



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2016

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

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Dan Cummins

Message from the President

Hello Gulls,

As I write this, I am preparing to welcome 2016. TPG has gained some positive momentum in 2015, and I am hoping we can carry that momentum into 2016. Our goal for 2016 is to promote more member participation in our monthly contests, several fun fly events, and slope

competitions. As a part of that objective, TPG will host regular League of Silent Flyers (LSF) task events & contests to provide members an opportunity to hone their skills in thermal duration, slope flying, and landing accuracy. We are tentatively planning our next LSF event in February and every other month after that.

I am also very interested in getting member volunteers to help set up some events specifically for brand new pilots. Through the generous donations of our members, the club now has some planes that are available to help prospective members with their "RC Glider Pilot Experience". To make this a reality, we will need volunteer pilots to staff fun fly and new pilot events to provide one-on-one help to new pilots. If you are interested in helping out new pilots experience their first slope or TD flight, please contact me or any of the board members to volunteer!

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Message from the President – (continued)

This year is shaping up to be a great year at the slope. With the El Niño weather setting us up for regular doses of good wind, it's looking like we are going to be able to bring back the Torrey Classic F3F Slope racing contest. Dates are yet to be set, but it looks like we definitely have interest to make this race happen in 2016.

Last but not least, I would like to encourage everyone check out the [AMA EXPO](#) coming up on January 8th through 10th just up the road at the Ontario Convention Center. If you've never been, you should check it out to see the latest equipment, keynote speakers, and always impressive demos from some of the leading manufactures in the RC industry.

Till next month.

Fly more, build something cool, and learn something new!

Cheers!

Dan Cummins



Me, launching a Ka-8 for Ed Blodgett during the December 12th LSF Attempt Day

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.



Join the Yahoo Forum!

From Lenny Brzezinski:

The Yahoo forum was formed Oct. 18th, 1999. There are over 200 members in the Yahoo Group. This group has many things to offer for the club. It is a way of communicating with each other. If you have any concerns you can post them here including other questions about almost anything having to do with flying, building, finding another person, and so on.

If you are new to the club, the website will give you a lot of information about the club. On the website there is a link that you can use to join the group. This group is moderated. Please use this group for flying related items. You can post on the Yahoo group files, photos, polls, members, and calendar. All of these sections are available to any member. I hope that your experience with this group will be great. On the TPG website, www.torreypinesgulls.org, you can follow the **YAHOO FORUM** link in the drop-down menu that appears when you scroll over **TORREY PINES GULLS** next to **LOCATIONS, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP.**

Check out the TPG Facebook Page

From John Blaske:

If you haven't had a chance yet, check out our TPG Facebook page:

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



Dale Gottdank

Newsletter Update - Dale Gottdank

Happy New Year, Gulls!

For 2016, let's keep making the **GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER** even better:

Please Send Pictures! Send an article, perhaps. It doesn't have to be a "novel," just a paragraph or two about something that interests you related in some way to RC soaring...even something interesting you happened upon 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!

To make the timely issue possible, I need the club members' support and help in providing me with recent pictures, articles and any upcoming events. If there are too many, we'll save some for the next issue.

Please send in your articles or photos (dgottdank@gmail.com) by the **25th** of each month so they can be included in the monthly newsletter. The newsletter can be found on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>

Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

As we did last year, TPG will continue to host monthly contests, fun-fly events, and onsite clinics. General meetings will coincide with non-competitive events throughout the year. Be on the lookout for upcoming details and scheduling for all TPG and related events in the Newsletter and on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at:

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

Annual Holiday Party – December 8, 2015

The Annual Torrey Pines Gulls Holiday Party was a great success, with members and several significant others enjoying a Phil's BBQ feast and Awards Ceremony. Thanks to Robin Canfield for photos of the event. 2015 Winners are:

Modeler of the Year: Ray Pili

Thermal Duration:

Expert	1 st - Steve Hurd,	2 nd - Jon Vance	3 rd - Bruno Burgin
Master	1 st - Mark Canfield	2 nd - Eric Larson	3 rd - Cliff Hunter

