

2022

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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 Vice President



Bob Hirsch

This month, the guy who the Bylaws says is in charge of meetings, raffles, awards, etc., has some exciting news! Along with what promises to be a great series of lectures lined up by our Club Historian, Gary Fogel.....**we're bringing back raffles!**

Starting with this month's virtual meeting on February 22nd, every attendee will have a "virtual" raffle ticket. The raffle tickets will be free, but not unlimited. In other words, if you win one of the prize drawings, then you

won't be eligible for another drawing during the meeting. We already have a few prizes lined up, including some highly desirable NIB kits, one of which will be given away at the upcoming meeting.

So be sure to attend and chat with some flying buddies and hear a great lecture by fellow TPG member Mengchen Li. Read about Mengchen and the topic of his presentation on the next page.

Your Executive Council has been working hard to make this year something everyone will enjoy. As we continue to come out of the fog of Covid-related rules and regulations, we look forward to a fun filled year.

See you all in the air!

Bob Hirsch
Vice President

Next TPG Virtual Club Meeting – February 22, 2022 – Gary Fogel

Hi Gulls. Continuing with the fun lineup we enjoyed last year via Zoom, we're going to have a good set of speakers and fun lined up for the membership in a series of bimonthly virtual club meetings. Hopefully, sometime we can get back to meetings in person, but until then we're eager to generate a meeting place where members can chat, show and tell new products, ask questions, hear a great speaker, etc. We're also working on some additional fun at each meeting – more details will be released soon via Google Groups so stay tuned!

The virtual club meetings will be held at 7:00pm on the following Tuesday evenings:

- [Feb 22](#)
- Apr 26
- Jun 28
- Aug 23
- Oct 25

In December, the annual holiday party will substitute for our virtual meeting and we absolutely hope to get together in person for that year-end occasion. The Zoom link for the meetings is: [TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link](#). A reminder will be sent to members via Google Groups prior to the meeting.

For the meeting on Feb 22nd we welcome TPG member Mengchen Li to provide a lecture “Feng Ru and Early Powered Flight in California and China.” Feng Ru was a Chinese aviator who made one of the first successful powered flights west of the Rockies with an airplane of his own design and construction in California in 1909. A pioneering, aero-minded industrialist, he established one of the first aviation companies in California and produced a series of aircraft designs.

He returned to his native China in 1911, assisting in the development of China's first air force. TPG members Mengchen and Gary Fogel have been researching this history for the last year and recently published a paper on the topic at the latest AIAA SciTech meeting in early January. The lecture highlights the difficulties of unpowered and powered heavier-than-air flight at that time, accentuated by the cultural biases that Feng Ru endured in California. While Feng Ru is known widely in China for his efforts, his beginnings in California have been largely forgotten until now.



Feng Ru (pilot) in Oakland – circa 1907 (photo courtesy of Oakland Wiki)

Next TPG Virtual Club Meeting (continued)

