not take money for their effort; if the law. After the flight the kids get a logbook, a nice certificate and links to EAA sites to learn about aviation careers. Chelsy and I took a 5 min drive to Brackett and found the EAA registration booth.



After signing the liability forms we were introduced to Gus G. who would let Chelsy fly in his homebuilt GlasStar, think of a composite C150. It took Gus 12 years to build, due to family and work, but he finished and was enjoying his toy.

Gus explained to Chelsy the aircraft exterior components and the interior instruments. Then they climbed in, yelled "Clear Prop"

and off they taxied to the runway to take off. Off they flew. While they were out enjoying the flight, more Young Eagles were climbing in other planes. I saw 6 kids take off for rides. There was very little wait time.

AMA Expo West 2018 (continued)

When Gus landed, and parked, Chelsy was happy as can be. At the registration area, Gus signed her logbook and her Young Eagles Certificate and explained that if she logged 5 or more Young Eagle flights she could enter a drawing for a week long summer camp at Oshkosh.



We headed back to the convention and visited the Flying field, got some stick time and bade farewell to the flight field crew.

The new Pomona location is a great move by the AMA, and providing the outdoor flying field was a hit. Next year Chelsy wants to bring her BFF so they can both fly RC and full scale planes.

Ray

PS. I'll try to organize a DLG demo for the 2019 Expo. The ringers out there can easily stay within the boundaries and show the masses that there is more to RC than giant scale DA powered 3D planes.

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: John Menard, 1984 Modeler of the Year

John Menard came to the Torrey Pines Gulls in the late 1970s. He served for many years as a Judge in National City / Chula Vista in the 1970s-1980s and lived in Bonita. On the weekends, however, he enjoyed flying first at Torrey, and then over time more and more into thermal soaring. Thermal soaring became his passion.

John was also an exceptional builder. However, I cannot recall him ever building a kit. All of his planes were self-designed and then scratch built in his garage. I do not know if he had an aerospace engineering background or where he obtained his building skills but each model was a work of art, meant to serve a purpose. He'd build a model, fly it in contests, then think of ways to improve it with modification, redesign, build another, fly and repeat this process over and over. Literally many tens or even over a hundred different models came from his mind and garage, and of course as he went through these they were either sold to other modelers, or suffered some terrible other fate.

In 1979 the TPG hosted a contest that was one part thermal (in the morning), one part slope (that same afternoon). For this particular contest, the same aircraft had to be flown in both parts by the same pilot! Quite a challenge. Menard set off to design a model specific to meet the challenge. The resulting plane had ailerons like most slopers but was built incredibly light. And the design also included the opportunity for plenty of ballast for the slope if the wind allowed.



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

The 74" span, 10" chord provided lots of lift, and (as was the case with John) he used his own special Menard 202 airfoil (a modified Eppler 202) for the aircraft



The combination thermal/sloper designed by Menard in 1979. *From Model Builder magazine,*

In the early 1980s, the burgeoning 2-meter wingspan class (Class B) grew in popularity and John latched on to this as a way of rapidly prototyping new models and then testing them in competition. He flew in many contests in 1982 for instance, placing 4th overall for the year in 2-meter behind Ken Raymond, Bob Anderson, and Al Doig. In March of 1983 a new field was identified by the TPG, a grass field off the South Bay Freeway (Hwy 54) at Bay Terraces Community Park east of Paradise Hills. This field was also near John's house in Bonita, so even more interest in flying there for thermal soaring. The first contest was held there in May 1983, and John flew in both the open and 2-meter classes. Club contests were held primarily at Hourglass Field in Mira Mesa but on occasion at this new Bay Terraces site.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

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John became very interested in helping out with the TPG, so in 1984 he volunteered and was elected as club President. At the South Bay field he CD'd the first thermal contest of that year, what was termed the "1st Gotcha Contest" (apparently, it was going to be a series – I'm still not sure what the name actually meant). But in the end John took first place in 2-meter. John, Rick Schrameck, and Dave Hice attended the Two Meter World Cup in Modesto in 1984 and returned to San Diego convinced that zoom launches were key and then the wing spars had to be made much stronger. More design, build, and testing ensued.

In roughly 1983/1984 a separate sister RC soaring club formed in North San Diego County – the North County Clouds. They flew at a field in San Marcos. The TPG and NCC held joint contests at various locations at times during 1984.

