



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

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Ian Cummings

Message from the President

We had a good turnout for the artificial turf installation at the Gliderport on October 10. It was really great to see so many volunteers show up early Saturday morning to improve our flying site, many of whom don't even fly at Torrey on a regular basis. Thank you!!!

We also managed to knock down some of the early growth tumbleweeds and do some general cleanup.

I want to send out a special thanks to Steffen Peters and Ray Pili. Ray has coordinated this effort and made numerous runs to Temecula with his trailer to purchase and pick up the heavy rolls of turf. Steffen donated the services of his commercial tractor and operator Carlos to move the rolls in place. He also made another run to Temecula to purchase additional turf (with his own money) so we can have a wider and longer runway. Also, thanks to Jim Birkett for repairing and repainting the table on the mound.

I hope we can keep the momentum going to maintain this world class flying site of ours. I know we have members doing similar volunteer work at the other sites; Encinitas and Poway. The Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society is 50 years old and going strong thanks to you, the members.

Ian Cummings

2020 TPG Holiday Party Plans

The Torrey Pines Gulls usually has an end-of-year meeting in December to celebrate the holidays and another year of flying together as a club. This is also an important meeting for year-end trophies, including the presentation of the TPG Modeler of the Year award.

In light of the current pandemic and restrictions on indoor gatherings, the TPG Board has agreed to have a **special virtual December membership meeting via Zoom on December 8, 2020 at 6:00pm**. This will be the club's first virtual membership meeting. We'll be providing a zoom link as we get closer to the date.

The Board had planned several events around our 50th anniversary as a club in 2020. Those plans were unfortunately scrubbed. However, our own club Historian Gary Fogel has agreed to provide a special historical perspective on the club including photos and home videos most never seen before outside of the Fogel family collection. Additionally Gary is trying to arrange for some of the early TPGers from the 1970s and 1980s to join us in this special celebration as we re-live the early days of the club. Those who have been with the club for a long time will be invited to reflect on their years with the club and what TPG means to them. We might even have a few other special guests lined up. And if the Zoom meeting thing works, we might consider doing a similar format more regularly in 2021.

At that same meeting members will also vote to confirm the 2021 slate of TPG officers, handle any other club business including reviewing plans for the 2021 calendar, and we'll announce the trophy winners virtually with winners receiving their trophies at the first contest of 2021.

So remember to mark December 8 at 6:00pm on your calendars and look for additional information as we get closer to the event!

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. 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

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. If there's a project you're working on, don't just post it on RCGroups...share it with your club!

November Issue highlights include:

- Profile of 2008 Modeler of the Year Keith Finkenbiner. We would normally be featuring 1995, however Cliff Hunter has put together a great article about Keith's RC modeling career. Keith and his wife Shirley recently donated all the proceeds from the sale of his impressive RC collection to TPG.
- Photo of the Year winner!

Please send in your articles or photos (submit@torreypinesgulls.org) 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 – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

As of October 19, 2020 we have received (3) new members and renewed members, for a total of 128 total club members. The latest members are: John Davis, Thomas Moller, Paul Palmar and Daniel Taughinbaugh we welcome you to Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Society. My goal of membership is to have your membership card and key in the mail within one week of receiving your application and payment.

Now is the time to become a new club member by joining in July through September you pay half the applicable rate instead of \$60.00 you pay \$30.00. See our renewal reminder on page 6.

Please contact me (cfhunter@att.net) if you have not received a 2020 membership card and a key. The key gives you access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites. All flying sites (Torrey Pines, Encinitas and Poway) have recently been mowed and are in great condition.

Important Membership Changes:

Remember; this year you will receive your renewal notice via the new Google Group email process. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an individual email. We hope to start the renewal notification process in November.



James VanWinkle photo

Your yearly membership allows TPG to continue to provide you with:

- Access to three Flying Fields in La Jolla (Torrey Pines Gliderport), Encinitas and Poway.
- Monthly (or thereabouts) fun-fly events held at the world famous Torrey Pines Gliderport, and events at our Poway and Encinitas Flight Centers, 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 RC soaring pilots 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 yearly holiday party to gather with flying buddies, friends and family.
- A website for current and past information www.torreyпинесgulls.org
- A monthly newsletter with updated information, contest reports and interesting articles to help keep members informed.
- We are an AMA Chartered Club, #129, with benefits such as field Insurance, etc.

Club Membership Update (continued)

Our web based process for new and renewal membership is working well. Please use the following link when signing up. <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/membership/>.

We ask both renewing and new members to pay online using PayPal. PayPal allows payment using PayPal, debit or credit card.

However, if you chose to pay by check or cash please email me at: cfhunter@att.net and I will mail you a membership application form. When the form is completed please mail your membership application and payment using the provided preaddressed return envelope to the TPG Treasurer, Don Lochhead.

Annual Membership Dues are as follows:

- Adult \$60 per year
- Full-time Students \$30 per year
- Youth under 19 years old (per AMA) \$5 per year
- Receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues. \$10.00 per each half-day working at any TPG flying field

New members joining in the first six months of the year pay the full rate. Those joining in July through September pay half the applicable rate. If you are a new member joining in October through December you pay the full rate but your membership is considered paid through the end of the following year.

If you haven't renewed yet, or would like to join the club for the first time, go to <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/membership/> and click on the tab "Membership." We'll make it as simple as possible to continue your membership.

We request online payment via PayPal, which allows payment using PayPal, debit or credit card.

However, if you chose to pay by check or cash, please email me at: cfhunter@att.net and I will mail you a membership application form. When the form is completed, please mail your membership application and payment using the provided preaddressed return envelope to the TPG Treasurer, Don Lochhead.

