2026 NOV

GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)
AMA Charter Club 129
Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org
Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

Inside This Issue

1 Message from the President
2 The Executive Council Needs Your Participation!
3 Holiday Party Announcement
4 Upcoming TPG Events
5 Club Meetings & Raffle
6 News from the Slope
8 50th Anniversary Redman Rules Contest
10 October Tow Hook Contest Report
12 October DLG Contest Report
13 Club Membership Update
14 Where We Fly – Panoramas
15 How We Compete
20 League of Silent Flight and TPG
22 How We Connect
27 Newsletter Submissions
28 Club Officers and Contact Information
29 Photo of the Month Contest
39 Quote of the Month

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

Chuck Norris

As many of you know, I love to make things. Chuckerons, clockboards, gadgets to make F3L contests better among other things. And those are just the sailplane-adjacent things you might be aware of because of their association with TPG. My list of future projects is many years long, and as I move toward retirement, I'm being deliberate about carving out time to make progress on that list - making space for me to be creative and productive in new ways.

So, I've decided that it's time for me to step down as president of TPG at the end of this year. I intend to be as active and involved with the club as I have always been, but it's time to pass the role on to someone new.

It has been tremendously rewarding to work with our leadership committee - this is a group of people who care passionately about our club and about making it successful. And they're just a great group of people to hang out with too. You should consider taking a leadership role yourself. You don't need any special skills - just a willingness to contribute. The other past and current board members will help you be successful, just as they did for me.

(continued next page)

Message from the President (continued)

I hope and believe I've done the club some good during my four years as president. Every club officer brings something of themselves to their role, and each has their strengths and weaknesses. But together we accomplish the goals of keeping the club running and healthy. Your voice and thoughts and insights deserve to be a part of that process too.

Give it some thought.

Sincerely,

Chuck

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION!

There are 9 positions on the Executive Council. Every year, during the year-end holiday party and club meeting, a slate of candidates is elected to fill the positions for the following year. The list below shows who currently holds; and who is running for each position for 2027:

POSITION	CURRENT	RUNNING FOR
President	Chuck Norris	**John McNeil**
Vice President	Gary Fogel	**?**
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	**Dale Gottdank**
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	**Don Lochhead**
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	**Dale Gottdank**
Slope Coordinator	Bret Locke	**Bret Locke**
Thermal Coordinator	John McNeil	**Steve Condon**
DLG Coordinator	Justin Tolman	**?**
Membership Chair	Christoph Efstathiou	**Gary Fogel**

Please consider volunteering to run for and assume any of these positions. It's a great way to become more involved in the important continued functioning and growth of our club. And remember, you won't be out there on your own. You'll get plenty of help and advice from the current office holder to ease you into the position. You'll participate in monthly Executive Council meetings (via Zoom) and be part of the decision making that makes the Torrey Pines Gulls one of the premier RC soaring clubs in the country. It's more fun…and less work than you might think.

If you are interested, or even just thinking about it and have any questions, contact secretary@torreypinesgulls.org for more information. If you have interest in a specific position, reach out to the individual Executive Council member at the email listed on page 28.

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

TPG November/December Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
November 15th	Tow Hook Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open
November 21st	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on **F3X Vault**
December 5th	No Shopping Saturday – A week or so after Thanksgiving to get out of the house	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
December 10	Year-End Holiday Party	See Announcement on Page 3

Paper airplane contest at last year's holiday party. Don't miss out on the fun this year! (Gary Fogel 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 October 27th, we were treated to a presentation by Christopher Silva, Research Aerospace Engineer at NASA Ames Research Center who discussed "OpenVSP for aircraft design." Around 20 TPG members, friends and students attended the meeting. Thanks, Christopher!

Our next club virtual meeting will be scheduled for February 23rd, 2027. 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 below).** 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.

In the meantime, don't miss our upcoming (in person) Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 8th!

…from Raffle Chairman, Michael Gillen

At our bi-monthly Club Meetings, TPG conducts a prize raffle for members.
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 raffle will be open on the F3X Vault; go to:
"TPG Club Virtual Meeting Via Zoom" when open.

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.

