



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2020

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

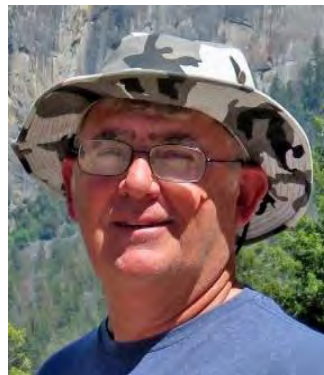
Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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Craig Hanson

As I was contemplating on what to say for our next newsletter, I'm a little worried about what's going on with the FAA and Washington. The restrictions - that we need identification on aircraft, the 400ft ceiling limit and the need to license each model aircraft - are all being proposed. (Gary Fogel put it so eloquently; "This is not an appropriate balance and our club is confident that there must be ways to improve safety without compromising the future of this long history of safe modeling in America").

Eventually, changes are coming; like skyways in the air for drone delivery – even flying cars and yet to be created devices! When it all finally happens, we need to make sure that we are not forgotten. I'm sure there will be flying site exemptions at some point. AMA can only do so much. We don't have the big lobby money that Amazon and D.G.I. have.

The best we can all do is to write to FAA and our Congressmen with our concerns. The letter Gary Fogel drafted and I signed is an example. You'll see it in the newsletter. There are over 250,000 of us that fly RC aircraft in the US. We can at least let them know we are here and not to be left out! There's still time to add your comments before the March 3rd deadline [here](#).

Message from the President (continued)

On another note, our long-time member and flyer Bill Eckles, is stepping down from the Membership Chair role for the club. He has done a great service for our club for many years. Please, when you see him, thank him for all his hard work and for running our club membership program so efficiently. Now Bill can concentrate on his launches from Torrey Pines (ha – ha, that's from me to you, Bill). Thanks again Bill.

Finally, this bit of action from the Gliderport. After Ian's Cummings' Cyril went AWOL at the cliff, the San Diego Lifeguards Cliff Rescue Team just happened to be in the right place at the right time, performing this rescue.



Blue Skies,

Craig Hanson
TPG President
craighanson1256@gmail.com

TPG Letter to FAA RE: Proposed Rule Affecting R/C Aircraft

In response to the FAA's proposed rule "remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems," our club has submitted the following letter, adding to the over 30,000 responses and comments thus far posted to the FAA website. Composed by Gary Fogel and signed by club president, Craig Hanson, we hope that this eloquent statement helps the FAA to understand that R/C soaring is vastly different from drone activity. Thank you Gary and Craig.



February 14, 2020

Dear Federal Aviation Administration,

I am writing on behalf of our club, the Torrey Pines Gulls R/C Soaring Society, an AMA-chartered club in San Diego, California. Our club is one of the oldest clubs in the nation specifically dedicated to radio-controlled model sailplanes. We are pleased to celebrate our 50th anniversary this year. We typically have between 100-200 members annually.

R/C soaring is a diverse hobby. We fly a variety of competitive model types including discus launch gliders (FAI F3K), slope racing (FAI F5J), thermal duration (FAI F3B), and others including scale soaring and simply just flying for the fun of it. We have three club fields for these diverse activities and a strong safety record of operation.

R/C sailplanes make no noise and leave no pollution. They are a fantastic way to introduce youth into aerospace engineering. In fact, many of our club members work in the local aerospace industry. Our models are a natural way to get students involved as there are no motors to deal with, and our members would argue that the challenge of staying up in the air without a motor is more fun than having one.

I am writing to you today as our club is disheartened by your proposed rule "remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems." The proposed rule is intended to help with safety. However, in doing so the requirements for things like a 400-foot ceiling, the costs of remote ID, the need to license each model separately, etc. will forever change the freedom of aeromodelling in the United States. This is not an appropriate balance and our club is confident that there must be ways to improve safety without compromising the future of this long history of safe modeling in America through clubs like ours. **We ask you to please rescind this proposed rule.** Please do not place commercial drone and safety interests above the recreational and educational interests of thousands of current and future modelers.

