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GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

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Chuck Norris

This past weekend, Gary Fogel and I represented TPG by manning a table in the exhibitor's hangar at the Miramar Air Show. I find it a fun and rewarding experience talking with the public about our sport and why it's awesome.

These are people often being exposed to RC and soaring for the very first time, and it's pretty cool to see their eyes light up when they get what it's all about.

We talked to young kids (handing out balsa chuck gliders was a real draw), teens, and adults of all ages, and got a lot of great feedback and appreciation for our efforts.

Who knows if doing this will lead to concrete benefits for the club, but I firmly believe that the more people know about our hobby, the better off we all are. We may gain a few new members, or simply build some goodwill towards our hobby. But I am convinced that we need to take the opportunities that present themselves to educate and promote this sport that we all love.

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

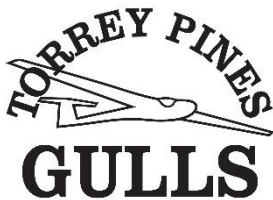
Every year, the Executive Council recognizes one or more TPG members to be recognized as Modeler of the Year based on outstanding contributions to the overall success of the club.

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!



It's That Time Again Gulls!

We are happy to announce that this year's
TPG Holiday Party will be held on *Tuesday, December 8th* at

Hamburger Factory Family Restaurant
14122 Midland Road, Poway, California
<https://hamburgerfactory.com/>

We have reserved the Front Patio Room which holds 40 TPG members and their guests.

Dinner will be buffet style with BBQ chicken, sliced tri-tip, potato salad, mac and cheese, bread rolls, garden salad, soda drinks and coffee.

RSVP

In order to make budgets work, we are requiring a \$25 cover charge per person. Please pay via PayPal to treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org along with your RSVP.

Doors open at 6:00pm, dinner at ~6:30pm, festivities along the way

- Photo montage by Ian Cummings
- Fun Aeronautic Activities
- Prize Raffle
- Year in Review
- Year-end Awards and Modeler of the Year Award

**Bring a dozen holiday themed cookies to share for dessert.*

Please RSVP by December 2

First come first served on the 40-person room limit so RSVP early!

Hope to see you there!

Gary Fogel
Torrey Pines Gulls
2026 Vice President

Gary Fogel Achieves LSF Level V Status

On the weekend of August 29th and 30th, TPG Vice President and Club Historian Gary Fogel won first place in the F3L Coastal Cooler contest. That was quite an achievement in and of itself. But even more impressive, since this was a recognized contest of at least 20 contestants, it qualified as Gary's final requirement for achieving League of Silent Flight Level V status in the Soaring Accomplishment Program (SAP).

Gary is the 141st person ever to achieve Level V since the SAP was established in the late 1960s. He is the first person since 2019 to do so. You can see the list of Level V SAP and eSAP achievers here: <https://silentflight.org/pages/LSFLevelVs.htm>

Congratulations, Gary!



Gary Fogel (right) receiving the 1st Place award from TPG Thermal Coordinator and contest CD, John McNeil, at the 2026 F3L Coastal Cooler contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

50th Anniversary Redman Rules Contest with Foamboard Build and Mentorship Day – October 18

...with Gary Fogel and Mike Redman

On October 18 we're going to try something new and fun at Torrey. At 10am we'll have a foamboard build session for TPG members. Sign up on the Vault here:

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=4545

The small cost of registration (\$5) will help cover the foamboard and bamboo skewer materials. Pilots are asked to bring their own RC equipment, strapping tape, control rods, control horns, cutting supplies, and weights for balance – everything you would need to construct and fly an RC glider - except for the foamboard. At 10am, pilots will receive 3 sheets of foamboard with a goal of being first to soar off the cliffs for 10 minutes before noon for points. If the wind isn't sufficient by noon, no points. If you fly for 10 minutes and then do not land on top – no points. No other materials can be used other than foamboard, bamboo skewers, strapping tape, control rods. No super glue, no epoxy, no melt glue. Tape it, fly it, have fun.

At noon, we will be joined by students from AIAA-UCSD who will be eager to take their first try at RC soaring on buddy boxes. We'll stop the foamboard building at that time and encourage you all to bring a suitable trainer (Wanderer, Gentle Lady, Yellow Jacket, or Foamy) and a buddy box. We hope to get as many students on control sticks as possible while the wind starts up and before the air gets overly crowded.

At roughly 2pm, we will have the 50th Anniversary Redman Rules contest! 50 years!! The Redman Rules contest consists of rounds of limbo, beer can bowling, and this year either spot landing or hand catch. Pilots who fly their foamboard creations in the Redman Rules contest receive 2x points. You can fly anything you want but we want to see as many foam-tape creations making the rounds, with students enjoying the controlled chaos as much as the pilots.

We'll finish by about 4pm and declare our winner. We've never combined so many things into one crazy experience but it's bound to be fun. Come on out, build something, teach a student, try a limbo, help continue the Redman Rules tradition and have a laugh. Mike will finalize the point system and tasks on the day of - so you never know what to expect! Don't want to keep your foamy plane? Give it to a student...

If you are interested in serving as a mentor for students, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO GARY IN ADVANCE (garyfogel@gmail.com) – we need as many mentors as possible with buddy boxes on October 18. Thank you for your interest in helping these newcomers.



New RC Products Announcement – Mike Smith

I am the exclusive US distributor for CHAServos. I have been doing this since 2022 out of my house in Scripps Ranch.

After four years of bringing some of the best servos available to the RC community, I'm excited to announce that CHAServoUSA is expanding into aircraft platforms. I now carry propeller airplanes and gliders from Tomahawk Aviation RC, Germany's premier manufacturer—the full range minus their jet models. This expansion pairs perfectly with my core servo offerings, and I've added complementary product lines from RC-Electronics and Tomas Liu Studios (servo linkage kits and hardware).

