

2025
MAY



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)
AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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Chuck Norris

Hi everyone,

If you're not familiar with the Katie Martin International Tribute, that probably means you're not a slope pilot. It's "kind of a big deal" and has been held at the Gliderport since 2010, and celebrates the legacy of Katie Martin, wife and partner with Bob Martin who together designed and produced numerous RC models that many of us grew up flying; truly an amazing person and hugely important to our hobby.

This year's Katie Martin is the first where the Gulls are managing the event, and we hope to continue and build on the legacy going forward. Please come out and join this amazing event on June 7. It's a great group of people to hang out with, and there will be what is probably the largest collection of Hobie Hawks you've ever seen! And if you happen to have a Bob Martin model to fly, even better.

If you're not a sloper, this is a great event to check out – there will be *lots* of models on display both on the ground and in the air, and you will almost certainly be offered stick time on something interesting, like the classic Hobie Hawk.

Come check it out!

Chuck

Photo above:

Gary Fogel's F3L Yellow Jacket amid the wildflowers at our Encinitas Flight Center (Gary Fogel photo)

TPG May/June Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
May 10 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Radians – if it's foam, this is your day.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
May 17 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 18 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 25 th	Tow Hook Fun Fly & TD	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 7 th	Katie Martin International Tribute. A day to remember and celebrate Bob's amazing wife Katie. Lots of Hobie Hawks (Katie's favorite) aloft. All RC soaring aircraft welcome, but be sure to bring out your classic Bob Martin planes too!	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
June 14 th	Tow Hook Series Contest F3L/F3RES – 2m & 1.5m	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 24 th	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
June 28 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 29 th	Team DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



2024 IHLGF pilots (Bob Hirsch photo)

Newsletter This Month - Dale Gottdank, Editor



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:

- **Thank you to our IHLGF 2025 sponsors! (page 6)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 45)**
- **Price Drop! 2m Yellow Jacket F3L/RES (Tow Hook) gliders for sale (page 51)**

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>.

Coming up in our June Issue: International Hand Launch Glider Festival Report



2025 IHLGF trophies (Gary Fogel photo)

Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts bi-monthly club meetings virtually via Zoom. It's really easy to use Zoom, join in the fun, chat with others; and we typically have a presentation about a topic in RC soaring or something aviation related.

At our last virtual meeting, in April, we were joined by Byron Ward and Christian Miller of Wayfarer Aircraft Research and Development who discussed the development of a new subscale integrated high lift propulsor testbed - a multiengine RC scale model of a Cessna with some very unique design modifications.

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th, at 7:00pm Pacific Time. You can be sure we'll have a fascinating presentation, a chance to win a ticket to the year-end Super Raffle and as always, a time to touch base with flying buddies and friends.

The link to the Zoom meeting will be shared with the club via discord and Google Groups prior to each meeting. It also appears on the Upcoming TPG Events able in the Newsletter.



Each virtual meeting also comes with the opportunity to participate in our **Super Raffle** for 2025. We'll have opportunity for two random drawings at each virtual meeting for Super Raffle tickets. At the year-end holiday party, these tickets will be put into a hat and drawn randomly for prizes. Winners have to be present at the holiday party to participate. This last December we had some really great prizes including a RTF Night Radian and other goodies. If anyone out there is interested in assisting with the year-end Raffle please reach out to Gary Fogel.

So come join our 2025 virtual meetings, hang in there through the presentation, get that winning raffle ticket and see what you might win next December! See you at the next meeting!

Thank you to our IHLGF 2025 sponsors!

The 30th International Hand Launch Glider Festival at the end of April was a huge success. We'd like to again thank our generous sponsors of this event; and look forward to their participation in next year's event.

Click on the logos to visit their websites.



















News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator



Bret Locke



April Showers Bring May Flowers!

The TPG Sloping community has benefitted from wonderful weather lately. The month of April has provided great sloping conditions at Torrey and inland locations.

April 5th was the Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies at Torrey. The winds were light so the big bent wings got a lot of flight time.

