

2021
JAN



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

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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Ian Cummings

Whew, there goes another year; and what a year it's been. It looks like COVID-19 isn't going away soon, so we still have a lot of cancelled activities, fun-flies, and contests. Not only that, it seems the wind gods have been taken out as well. We are into our third season (spring, summer, fall) without much reliable wind at Torrey. As I write this though, we

are expecting a good storm with 20+ MPH wind tomorrow; so, time to go charge some batteries, pack planes, and oh, call in sick. The great thing about this sport is there's always something to do during the down times.

Like many of you, I've taken advantage of the COVID lockdown to build a new plane, repair some old ones, and learn some new skills. If you're working on an interesting build project, feel free to document it and send details to Dale for the newsletter. It's always fun to learn from what others are doing. Here's to a better year for us all in 2021.

Happy Landings,

Ian

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.

This year, after a long hiatus, we're bringing back club meetings! Quarterly meetings via Zoom will include guest speakers, show-and-tell and a prize raffle!

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!

January Issue highlights include:

- [Modeler of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [2020 Contest Award Winners](#)
- [Profile of 1996 Modeler of the Year Ron Scharck \(Gary Fogel\)](#)
- [New For Sale/Wanted Section](#)

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>.

Modeler of the Year Award

2020's Modeler of the Year award went to long-time member Keith Finkenbinder. This is the second time Keith has received the award! Over the decades, Keith has contributed countless hours to the growth and well-being of TPG. This past year, when he decided to retire from RC Soaring, he and his wife Shirley generously decided to donate the proceeds of the sale of his RC soaring collection to our club. Be sure to read Cliff Hunter and Gary Fogel's Modeler of the Year article about Keith's achievements for his first MOY on page 28 of the November 2020 issue of Gull Wings ([GullWings2020-11](#)) Thank you Keith; and congratulations!



Keith, holding the Modeler of the Year trophy, with his name added to the MOY plaque. (Shirley Finkenbinder photo)



Modeler of the Year awardees now receive a special award plaque to keep after the trophy

Lifetime Achievement Award

A special Torrey Pines Gulls Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to long-time member Bill Eckles during our “virtual” Holiday Party. Most recently, Bill served as Membership Chairman for over ten years, making sure all new and renewing members received their membership card, access key and a welcome or thank you note...no small task! Before that, Bill was our newsletter editor for many years. A resident of nearby Del Mar, Bill has been a regular at the slope, ready to help new pilots and offer words of encouragement. Congratulations, Bill, on a well-deserved award!



Cliff Hunter took this photo of Bill with his Lifetime Achievement Award plaque, which reads:

2020
Torrey Pines Gulls Lifetime Achievement Award
BILL ECKLES
In recognition of your many years of service to the
Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society
-Membership Chairman-
-Newsletter Editor-
-Mentor-

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

As of December 23, 2020 we have received 69 renewals of our current members. We currently have (4) new club members for 2021. They are Mike Morgan, David Youssefi, Mike Redman and Philp Eisenberg. We welcome all of the new and renewing members to Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Society. All new and renewing members will receive a membership card and key. For the members who slope fly at Torrey Pines Gliderport and are Torrey Pines Gliderport rated; you will receive a membership card, key and lanyard. You must wear the lanyard and membership card when flying at the Torrey Pines Gliderport effective January 1, 2021 for safety reasons.

Please contact me (membership@torreypinesgulls.org) if you have not received a 2021 renewal membership card, key and lanyard. The key gives you access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites. Locks will be changed February 1, 2021. The lanyard allows you to safely fly at Torrey Pines Gliderport. All flying sites (Torrey Pines, Encinitas and Poway) are maintained by club members.

Membership Processing:

You should have received a renewal notice using the new TPG Google Group email process. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group you will be sent an individual email. Please use the following link when renewing your membership:

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

membership@torreypinesgulls.org 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.