My current focus on GPS Triangle Racing led me to RC-Electronics, who supply the timing and motor control equipment for F5J—and I'm working toward becoming their importer for GPS Triangle equipment as well. And when I discovered the quality of Tomas Liu Studios' servo linkage kits and hardware, I reached out directly because the work is just too good not to represent.

It's all been organic—DLG led to servos and then to aircraft and to the specialized equipment this community needs. It's been a real pleasure serving my friends and fellow enthusiasts in Southern California, and I'm genuinely looking forward to helping you get into one of Tomahawk's exceptional aircraft and the equipment that makes GPS Triangle and F5J possible.

Please be sure to check out the cool products on the websites for the companies mentioned above. Click on the images below to view these product lines and then contact me and we can talk about any orders you may want to place. I don't have a website but feel free to go to the websites for the companies I represent.

See you at the field.

Mike Smith



TPG October/November Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
October 4 th	Tow Hook Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open
October 11 th	F5J Super Fly – Combined F5J Open Class and Foamy Class Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault (F5J Open) Register on F3X Vault (Foamy F5J)
October 17 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
October 17 th	TPG Lake Hodges Slope Excursion – Come out to one of San Diego County's scenic RC soaring venues	Lake Hodges Slope Register on F3X Vault No Fee!
October 18 th	50th Anniversary Redman Rules Contest with Foamboard Build and Mentorship Day (see next event)	Torrey Pines Gliderport Register on F3X Vault
October 18 th	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day (between foamboard contest and Redman Rules).	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Can you help mentor? If so, reach out to garyfogel@gmail.com
October 27 th	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
November 15 th	Tow Hook Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open
November 21 st	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



Thanks to volunteers Don Lochhead (organizer), Mike Smith, Justin Tollman, Bob Hirsch (had to leave earlier), Mike Green and Dave MacNeal for their work party efforts getting the Poway Field cleaned up for the Poway Invitational (Mike Smith photo)

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 and **participate in our monthly raffle (see next page)**. 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."

Bio: Chris has over 15 years of professional design and testing experience in aerospace and nuclear engineering fields. Since the late 1990's he has designed and built a number of radio control models and UAVs, including Altostratus, presently on display at Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center, and Lecurus, holder of several US records for electric-powered sailplanes. Chris has led conceptual design teams examining a wide-range of VTOL concepts across a variety of civil and military missions. Recent work has focused on identifying the feasibility and key technologies for VTOL on-demand mobility aircraft. Chris holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from UCLA.



Topic: OpenVSP <https://openvsp.org/> is a parametric aircraft geometry tool. OpenVSP allows the user to create a 3D model of an aircraft defined by common engineering parameters. This model can be processed into formats suitable for engineering analysis. The predecessors to OpenVSP have been developed by J.R. Gloudemans and others for NASA since the early 1990's. On January 10 2012, OpenVSP was released as an open-source project under the NASA Open Source Agreement (NOSA) version 1.3.

Club Meetings (continued)

...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; go to:

[“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.

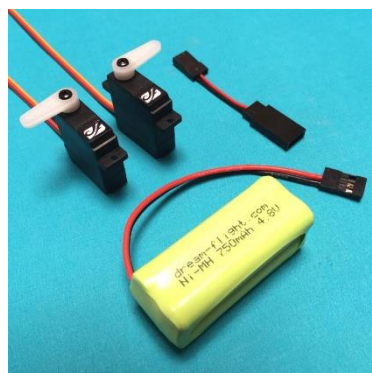
Good luck!

The raffle prize for our October meeting is a



PLUS

Metal Gear Flight Pack



TPG at the Miramar Air Show – Spreading the Word



On Sunday, September 27th, TPG President Chuck Norris and VP Gary Fogel manned a booth at the MCAS Miramar Air Show to spread the word about RC Soaring and the Torrey Pines Gulls. This is great community outreach helping to grow our hobby and our club. Thanks, guys!



Chuck explaining some principles of RC soaring to Air Show attendees (Gary Fogel photo)

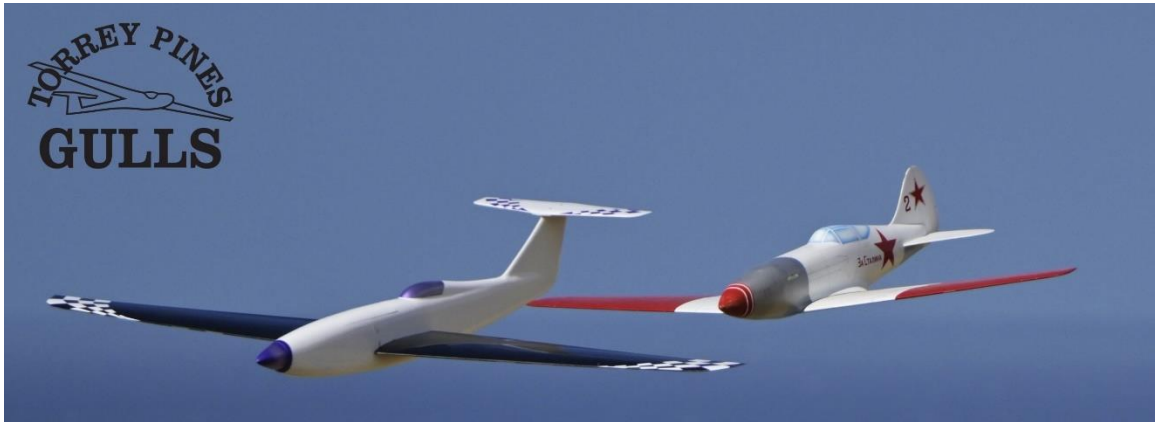


Gary taking some time to enjoy flying an F-35 flight simulator (Chuck Norris photo)

News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator



Bret Locke



Coastal Lift is Still Our Best Option

Warm weather has been the norm this past September, with short periods of fall-like conditions. The monsoonal weather pattern seems to be lingering, with eastern Pacific hurricanes forming one after another. Torrey Pines Gliderport, as always, is a great escape, with lower temperatures and the ocean breeze that makes us happy. Torrey Pines RC gliding area is maintaining clean conditions for landing and pit area activities.