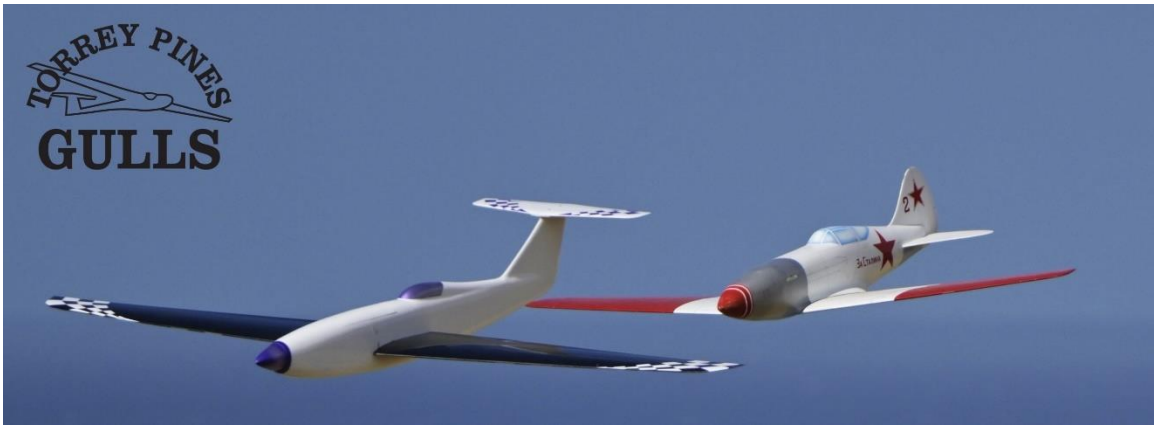
The cutoff for raffle sales will occur just before the guest speaker begins. We will draw the raffle winner at the end of the meeting. You do not need to be present to win.

Good luck!

Congratulations to our last raffle winer, Tom Farley, who won a Dream-Flight Weasel plus accessory flight pack at our October meeting.

News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator

Bret Locke



Coastal Lift Our Best Option

The month of October has been true to form, with good days and not so good days at the slope. As we all know, the weather has been all over the place from heat to rain and finally Santa Ana winds. Torrey Pines RC gliding area is still well manicured, and the landing area is starting to show signs of new growth.

The October 17th Lake Hodges Slope Combat Excursion – Due to strong easterly winds this event was cancelled. Stay tuned for our try for a combat session at Lake Hodges in 2027.

October 18th was the 50th Annual Redman Rules Contest at Torrey Pines Gliderport. The winds were light, making it impossible to perform the task as defined by the Redman Rules. TPG members did build on-site, poster board gliders of their own design. The three gliders constructed by John, Gary and Chuck were able to complete 12-secound flights for points that well be added to the rescheduled Redman Rules Contest on December 13th.

The old rusted storage box at the pilots' mound has been replaced. Please remember to put away the RC flag if you're the last to leave.

News from the Slope (continued)

Upcoming Events

There are no sloping events planned for November, only great days, so fly and enjoy some lift.

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

December 5th	No Shopping Saturday – A week or so after Thanksgiving to get out of the house
December 13th (rescheduled)	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. Rescheduled from October

Stay tuned for continuation of TPG Slope Fiesta combat sessions in 2027.

50th Anniversary Redman Rules Contest – Gary Fogel & Mike Redman

The weekend of Oct 17th – 18th was not an especially great weekend for event planning. The DLG monthly and the Lake Hodges slope excursion on Oct 17 were canceled due to strong Santa Ana winds. We originally hoped for a foamboard building contest on Oct 18 at Torrey to be followed by a mentor session with AIAA-UCSD students, followed by the 50th anniversary Redman Rules contest. However, the forecast was so weak that the AIAA-UCSD session was canceled in advance. On the morning of Oct 18 Mike Redman, Gary Fogel, John McNeil, and Chuck Norris showed up with the latter three ready to take on their foamboard building exercise. 2 sheets of foamboard, strapping tape, no glue – make something that flies. Given the very light winds, Mike changed the initial soaring goal from 30 seconds to prove airworthiness to 12 seconds – the same time that the Wright Brothers had stayed aloft on their first powered flight. 12 seconds sounds short, but with only ~5kts of wind at Torrey and a new foamboard plane, >12 seconds of airtime was an accomplishment.