TPG Letter to FAA (continued)

Additionally, just as the diversity of manned aircraft requires a variety of different FARs written with that diversity in mind, so too should the FAA consider the diversity of model aircraft. Surely there are those who enjoy operating “drones” (quadcopters). However, there is also a large community of people who enjoy RC soaring. Flight without motors, using the lift that nature provides to maintain or gain altitude just as manned sailplanes do. These are very different aircraft with different flight regimes and safety requirements. They should not be treated as equivalents. By analogy, the FAA treats manned sailplanes and helicopters or commercial jets as very different aircraft. Upon reading this proposed rule it becomes apparent that the rule is written largely with quadcopter drones in mind, and not the amazing diversity of model aircraft. (That diversity likely even exceeds the diversity of manned aircraft types).

The mission of the FAA is improved safety. Please work with hobbyists who have already operated safely for decades to understand the diversity and come together with rules that make sense for everyone. We’ve never heard of an occasion where a motorless model airplane was used by someone to fly over an assembly of people such as a stadium for nefarious purposes. Yet the rules you are proposing harm our type of flying even when it is highly unlikely ever to be used in that form. Separate rules for motorless vs. motored model aircraft would therefore make sense.

On behalf of our members, I wish to convey our deep concern over your proposed remote ID rule. We see no true benefits to safety (those who wish to do bad things will just ignore the rules), we see considerable side-benefit and resulting expansion of commercial drone operations, and long-term devastating effect to those who use models for recreation or educational purpose. Based on the number of comments to date on your proposed rule, we seem to not be alone in this view.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Craig Hanson

President, Torrey Pines Gulls R/C Soaring Society

www.torreypinesgulls.org

Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts monthly contests, fun-fly events, LSF (League of Silent Flight)) Soaring Accomplishment Program and onsite clinics. General meetings have morphed into competitive and non-competitive events throughout the year. Be on the lookout for upcoming details and scheduling for all TPG and related events in the Newsletter and on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at:

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



Newsletter This Month - Dale Gottdank



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!

As part of TPG's 50th Anniversary year, Gary Fogel has will be posting some of his dad's photos from the past. Check out the first couple on page 28. Then read about 1990 Co-Modeler of the Year Richard Bledsoe. Also, we've posted the new F5J Rules for the Poway Flight Center on page 11.

Please send in your articles or photos (submit@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. The newsletter can be found on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>.

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

The membership chairman has changed effective February 19, 2020 as Bill Eckles turned over membership to Cliff Hunter. Bill has been the membership chairman for over 10 years. Representing the board, we would like to thank Bill for all of his hard work over the last decade. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

So far this year we have received 101 new and renewed members. You should have received a 2020 membership card and a key to access the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites if you have renewed. If you have not renewed as of March 1, 2020 you will not have access to the flying sites. This year we are collecting more information from you such as; Gliderport ratings, what disciplines do you fly, and are you a member of the League of Silent Flight (LSF). We will keep this information for the club's Board of Directors to develop and plan future events and activities.

Membership Changes:

Instead of our traditional mailed registration form to each member we have transitioned to a web based process. Please use the following link when signing up.

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

We asked both renewing and new members to pay online using PayPal. PayPal allows payment using PayPal, debit or credit card.

However, if you chose to pay by check or cash please email me at: cfhunter@att.net and I will mail you a membership application form. When the form is completed please mail your membership application and payment using the provided preaddressed return envelope to the TPG Treasurer, Don Lochhead.

Cliff Hunter
Membership Chairman
cfhunter@att.net



January 2019 Fun Fly (Dale Gottdank photo)

Club Membership Update (continued)

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

- Access to three Flying Fields in La Jolla, Encinitas and Poway.
- Monthly (or thereabouts) fun-fly events to be held at the world famous Torrey Pines Gliderport, and events at our Poway and Encinitas Flight Centers, where members will have ample opportunities to take advantage of our trio of excellent flying sites. Be on the lookout for upcoming details and scheduling.
- A group of guys who can answer just about any question you might ask, and do it with a smile.
- Contests that bring out world class competitors from around the globe.
- Competition and help for you, regardless of your skill level.
- A yearly holiday party to gather with flying buddies, friends and family.
- A website for current and past information www.torreypinesgulls.org
- A monthly newsletter with updated information, contest reports and interesting articles to help keep members informed.
- We are an AMA Chartered Club, #129, with benefits such as field Insurance, etc.

Annual Membership Dues are as follows:

- Adult \$60
- Full-time Students \$30
- Flyers under 15 years old \$5
- Full-time students \$30 per year
- Receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues. \$10.00 per each half-day working at any TPG flying field

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.

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

We request online payment via PayPal, which allows payment using PayPal, debit or credit card.

