



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2019

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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Craig Hanson

Happy New Year, Gulls!

I want to thank everyone for coming to the Christmas party and for all the nice words that were said.

It went really well, with a lot of help from my lovely wife, Roxy.

A big shout out to Ian Cummings for putting together the slideshow. It was the hit of the party!!! And thanks to all who contributed photos for the slideshow.

Congratulations to all the award winners, and especially to Steve Hurd, 2018 Modeler of the Year, for all his expertise and hard work on our Torrey Pines Gulls website.

It's a new year. Let's not forget about our TPG annual fees that are due.

Thanks to everyone and a Happy New Year!

Till next time,

Craig Hanson
2019 TPG President
858-212-4208

Message from the President (continued)



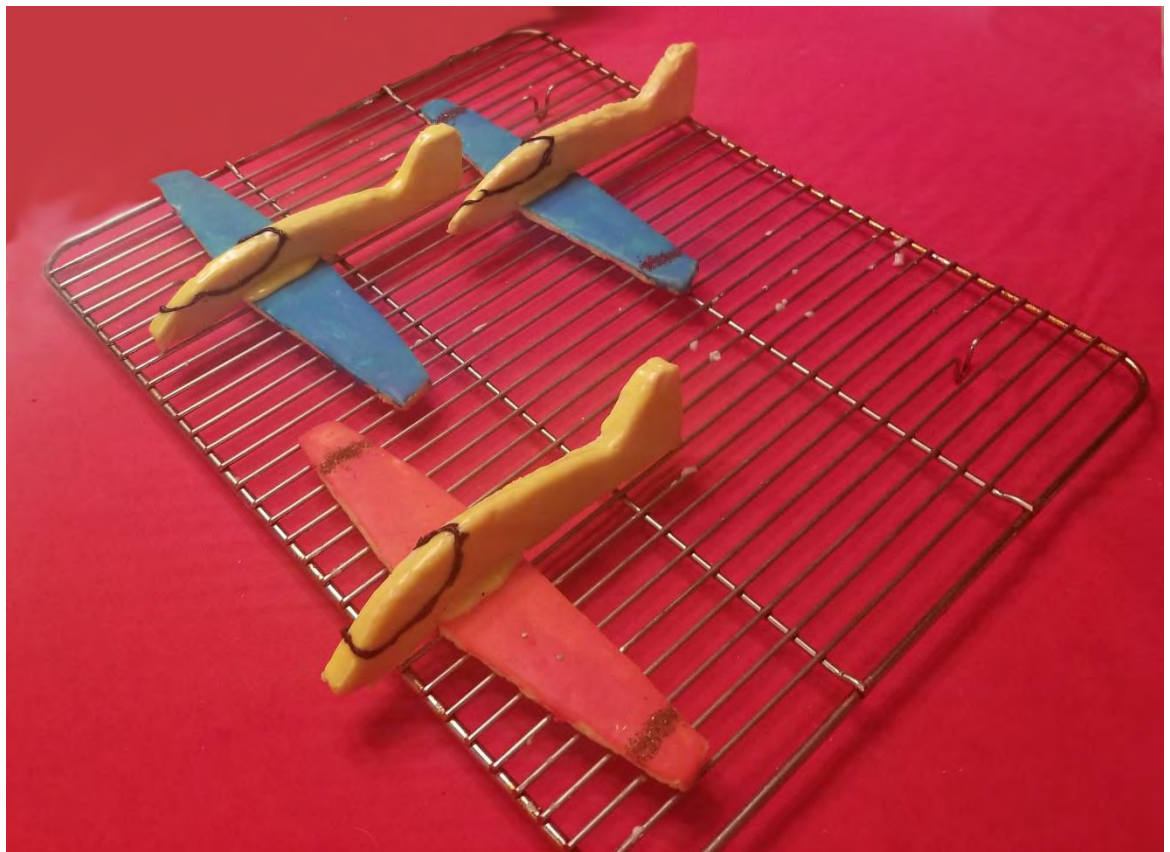
Several partygoers had already left, but Roxy (who created the amazing sailplane cookies) managed to get this group shot.



