

GullWings April Showers? Flowers!

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society April 2010

Letter from the Acting Pres.

Mark Canfield, VP

There have been some issues arise at the Encinitas field that need to be addressed. Complaints / concerns have been filed with the county from the homeowners adjacent to the field. Their issues are mostly centered around their personal safety as well as the safety of their homes due to the proximity of where we fly (and unfortunately sometimes crash / land).

The board is working with the county and homeowners to address their concerns and to give them some peace of mind that our hobby is a safe one and one we take seriously. We will impress upon them that our intentions are honorable and we, as a club, will stand by any and all damage incurred from an accident involving one of our planes, etc.

We, as pilots, must in turn take full responsibility when we are involved in such an incident and be open with the homeowners that we will cover any damage that occurs, express our apologies for the inconvenience and leave names and numbers with the homeowners. It is then imperative to contact the club with full details of the accident so we can follow up with our insurance.

For the time being, continue to fly safely and well within your ability to get your plane back.

(See additional letter from Cliff Hunter on page 3)



A Western Diamond Back Rattle Snake greeted me at the inside entry gate in Encinitas. No problem, but he certainly startled me!

March TPG/TD Contest

David Klein, CD.

It was an awesome contest. A picture perfect day, with a huge green freshly mowed field. The lift cycles were brutal. Only 2 pilots made all their times...Mike Smith and Tom Kiesling. The cream always rises.

It really made for an awesome day. There was something new to learn from nearly every flight. I had to use 3 thermals to amke one of my 10 minute flights. These are the days that make flying what it is.

I would also like to note that Tuan Lee finished first in Expert, and third overall since he only dropped like 30 seconds. Mark Kargul was right on his heels placing fourth overall and second in Expert. I would also like to thank all of those pilots that drove down from all over Southern California.

Thanks Guys!

Careful!

Bill Eckels, Ed.

The sun was shining. The birds were singing. A breeze was coming almost straight out of the west, so my high start parachute would drop near where it landed previously. All was well as I used my new key to open the new lock at the Encinitas TPG flying site on Friday (did I say the work week was over, too).

I clicked the lock behind me and drpve up the hill to the inside gate where I went through the same routine. On the way I had noticed more than one lizard and thought it would be good fodder for the road runner I had seen across my street back home.

As i got into my car for the last run up to the parking area, I noticed a large, mottled orange pile

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of curviness where the gate had been, about a foot and a half from where I had stood to unlock the inside gate. HOLY SMOKES! It was a rattler and as large as any I have seen so far. I had thrown my camera into the car just in case I caught a thermal that would allow a dramatic photo against the fluffy clouds and the azure sky, so I got it out and took this picture. As I walked around to get a nice shot, my new friend slowly uncoiled and slithered off the side of the road, apparently bored by my attention.

My flying session was filled with visions of this guy's brother or sister, forbid that I discover his father, so my attention to the sticks was less than subtle. Still, it was a good afternoon and included an audience.

This is just a reminder that the old land fill is home to quite a bit of Nature, so be aware of where you step and where you reach. These guys love to hide in the shade and if disturbed and frightened are prone to bite. There seem to be an unusual number of snakes out this spring because of the wet winter and abundance of small animals (rattle snake lunch), so be especially careful this year.

Happy flying, regardless!

IHLGF

Bill Eckles, Ed.

The International Hand Launch Glider Festival will be held on May 1 and 2 at teh Poway facility as it has over the past several years. It's a big deal with entrants from far and wide already signed up and eager to compete. As usual, there will be plenty of social activity in addition to the cutting edge competition among pilots. Do come out to compete or, at least, visit old friends and make new ones among the crowd that will be present.

In addition to the festivities, the IHLGF provides an opportunity to earn some valuable "club hours" helping out to reduce your bill for club dues in 2011. Just show up early and there will be some way to make a contribution, for sure. It will likely be hot, so dress accordingly.

But, come...help out...enjoy! This is the big dady of hand launch competitions and it's right in your back yard. It is the TPG May Madness!

Month	HLG	RES/TD	RES/TD Contest Director	(SC)2 TD	Other	Meeting Board/General
April	10	11	Parviz Kamiab	18 VVRCF	3/4 Fresno	6/13
May	2	16	Cliff Hunter	16 Soarheads		4/11
June	5	13	Tom Watson	20 ISS		1/8
July	11	11	Terry Throop	17 ISS (MOM)		6/na
August	7	8	TBD	29 TOSS		3/na
September	5	12	TBD	19 HSS		7/14
October	9	24	Keith Finkenbiner	24 TPG	2/3 Visalia	5/12
November	7	14	David Klein	21 Rain Date		2/9
December	4	12	Mike Smith			7/14

Next General Meeting...

April 13 at 7:00 PM Swap Meet
San Diego Aerospace Museum
Balboa Park

The Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society

A non-profit society whose primary purpose is to support and encourage the activities of its members engaged in radio controlled sailplane flying

Calendar dates subject to change. Please review the calendar each month and watch the TPGulls@yahoogroups.com list for updates.

Swapmeet in April

John Bruner, Raffle Chairman

We will have our annual Swapmeet at the April meeting coming up on the 13th. Instead of our raffle, the evening will be filled with hustle and bustle as models and supplies that have been "stored" in garages and workshops get traded or sold and become relics of new owners. Join the fun and excitement and bring in your treasured articles that just might bring joy to the heart of another club member. It is a chance to thin out the "stuff" that you have with the only downside that you might find enough of someone else's to fill the void you create. Beware bringing your own things back home!

We will also explore the possibility of having a "mini-swapmeet" in the parking lot before upcoming club meetings. The idea here is to simply provide a location to display your wares and allow you to see wares of others before the meeting starts. So, come one, come all...starting in April, share your knowledge and interests with other club members and let the "buyer beware!"

Information from Encinitas

Cliff Hunter, TD Coordinator

Today [early March], I received a call from Greg Lock, County of San Diego, doing a fact finding mission regarding offsite landings of sailplanes.

Greg indicated that a home owner was concerned about airplanes landing (or crashing) in the neighborhood. The home owner cited 3 occasions one 6 months ago, another 3 months ago and one on March 14, 2010. The County is considering amending our Contract to track all off site landings (or crashes). If you have landed off site, meaning off the landfill area, in the adjoining sub-division to the landfill. Please try and recall when you landed offsite, if you did, and if you had any contacts with property owners. Further information was someone landed on the roof and hit the garage door, another was in a back yard.

It is important to remember when retrieving a downed airplane and we make contact with a homeowner that we are polite and courteous and offer up an explanation why we landed where we did. Also, a friendly conversation that you have an investment in your plane and if we had a choice we would rather land at the field would be appropriate.

Remember this is a fact finding mission to verify the information by a home owner, please email me directly at cfhunter@hughes.net so I can respond to the county's concerns, Either "Yes", we did or "no" we didn't will work.

Torrey Pines Gulls Board of Directors -- 2010

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Club Mentors

Don't Forget Memberships
Your Membership Counts!

Three active club sites and more coming
do your part...pay your dues

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