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GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

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Message from the President



Ian Cummings

If flying slope lift is your thing, you already know the wind hasn't been cooperating lately. Seems we've had more "off" days than "on" days. The great thing about our sport is there's always an alternative. Building and/or repairing always comes to mind for me, and I often find that aspect of the hobby equally satisfying. Also, those off

days at Torrey are often great days to fly thermal lift at our Encinitas or Poway fields. If you haven't tried thermal flying yet, you'll find it challenging and fun. It comes in a variety of disciplines including winch launch, bungee launch, hand launch, and motor launch (Poway Field only for motors). There's a helpful group of regulars at each field ready and willing to show you the ropes. For further info, contact the DLG Coordinator, Thermal Coordinator, or LSF Coordinator. Of course, for flying at Torrey, the Slope Coordinator is your go-to guy. Get out and expand your flying skills. Contact info can be found on page 37.

Don't forget the TPG holiday party December 14. RSVP's are critical, as we will have limited space and need a head count for food.

Happy landings,

Ian



We are happy to announce that this year's
TPG Holiday Party will be held on
Tuesday, December 14th at the
AleSmith Brewing Company,
9990 AleSmith Court, San Diego, CA 92126
(off Miramar Road)
No cover charge
AleSmith Tasting Room No-host Bar
Food will be provided by Phil's BBQ

The party starts at *6:00 pm*, and we'll kick off the 2021 annual meeting and awards presentations sometime after *7:00 pm*.

Bring a dozen homemade cookies to share for dessert.

No cost to TPG members!
Cost per Guest: **\$20**

Please RSVP by December 10th to [TPG RSVP](#)
so we know how much food to order.

Space is limited. We can only accommodate those who have RSVP'd, with priority on the order they are received. You must RSVP to be admitted to the party room.

If you're bringing guests, please pay via PayPal or debit/credit to TPG's PayPal address:
paytpg@torreypinesgulls.org



TPG December/January Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
December 14 th	Annual Holiday Party and General Meeting	AleSmith Brewing Company Food by Phil's BBQ Executive Council elections Bylaws revision vote Annual awards presentations
January 8	Kickoff Fun Fly	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Registration Required Fun Fly!
January 9	TD contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open
January 15	DLG contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open



Will You Be A Mentor?



The TPG Executive Council is planning to revive our Mentoring Program, which was very popular and helpful for new RC soaring pilots just getting into the hobby. Club mentors would make themselves available to meet new pilots at the Gliderport or one of our other flying fields. Back in the day, we had a couple of “club” planes, a radio or two and a “buddy box” setup for true newbies. Times have changed, and now most new pilots will have purchased their own RTF or ARF foamy Ahi or Radian, etc., but could still use plenty of help learning the basics of flying safely at Torrey and/or catching thermals at Poway or Encinitas. It's also a great way for new pilots to meet the regulars and begin participating in our contests and fun fly events.

We'd like to get the Mentoring Program up and running with a few volunteers in early 2022. If you'd like to help out with your time and experience, as well as contributing to the growth of our club, please contact communications@torreypinesgulls.org.

Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts monthly contests, fun-fly events, LSF (League of Silent Flight)) Soaring Accomplishment Program, onsite clinics and bi-monthly club meetings.

*This year, after a long hiatus, club meetings returned. Our next general meeting is actually our in-person Holiday Party on December 14th. **Check out the announcement on page 2. We're looking forward to more excellent meetings and informative presentations in 2022.***

Be on the lookout for upcoming meeting 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!

December Issue highlights include:

- [Annual Holiday Party and General Meeting is coming up!](#)
- [Mentoring Program Start-up](#)
- [The 2022 Gliderport Fun Fly Schedule is here...see News From the Slope](#)
- Soaring Man Festival Recap – by Tom Watson

Please send in your articles or photos (communications@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. Photos should be in their original, high-resolution format. 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,

REMINDER: It is that time of the year to renew your 2022 TPG Membership.

As a reminder, Instead of our traditional mailed registration form to each member, we have transitioned to a web-based process. Please use the following link when signing up:

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

Please fill out the registration form completely. We will use this information to help the club's Executive Council plan and develop future events, competitions and activities for members.

Please take the time to review the updated [Torrey Pines Gulls Membership Guide](#) which will provide answers to many of your questions regarding Torrey Pines Gulls activities.

Membership Activity Summary – 2021/2022

The table below is a summary of new, renewed and lifetime members based on completed registration forms received from members in the past month.