Cliff Hunter
Membership Chairman
cfhunter@att.net

Note: TPG membership information will not be shared or sold and will only be used to contact members for purposes of TPG business.

Torrey Pines Gulls 2021 Membership Renewal



Dear Member,

It is time to renew your TPG membership. We want to start off by thanking you for being a member. As a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls you are part of an organization that constantly strives to make our hobby better. Hopefully you will agree that your TPG membership is a great value.

In order to be a TPG member you must first be member of Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

TPG dues are as follows:

- Full members (Adult) -\$60 Annual
- Full-time students - \$30 Annual
- Youth under 19 years old -\$5 Annual

Note: Receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues. \$10 per each half-day working at any TPG flying field.

Our club is unique in that we have access to three great flying sites. We host monthly DLG, F5J and TD contests plus periodic fun fly events at the slopes and Poway. Torrey Pines Gulls dues have remained the same for over 10 years so we hope you agree this is one of the best values out there.

Please go to the TPG membership web page to renew your membership.

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

Once your renewal is completed you will then be sent your 2021 membership card and a new key for the Encinitas and Poway flying field locks. The 2021 lock will be installed January 1 and the 2020 lock will be removed February 1st 2021.

In an effort to improve our communications we are asking all members to confirm their contact information. In addition, if you have not done so already please provide us with your email address. If you are not already a member of the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an invitation to join. If you join as a member of the private TPG Google group, the club will distribute notifications, newsletters, contest events and holiday party info, etc. This information will keep you informed of all club activities throughout the year. You do not have to have a Gmail address to participate in google groups.

Thank You,

Cliff Hunter, TPG Membership Chairman

Google Groups – Staying Connected

Don't forget to join 

For all current and recently joined TPG members:

In the past year, Yahoo Groups announced that it would no longer be supporting groups. In order to maintain a line of communication among members, during 2020 we have established a TPG Google Group.

Please make sure that our club Membership Chairman has your current email address. You can confirm this by contacting cfhunter@att.net. If you are not already a member of the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an invitation to join.

When you join as a member of the private TPG Google Group, the club will distribute notifications, newsletters, contest events and holiday party info, etc. This information will keep you informed of all club activities throughout the year. You **don't** need a Gmail address to participate in Google Groups, but you do need to be a member of TPG.



Google Groups provides a great way of communicating with one another. If you have any questions or concerns about almost anything having to do with flying, building, finding another club member, etc., you can post them on Google Groups. It also allows you to send links and attachments, just like regular email.

...and, very importantly, since all postings/emails are done through Google Groups, your actual email address is not visible when notifications are sent out to the club members. Also, only members of the group can post to the group, so joining the group does not add to your spam burden.

So, verify that the club has your correct email, make sure you receive an invitation to join Google Groups and sign up!

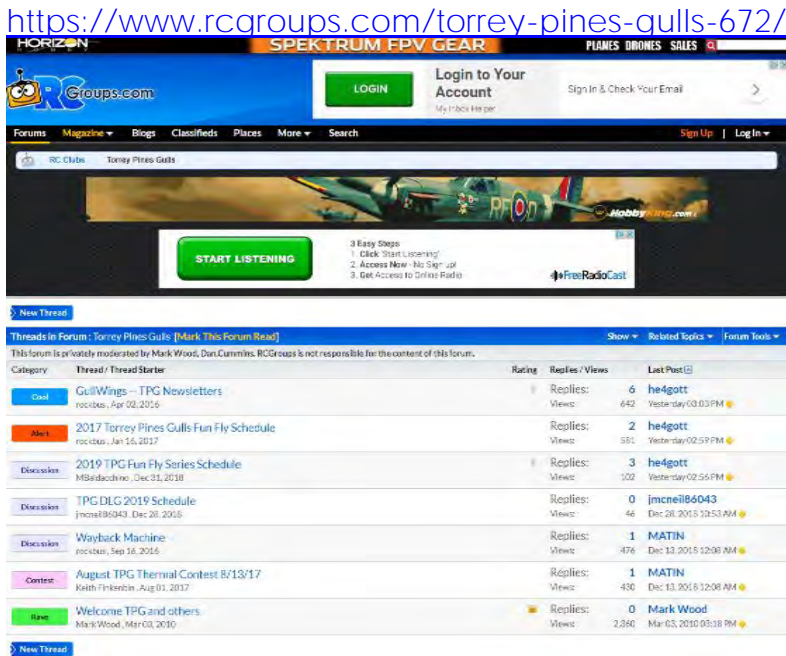
RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

Are you a member of ?

If you're not...you should be! RCGroups is the most widely used and active online Radio Control Community for everything RC, from planes to cars, to boats, drones, radios, power systems...pretty much anything RC! It includes forums, specific interest threads, blogs, discussions, etc....and, more importantly, The Torrey Pines Gulls Forum.

To get started, click on the link or web page below to get to the TPG Club forum. You can also get there from the **Clubs** link at the lower right of the RCGroups home page and scroll down to Torrey Pines Gulls.

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



Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
Cool	GullWings – TPG Newsletters roccdas, Apr 02, 2015		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 00:03PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccdas, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 591	he4gott Yesterday 02:59PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule M8elAcchine, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 202	he4gott Yesterday 02:56PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcnel86043, Dec 28, 2015		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcnel86043 Dec 28, 2015 12:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccdas, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2015 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finbench, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2015 12:08 AM
How	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,240	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 03:18 PM

If you haven't yet joined RCGroups, click on the **Sign Up** link at the upper right and follow the instructions.