The September 5th Gliderport Slope Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies event had an extremely low attendance due to low wind velocities. That being said, some of us brought out our light planes and enjoyed the day.

From Michael Gillen: Bob, Bret, Michael and Barry showed up. Wind was 5-7mph out of the NW, so not very good conditions; But we flew some stuff...



Michael's Ridge Runt Evo (Aloft Hobbies), Slope Master (Sun Fair Aircraft Designs) and Talon (Bob Martin). Barry flew his Radian (far left) (Michael Gillen photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Bret's V-Tail modified Paragon. Barry's Dream Flight Weasel and E-flite Radian behind (Michael Gillen photo)

Upcoming Events

In addition to Gliderport events, October 17th will be our Lake Hodges Slope Combat Excursion.

Lake Hodges is a well-known site for sloping on the north end of Rancho Bernardo. The club is going to change things up and go on an excursion, followed by a little combat.

To get to Hodges Slope:

- Exit I-15 at West Bernardo Road / Pomerado Road. Take West Bernardo Road west.
- Turn right at the light at Rancho Bernardo Community Park Driveway
- Park near trail head near tennis courts
- Hike on dirt path from the parking area to the northwest up the hill in front of you
- (The trail is flat dirt for the first 1/3, uphill and slightly rocky for the next 1/3, rather flat for the last 1/3. Watch for cactus and snakes)

Register here for the (no fee) event.

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=4551

(see map on the following page)

News from the Slope (continued)



Lake Hodges slope area map

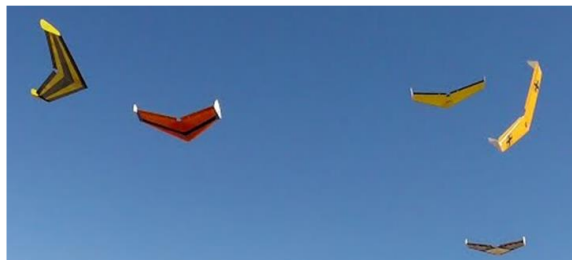
SAFETY ALERT:

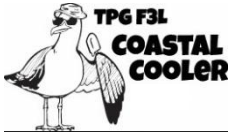
Our most effective safety practice is the Blue-Sky Rule; your depth perception cannot be trusted; Maintain Situational Awareness; and fly with a spotter if feeling overwhelmed by your plane or by paraglider traffic. In uncomfortable situations (i.e. numerous paragliders in the R/C window), landing is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

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2026

October 18 th	50th Anniversary Redman Rules Contest with Foamboard Build and Mentorship Day. For the uninitiated, Redman Rules may involve beer can bowling, limbo line others that Mr. Redman feels are appropriate tests of our skills.
December 5 th	No Shopping Saturday – A week or so after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

The final Poway Slope Fiesta of 2026, scheduled for October 17th, will instead be a Lake Hodges Slope Combat Excursion as described above Stay tuned for continuation of TPG Slope Fiesta combat sessions in 2027.





F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report

John McNeil, CD – Gary Fogel, Asst. CD

The second annual F3L Coastal Cooler brings participants from across the southwest to the TPG Encinitas Field for a fun two-day competition in FAI F3L format. This year we had 6 teams of 4 pilots each to start and filled up our maximum quota of 24 pilots rather early during the registration process. Every year we have a few last-minute cancellations and drops but we managed to start the contest with 24 pilots registered. Unfortunately, two pilots had to bow out before the contest began leaving two teams with just three pilots. Those who made it also got cookies with a specially printed event logo thanks to a donation by our friends at <https://thesweetprinter.com/>



Pilots and planes for the 2026 F3L Coastal Cooler. (Bob Hirsch photo)

Last year we had crazy weather at the Cooler, including thunderstorms and winds out of every compass direction on day 1. This year we had crazy weather but fortunately no thunderstorms. Day 1 started with high humidity and warm conditions but fog on the field during setup. That fog quickly burned off, the temperature rose, but the humidity stayed in the 80-90% level. The combination led to a heat index of 98F in the middle of the day, which was, well, quite crazy for Encinitas.



CD John McNeil addressing the pilots at the pilots meeting. (Bob Hirsch photo)



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report (continued)

After a pilots meeting and photos (thanks Bob Hirsch), the contest started around 8:30am with ideal thermal conditions, hardly any wind, reads that were real, and thermals that would basically sit and spin in place. Most pilots managed 5:50 or more on their flight time in round 1, and differences were largely in landing points. By round 2 the air began to become more interesting as the heat increased. We entered a period where good thermals still existed but they weren't everywhere and either you found it or you didn't. This caused a bit more separation in flight time for each heat. By Round 3 this effect became even more severe. For instance, in Round 3, Group A, only two pilots (David Judson and Justin Tolman) managed more than 5 minutes; the remaining three pilots had difficulty attaining 2-minute flights. In round 3 group B, Kellen LeBlanc took the K with a flight of 4:50, besting John McNeil (4:00) and Gary Fogel (3:52) (well done Kellen!) But by Round 3 group D all five pilots scored better than 5:30 on their time with Greg McGill taking the K with a 6:00, 95.