Membership for 2021/2022	December 2021	New Members for 2022	Renewal Members for 2022
Total Members for 2021 (incl. 4 lifetime)	136		
New and Renewal Members for 2022		2	30
Google Group Members*	125		

*Note: if you are not a member of Google Groups and want to be, please contact membership@torreypinesgulls.org

Please welcome our new members this month, Chris Schater and Don Van Gundy

All new and renewing members will receive a membership card and key. The key gives you access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites. For members who slope fly at Torrey Pines Gliderport and are Torrey Pines Gliderport rated:

In addition to the membership card and key, you will receive a club lanyard from a club representative at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. You must wear the lanyard with the membership card attached when flying at the Torrey Pines Gliderport, for safety reasons.

Remember, you must have a current AMA membership to join TPG. To join AMA, follow this link: <https://join.modelaircraft.org/torreypinesgulls/>

Please contact me (membership@torreypinesgulls.org) if you have not received your membership materials or have any membership-related questions.

Club Membership Update (continued)

Membership Processing:

You will receive a renewal notice using the 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 or debit/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:

- Full Members – \$60 per year
- Youth Members (19 years or younger) – \$5 per year
- Student Members (full-time) – \$30 per year
- Receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues. \$10 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. The Torrey Pines Gulls 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.

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

membership@torreypinesgulls.org

760-703-4497 cell



Ian Cummings 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 order to maintain a line of communication among members, we have 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!

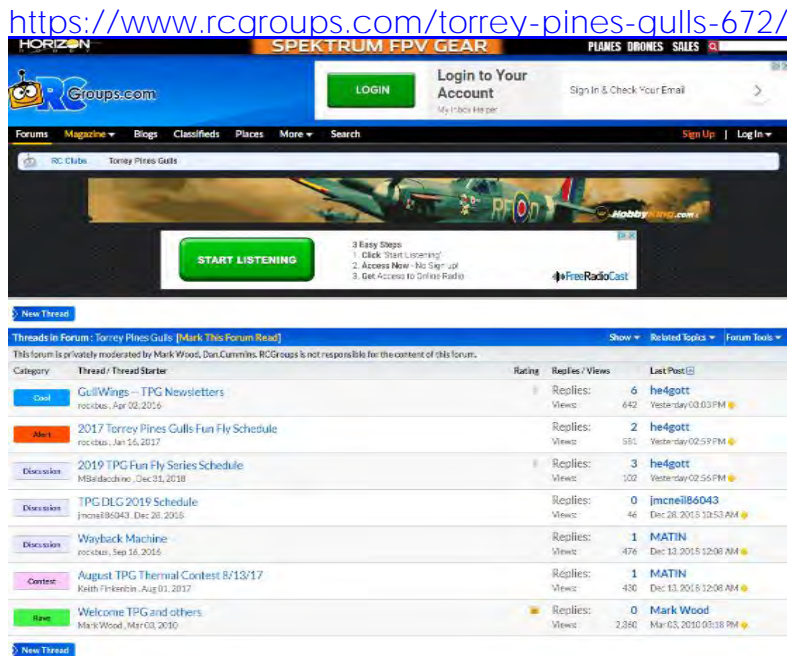
RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

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: 581	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MBaruchino, 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 16, 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
None	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?