April 12th was a double header for TPG members, as the quarterly Poway Slope Combat happened right after the morning DLG contest. Conditions at the Poway Slope were perfect for an extended combat session with many spills, thrills and smiles. Many Thanks to Tom Farley for sharing his home with the crew and providing a new and improved pit area on the slope. During the festivities our president, Chuck Norris, maiden a 3D printed plane that he designed and built. It flew wonderfully right from the get go, good job Chuck!

For the month of May, the schedule includes a Foamie Fun Fly at Torrey Pines Gliderport. This is a carefree event as the foamies are a lot more forgiving than balsa or glass ships.

Looking into the future, on June 7th the largest San Diego Slope Event for the spring/summer is the 2025 Katie Martin International. This is a day to remember and celebrate Bob Martin's amazing wife Katie. Lots of Hobie Hawks (Katie's favorite) will be present for show and flight. All RC soaring aircraft are welcome, but be sure to bring out your classic Bob Martin planes too! This is an annual event that attracts slope enthusiasts from all ages and parts of the country. There is even going to be a Hobie Hawk up for raffle. Come to the show and see the world of sloping; past, present and future.

Conditions at Torrey Pines Gliderport are favorable, the green growth is still soft, but getting taller. As always, safety is still a high priority, respect the paragliders and remember the blue-sky rule.

News from the Slope (continued)



Hobie Hawks and other vintage sailplanes at the 2024 Katie Martin International Tribute (Ian Cummings photo)

The 2025 season for sloping is now, so get out there and do some sloping!

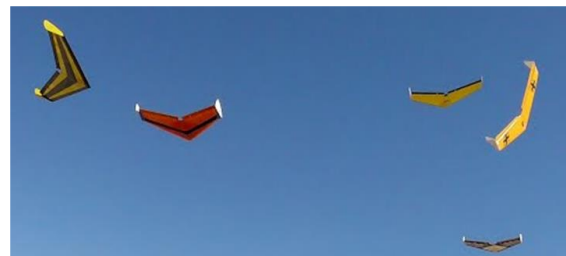
Sincerely,
 Bret Locke
 TPG Slope Coordinator

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2025

May 10 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Radians – if it's foam, this is your day. And, students from AIAA UCSD and SDSU will learn to fly on members' buddy boxes.
June 7 st	Katie Martin International Tribute. A day to remember and celebrate Bob's amazing wife Katie. Lots of Hobie Hawks (Katie's favorite) aloft. All RC soaring aircraft welcome, but be sure to bring out your classic Bob Martin planes too!
July 5 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PNF – Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 9 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
September 6 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
October 18 th	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day
October 19 th	Redman Rules Contest – Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd . For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.
November 22 nd	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

Also, keep an eye out for details on our next Poway Slope Combat session. Events are scheduled for:

July 27th
 October 26th



April DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The April DLG contest/clinic was held on Saturday, April 12th with 15 pilots in attendance. TPG sanctioned this round as a qualifier for our own Junior F3K pilots, Will Lalla and Milan Bregman, so they can work toward the USA Junior F3K team going to the World Championship this summer in Germany. While Milan was part of the 2025 F5J WC Junior team, both Milan and Will are looking to make their first F3K Junior Team.

The day started under very foggy conditions - even the boundary tree was disappearing into the mist when I arrived.



Foggy morning before the contest (Justin Tolman photo)



Pilots ready for the contest as the morning fog persists (Bob Hirsch photo)

April DLG Contest Report (continued)

Despite the dreary conditions in Round 1 (Task I, 3 longest), there was sustainable lift to be found. In group A, Mengchen Li took the K over Will Lalla, dropping just 7 seconds. Group B, found conditions slightly more challenging. John McNeil took the K after dropping over 1-minute.

The fog began to lift as we started Round 2 (Task K, Big Ladder). In group A, Ed LaCroix was able to take advantage of strengthening lift to take the K over new dad Chris Efstathiou. In group B, Mengchen Li put in yet another extremely efficient quick-turn performance to take the K over Gary Fogel.



Pilots meeting (Chuck Norris photo)

Under much clearer skies, we started Round 3 (Task E, Poker). In group A, Will Lalla's stellar All-In performance earned him the K over Justin Tolman. In group B, Milan Bregman, matching his fellow Junior teammate, also took the K with a stellar All-In flight. Notably, returning pilot Sean Porter had a great 9:48 flight.