John McNeil launching his Apex at the Coastal Cooler. (Gary Fogel photo)



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report (continued)



Chuck Norris, Justin Tolman, and Eric Ritter (left to right) watching the action (Gary Fogel photo)



Arthur Markiewicz launching a Yellow Jacket. (Bob Hirsch photo)



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report (continued)



Greg McGill from New Mexico launching his Apex. (Bob Hirsch photo)

We stopped for Subway lunch. It felt great to finally take a break, get out of the heat and have a nice cool drink. TPG volunteers Tom Farley, Michael Gillen, Bob Hirsch, and Jake Olefsky delivered and served the lunch to grateful pilots.

Once flights resumed, the afternoon winds made thermal reads more challenging and there were also times when thermals running downwind would just dissipate at altitude. Things were very dynamic, challenging, and different from round to round. To everyone's relief Michael Gillen walked the flight line in the afternoon, serving popsicles to all the pilots. We were all very tired by the end of Day 1, ready for a dinner and a cold shower. Our volunteers were ready with dinner. They served Rubio's fish (and other) tacos. Gave us a chance to rest, fill up, and swap stories of the day before we headed home.



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report (continued)

Day 2 started with blue skies and reduced humidity and heat. Round 7 group A must have launched just a little early in the thermal cycle as it was challenging for anyone to find lift. But after the next group, 5-6 min air was plentiful. This continued all the way through Round 8, and through Round 9, making Sunday look a lot easier than Saturday. But by Rounds 10 and 11 the heat was back on winds were out of the SW and the thermal activity became more dispersed. Some groups struggled to make 3 minutes, others could find 5 or 6 minutes with ease. Everyone, include local pilots, who supposedly know the field, had trouble predicting the rapid cycles of waves, thermals and sink. No one in the last two groups of the contest managed more than 5 minutes. Check RC groups for more commentary and photos from pilots.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4894073-2026-F3L-Coastal-Cooler-Aug-29-30-Torrey-Pines-Gulls/page6>

Given the heat and humidity, the decision was made at the start of Day 2 not to have the typical flyoffs. This would allow our out-of-town guests to get back to their hotels and freshen up before the drive home, which many guests appreciated. We also decided to put more tents along the flight line for people to get out of the sun. This worked better than feared, with only one plane hitting a tent. Next year we'll do the same thing. Thanks to our volunteer crew for moving a lot of tents first thing in the morning.



Approach at the landing tapes (Bob Hirsch photo)



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report (continued)



Terrill Willard and Ed LaCroix from Arizona enjoying California thermals. (Bob Hirsch photo)



Gary Fogel measuring a landing by Greg McGill. (Bob Hirsch photo)

In the end, the top three pilots were John Armstrong (Arizona, 9590), Charlie Morris (Arizona, 9926) and Gary Fogel (TPG, 9945). The contest win for Gary continued his two year "streak" of winning at the Coastal Cooler, and was the last contest win needed to secure LSF SAP Level V as a personal achievement. The winning team was Team Z (Charlie Morris, John McNeil, David Judson, Doug Cronkhite). An image of the F3X Vault scores is provided at the end of this article. For greater detail and additional stats, refer visit the link below:

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=4157

Reminder: this is part of the growing F3L Contest Series.

<http://www.f3lcontestseries.org/>

This year we have 5 events. See the web site for information about the final event of the year in Visalia December 5 & 6.



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report (continued)



CD John McNeil, presenting the 1st Place award to Gary Foge Bob Hirsch photo)



John presenting the 2nd Place award to Charles Morris (Bob Hirsch photo)



John presenting the 3rd Place award to John Armstrong (Bob Hirsch photo)



Two F3L gliders sharing a thermal. Come join us at the next F3L contest! (Bob Hirsch photo)

We look forward to seeing you at the 3rd F3L Coastal Cooler in August 2027! Will it be the "Coastal Roaster" like this year? Will there be rainbows like 2025 or fogbows like 2026? Come join us and find out! (There will be popsicles).



F3L Coastal Cooler Contest Report (continued)

F3X Vault Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (1 Drop In Effect)										
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	Round 9	Round 10	Round 11
1	5 Gary Fogel	9945.4		1000	995.1	955.2	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	995.1	1000	727.6
2	25 Charles Morris	9926.9	-18.5	998.8	1000	1000	1000	966.2	797.5	963.1	1000	998.8	1000	1000
3	13 John Armstrong	9590.3	-336.6	992.7	877.8	908.0	990.0	891.1	900.6	1000	997.5	995.1	915.3	1000
4	1 John McNeil	9587.6	-2.7	1000	524.4	994.8	989.0	1000	1000	688.3	1000	1000	980.4	935.1
5	6 David Judson	9522.1	-65.5	1000	986.6	1000	8.8	1000	925.5	992.6	991.4	1000	717.8	908.2
6	12 Chuck Norris	9327.1	-195.0	965.9	1000	805.2	324.9	1000	933.8	1000	980.3	998.8	979.1	664.0
7	9 Greg McGill	9230.9	-96.2	997.5	981.7	1000	903.4	914.8	986.9	976.4	934.1	888.3	647.8	623.5
8	3 Edward LaCroix	8856.2	-374.7	985.4	645.2	608.6	599.3	1000	785.0	1000	974.1	990.1	959.5	908.3
9	10 Steve Condon	8637.1	-219.1	992.7	1000	667.5	493.3	907.4	792.5	953.3	1000	995.1	605.4	723.2
10	21 Justin Tolman	8586.1	-51.0	869.0	982.9	986.5	982.5	882.7	553.3	987.7	979.0	877.1	1000	467.9
11	11 Arthur Markiewicz	8468.7	-117.4	997.6	998.8	396.3	1000	345.7	581.3	938.5	998.8	1000	1000	557.4
12	14 Michael Roseberry	8443.3	-25.4	970.6	676.9	663.8	997.5	8.8	1000	449.0	964.5	856.4	864.6	1000
13	8 David Hall	8236.1	-207.2	985.3	982.7	428.2	686.4	468.1	933.8	968.0	958.1	980.2	8.8	845.3
14	20 Eric Ritter	8214.9	-21.2	946.8	1000	995.1	481.5	8.8	1000	931.2	969.5	1000	600.3	290.5
15	4 Terrill Willard	8132.2	-82.7	1000	970.5	428.2	237.5	961.0	658.4	932.5	862.0	851.7	467.9	1000
16	7 John Ihlein	8047.0	-85.2	991.5	990.1	621.6	751.3	648.5	884.1	988.9	995.1	378.4	437.7	738.2
17	17 Daniel Roberts	7402.2	-644.8	995.0	455.8	712.1	625.6	871.3	8.8	979.1	934.7	997.5	360.2	470.9
18	22 Doug Cronkhite	6915.0	-487.2	500.0	879.6	990.2	1000	0.0	110.0	8.8	1000	997.5	743.4	694.3
19	2 Kellen LeBlanc	6388.4	-526.6	970.3	989.0	1000	274.1	422.8	530.0	444.8	973.0	506.1	307.1	416.0
20	18 Bret Locke	5485.1	-903.3	981.6	809.6	422.4	506.3	688.9	397.5	937.4	741.4	8.8	0.0	0.0
21	Kirby House	5261.9	-223.2	866.6	589.7	398.3	271.1	8.8	0.0	0.0	949.4	931.6	955.8	299.4
22	16 Steve Hurd	5261.7	-0.2	949.8	571.1	979.1	991.3	811.4	959.0	8.8	NE	NE	NE	NE