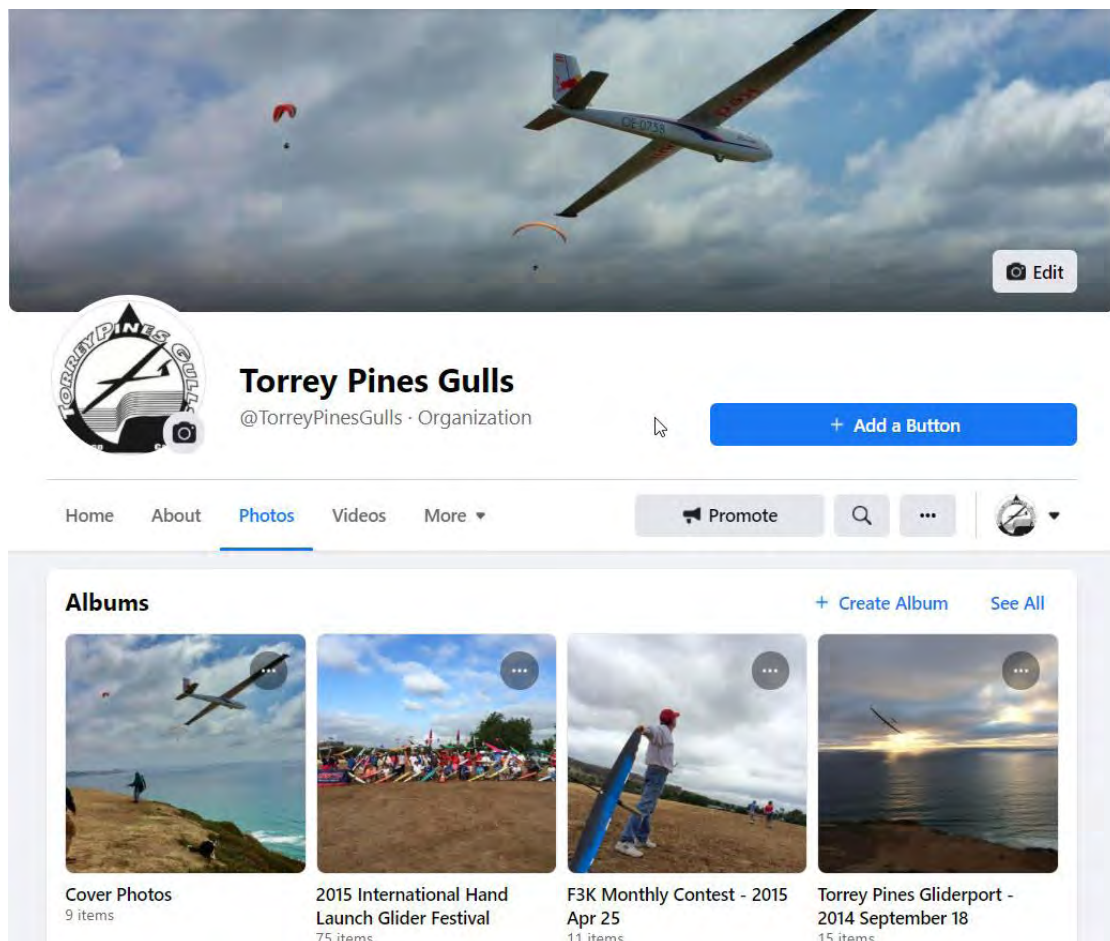
You can express your opinion at: www.torreypinesgulls.org.

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/>



Torrey Pines Gulls
@TorreyPinesGulls - Organization

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Albums + Create Album See All

- Cover Photos
9 items
- 2015 International Hand Launch Glider Festival
75 items
- F3K Monthly Contest - 2015
Apr 25
11 items
- Torrey Pines Gliderport -
2014 September 18
15 items

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

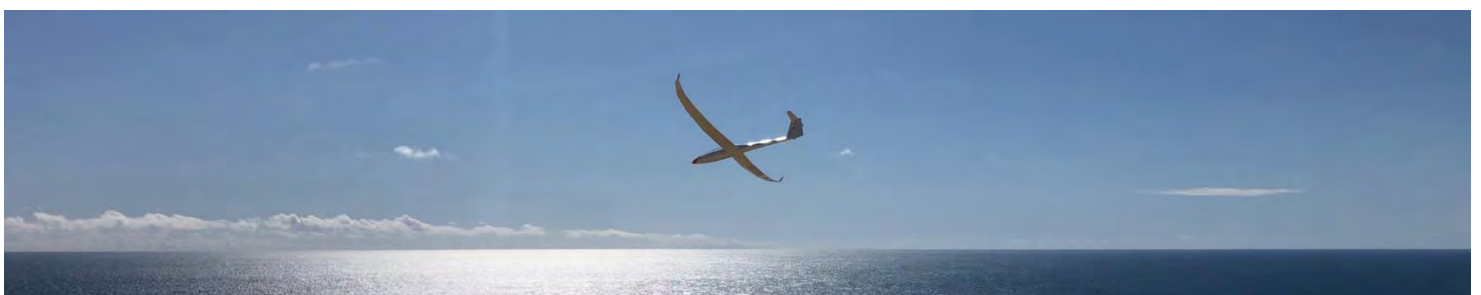
Happy December, TPGulls!



I'm writing this article on the due date, which is a day before our last Fun Fly for the year; no shopping Saturday, but it doesn't look like the wind is going to cooperate – again. It's been quite a while since I've been to the Gliderport due to poor wind conditions, but there's still stuff to do. Now is a good time to renew your AMA and TPG memberships; cycle your batteries – both TX and all of your receiver batteries; check for loose control linkages/surfaces; tighten-up Monokote or fix any cracks in molded planes; or maybe even do some polishing and waxing of your birds. Hopefully too, Santa will bring you a new plane for Christmas morning.