By late 1984 John Menard had figured out that flaps were a good idea for landing tasks. He wrote in the November, 1984 TPG newsletter "recently the last six gliders I have tried using flaps...some pilots love them and would not fly without flaps, others feel they are more trouble than they are worth...From my experience I fell they are another function that when used properly can be an advantage; however they do require practice." John ended up finishing the year first in 2-meter and placed second to Bob Anderson in open class by a mere 78 points out of 5000.

For all of his efforts to help keep the club on an even keel and get people interested in the hobby, the club honored John with the Modeler of the Year trophy at its annual banquet in February 1985. John also received a then "traditional" additional plaque for his service as a President. Somewhat ironically, that plaque was a gavel, something not unfamiliar to a Judge.

John continued on as club winchmaster in 1985. Later he helped form the Thermal Pilots Association, an offshoot AMA club from the TPG that focused on competitive thermal soaring in the south bay. John helped work with the City of San Diego to secure use of the grass field at Montgomery-Waller Park for TPA's use on the weekends. It was nice to have RC gliders represented at a facility honoring John Montgomery's pioneering efforts in gliding. The TPA continued for many years, finally disbanding sometime in the 2000s. I was unable to find John Menard in the preparation of this story – I do wish he could help fill in the gaps.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



This is an example of one of John Menard's many 2 meter designs. This particular design must be from the early 1980s as it does not have a production number. The one-piece wing is foam core with balsa sheeting but the outer panels have carefully positioned lightening holes in them so as to minimize adverse yaw. Most (all?) of Menard's designs have an access hatch on the bottom side of the plane rather than the top. It's a very sleek plane for being nearly 40 years old.

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 with location of photo and photo description.



January Winner – Thomas Moller launching his 4M ASH-26 at Torrey (Ian Cummings photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



February Co-Winner – 4m ASH-26 at the end of the Fun Fly day (Justin Tolman photo)



February Co-Winner – Thomas Moller launching Mike Lance's Salto at the Fun Fly (Ray Pili photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Winner – Steve Condon re-maidening his Southern Sailplanes Ricochet (Mike Smith photo)



April Winner – The Joy of Flight! Jim Birkett on Espada maiden flight. Looking on: Mark Anderson, Ray Pili, Marty Dine (TPG Past President) and Matin Taraz (Ian Cummings photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co Winner – Jon Garber launch windup at this year's IHLGF (Gary Fogel photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co Winner – Steffen Peters' 6m LET DG-1000 taking advantage of great Torrey lift with an unusual saw tooth-shaped cloud formation setting the stage (Greg Houck photo).



May Co Winner – John McNeil launching with Gary Fogel timing...and ducking at the IHLGF (Ian Cummings photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Summer Winner – Brian Laird and Matin Taraz enjoying a Saturday at Cajon. Brian's Airacobra in the middle (Greg Houck photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



October Winner – The end of a great day of flying at Manilla (Shane Spoor photo)



Scalie headed out over Torrey (Greg Houck photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Scalie at Torrey (Greg Houck photo)



November Winner – Greg Houck launching his Raven at Torrey (Ward Hagaman photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)

PHOTO OF THE YEAR WINNER – IAN CUMMINGS



2018 Winner – Thomas Moller launching his 4M ASH-26 at Torrey (Ian Cummings photo)

Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Craig Hanson	TPGulls@gmail.com
Vice-President	To be filled	
Past President	Dan Cummins	dan.cummins@cox.net
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	donloch@sbcglobal.net
Thermal Coordinator	Cliff Hunter	cfhunter@att.net
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Slope Coordinator	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com
Membership	Bill Eckles	tunabiker1@hotmail.com
Winchmaster	Mark Canfield	mcanfield5@roadrunner.com
F3K Coordinator	Don Lochhead	donloch@sbcglobal.net
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
Safety Officer	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	steve@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	garyfogel@gmail.com
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com
SC2 Representative	To be filled	
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com

Executive Officers



Craig Hanson



Dale Gottdank



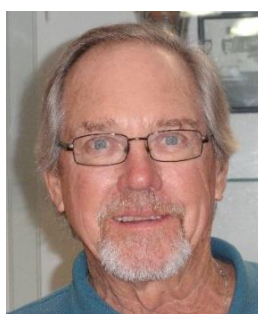
Don Lochhead



Cliff Hunter



Ray Pili



Bill Eckles



Mark Canfield



Quote of the Month:

“Life is simple. Eat, sleep, fly.”

~ Anonymous



Torrey Sunset – Photo by Marty Dine