

2026
SEP



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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Chuck Norris

Hi everyone!

This weekend was our second annual Coastal Cooler F3L competition, and it was a ton of fun. Twenty pilots were in attendance, and despite challenging conditions, everyone had a great time.

Check out the contest report preview photos in this issue and read John McNeil's column next month for the details.

But I want to highlight, is that now that F3L is an official FAI class, the importance of the Cooler is growing as we move toward the first ever F3L world championship!

We're truly seeing history in the making, and we have front row seats to see how the first US F3L team comes together. Competitions like the Cooler are critically important to building the skills needed to compete at an international level, and just maybe we've seen future members of team USA sharing our bungee lines. Exciting times!

Chuck

Photo above:

TPG Members gathered for an exciting session of slope combat at the Poway Slope (Bob Hirsch photo)

IMPORTANT NOTICE



CALL FOR MODELER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Every year, the Executive Council recognizes one or more TPG members to be recognized as Modeler of the Year based on outstanding contributions to the overall success of the club.

Nominee achievements should be long term efforts towards club success, or should be singular events that bring considerable prestige or are of considerable importance to the club and its current and future success. Examples include development of tools or equipment that benefit the club as a whole; specific or sustained service to the club that benefit the club as a whole; or competitive excellence on a regional, national, or international level that brings additional reputation to the club.

The name(s) of the awardee(s) are added to the plaque on the trophy, which is held by the awardee(s) for the year.

If you know of a TPG member you feel is deserving of nomination for Modeler of the Year, please send the name and reason for the nomination to secretary@torreypinesgulls.org for consideration by the Executive Council.

This has been a club tradition since 1971...Let's keep it going!



TPG September/October Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
September 5 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
September 6 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
September 19 th	DLG Contest – Poway Invitational	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
September 20 th	Team DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
October 4 th	Tow Hook Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open
October 11 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open
October 17 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
October 17 th	TPG Slope Combat Fiesta	Poway Slope Register on F3X Vault when open
October 18 th	Redman Rules Slope Contest	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
October 27 th	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
October 31 st	"November" F5J Foamy Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault

Club Meetings

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts bi-monthly club meetings virtually via Zoom. It's 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 and a **chance to win a great raffle prize (see below)**.

At our last virtual meeting, on August 25th, we were treated to a presentation by our very own Club Historian and VP, Gary Fogel. Gary told us about the history of early radio-controlled aircraft during the 1930's; initially for military uses, but then widening to include recreational fliers; specifically, RC soaring in the latter part of the decade. Thanks, Gary!

27 TPG members, friends and students attended the meeting and Tom Farley was the lucky winner of the raffle prize, an E-Flite UMX Radian plus Spektrum DXS transmitter. Congrats, Tom!

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th, 2026, at 7:00pm PDT. You can be sure we'll have a fascinating presentation and as always, a time to touch base with flying buddies and friends. The Zoom link will be shared with the club via discord and Google Groups prior to each meeting. It also appears on the Upcoming TPG Events list in the Newsletter. **Our guest speaker for October will be Christopher Silva**, Research Aerospace Engineer at NASA Ames Research Center who will discuss OpenVSP for aircraft design, which allows the user to create a 3D model of an aircraft defined by common engineering parameters. And of course, another raffle...

...from Raffle Chairman, Michael Gillen

The Torrey Pines Gulls is happy to announce the return of raffles at the bi-monthly Club Meeting.

Because the meetings are not in-person, we will be using the F3X Vault to coordinate selling raffle tickets, with the winner drawn at the end of the Club Meeting.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

A link to the meeting will be open on the F3X Vault; look for:

[“TPG Club Virtual Meeting Via Zoom”](#)

When you register for the meeting, you will have the opportunity to make a “Donation,” which will buy you raffle tickets. One \$5 donation will buy two raffle tickets; there is no limit.

The cutoff for raffle sales will occur just before the guest speaker begins. We will draw the raffle winner at the end of the meeting. You do not need to be present to win.

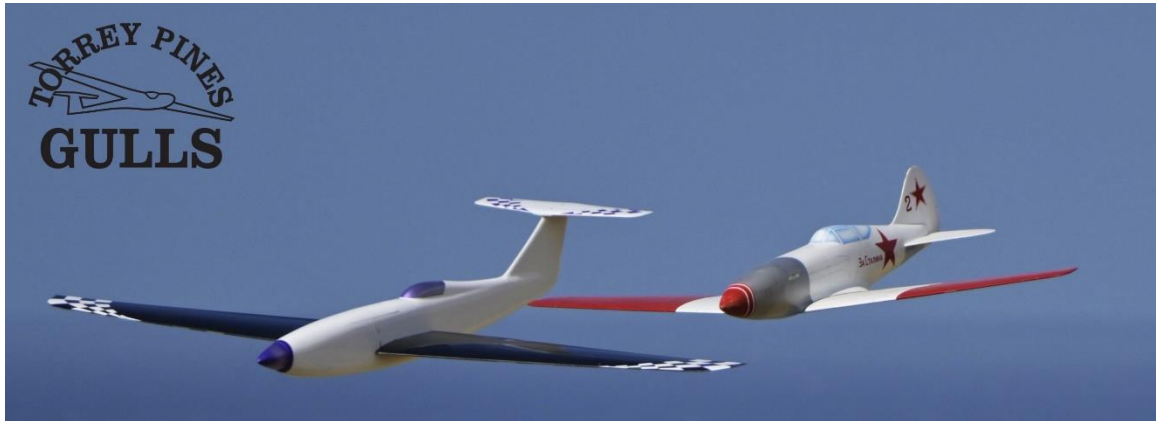
The raffle prize for the next meeting will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Good luck!