I'm looking forward to the Holiday party at AleSmith on the 14th of this month. We were ripped-off last year by the pandemic and our party was virtual, on Zoom, so it'll be great to see everyone in one place again!!

The 2022 schedule for the Gliderport is set and is shown below for your reference. Like before, you can print-out this page, cut it out, and put it on your fridge or wherever to remind you of the Fun Fly events. I've included two Fly and Swap days, as this event seemed to be requested more than most. We'll also have a couple of landing type contests, as this event was a blast last October.



Thomas Moller photo

News from the Slope (continued)

January 8 th	2022 Kickoff Event – Not on the same date as the Farmers Open. Bring what you have.
February 12 th	Fly 'n Swap – A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.
March 12 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day
April 9 th	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
May 14 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Ka-8's, Radians...If it's foam, this is your day!
June 11 th	Landing Strip Contest – Get closest to the pin. Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd
July 9 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PWF...Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 13 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.
September 10 th	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies Again! – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
October 22 nd	Redman Rules & Landing Contest – Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd . For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.
November 26 th	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

See you all out at the Gliderport next year.

Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino
Slope Coordinator

Club Competition Activity

Thermal Duration / F5J



Tom Watson

Thermal Coordinator – 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 Torrey Pines Gulls TD & F5J contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4013905-2022-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-TD-F5J-contest-schedule.>

or contact Tom Watson at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

Hand Launch / DLG / F3K



Chuck Norris

DLG Coordinator – 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/>

Also, watch for the RCGroups 2022 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread **to sign up for next year's contests.**

or contact Chuck Norris at dlg@torreypinesgulls.org

Club Competition Activity (continued)

Foamy F5J



Ray Pili

For 2021 TPG hosted a Foamy F5J contest series at the Poway Flight Center.

These contests are open to everyone with AMA (must be Full or Youth membership) and a Foam F5J sailplane, with the intention to introduce folks to F5J. Guests are welcome to compete; no experience is necessary. The format will be geared for first time F5J contestants. Expect ample time between rounds to get your stuff together, timer help, understanding Rules and Task support, and responsible use of the "Mike Smith Rule". Registration is via F3X Vault. CDs are welcome to volunteer.

This year's final Foamy F5J contest was October 9. A new series of four Foamy F5J contests is being planned for 2022. Look for future announcements.

Examples of Foam F5J planes are: ParkZone Radian and Radian XL, EFlite Night Radian. Multiplex Easy Glider, Solius. This list is not exclusive. Other planes may be acceptable but please check with the CD prior to registration. The spirit of the requirement is to allow contestants to compete and learn with inexpensive planes. **If you don't have an F5J competition altimeter, come fly anyway...we have a workaround.**

Also, watch for the RCGroups 2022 Torrey Pines Gulls Foamy F5J Contest Series thread to sign **up for next year's contests.**

*These contests count toward LSF Level I Requirements. See LSF Report in this newsletter.

F5J Explained



Mike Smith

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>

To learn more about F5J, follow this link:

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

Mike Smith

November F5J Contest Report – Steve Condon, CD















It was an absolutely beautiful November day at the Poway field with warm temperatures and a bit of high pressure in the air, which made for some challenging soaring conditions; perfect competition weather! We had a great turnout with 15 pilots, which also made for a nice paced event with 3 flight groups of 5 pilots per round.

As always, there was great teamwork to get the contest set-up to run and packed up at the end. A hearty thank you to Don Lochhead for bringing, setting up & tearing down the sound system, and to Mike Smith and Tim Traver for the help making sure things kept running smoothly. **Running the sound system and scoring with Tim's F3X Vault** through a dedicated smart phone made it super easy to CD the contest.

While the competition aspect of monthly contests is a part of the draw, for many of us that **have been doing this together for decades**, it's an opportunity to spend time with old friends and also meet some new ones. It was really fun to see longtime TPG competitor, Tom Kiesling come out for the first time. He did it in style with his self-designed, fully molded airplane that looked and flew great. Tim Traver flew 5J for the second time and this time, took it to a whole new level. **It's great to have two of the highly skilled "F3B Guys"** in the club participating in F5J. The 2022 season should be great fun and highly competitive!

This contest had a lot of "tough rounds" with more low and zero flight scores than is typical. Thermals were definitely present but tended to be light & finicky with a few nice strong ones in the mix as well. Tom Watson & Tim Traver were the most consistent pilots; the only two to get 5 maxes. In the end, Watson came out on top, and since we flew 5 rounds, we had a drop round which moved Mike into second, Tim to third and me to 4th. Full results are at right.