Annual Membership Dues are as follows:

- Adult \$60
- Full-time Students \$30
- Flyers under 19 years old \$5
- Full-time students \$30 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.

Club Membership Update (continued)

Year-end Activity Membership Summary 2020

The table below is a summary of membership activities based on completed registration forms received from members.

Total Members	132
*Torrey Pines Gliderport Rated Pilots	70
*DLG/F3K	46
*Thermal Duration	45
*Scale	31
*F5J/ALES	30
*League of Silent Flight (LSF)	28

*Note: Most members fly multiple disciplines.

Most club members are located in California with a new member being the farthest north in San Jose, CA. We have members from New York, Arizona, Nevada and Montana.

As of January 2021, the club has the following types of membership:

Full Members. Full Members of the Society shall consist of those persons who are and remain Full members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), 5161 East Memorial Drive, Muncie IN 47302, have signified their interest in model aeronautics and a desire to be such a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society, Inc. and have paid all requisite dues.

Youth Members. Youth members of the Society shall consist of those persons who are 19 years or younger and remain Youth members of the AMA, have signified their interest in model aeronautics and a desire to be such a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society, Inc. and have paid all requisite dues.

Student Members. Student members of the Society shall consist of those persons who have a current full-time student status at a college or university, have current membership (full or youth) in the AMA, have signified their interest in model aeronautics and a desire to be such a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society, Inc. and have paid all requisite dues.

Temporary Members:

1) **Temporary Sponsored Members.** Temporary Sponsored Members of the Society are those persons who are sponsored by a current TPG member and wish to make use of the Society's flying field(s) for a period of no more than two weeks. Temporary members who wish to fly at the Torrey Pines Gliderport shall be required to purchase any required permit to fly, and hold current AMA membership. Temporary members who wish to fly at other Society fields shall either be current AMA members or hold a current FAI license. A TPG member may sponsor only one temporary member at any given time.

2) **Temporary Contest Members.** Temporary Contest Members of the Society are those persons who enter a Society-run contest/event and pay any applicable non-member fee. The temporary membership is valid only for the duration of the event, and for only the flying field at which the event takes place.

Club Membership Update (continued)

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.torreypinesgulls.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.

Cliff Hunter
Membership Chairman



Greg Houck photo

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

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 membership@torreypinesgulls.org. 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!

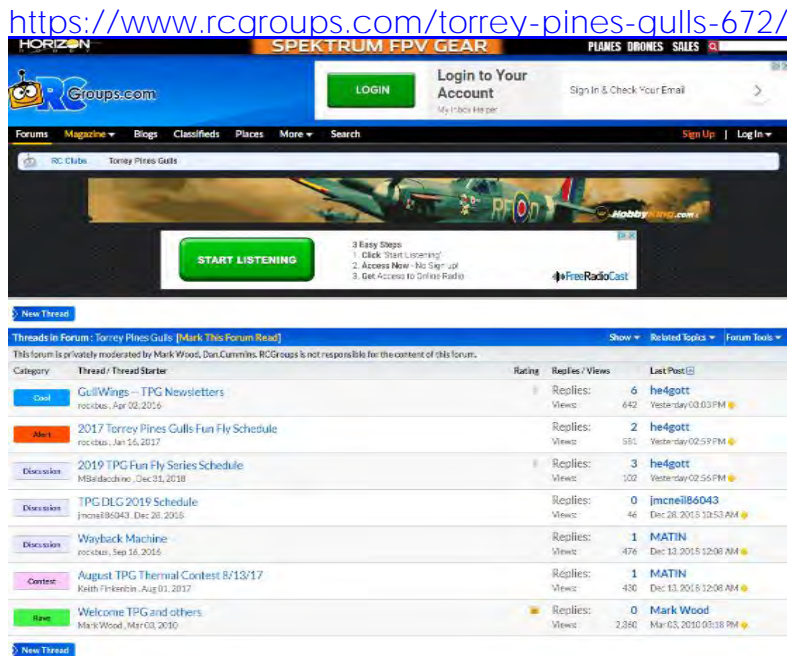
RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

