



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

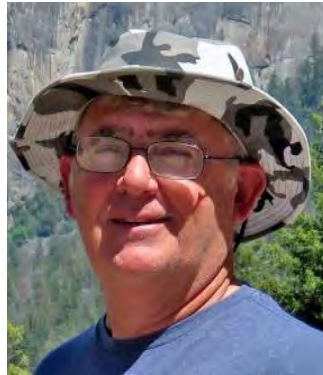
Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Club Meetings, Contests and Activities
Newsletter This Month
- 3 Club Membership Update
- 5 What do YOU think?
TPG Facebook page
Yahoo Forum
- 6 Club Flying Site Panoramas
- 7 News from the Slope
- 12 Club Competition Activity
- 13 DLG Contest Report – David Rawley
- 14 LSF (League of Silent Flight) Report
- 15 TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel
- 19 Blaster 3 Restoration – Mark
Baldacchino
24 Mark Baldacchino - Update
- 25 Club Sponsors – Thank You!
- 26 Photo of the Month Contest
- 32 Club Officers and Contact Information
- 33 Quote of the Month



Craig Hanson

I encourage everyone to come out to all three of our flying sites: Torrey Pines Gliderport, Poway and Encinitas.

Also note: please make sure dues are in: key changes took effect on March 1.

Keep an eye on the upcoming events in this newsletter and on the website:

www.torreypinesgulls.org

Cheers,

Craig Hanson
2018 TPG President
858-212-4208

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/>



Please contribute to our **GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER**



Dale Gottdank

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 1979 Modeler of the Year, Walt Pfeiffer. Also, we have a great Blaster 3 DLG Restoration article from Mark Baldacchino and some great photos from the recent Happy Hour Fun Fly at Torrey.

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

While we made a really great start to the new year, we're now running below a trickle. Don't forget to renew your memberships for 2018 and to do it soon. The new locks for the new keys will have been replaced by the time you receive this and the old locks will have been removed. We all make up an honorable bunch, and I hope my faith will be rewarded.

I'm looking forward to a great spring and summer and we will hopefully have full scale aircraft flying this year. Fun Flies will be plentiful, so join the crowd.

Good flying,

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
- ✓ 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 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

From John Blaske:

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

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



RECENTLY POSTED:

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for The 25th Anniversary of this hallmark DLG Competition!

Dates: April 27, 28 & 29, 2018

Registration: www.ihlgf.com

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

Two for Two! The March 23rd Fun Fly was another great day on the Slope. Started out a little south but the lift was strong with winds in the low teens. As the day progressed the wind shifted a bit west with even better lift. February was lacking wind, but March made up for it!



One of the highlights was watching TPG Ex-President Marty Dine ripping it up with his Espada RL. Marty is keeping busy working at a Wind Tunnel.

Another highlight was the maiden flight of Jim Birkett's Espada RL. One beautiful plane.

Last highlight was a visit from Gary, our New York Club Representative. I didn't get a photo of Gary but he sure loves to Slope. Hope he get a chance to fly Encinitas before he heads home.



RC Mound – Mark Foster in the chair (Ray Pili photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Jim flying his Espada RL (Ray Pili photo)



Marty, Jim, Dan, Bailey (The Wonder Dog) and Bill (Ray Pili photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Jim's Espada RL post-landing; Bailey, Dan, Mary & Jim (Ray Pili photo)



Eric and Steve getting some Vitamin D (Ray Pili photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Ian and Jim's pet snake

Thanks all for attending the fun fly. We need to make sure there is an RC presence at the Gliderport to remind the PG's and HG's they need to share and play nice.

Which reminds me, it IS OK to yell at the PG's and HG's who are not following the window rules. If they ignore you and continue to break the Window Rules, bring it up to the flight director – Robin. Many times Gabe functions as the flight director if Robin is not available.