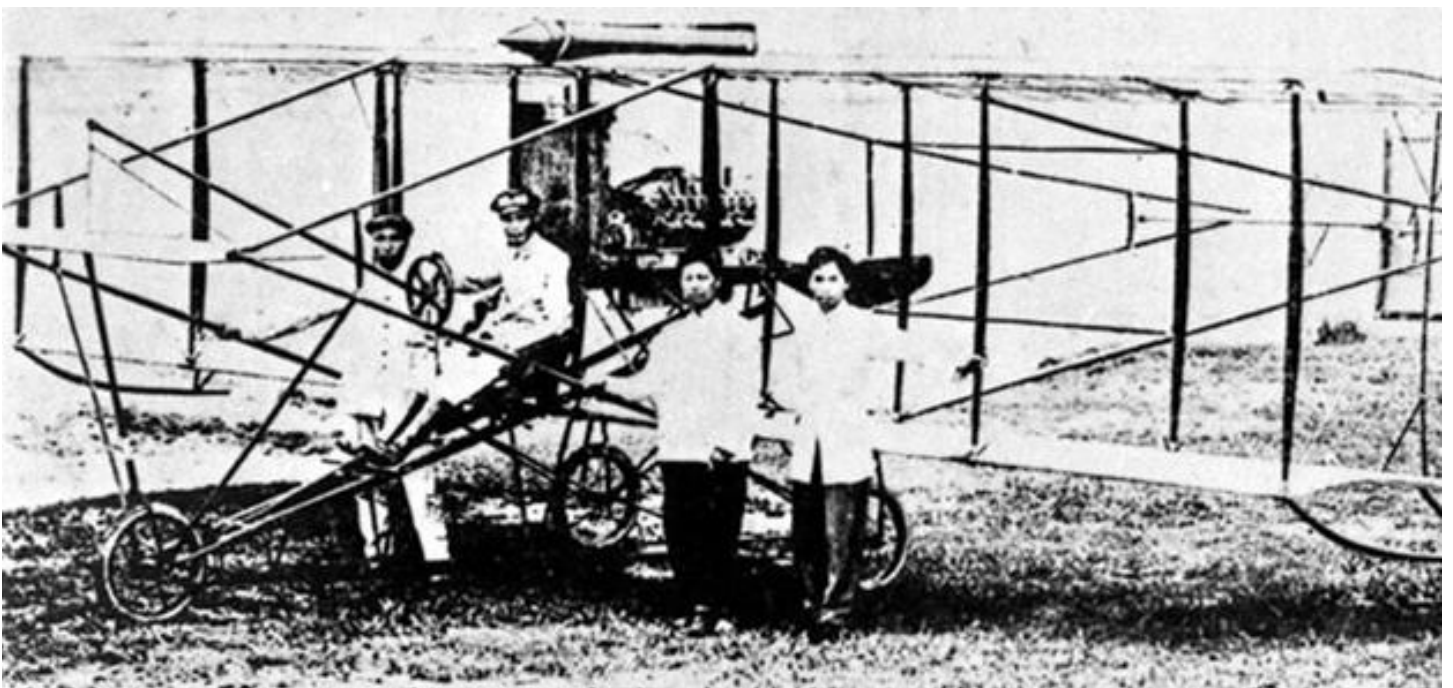
Speaker Mengchen Li came to San Diego recently to complete his bachelor's degree at UC San Diego. Prior to coming to the US, Li was a junior on the Chinese team that attended the F3K World Championship. Once in San Diego, he was pleased to find the Gulls and has been a regular at our monthly DLG contests, taking first place for the 2021 season.

Mengchen is currently working on his Ph.D. at UCLA in materials science while maintaining his TPG membership, joining us for contests at Poway and also at El Dorado, as well as obtaining his full-scale glider license! Mengchen will be assisted during the lecture by our own club historian and Mengchen's co-author Gary Fogel.

You won't want to miss this one! See you there.



Portrait of Feng Ru (courtesy of Alta Journal)



Feng and assistants with the Feng Ru 2 in Guangdong, China (photo courtesy of Smithsonian Magazine)

TPG February/March Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
February 12	Fly and Swap	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Registration Required Fun Fly!
February 13	F5J Contest Combined with F5JinLA	Perris SCAMPS field Register on F3X Vault
February 19	DLG contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
February 22	Virtual Club Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
February 26	Foamy F5J Clinic and contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
March 12	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Registration Required Fun Fly!
March 13	TD Contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
March 19	DLG contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



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. 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, 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're asking for just a bit of your time to help get a new pilot started; maybe at one of our Gliderport Fun Fly events, or a DLG contest, or just anytime...no long term commitment. Just fun.

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.

Our club meetings are conducted via Zoom, so it's really easy to join in, chat with flying buddies and hear a great presentation about RC soaring and related topics.

Our next meeting, Tuesday, February 22, will feature TPG member Mengchen Li presenting his **and Gary Fogel's paper on Feng Ru, the Father of Chinese Aviation.**

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!

February Issue highlights include:

- [Mentoring Program Start-up](#)
- [TPG Election Results](#)
- [AIAA SciTech Recap](#)
- Don Edberg at SciTech 2022
- 2002 Modeler of the Year, Slope Negotiating Committee by Gary Fogel

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>.

TPG Election Results – Dale Gottdank

The election of the 2022 Torrey Pines Gulls Executive Council was supposed to have taken place on December 14, 2021 at the Holiday Party/Annual Meeting. Along with the election of EC officers, we planned to vote on two revisions to the club Bylaws.

The required quorum of one fifth (1/5) or a minimum of 20 annual members was not present. It was then decided that the vote would be conducted online, using Google Forms. Ballots were emailed to all 136 TPG members. The results of the election are shown below:

OFFICER POSITION	VOTES
PRESIDENT	
Ian Cummings	34
VICE-PRESIDENT	
Bob Hirsch	35
SECRETARY	
Dale Gottdank	34
TREASURER	
Don Lochhead	34
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	
Dale Gottdank	34
THERMAL COORDINATOR	
Tom Watson	34
SLOPE COORDINATOR	
Mark Baldacchino	34
DLG COORDINATOR	
Chuck Norris	34
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	
Cliff Hunter	34

BYLAWS REVISION #1	Y-35 N-0
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Section 4: Temporary Members: 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.