News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator



Bret Locke



Coastal Lift is Our Best Option

The global warmings are upon us. The coastal areas of San Diego are providing little relief, but we must be grateful for our fortune. Future weather patterns indicate easing coastal winds, perfect for light aircraft. The RC landing area at Torrey Pines Gliderport is very dry, but continues to provide the space for those long soft landings. Torrey Pines RC pit area maintains a manicured look.

August 8th was the Gliderport Slope Fly and Swap at Torrey Pines Gliderport. Many deals were made and some fine aircraft changed hands. As the wind picked up, most attendees packed up the goods and flew the slope for the rest of the day. In addition, we attended the ceremony of Dr. Don Edberg's induction into the AMA Hall of Fame (see following story).



TPG VP and Club Historian, Gary Fogel (left), AMA District VP Jr. Schiager (right) and Don Edberg (center) during the induction ceremony (Bret Locke photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

Upcoming Events

September 8th, the Gliderport Slope Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies event is being held at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. This is when we as slopers bring out our old gliders to show and fly. Many planes present are built with precision and beautifully finished. This is my favorite event at the slope.

Hot and humid is our weather pattern, stay hydrated and don't overdo it.
Sincerely,

Bret Locke
TPG Slope Coordinator

SAFETY ALERT:

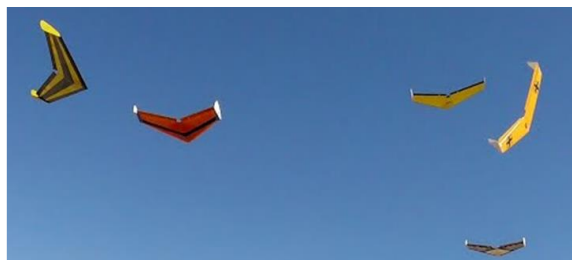
Our most effective safety practice is the Blue-Sky Rule; your depth perception cannot be trusted; Maintain Situational Awareness; and fly with a spotter if feeling overwhelmed by your plane or by paraglider traffic. In uncomfortable situations (i.e. numerous paragliders in the R/C window), landing is always a great option. If warranted, politely ask the Gliderport flight director to help clear the RC window.

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2026

September 5 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
October 18 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.
December 5 th	No Shopping Saturday – A week or so after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

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

The next event of 2026 is scheduled for October 17th, 2026



AMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony for Dr. Don Edberg

Gary Fogel

On August 8, 2026 we had the pleasure of inducting Dr. Don Edberg into the AMA Hall of Fame at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. Following the TPG swap meet earlier in the morning, we had a great gaggle of RC glider guiders in the pit area including Larry Jolly, Kirk Hanson, and others who are long-time modelers and friends of Don Edberg. AMA District VP JR Schiager and his wife drove down from Sacramento to be sure to be there on behalf of AMA for the ceremony.

Don Edberg had great association with both the Airtronics Aquila and Airtronics Sagitta as he worked for Lee Renaud at the time. The Sagitta was later modified by Edberg for use in F3B competitions, and this design became known as the Hustler as it could be ballasted considerably and would, well, hustle. Don also made a 2m wingspan version of the Hustler and flew that plane to win the first FAI 2m World Cup. At the time the 2m World Cup was F3B style and so speed was important. Don ballasted his 2m Hustler to 8 pounds! No wonder it won...