Next up was Round 4 (Task H, 1,2,3,4). Like clockwork, Mengchen Li nailed his quick-turns and took the K in group A over Will Lalla. In group B, Milan Bregman also put in a very efficient quick-turn performance to take the K over Gary Fogel.

As we got through the morning, dynamic conditions began to take hold. In Round 5 (Task A, Last Flight), 5 pilots shared the K after flying their full 5-minute flight. In group B, Gary Fogel was the only pilot to pull off a full 5-minute flight, earning him the K.

That brought us to Round 6 (Task, Huge Ladder). In group A, Mengchen Li executed another nearly perfect round, dropping just 4 seconds to take the K over motorized pilot Arthur Markiewicz. In group B, Milan Bregman also executed to perfection, dropping just 4 seconds to take the K over Will Lalla.

Heading into Round 7 (Task D, Two Flights), the scores were extremely close. In Group A, Arizona resident Charles Martin took the K over motorized pilot Don Lochhead. Notably, Mengchen Li and Milan Bregman found some incredible sink on their second flight and lost considerable time. In group B, Justin Tolman took the K with 7:48 of flight time.

April DLG Contest Report (continued)



Clearing skies (Chris Efstathiou film photo)



Pilots and timers (Chris Efstathiou film photo)

When all was said and done and the scores were added up, Justin Tolman took the top spot over Will Lalla and Mengchen Li.

Congrats to our Junior World Championship representatives Will and Milan. Both pilots have made amazing strides in F3K over the last year and will be well-deserving representatives.



Contest winners (L-R) Will Lalla (2nd Place), Justin Tolman (1st Place) and Mengchen Li (3rd Place)



F3K Junior World Championship contenders (L-R) Will Lalla and Milan Bregman

April DLG Contest Report (continued)

F3X Vault Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)						
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
1	2 Justin Tolman  	6749.8		929.4	953.0	993.3	980.7	1000	893.4	1000
2	10 William Lalla  	6659.1	-90.7	986.0	957.9	1000	990.8	1000	939.5	784.9
3	17 Mengchen Li 	6619.0	-40.1	1000	1000	886.5	1000	1000	1000	732.5
4	12 Milan Bregman  	6545.4	-73.6	841.8	978.9	1000	1000	1000	1000	724.7
5	1 Gary Fogel  	6316.3	-229.1	812.5	991.3	899.0	987.1	1000	937.3	689.1
6	5 Charles Martin  	6221.5	-94.8	903.8	948.5	942.9	963.4	949.0	513.9	1000
7	14 Don Lochhead  	6023.7	-197.8	800.7	912.2	949.7	887.4	899.0	687.2	887.5
8	13 Arthur Markiewicz  	5940.7	-83.0	896.1	963.5	987.6	926.4	1000	738.6	428.5
9	4 Christoph Efstathiou 	5752.7	-188.0	814.4	983.2	881.3	948.9	688.7	679.4	756.8
10	15 Sean Porter  	5596.3	-156.4	877.7	694.7	981.6	929.5	740.0	673.0	699.8
11	6 John McNeil  	4975.3	-621.0	1000	983.2	692.8	895.1	998.0	300.2	106.0
12	9 Edward LaCroix  	4886.0	-89.3	875.3	1000	601.0	977.9	431.3	673.5	327.0
13	11 Mark Lalla  	3688.6	-1197.4	606.6	733.1	0.0	943.3	520.0	559.8	325.8
14	3 Clifford Hunter  	2375.4	-1313.2	707.7	862.5	704.5	100.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	16 Tom Farley  	1791.0	-584.4	641.0	649.2	500.8	0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS
16	7 Chuck Norris  	0.0	-1791.0	0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS
17	Captain ...c Picard  	0.0		0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS

Our next contest/clinic will be on Saturday, May 17th. Come out and join us!

Sign up for May here:

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3580

Hope to see you there!

Justin Tolman

TPG DLG Coordinator

F5J Foamy Fun Fly & Contest Report – Don Lochhead, CD

The April meetup was a sell-out with 12 pilots. We had 8 Radians, 3 UMX and a 1.5m YJ competing to give us a good representation of the class of planes the fun fly is intended to attract. The conditions were nearly perfect; clear skies and lots of lift. Even better, the field was recently mowed and green!