Will be replaced by:

Section 4: Temporary Members: 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 must be a current AMA member or at minimum purchase a three-month trial AMA membership. A TPG member may sponsor only one temporary member at any given time.

BYLAWS REVISION #2	Y-35 N-0
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Where the terms Board or Executive Board are used in the Bylaws, they shall be replaced with the term Executive Council.

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

REMINDER: It is that time of the year to renew your 2022 TPG Membership. So far this year, we have 93 renewed and new paid memberships. [Note: still have 43 members who have not renewed. Please do so as soon as you can.](#) The field access gate locks for 2021 will be removed February 1, 2022.

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 [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	January – December 2021	Paid New Members for 2022	Paid Renewal Members for 2022	Total Paid Members For 2022
Members for 2021 (incl. 4 lifetime)	136	NA	NA	NA
New and Renewal Members for 2022	NA	5	88	93
Google Group Members*	127	NA	NA	132**

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

Please welcome our new members this month, **Alan “Moose” Butler, Ryan Hevener, Rich Meredith, George Oesterreicher** and Justin Rizor.

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!

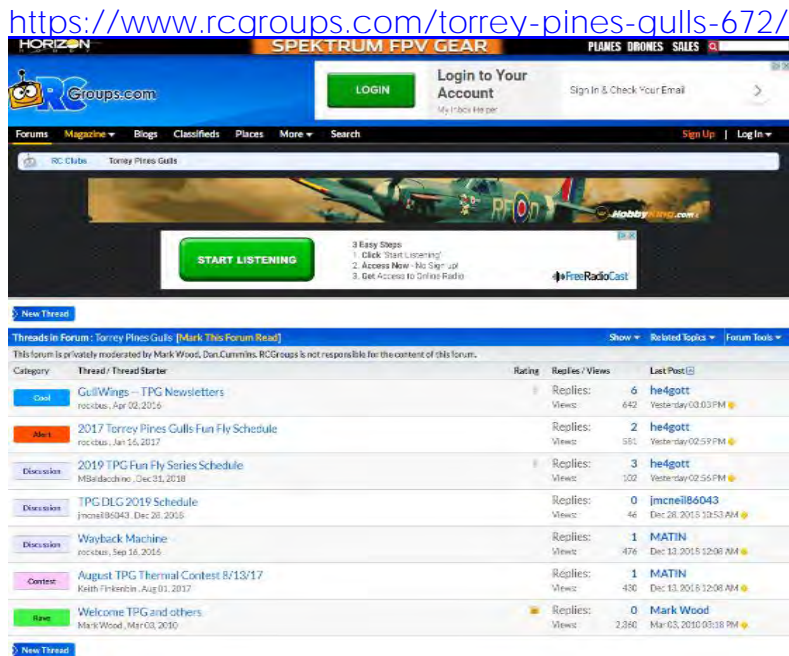
RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

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: 551	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MBarbadoine, 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?