Once you've navigated to the Torrey Pines Gulls Forum, you can subscribe to the Forum or to any of the individual threads within the Forum.

To subscribe to the Forum, click the **Forum Tools** link and select "Subscribe to This Forum" from the dropdown menu. Then choose from the notification dropdown menu. If you want to subscribe to a specific thread, click to open the thread, and click the **Thread Tools** link. Select "Subscribe to This Thread" from the dropdown menu. Again, choose from the notification dropdown menu.

Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

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 for new content posted by club members and friends.

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

The screenshot displays the Facebook page for Torrey Pines Gulls. The page header includes the name 'Torrey Pines Gulls' and navigation options like 'Home', 'Create', and 'Settings'. The main content area features a cover photo of two individuals working on a large, white and red model airplane in an open field. Below the cover photo is a post from John Blaske, published on February 2 at 8:46 PM. The post text reads: 'IF YOU FLY RC, READ THIS article by our own Dr. Gary Fogel. You can find the full article on our February newsletter on PAGE 2 at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/.../GullWings2020-02-February...> We cannot stress enough how important is to get involved with this issue NOW. So please read on... --Comments on FAA's Proposed Rule "Remote Identification of Unmanned Aircraft Systems" by Gary Fogel--... See More'. The page also shows visitor posts from Dale Gottdank and Jack Zabawa, with a chat window visible in the bottom right corner.

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

Happy November, TP Gulls!

I hope all is well with you and that your projects are coming along nicely! I've been working on my scratch built Aquila for six months now, and just have a couple of linkages to hookup, and some wing covering to do. I'll have pics soon.



On October 10th, we had round two of AstroTurf Install work day out at the Gliderport. Unlike the first time where we've struggled to move the 2,300 pound behemoths into place by dumping the rubber infill onto tarps, move/ cut the grass into place, we had the invaluable tool of a tractor. Steffen Peters, with the TPSSS was so kind to provide his tractor and the use of his employee, Carlos, to skillfully drag the rolls to the area, and use the front end loader to unroll the AstroTurf into place. He did 90% of the work singlehandedly! We did have to use the dozen or so of us to manually pull and drag the turf into place a few inches here and there, then use turf nails to secure this stuff to the ground. What a difference the tractor made. As of this writing, we have six, (6) rolls that are 35' X 7.5' in place. We've added 3.5 rolls in the pit area, and we've created a nice landing strip with 2.5 rolls. The strip is currently about 90' X 7.5' and is laid down exactly where the old strip was; just east of the hill's crest in the LZ, and goes east 90 feet. It was determined that this strip is not quite wide enough, especially for the larger scale planes. Steffen stepped up AGAIN, and purchase four (4) more rolls to double the width, and possibly lengthen the strip a bit more to the east. We had originally scheduled to install these rolls on October 24th, but Carlos, the tractor driver, contracted COVID-19. As of this writing he has mild symptoms, so we're praying for a speedy recovery. Keep an eye out in RCGroups under "slope/ San Diego Sloping" for a reschedule to install these four rolls, which will be a total of ten, (10) totaling of 2,625 square feet of AstroTurf. We're making Torrey Pines Great Again!

Here are some pics of the last install day, October 10th.



A cool day to work with a view2 – lots of fresh air (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Carlos and Steffen's tractor (Mark Baldacchino photo)



So much easier doing it this way (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Many hands make light work. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Leveling the landing strip. No more snake or gopher holes! (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Unrolling with the infill still in the AstroTurf. Four more rolls are going here to double the width. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Our new mini football field. Now, we can have many more planes and more equipment without being in the dirt. Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Touchdown! As soon as we were done, Ray Pili landed his PZ KA-8 right down the middle of the strip. We'll have a landing contest next year, and have ribbons for the first three places! (Mark Baldacchino photo)

Look what came in the mail! These TPG TPSSS lanyards were ordered from Steve Condon's business and they're perfect. I've handed out ten of these to TPG club members who are rated to fly at Torrey, and gave eleven to the TPSSS club for distribution. The rest of these went to Cliff Hunter, (Membership Chair) so he can mail the rest of them out to you you're your membership card.

Starting at the first of the year, you must wear you card using the lanyard, so that we'll know who's who in the zoo.

Stay safe, and Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino
Slope Coordinator
mbaldacchino@san.r.com



TPG/TPSSS Lanyards!

Club Competition Activity

Thermal Duration / F5J

TD Coordinator – Tom Watson



Tom Watson

For Thermal Duration and F5J contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

For contest rules, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/torrey-pines-gulls-thermal-competition-rules/>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2020 TPG TD contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3479943-2020-TPG-TD-contest-schedule>

or contact Tom Watson at tewatson60@outlook.com

Hand Launch / DLG / F3K

DLG Coordinator – Chuck Norris



Chuck Norris

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/>

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.

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2020 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3475065-2020-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series>

or contact Chuck Norris at chuck@clnorris.com

Club Competition Activity (continued)

F5J Explained



Mike Smith

Mike Smith

This event is open to all electric sailplanes, so anyone that with an electric model (Radian, Sport model, etc.) can give it a try. However, it is important to state that all airplanes must be equipped with an approved F5J Competition Altimeter.

If you don't have one, SoaringUSA sells several for around \$60. Click here to check out the Altis Nano:

<https://www.soaringusa.com/Altis-Competition-Altimeter-NANO.html>

Entry Fee is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Two pilot classes will be flown: *Sportsman and Expert*.