We flew five seven-minute rounds with three groups of four. Gary finished first with Don close behind. Jake, flying a UMX, grabbed third with Cliff and Brian only a few points behind. Our next get together will be double-header on July 27th with the F5J Fun Fly in the morning followed with Combat at the Poway slope in the afternoon.



We had a great pilot turnout! (Bob Hirsch photo)



UMX landing tape (Bob Hirsch photo)



Bret launching 1.5M Yellow Jacket

F5J Foamy Fun Fly & Contest Report (continued)



Gary Fogel launching his Radian (Bob Hirsch photo)

F3X Vault Scores

Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🏆	4876.77		932.08	1000	1000	944.69	1000
Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🏆	4722.32	-154.45	1000	949.54	891.63	1000	881.15
Jake Olefsky 🇺🇸 🏆	4062.17	-660.15	508.65	661.23	1000	892.29	1000
Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🏆	4059.84	-2.33	1000	1000	817.73	1000	242.11
Brian Moore 🇺🇸 🏆	4044.36	-15.48	1000	655.57	789.47	1000	599.32
Miroslav Sir 🇺🇸 🏆	3937.09	-107.27	540.77	738.06	827.59	1000	830.67
Tom Farley 🇺🇸 🏆	3863.58	-73.51	931.33	932.25	1000	0.00	1000
Bret Locke 🇺🇸 🏆	3062.77	-800.81	795.85	1000	924.81	0.00	342.11
Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🏆	2928.44	-134.33	NE	974.77	913.22	777.29	263.16
Adina Conwell 🇺🇸 🏆	2354.56	-573.88	176.47	742.40	863.82	453.66	118.21
Paul Nibecker 🇺🇸 🏆	1996.37	-358.19	388.68	557.77	969.92	80.00	0.00
Michael Gillen 🇺🇸 🏆	548.43	-1447.94	548.43	0.00	0.00	NE	NE

Our next get together will be a double-header on July 27th with the F5J Fun Fly in the morning followed by Slope Combat at the Poway slope in the afternoon.

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

Great news! We have 100 paid memberships for 2025. Thanks for renewing (and new members for joining) so quickly! We still have 22 members who have not renewed. Please do so!

Renew and/or become a Torrey Pines Gulls member. If you know someone who may be interested in RC soaring, please invite them to some of our events and encourage them to sign up and become a member.

Renewing or new members must fill out the registration on our web site.

Please use the link below when joining as a new member or renewing an existing membership. Fill out the registration form completely and pay using PayPal, credit card or check. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an individual email when becoming a member.

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

Membership Activity Summary as of April 30, 2025

The table below is a summary of lifetime members, new and renewed full members, and youth members; based on completed registration forms received to date.

Date: April 30, 2025	Added Since Last Report
New TPG Members	1
Youth Members	0
TPG Renewals and New Members to Date for 2025	100

Membership Processing

Please use the link below when joining as a new member or renewing an existing membership. Fill out the registration form completely and pay using PayPal, credit card or check. Current members 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.

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

All new and renewing members will receive a membership card and key (if requested, for Encinitas and Poway). The key provides access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites. Members who fly at the Torrey Pines Gliderport and are Gliderport rated will receive a club lanyard from a club representative at the Gliderport. Members must wear the lanyard with the membership card attached when flying at the 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 at: membership@torreypinesgulls.org if you have not received your membership materials or have any membership-related questions.

Club Membership Update (continued)

Annual Membership

TPG's membership period is January 1st through December 31st. Renewals begin November 1st of each year.

Club 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
- **Work Credit** You will receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues; \$10 per each half-day working at any TPG flying field. When filling out your registration form, there is a place to input your hours/credit.

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.

You can get more detailed information regarding your yearly membership benefits by using the following link: [Torrey Pines Gulls Membership Guide](#), which will provide answers to many of your questions regarding Torrey Pines Gulls activities. Also review the TPG Club Bylaws for more information at: [Club Bylaws](#)

Cliff Hunter

Membership Chairman

membership@torreypinesgulls.org

760-703-4497 cell



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

Where We Fly – 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.