However, if you chose to pay by check or cash, please email me at: cfhunter@att.net and I will mail you a membership application form. When the form is completed, please mail your membership application and payment using the provided preaddressed return envelope to the TPG Treasurer, Don Lochhead.

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

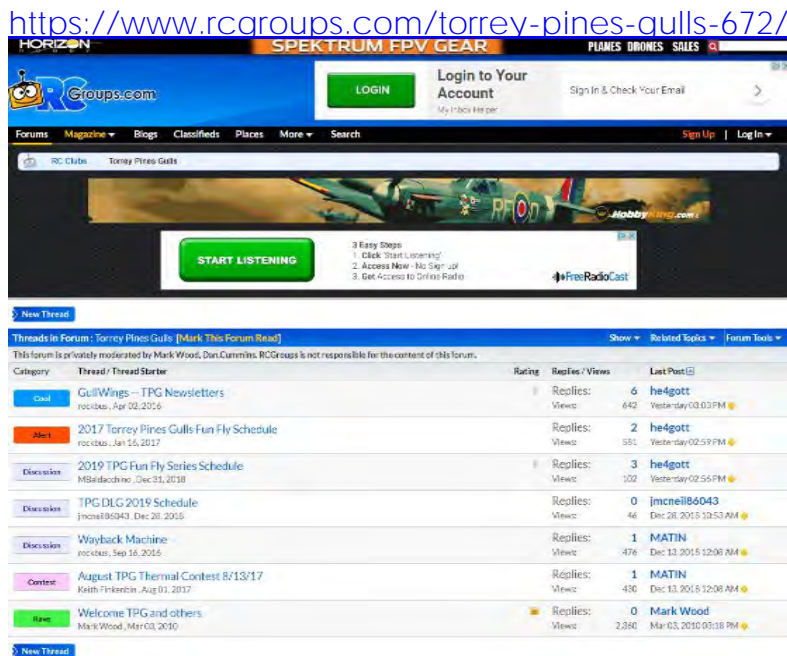
RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

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
Club	GullWings - TPG Newsletters roccas, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Club	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccas, Jan 15, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 581	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MSaldacine, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:55 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2019		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 28, 2019 12:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccas, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2019 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finkstein, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2019 12:08 AM
Howto	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,360	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 03:18 PM

If you haven't yet joined RCGroups, click on the **Sign Up** link at the upper right and follow the instructions.

Once you've navigated to the Torrey Pines Gulls Forum, you can subscribe to the Forum or to any of the individual threads within the Forum.

To subscribe to the Forum, click the **Forum Tools** link and select "Subscribe to This Forum" from the dropdown menu. Then choose from the notification dropdown menu. If you want to subscribe to a specific thread, click to open the thread, and click the **Thread Tools** link. Select "Subscribe to This Thread" from the dropdown menu. Again, choose from the notification dropdown menu.

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

What do YOU think?

You can express your opinion at: www.torreypinesgulls.org.

We have a [QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS](#) link in the drop-down menu that appears when you scroll over [TORREY PINES GULLS](#) next to [LOCATIONS, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP...](#) If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. for the board, here's your chance.

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/>

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for Torrey Pines Gulls. The cover photo depicts two individuals in a field, one holding a large, white glider with red and white striped wings. The page header includes the Facebook logo, the page name 'Torrey Pines Gulls', and navigation links like 'Date', 'Home', and 'Create'. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Page', 'Inbox', 'Notifications', 'Insights', 'Publishing Tools', 'Ad Center', and 'More'. The left sidebar contains the page's profile picture, name, and various menu options such as 'Home', 'About', 'Photos', 'Videos', 'Events', 'Posts', 'Services', 'Shop', 'Notes', 'Offers', 'Jobs', 'Community', 'Promote', and 'Visit Ad Center'. The main content area features a post from 'Torrey Pines Gulls' published by John Blaske on February 2, 2020. The post text reads: 'IF YOU FLY RC, READ THIS article by our own Dr. Gary Fogel. You can find the full article on our February newsletter on PAGE 2 at http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/.../GullWings2020-02-February... We cannot stress enough how important is to get involved with this issue NOW. So please read on... --Comments on FAA's Proposed Rule "Remote Identification of Unmanned Aircraft Systems" by Gary Fogel--... See More'. Below the post is a partial image of the FAA logo. On the right side, the 'Visitor Posts' section shows comments from Dale Gottdank and Jack Zabawa.