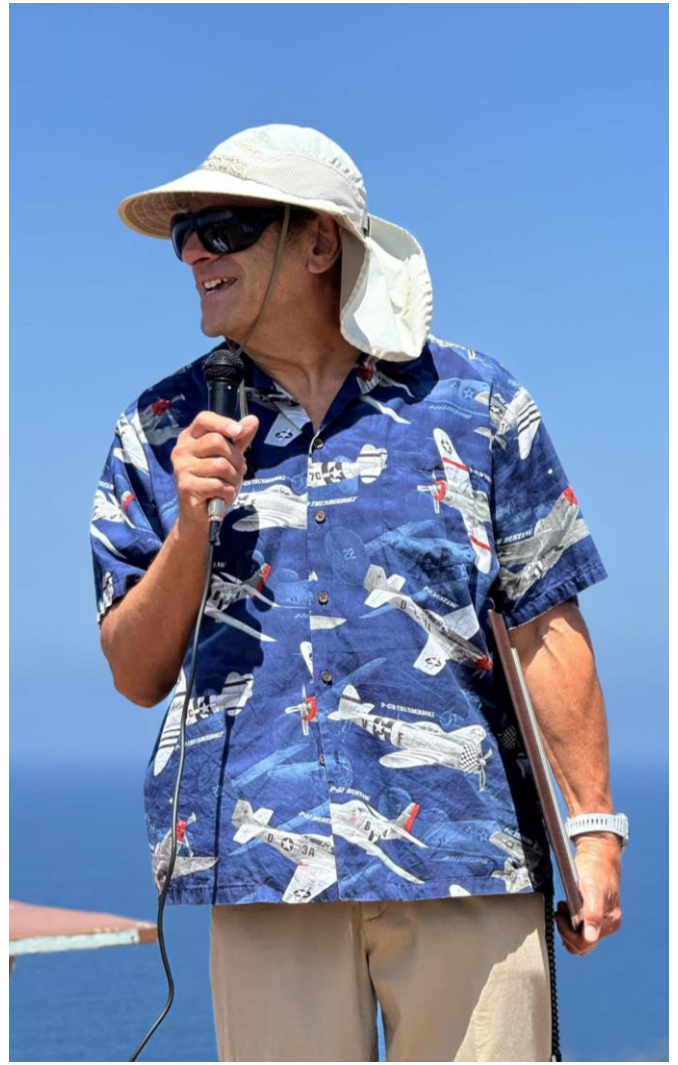
Gary Fogel (left), Don Edberg (center), AMA District VP, JR Schiager (right) starting the ceremony for Don. (Bob Hirsch photo)

AMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (continued)

After some remarks by Gary Fogel to help open the event, JR Schiager offered some words and presented Don with his Hall of Fame plaque. Don then spoke to the crowd and reflected upon his many hours at Torrey early in his career and how important they were to set an important foundation for what would become a remarkable career in aerospace engineering.



AMA District VP Schiager presents Don Edberg with his AMA Hall of Fame plaque. (Bob Hirsch photo)



Don Edberg speaking to the crowd at Torrey. (Bob Hirsch photo)

The wind was just right and Don enjoyed flying a new foamy pitcheron plane that Jake Olefsky was working on – Don flew it great right away! We look forward to hopefully seeing Don at a few more of our events soon and getting him back into RC now that he has retired from Cal Poly Pomona.

Congratulations Don! TPG salutes you!

AMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (continued)



Don Edberg with the 2m Hustler. (Bob Hirsch photo)



Don flying Jake's pitcheron creation at Torrey – looks like it's in a terminal dive but that's just Don immediately having fun. (Bob Hirsch photo)

AMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (continued)



Jake Olefsky (right) and Don Edberg (left) having fun soaring at Torrey with other TPGers Scott McCurdy and John McNeil. (Bob Hirsch photo)



Mike Frandsen reviewing his very nice Vortex for the modelers at Torrey which makes use of foam, fiberglass, and printed products in specific locations. Very neat! Will be in production soon. (Bob Hirsch photo)

AMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (continued)



A great selection of Airtronics oldies was present at the Hall of Fame induction. Left to right - Thomas Moller brought his Aquila Grande, Gary Fogel holding Don Edberg's Hustler, Don Edberg holding plaque (if anyone could make the plaque fly it would be Don), JR Schiager, Craig Hanson with a standard Aquila, and Larry Jolly with the original Cumic. (Chuck Norris photo)

David Hall Completes LSF 8-hour Slope Duration Flight

As part of John McNeil's invitation to all club members to spend time at Torrey for his birthday, TPGer David Hall came equipped to make an attempt for an LSF Level V 8-hour slope flight. This is one of the most arduous of the various tasks required for Level V:

<https://www.silentflight.org/pages/LSFTasksAndTaskSheets.htm>.

Launching at 9:15am, David made a brief 20-minute flight before the winds subsided. A second launch was made at 10:15am and he landed safely 8 hours, 2 minutes, 28 seconds later at 6:17pm. Congratulations Dave!



David Hall, just after launching his AVA at 9:15 am from the pilots' mound. The official start was at the 10:15 am launch (Gary Fogel photo)

Dave Hall Completes LSF 8-hour Slope Duration Flight (continued)



David Hall, with AVA and transmitter (second from left) and his TPG support team (L-R) Thermal Coordinator John McNeil, President Chuck Norris and VP and Club Historian Gary Fogel, following successful LSF task completion (Alvaro Corso photo)

August DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The July DLG contest/clinic was held on Saturday, August 15th with 17 pilots in attendance.