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
Good	GullWings – TPG Newsletters roccas, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccas, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 551	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MBAldacchino, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcnel86043, Dec 28, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcnel86043 Dec 28, 2018 12:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccas, Sep 18, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Thierstein, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Hot	Welcome TPG and others MarkWood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,360	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 09:18 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 'Notifications'. The profile picture is a circular logo with a gull and the text 'TORREY PINES GULLS'. The cover photo shows two individuals in a field working on a large, white and red RC glider. A post from John Blasko, dated February 2, 2020, is visible, promoting a newsletter article. The post text is: "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". Below the main post, there are visitor posts from Dale Gottdank and Jack Zabawa. Dale Gottdank's posts mention the 50th anniversary of TPG and the February 2020 newsletter issue. Jack Zabawa's post is about RC Paramodels. The page also features a 'Create' section with options for Live, Event, Offer, and Job, and a search bar for posts on the page.

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 January, TP Gulls!

Happy New Year everybody! This is going to be a great year; I can feel it! We've been under La Nina weather conditions lately, which causes onshore wind flow to be nonexistent for the most part, but it'll return. A few of us "slopers" have taken advantage of this time to play



with high-starts and zip-starts out at Poway. And, I hope you're still working on glider projects at home. I have five planes to maiden because of this lockdown, and will have two or three more ready by the time we're set free. ☺

I know we're all itching to get out and enjoy our world class slope ASAP, but as mentioned before in prior newsletters, **you'll be required to show your TPG card at all times** while flying at the Gliderport. You should've receive a nice lanyard with your club card, so wear it proudly! Let's be safe. Also, don't forget to watch the video and sign the waivers at the Gliderport.

As promised, here's the Aquila that was saved from the landfill. You've seen some of the pics earlier this year, but I'll show some of them again. This is the first wing that I've scratch built from plans, and can honestly say it was a blast!



Here's what I started with. The newspaper that's in the fuse was dated from 1978. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Ribs cut individually with an X-Acto (Mark Baldacchino photo)



The tail feathers were pretty straightforward. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Covering time! (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Ready to maiden (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

I'm sure we'll be cancelling the first few of these fun flies, so stay tuned on RCGroups under Slope/San Diego Sloping.

TPG Glider Port Schedule for 2021:

- Jan 23rd – 2021 Kickoff Event – Not on the same date as the Farmers Open. Bring what you have
- Feb 20th – Fly 'n Swap – A day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
- Mar 13th – Scale Planes – Both TPG & TPSSS Fun Fly Day
- Apr 18th Sunday – This date is tentative, and subject to change – Torrey Pines Classic F3F Race. Open to all, register on the Vault.
- May 8th – Foamies – Ahi's, Alulas, KA-8's, Radians – if it's foam, this is your day.
- June 5th – Katie Martin Int'l Tribute – Not a Gulls Only Fun Fly event, but International Event
- July 24th – Aerobatics Day – TWF/ PNF – Jesters, Ahi's, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
- Aug 21st – TPG 50th Anniversary Again. Rescheduled from 2020 Run-What-You-Brung
- Sept 25st – LSF & Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
- Oct 23rd – Landing Contest – let's see who's the top three at landing on our new strip. Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
- Nov 27th – No Shopping Saturday – a couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

Stay safe, and Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino
Slope Coordinator

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 2021 TPG TD & F5J contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3771517-2021-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-TD-F5J-contest-schedule>

or contact Tom Watson at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

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, keep an eye out and be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2021 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news.

or contact Chuck Norris at dlg@torreypinesgulls.org

Club Competition Activity (continued)

F5J Explained



Mike Smith

CD Mike Smith

This event is open to all electric sailplanes, so anyone 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/>

Mike Smith, CD

Club Competition Activity (continued)

2020 Competition Award Winners

For those of you who were unable to attend our December “virtual” Holiday Party and Annual Meeting, awards were presented for the year’s Thermal Duration, F5J and DLG Contest Series. The list of winners is below. Congratulations to all our winners as well as to our Coordinators and CDs for running a challenging contest season during challenging times.