To learn more about F5J, follow this link:

<http://www.f5j-usa.com/f5j-primer/>

For F5J and Thermal Duration contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2020 TPG F5J contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3479945-2020-TPG-F5J-contest-schedule>

Mike Smith, CD

October TD Contest Report – Tom Watson CD

On October 11th, ten pilots signed up to fly in TPG's first TD contest since springtime. We had one last-minute withdrawal and one pilot with an aircraft electronics malfunction, leaving us with eight competitors who flew for score. The weather was quite warm with broken clouds and very light breezes. Task times were 5-7-8-10 minutes with a standard 100 point tape landing. There was good lift available, though as usual one sometimes had to range out to find it. Where there is lift, there is also sink and some of it was brutal.

Everyone had fun and it was a nice day for flying. Mike Verzuh won, Mike Smith came in second, and Arthur Markiewicz was third. One noteworthy competitor is Sean Summers. He is with the Riverside group and has been flying TD and SC2 events for several years. Sean also flew in our last two F5J contests, and we hope to see more of him in the future.

Everyone had fun and it was a nice day for flying. Mike Verzuh won, Mike Smith came in second, and Arthur Markiewicz was third. One noteworthy competitor is Sean Summers. He is with the Riverside group and has been flying TD and SC2 events for several years. Sean also flew in our last two F5J contests, and we hope to see more of him in the future.

The COVID pandemic forced us to re-think how we handle contest administrative tasks (registration, scorekeeping, etc.) When we resumed our season with the July F5J event, we implemented electronic registration, payments, and competitor score entry on Tim Traver's world-famous F3X Vault platform. It eliminates person-to-person contact at the field through paper entries, cash handling, and paper score cards. This was TPG's first use of the process for a TD contest and it went smoothly. Everyone seems to be adapting well, it saves a bunch of time, and provides a durable score archive accessible to everyone.

Our last contest of the year is F5J at the Poway Flight Center, on November 8th, with yours truly as CD. See you there!

Tom Watson
CD



Tom with his Maxa at the contest.

Preliminary Overall Standings

Rounds (1-4)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Completed Rounds
1	3 Mike Verzuh 🇺🇸	2175.00		394.00	514.00	573.00	694.00	
2	7 Mike Smith 🇺🇸	2172.00	-3.00	395.00	508.00	575.00	694.00	
3	2 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸	2127.00	-45.00	381.00	516.00	568.00	662.00	
4	1 Tom Watson 🇺🇸	1987.00	-140.00	341.00	512.00	564.00	570.00	
5	4 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸	1906.00	-81.00	275.00	509.00	527.00	595.00	
6	10 Steve Hurd 🇺🇸	1718.00	-188.00	372.00	494.00	504.00	348.00	
7	5 Sean Summers	1351.00	-367.00	388.00	502.00	461.00	0.00	
8	9 Jon Vance 🇺🇸	1170.00	-181.00	347.00	513.00	125.00	185.00	
9	8 Chris Behm 🇺🇸	0.00	-1170.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
10	6 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

October DLG Contest Report – Gary Fogel CD

On October 17, 2020, 11 pilots enjoyed a monthly DLG contest at the TPG Poway Flight Center. Two pilots made a long drive to be there – Ron Rossetti from Riverside and Jim Allen from Las Vegas. It's always great to have them join us for some fun! Given an odd number of pilots we chose to fly 5 rounds of 3 heats each. It was going to be a warm day and the hope was to start at 9am and end by 12:30pm but we got started a bit late due to some technical difficulties and with the 5 rounds we ended up finishing around 1pm.



The eleven contestants from the October monthly TPG DLG Contest/Clinic. Ron Rossetti with a string instead of plane as he was attempting to help get Jim's CX5 down from one of the trees at the end of the contest (more about that later). (Ian Cummings photo)

Round 1 was Task F, best three flights of 6 flights with a 3:00 max. The day presented us with mild high pressure, weak narrow thermals early, but no surface wind. 5 of the 11 pilots managed to make more than 8 minutes of total time.

Round 2 was last flight 5:00 max in a 7:00 window. With the thermals being weak this was a considerable challenge. Most competitors especially in heats 2 and 3 were achieving 1:30 flights and trying repeatedly to do better. Some succeeded, but most ended up with flights near that time. After this the thermals developed a bit better but had an unusual behavior of either clipping at low altitude or being full-fledged thermals at high altitudes with no "chimney" to get there from lower altitudes.

Round 3 was 5x2 turnarounds. By heat 3 of that round, Dan Gebhardt and Mengchen Li made it clear that total times of >9 min were possible – they put up very similar total times differing by only 0.3 seconds! Round 4 was a 1,2,3,4 in any order. Geez, what sadistic CD chose this task?? I was in round 1 and really suffered, but managed to get lucky and redeem myself with a thermal on the last throw for the 4 min flight. Other than that effectively all pilots in round 1 repeatedly flew between 1 min or 1:30. The lift just was really hard to find. Usually after Round 3 or 4 we stop for a clinic but given the heat and the idea of using 5 total rounds, we kept moving the contest forward.

October DLG Contest Report (continued)

Round 5 was an all up, last down. Several pilots did really well in this round as the thermals finally decided to show. Mengchen Li enjoyed winning one heat by remaining in zero sink at about 20-30 feet AGL for a minute or more. It was a joy to watch. Others with great AULD flights included Dan Gebhardt, Chuck Norris. To give greater sense of the variability by launch time, in Round 5 heat 3, three pilots (Jim Allen, Ian Cummings, and myself) launched, found only sink (everywhere), and Jim won that launch with a total time of 0:51. Yikes. However on Round 5 heat 1 all four pilots (Ron, Ray, Dan, and Mengchen) maxed their 3:00.