Message from the President (continued)



Roxy's aircraft assembly line.



Ready for launch...yummmm!

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'll be welcoming our new Slope Coordinator, Mike Baldacchino, taking over from Ray Pili, and Gary Fogel, our new DLG Coordinator, taking the reins from Don Lochhead. Finally, we have some **great photos of Steve Condon's 7-meter scale ship flight** at Torrey as well as our Photo of the Month contest.

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

Hi Gulls!

Last year is almost gone and, believe it or not, I'm making headway on 2019 already, thanks to those who have re-upped through the web site. Also, I am mailing out "invoices" including postage paid envelopes as well as statements. I am separating the membership requests already received from the group of 2018 members from those who have not yet contacted me. So, you should hear from me very shortly after the New Year begins.

I am also comfortable that we will have new keys for this year (2019) by that time.

And so goes life for our Gulls, here at the Gliderport and similarly at our thermal fields. All are in good shape. We're looking forward to another "gang buster's" year as we close this one and hop right onto 2019. We value all of our members and your support and look forward to your help along the way.
Happy flying,

Bill Eckles
Membership Chairman



September 2018 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
- ✓ 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 students \$30 per year
- ✓ Juniors under 15 years \$5 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?

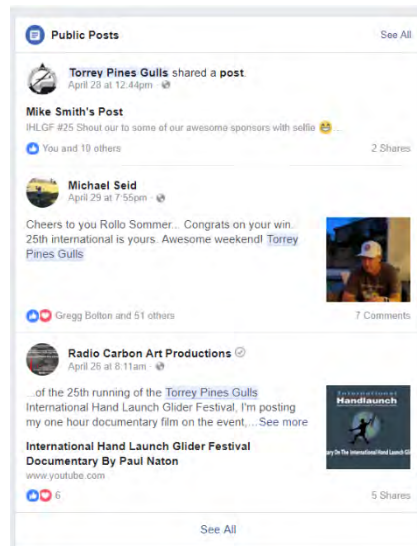
You can express your opinion at: www.torreypinesgulls.org.

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

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. 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](#).

RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

A Torrey Pines Gulls Forum has been set up in the “Clubs” section of RCGroups for a few years now, although it has gotten very little, if any, use.

Click on the link, or picture, below to go to that Forum.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/torrey-pines-gulls-672/>

The screenshot shows the RCGroups website interface. At the top, there are banners for 'HobbyKing.com' with 'NEW STOCK ARRIVING EVERY DAY!' and 'NEW PRODUCTS FLASH SALE'. Below these are logos for 'RCGroups.com' and 'Fairbanks Ranch Country Club'. A navigation menu includes 'My RCGroups', 'Forums', 'Magazine', 'Blogs', 'Classifieds', 'Places', 'More', and 'Search'. A search bar contains 'RC Clubs' and 'Torrey Pines Gulls'. Below the search bar is a promotional banner for 'HKM390 1/8 MOTORBIKE V2 WITH BRUSHLESS MOTOR & ESC' by 'H-KING'. A 'LOGIN' button is visible, along with a 'Login to Your Account' section and a 'Sign In & Check Your Email' link. The main forum content area shows a list of threads:

Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule rockbus - 710 days old		Replies: 1 Views: 547	MATIN Dec 12, 2018 09:09 PM
Cool	GullWings -- TPG Newsletters rockbus - 999 days old		Replies: 1 Views: 549	MATIN Dec 12, 2018 09:09 PM
Discussion	Wayback Machine rockbus - 832 days old		Replies: 1 Views: 446	MATIN Dec 12, 2018 09:08 PM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finkenbin - 513 days old		Replies: 1 Views: 420	MATIN Dec 12, 2018 09:08 PM
Rave	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood - 3221 days old		Replies: 0 Views: 2,339	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 12:18 PM

This forum may be a more effective way for Gulls members to keep abreast of current news, for sale items, fun fly events, messages, etc. than the current Yahoo Groups forum presently in use.