TD Open Class

- 1: Arthur Markiewicz
- 2: Cliff Hunter
- 3: Steve Hurd

F5J Open Class

- 1: Steve Condon
- 2: Mike Smith
- 3: Mike Verzuh

DLG Sportsman Class

- 1: Dale Osborn
- 2: Cliff Hunter
- 3: Scott McCurdy

DLG Open Class

- 1: Gary Fogel
- 2: Mengchen Li
- 3: Dan Gebhardt

LSF Report – Ray Pili



Hi Gulls,

There are no scheduled LSF events for December. We're currently working on next year's overall TPG calendar. Depending upon the level of interest among club members, we hope to continue the LSF Program for club members.

Here's some general information for you.

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 in a scheduled LSF event, 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 events are free; you don't have to be a Gulls member.

LSF Report (continued)

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.

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.

Blue Skies,

Ray Pili
LSF Coordinator
lsf@torreypinesgulls.org

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel



This Month: Ron Scharck, 1996 Modeler of the Year

I've known Ron Scharck for a long time, but he joined the Gulls just as I was off to college at UCLA, so we didn't get a chance to really interact that much until the 2000s. As a kid growing up in Texas, Ron initially had tried control line. However it wasn't until later that he got involved with a local RC club near Houston, mainly flying powered pattern aircraft. He and a few others in that club started also flying RC sailplanes when the pattern flying had ended for the day. He began to enjoy that aspect of the hobby and wondered where it could lead.

Having married and moved to La Jolla in 1993, Ron visited the Torrey Pines Gliderport and eagerly joined the Gulls. Smart guy – he left his pattern stuff in Texas and moved to San Diego armed only with the RC sailplane. While he joined the real estate team at Keller Williams, a job which he would hold for ~20 years, Ron rapidly began flying in a variety of contests with TPG, largely as a Sportsman. His first thermal duration contest was the March, 1993 event where he placed second in sportsman flying an Olympic II, behind Mike Lee who flew an Airtronics Legend. In April he flew a CR Turbo in the 60" slope races at Torrey. In April, TPG hosted a two day contest/camp out at Blair Dry Lake near Scissors Crossing. The idea was to have cross country and thermal duration events. Unfortunately for Ron, the lift was so good that he lost sight of his Airtronics Falcon 880 and it proceeded to crash far from the field. But later that same month, Ron flew an RnR Genesis in the TD contest and placed second to Don Richmond in Sportsman.



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Apparently he managed to find another Falcon 880 or repair the previous one quickly as by May he was flying a Falcon in the TD contest, this time finishing second to Erik Larson. As TPG was just getting into hand launch glider competition at about this same time with one-day HLG events, Ron flew a CR Climmax in the June HLG contest placing 14th out of 25. Of the 25 planes flown, 8 were Climmaxes (Climmaxi?). Those were the days. By May 1993 Ron attended an “aerobatic contest” at Torrey Pines (the brainchild of Mike Lee). There were different classes of aircraft (2-channel vs. open). Participation was just as weak as the winds were fickle, but 10 pilots had fun with Ron winning the 2-channel class, and Steve Neu winning the open division. By October, Ron Scharck was third place year-to-date in the slope races, and first place in sportsman for thermal duration. He finished the year tied for 5th in slope, and second in TD sportsman.