How We Compete

F5J Contest Series



John McNeil

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

In 2024, Thermal Duration (winch launch) contests were moved into the new Tow Hook Series (see the following pages). For F5J contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

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

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2025 TPG F5J contest schedule thread for contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4662319-2025-TPG-F5J-contest-schedule>

or contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

DLG/Hand Launch/F3K Contest Series



Justin Tolman

DLG Coordinator – Justin Tolman

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 2025 TPG DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4658315-2025-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series>

or contact Justin Tolman at dlg@torreypinesgulls.org

How We Compete (continued)

Team DLG Series



John McNeil

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

Following a successful and fun launch of this new contest format in 2024, we have expanded the team DLG schedule in 2025. Each event will be on a Sunday following a Saturday monthly DLG.

The 2025 schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4662309-2025-TPG-Team-DLG-Series>

or contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

Team DLG format:

- Teams consist of exactly four pilots.
- In each heat, three of the pilots fly while one pilot times and provides team direction.
- Each round, the timer is rotated. After four rounds, all team members will have timed once.
- Contest rounds follow F3K formats except:
 - Flight timing
 - Flight time starts when the last of three pilots releases the model.
 - Flight time ends when the first of three pilots time would end.
 - If any pilot lands out of bounds, then the flight scores zero.
 - (In other words, all three pilots fly each flight together for a single flight time)

For full details, check out this RCGroups Forum:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4617285-New-F3K-Team-Contest-Format>

How We Compete (continued)

2024 TPG Tow Hook Series - F3L/F3RES/TD/1.5m



John McNeil

TPG Pilots agree we want more events in 2025. Accordingly, the TPG EC has scheduled ten events next year. We are also adding a two-day event in October!

As attendance grows, and to make time to help each other, we will hold two types of events. Seven events will be bungee-only for 2m and 1.5m. These days, we will fly in the same format as in 2024, with six rounds for 2m and five for 1.5 in the four-hour open-flying window.

The other three events will host a 5-round winch/open TD contest alongside a fun-fly for bungee planes, where we will place 2m and 1.5m bungees. These fun-fly days are meant to allow pilots to trim planes together, practice, and do whatever else we can think of to help each other.

The 2025 schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4662329-2025-TPG-Tow-Hook-Series-F3L-F3RES-TD-1-5m#post53309761>

For more info, contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

Aircraft Classes

- 1.5m RES bungee launch. Max flying weight is 250g. Construction materials and techniques must follow F3L rules. Maximum flight time is 5 minutes.
- 2m RES bungee launch. Construction materials and techniques must follow F3L rules. Maximum flight time is 6 minutes.
- AMA thermal duration open class. Winch launch. Skegs are allowed. Maximum flight time is 10 minutes.

Equipment

At least three landing tapes will be provided, marked for F3L. AMA TD will use the same landing bonus formula as the other classes.

F3L compliant bungees will be provided by the club and set up at the CD's direction. At the CD's discretion, all bungees may be shortened from F3L standard to accommodate field conditions. Lighter 1.5m meter bungees will also be setup.

Winches:

A single winch will be on TD days. The winch shall be set up in parallel with, and at the same length as the stretched bungees. The winch will not have a retriever.

How We Compete (continued)

2024 TPG Tow Hook Series - F3L/F3RES/TD/1.5m (continued)

When

Refer to posted schedules on RCGroups and the Torrey Pines Gulls website.

Where

TPG Encinitas Flight Center, except within 5 days following rain, when the contest will relocate to the Poway Flight Center.

How

John McNeil, in the role of TPG Thermal coordinator, will recruit a CD for each contest. This format does not require the sound system or timing board, but does require bungees and sometimes a winch.

How We Compete (continued)

F5J Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic Series



Don Lochhead

TPG will continue our F5J style foamy fun fly contest (and clinic) Series in 2025 at our Poway field.

This is truly a fun-fly and a great way to get into F5J style flying. Any foamy or stick-built plane up to 2m (or so) is welcome. Night Radians are very popular but we also see Yellow Jackets (stick-built) and a variety of other vintage foamy and balsa stick-built aircraft.

