

President's Letter

Mark Canfield, President

As the year draws to an end we can look back at what has been a tremendous year for the Torrey Pines Gulls. There were many memorable events throughout the year. We started the season with favorable wind conditions which proved to be the catalyst to another fiercely contested slope race at the Bluff. The 6th annual "Torrey Pines Classic" was held in March and proved to be a "test of the best". This is the premier F3F slope race in country and will continue to be a club classic. With the popularity of the "Classic" we added a second 1 day event in May which drew a great local turnout!

Not to sit back on our laurels, the ever popular "International Hand Launch Glider Festival" was held in April. The draw for this event is far and wide and attracts the best pilots in the country to compete head to head for 2 days of nonstop action! As is customary, it was held at our Poway field which was in the best condition I've ever seen it in. While a standalone event unto itself, this contest also served as a "team select" event for the upcoming World Championships. TPG was proud to be a sponsor, donating a percentage of the proceeds to the Team. With over 60 pilots in attendance, it remains one of the most popular events around.

The monthly TD contest continues to be a big draw. It regularly brings out of town pilots to compete with our own top pilots.

Alternating between Encinitas and Poway gives members the advantage of flying 2 uniquely different venues.

Our Poway field is fast becoming a hot training site for the US F3B team. TPG members Dave Klein and Tom Keisling just returned from representing the USA at the World Championships held in China. Finishing 6th and 8th respectively in the individuals and 2nd

overall in the team event, team USA is a force to be reckon with.

TPG offers its members unparalleled opportunities to expand their flying skills and enjoyment by offering 3 uniquely different flying arenas. Whether you enjoy Slope Soaring, Thermal Duration, DLG, or any other soaring practices, you're sure to find it right here with the Torrey Pines Gulls.

I'm proud to be a part of this unique club and look forward to what's ahead in 2012.

2011 TD Awards

Bill Eckles, Ed.

The holiday party held at the Automotive Museum was the platform from which the winners of 2011 Thermal Duration Contests for the Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Society. Members and guests meet each month to compete using new and often exciting rules to show their skills at thermal duration soaring at either of the club's TD fields, Encinitas or Poway. Some attended each contest while others showed up only occasionally. The scoring system allowed both consistency and outstanding performance to be recognized. Competing in three categories, winners were recognized for their overall performance taking into consideration both experience and previous accomplishments.

The following were awarded plaques recognising their performance.:

- Masters

1. Tom Watson
2. David Klein
3. Mike Smith

- Expert

1. Dan Fitzgerald
2. Eric Larson
3. Ckuff Hunter

- Sportsman

1. Steve Hurd
2. John Vance
3. Mark Canfield

"Mr. Consistent"

- Terry Throop
"Bullseye" Champ
- Scott Condon

Congratulations to all these fliers for braving the elements and risking embarrassment in front of their friends and peers to attain outstanding performance in the area of thermal duration soaring!

Holiday Dinner

Bill Eckles, Ed.

Tuesday December 13, 2011 marked the formal close of the year for the Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Club. A group of about forty five members, spouses, friends and families gathered at the Balboa Park Automotive Museum, the site of the club's monthly



Two of three Modelers of the Year accept the traveling trophy. Mark Canfield and Don Lochhead (Mark Wood, absent)

meetings, for a festive dinner and meeting. A cordial group of friends fended off the evening showers and chill for a warm and friendly get together. Food consisted of delicious barbecue provided by a good, old cohort of our president, Mark Canfield, and it was universally considered to be "super" and "the bomb."

Ribs, brisket, beans, cole slaw, potato salad and brownies to die for combined to fill us all to overflowing.

After a plentiful feast, Mark opened a brief business

Month	HLG	RES/TD	RES/TD Contest Director	(SC)2 TD	Other	Meeting Board/General
December		11	Mike Smith	4 Toys for Tots SULA/DSH		6/13

Next General Meeting...

January 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM
San Diego Automotive 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