In 1993, the TPG held its meetings at the San Diego Air and Space Museum. The meetings were decently attended, with a speaker and popular “Gull’s Nest” raffle. As Ron made the contest circuit in 1993 he wondered if it wouldn’t be possible to get model manufacturers to pitch in their gear for free to the club and convert what was the “Gull’s Nest” into the “Super Raffle.” In order to achieve this mission, he volunteered to serve as Vice President in 1994. The super raffle would basically be a Gull’s Nest on steroids. At each of the monthly meetings in 1994, Ron arranged for an amazing assortment of goodies – transmitters, kits, “other good stuff” (OGS). And at each monthly meeting someone would win a raffle ticket for the “super raffle” which would be held at the December meeting. This concept worked wonders.



CR Aircraft Turbo



Airtronics Falcon 880

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



RnR Genesis

Attendance at the monthly meetings in 1993 averaged 80-90 people. I'm not precisely sure how he managed to do it, but literally he was giving away an Airtronics Infinity 600 transmitter each month in addition to many kits.

In 1994 Ron also continued with his interest in contests. He served as a contest director for thermal duration events, and traveled with the "TPG Dream Team" of George Joy, Fred Sage, Don Richmond, Steve Stricklett, Rick Shelby, and Paul Stubb to Lubbock Texas to attend the 1994 AMA Nationals. TPG's George Joy served as the CD for the NATS RC soaring events.



CR Aircraft Climmax

On the way to what was likely the International Modelers Show in Pasadena, California, Ron rode up in a car with other TPGers. Hand launch glider contests were growing and there was clearly interest in having a large TPG event. Ron came up with the idea of advertising a truly "International" event and making it a two-day affair to try to attract people from around the world to come fly with TPG. Given the success that Team TPG had at helping to run the NATS, running a 2-day HLG contest seemed like an achievable goal. 10 rounds, two days, in late October, 1994, complete with t-shirts, Tony Roma's BBQ, and plaques to the top five pilots plus the top club represented at the meet. The International Hand Launch Glider Contest was born with Steven Stricklett serving as the first Contest Director. Ron participated in this first contest, finishing 21st out of 26 pilots. For many years to come Ron would become the spokesperson for the IHLGF, helping to market it to the world, and helping to make it a success.

Ron wasn't done yet for 1994. His Super Raffle was coming together nicely. Nine lucky winners of the Super Raffle tickets from each month would be at the December meeting with the chance to win the following list of amazing prizes:

- Airtronics Vision PCM Transmitter
- Clerx Aeronautics Make Unlimited sailplane
- JR X-388S transmitter
- Airtronics Peregrine unlimited sailplane
- Futaba Super 7UGFS transmitter
- Saturn 2.9T unlimited sailplane
- Levoe Super Vee 2 meter sailplane
- Shadow 2 meter sailplane
- Supreme Competition Sailplane Flight pack from Hitec RCD
- CR Contender 2 meter slope sailplane
- \$150 gift certificate from RnR products

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Ron also arranged for club t-shirts. He even had local restaurants pitching in with gift certificates for the monthly raffles. Man on a mission indeed! Oh, and lest we forget that the TPG Christmas party that year also included a “Galaxy Championship of Miniature Hand Toss Gliders” because well, for a club that just started an international contest, we really wanted to step up our game further.

Ron continued as VP in 1995 and carried forth with the Super Raffle concept. He and other Gulls helped source “the best” equipment and products available. These were then advertised in the newsletter and added to the regular monthly Gull’s Nest and Super Raffle for the end of the year. The monthly attendance at the meetings started to grow. Ron was also a regular at the TD contests that year, winning first place overall for the year in the Advanced Class. His total score of 11302 for the year was actually second even in the Expert category, right behind Fred Sage. In 1995 Ron also arranged to have a donation of \$1,000 by the TPG to the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation of San Diego. The super raffle that year was another big hit; transmitters, a Mako, RnR Genesis, Airtronics Legend, etc. – a total of 19 amazing prizes all coordinated by the tireless efforts of Ron Scharck. 170 members attended that meeting, and yes, once again there was a “Galaxy championship” for indoor free flight planes. (Arthur Markiewicz was the Galaxy champion that year – how cool it must be to be champion of an entire Galaxy.) The December Christmas party also included ~30 “door prizes” of other kits that composed the basis of the regular Gulls Nest. It was an amazing night.