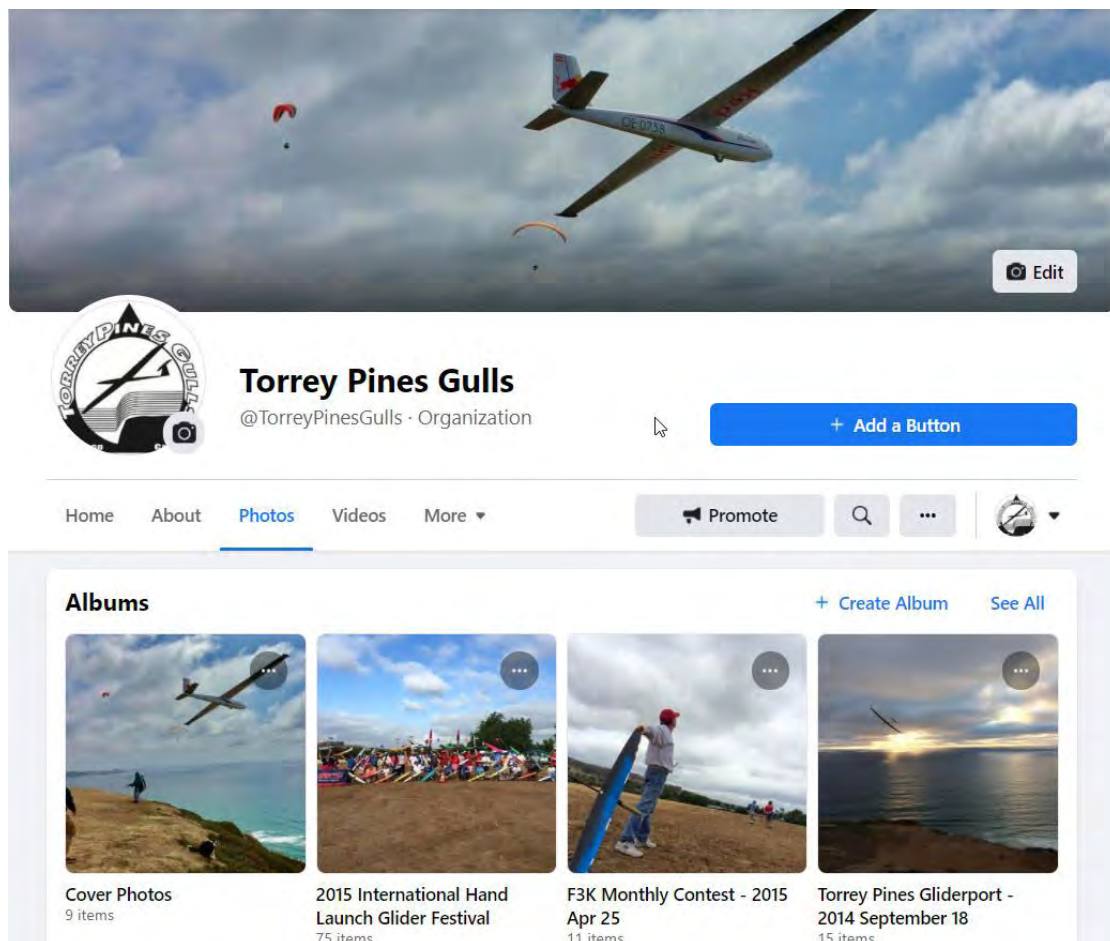
You can express your opinion at: www.torreypinesgulls.org.

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/>



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@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

Happy February 2022, TPGulls!



Mark Baldacchino



Photo from Torrey Pines Gliderport website

Our last fun fly/field cleanup day on January 8th turned out to be a nice, flyable day. President Ian, Thomas Moller, and I were out there early, hunting for tumbleweeds. Thomas towed-out a motorcycle trailer to haul out the weeds and take them to the Miramar landfill, but according to Thomas, the line at the landfill was long, so he took the harvest of tumbleweeds home and disposed of them himself. Thank you, Thomas!

George Clarke and Ray Pili had a blast flying their ParkZone Ka-8's in relatively light wind that afternoon; some pics below of the fun in the "office."



Ian taking a picture of Ray coming through, while George stays clear (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Ray testing his wing joiner in the office (Mark Baldacchino photo)



George with a close flyby (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

While these guys were flying, and we were done with the field maintenance... (BTW, Ian also mowed the rest of the landing zone with our riding mower the next day)...Ian brought out his portable grill, and fed the few club members that were there. Man, those hotdogs taste so much better on the grill, and having the world's best ocean view; well, that's perfection! Dogs, chips, and drinks were on the house! Thanks Ian!



Chef Ian (Mark Baldacchino photo)

This month we'll have an opportunity to do some spring cleaning by bringing unwanted sailplanes out of our garages, closets, rafters, or wherever, to the Fly 'n Swap fun fly on the 12th. There's no particular type of plane to fly for this event, but just a time to sell, buy, or trade these gems and a great opportunity get these unused birds back in the air where they belong.

If you haven't done so already, sign all your waivers at the glider shack. They now have a QR code at the front desk that you'll scan with your phone, and you'll sign everything through your phone. You'll get an email confirmation while you're there, and you're done; easy peasy!

News from the Slope (continued)

Below is the Gliderport schedule for 2022. Note that we have two events in June, as we've added in the Katie Martin International Tribute on June 4th.



Photo by Radio Carbon Art Productions

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 4 th	Katie Martin International Tribute. A yearly classic: RCGroups
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.

Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino
Slope Coordinator

Club Competition Activity

Thermal Duration / F5J Contest Series



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 2022 TPG 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 Contest Series



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, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2022 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4040675-2022-TPG-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series#post48416967.>

or contact Chuck Norris at dlg@torreypinesgulls.org

Club Competition Activity (continued)

2022 Foamy F5J Clinic and Fun-Fly contest Series



Don Lochhead

For 2022 we will be continuing with our F5J Foamy events at Poway, with combined Clinics and contests scheduled for Saturday mornings from 9-12 on:

- February 26
- May 28
- August 27
- November 5

Based on our popular DLG Contest and Clinic format, this year we are going to emphasize the “Clinic” aspect while continuing to fly contests. This is first and foremost a fun-fly event. So, if you are just getting started in F5J or just looking for an excuse to dig out your Foamy for a morning of relaxing flying this is the event for you.