DLG: 1st - Paul Anderson 2nd - Greg Bolton 3rd - Mike Seid

Photo of the Year: Ian Cummings (check out the 2016 newsletter and website mastheads)



Ray Pili accepts Modeler of the Year Award from President Dan Cummins



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Annual Holiday Party – December 8, 2015 (continued)



Bruno Burgin



Steve Hurd



Cliff Hunter



Mark Canfield



Greg Bolton



Paul Anderson

News from the Slope – Ray Pili, Slope Coordinator



Ray Pili

Happy New Year, now hurry up summer!
I'm done with these 50 degree days.

El Nino continued through December and brought green grass at Torrey and some cranking days.

Speaking of green grass, Robin scored two rolls of artificial grass and it was nailed down December 14 by Kevin Bagwell, Mike S., Sean, Robert Petersen and yours truly. Picture below:



Kevin Bagwell, Mike Slean, Sean and Robert Petersen. Photo by Ray Pili

On Friday December 11th winds averaged 25+ with gusts to 50 mph late in the day. Bands of showers came through, causing the group to run to the cars to wait out the showers and hail, followed by a mad dash to the bluff for more flying.

Judd Kleinman was out from Colorado flying Torrey again. He sure picked a great day to fly his 2.9 m Attacko. Greg, Dan, and Matin showed up with PSS B-17's (Matin's SAR B-17 was an ISR Award Winner), P-39's, Mach Ones, Blutos and a Sirocco (Ward Hagaman designed twisty wing). Chuck visiting from OC brought his Energic. Mr. Robert and his son, Cam brought out the only Skua on the West Coast for some big air. Phil, Kevin, Will and others all flew, loading up their planes with LEAD.

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News from the Slope (continued)

Rarely do you see a Skua, two Mach Ones and three Blutos at the bluff, but this day brought them out of the closet. I, unfortunately took few photos, but I stole a couple from RCGroups.



45 mph gust. Photo by Matin Taraz



Rain squall. Photo by Ray Pili



Greg Houck's PSS P-39. Photo by Ray Pili



Robert and Cam with their Skua. Photo by Greg Houck

Monday December 14th had flyable, north 20+mph winds, but Tuesday December 22nd was better, with winds over 25 mph straight in. Mike Slean maidenized his PSS TFLG designed P-39, which flew like a bat out of hell. Ex-El Presidente Mark Canfield "ripped the bring" with his 90+oz v-tail Opus. Phil and Johnny (back from Texas) also ripped it up. Another fun day!

*Remember to stop by the Gliderport Office and sign the 2016 Liability Waiver.

The first Fun Fly at the Gliderport for 2016 will be the Annual Pilots Rating/Fun Fly tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2016.

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News from the Slope (continued)

Safety reminder:

As you all know, the FAA released their Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Registry Dec 21 2015:

<http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/>

The FAA has given a deadline of February 19, 2016 to register.

There are a number of threads on RCGroups and RCUniverse discussing this topic. There also is a flood of inaccurate information being posted. There is a set of FAQs provided by the AMA to help understand the registration process.

<http://www.faa.gov/uas/faq/>

You should all have received an email from the AMA requesting AMA members to hold off registration until further notice from the AMA or the February 19, 2016 deadline.

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2015/12/17/hold-off-on-registering-model-aircraft/>

“As we proceed with this process, we suggest AMA members hold off on registering their model aircraft with the FAA until advised by the AMA or until February 19, the FAA’s legal deadline for registering.

Holding off on registration will allow AMA time to fully consider all possible options. On a parallel track, it also allows AMA to complete ongoing conversations with the FAA about how best to streamline the registration process for our members.”

Note: the AMA does not say to never register, only to wait until advice from the AMA or the Feb. 19th deadline. So if we do not hear from the AMA by Feb. 19th, the FAA states you must register or face civil and criminal penalties.