At the end of the event, once the total scores were tallied, we provided 1st through 3rd place ribbons for the top competitors in Sportsman and Open classes. These were:

In Sportsman:

First: Dale Osborn

Second: Ian Cummings (flying in his first DLG contest)

Third: Scot McCurdy

In Open:

First: Gary Fogel

Second: Mengchen Li

Third: Dan Gebhardt

Preliminary Overall Standings											Add Scoring Round	
Rounds (1-5)												
#	Pilot Name	Total	DWT	Completed Rounds (No Drops in Effect)					Sub	Drop	Pen	Percent
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5				
1	Gary Fogel	5000.00		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	5000.00			100.00%
2	Mengchen Li	4756.48	-243.52	1000	757.00	999.48	1000	1000	4756.48			95.13%
3	Dan Gebhardt	4605.71	-150.77	891.11	1000	1000	795.11	929.49	4605.71			92.11%
4	Ron Rossatti	4473.95	-131.76	783.33	1000	977.32	1000	713.30	4473.95			89.48%
5	Chuck Norris	4263.01	-210.04	1000	875.05	963.72	824.24	1000	4263.01			85.26%
6	Ray Pitt	3617.02	-645.99	1000	682.45	611.25	623.51	699.50	3617.02			72.34%
7	Jim Allen	3288.14	-328.85	849.53	0.00	1000	874.09	564.42	3288.14			65.76%
8	Dale Osborn	2541.34	-748.89	808.81	551.15	673.06	508.32	0.00	2541.34			50.83%
9	Ian Cummings	2516.46	-248.82	351.27	563.94	709.36	511.74	389.15	2516.46			50.33%
10	Clifford Hunter	2503.79	-12.67	419.18	599.26	558.84	535.33	391.18	2503.79			50.08%
11	Scot McCurdy	2392.60	-111.18	565.19	475.93	585.86	494.26	361.56	2392.60			47.85%

The total score list with additional detail can be found on F3X Vault at https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=1804

More photos from the event appear on the following pages.

October DLG Contest Report (continued)



Mengchen Li about to catch his Snipe at Poway. (Dale Osborn photo)



Jim Allen about to give his CX5 a launch to the heavens with Dan Gebhardt timing. (Dale Osborn photo)

October DLG Contest Report (continued)



Left to right; Ron Rossetti (yellow) timing for Cliff Hunter, Ray Pili (white) about to launch and Cliff Hunter giving it the heave ho! (Dale Osborn photo).



Gary Fogel (left) timing for Ron Rossetti as they maintain that safe social distance. (Dale Osborn photo)

LSF Report – Ray Pili



Hi Gulls,

The last scheduled LSF event of the year basically turned into a fun fly. Participants included Ian, Dewain (**Ian's friend**), Craig and Gary. Craig flew his radian and later flew his windward with a high start and Gary got some airtime with his CX5 and Snipe. I test flew my two CX5s that gave me problems at the last contest. They seem to be fixed now. Unfortunately, Dewain had to leave early.

Last, we tested a zip start. Which is like a catapult to launch f3x planes. It was pretty interesting. You pull back to about 40-60 lbs. and launch parallel to the ground until the line comes loose and then zoom climb. I was flying Cliff Hunter's old Sapphire. The first flight was at maybe 40 lbs. pull. I launched, climbed to tree height and flew about and set up for landing, but about 15 ft. high I caught a nice thermal and went up to 300 ft. The second flight was more power; 50-60 lbs. pull. The third was maybe 60 lbs. and unfortunately the line did not come loose and the plane pancaked onto the ground. Luckily, a couple of scratches was the only damage.

Fun experimenting. Here's a link to Ian's video of me piloting and Craig launching Cliff's old school Airtronics Sapphire with the zip start: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uONz4D38VTA&authuser=1>
Below are some screen shots captured from Ian's video:



LSF Report (continued)



Blue Skies,

Ray Pili
LSF Coordinator
tpgslope@gmail.com

LSF Procedures for Poway

We will follow the COVID-19 rules outlined by Chuck Norris for the Poway DLG contests. I paraphrase:

- 1) Pilots must have a mask when arriving at the field.
- 2) Masks are required when you are within 6 feet of separation such as during pilots meeting.
- 3) Masks are optional when flying or timing, as long as the 6 feet separation is maintained.
- 4) Hand Sanitizers/disinfectant wipes will be provided for users of high starts and winches and any measuring devices used.
- 5) Everyone is encouraged to bring their own writing utensils to record results and to sign as witness.
- 6) Maintain 6 feet separation between pilots and timers at all times.
- 7) Please stay home if you do not feel well or have any symptoms associated with Covid-19.

As a reminder, LSF is a 5 level program for RC Glider Pilots. Each level has increasingly more difficult tasks. LSF involves Slope flying, Thermal flying, Spot landings and Contest participation. Each level must be completed before proceeding to the next. Makes for a well-rounded RC Glider pilot.

The pure glider program is called SAP (Soaring Accomplishment Program).
The electric launched glider program is called Electric SAP (ESAP).