Steve Condon
CD

Open Rankings		
Pilot		Total
1	 Tom Watson	4000.00
2	 Mike Smith	3971.87
3	 Tim Traver	3949.03
4	 Steve Condon	3945.84
5	 Tom Kiesling	3922.54
6	 Clifford Hunter	3615.02
7	 Steve Hurd	3171.52
8	 Don van gundy	3126.59
9	 Terry Throop	2910.65
10	 Arthur Markiewicz	2791.60
11	 Bob Schumacher	2626.96
12	 Warren Day	2410.70
13	 Don Lochhead	1484.51
14	 Dale Osborn	445.36
15	 Jon Vance	0.00

November DLG Contest Report – Scott McCurdy, CD

The monthly DLG contest was held Nov 20th. With 9 pilots registered, there was a change from 3 heats to 2 heats per round and an added 6th flying round. This last-minute change was accomplished by Don Lochhead (with enough programming effort to have retasked military surveillance satellites). With a volunteer extra, the 2 rounds contest was a faster pace, however breaks were needed to catch up on the scoring. Weather was overcast with the sun coming out as soon as the contest began at 9:00am.

My appreciation to TPG members Christoph Efstathiou and Mengchen Li who made the trip from LA county. Local pilots were Gary Fogel, John McNeil, Ray Pili, Dale Osborn, Don Lochhead, Cliff Hunter and me. Thank you all for making this contest work with the set up and programming.

Similar to the July contest, Round 1 was 5 longest flights (2:00 maximum) and Round 2 was 3 longest flights (3:00 maximum). Thermal heating started early. Gary Fogel and John McNeil received full scores for round 1 and Gary Fogel and Mengchen Li for round 2.

Next, Round 3 was the All Up/Last Down (3:00 maximum) which is a popular task at El Dorado Regional Park and without timers on the field, it makes an interesting pilot-to-pilot contest.

Round 4 was 2 flights max, 10-minute working time with only 2 throws. There was a lot of strategy on whether to launch first or wait for the best conditions. Gary Fogel and Don Lochhead received winning scores for this challenging round.

Round 5 was Big Ladder and the conditions were ideal. I was timing for Christoph Efstathiou and he had a nearly perfect round dropping only a few seconds over the five flights. Unfortunately, Christoph hit the wrong button and deregistered himself from the contest and his scores and placement were lost. This is the first time I know of this happening mid-contest. Maybe a feature could be added to lock entries in once the contest begins to prevent this in the future. Christoph flew well all day and would have had a good result overall. Round 5 also had the carnage of Ray Pili's plane folding the horizontal stab on launch and crashing hard. This was followed by a mid-air between Dale Osborn and me, however both planes untangled before hitting the ground and kept flying albeit with some wing damage to both.

Round 6 was a shorter 5-minute, one launch only flight in a 7-minute window. With Heat 1 having great conditions and Heat 2 with terrible thermals.

Results:

Congratulations to Mengchen Li for the win. Gary Fogel, John McNeil and Ray Pili were a very close top four grouping and only a few seconds made the difference (by percentage top 4 were: 100%, 98.66%, 95.87%, and 94.09%).

F3X results are shown on the next page.

November DLG Contest Report (continued)

Preliminary Overall Standings

Rounds (1-6)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	9 Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	5986.04		987.22	1000	1000	1000	998.82	1000
2	1 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5905.54	-80.50	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	905.54
3	6 John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5739.07	-166.47	1000	978.36	1000	774.41	986.30	1000
4	11 Ray Pili 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5632.55	-106.52	952.08	947.33	1000	773.73	959.41	1000
5	10 Scott Mccurdy 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4668.00	-964.55	853.40	984.51	639.81	474.14	993.01	723.13
6	8 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4058.18	-609.82	911.92	931.21	487.22	242.86	975.20	509.77
7	7 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3482.33	-575.85	887.67	660.85	388.70	276.78	1000	268.33
8	3 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3232.00	-250.33	761.60	578.66	309.07	204.89	840.32	537.46

There's no contest in December, but we'll resume in January. Have a great Holiday and we'll meet again in the New Year.

Best regards,

Scott McCurdy



On a side note: Special thanks to burly members Dale Osborn and Christoph Efstathiou for moving this heavy concrete table. That's my cat, enjoying the shade with our Poway Field in the background. (Scott McCurdy photo)

LSF Report – Ray Pili



Hi Gulls,

Although we didn't plan any LSF-specific events for 2021, the quarterly Foamy F5J Contest Series and bi-monthly F5J contests qualify for LSF eSAP (Electric Soaring Accomplishment Program) credit.