The subject of the February Clinic will be tune-up tips for the Radian. These planes are pretty good right out of the box but many pilots have found ways to improve the flying characteristics even more. So come out prepared to show off your mod's and pick up even more tips. Future clinics will cover the aspects (rules, strategies, scoring, timer duties, etc.) of F5J contests that are a bit different from other TD events.

The contest element will be set up to emphasize the fun-fly aspect. We will have the field configured with landing tapes and the sound system. To get the most flying in for everyone, the flight window will be reduced from the regulation 10 minutes down to 7 minutes. We will plan on at least five rounds so everyone will get in plenty of stick-time.

We will ask everyone to pre-register on F3X Vault:

(https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=2234) and will be using self-entry of scoring results to give those of you who may not have used this system yet a chance to get some practice. Entry fees for the Clinic and contest will be free for TPG members and \$5 for non-members. We have opened a thread on RC groups so everyone can stay up to date on the event:

(<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4038751-2022-TPG-Foamy-Clinic-and-Contest>).

We are hoping that this event will help to introduce new pilots to what TPG has to offer. The council is considering the purchase of a club Radian that would be available for new members to learn to fly on. To make this work we will need some club members to offer to act as mentor pilots. If you would be interested, please contact any council member.

See you on February 26th!

January TD Contest Report – Mike Verzuh, CD

Field: TPG Encinitas Flight Center

Date: Jan 9, 2022

Our Thermal Duration Contest series stop for January was at the Encinitas Field. The format was TD open class. For those pilots that were able to attend, we had a blast with a lot of flying.

The field is in fabulous shape, thanks to all the help from Cliff Hunter and others. The whole field was mowed and we had a beautiful day with full sun and light winds. There were perfect TD conditions. We used the club winches and flew four rounds of open winch. With just six pilots, you really had no other planes to read and thermal skills were needed. Take a look at the attached pictures.



Mike Verzuh launching his Explorer (Cliff Hunter photo)

The first round was at 9:00 and the lift was already nice, but there were tricky spots that caught a few pilots. The morning mist had burned off and skies were clear all day. Wind was light; around 5 mph. Even though the conditions were good, if you were not in the right place you found yourself with a short flight. Downwind thermal reads were good, but you had to have enough launch height to get back to it and work it staying well over the power lines.













Overall, we had an awesome time. The results are below. Congratulations to our winner Arthur Markiewicz.

January TD Contest Report (continued)

Preliminary Rounds **4** Pilots **7** Position Chart Rankings Stats

Preliminary Overall Standings

Rounds (1-4)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Complete
1	7 Arthur Markiewicz  	3971.43		971.43	1000	1000	1000	
2	1 Tom Watson  	3886.08	-85.35	956.04	970.49	994.18	965.37	
3	5 Mike Verzuh  	3788.53	-97.55	1000	824.65	994.18	969.70	
4	3 Clifford Hunter  	3677.31	-111.22	821.98	932.29	944.69	978.35	
5	6 Sean Summers	3176.15	-501.16	890.11	651.04	675.40	959.60	
6	2 Jon Vance  	0.00	-3176.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	4 Steve Hurd  	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	



Tom Watson launching his MAXA (Cliff Hunter photo)

Tom's MAXA coming in for a landing (Cliff Hunter photo)

Hope to see everyone for the next TD stop at the Poway field in March. In the meantime, we have the combined F5JinLA/TPG contest at the Perris SCAMPS field on February 13th.

Best,

Mike Verzuh

January DLG Contest Report

The January DLG contest, scheduled for the 15th was cancelled due to inclement weather. A few of the entrants didn't receive the cancellation notice in time, but these hardy souls decided to tough it out and get in some flying time anyway.



Drizzly Poway Field (Cliff Hunter photo)



Justin Tolman launchin' in the rain (Cliff Hunter photo)



Mystery pilot launchin' and "Singin' in the Rain"

LSF Report – Gary Fogel



Gary Fogel

Hi Gulls,

Picking up where Ray Pili left off last year, I'm serving as the 2022 TPG LSF Coordinator. Although we haven't planned any LSF-specific events for 2022, club TD and DLG competitions qualify for LSF SAP (Soaring Accomplishment Program) credit and the Foamy F5J Clinic and Fun-Fly contest Series and F5J contests qualify for LSF eSAP (Electric Soaring Accomplishment Program) credit. Depending upon club member interest, additional LSF Attempt Day events may be scheduled

In the meantime, here's some general information about the League of Silent Flight program. <https://www.silentflight.org/index.php>.

