

# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2018

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

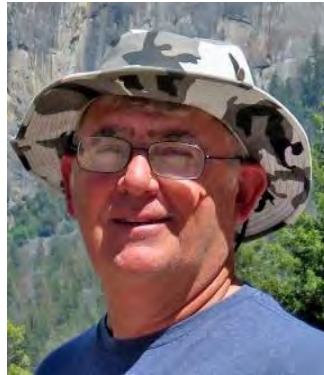
Website: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)

Editor – Dale Gottdank

## Message from the President

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Craig Hanson

Hello Gulls!

Fall is here, although the weather may not feel like it.

We're having TPG Board meeting this month. We'll be discussing things like new members and scheduling next year's contests and fun flies...And of course, we cannot forget about the Christmas party. If you have any new and/or better ideas for this year's Christmas party please contact me.

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

[www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)

Till next time,

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/>



## 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 have Chuck Norris' write-up of his and John McNeil's LSF Level III two-hour slope flight. Check back in November for continuation of our series by Gary Fogel on the club's history, with 1983 Modeler of the Year, Angelo Orona.**

Please send in your articles or photos ([dgottdank@gmail.com](mailto:dgottdank@gmail.com)) by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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

No new news since the September issue. We do plan to modify the dues for kids and students at the next board meeting.

Bill Eckles  
Membership Chairman



August 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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?

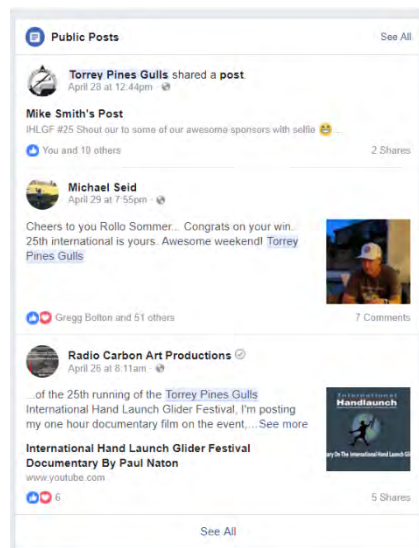
You can express your opinion at: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

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. 18<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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!

We had a couple of fun flies at the Gliderport; July 28<sup>th</sup> was the Twisty Wing/Pointy Nose Fetish Fun Fly. I could not attend but club member Mark A. officiated. See Sept 2018 News from the Slope.

Best wishes to the US F3F Team, and Gull's member Tim Traver, competing in Oct. 7th - 13th in Rügen, Germany.

We had the club's last Fun Fly of the summer on Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. We had typical summer Torrey conditions, beautiful blue skies, gentle breezes and great company.

Daniel, a recent UCSD grad, introduced his coworker Eugene to RC gliders using a buddy box. Eugene is a natural and flew for 20 minutes.



## News from the Slope (continued)



The last Fun Fly for 2018 will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 30.



At the recent Miramar Air Show, this vintage glider caught my eye.



...and inside the cockpit, I saw.....



## News from the Slope (continued)



Check out the mementos from the 1974, '75 and '76 Midwinter Soaring Meets!

## SAFETY



## TIP

Summer can get crowded at Torrey, with tourists on the RC mound, tourists trespassing on the bluff edge and on the landing zone, and PG coaches and PG photographers on the apron. If you see tourists on the bluff edge, politely ask them to move. You can explain to them that PGs may land on the bluff edges. Ditto for the LZ. Make sure the bluff edge is clear of people before “ripping the bring.” Ditto for the LZ.

*Blue Skies,*

*Ray*

[tpgslope@gmail.com](mailto:tpgslope@gmail.com)

## Club Competition Activity

### Thermal Duration

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#### 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-october/>, or contact Cliff Hunter at [cfhunter@att.net](mailto: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

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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](mailto: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



We have two LSF dates left for the year at Poway (Saturdays):  
Oct 13<sup>th</sup> and Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.

If anyone is interested in making a day run out to Perris, Jon Swain from the Riverside area offered to show us around the location he completed his LSF 1 Km Goal and Return.

Email me if interested.

*Blue Skies,*

*Ray*

[tpgslope@gmail.com](mailto:tpgslope@gmail.com)

## LSF Event Report – Chuck Norris



On Thursday, September 13, John McNeil and I attempted a two-hour slope flight for our LSF Level 3 requirements. Ian Cummings and Bill Eckles generously volunteered to come out and act as witnesses for the event.