Two of our members, myself, and Gary Fogel have advanced in the electric launch ELSF.

 The screenshot shows the LSF website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the LSF logo and the text 'League of Silent Flight'. A green navigation bar contains links: Home, LSF Program, LSF Achievers, LSF Events, LSF Forum, LSF News, LSF Stuff, About Us, Links, and Silent Wings. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled '2021 Upgrades'. Under this title, there is a section for '2021 UPGRADES' with a settings icon. The first section is titled 'CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PILOTS FOR ADVANCING IN THE ELECTRIC LAUNCH ELSF' and contains a table with the following data:

LSF #	FIRST	LAST	STATE	COUNTRY	LEVEL
6974	GARY	FOGEL	CA	USA	2
9339	STEVE	REVELL	WA	AUS	1
8304	RAY	PILI	CA	USA	1

 The second section is titled 'CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PILOTS FOR ADVANCING IN THE WINCH LAUNCH LSF' and contains a table with the following data:

LSF #	FIRST	LAST	STATE	COUNTRY	LEVEL
9355	DAVID	HARE	VA	USA	1
8278	STEPHEN	BLAKE	FL	USA	3

 At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice '© 2021 League of Silent Flight' and a 'Back to Top' link.

We haven't scheduled any LSF-specific events for 2022, however we plan on offering opportunities for TPGers to participate and advance in the program. In the meantime, here's some general information about the League of Silent Flight Soaring Accomplishment Program:

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 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.

The Vouchers describe in more detail what each task involves and the credentials of your witnesses.

The Vouchers describe in more detail what each task involves and the credentials of your witnesses.

LSF Report (continued)

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.

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, Cross-Country Flying 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).

Blue Skies,

Ray Pili
LSF Coordinator
lsf@torreypinesgulls.org

The Birds and the Bees – Cliff Hunter

Bee Removal from our Encinitas Field

What do you call a bee you can't understand? A mumble bee.

Over the past several years, local honey bees made their home under our cargo container located at the Encinitas Flight Center. The bees established two hives under the cargo container where the club stores our mower and winches for thermal duration sport flying and contests. The container is owned by TPG and is stored with permission from the County of San Diego.

Here is a good look at a honey Bee:



We had a very friendly hive for the first few years. Then the bees became more aggressive in protecting their hives and would sting anyone that came close to the cargo container. This created a safety hazard to the TPG members and San Diego County workers. Some people, when stung, have a reaction to the sting which can be life threatening.

The County of San Diego field workers were aware of the bees and had tried different methods to remove the bees, with no success.

After bringing this issue to the TPG Executive Council, it was decided to remove the bees in humane way, without killing them. Aliza's Bee removal service from Poway was hired to remove the bees. Here is a little information about honey bees:

The Birds and the Bees (continued)

Honey bees are super-important pollinators for flowers, fruits and vegetables. This means that they help other plants grow! Bees transfer pollen between the male and female parts, allowing plants to grow seeds and fruit.

Honey bees live in hives (or colonies). The members of the hive are divided into three types:

Queen: One queen runs the whole hive. Her job is to lay the eggs that will spawn the hive's next generation of bees. The queen also produces chemicals that guide the behavior of the other bees.

Workers: these are all female and their roles are to forage for food (pollen and nectar from flowers), build and protect the hive, and clean and circulate air by beating their wings. Workers are the only bees most people ever see flying around outside the hive.

Drones: These are the male bees, and their purpose is to mate with the new queen. Several hundred live in each hive during the spring and summer. But come winter, when the hive goes into survival mode, the drones are kicked out!

Honey bees do not soar but are fab flyers. They fly at a speed of around 25km per hour and beat their wings 200 times per second! Each bee has 170 odorant receptors, which means they have one serious sense of smell! They use these to communicate within the hive and to recognize different types of flowers when looking for food.

Sadly, over the past 15 years, colonies of bees have been disappearing, and the reason remains unknown. Referred to as 'colony collapse disorder', billions of honey bees across the world are leaving their hives, never to return. In some regions, up to 90% of bees have disappeared!

The cargo container has a 1-½ inch thick **plywood floor**. Aliza's used an **infrared heat sensor** to locate the two beehives; one in the front and the other on the west side near the center of the container, which was the larger of the two hives. The plan for removal of the hives was to cut out the plywood floor where the hives were located and remove the queen bee and **hives to the extent possible**. Aliza's would then reinstall the plywood floor and install mesh screening around the base of the cargo container to prevent bees from entering in the future. This was all done during daylight hours.