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. With Poway and Torrey within fairly close proximity, it is absolutely possible to complete Level I in one day with help from witnesses.

LSF Report (continued)

In order to participate in the LSF program, please go to: <https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>. Bring the voucher as well as your AMA card to one of the TPG events and get started! It's as simple as that.

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 down load 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, which 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,

Gary Fogel
LSF Coordinator
lsf@torreypinesgulls.org

AIAA SciTech 2022 Recap – Gary Fogel

On January 3-7, 2022 during the uptick in Omicron, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) held its large AIAA SciTech meeting at the Hyatt Manchester in downtown San Diego. In person attendance was reduced slightly, and presenters were still able to upload video recordings of their presentations if registrants were unable to attend.

At least three TPGers made it to AIAA SciTech.

Mengchen Li presented a paper on the history of pilot Feng Ru, who designed, built and flew his own powered aircraft in 1909 in what was likely the first powered flight in a heavier-than-air flying machine in California. Feng Ru later moved back to China where he helped form the first Chinese Air Force in support of democratic reform. He unfortunately died in 1911 as a result of an aircraft accident. His paper was coauthored by Gary Fogel

<https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/abs/10.2514/6.2022-1237>

Scott McCurdy attended AIAA SciTech to assist with the General Atomics booth as a part of the main exhibit hall. When not at the booth, Scott enjoyed attending several presentations. I believe Ray Pili may have also attended.

Gary Fogel chaired a history session and presented a paper on the history of Dale Drake and early aerotowing in the US. He also co-authored two other articles that were presented by SDSU students including a biography of Maxine Dunlap, first woman to receive a glider license in the United States and Albert Merrill, first aeronautics professor at both MIT and Caltech who also experimented with unusual glider designs in the 1920s.

<https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2022-1234>

<https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2022-1236>

<https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2022-1235>

The conference included many other sessions on technical aspects of aerospace, including a paper from the Netherlands making use of a 1/3 scale Diana 2 RC scale glider for aeroservoelastic flight testing.

<https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/10.2514/6.2022-2169>

AIAA SciTech is in Washington, D.C. in January 2023 so plan now if you want to attend!

AIAA SciTech 2022 Recap (continued)



Gary Fogel (second from left) and Mengchen Li (far right) enjoying AIAA SciTech with other students. Mengchen did a great job with his presentation!

Dr. Don Edberg – From TPG Modeler of the Year to AIAA Book Award Winner – Gary Fogel

Dr. Don Edberg, 1976 TPG Modeler of the Year and a professor of aerospace engineering at Cal Poly Pomona, has recently released a new comprehensive co-authored textbook called “Design of Rockets and Space Launch Vehicles” published by AIAA. Although it is primarily intended for readers with at least a 3rd-year level knowledge of aerospace engineering, mathematics, and physics, because it contains many applications and step-by-step illustrated examples along with photographs or line drawings of actual hardware, it will also be of interest to practicing engineers, technical managers, and others who are interested in how rockets work in either the big picture sense, or in areas other than one's specialty. More info about the book can be found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Design-Rockets-Space-Launch-Vehicles/dp/1624105939>

And Don supplied a nice summary of the book here

<https://www.cpp.edu/engineering/news/2020/aerospace-rocket-textbook.shtml>

Edberg and his co-author Willie Costa were recently informed that they are winners of the prestigious AIAA Summerfield Book Award for the best book recently published (within the last five years) by the AIAA. Their award was given recently at the AIAA SciTech meeting which was held here in San Diego in early January. It's truly a fantastic accomplishment and the book took ~10 years to complete.

Along with Alex Mladineo and others, Don helped put TPG on the competitive thermal duration map in the 1970s while he attended UC San Diego. Edberg represented the USA on teams at the 1981 and 1983 FAI F3B world championships. He also authored a popular book on the programming of Futaba radio systems.



Don, back in the TPG days



Alex Mladineo with Don at a contest in the 1970s

Dr. Don Edberg (continued)

I had the pleasure of seeing him at AIAA SciTech and congratulating him on behalf of TPG.

Way to go Don!