LSF Report (continued)

This table outlines the various tasks required for each level. (Source: <https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>)

Requirements	Primary	Intermediate			Advanced
Level	I	II	III	IV	V
Thermal Duration	5 min.	15 min.	30 min	1 hr	2 hrs.
Slope Duration	15 min.*	1 Hr.*	2 hrs.*	4 hrs.*	8 hrs.
Precision Spot Landing	5 landings 3m (9.84 ft) or less	10 landings 1.5m (4.92 ft. or less)	None	None	None
Goal and Return	None	None	1km (0.62 mi.)	2km (1.24 mi.)	10km(6.2 mi)
Competition	None	6 contests** w/ 1 place or 3,000 pts	6 contests** w/ 2 place or 4,500 pts	6 contests** w/ 2 places and 1 win or 6,000 pts	6 contests** with 12,000 points including 3 wins

As you can see, Level I is not that difficult if you are a thermal pilot. If you fly slope only, that 5 min. thermal will tear you down. With Poway and Torrey within fairly close proximity, I believe someone local can complete Level I in one day.

If you are interested in participating, bring your AMA card, a thermal plane or e-thermal glider such as the E-flite Radian and download a copy of the Accomplishment Vouchers (SAP or ESAP) from the LSF site (<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>). The event is free, you don't have to be a Gulls member.

The Vouchers describe in more detail what each task involves and the credentials of your witnesses. Submittal of a completed voucher is as follows:

1. Email the LSF Secretary John Marien: john@ne-aero.com a clear photo, or PDF scan of your completed (and signed by witnesses) Voucher.

That's it. No more sending money or sending your original hard copy.

John will then review your voucher and email you your acceptance or rejection of the voucher submission. If for some reason your voucher is rejected, you will have to adjudicate rejections with John.

Another nice change is while you are waiting for a reply you can download a new voucher and start on the next level.

Nothing to Do With Flying – Mark Wood

Many of you remember former TPG member and sloping fanatic Mark Wood, who since retiring a few years ago, has been living the good life in Bear Valley Springs in the Tehachapi Mountains. Living in the country brings with it some interesting and funny adventures. Here's one of the funny ones from Mark: Mark Wood vs. Pepé Le Pew or Close Encounters of the Stinky Kind.

We've been smelling skunk around the house for the last three weeks and with chickens in residence it can be expected.

*Today I needed a piece of plywood from under the deck and found an egg someone laid who knows when, so I started investigating other areas. Right behind the stairs was a five gallon bucket, and figuring the girls may have laid some there I grabbed the handle of the bucket and went to pull it out. That's when I saw a black and white tail go up at arm's reach and heard a *Pshhht!*. I went full automatic with a holler, my head snapped up coming into hard contact with the underside of the deck and I levitated my way back out into the open. Fortunately for me (and the rest of the household), the shot hit the side of the bucket and somehow missed me entirely.*

I'm not sure if I used the stairs or simply Superman'd my way up onto the deck and inside the house, but that's where I next found myself trying to explain to Becky why I was holding my head, cussing a blue streak and blathering something about a GD skunk and a near miss. To her credit she didn't laugh right off the bat, but eventually dissolved right there on the couch trying to apologize for laughing about it.

She wasn't kidding me. She wasn't in the least bit sorry.

Anyway, after a much needed trip to the bathroom, I went back outside with a plan to use the hose on the little bastid to shoo him out from under there. Bad plan. He didn't take another shot at me, but waddled over right next to the corner of the house and stairs and refused to leave, even trying his best to get under the stairs. I had no intention of allowing that since it would have required me to disassemble the stairs with a thoroughly annoyed skunk directly underneath.

With eleven chickens running around the backyard, I unfortunately I had to resort to deadly force. What I dragged out of there was THE biggest skunk I've ever seen, who most likely had a five gallon Jerry can for scent glands. Attached is my view of the west end of an east facing male skunk once I put about twenty feet of distance 'tween me and he. Imagine seeing that at arm's reach. The light area at the base of the foundation on the right is my footprint!

And what did YOU do today?



TPG at 50: Looking Back – AMA Recognition

Chad Budreau, Executive Director of the Academy of Model Aeronautics recently sent us this letter of recognition for our 50 years of contributions and achievements in the community of RC Soaring.



September 22, 2020

To the Torrey Pines Gulls RC Soaring Club,

Aeromodelers are the cradle to aviation innovation. Hobbyists are wired to challenge themselves, engineer, improve, and invent. Although there are countless aeromodeling pioneers across the country, a seemingly large concentration of such people are thriving at AMA's Torrey Pines Gulls RC Soaring Club.

As the Torrey Pines Gulls (TPG) club celebrates its 50th anniversary, this is an appropriate milestone to acknowledge a just few of the club's contributions and achievements. As one of the oldest RC Soaring clubs, members of the TPG offer a rich history of shaping both manned and unmanned aviation.

TPG members have led the way in shaping the competitive world of model aviation. Club members were some of the first hobbyists to retrofit ham radio equipment into gliders, resulting setting new FAI international records such as Dr. Bob Chase's 8.5-hour flight in 1956. TPG members helped pioneer both Slope Racing and Thermal Duration contest formats that quickly gained global attention, resulting in new international events and challenges that were adopted by the FAI. Members continue to shape the hobby, compete, and set records. Some of those members include Don Edberg, Gary Fogel, Steve Neu, Steve Condon, David Klein, Tim Traver, Mike Smith, and Keith Finkenbiner and many more.

TPG members routinely "think outside of the box" when it comes to design as well. Harris Nelson was one of the first to develop and test "wingeron" gliders, which inspired others to innovate a "pitcheron" design. These design techniques, and others, influence not just home builders, but global manufacturers.

Many of those in TPG have active professional careers in aerospace, unmanned aviation, or related sciences. Many work with local aerospace companies, inventing new systems and methods. Some are helping to educate youth. Others, including Mark Smith and Bob Peck, have successful professional careers that have impacted the hobby field.