Club Flying Site 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.



New Rules for Poway Flight Center

Now that we're holding F5J contests every other month at Poway, a specialized set of rules has been developed for motorized glider activities at the field. A new sign should be going up in the near future, so when you're at the field, be sure to check it out...

...AND FOLLOW THE RULES 

Specialized F5J Motorized **Glider** Launch Rules For Operations at the Poway Flight Center

- Pilots must be members of the Torrey Pines Gulls (or present an AMA card and be hosted by a TPG member who is present)
- Motor powered launch must be limited to 30 seconds and is only allowed as required to climb to altitude. The remainder of the flight must be unpowered until landing.
- Motorized launches for landing practice must be done by climbing at least 10 seconds into the wind (away from the horses) followed by completely unpowered flight to landing.
- Do use the motor to climb to altitude only.
- Do use the motor to climb to safety if landing off the field is eminent and then glide back for landing.
- Do use the motor if necessary to allow for other landing traffic to clear enough for you to land safely. Do this out of the way of all other operations and at least above 200 ft.

The Following Are Prohibited

- No motor powered cruising flight or use of motor to regain altitude during a flight.
- No motor powered low flight or low passes.
- No motor powered aerobatic flight.

News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino

HAPPY MARCH!



It appears that we have finally broken through our weird winter weather pattern, (WWWP) with the lack of wind, and are getting back to normal at Torrey Pines. A few of us we're wondering whether or not to pursue other hobbies as the wind just wouldn't cooperate for the last 3-4 months, but patience was a virtue! ☺ Now that our wind is coming back, we have more to talk about.

We had moved our TPG 50th Anniversary Kickoff Event from January to February 1st to avoid the Farmers Open nightmare, and while we were still under the WWWP, several of us attended a mostly social event. A couple of us had brought DLG's to play with the super light to nonexistent wind in the green landing zone, but catching-up on old times and building techniques was what this Fun-Fly was all about. I didn't catch his last name, but I met "Bob", who in his teen years, was a TPG pioneer who helped create our clubs name, Torrey Pines Gulls. He got into racing full sized cars, for many years, but is now back to enjoy the world's best slope. For our 50th anniversary, he brought out a perfectly preserved club jacket that's 50 years old! See his picture below.



Bob and his original TPG Jacket (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

A couple more pictures of our 50th anniversary Fun-Fly. Notice the wind line on the water. It just wouldn't come any closer that day.



Mark Baldacchino photo



Mark Baldacchino photo

News from the Slope (continued)

Meet Jack Wood from Show Low, Arizona, who had a successful check flight on February 7th. Jack has flown this Radian numerous times from his local high school football field, but came out to visit his son going to college, here. He had an on board FPV camera, which he recorded the whole first flight over the Pacific Ocean. You may see him at TP, and give him a warm welcome.



Mark Baldacchino photo

Not just one Fun Fly for February, but we had two! Our scheduled Fly 'N Swap on February 22nd turned out to be a pretty nice day. It started out with thunder, hail, and a bunch of rain, with a low pressure system looking similar to a mini hurricane on the radar, but cleared out by 11:00AM. Thanks to Ian Cummings for purchasing and installing a much needed windsock, we were able to monitor the conditions much more easily. The wind was due south early on, but by about 12:30 - 1:00PM, it went from 3 to 20mph in a minute and straight in. An hour and a half of some good flying, but started to die and turned well north with the spinning storm. There wasn't a whole lot of a swap meet, probably due to the iffy weather, but nonetheless, the comradery was top notch. Here are a few pics of this event.

News from the Slope (continued)



Check out the windsock and whitecaps (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Mark Baldacchino photo

News from the Slope (continued)



Bob Hirsch photo



Bob Hirsch photo

Next up is our scale plane event. I'll be pinging a couple of guys from the Torrey Pines Scale Soring Society, (TPSSS) who'll let the rest of their club to come out and join us and the end of March.