Don Edberg giving a presentation on his latest book at the AIAA SciTech meeting in San Diego in January 2022

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel



This Month: TPG Slope Negotiating Committee 2002 Modeler of the Year

2001 was a very challenging year for RC soaring in general at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. A new lease signed by the City of San Diego in 1998 with Air California Adventure to operate the Gliderport and provide flight direction generated considerable promise of a brighter future. However, by 2001, to some in the paraglider community, the RC gliders were “in the way” of their fun and income. To some in the RC community, the paragliders routinely avoided obeying the established flight rules and not much was being done by the flight director to solve the issue. This difference in opinion led to additional discord, not only at the cliff, but at Torrey Pines Soaring Council (TPSC) meetings. Established in 1978 by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, the TPSC had long been the source of discussion between all flight communities both local and national to ensure flight safety at the cliff. When the 1998 lease was signed, the TPSC was named as the body required to work with the lessee to review and generate site rules. However, despite meetings and input, the divide between the lessee and many user groups grew. On June 1, 2001, Air California Adventures notified users that the flight fees would be increasing to \$150 for an annual pass or \$7.50 a day. This was higher than what was approved in the 1998 lease and the change was made without any coordination with the TPSC. Tensions continued to escalate.

In 2002, a decision was made by the lessee / flight director representing Air California Adventures to ban all RC soaring at the Gliderport as in his opinion the RCers were flying in a reckless and unsafe manner in the window, representing a collision hazard with the increased number of paragliders. The ban



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

came to RCers in the form of a green “By Order Of” notice posted at the RC frequency board. From the RCers perspective, rules weren’t being enforced properly; the window was crowded with more than one paraglider at a time, most not blowing whistles or informing their intended takeoff direction on launch, etc., creating the hazard in the first place. But the outright ban of RC gliding was made with the coordination of City of San Diego Real Estate Assets Department, as they managed the lease on behalf of the City.

Upon hearing this news, the two RC clubs that shared the site, Torrey Pines Gulls and Torrey Pines Scale Soaring Society (TPSSS) launched into action. Within the Gulls a “TPG Slope Negotiating Committee” was formed including John Davies, Steve Condon (TPG representative to the TPSC), David Laney (TPG Treasurer), Larry Fogel (AMA representative to the TPSC), TPG member Don English (a lawyer by profession who enjoyed flying RC at the cliff), Ron Brown, and John McNeil (TPG President). This team interfaced directly with the TPG Board of Directors, the TPSSS, as well as the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), especially District X VP Richard Hanson (currently, AMA’s President), Carl Maroney and then-AMA President David Brown, as well as the other flight disciplines represented on the TPSC. A series of meetings were arranged between the RC users and the lessee, mediated by the City of San Diego Airports Division. Without rehashing painful events, suffice it to say that these were very contentious meetings. However, an approach was finally outlined that included reinstated RC Glider activities along with new safety procedures; an RC pilot certification/rating system for both the TPG and TPSSS, with provisions for guest members and with the assurance that the flight director would enforce existing TPSC approved site rules such as having only one ultralight in the window at a time. This new approach was approved by the TPSC, the flight director, the City of San Diego, the AMA, and the AMA’s insurance carrier. Once everything was approved, a set of long-time experienced modelers were then “assigned” a Senior Rating and given the extraordinary task of reviewing and certifying all of the other modelers that wanted to use the site. It was a tremendous effort. RC soaring officially resumed at Torrey Pines on October 11, 2002 with John Davies being the first to be back in the air flying his RnR Genesis.

While many people beyond just the negotiating committee made this possible, the TPG Slope Negotiating Committee was the team that carried a considerable burden and the many negotiations in August and September 2002 led to the successful renewal of RC soaring activities. As TPG President John McNeil noted in the newsletter in December 2002, “despite the bad situation, working with this fine group of pilots has reminded me why I love this hobby so much: the fine people attracted to it.” I chatted recently with John and he was reminded that despite all of the dark issues of the time, working with that group of very dedicated individuals was actually an amazingly wonderful experience.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

At the holiday party, it was an easy slam dunk decision to award the “Modeler of the Year” trophy to all members of the TPG Slope Negotiating Team for their many hours of service and dedication for the future of RC soaring at Torrey. As a way of cementing that future, I had the pleasure of proposing and shepherding a new National Aeromodeling Heritage Program through the AMA with the goal of preserving important sites to model aviation across the nation, similar to what the National Soaring Museum does with its National Landmark of Soaring program. AMA agreed. The new program started in 2002 with the Torrey Pines Gliderport approved as Aeromodeling Heritage Landmark No. 1 in the United States. Those from AMA who had helped preserve RC soaring at Torrey during the unfortunate ban attended the ceremony to install the plaque on top of a new steel welded frequency board made by TPG and TPSSS member Sal Peluso; a pin board that still stands today. 2001-2002 was a particularly dark time at the cliff for RC soaring - may we never be banned from the Gliderport again.