Please let me know what you think about this by emailing me at dgottdank@gmail.com

Thank you all for your input,

Dale Gottdank
Club Secretary/Newsletter Editor

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 – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino

Hi Gulls!

Let me introduce myself to you of those who don't know me as I've volunteered myself in taking the Slope Coordinator function from Ray Pili. Thank you so much, Ray, for the hard work you're provided to our club!

I grew up in Phoenix, and was first introduced to RC in 1976 when I was 11 with a homemade nitro powered boat that my dad and I built. I then got into RC sailboats, and we'd race there, and come over to race with the San Diego Argonauts in Mission Bay about three times a year.

My first real job in 1980 was working in Phoenix's largest hobby shop, where I got introduced to all kinds of new toys! I brought home, one day, a nitro powered outrigger hydroplane kit that my dad and I got to build and race. We ended up with six different boat classes and raced them all in Phoenix, Tucson, and here in San Diego. I also built a Gentle Lady 2M sailplane, flew it on a couple of hand tosses, but there was no club there to get some advice, so I sold it. After four years in the Hobby shop, and not able to get discounted parts and fuel, we went back to sailboats for the next couple of decades. During this time I got involved in racing electric and nitro, on-road and off-road cars. The competition is absolutely fierce with both nitro boats and cars! In 2004, I bought a 2M Spirit kit and a Hi-start. Still no sailplane club in Phoenix, but the web taught me to teach myself on how to catch thermals from a high school football field. I had gotten hooked big time as it was a blast to see something you've built from a box of wood, and get specked in the sky. I built another Spirit from scratch, and



My Bird of Time, finally complete and in the sky over Torrey.

I had worked for Honeywell at their aircraft engine facility and avionics division for 20 years, and my job in customer support was outsourced to India in 2005. That's when I decided that I had enough of the desert, and wanted to be by the ocean. My wife and two kids moved here in '06, and got into the San Diego Argonauts RC boat club.

News from the Slope (continued)

I became the Santa Barbara, (one of 35 different boat classes) class secretary for the American Model Yacht Association (AMYA). I helped grow the class by finding a couple of guys to make boat hulls, one on each coast, as when I took over there was nobody to make them. The class grew from 90 boats, and as of this month, there are 160. I did this function for eight years, and just transferred the responsibilities over to a well capable skipper.



Just over a year ago, I decided to try sailplanes again to get away from the competitive bickering in racing, so I contacted Ray and Ian to get me going at the slope. With their invaluable help on the buddy box on a foamy KA-8, they got me checked-out, and I'm loving this hobby WAY more than any of them put together. I've dabbled in DLG's and need to get out there and learn more, and Tim Traver got me into F3F/ F3B, which is next on my agenda to get involved with as I love speed.

My goal, as slope coordinator, is to help communicate the Fun Fly events, help check-out new members, and visitors at the slope, and work with the Glider Port folks to make our hobby even more enjoyable. As a newbie, I already see the challenge of a new person being intimidated by flying with so many PG's in the window, and I realize this doesn't help grow our presence. I'm all about Safety First, so let me get my feet wet, and get to know who's who in the zoo as there's some fun work ahead.