September F5J Contest Report – Mike Verzuh, CD w/Mike Smith

With family business and just coming off the F5 J team selection, our turn out was a little bit lite for the event; but nonetheless we pressed on and had a fabulous time.

With just four of us, we flew all together using self-timing. That allowed us to get in seven rounds before lunchtime. The conditions were very interesting. Overcast and light lift all day. You needed at least 100 m to get it done.

Big congratulations to Mike Smith. His Flying was super smooth all day long and it showed in the finish. Thanks to Steve and Arthur for coming out as well. It was a great time.



Group launch, left to right, Arthur Markeiwicz, Mike Smith, Steve Stanton and CD Mike Verzuh (Tom Farley photo)

From Mike Smith:

Four hard-core pilots braved the stormy weather this morning and flew 7 rounds of riveting F5J action! Some very light thermal activity under overcast skies. Low launches were in the 100-meter range with actual lift encountered at about 50-75 meters. A delightful time was had by Arthur, Mike V, Steve Stanton and myself! Thanks, Tom Farley, for taking a few photos to provide proof of life. We are really missing our regular participants. Come back and fly with us soon!

September F5J Contest Report (continued)



Another group launch, this time with CD Mike Mike Verzuh at the landing tape (Tom Farley photo)
Vezuh in the foreground (Tom Farley photo)



Group launch (Tom Farley photo)



Mike Smith, nailing a landing (Tom Farley photo)

F3X Vault Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (1 Drop In Effect)						
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
1	3 Mike Smith 🇺🇸 🏆	5913.44		979.31	1000	956.04	978.09	855.98	1000	1000
2	1 Mike Verzuh 🇺🇸 🏆	5606.31	-307.13	1000	834.36	958.58	1000	1000	813.37	799.19
3	4 Steve Stanton 🇺🇸 🏆	4875.43	-730.88	872.41	909.25	610.31	910.60	861.79	704.86	616.52
4	2 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🏆	4672.76	-202.67	518.10	826.43	1000	886.06	558.65	744.79	656.83

Poway Invitational DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The Sixth Annual Poway Invitational took place on Saturday September, 19th with 16 pilots in attendance. The weather was great (especially for September in San Diego) and the field was in good shape after Don Lochhead organized a work party to help clear weeds the week before.

We held a brief pilots meeting under partly-cloudy skies as the morning marine layer rapidly burned off.



2026 Poway Invitational pilots (Bob Hirsch photo)



Pilots meeting (Bob Hirsch photo)

Poway Invitational DLG Contest Report (continued)

Round 1 (Task D, Ladder) started the day with an homage to F3K tasks that have since been retired from FAI circulation but this task is a tradition that TPG continues to keep alive. In Group A, Edward LaCroix, Kevin Jantz, Brent Lytle and Paul Reese shared the K after climbing all 7 rungs of their ladder. In Group B, it was Chuck Norris and William Lalla who climbed all 7 of their ladder rungs. In Group C, Arthur Markiewicz, Mike Ray, Gary Fogel and Mike Smith took advantage of buoyant air to also reach the top of their ladders.

After at least 7 launches in Round 1, Round 2 (Task G, 5x2:00) saw 5 more, but with quick turns thrown in for good measure. In Group A, Gary Fogel took the K by a mere 2 seconds over Brent Lytle. In Group B, Kevin Jantz took advantage of hit-or-miss conditions to earn the K. In Group C, Mengchen Li put in a very efficient quick turn performance to take the K over Edward LaCroix.

By Round 3 (Task N, Best Flight) big, predictable lift moved in. In Group A, 5 pilots flew the entire 9:59 max time, with new Sportsman pilot Steve Habkirk just missing out on sharing the K with a 9:25. In Group B, another 5 pilots flew the entire 9:59, with electric-launch pilot Steve Hurd getting an 8:11. In Group C, 3 more pilots flew the entire 9:59, with Mike Ray getting close at 9:10. In all, 13 pilots flew the entire max time of 9:59 and everyone flew at least 8 minutes. The conditions were stellar to say the least.