Off the field, TPG members have helped shape the emerging regulatory landscape. Gary Fogel, along with others, were key in forging federal protections, including Section 336 and other exemptions for the hobbyist community. The club is active in the community and has a great and long-standing relationship with the City of San Diego.

Congratulations on the past 50 years! I am excited to see what Torrey Pines Gulls RC Soaring Club will do to shape the industry throughout the next 50 years!

Best,
Chad Budreau
Executive Director
Academy of Model Aeronautics

TPG History: The Trophy – Cliff Hunter

This Month: Keith Finkenbiner, 2008 Modeler of the Year

This article is about long-time TPG member, Keith Finkenbiner who has retired from RC flying. It is a follow-up to the *Gull Wings* Summer Sale Supplement, 1 and 2 from the summer of 2020.

At Keith's request in February 2020, after a thermal duration contest, a select group of club members went to Keith's house and cleaned out his garage, moving his collection into the TPG cargo container at the Encinitas field. The intent at the time was to host a large swap meet to sell his hobby collection before our yearly International Hand Launch Glider Festival in April. However, the coronavirus hit the "WORLD" and life as we all knew it changed. Thus, the swap meet was not going to work. Keith's collection in the cargo container created storage and space problems. Thus, a photo catalog was created to display the items that were for sale. The TPG Board allowed the catalog to be placed into the TPG Newsletter as a Summer Sale Supplement. The items were stored at Cliff Hunter's garage in San Marcos during this process. Over the years, Keith amassed quite a collection of planes, kits, tools, supplies, etc.! More than 200 items were sold to fellow hobbyists from TPG and other clubs in the region. The sale netted a total of \$4,754.00. Following the sale of these items, Keith and Shirley Finkenbiner made it known that they intend to donate all of the proceeds to the Torrey Pines Gulls RC Soaring Society. Keith has been a tireless worker behind the scenes for TPG for decades, especially when it comes to competition and



field maintenance for Encinitas other projects. His kind contribution to the club helps the TPG survive a challenging year and is appreciated by many. The following provides a brief history of Keith's involvement and love of model airplanes.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Brief bio as relayed by Keith (88 years old) and Shirley Finkenbiner in September 2020 to Cliff Hunter

- Keith built his first “rise-off-ground” (ROG) free flight model planes in 1940.
- In 1941, his uncle and cousins who lived with his family went into the service and left all their modeling things with him. Keith migrated through Brown Jr. motors, free flight, and then control line.
- Whenever kits were released for model aircraft or u-control, Keith would build them. He basically built them all. The best was P40 Olson & Rice with 60 gas engine.
- In 1950-54, Keith had joined the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Williams AFB Chandler, Arizona with the 3525-3526 Pilot Training Group. There he trained pilots for instrument flying using Link Trainers, then an A-T6 Texan then T-33 Shooting Star jets.
- Keith built his first RC radio transmitter in 1956. Back then RC transmitters were hard to find and building them from kits or from scratch was the way to go. In 1958 Keith's neighbor was also into RC. Keith joined the Weak Signals RC Club in Toledo, Ohio. Weak Signals started a conference on RC that continues to this day.
- Keith started in RC Pattern Flying but switched to gliders when his son showed some interest. His son didn't care for motors. (Smart kid!)
- Keith moved to New Jersey in Sept 1967 and continued flying RC.
- In November 1973 as RC soaring really “took off,” Keith moved again to Naperville, IL. There he joined the popular S.O.A.R. club serving as Vice President and President. He helped run the very popular SOAR NATS that predated the establishment of RC soaring Nationals via the AMA.



Keith Finkenbiner 8-26-2020. He currently lives in Vista, CA.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

- In January 1979 he moved once again to Wilmington, DE. He continued soaring, this time as a part of the East Coast Soaring League.
- He flew in the first AMA-sponsored World Championship at Lakehurst NJ (Lakehurst Naval Air Station) in 1982 or 1983.
- Fortunately for us, in June of 1982 he moved to Fremont, CA and joined the South Bay Soaring Society. At least he was now in California.
- Three years later in July 1985 he moved to Carlsbad, CA flying with the North County Clouds and then the Torrey Pines Gulls.
- A regular through many thermal duration competitions from the 1970s through to the 2000s, Keith attained League of Silent Flight (LSF) Level V #108 – finalizing this on June 13, 2002. (Only 138 people in the history of RC soaring have made this achievement)
- He was honored as the TPG Modeler of the Year in 2008.
- He (2008- 2018) helped in the development and maintenance of the new Encinitas Inactive Landfill flying field by making barricades to protect the methane piping, purchased the cargo container, adding shelving, grinding, painting the cargo container with approval of the San Diego County Landfill Section. Purchased a riding mower and trailer. The trailer and mower then could transport the mower to other fields. Did yearly inspections at the Encinitas Field with County of San Diego. Mowed the Encinitas Field as needed yearly with some help, not a small tasks at least (3) plus hours mowing.
- Over the last (18) years, Keith served as a Contest Director for thermal duration competition at Encinitas filling that role many, many times.
- Keith was the SC² (Southern California Soaring Clubs, 10 clubs) representing TPG and CD'ed the SC² contest every year in October at the Poway or Encinitas fields.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

- Keith was also an active member of CVRC (Central Valley RC Soaring Club) located in Visalia, CA. They held the largest sailplane contest (two-day contest) in the United States, at least 300 contestants each year. It is the first weekend in every October. Keith often served as an announcer for the rounds and pilots and he always managed to fly as well.
- Keith has been a tireless worker behind the TPG scenes (never wanting any recognition for his hard time consuming work) for many years, especially with regards to competition and field maintenance.