Torrey Pines Gulls Board of Directors -- 2012

President	Mark Canfield	(619) 247-4697	mcanfield5@roadrunner.com
Vice President	Marty Dine		mdine@quattrogt.com
Secretary	Dan Cummins	619-743-0602	dc812@cox.net
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	(858) 451-1455	donloch@sbcglobal.com
Membership	Bill Eckles	858-703-4521	tunabiker1@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Bill Eckles	858-703-4521	tunabiker1@hotmail.com
Winchmaster	Keith Finkenbiner	(706) 216-6349	keithone@cox.net
HLG Coordinator	Brad Willoughby	619-987-7508	bradwill@uclalumni.net
Thermal Coordinator	Parviz Kamiab	760-729-2145	pkamiab@nuera.com
Slope Coordinator	Alvaro Corzo	619-895-5420	a_corzo@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	760-943-8304	steve@torreypinesgulls.org
Raffle Chairmen	John Bruner	858-278-3378	jjbruner@san.rr.com
IHLGF Registrar			
TP Soaring Council Rep (TPG)	Mark C., Alvaro, Marty		
Safety Officer, Slope	Alvaro Corzo	619-895-5420	a_corzo@sbcglobal.net
Safety Officer, T/D fields	Parviz Kamiab	760-729-2145	pkamiab@nuera.com
Historian	Gary Fogel	858-455-6449	gfogel@natural-selection.com

meeting to dole out awards for the year. Of note was the Modeler of the Year, awarded to the member or members considered to have done the most to improve the club during the year. This year the travelling trophy was awarded to a trio of members, all of whom helped the club to recover its footing after becoming a bit disorganized over the past year or two. The award is being shared by President Mark Canfield, Treasurer Don Lochhead and Slope Coordinator Mark Wood.

These three guys deservedly are being recognized for service well above and beyond the normal expectations of club membership. Mark Canfield has provided strong leadership through his careful decision making and firm guidance along the path we all signed up for; a club we can be proud of doing things that benefit both the membership, the sport and the community. Don has gone to great lengths to untangle a confused financial situation and bring order and reason to our fiscal future. Mark Wood has spent much time, energy and, yes, ego, building a good relationship with the city, the gliderport management and the visiting public by enforcing the rules and regulations at the "bluff" by both our membership and the paragliding/hang gliding fliers.

Congratulations to all three for exceptional performance making 2011 a very good year for the Torrey Pines Gulls. We look forward to a great 2012 as well! Memberships are already into the twenties and look promising for the new year.

December Contest

Mike Smith, CD

We had 20 eager, paid entries at the last TPG TD contest of the year Sunday.

The weather forecasts were calling for dense fog in front of an oncoming storm set to hit us on Monday, so I was pleased to see that the "fog" was really only haze with some low clouds. The day was flyable from the start.

We had a few guys drive south from far away places like Orange County to join us.

Notable regular Tom Watson was there, along with another increasingly familiar participant Robert Covazos. Tuan Le was there too, and along with the regular regulars like Keith, Cliff, Peter, John, Dave, Tom, Dan, Erik, Terry, Steve, Garth, Scott, Mario, Mark, Patrick (yep, Patrick Dionisio) fun was had by most everyone as far as I could tell ;-)

I called the task times based on what I thought would be most challenging to everyone. The one catch was that the Masters had to fly that task time as announced, but the Experts would fly one minute less. The tasks I ended up calling were 6, 8, 8, and a 10. Conditions were really interesting for the early 6 minute flight.

Launches and landings were downwind (or at least they were for everyone who paid attention during the pilots meeting) and the lift was really only discernable in the form of "well, it looks like I am coming down really really slowly". A couple of the first pilots to fly, expertly used the easterly facing slope to sustain their flight to the target time.

The day opened up lift wise after that, and the longer, 8 minute task times seemed easy for most. The last few flyers shooting for their 10 minute flight found that the holes (areas of sink) had grown quite a bit, and our front runner for the day found only 2:50 worth of flight time for his last flight. Eye opening for sure.

As suspected, a fun time was had by all, and I am really looking forward to 2012. Thanks all for a wonderful TPG contest season. We have some of the nations (I'll say it..."worlds") best pilots amongst us here, and coming out to rub shoulders with these guys, and test you skills against them is some of the best fun that can be had.

DECEMBER CONTEST WINNERS

Masters

1 David Klein

2 Mike Smith

3 Tom Watsson

Expert

1 Robert Cavazos

2 Steve Hurd

3 Don Scegiel

As the Year Closes

Bill Eckles, Ed,

We're closing fast on Christmas and the start of the new year. It has been a good one, that 2011 and a strong group of "doers" including our vert busy president, a vice president full of ideas, a creative and constructive treasurer and a young and ambitious secretar are committed to making 2012 even better. We have a full slate of leaders who are eager to add to the club.

Memberships are off to a good start and our three flying sites are using the recent rains to green up and show off. Even with winter's onset, it is clear that club members have their winter projects adding to the arsenal of great flying machines piloted by eager pilots to heighten competition levels next year.

Get out. Enjoy the sunshine and breezes that Southern California WInters provide. Take advantage of the spectacular geography made so useable to us by a strong club membership and let's ALL of us count our blessings. We really have it good out here. Thanks, to a special membership!