Below is our Fun Fly schedule for 2019. Put these dates on your calendars, please; come on out, bring a plane or two, and I hope to see you there. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

2019 Fun Fly Events (all Saturdays)

- Jan 19th – Kickoff Event
- Mar 23rd – Followed by Happy Hour @ AleSmith Brewery
- May 25th – Foamies
- July 27th – TWF/ PNF – that's Twisty Wings & Pointy Nosed birds
- Aug 24th – Scaleies
- Sept 21st – Old School Vintage/ Crunchies
- Nov 23rd – No Shopping Saturday

Best Regards,

Mark

tpgslope@gmail.com

Club Competition Activity

Thermal Duration



Cliff Hunter

TD Coordinator – 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/january-thermal-duration-4-4/?instance_id=360, or contact Cliff Hunter at cfhunter@att.net

Hand Launch/DLG



Gary Fogel

DLG Coordinator – Gary Fogel

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 Gary Fogel at gfogel@natural-selection.com

Additional information will be shown in the F3X Vault site (https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=location&function=location_view&location_id=2002) 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?3176895-2019-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series>

LSF Report – Ray Pili



Happy Holidays!!!!

Welcome to the New Year!

Out last LSF event for 2018 was Dec 8th.

Gary Fogel invited a handful of his SDSU students to get an introduction to DLG and to pick up donated RC Gliders and transmitters. A number of TPG Club members donated or provided RC equipment at a much discounted price to help these starving students enter the hobby. One of Gary's students had his own DLG and looks like a ringer.

Part time photographer and full time RC glider guider, Ian Cummings, is planning a Slope Combat session to start these students out right. Later they'll learn DLG is a contact sport.

Congrats to Dale Osborn for completed his LSF I landing tasks: 5 landings within in 3 meters with his DLG. He had completed his 5 minute thermal task earlier this year and he's working on his contest points. Ian completed his LSF II requirements by successfully completing 10 landings within 1.5 meters, also with his DLG (Both guys are repairing the bottom of their vert stabs). On to LSF III!



Dale O (L), Ian C (R) Congrats to both.

2019 LSF Attempt Days

- Feb 9
- Apr 13
- Jun 8
- Aug 12
- Oct 12
- Dec 8
- There will be a Goal and Return Day scheduled, since a few of us are trying for 1 km G&R.

Blue Skies,

Ray

[rpili2001@gmail.](mailto:rpili2001@gmail.com)

Steve Condon's JS1 Visits Torrey

On Friday, November 30th, Steve Condon, accompanied by Mike Smith and Mark Canfield, flew his LET Model JS1 seven meter in some epic Torrey conditions. Here's a link to the Facebook post with some awesome video.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=10215793232815610&id=1588027971

Below are some stills pulled from the video.



Steve Condon's JS1 Visits Torrey (continued)



Steve Condon's JS1 Visits Torrey (continued)



LET Model - JS1 Visits Torrey (continued)



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.



Windy autumn day at Torrey (Ian Cummings photo)



Mark Baldacchino's Bird of Time over Torrey (Mark Baldacchino photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Marty Zimmerman launching into strong Torrey wind (Ian Cummings photo)



Sunset soaring at Torrey (Matin Taraz photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Winner – Steve Condon's LET JS1 at Torrey (Mike Smith photo)

Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Craig Hanson	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
Thermal Coordinator	Cliff Hunter	cfhunter@att.net
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Slope Coordinator	Mark Baldacchino	tpgslope@gmail.com
Membership	Bill Eckles	tunabiker1@hotmail.com
Winchmaster	Mark Canfield	mcanfield5@roadrunner.com
Hand Launch/DLG Coordinator	Gary Fogel	gfogel@natural-selection.com
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
Safety Officer	Mark Baldacchino	tpgslope@gmail.com
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	steve@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	garyfogel@gmail.com
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Ray Pili	tpgslope@gmail.com
SC2 Representative	To be filled	

Executive Officers



Craig Hanson



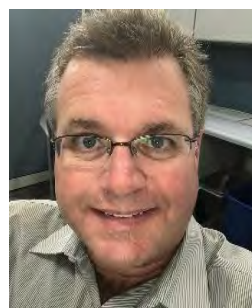
Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Cliff Hunter



Mark Baldacchino



Bill Eckles



Mark Canfield



Quote of the Month:

“The wilder the weather is, the more the Ravens love it. They have the time of their lives in the winter...”

~ Pema Chodron



Torrey Sunset – Photo by Marty Dine