Gull Wings Newsletter January 2010 – Keith is Awarded Lifetime TPG Membership



Past Presidents Kamiab, Condon, Finkenbinder and Hunter are recognized for their contributions to TPG with Lifetime Memberships.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

1974 Aerolympics in New Jersey

It is regarded as the first International RC Sailplane contest.

“US's Keith Finkenbinder, study of concentration, as he works for 5th place!”



U.S.'s Keith Finkenbinder, study of concentration, as he works for 5th place

SOARING AT THE

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

In February 2001, as newsletter editor, Gary Fogel published another biography on Keith in the club newsletter. This one has additional detail:

Gary Fogel 2/2001: Keith has been a tireless worker behind the TPG scenes for many years, especially with regards to competition. Thanks for the hard work Keith!

KF: I got started in model aviation very early at age eight just before WWII. My uncle and cousins who were living with us were building and flying rubber and gas free flight models. My job was to chase after them and retrieve. When the war broke out and they enlisted in service inherited the models. They also sent me many of the consolidated model kits to build during the war. I grew up in Toledo, Ohio and belonged to the Model Manglers Club which became the Toledo Weak Signals. Eight club members started the original Weak Signals symposiums at a local golf course in the dead of winter to break the boredom and see what other modelers were doing. I helped direct many of these early shows. Look what it has become today.

When the Korean War broke out I enlisted in the Air Force and trained fighter pilots in P-80 and T-33 jet airplanes. After the war I returned to Toledo and attended college. My professional career started as a chemist for Union Carbide. My work in polymer chemistry took me all over the United States and I belonged to many different clubs such as Central New Jersey RIC Club with Leon Shulman and many other early free flight competitors, Chicago Soar Club with Dan Pruss and the Soar Nationals, South Bay Soaring Club in San Jose, Visalia Central Valley Club and TPG in San Diego. I have been president of many of these clubs and also Secretary/Treasurer of LSF for five years, VP of East Coast Soaring League for four years. Currently I am chairman of the FAI Electric Team Selection Committee for the United States.

Competition flying in both Power and Sailplanes has been my main interest. Flew with the first FAI team for the United States in 1974 at Lakehurst, NJ. Placing third overall. I have been team manager for both F3B in England and F5B and F5D in Australia. I have attended every team selection for F5B and F5D in the United States.



Torrey Pines Gulls member Keith Finkenbiner and his new granddaughter (and future TPG/FAI member) Rachel. February 2001

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

My work in TPG has been to help where possible using my experience with competition events. I am a Contest Director and Leader member of AMA with number 650. I was asked to direct the FAI team selection for F5B which was held in San Diego in 1998. I also work with the International Hand Launch committee each year. Because of my commitment to work at Neutronics as President/CEO I am not always available to help with other club events.

My favorite competition sailplane is a design that was developed with three of my friends called the No Name Sailplane. Many friends have asked why such a name and the answer is it doesn't need a name as we don't want to sell them or be in the manufacturing business. The model has no secrets, just straight forward practical application of twenty years' experience. I am happy to discuss it with anybody interested. I am hoping to retire next year and enjoy the time to build some models and go flying more often. At sixty eight years old I still enjoy competing with the young hotshots. I believe it keeps you young.

To paraphrase our current President, Ian Cummings; the love of silent flight is a common thread among all of us in the club. The volunteerism and participation that members like Keith have shown over the years, has been the key to the success of Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Society.

On October 1, 2020, Keith and Shirley Finkenbinder presented a cashier's check in the amount of \$4,754.00 as a donation to Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Society to Cliff Hunter, who received the check on behalf of TPG. This was a result of many club members' efforts cleaning out his garage, which held his collection of planes, kits, tools, supplies, etc.

The collection was sold through the *Gull Wings* Newsletter over the summer. Over 100 items were sold and 25 interested buyers (95% TPG members) purchased everything imaginable!

The Club wants to thank you, Keith & Shirley Finkenbinder, for your generosity and donation to the Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Society.



Left, Cliff Hunter, right, Shirley Finkenbinder and center, Keith Finkenbinder; October 1, 2020 (Sandy Hunter photo)

Photo of the Month Contest – Photo of the Year Winner

Each month club members may submit photos of an activity related to soaring and the newsletter editor will post a **winner**:

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 submit@torreypinesgulls.org. Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description.

This year's Photo of the Year winner is Greg Houck, with his shot of Ray Pili's Pitbull over Torrey on a perfect March day. Congratulations, Greg!



Photo of the Year Winner – Ray Pili's Pitbull over Torrey (Greg Houck photo)

Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Ian Cummings	icummings@earthlink.net
Vice-President	To be filled	
Past President	Craig Hanson	craighanson1256@gmail.com
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	donloch@sbcglobal.net
Thermal Coordinator	Tom Watson	twatson60@outlook.com
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Slope Coordinator	Mark Baldacchino	mbaldacchino@san.rr.com
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	cfhunter@att.net
Winchmaster	To be filled	
DLG Coordinator	Chuck Norris	chuck@cnorris.com
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
Safety Officer	Mark Baldacchino	mbaldacchino@san.rr.com
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	steve@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	garyfogel@gmail.com
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Mark Baldacchino	mbaldacchino@san.rr.com

Executive Officers



Ian Cummings



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Tom Watson



Mark Baldacchino



Cliff Hunter



Quote of the Month:

“November at its best – with a sort of delightful menace in the air”

~ Anne Bosworth Greene



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)