Eyes skyward, pilots and timers concentrate on their aircraft (Bob Hirsch photo)

Poway Invitational DLG Contest Report (continued)

The favorable conditions hung around for a bit longer as we moved into Round 4 (Task F, Three of 6). In Group A, Don Lochhead, Gary Fogel and Paul Reese managed to maximize their 3 flights to share the K. In Group B, it was Mike Ray, Justin Tolman and Brent Lytle also maximizing their times to share the K. The air was starting to become more challenging for Group C. Mengchen Li earned the group K after dropping just two-tenths on his third flight, just barely missing the perfect trifecta.

After an hour lunch break, we started Round 5 (Task C, AULD) which conveniently gave timers some extra respite in the shade. In Group A, Gary Fogel and Mengchen Li earned the K after separating themselves from the rest of the group with some phenomenal flying in the round's first launch. In Group B, William Lalla and Brent Lytle traded short flights in the first two launches but it was Will getting the best third flight to earn the K. In Group C, Paul Reese and Mike Smith both maximized their first two flights but it was Paul taking the K after a stellar third flight.

By Round 6 (Task K, Big Ladder) the air was becoming much more dynamic and challenging. In Group A, William Lalla put in a magnificent effort, dropping just 10 seconds to take the K. Group B saw some carnage where Mengchen Li took the K after dropping an entire minute and 12 seconds. In Group C, Mike Smith earned the K by nearly 50 seconds over the rest of the group.



CD Justin Tolman at contest central (Bob Hirsch photo)



Bob Hirsch photo

Round 7 (Task I, Three Longest) was the final round of the prelims and "Poway" sure did show up right on time. In Group A, Justin Tolman and Steve Habkirk battled downwind thermals on their first two flights but an unfortunate landout by Steve resulted in Justin earning the K. In a very competitive Group B, Mike Smith, Brent Lytle, and Mengchen Li put on a master class of finding multiple different thermals. But Mike took the K by just 4 seconds over Brent. In Group C, Kevin Jantz put in three great flights to earn the K.

The top-6 pilots then transferred to the flyoffs, led by Mengchen Li, Mike Smith and William Lalla.

Poway Invitational DLG Contest Report (continued)

F3x Vault Scores – Preliminary Rounds

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (1 Drop In Effect)						
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
1	12 Mengchen Li 	5976.1		771.4	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	976.1
2	18 Mike Smith 	5966.0	-10.1	1000	995.6	1000	858.8	970.4	1000	1000
3	4 William Lalla 	5952.2	-13.8	1000	965.5	1000	986.7	1000	1000	840.3
4	17 Paul Reese 	5935.2	-17.0	1000	957.2	1000	1000	1000	978.0	771.9
5	14 Brent Lytle 	5858.5	-76.7	1000	996.3	1000	1000	857.3	869.8	992.4
6	2 Gary Fogel 	5854.4	-4.1	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	854.4	835.7
7	3 Edward LaCroix 	5753.6	-100.8	1000	986.7	1000	664.4	966.7	975.3	824.9
8	10 Kevin Jantz 	5748.1	-5.5	1000	1000	1000	833.3	612.2	914.8	1000
9	1 Justin Tolman 	5492.9	-255.2	771.4	963.2	1000	1000	659.6	758.3	1000
10	6 Arthur Markiewicz 	5476.3	-16.6	1000	936.8	1000	833.6	680.3	914.8	791.1
11	16 Mike Ray	5467.1	-9.2	1000	940.3	918.5	1000	484.8	961.2	647.1
12	7 Chuck Norris 	5207.6	-259.5	1000	979.3	1000	657.6	434.4	729.4	841.3
13	11 Don Lochhead 	5195.7	-11.9	571.4	933.1	1000	1000	628.6	808.7	825.3
14	19 Steve Hurd 	4524.3	-671.4	571.4	916.1	821.2	755.8	794.5	284.1	665.3
15	8 Steve Habkirk 	4523.4	-0.9	0.0	887.4	943.9	980.0	243.1	871.6	597.4
16	15 Keith Frankie 	4056.2	-467.2	571.4	813.5	1000	580.7	530.4	560.2	501.6

Round 9 (Task D, 2x5) presented more of the challenging, unpredictable air of the previous round. Again, with only two launches, some pilots loitered on the ground while others launched immediately. William Lalla started out strong and was the only pilot to fly the entire first flight. However, Will was unable to accumulate any more time after an unfortunate landout on his second flight. Putting together the best two flights was Mike Smith, earning the K with an accumulated flight time of 7:25.

Round 10 ended the day with Poker. All pilots took advantage of having 3 nominations with most taking short first flights to try and search for sustainable lift to support longer flights. William Lalla earned the K with two short flights and a fantastic 4:47 third flight, accumulating 7:47 of flight time.

After 10 challenging rounds, it was Mengchen Li at the top of the podium, followed by Mike Smith in 2nd and Paul Reese in 3rd.

Thanks again to everyone who came out to support the sixth iteration of our fall one-day contest. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

For more great photos of the event, check out Bob Hirsch's posts on RC Groups;

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=55130591&postcount=15>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=55130591&postcount=15>

Poway Invitational DLG Contest Report (continued)



Poway Invitational winners (left to right) Mike Smith, 2nd Place; Mengchen Li, 1st Place and Paul Reese, 3rd Place. (Bob Hirsch photo)

F3x Vault Scores – Flyoff Rounds

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)		
				Round 8	Round 9	Round 10
1 12	Mengchen Li	2563.9		809.0	923.5	831.4
2 18	Mike Smith	2215.0	-348.9	282.1	1000	932.9
3 17	Paul Reese	2043.5	-171.5	395.3	972.6	675.6
4 4	William Lalla	1921.9	-121.6	253.0	668.9	1000
5 14	Brent Lytle	1514.5	-407.4	451.5	423.3	639.7
6 2	Gary Fogel	1294.1	-220.4	1000	294.1	0.0

There are only two DLG events left on our 2026 calendar! Up next is October 17th.