A great turnout of DLG pilots on contest morning (Bob Hirsch photo)



Pilots meeting (Bob Hirsch photo)



CD Justin Tolman reviewing contest tasks and rules (Bob Hirsch photo)

August 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
1	19 Kevin Jantz 	5911.9		911.9	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	10 Mike Smith 	5885.0	-26.9	923.9	990.1	1000	1000	971.0	1000
3	3 Gary Fogel 	5630.0	-255.0	1000	931.2	1000	986.1	909.2	803.5
4	17 Milan Bregman 	5614.6	-15.4	1000	993.6	1000	889.2	765.1	966.7
5	11 Brent Lytle 	5346.9	-267.7	1000	951.1	1000	630.8	941.9	823.1
6	16 Paul Reese 	5111.7	-235.2	1000	1000	400.0	996.3	1000	715.4
7	1 Markus Kellerer 	5095.6	-16.1	1000	881.8	1000	998.6	215.2	1000
8	4 John Graham 	4966.7	-128.9	666.7	992.8	525.0	844.8	1000	937.4
9	15 Don Lochhead 	4918.1	-48.6	746.3	802.2	952.3	889.5	819.1	708.7
10	5 William Lalla 	4839.1	-79.0	785.0	802.7	1000	1000	712.1	539.3
11	18 Mike Ray	4584.3	-254.8	760.4	684.1	685.7	937.1	635.9	881.1
12	8 Chuck Norris 	4438.0	-146.3	998.7	1000	995.3	814.2	124.7	505.1
13	2 Justin Tolman 	4034.2	-403.8	500.4	911.7	980.3	941.4	700.4	0.0
14	9 Arthur Markiewicz 	3982.4	-51.8	870.4	732.6	0.0	967.5	679.6	732.3
15	20 Lex Mierop 	3752.6	-229.8	828.7	800.0	502.3	965.2	214.0	442.4
16	13 Keith Frankie 	2966.8	-785.8	211.1	765.9	1000	632.4	67.6	289.8



Contest winners Kevin Jantz (1st, middle) Mike Smith (2nd, left), and Gary Fogel (3rd, right) (Bob Hirsch photo)

August DLG Contest Report (continued)

Our next DLG contest/clinic is the Poway Invitational, scheduled for September 19th. Sign up for August 15th here:

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=4122

Hope to see you there!

Justin Tolman
TPG DLG Coordinator



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report Preview

John McNeil, CD – Gary Fogel, Asst. CD

As this issue of Gull Wings is going to "press," the August 29th – 30th F3L Coastal Cooler is in the books, and was a resounding success!

We'll have a complete contest report from our co-CDs John McNeil and Gary Fogel, but in the meantime, here are a few photos from the event. For several more of Bob Hirsch's pre-contest and contest action photos, check out these links:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=55084085&postcount=70>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=55084393&postcount=73>



22 pilots from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada came out to compete in this year's Coastal Cooler F3L contest (Bob Hirsch photo)



Above, pilots meeting at 8:00 am on Saturday, August 29th. CD John McNeil and Asst. CD Gary Fogel start the event. (Bob Hirsch photo)
At right, John McNeal ready to go...plane in hand and scorecard in mouth (David Judson photo)





F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report Preview (continued)



Gary Fogel assists Greg McGill hooking his plane up for launch (Bob Hirsch photo)



Greg McGill and Eric Ritter launching (Bob Hirsch photo)



Terrill Willard and Ed LaCroix discussing strategy before launch (Bob Hirsch photo)



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report Preview (continued)



Arthur Markiewicz launching his Yellow Jacket (Bob Hirsch photo)



Approach at the landing tapes (Bob Hirsch photo)



Doug Cronkhite landing his Medina (Bob Hirsch photo)

Club Membership Update – Christoph Efstathiou



Christoph
Efstathiou

Hello Gulls,

This month we welcomed another new member to the club; along with one renewal, bringing us to a total of 103 members for the year. Welcome to our two new members, and thanks for joining us.

If you are an existing member who has not yet renewed, please consider doing so! I'll be travelling for most of September, but will do my best to process new member additions to the Discord server and Google Group as they come in.

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.html>

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.html>

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 us 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** – \$65 per year
- **Youth Members** (19 years or younger) – \$5 per year
- **Student Members** (full-time) – \$20 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 during the past membership year. 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](#)

Christoph Efstathiou
Membership Chairman
membership@torreypinesgulls.org



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

Thermal Duration (winch launch) contests have been moved into the Tow Hook Series (see the following pages). For F5J contest dates, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/f5j-competition.html>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG F5J contest schedule thread for contest news. In the meantime, check out what's been going on during 2025:

<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:

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Hand Launch/DLG contests, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/discus-launch-glider-series.html>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4841707-2026-TPG-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series-Information>

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.