The AMA is asking for members to write to the FAA with your comments on this Interim Final Rule for UAS registration. Please take time to send an email.

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2015/12/28/guidance-on-submitting-comments-to-the-faas-interim-rule-on-uas-registration/>

Be aware of scam drone registration sites, per the AMA:

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2015/12/22/drone-registration-scam-sites/>

One last bit on this difficult subject: the FAA will be at the AMA Expo Sunday January 10th at 12:00 noon on the main stage. I suspect the Q&A will be exciting.

Well, I hope the 2016 is a year of reason and common sense WRT RC Glider Flying.

**Blue Skies,
Ray Pili**

Club Competition Activity

Thermal Duration



Mark Canfield

Thermal Coordinator/Winchmaster – Mark Canfield

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Thermal Duration contests, check the following page on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/event/october-thermal-duration-contest/>

or contact Mark Canfield at mcanfield5@roadrunner.com

More information may be shown in the F3X Vault site (<http://www.f3xvault.com>) as TPG coordinates with the Vault for contest sign-ups, tasks, results, etc.

Hand Launch



Tim Traver

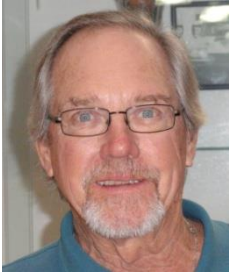
F3K Coordinator – Tim Traver

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Hand Launch/DLG contests, check the following page on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/discus-launch-glider-series/>

or contact Tim Traver at TimTraver@gmail.com

More information may be shown in the F3X Vault site (<http://www.f3xvault.com>) as TPG coordinates with the Vault for contest sign-ups, tasks, results, etc. and in this RCGroups thread: <http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=2318718>

Club Membership – Bill Eckles



Bill Eckles

Year-end turns to year beginning. 2015 has been quite good, with our membership growing a bit, especially that it reflects newly acquired members.

I'm pleased that we're able to keep the dues at \$60 for the New Year, with continued credit for club work conducted last year. It's on the honor system, so please take credit for up to two half-day work sessions at \$10 per session in 2015. This reduces our fee to a very low \$40 annual rate; quite low considering the costs that other So. Cal. clubs need to generate. Additionally, for the competitive guys, contest fees are reduced for club members. The rest of us at least enjoy really good subsidized outings at fun fly events and group gatherings.

I'll get renewal notices out to you by early January and look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year. For those of you who have already renewed, I'll be sending out new cards and keys. For the late joining new guys, your \$30 rates later in the year (after June) are good throughout 2016. Please make sure I get that straight!

Here's a genuine welcome to the start of a new year and the expectation of it being one of the best ever. There are good events shaping up from an active and excited board of directors. Let's make the membership even more exciting than ever. Happy landings.

Bill Eckles, Membership Chairman

Every year we need a good strong membership to continue to provide the services we offer:

- ✓ Access to three Flying Fields in La Jolla, Encinitas and Poway.
- ✓ Quarterly (or thereabouts) fun-fly clinic events to be held at our thermal soaring fields and at Torrey Pines Gliderport, where members will have ample opportunities to take advantage of our trio of excellent flying sites. Be on the lookout for upcoming details and scheduling.
- ✓ A group of guys who can answer just about any question you might ask, and do it with a smile.
- ✓ Contests that bring out world class competitors from around the globe.
- ✓ Competition and help for you, regardless of your skill level.
- ✓ A holiday party that's the envy of most gourmands in Southern California.
- ✓ A website for current and past information www.torreypinesgulls.org
- ✓ An interesting monthly newsletter with current information to help keep members informed
- ✓ We are an AMA Chartered Club #129, with benefits - field insurance etc.

Dues are as follows:

- ✓ Dues for the membership (calendar) year are as follows for submissions during.
- ✓ January through June \$60
- ✓ July through September \$30
- ✓ October through December \$60 (gives you a jump on next year)
- ✓ Full-time college students \$30 per year
- ✓ Juniors under 18 years \$15 per year
- ✓ Receive a *credit* of up to \$20, ten for each of up to two half-day work sessions helping the club.