Sign up for October 17th here:

https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_register&event_id=4123

Hope to see you there!

Justin Tolman
TPG DLG Coordinator

Club Membership Update – Christoph Efstathiou



Christoph
Efstathiou

Hello Gulls,

One new member this month brings us to 104 for the 2026 year. In October we'll begin processing new memberships and renewals for next year. Jake has undertaken a massive effort to modernize the membership system, from registration to payment and verification. Look out for guidance from Jake and Don on membership renewal shortly.

On a personal note, I'll be stepping back from the Membership Chair role. It's been an honor to step in and help the club after Cliff's passing. With a young family, I just haven't had the time to be out on the field and be present for current and new members. I hope to find the time to see you all out there again soon. All the best!

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 Finkenbiner 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 Finkenbiner (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 Finkenbiner (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	
Scott	McCurdy	Level I	Level II
Paul	Nibecker	Level I	
Christoph	Efstathiou	Level II	
Ed	LaCroix	Level II	
Don	Lochhead	Level II	
Daniel	McFarland	Level II	
Keith	McLellan	Level II	
Eric	Metzdorf	Level II	
Jake	Olefsky	Level II	Level II
Justin	Tolman	Level II	
Terrill	Willard	Level II	
Ian	Cummings	Level III	
Tom	Kiesling	Level III	
Ray	Pili	Level III	Level II
Mike	Verzuh	Level III	
Steve	Condon	Level IV	
Mike	Smith	Level IV	
Ben	Clerx	Level V	
Scott	Condon	Level V	
Gary	Fogel	Completed: 8/2026	Level III
David	Hall	Level V	
John	McNeil	Level V	
Chuck	Norris	Level V	Level II
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

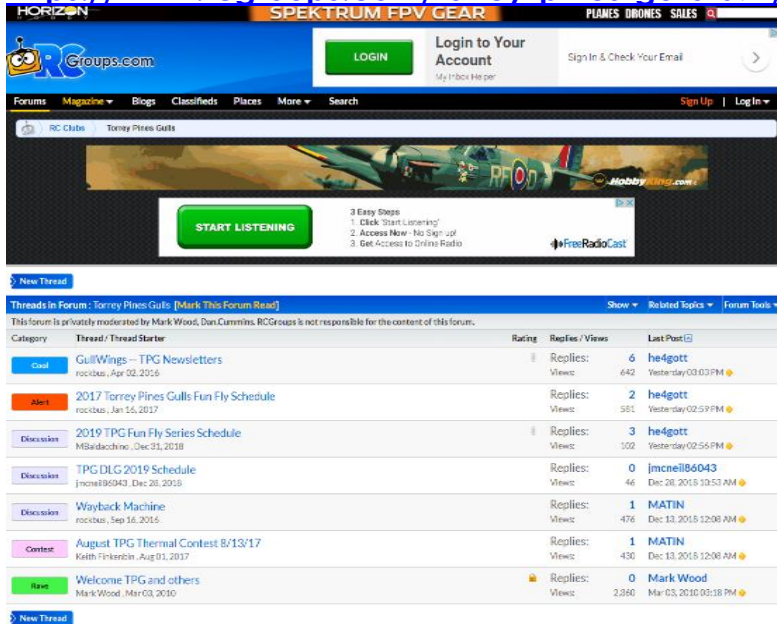
How We Connect (continued)

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/>



Bob Hirsch photo



Torrey Pines Gulls
1.5K followers • 11 following
www.torrey-pines-gulls.org
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San Diego, CA, United States

Links

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Contact info

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Torrey Pines Gulls

Happy Labor Day! The September 2026 issue of Gull Wings is online at: https://drive.google.com/_/_?ui=04_CTN.../view



Message from the President

1. Message from the President
2. Cap for Weekend of the Year Homecoming
3. Upcoming TPG Events
4. Club Meetings & Raffles
5. News from the Slope
6. AMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony for Dr. Don Eklund
12. Donald Hall Competition 13th Annual Slope Duration Flight
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17. F3L Coastal Cooler Report Preview
20. Club Membership Update
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Chuck Harris

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 McNeill'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 championships!

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's selection mix at the upcoming event. (Burdette Bessner)

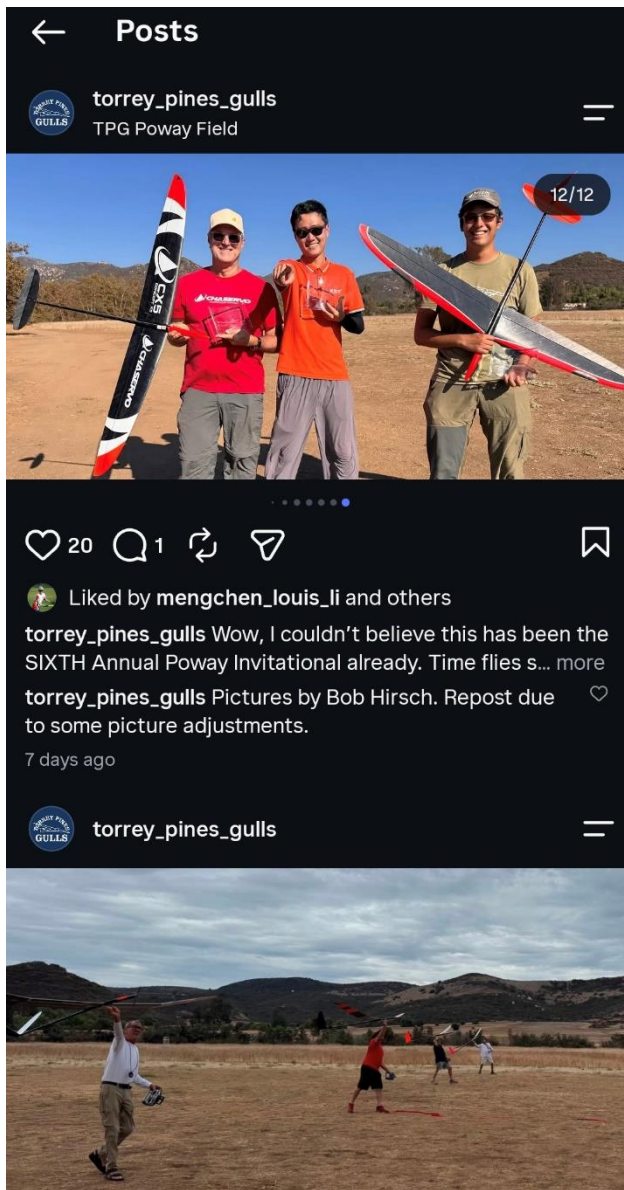
How We Connect (continued)