TPG Glider Port Schedule for 2020:

- Mar 28th – Scale Planes – Both TPG & TPSSS Fun Fly Day
- Apr 5th Sunday/ April 12th Backup day – This date is tentative, and subject to change - Torrey Pines Classic F3F Race. Open to all, register on the Vault.
- May 9th – Foamies
- June 6th - **Katie Martin Int'l Tribute** – Not a Gulls Only Fun Fly event, but International Event
- July 25th – Aerobatics Day - TWF/ PNF – Jester's, Ahi's, Shrike's; whatever turns on a dime
- Aug 22nd – TPG 50th Anniversary Again. Run-What-You-Brung
- Sept 26st – Old School Vintage/ Woodies
- Nov 28th – No Shopping Saturday

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino
Slope Coordinator

mbaldacchino@san.rr.com

Club Competition Activity

Thermal Duration



Tom Watson

TD Coordinator – Tom Watson

For Thermal Duration and F5J contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

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

For contest rules, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/torrey-pines-gulls-thermal-competition-rules/>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2020 TPG TD contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3479943-2020-TPG-TD-contest-schedule>

or contact Tom Watson at tewatson@sbcglobal.net

Hand Launch / DLG / F3K



Chuck Norris

DLG Coordinator – Chuck Norris

For DLG contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

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

Additional information will be shown in the F3X Vault site (https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=location&function=location_view&location_id=2002) as TPG coordinates with the Vault for contest sign-ups, tasks, results, etc.

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2020 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3475065-2020-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series>

or contact Chuck Norris at chuck@clnorris.com

Club Competition Activity (continued)

F5J - Thermal Duration with Electric Motor and Altimeter/Motor Run Timer



Mike Smith

Mike Smith

This event is open to all electric sailplanes, so anyone that with an electric model (Radian, Sport model, etc.) can give it a try. However, it is important to state that all airplanes must be equipped with an approved F5J Competition Altimeter.

If you don't have one, SoaringUSA sells several for around \$60. Click here to check out the Altis Nano:

<https://www.soaringusa.com/Altis-Competition-Altimeter-NANO.html>

Entry Fee is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Two pilot classes will be flown: *Sportsman and Expert*.

To learn more about F5J, follow this link:

<http://www.f5j-usa.com/f5j-primer/>

For F5J and Thermal Duration contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2020 TPG F5J contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3479945-2020-TPG-F5J-contest-schedule>

Mike Smith, CD

Thermal Duration/F5J Contest Report – Mike Smith

February 9th TPG F5J contest at Poway Flight Center.

Hello TPG members. Our first official F5J contest held last Sunday the 9th of February, turned out to be pretty darn fun. Some good yet spotty lift was available allowing for some very nice medium level saves. Medium level is measured by the onset of the pucker factor, but not yet full pucker 😊. The Radian group looked to be having quite a bit of fun, so we definitely want to make sure guys know to come out and try this with Radians. Fourteen brave souls drove down from as far as Eureka! Well, only if I count his drive from moving back to the OC a few weeks ago. Bill Malvey came down along with a few guys from Riverside and of course our esteemed TD 5J coordinator, Tom Watson.

The Poway field is not ideally suited for F5J. It is quite narrow and can only fit 5 lanes max. So competitions of 20 to 25 pilots is about our maximum. That said, it is a very challenging field to fly on and is quite fun.

I think it appropriate to note here that flying anything electric other than an F5J plane in an F5J style is prohibited. A list of rules concerning electric powered glider flight will be developed soon.

And without further ado here are the results:

Open Class:

Arthur Markiewicz – 1st

Steve Condon – 2nd

Mike Smith - 3rd

Sportsman Class:

Chuck Norris – 1st

Gary Fogel – 2nd

John Swain – 3rd

Some photos from the contest and full results are below.

See you all in April.

Mike Smith



Thermal Duration/F5J Contest Report (continued)



F5J Thermal Duration w MTR - Overall Results

Rank	Name	Ctry	RegnNo	Club	Class	Score	Pcnt	Raw Score	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4
1	MARKIEWICZ, Arthur	USA	10511	TPG	OPEN	3981.6	100.00	3981.6	981.6	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0
2	CONDON, Steve	USA		TPG	OPEN	3763.6	94.52	3763.6	1000.0	979.4	784.2	1000.0
3	SMITH, Mike	USA	66953	TPG	OPEN	3242.6	81.44	3242.6	242.6	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0
4	STANTON, Steve					2831.7	71.12	2831.7	718.0	901.3	653.4	559.0
5	NORRIS, Chuck	USA	913384	TPG	SPMN	2609.1	65.53	2609.1	304.5	1000.0	1000.0	304.6
6	MALVEY, Bill					1769.2	44.43	1769.2	1000.0	769.2	0.0	0.0
7	FOGEL, Gary	USA	052601	TPG	SPMN	1769.1	44.43	1769.1	794.8	0.0	974.3	0.0
8	SWAIN, John				SPMN	1516.1	38.08	1516.1	685.6	379.4	451.1	0.0
9	VANGUNDY, Don					1434.8	36.04	1434.8	1000.0	0.0	0.0	434.8
10	WARD, Les					1078.5	27.09	1078.5	502.7	575.8	0.0	0.0
11	LOCHHEAD, Don	USA	839769		SPMN	1077.8	27.07	1077.8	405.3	43.3	194.5	434.7
12	LONNECKER, Mike					984.2	24.72	984.2	984.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
13	TRIVITT, Tom					723.9	18.18	723.9	723.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	HUNTER, Cliff	USA	390862	TPG	SPMN	95.2	2.39	95.2	95.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