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

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

LSF Report – Ray Pili



League of Silent Flight Attempt Day – December 12, 2015

- The Torrey Pines Gulls completed an LSF Attempt day at Poway today.
- Aspirants were Daniel McFarland, Ian Cummings, Dan Cummins, Greg Houck, Ed Blodgett and me (Ray Pili). Three very experienced LSF 4 guys were our mentors, Gary Fogel, Terry Throop and John McNeil. We met up a few minutes after 8:30 am. After introductions, two Hi-Starts were staked out to launch to the west. A Dynafite Heavy Duty Hi-Start (100 ft. of tubing and 350 ft. of twine) and John's much stronger Hi-Start for 3m moldies.
- At the same time Ian laid out a very visible landing target with 1.5 and 3.0 meter radius circles using orange chalk from Home Depot.
- After a short meeting on strategy, two groups were formed; Hi-Start and DLG. Terry provided great tips on using a Hi-Start; like how to hold the flag and ring to prevent injuries to your fingers as well as being careful around the string to prevent string burns and cuts.
- Daniel was the first to strike gold with a 14:30 minute thermal flight with a borrowed Ka-8. He had to leave the thermal because the plane was getting too small to see. Daniel is an aeronautical engineering student at UCSD and just finished finals for the quarter. He caught the thermal on his second flight of the morning.
- Next was Ian C. flying a vintage 2X4 with an 11:20 minute flight off the Hi-Start with John coaching. Ian built this 2X4 back in the day and it was not flown for many years. Ian refurbished the 2X4 for the LSF event and his maiden flight was over 3 minutes off a Hi-Start.
- In the meantime Greg and Ed were learning to DLG throw Labelles and catching thermals with Gary's and John's coaching. Soon they accomplished their landing tasks and joined Dan C. on the Hi-Start.
- Greg, flying his Ka-8, caught a nice 5:12 minute thermal. Dan C. followed up with his Ka-8, latching on to a long 7:45 minute thermal, ending up with a perfect LSF 1 landing inside of 1.5 meters.
- While Ian, Ed, Dan C. and Greg were thermal searching, Dan M. and I were working our landing tasks.
- Around noon, Dan M. and I completed our landing tasks. Ed was still working his 5 minute thermal task, so everyone stood alongside to provide moral support. Advice was free flowing and in some cases helpful. A bit of tuning, a bit more advice, a few more trimming flights led to Ed catching a nice 7+ minute thermal with his Ka-8.
- Gary and John launched their planes (Paragon and a F3J/TD plane) "bird dogging" thermals for the rest of us.
- Around Lunchtime, Gary, Terry, Ian, Dan M. and John split and the rest of us headed to Rubio's. While at lunch, we found out that Dan C. only had 1 landing under his belt, so back to the field again for Dan to complete his landing tasks with the Labelle, while Ed, Greg and I provided tips from the upper deck bleachers.
- In fact, we stayed another half hour, each tossing the Labelles up catching thermals (somewhat).
- At the end of the day, Dan M. Ian, Greg and Dan C. completed LSF 1 tasks and then Ed just needs to work on his slope tasks. I completed my 10 LSF 2 landing tasks.
- It was a busy, but rewarding day.
- Thanks again to Gary John and Terry for the expert coaching.
- Ian Cummings' photos from the day are on the following 3 pages.

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LSF Report (continued)



Ed, Ray, Dan C, Greg, Dan M, John, Gary and Ian



Gary launches



Gary launches

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LSF Report (continued)



Greg launches



Greg launches...



...and Gary catches...



...while Ray lands.



This is how you launch a moldie.



Flying, watching and timing.

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LSF Report (continued)



Ed launching for Greg



Ray launching for Greg



All in all, a great day!