John chose to build a flying wing design with considerable polyhedral, no airfoil, and large fin and rudder. Gary chose to build a small flying wing design with winglets at the tips and an airfoil. Chuck built a flying wing that had larger span and similar characteristics to Gary's. John was first to flight testing, with Gary not far behind. John got through his flight test phase quickly and made several valiant attempts launching the plane from the mound, only to land just before the cliff edge at less than 12 seconds total duration. Gary soon joined him with a similar fate. John then decided to "go for it," launching his creation directly off the cliff rather than the mound. This worked, and the aircraft soared for roughly 30 seconds before landing back on top, giving John the first success and 50 points for his accomplishment. Gary continued with trimming and finally was able to get a flight of 20 seconds for 40 points. Chuck followed soon after with a noble flight off the cliff edge staying up just long enough for the 12 second mark before landing just below the cliff edge. He earned his 30 points and recovered the plane without issue.

John McNeil launching is polyhedral "McNeil Special" airfoiled flying wing (Bret Locke photo)

50th Anniversary Redman Rules Contest (continued)

Chuck Norris launching his flying wing closer to the cliff edge (Bret Locke photo)

Bret Locke showed up with a Zagi hoping to join in the Redman Rules contest by 2pm but the winds never really materialized. We agreed to postpone the event and have rescheduled it for Sunday, December 13th, hopefully with greater participation and fun. So, come out and try to knock over some beer cans!

John McNeil, Chuck Norris, Mike Redman, and Gary Fogel with their creations at Torrey (Bret Locke photo)

October Tow Hook Contest Report – John McNeil, CD

The forecast called for hot, calm conditions. As CD, I decided to skip the pilots' meeting and let people get flying as early as they could. The heat was not as bad as forecast, or maybe I forgot what hot and dry feels like after the humid summer we've had. The Santa Ana lift was very light. Out of the six pilots flying six rounds, there were only three 6-minute flights. Justin, Miro, and Dave each got one. Great flying in extremely tough air! I don't recall a contest with that few max flights.

Intrepid pilots on a 90+ degree day

I crashed one of my new planes when the tow hook slipped forward, and the bungee pulled it into the ground. The silver lining is I learned that the Apex doesn't flutter at extreme speeds. Kenzie Tolman took the group photo and helped her dad all day. Given that help, Justin got a few 5-minute flights in addition to the 6 and won the day. Miro also did very well and got 2nd.

…all photos by Kenzie Tolman and John McNeil.

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	8	Justin Tolman	**3097.0**		187.0	**733.0**	**790.0**	193.0	**657.0**	537.0
2	9	Miroslav Sir	**2860.0**	-237.0	339.0	315.0	414.0	**770.0**	600.0	422.0
3	1	John McNeil	**2130.0**	-730.0	**497.0**	457.0	587.0	0.0	342.0	247.0
4	5	Chuck Norris	**2076.0**	-54.0	286.0	84.0	208.0	646.0	445.0	507.0
5	3	David Hall	**1736.0**	-340.0	175.0	198.0	230.0	224.0	189.0	**720.0**
6	2	Jake Olefsky	**1371.0**	-365.0	220.0	278.0	255.0	145.0	300.0	173.0

October Tow Hook Contest Report (continued)

October DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The October DLG contest was canceled due to unfavorable weather conditions:

Hi Gulls,

Well, the Santa Ana conditions have grounded another event this weekend. The weather stations closest to the Poway field have been reporting generally unflyable conditions all morning. And the forecast is for more of the same tomorrow.

Unfortunately, that means tomorrow's DLG contest/clinic will be cancelled.

Hope to see you at our last DLG contest/clinic of the year in November.

-Justin Tolman
TPG DLG Coordinator

Club Membership Update – Gary Fogel

Gary Fogel
Interim Membership Chairman

Hi Gulls,

It's about that time of year again where we begin our annual membership renewal campaign. Christoph Efstathiou did a great job filling in for Cliff Hunter in the role of Membership Chairman through the last cycle. Thanks Christoph! However, he unfortunately lacks the time availability to do it again. In that regard I'll be filling in for Christoph.

Anticipate receiving an email soon with renewal information, with membership cards and keys mailed out thereafter. At the moment, it's still a work in progress but we hope to start that membership drive very soon – memberships will be processed through our website.

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) – $32.50 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)

2026 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

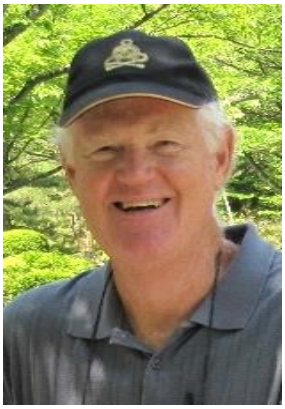
At least three landing tapes will be provided, marked for F3L. AMA TD will use the same landing bonus formula as the other classes.