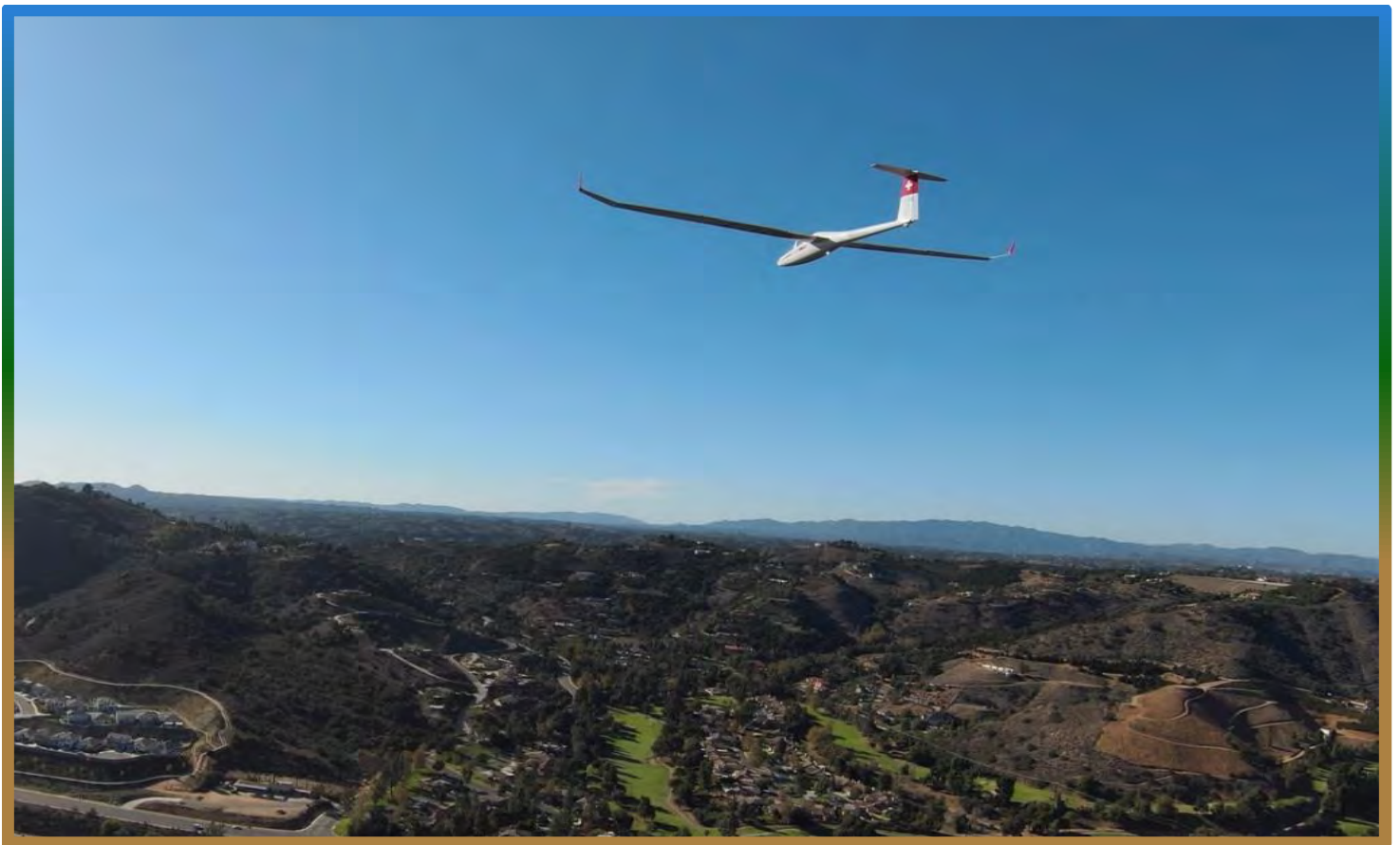
John Blaske photo

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); 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.



January Winner – Thomas Moller's Paritech DG-1000 at Palomar RC field (Steffen Peters screenshot)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Tom Watson launching his MAXA with Art Markiewicz timing at the January TD contest (Cliff Hunter photo)



Justin Tolman launching on a drizzly Poway day (Cliff Hunter photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



February Winner – George Clarke doing a close flyby with his Ka-8 at Torrey (Mark Baldacchino photo)

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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 best pilots fly more than the others; that's why they're the best."

~ Chuck Yeager



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)