Video from the fun fly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czVV3ff-HOI&feature=youtube>

RCGroups fun fly thread: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3007231-2018-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-Fun-Fly-Series>



Hanging out at the RC Mound (Ian Cummings photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

On March 29th, Oscar Weingart and his grandson Jason went to Torrey so Jason could get checked out. The plane they brought is an unknown, built 40 years ago and bought from a long closed Riverside hobby shop. Does anyone in the club recognize it? It's a real floater, out-climbing the PG's.



Jason and Oscar Weingart with their unknown plane.



Jason, soaring high above the PG.

Blue Skies,

Ray

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-April/>, 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->

DLG Contest Report – David Rawley, CD

Despite having a rain delay, the March TPG DLG clinic/contest was a well-attended and fun event. Luck was not with us on Saturday, as the forecast rain indeed showered the field in Poway, so the contest was rescheduled for Sunday. We were greeted by a beautiful flying day, and 6 rounds of DLG fun were had by all.

This month's task list focused on turnarounds, with over half of the tasks well suited for the technique. During the clinic portion, participants were encouraged to partner with another pilot to focus on their turnaround technique. With the upcoming International, several within the group discussed a desire to fly some afternoon sessions to emulate the more blustery conditions encountered there, so stay tuned to the forums for more info on fun flies with a mid to late morning start time.

The field was in great condition with the recent rains, and it was nice to see so much green covering our area. Our first snake sighting was during the contest in the parking area, so please remain aware of your surroundings. Thanks to all that assisted with the contest, and also for getting me in the air with my mosquito class reserve plane.

Congrats to Gary Fogel on placing first in open class and Justin Tolman for placing first in sportsman this contest.

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events and contests.

David Rawley

Rankings

Class Rankings Round Wins

Sportsman Rankings	
Pilot	Total
1 Justin Tolman	4087
2 Dave Rawley	3301
3 Dan Gebhardt	1589
Open Rankings	
Pilot	Total
1 Gary Fogel	5976
2 Ray Pili	5801
3 Sean Porter	5576
4 Chuck Norris	5384
5 Don Lochhead	5324

Pilot	Wins	Perc
1 Gary Fogel	5	83 %
2 Sean Porter	4	67 %
3 Ray Pili	3	50 %
4 Don Lochhead	1	17 %
Chuck Norris	1	17 %
Justin Tolman	1	17 %
7 Dave Rawley	0	0 %
Dan Gebhardt	0	0 %



Contest pilots and a VERY green Poway Field (Justin Tolman photo)

LSF Report – Ray Pili



Happy Daylights Savings Time – I love this time of year!

There were no LSF Events in March.

April 14th is our next scheduled event.

The year's schedule:

April 14th

June 9th

Aug 11th

Oct 13th

Dec 8th

All Saturday and All at Poway.

Justin Tolman scouted out Half Hill Dry Lake bed in March and found fantastic lift. I was out north of Ocotillo last weekend and found the same.

Stay tuned we're going to plan a desert trip to get Goal and Return and 30+ min Thermal flights.

Blue Skies,

Ray

tpgslope@gmail.com

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Walt Pfeiffer, 1979 Modeler of the Year

I remember Walter “Walt” Pfeiffer from when I was a youngster. As I mentioned in the biography for Kelly Pike, there were generally two age groups of members in the club in the 1970s. Seasoned veterans of technology willing to help newcomers, and many young newcomers eager to get into RC but with no idea how to actually do it. Walt was one of the veterans who selflessly provided his time to help newbies enter the hobby and become active in the Gulls. Unfortunately, I don’t have a lot of information on his life, or what became of him. All I was able to cobble together was the following short description, which hardly seems fair for a guy who gave a tremendous amount of his time to help others.

Walt started flying rubber-band and gas-powered free-flight model airplanes as a youngster in 1935. He kept flying models until the late 1940s. In the late 1940s Walt attended the California Institute of Technology (CalTech) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics. From there he enlisted in the US Air Force and received a Master’s degree in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio in 1951.