We fly 7-minute windows with standard F5J landing tapes. If you are just getting started and do not have an Altis yet, no problem. Your timer will give you the 30 second call to cut your motor and the CD will announce a default launch height to be used for scoring purposes.

We typically pause mid-contest for a quick clinic. Subjects generally focus on F5J topics of interest to pilots getting into the format. The events are free but we still ask all pilots to sign up on F3X Vault so we know how many to expect and can run the matrix ahead of time.

Be on the lookout for F5J Fun Fly events coming up in 2025.
Come on out and join the fun!



Bob Hirsch photo

What is LSF? – Gary Fogel



Gary Fogel

The League of Silent Flight (LSF) <https://www.silentflight.org/> is the special interest group (SIG) representing RC soaring to the Academy of Model Aeronautics. LSF has its own lengthy and important history, having first been conceived of in Northern California over 50 years ago, and helps arrange the annual RC soaring Nationals at Muncie, Indiana each summer. Additional info on its history can be found here: <http://www.silentflight.org/images/documents/lfsstory.pdf>

In addition to this, LSF has two types of Soaring Accomplishment Programs (SAPs) that encourage personal skill development in the sport and are fun! There is an SAP that is strictly for RC soaring (the oldest and original SAP) and with the advent of electric launch methods, an eSAP was added more recently that duplicates the original SAP but with the use of electric motors for launch.

Each SAP consists of a series of five levels of achievement with increasing difficulty (Figure 1). The levels involve slope and thermal soaring, spot landings, cross-country flights and participation at contests. A pilot needs to achieve Level I before proceeding to Level II and so forth all the way up through Level V.

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

Fig. 1. The requirements for the LSF SAP and eSAP levels of achievement. (Source: <https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lfs-program/lfs-tasks>)

What is LSF? – (continued)



Similarly, pilots who regularly hone their skills at contests generally improve in overall performance and over time, seek increasingly different and difficult tasks. By the time a pilot achieves Level IV, the Level V tasks can feel daunting. A 2-hour thermal duration flight. An 8-hour slope duration flight (some refer to this as the “bladder test”). A goal and return cross-country flight of 6.2 miles out and 6.2 miles back. Its longer than it seems. And Level V requires 3 contest wins at large contests over 20 participants. These days it can be hard to find contests of this size, and the requirement to win them really means the pilot has to be on the top of their game. It can take years or decades for a pilot to complete Level V. Some pilots never do complete Level V; in fact, only 138 people in the history of the program have done so.

So how do you get started? It's **EASY**. Firstly, go to:

<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>

and print out a copy of the voucher form. Choose the path you wish (SAP and/or eSAP)

Bring the appropriate voucher with you to any of our many TPG events in 2024 and participate! If, for instance, you are flying in an F5J contest, each landing can be considered as a spot landing for the Level I and II requirements. Even the contest flights can have sufficient time to satisfy Level I requirements. Whenever you do make an achievement, have the contest director or your timer sign your form as a witness. We have Torrey Pines Gliderport (and other slopes) at our disposal – easy to get a 15 min slope flight with your buddies.

Once you've completed all of the Level I tasks, submit the completed voucher to LSF Secretary Walter “Wally” Adazczik at lsf_secretary@silentflight.org as a pdf scan or photo that clearly shows the witness signatures. Wally 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 Wally.

A question then – who in the TPG has what LSF levels in SAP and eSAP? Well, we collect that information as a part of membership renewal. The Table on the following page provides the current LSF Levels for those who indicated so on their membership forms. This can (and should!) of course change over time.

Note that we have many members who are SAP Level I and 3 members who are eSAP Level 1. It doesn't take much for them to get to Level II. At the other end of the spectrum, we have 8 members who are Level IV. It's going to take some teamwork to get them to Level V. In between we have lots of pilots who can benefit by flying in our contests or getting out for some slope duration at Torrey, etc. If you aren't on the list and have achieved an LSF level, please let me know.