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG Team DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4861235-2026-TPG-Team-DLG-Series>

For more info, 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

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

The TPG Tow Hook Series was a great success in 2025; more contests, fun fly clinics and even a multi-club/multi state event, The Coastal Cooler, which was held in August.

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Tow Hook Series contests, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/f3l-res-competitions.html>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG Tow Hook Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4861221-2026-TPG-Tow-Hook-Series-F3L-F3RES-TD-sub-250g>

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 CDs 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)

F5J Foamy Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic Series



Don Lochhead

TPG will continue our F5J style foamy fun fly contest (and clinic) Series in 2026 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 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.

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming F5J Foamy Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic events, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/foamy-fun-fly.html>

Our next fun fly will be held on October 31st. Sign up and come join in on the fun.

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=4153



Bob Hirsch photo

League of Silent Flight and TPG – 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 in 1969, 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>

Mark Smith was the first local to sign up for the LSF program with LSF #19. His father Rod was not far behind with #28. They may have been flying more with Harbor Soaring Society at that time (1969/1970) than Torrey Pines Gulls but soon were enjoying membership in both clubs. Since then, over 10,000 people from around the world have signed up and received an LSF number.

Don Edberg was the first in the club to achieve LSF SAP Level III (February 2, 1974). Randy Warner was not far behind, completing the level on April 25, 1974.

Don Edberg was also first in the TPG to achieve LSF SAP Level IV (June 27, 1975). Keith Finkenbinder completed the level on July 8, 1975 but was likely living in Illinois at that time. Ben Clerx completed Level IV on September 30, 1975 but was perhaps living in Honolulu at the time.

Larry Jolly completed his SAP Level V on November 16, 1983 but may or may not have been a member of TPG at the time. TPG members Don Edberg completed his on July 8, 1989. Since then, George Joy (1992), Patrick Dionisio (2002) and Keith Finkenbinder (2002) have completed Level V:

- SAP Level III – 51 pilots
- SAP Level IV – 31 pilots
- SAP Level V – 5 pilots

Larry Jolly (1983), Don Edberg (1989), George Joy (1992), Patrick Dionisio (2002), Keith Finkenbinder (2002)

For LSF eSAP, only one pilot in the history of the program has completed Level V – Larry Jolly (September 2, 2015). We need more pilots signing up and completing eSAP levels especially given the popularity of F5J, our regular F5J fun flies, and the opportunity to use electric launch DLGs in our monthly F3K contests.

League of Silent Flight and TPG – (continued)



Who in the TPG is currently working on which levels? I have the following info; if you do not see your name listed and wish to be added please let me know. It's good for us to have a list of current aspirations so that we can help others team up along the way and get to their goals. Don't forget to use 2026 TPG events towards next levels!

First	Last	SAP Level next to achieve	eSAP Level next to achieve
Milan	Bregman	Level I	
Gary	Legerton	Level I	
Mengchen	Li	Level I	
Paul	Nibecker	Level I	
Scott	McCurdy	Level I	Level II
Justin	Tolman	Level II	
Christoph	Efstathiou	Level II	
Ed	LaCroix	Level II	
Jake	Olefsky	Level II	Level II
Eric	Metzdorf	Level II	
Daniel	McFarland	Level II	
Don	Lochhead	Level II	
Ian	Cummings	Level III	
Mike	Verzuh	Level III	
Ray	Pili	Level III	Level II
Tom	Kiesling	Level III	
Mike	Smith	Level IV	
Steve	Condon	Level IV	
Chuck	Norris	Level V	Level II
Gary	Fogel	Level V	Level III
John	McNeil	Level V	
Scott	Condon	Level V	
David	Hall	Level V	
Ben	Clerx	Level V	
Rick	Shelby	Level V	

How We Connect

Questions or concerns?

You can have your questions answered at: www.torreypinesgulls.org

We have a [Contact Us](#) link in the drop-down menu that appears when you click on [The Club](#) next to [Membership](#), [Locations](#), [Contests...](#) If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc., 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!

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 Chairman the above steps have been completed, use the following email address: membership@torreypinesgulls.org

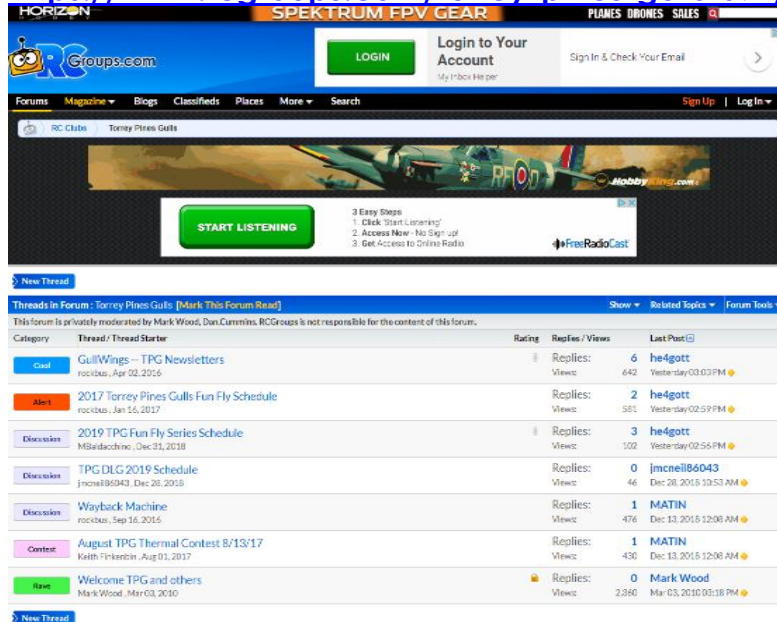
How We Connect (continued)