It’s unclear precisely what Walt was up to in the 1950s but in 1959 he completed an additional 2 years of schooling in nuclear engineering at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Shortly after the conclusion of WWII, the US Army Air Forces had initiated the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft (NEPA) project, which was replaced by the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion (ANP) program in 1951. These projects were to modify existing aircraft, mainly B-36 Peacemakers, with airborne nuclear power plants. One B-36 was produced with sufficient shielding to protect the pilots from the nuclear reactor in the bomb bay. The shielding behind the cockpit was a 12-ton combination of lead and rubber. (As Al Doig would say “Howsat for nose weight?”) 47 test flights were made, with 89 hours of flight time with the reactor on, but just testing the feasibility of the system as the reactor actually never did power the aircraft. Why is all of this relevant to Walt Pfeiffer? I know that one TPG newsletter noted that **Walt held an “Air Force Nuclear Reactor license,”** and this was the only program at the time that I am aware of that would have required such a license. It is likely he was involved, but I cannot say for sure. The ANP program was terminated in 1961 by President Kennedy. And during Walt's 21 years of service with the US Air Force, he was a navigator, and radar bombardier mainly on B-29 and B-47 aircraft. He retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

I believe after his retirement he moved to San Diego, in what would have been about 1969/1970. Walt rather quickly became captivated again by model airplanes and began flying slope RC with the Gulls at Torrey Pines. In that first formal year of the club's existence, he served as the inaugural club Treasurer.

By the mid-1970s Walt was flying both slope and thermal with the club. He really took well to thermal duration and at one SC² (Southern California Soaring Clubs; <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?p?3012166-SC2-2018-Southern-California-Soaring-Clubs-Official-Thread>) contest in September, 1977 he placed second out of 60 pilots.



The NB-36H was a modified Convair B-36 Peacemaker that was used as a testbed for an American nuclear powered bomber.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Walt Pfeiffer after placing second at the TPG SC² meet in 1977 at Hourglass Field.



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Like most everyone else at that time, he was flying an Airtronics Aquila, but sometimes in club TD events he relied on a tried and true Super Questor. LSF Number 112, he made it to Level IV in 1977 but never completed Level V. Because of all of his assistance to other Gulls members and to the club as a whole throughout the 1970s, Walt was awarded with the Modeler of the Year Trophy in 1979.

Unfortunately I'm not sure what became of Walt after that. If anyone has additional information please let me know. I would have never known about his time in the USAF during the brief time we shared thermals together.



Airtronics Aquila



Walt and his wife, Irene Pfeiffer with yet another trophy



Airtronics Super Questor

Blaster 3 Restoration – Mark Baldacchino

Some time ago, I was speaking to Ray Pili on the phone, who works at General Atomics like me, about flying DLG's. A gentleman named Ken Wolfe, you may know, (also works near me), and who was a TPG member until this year, overheard me talking to Ray. Ken came over and told me he's into DLG's and said that he's thinning out his flock as he has too many birds. He also told me that he has a Blaster 2, that's "ugly & heavy" and wonder if I knew someone that he could give this to. I didn't hesitate, and jumped on the opportunity to get a practice plane. The next day, Ken brought in a Blaster 3!



Bottom: Pre-restoration

He was right about it being ugly, but still felt light to me. The guy he got it from went nuts by adding more color to it by painting the wing tips red, white, and blue, and added Monokote® trim sheet, white and fluorescent orange to the bottom of the wing. This plane is pretty easy to take apart, so working on it and avoiding hangar rash was easier. The first to go was the Monokote® on the bottom. This stuff sticks really well and pulling "slowly" was key to avoid denting/ damaging the thin carbon skin. The result was a nice, clean carbon finish



Bottom: Post-restoration. The masking tape near the wing roots will come off, as they just have the CG location.

Blaster 3 Restoration – Mark Baldacchino (continued)

The top was a different story. The paint on the wing tips, probably Krylon®, was applied very thick, and kept me up at night trying to think of how I'm going to do this without damaging the carbon finish underneath. Sanding was out of the question.