Left to right (Steve Stricklett, Ron Scharck, and Don Richmond) with their thermal duration trophies at the December 1995 TPG holiday party. Large Super Raffle prizes behind Steve.

One perhaps would have thought by now that Ron would have won the Modeler of the Year trophy in 1994 or 1995 but those awards went to Larry Fogel and Jerry Fry respectively for their other laudable efforts. In 1996, Ron took a break and no longer served as Vice President. But the Super Raffle continued under his leadership through 1996. Even Ron Scharck himself won one of the super raffle tickets at the March 1996 club meeting. Go figure.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



At the December 1996 Super Raffle, 47 winners were awarded an amazing amount of stuff. Ron also gathered raffle prizes for the IHLGF. I have only one question – was Santa somehow doubling as Ron? Only Ron knows the truth. At the 1996 Christmas Party, finally, the Modeler of the Year trophy was bestowed upon Ron Scharck. Should we change the name on the plaque to Santa? Perhaps not.

As if he didn't already have enough to do, armed with this new large piece of hardware, Ron volunteered to fill in as newsletter editor in 1997. As I noted last time with regards to Jerry Fry's efforts as newsletter editor – back in those days being a newsletter editor was truly yeoman's effort. The newsletters were generally 17-20 pages of information – each issue largely completely different than the last. With >200 members that meant taking a file to a print shop to bring the newsletters in bulk. Then they had to be folded and taped for mailing. Address labels added. Then a trip to the main post office for special bulk mailing. This chore was repeated 12 times a year, largely without much fanfare from the masses. Many unsung heroes filled this role. Ron did a great job and continued to fly with the TPG through the 1990s into the 2010s. He and Don Richmond formed a formidable contest duo, attending many NATS together over that time, even bringing some trophies home for TPG. At Ron's request Don Richmond also served as the CD for many of the early IHLGFs. (More on Don next time). However, for Ron an unfortunate boating accident in 2014 left him with the need to move back to Texas to be closer to family. He still enjoys flying RC every now and then and is pleased to see the IHLGF and the club doing so well after so many years.

A nice thank you letter from the San Diego Child Abuse Prevention Foundation to the TPG care of Ron Scharck thanking the club for a donation of \$1000.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



A recent photo of Ron Scharck with his Mystic pattern model aircraft.



Another one of Ron's pattern aircraft, this one is a Vanquish, a kit offered by Extreme Flight Models.

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**.

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.



Scale ASW-27 with spoilers deployed about to land at Torrey (Greg Houck photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Airacobra at Torrey (Greg Houck photo)