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
Gold	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: 551	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MSardachino, 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 Pinkerton, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
New	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,840	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 05:18 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.

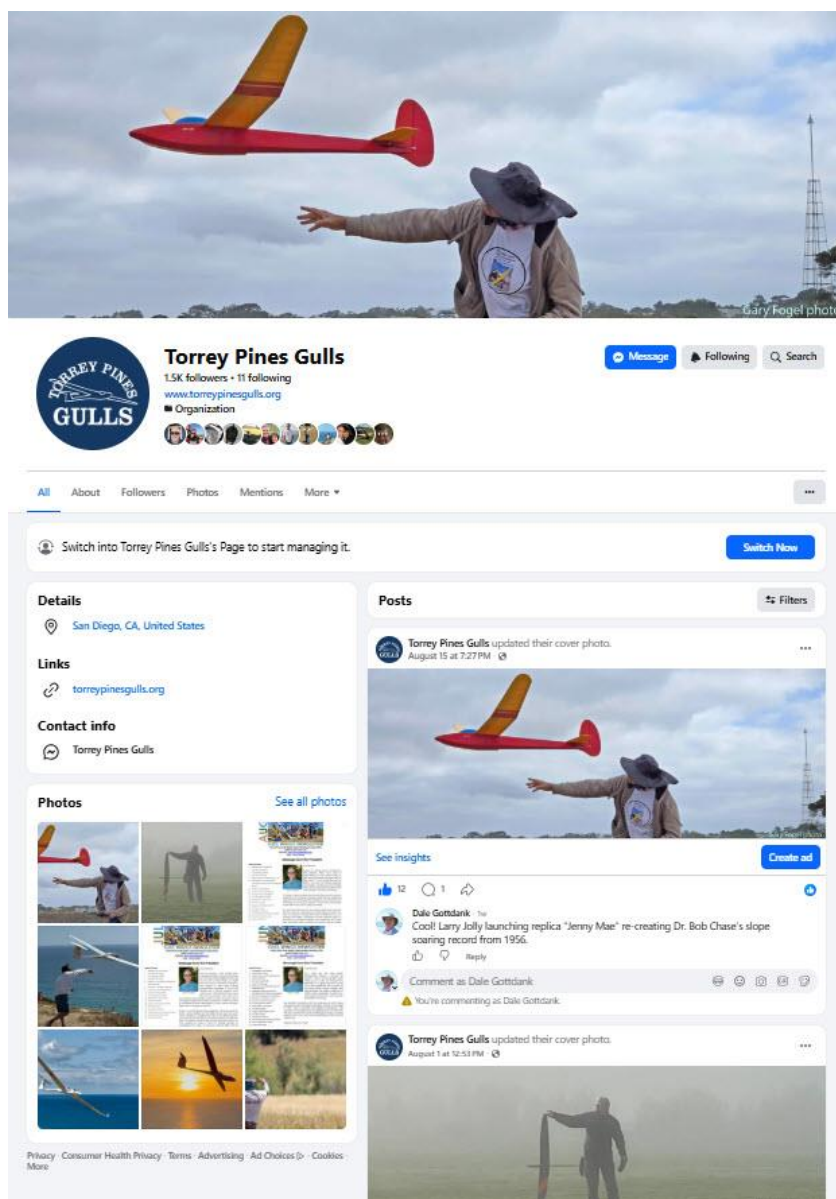
RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

