

Delayed Summer Feels Funny

Bill Eckles, Ed.

Summer is closing and it seems we have missed something, right? What ever happened to the blustery Spring winds? Where were those balmy afternoons, lazing at the bluffs? Where is Moose with his grille and hot dogs? The Torrey Classic? May Gray and June Gloom I understand, but July and August chills? What happened?

Certainly the summer has been unusual, but now it is time to get the the show back on the road. It certainly feels like summer finally surfaced and a couple trips to Encinitas Flight Center shows thermals are plentiful and strong. The breezes are light at the bluff, but they are there and the flying has been good. Let's close the year with some real club activity.

Meetings will resume this moonth, so please try to attend. It's the second Tuesday of the month, remember, and the board meeting will be on the first Tuesday if you care to attend. It might be a good idea to help catch up on the happenings of the past season.

August TPG/TD Contest

Keith Finkenbiner, CD.

TPG hosted the August club contest at our Encinitas Flight Center on Sunday August 8. 15 pilots registered to fly the event, 8 in Master and 7 in Expert. There were no novice pilots. Early fog was forecasted to hamper the start of 9am but the start was not delayed. Flying conditions were excellent with four rounds of 6 min, 8 min and 10 minute thermal duration performed. The landing was on a 25' tape worth 50 points. The duration part was worth 950 points with a perfect score of 1000 per round.

Complete scores are published on the web site. Mike Smith took first place in Master class with a score of 3972. Larry Jolly took second with 3967 and Tom Kiesling took third with 3901. Dan Fitzgerald took first in Expert with 3948, Peter Leduc was second with 3170 and Mark Kargul was third with 3025.

Our winches and retriever systems work well with little attention required. Scoring was performed by Cliff Hunter and club members handled winch and retriever duties.

Thank you to all TPG members who assisted with the success of this contest.

Soar in La Jolla Day

Bill Eckels, Ed.

On July 27, 2010 the Torrey Pines Glider Port, our home for sport slope flying and the Torrey Pines Classic slope race held "most" springs, received commendation from Sherry Lightner before the San diego City Council. In a presentation to the council noting the 100th anniversary of motorless flight there, notable flights made by notable people and its status as a city historical site she designated July 28, 2010 as "Soar in La Jolly Day" with all due pomp and ciicumstance. She referred gratefully to being hosted to an R/C soaring demonstration by Gary



Sherry Lightner, Gary Fogel and crew
commemorate the Torrey Glider Port.

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fogel, who was present to add some historical perspective to the designation.

Brief additional commentaries were made by John Bellkamp of the La Jolla Historical Society, Doug Pearl of the Associated Gliding Council of Southern California and Robin Marian, Flight Director and owner of the concession at the Glider Port. CDs of a soaring film produced by the La Jolla Historical society were distributed to members of the city council and were welcomed by all.

It is great to see our flying home and the iconic roots of the Torrey Pines Gills receive such recognition. We should all feel privileged to have this spectacular area to fly in and be a part of. Thanks Ms. Lightener!

Crash!

Bill Eckles, Ed.

It was late July and I had just returned from my annual "big" trip overseas. The sun shone. Puffy white clouds danced across the azure sky. My Oly II called to me for a journey through these beautiful, natural phenomena, so I packed my palne, transmitter and hi-start into my little red car and headed to Encinitas. I had charged and checked the batteries before I left and made certain that all the pieces to Oly were in their proper places. I even put a drop more nose weight in to make certain she was manageable.

Up, down, right, left, spoilers...all seemed in order.

The launch was high and I headed toward some

vague, gray sky that appeared to be thermal lift and currents heading upward. I was right! I spiraled upward and downwind as Oly became smaller and smaller. After about ten minutes and what seemed like a lot of altitude, I headed back over the flying area and away from the houses (north perimeter of the field) and began a rapid decent from my altitude.

Man, it felt good to have been so successful so soon after being away from flying for so long!

I dove and made a couple loops to lose altitude and sensed that something was wrong.

Oly seemed to have a mind of her own. I was turning left and she was going right. This is not good. I mamaged to get her heading my way again, but she turned again and began to dive. Up! Right! Pull up! Turn left! Wait, I'm not controlling her, she's on her own! OMG!

And she had drifted over the homes, too. I tried my best to get her coming my way, but she picked up speed (downward) and dove past the power lines and crashed with a resounding WHACK on the approach to the 8th hole of the golf course next door!

All the dialogs that we'd had with Cliff and Keith and Mark flashed through my mind and I knew I had better do something fast, so I went to the fence, marked the carnage in my mind and went to collect my equipment.

After packing my "stuff" into the car, I began my journey into the maze of streets making up the community and its golf course. I needed

Month	HLG	RES/TD	RES/TD Contest Director	(SC)2 TD	Other	Meeting Board/General
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@yahoo.com list for updates.

to find the person in charge of the facilities. Instead, I found four ladies playing Mah Jong at a table in the clubhouse, one of whom heard my plight and called Jerry, the course groundskeeper. I had brought a report sheet from the club container, but it didn't tell me what to do. So, I spoke to Jerry and left a copy for him in his mailbox.

Out to the 8th green where I saw nothing to indicate Oly had been there! It seems the man on the lawnmower had seen the remnants and picked her up to dispose of her, unceremoniously, into a trash can! After I dug out the pieces, I tucked my tail between my legs and headed home.

I reported the incident to Cliff and called the county, speaking to Greg Locke. After working our way through the fact it was a *model aircraft* and there was no one aboard, I learned I should fax the accident report to him.

Also, that I should be very detailed about the description of the incident...time, place, cause for flying outside the landfill boundaries and such.

I have suffered no repercussions. Thanks to Cliff for running interference with the county. Thanks to the kind Mah Jong players (who told how they loved to see the planes fly on Sunday). Thanks to Jerry for understanding my concerns and apprehensions. Thanks to Greg Locke for handling the incident with his superiors. In spite of all the ill will we've suffered from a few unanticipated off-site landings, I found the people and the process to be quite reasonable. Now, I need to finish my replacement for Oly II!

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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