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

Keep on the lookout in 2027 for F5J Foamy Fun Fly Contests and maybe some more Superfly events, where we join forces with Open Class F5J pilots.

Bob Hirsch photo

League of Silent Flight and TPG – Gary Fogel

League of Silent Flight

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/lsfstory.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)

League of Silent Flight

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 Google Groups

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 in 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**

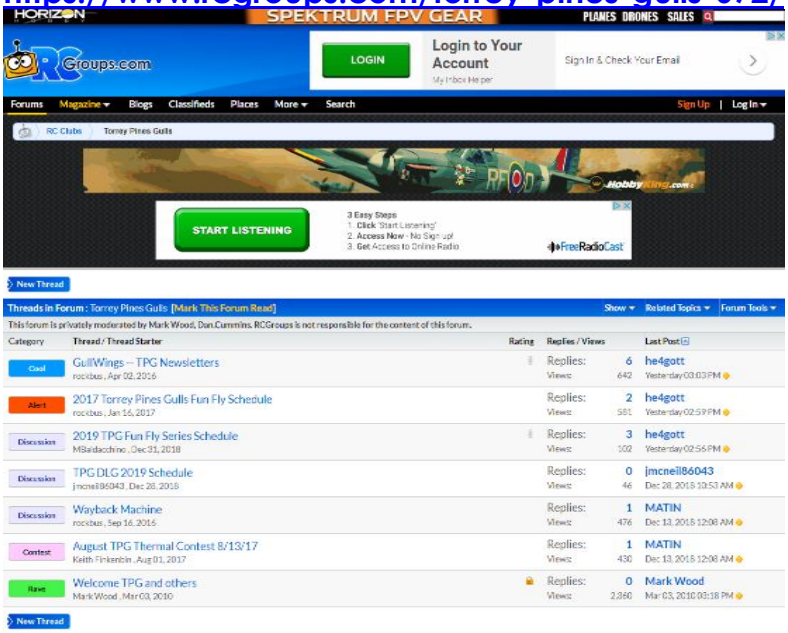
How We Connect (continued)

Are you a member of RCGroups.com ?

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/



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.

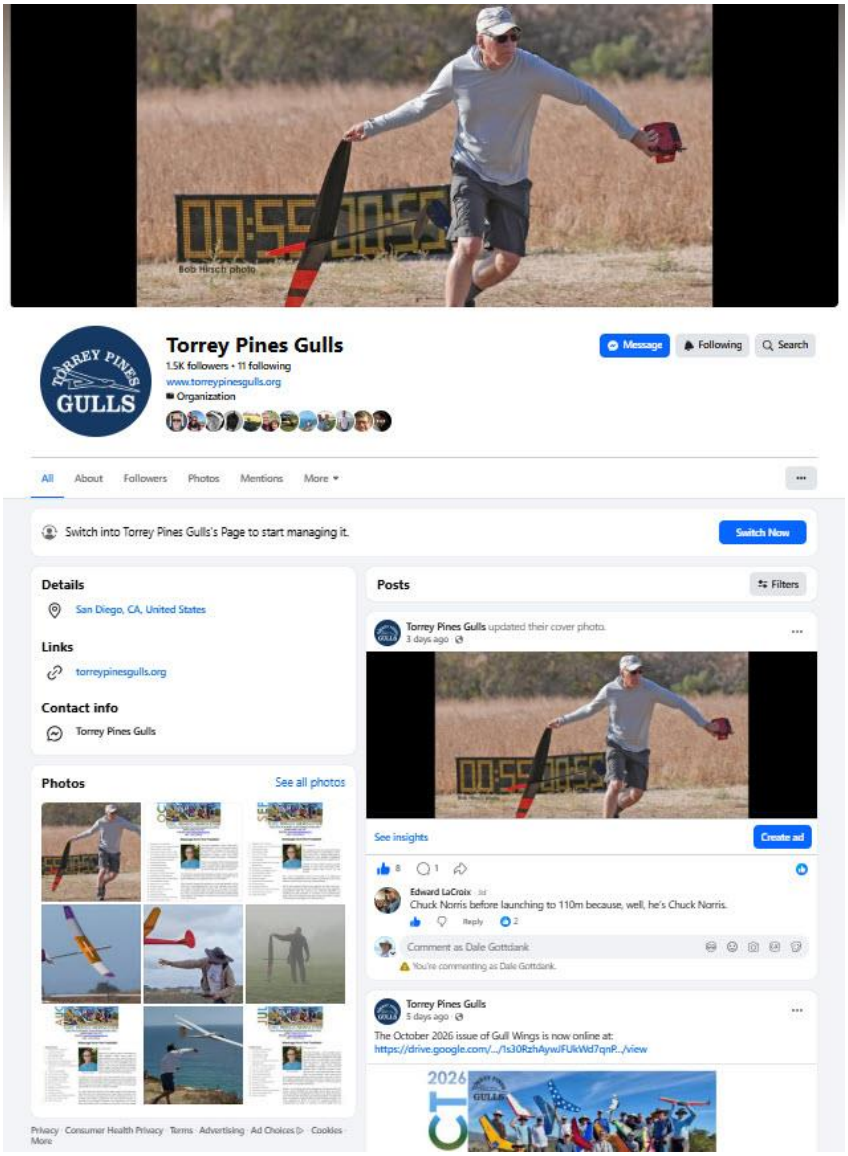
RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