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/>



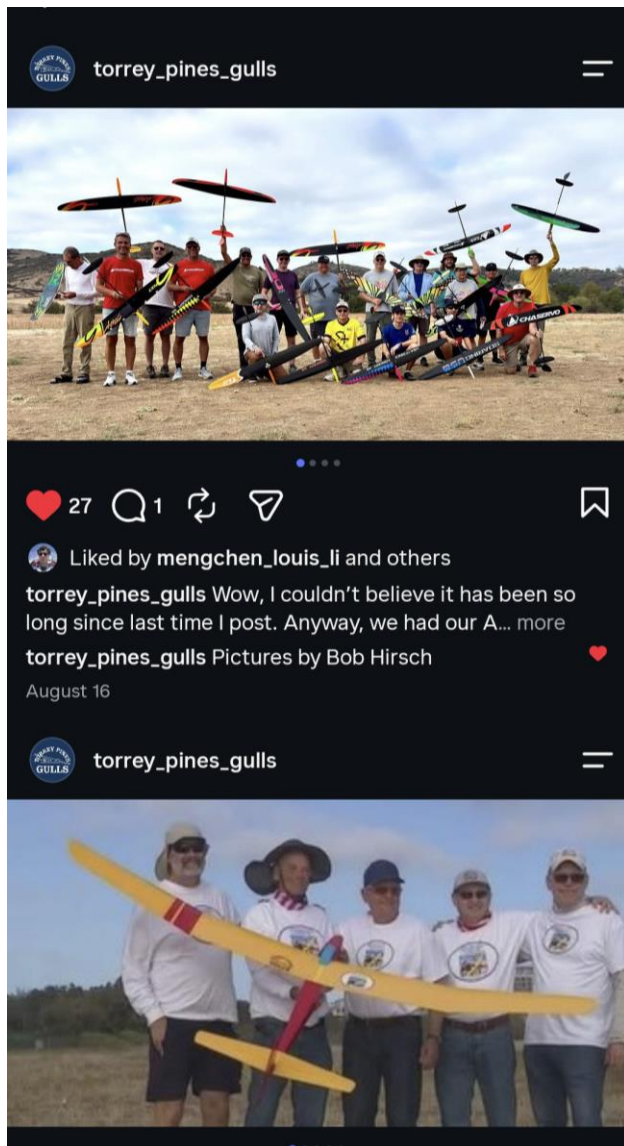
How We Connect (continued)

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 flys, etc., send them along to Mengchen at media@torreypinesgulls.org and you might find your submittal on a TPG Instagram post.



How We Connect (continued)

Join the Conversation:  **Discord**

Discord is a free website and app that you can download to your phone or computer that gives you access to the Torrey Pines Gulls group chat. This is an active discussion group with interesting conversations happening all the time. It's a great place to ask questions and learn from your fellow members. Event reminders and club news are posted to our Discord server so you can stay up to date with what's happening.

To get in:

1. Visit the Discord website and download the app to your computer or click the 'Open in Browser' link.
2. Or, search through your phone's app store for the Discord app and install it.
3. Create a free account inside the app or website.
4. Scan the QR code or click the link below it to join.



<http://www.discord.gg/vRdV6Fd9nP>

Newsletter Submissions - 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!

Please send in your articles or photos (communications@torreypinesgulls.org) by the **25th** of each month so they can be included in the monthly newsletter. If there are too many, we'll save them for the next issue. Photos should be in their original, high-resolution format. The newsletter can be found on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>.



Club 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	Christoph Efstathiou	membership@torreypinesgulls.org
IHLGF Coordinator	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	vp@torreypinesgulls.org
Webmaster	Jake Olefsky	tpg@foldnfly.com
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	media@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	historian@torreypinesgulls.org
Raffle Chairman	Michael Gillen	Contact via TPG Discord server

Executive Officers



Chuck Norris



Gary Fogel



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



John McNeil



Bret Locke



Justin Tolman



Christoph Efstathiou

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**.