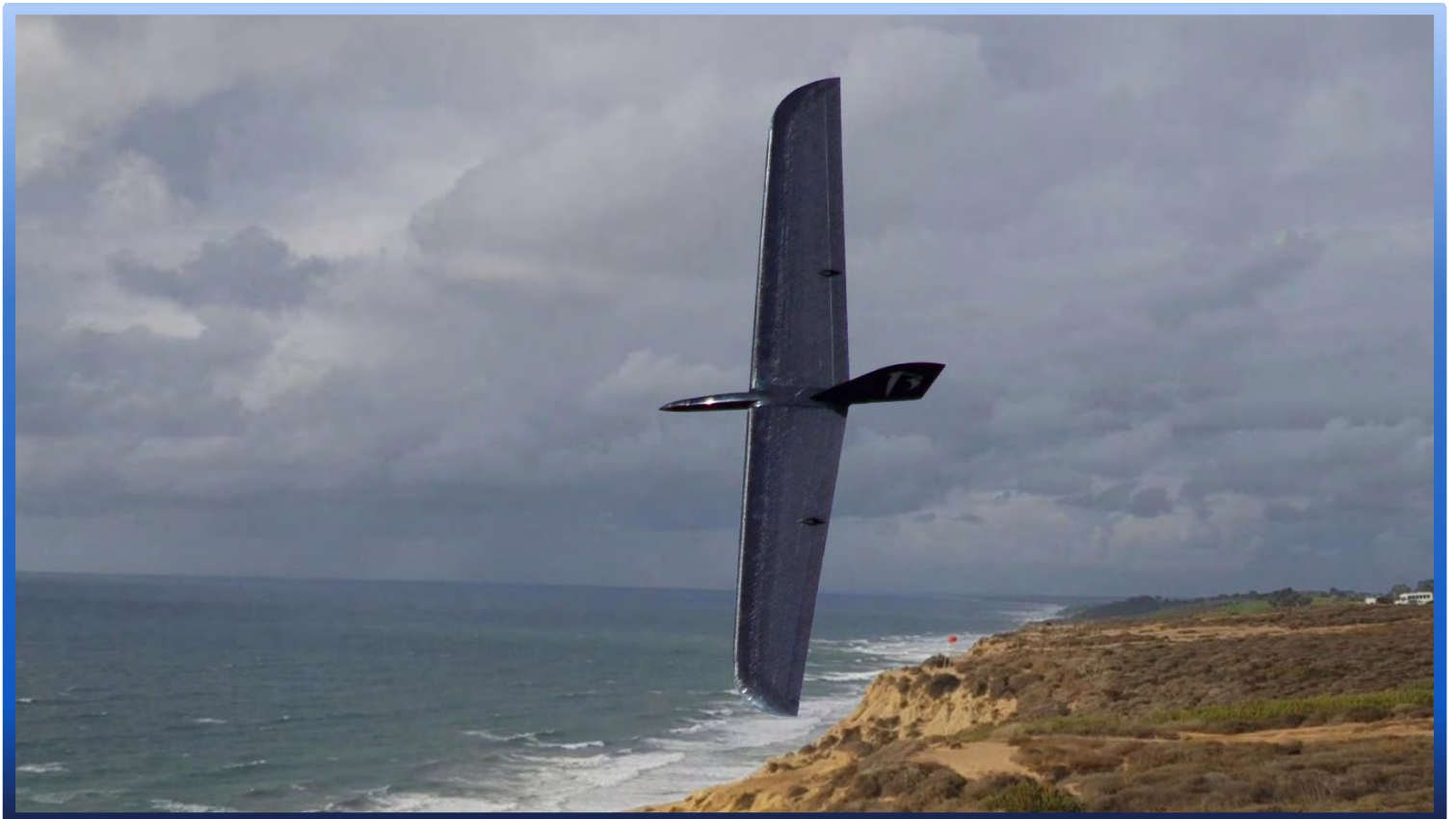


Thomas Moller launching Mike Lance's Salto (David Fierro video capture/photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Zephyr at Torrey with a ghostly ship as a backdrop (Greg Houck photo)



January Co-Winner – Matin Taraz's Raven2 at Torrey (Greg Houck/Matin Taraz photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Co-Winner – Scale ASW-27 coming in to land on a windy Torrey day (Greg Houck photo)

Club Officers and Contact Information

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Past President	Craig Hanson	
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Executive Officers



Ian Cummings



Bob Hirsch



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Tom Watson



Mark Baldacchino



Chuck Norris



Cliff Hunter



TPG Classified Ads Policy

Classified ads are free to TPG members for non-commercial purposes. Commercial customers should contact the editor. To submit an advertisement, send the information to communications@torreypinesgulls.org. Ads must be submitted by the 25th of the month to appear in the next issue.

All advertisements will remain in the newsletter for the month of issue and will be removed for the following issue. If you wish to advertise for another month, you will need to notify the editor or resubmit.



Quote of the Month:

“The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot”

~ Michael Altshuler



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)