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.



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**.

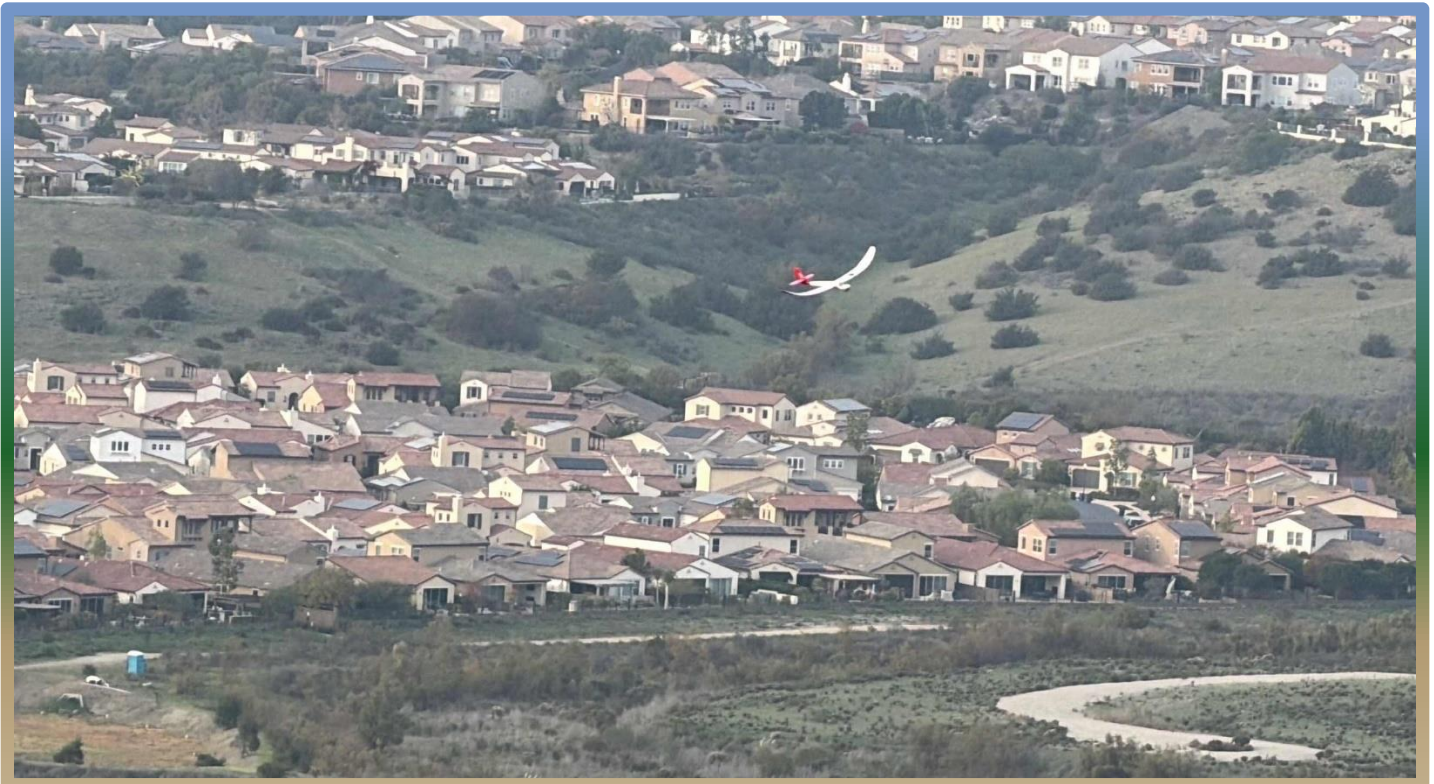
A Photo of the Year winner will be selected from among the monthly winners and will receive a prize (their photo will be used as the website and newsletter masthead AND will appear on the following year's club membership card); so **horizontal format photos are preferred**.

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)



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



Keith Frankie's Snipe sharing the Poway sky with a hawk (Mike Ray photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Paul Reese catching his CX5 on the way to a 3rd Place finish at the Poway International (Bob Hirsch photo)



Will Lalla, guiding his plane toward a catch and quickturn (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Group launch during the September F5J contest at Poway. CD Mike Verzuh in foreground, with Mike Smith, Steve Stanton and Arthur Markiewicz beyond (Tom Farley photo)



October Co-Winner: Mengchen Li launching his way to a second consecutive 1st Place finish at the Poway Invitational (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



October Co-Winner: TPG president Chuck Norris starting his launch windup at the Poway Invitational contest (Bob Hirsch photo)



Quote of the Month:

“I ran out of altitude, airspeed and ideas all at the same time.”

~ Captain Chuck Yeager, after flying the Bell X-1 faster than sound for the first time; October 14, 1947



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