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/

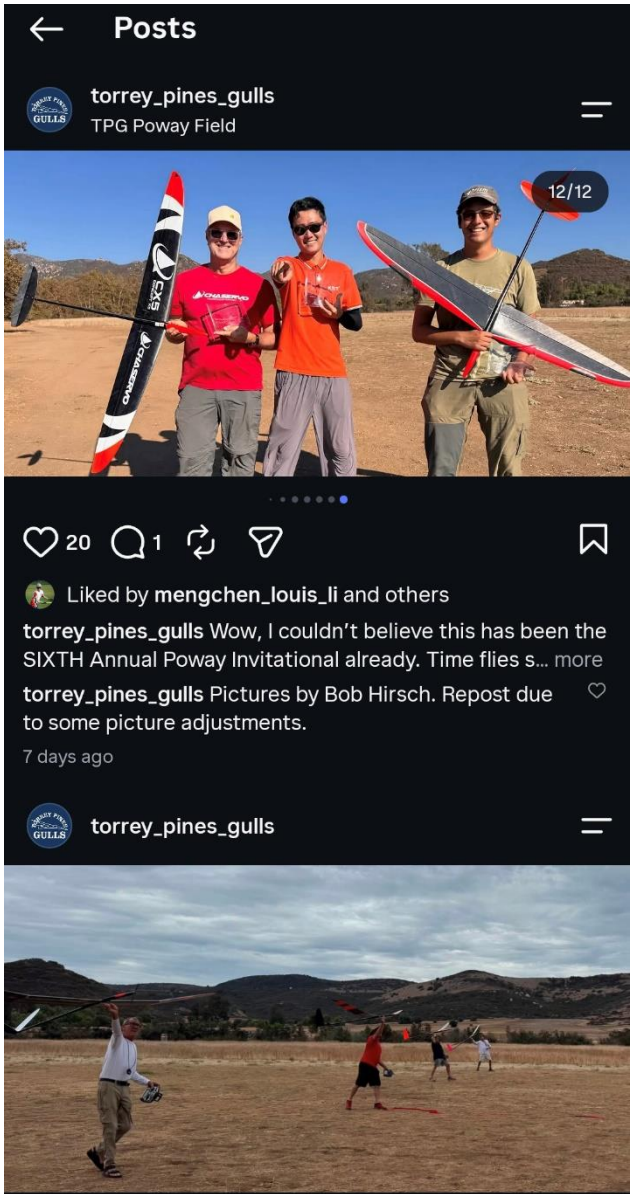


How We Connect (continued)

TPG is on Instagram

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

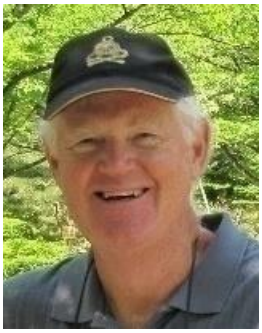
President	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
Vice-President	Gary Fogel	vp@torreypinesgulls.org
Past President	Ian Cummings	
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	secretary@torreypinesgulls.org
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org
Communications Offic	Dale Gottdank	communications@torreypinesgulls.org
Thermal Coordinator	John McNeil	thermal@torreypinesgulls.org
Slope Coordinator	Bret Locke	slope@torreypinesgulls.org
DLG Coordinator	Justin Tolman	dlg@torreypinesgulls.org
Interim Membership Chairman	Gary Fogel	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