Top: Pre-restoration

I decided to try some acetone. The green paint on the wing is factory, and coated with epoxy, so I didn't have to worry too much about unnecessary paint removal there. I started testing by dipping the very tip of the wing into an old aluminum pie pan with acetone, and after a couple of minutes there was no paint and the carbon finish was perfect. Whew!

I didn't have a large enough container, or enough acetone, to continue with this process, so I cheated. I took an old cotton T-shirt and cut out a pattern that would just cover the paint that I wanted to remove. I slowly poured-out some acetone onto the cotton to "soak." This didn't work as well as dipping straight into the pan, but what it did do was soften the paint.

Blaster 3 Restoration – Mark Baldacchino (continued)



Top: Post-restoration

The paint was on there REALLY thick, so using a fingernail, I was able to slowly scrape the paint off. Using surgical gloves, a mask, doing this outside, and three hours later, the results came out very nice. Acetone evaporates really fast, so repeating the soaking part on small areas of the paint helped me stretch-out my limited acetone supply.

Blaster 3 Restoration – Mark Baldacchino (continued)

Here's the Monokote® trim covered, "ugly/ heavy", fin/ rudder. Because this was done a while ago, and has been out in the sun many times, the trim didn't come off like the bottom of the wing. What came off was the plastic film that covers the orange color. The tail is foam cored, so being careful here was key, but the acetone worked it magic on this part as well. I finished it off with a thin stripe of Monokote® for visibility.



Tail fin & rudder: Pre-restoration



Tail fin and rudder: Post-restoration

The flying stabilator is factory color green and is light as feather.

I would estimate that the plane will be at least an ounce lighter when I'm done, and I hope that when Ken sees it completed, he'll have some new adjectives other than "ugly & heavy."

The most recent photos are on the next page.

Blaster 3 Restoration – Mark Baldacchino (continued)



Top: Post-restoration



Bottom: Post-restoration

Mark Baldacchino – Update

If you remember, last month we published Mark's article about his Bird of Time build. Well, here he is (last month) at the maiden of his Bird of Time. Great job Mark!



Mark Baldacchino with his impeccable Bird of Time at Torrey (Ian Cummings photo)

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.

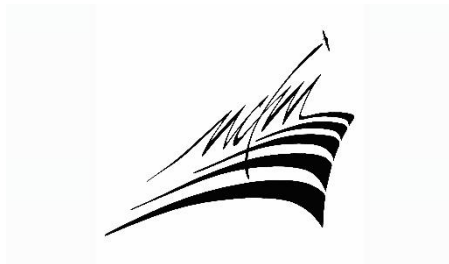
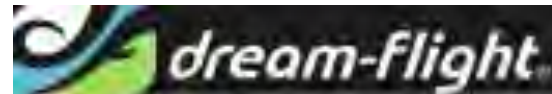


Photo of the Month Contest

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. Please provide your name, 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 – 3m 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)



Formation flying at Torrey (Dale Osborn photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Steve Condon 1/3 scale JS1 sailplane before the maiden at Horno Field on Camp Pendleton. Brand new from LET Model. This is the second one out of the molds. Purpose built for GPS Triangle racing - it has a very thin airfoil. Flies fantastic!



Beautiful day for the March DLG Contest at the Poway Field (Justin Tolman photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Torrey aerobatics (Dale Osborn photo)



Ray Pili tossing out at the fun fly. (Ian Cummings photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



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

Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Craig Hanson	craighanson1256@gmail.com 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
Membership	Bill Eckles	tunabiker1@hotmail.com
Communication Officer	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Winchmaster	Mark Canfield	mcanfield5@roadrunner.com
F3K Coordinator	Don Lochhead	donloch@sbcglobal.net
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
Thermal Coordinator	Cliff Hunter	cfhunter@att.net
Slope Coordinator	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com
SC2 Representative	To be filled	
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	steve@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	garyfogel@gmail.com
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com

Craig Hanson
President



TBD
Vice- President



Dale Gottdank
Secretary



Don Lochhead
Treasurer



Bill Eckles
Membership





Quote of the Month:

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!’”

~ Robin Williams



Torrey Sunset – Photo by Marty Dine