For anyone not familiar with the League of Silent Flight, it is a Soaring Accomplishment Program with 5 levels of increasing difficulty. At Level 3, which both John and I were working on, you have to complete a 30 minute thermal flight, a 1 kilometer goal-and-return, a 2 hour slope flight, and participate in 6 contests earning enough points to make the limitCheck it out at [www.silentflight.org](http://www.silentflight.org) - I think it's a great program and recommend it heartily.

We both launched at about 3:15 pm into solid lift, with very active paraglider activity. I was flying my trusty Oly IIS (the Skybench version - 2.5 meter), and John was flying a semi-scale 2.5 meter Discus.

With my Oly, I was able to climb up above most of the paraglider traffic and cruise well above and west of the traffic for the entire two hours. But John was cruising right at the paraglider altitude, and there were several times when he was very concerned and maneuvering to avoid the "jellyfish".



## LSF Event Report (continued)

Fortunately, he managed to avoid disaster, and after about an hour into the flight, things cleared out and for the most part we had the sky to ourselves!

The lift was moderate, but solid throughout the 2 hour flight. There were one or two times when the breeze dropped off a bit (perhaps because of thermal activity) but those were short-lived, and we were never really scratching for altitude.



A long-duration flight is mostly about managing battery power, bladders, and the urge to hot-dog to kill the boredom. Fortunately, our club LSF-captain, Gary Fogel, had cautioned us sternly about fooling around and risking shedding a part or otherwise doing anything that might compromise the flight. We managed to contain our urge to do a bit of hot-dogging, but 2 hours is sure a long time for flying "S" patterns at the slope!

As for batteries, I installed a second NiMH battery pack at the CG, plugged into a spare port on my receiver. Judging from the battery voltage when I finished, I think I could do a 4 hour flight on my battery setup. John's plane was set up with extra battery power instead of lead in the nose, so I believe he had juice to spare as well. The main power management strategy for long-duration flights is to minimize control inputs to keep the servos sipping power, but that does make things pretty tame.

## LSF Event Report (continued)



For John, the main excitement came from dodging paragliders, but for me, I had an encounter with an aggressive sea gull that was flying in formation with me for maybe 10 minutes. At first, I thought he was just feeling a bit lonely, and he flew in perfect formation for several minutes - matching my every turn perfectly. It was awesome! But then he started pecking at my left wingtip as we flew! At first, I didn't quite believe what I had seen, but then he repeated the attack several times before he finally gave up. The plane rocked a bit, but was mostly undisturbed by the treachery. Truth be told, it was kinda' fun, and I was never concerned about my plane. But when I landed, I had some peck-marks and scratches in the wingtip as souvenirs!



## LSF Event Report (continued)

The rest of the flight was uneventful, and we both landed past the 2 hour mark for a successful mission. For me, that flight completed my Level 3 requirements, so once I get everything buttoned up and in the mail, I'll be a Level 4 aspirant! The tasks get progressively harder (up to an 8 hour slope flight for level 5!) but I now that I've completed several levels, that doesn't sound quite so daunting.



Many thanks to Bill Eckles and Ian Cummings for timing for us, and Ian Cummings and Dan Cummins for flew with us for a bit. LSF is definitely a team sport, and John and I really appreciate the support.

Chuck Norris

## 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](mailto:dgottdank@gmail.com) with the 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)



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)



Chuck Norris launching his Skybench Oly IIS for his LSF 2-hour slope flight (Ian Cummings photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Ian Cummings victory with his M60 at Bill's Hill (Jim Birkett photo)



Group photo from Manilla Slope Fest in Australia (Matin Taraz photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Flyby at Manilla Slope Fest (Greg Houck photo)



October Winner – The end of a great day of flying at Manilla (Shane Spoor – “Some Aussie Dude” photo)

## Club Officers and Contact Information

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

### Executive Officers



Craig Hanson



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Cliff Hunter



Ray Pili



Bill Eckles



Mark Canfield





**Quote of the Month:**

***“And falling's just another way to fly.”***

***~ Emilie Autumn***



Torrey Sunset – Photo by Marty Dine