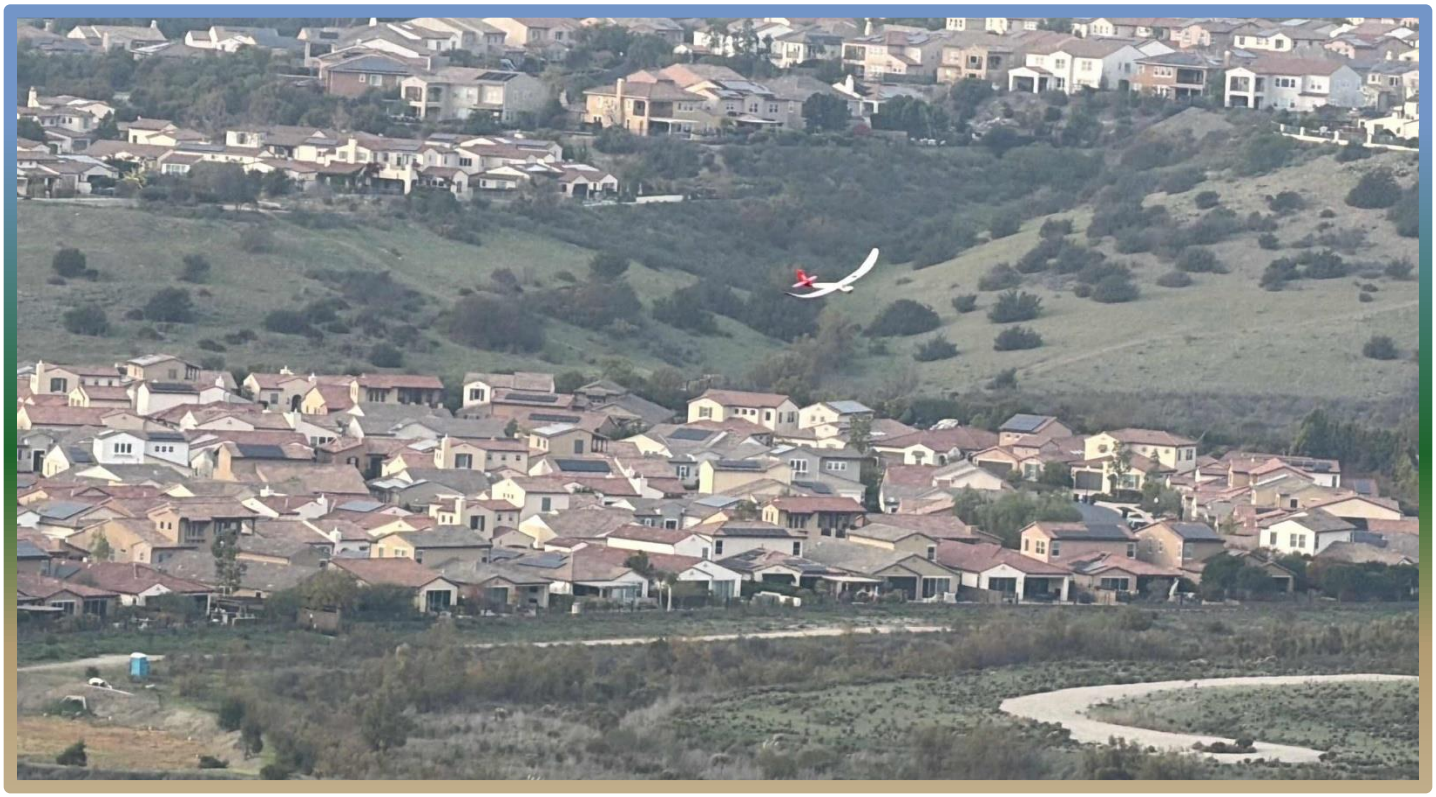
Photo of the Month Contest

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)

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)

Chuck Norris launching his foamboard flying wing during October's Foamboard Contest (Bret Locke photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)

A little Poway Halloween spookiness from Antonio's Night Radian (Antonio Normandin photo)

November Winner: Aaron Wallace's Multiplex Lentus over Torrey (Thomas Moller photo)

Quote of the Month:

"November at its best – with a sort of delightful menace in the air."

~ Anne Bosworth Greene

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