Ian Cummings – Slope Shots...take 2

Torrey Pines Gulls member Ian Cummings also happens to be an avid photographer. You've probably seen some of his images here in the newsletter. We asked Ian if he'd be willing to provide some of his favorite RC slope soaring photos for publication and he graciously provided quite a few great photos. [This is the second installment of Ian's photos.](#)

While not out at the slope, he works at his commercial photography studio in Little Italy, shooting commercial assignments for all types of businesses. Ian also teaches photography at UCSD Extension and Cuyamaca Community College. You can see more of his work on his website at: <http://www.iancummingsphoto.com>



Mick Tinker launching at Laguna

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Ka-8's over Torrey

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Bird's eye view of the Gliderport



Ka-8 over Torrey - coming up on the Gliderport

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Dan Troxel and Alvaro Corzo launching Blanik sailplane

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Dan Troxel, Mike Lance, Alvaro Corzo and Shelby launching Blantik sailplane

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Dan Cummins and Ward Hagaman flying at Torrey Pines under the watchful eye of Shelby

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Mike Lance launching P-51 Mustang PSS glider

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Club Sponsors

The Torrey Pines Gulls members would like to thank all the sponsors for their donations and supporting Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society. Without the support of these fine companies, the success of many of the Club events would not have been possible.

To our members, when you are thinking of buying a hobby-related item, please consider these outstanding companies first. Please click on vendor's logo to go to their website for more information.

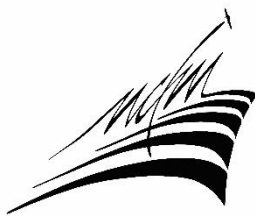


Photo of the Month Contest

Each month club members may submit photos of an activity related to soaring and the newsletter editor will post a **winner** to be chosen by the Board of Directors.

A yearly winner will be selected from among the monthly winners and will receive a prize (their photo will be used as the website and newsletter masthead AND will appear on the following year's club membership card). Needless to say, **horizontal format photos are preferred**. Email your photos (.JPG format preferred) to Dale Gottdank at dgottdank@gmail.com. Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description.



New artificial turf installed at the Torrey Pines Gliderport picnic table/pit area by L-R: Ray, Kevin, Mike, Sean, Robert (Ray P. & Kevin B.)



January Winner - Mr. Robert (Peterson) & son Cam flying their Skua at Torrey (Greg Houck)

2016 Club Officers & Contact Information

President	Dan Cummins	TPGulls@gmail.com
Vice-President	Ian Cummings	icumming@earthlink.net
Past President	Dan Cummins	TPGulls@gmail.com
Secretary	To be filled	
Treasurer	Don Lockhead	donloch@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Bill Eckles	tunabiker1@hotmail.com
Communications	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Winch Master	Mark Canfield	mcanfield5@roadrunner.com
F3K Coordinator	Tim Traver	timtraver@gmail.com
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
Thermal Coordinator	Mark Canfield	mcanfield5@roadrunner.com
Slope Coordinator	Ray Pili	rpili2001@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Ray Pili	rpili2001@gmail.com
SC2 Representative	To be filled	
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	steve@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	garyfogel@gmail.com
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Ray Pili	rpili2001@gmail.com
TP Soaring Council (AMA)	To be filled	

Dan Cummins
President



Ian Cummings
Vice- President



Secretary

Don Lockhead
Treasurer



2016 Contest & Activity Calendar (subject to change)

Month	RES/ TD	CD	HLG	Slope Race	SC ²	Club Activity	Other	Boo Me
January	10	Cliff Hunter		socalsloperacing.com (inactive)				
February	14					20 Pilot Rating/Fun Fly		
March	13							
April	10							
May	15					IHLGF		
June	12					4 Katie Martin Tribute		
July	10							
August	14							
September	11							
October	09							
November	20							
December	11							

Note: Calendar subject to change at any moment without warning or notice. Check the TPG Website for updates.
The SC2 schedule could change on availability of club field's check website: sc2soaring.com



Quote of the Month:

"Although powered aircraft may express the language of flight, soaring is its eloquence."

– Richard Miller, *SOARING* Editor, 1967