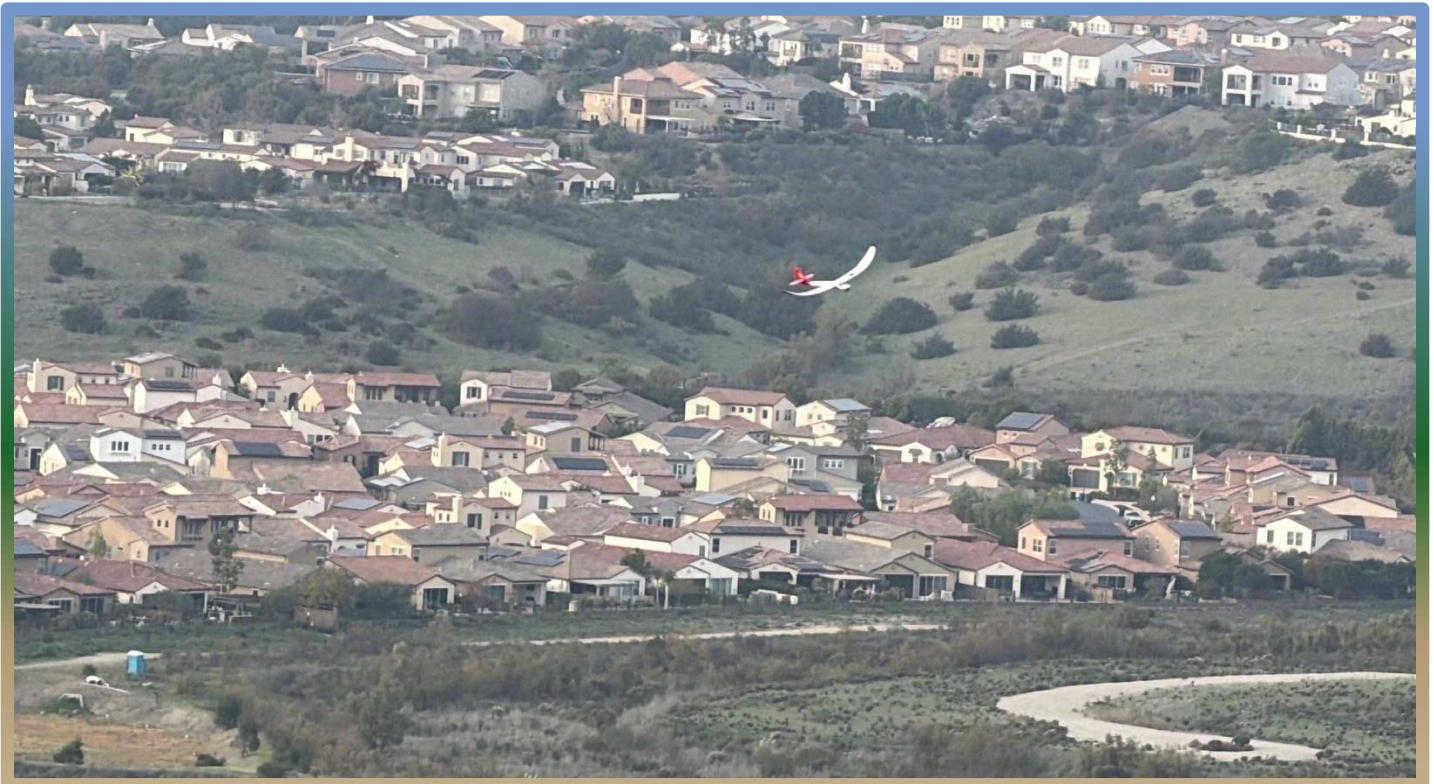
A Photo of the Year winner will be selected from among the monthly winners and will receive a prize (their photo will be used as the website and newsletter masthead AND will appear on the following year's club membership card); so **horizontal format photos are preferred**.

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.



4th Quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec 2025) Winner – Steve Stanton lunching his self-designed Cayley at a TPG F5J contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Winner – Lone glider near the Black Mountain Gliderport (Kevin Vu photo)



February Winner – Justin Tolman mid launch (Dave MacNeil photo))

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Co-Winner – Kellen LeBlanc launching at the Tow Hook Contest (Bob Hirsch photo))



March Co-Winner – Group launch at the February Poway Slope (Combat) Fiesta (Bob Hirsch photo))

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



April Co-Winner – John McNeil launching his open class ship at the March Tow Hook Series/TD Fun Fly (Ian Cummings photo)



April Co-winner – Jeff Sinsay launches a well-worn, but still well-flyin' Radian (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co-winner – Aaron Wallace's HKM ASW-27 (Thomas Moller photo)



May Co-winner – Scott McCurdy launching at the 2026 International Hand Launch Glider Festival (Ian Cummings photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



June Winner – Ray Pili's LET DG-1000 over Torrey (Ray Pili photo)



July Winner – Alvaro Corzo launching Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 (David Fierro photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



August Co-Winner – Dale Osborn about to launch in the early morning mist at Poway (Bob Hirsch photo)



August Co Winner – Larry Jolly launches his replica "Jenny May" at the July 1st re-creation of Bob Chase's 1956 slope soaring record flight (Gary Fogel photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Don Edberg flying Jake Olefsky's pitcheron creation at Torrey – looks like it's in a terminal dive but that's just Don immediately having fun. (Bob Hirsch photo)



Vintage Airtronics oldies at the AMA Hall of Fame induction for Dr. Don Edberg. Left to right - Thomas Moller brought his Aquila Grande, Gary Fogel holding Don Edberg's Hustler, Don Edberg holding HOF plaque, District VP, JR Schiager, Craig Hanson with a standard Aquila, and Larry Jolly with the original Cumic. (Chuck Norris photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Kellen LeBlanc launching at the F3L Coastal Cooler contest (Bob Hirsch photo)



Early morning fogbow before the start of the Coastal Cooler at Encinitas (Gary Fogel photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



September Winner: David Hall's Yellow Jacket turning during the F3L Coastal Cooler (Bob Hirsch photo)



Quote of the Month:

“I related to eagles, somehow...Eagles are the strong ones, flying the hardest, the fastest, the highest. I didn’t realize how much I write about eagles until somebody brought it to my attention. I must just relate to the idea of soaring.”

~ Dolly Parton, from Songteller: My Life in Lyrics



April at the Gliderport. Aaron Wallace's HKM ASW-27 soars over the setting sun (Thomas Moller photo)