They used a special vacuum that was designed to not harm the bees in any way. The bees were then vacuumed up and put into several 5 gallon buckets with lids to transport to Poway. The two beehives were successfully relocated Poway and the safety hazard to TPG members and San Diego County workers was eliminated.

On the following page are photos of the removal process done by Aliza's Bee Removal Service.

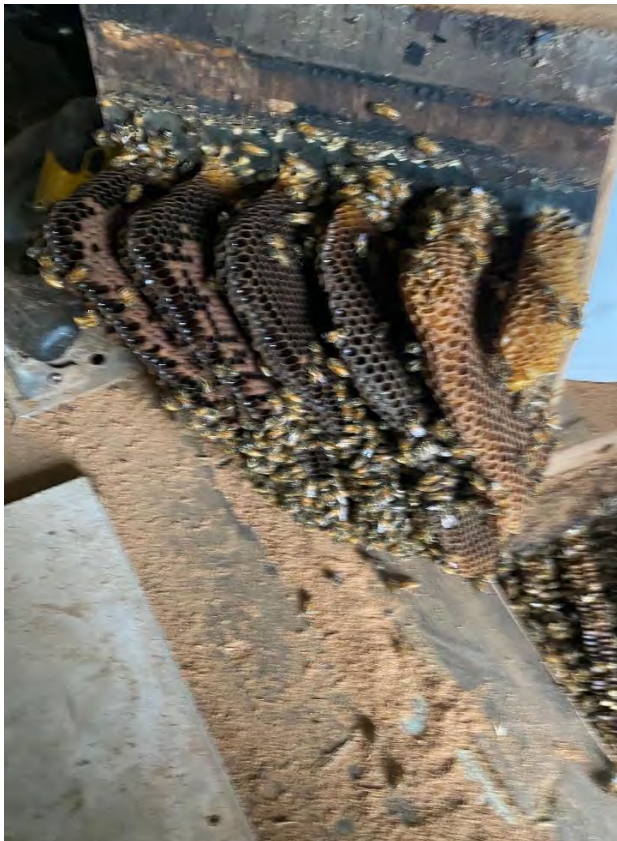
The Birds and the Bees (continued)



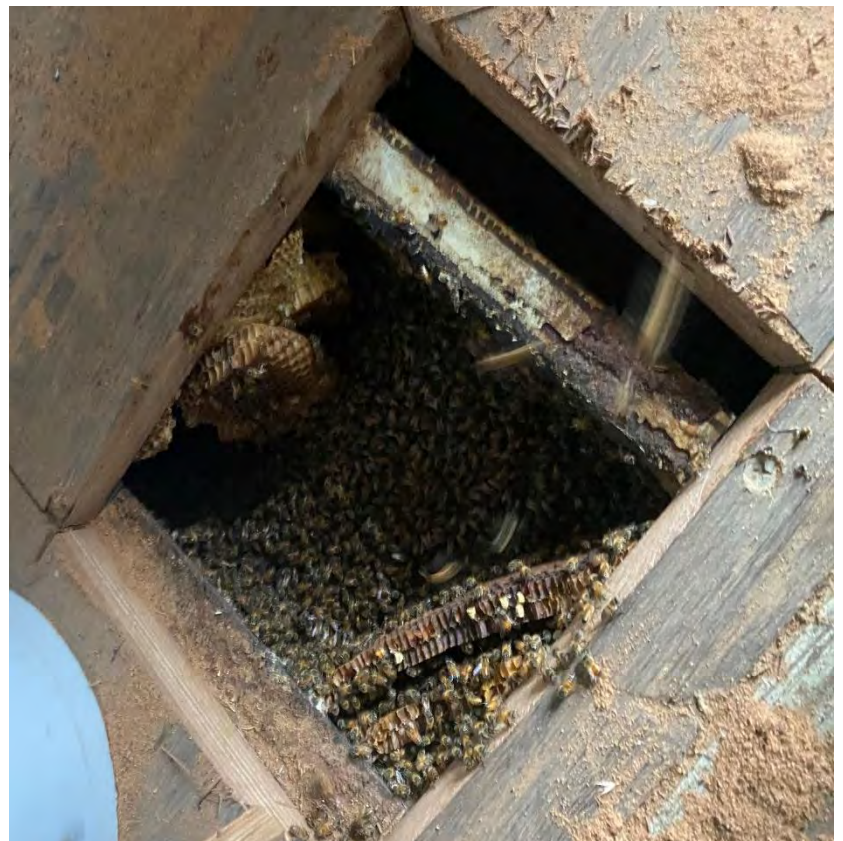
The cargo container and club trailer located at the Encinitas Flight Center



Beehive exposed under the front portion of the cargo container



Honeycomb from the front hive



Beehive exposed below the center of the cargo container.