What is LSF? – (continued)



League of Silent Flight

How many Level increases can TPG members achieve in 2024 for either SAP or eSAP? Feel free to reach out to me or others on this list and they will be pleased to help recommend some strategies or serve as a witness if they can, for your achievements. On June 8, we're planning an LSF day at Poway and Torrey to help get people signed off. We might throw in some additional LSF days if there is interest.

Use our many contests and fun flies as a way to help advance in these programs. Just be sure to bring your vouchers and if necessary, arrange in advance for the proper number and type of witnesses so they can sign your form afterwards.

Want to find out more? Check out the LSF program at:

<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php>

Last Name	First Name	SAP	eSAP
Blodgett	Edward	Level I	
Bregman	Milan	Working on Level I	
Brooksby	Chris	Level I	
Butler	Alan "Moose"	Level I	
Clerx	Ben	Level IV	Level I
Condon	Steve	Level IV	
Cronkhite	Doug	Level I	
Cummings	Ian	Level II	
Cummins	Dan	Level II	
Fogel	Gary	Level IV	Level II
Hall	Dave	Level IV	Level I
Hanson	Craig	Level I	
Hanson	Kirk	Level II	
Houck	Greg	Level I	
Hunter	Cliff	Level I	
Hunter	Cliff		Working on Level I
Kiesling	Thomas	Level III	
Legerton	Gary	Working on Level I	
Lochhead	Donald	Level I	Working on Level I
McCurdy	Scott		Level I
McFarland	Dan	Level I	
McNeil	John	Level III	Level I
Metzdorff	Eric	Level I	
Miller	Corky	Level II	
Norris	Charles	Level III	Level I
Olefsky	Jake	Working on Level I	
Pili	Ray	Level II	Level 1
Redman	Mike	Level II	
Rozek	Dieter	Level II	
Schafer	Chris	Level IV	
Smith	Mike	Level IV	
Throop	Terry	Level IV	
Ungar	Kyle	Level I	
Verzuh	Mike	Level III	
Ward	Les	Level III	
Warner	Garth	Level III	
Watson	Tom	Level IV	

How We Connect

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.

Don't forget to join

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!

New Procedure for Joining Google Groups

Here are the steps new club members need to take to be added to Google Groups if they don't have a Gmail account/address:

1. Go to the [Google Account Sign In page](#).
2. Click Create account.
3. Enter your name.
4. Click Use my current email address instead.
5. Enter your current email address.
6. Click Next.
7. Verify your email address with the code sent to your existing email.
8. Click Verify.
9. Confirm with TPG Membership (Cliff Hunter) the above steps have been completed, use the following email address: membership@torreypinesgulls.org

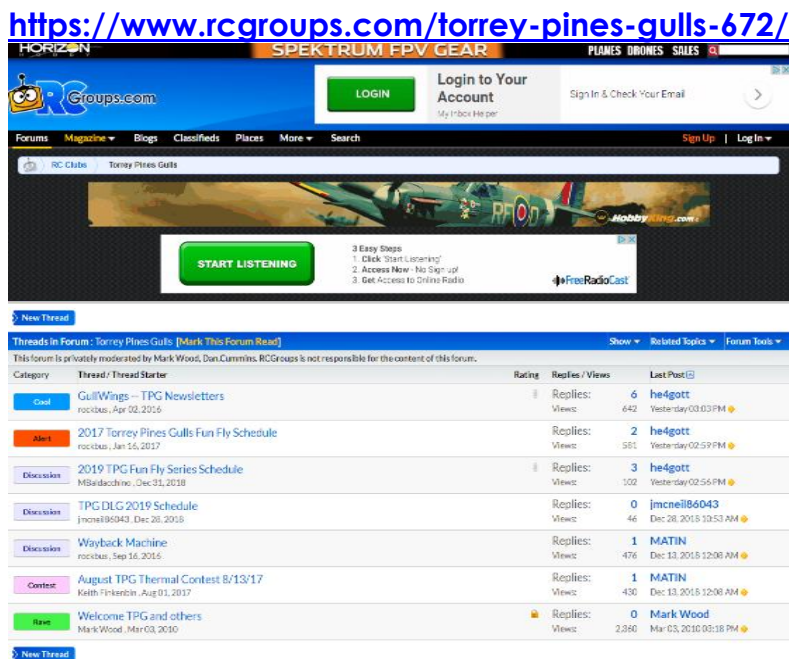
How We Connect (continued)

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 roccias, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccias, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 581	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MBarbadochio, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 28, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccias, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Fikarich, 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: 2,860	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 02:18 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.