Soaring Man Festival October 16th – 17th, 2021 – Tom Watson

The third weekend each October is when the Visalia Fall Aerotow traditionally takes place. This year was to be no exception, and many pilots committed to participate in the three-day event. However, it was ultimately not to be, as last-minute field complications forced the CVRC club to cancel it. The notice came on Thursday afternoon, even as some pilots had already begun arriving at the field.

The GPS Triangle pilots in the group immediately circled the wagons and led by TPG's own Steve Condon, began discussing potential alternate venues. After reviewing the weather forecasts, we chose El Mirage Dry Lake. Logistically, it is suited for aerotowing and GPS racing with a perfectly flat surface and no obstacles in play. The specific location was a known factor, as a few pilots have flown there before and found it ideal. Off-road vehicle activity was generally well to the north.

Mike Smith coined the term "Soaring Man" when he first flew at El Mirage in 2020. While not quite as eclectic as its namesake Burning Man, it was still on the open desert, so seemed fitting.

The turnout was legit. 12 pilots made the trek to El Mirage, representing much of the core group of Visalia GPS flyers plus three tow pilots. Some showed up Friday afternoon, with the remainder arriving early Saturday morning. The first day weather was warm, with winds estimated at 10-15 MPH and gusting higher...your humble author whipped out his Kestrel 2000 weather station to confirm, only to find the battery dead and no spare on hand. Ah well.

Real thermals were non-existent, with only spotty, wind-chopped lift infrequently available. Lap counts were no higher than single digits; many in the very low singles. It was a good opportunity to practice flying in adverse conditions and was still very enjoyable.



View to the north – we were basically able to tow straight from the pit area.
Note: All photos in this article are by Mike Smith and Tom Watson

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)

Sunday dawned bright and cool, with a very light breeze. As the temperature climbed, some minor lift was noted on the course and while still not “real” thermals, provided some genuinely buoyant (and sometimes neutral) air. This was another opportunity to fly the course in atypical conditions. Best weekend lap counts for the TPG crew were:

Mike Smith	7 laps
Tom Watson	7 laps
Steve Condon	5 laps



TPG pilots (L-R): Don Van Gundy, Tom Watson, Steve Hurd, Mike Smith and Steve Condon [Mike Lance and Ken Kaye photobombing back row]

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)

A variety of the latest competitive 1/3 scale airframes were present, such as the FW Model ASW-17, the Chocofly ASW-17s, Vladimir's Models AN-66, and the LET Model JS-1c. Towing duties were handled by Gary McCartney, Don Van Gundy, and Steve Hurd. Gary and Don flew Bidule 170s, and Steve used his trusty Pegasus.

The group agreed El Mirage is an excellent site and pledged to return for future events.



Mike Smith preparing to launch his ASW-17 with tow pilot Gary McCartney

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



Clockwise from left: Tom Watson's ASW-17s. Steve Condon's JS-1c. and Mike Smith's ASW-17

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



Tom Watson standing in the tow queue, between two ASW-17s.

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



Don Van Gundy preparing to launch his Antares, with Mike Smith and Steve Condon assisting

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



Mike Smith executing a field repair

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



West side of camp

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



East side of camp

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



We had the occasional airborne visitor

Soaring Man Festival – October 16th – 17th, 2021 (continued)



Sunset over the lakebed

Photo of the Month Contest – 2021 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); so horizontal format photos are preferred. Email your photos (JPG format and original high-resolution version please) to Dale Gottdank at submit@torreypinesgulls.org. Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description. Note: Photos submitted during November will be included in the 2022 Photo of the Month contest starting in January.

This year's Photo of the Year winner is Cliff Hunter, with his shot of F5J contest group launch at Poway. Congratulations, Cliff!



Photo of the Year Winner – Group launch at the April F5J contest (Cliff Hunter photo)

Club Officers and Contact Information

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Past President	Craig Hanson	
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LSF Coordinator	Ray Pili	lsf@torreypinesgulls.org
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TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Mark Baldacchino	soaringcouncil@torreypinesgulls.org

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:

“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.”

~ Edward Pola and George Wyle



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)