How We Connect (continued)

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
Torrey Pines Gulls
1.4K likes • 1.5K followers

Message Following Search

Posts About Mentions Followers Photos Videos More

Switch into Torrey Pines Gulls's Page to start managing it. [Switch Now](#)

Intro
www.torreypinesgulls.org

Page - Organization
San Diego, CA, United States, California
torreypinesgulls.org
[Promote Website](#)

Photos [See all photos](#)

Posts [Filters](#)

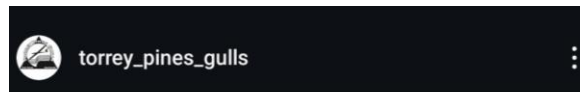
Torrey Pines Gulls updated their cover photo. Just now

How We Connect (continued)

TPG is on

TPG's Media Coordinator, Mengchen Li, has created an Instagram account for the Torrey Pines Gulls. If you're already on Instagram, search for `torrey_pines_gulls` and click on follow. If you're not on Instagram, well, now's a great time to join!

Also, if you have any photos or videos of your RC soaring activities, contests, builds, fun flies, etc., send them along to Mengchen at media@torreypinesgulls.org and you might find your submittal on a TPG Instagram post.



THANK YOU TO OUR IHLGF 2025 SPONSORS!



Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
Vice-President	Gary Fogel	vp@torreypinesgulls.org
Past President	Ian Cummings	
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	secretary@torreypinesgulls.org
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	communications@torreypinesgulls.org
Thermal Coordinator	John McNeil	thermal@torreypinesgulls.org
Slope Coordinator	Bret Locke	slope@torreypinesgulls.org
DLG Coordinator	Justin Tolman	dlg@torreypinesgulls.org
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	membership@torreypinesgulls.org
IHLGF Coordinator	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	lsf@torreypinesgulls.org
Webmaster	Jake Olefsky	tpg@foldnfly.com
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	media@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	historian@torreypinesgulls.org

Executive Officers



Chuck Norris



Gary Fogel



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



John McNeil



Bret Locke



Justin Tolman



Cliff Hunter

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 Photo of the Year 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: December photo of the month winner(s) will be included in the following year's Photo of the Year competition.



December 2024 Co-Winner – Joe Cormier's 2m Racer chased by Geroge Clarke's 41" MIG on a blustery Torrey Friday in November (Greg Houck photo)



December Co-Winner – Greg Houck launching Joe Cormier's Zero at Torrey (Matin Taraz photo)



January Winner – Adam Toogood launching Alexis Scott's Bearcat...in Blue Angels livery (Matin Taraz photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



February Winner – Owen Croucher and Brin Moor at the January Kick-off Fun Fly (Adina Conwell photo)



March Winner – Colorful combat wings and pilots at the February Slope Combat Fiesta (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



April Winner – Thomas Moller and Alvaro Corzo launch Aaron Wallace's (pilot) Glider-IT Vettore on its maiden flight. (Screenshot from Thomas Moller video)



Gliderport falconer looks on as Steffen Peters' LS-10 banks over the ocean(Thomas Moller photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Winner – Gary Fogel launching his Radian at the April F5J Foamy Fun Fly (Bob Hirsch photo)



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.

For Sale -Yellow Jacket GS2 – 2 meters

\$325 ready to fly

- Bind and balance
- KST X08 Servos (3)
- Spektrum AR620 Receiver
- Armsoar 500 mAh Battery
- Zepsus Magnetic Switch

Contact Cliff Hunter 760-703-4497



For Sale - Yellow Jacket – 2 meters

\$270 ready to fly

- Bind and balance,
- Needs retaping rudder
- Hitec Servos HS55
- Spektrum AR410 Receiver
- Armsoar 500 mAh Battery

Contact Cliff Hunter 760-703-4497





Quote of the Month:

"Life doesn't get complicated until you land."
~ *Patty Wagstaff*



Poway spring sunrise (Bob Hirsch photo)