F3K/DLG Hand Launch Gliders

February Postal Report – Ray Pili

I Shems on RCGroups is promoting DLG flying over the winter months from November through March. We TPGers usually suffer wearing long pants and maybe a sweatshirt when flying. But for I Shem, who is from Europe, and DLG pilots from the northern hemisphere, snow is an issue.

I Shem has a thread on RCGroups with details on the Winter Postal (WP) (<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2031476-F3K-Winter-postal-competition/page24>).

In a nutshell, I Shem posts monthly tasks, and you fly the task. You can keep improving your score until the month ends. I Shems provides a scorecard to record your results, along with weather information, 1 or 1.5 m, so you can compare with others in a friendly competition. The monthly tasks are not your typical FAI F3K tasks, by any means. The tasks are announced in the RCGroups thread, a link to the score sheet and the results can be found on the thread. People have been posting photos. It's fun to see who's flying and the conditions they have to work with.



Ryan (rdwoebke) from Indianapolis

Scoring is on your honor and there is no prize.

A TPG Winter Postal series was set up at the Poway field, starting in November 2019 and are all on Saturdays.

The remaining event is:

March 7. An F3K Vault registration will be set up for each event, with a couple of warmup tasks prior to the main event.

February Postal Report (continued)

Weather started in the 50's and ended around noon in the 60's; sunny and light winds at 1-5 mph.

We flew three warm up rounds before the Big Slide.

Round 1 was AULD

Round 2 was Last 2

Round 3 was Big Ladder

Round 4 was Big Slide.

I don't think we had a group photo but someone was taking pictures. Pilots are listed in the scores. Note Walk-on is Scott who is new to DLG and learning fast.

Fun day, but the Big Slide is brutal if you don't get 4, 3:30, 3 or 2:30.

Score attached for all 4 rounds and just the Winter Postal.

Preliminary Overall Standings											
Rounds (1-4)											
#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops in Effect)				Sub	Drop	Pen	Percent
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4				
1	Gary Fogel	3879		1000	1000	1000	879	3879			100%
2	Ray Pili	3836	-43	1000	1000	1000	836	3836			99%
3	Mengchen Li	3769	-67	910	1000	859	1000	3769			97%
4	Austin Gossard	3733	-36	908	1000	983	842	3733			96%
5	Dale Osborn	3525	-208	664	1000	937	924	3525			91%
6	Ron Rossetti	3507	-18	676	992	839	1000	3507			90%
7	Don Lochhead	2839	-668	283	685	947	924	2839			73%
8	Walk On	2497	-342	341	693	741	722	2497			64%

The next Winter Postal is Saturday March 7. See you there!

Blue Skies,

Ray Pili

tpgslope@gmail.com

Editor's note:

As Ray mentioned above, someone was indeed taking pictures. Don Lochhead's friend, Will Deatrick was on hand as a spectator and took some great shots, as you'll see on the following pages.

February Postal Report (continued)



February Postal Report (continued)



F3K/DLG Hand Launch Gliders February Contest Report –John McNeil

We had absolutely perfect weather for our DLG contest. It was cool and sunny, and, pleasing to any contest director, the lift was not plentiful. The field itself was lovely. The farmed section is covered with about 6" of new growth while the field has about 1" of growth. Thanks very much Sandy and Cliff for mowing it! Thirteen pilots arrived from all over Southern California and we got prepped.

As always, I received lots of help with the setup, and between Don Lochhead's wireless sound system, and the new timing board from Chuck Norris, we had a world-class setup for our monthly contest in just a few minutes. I used Tim Traver's F3Xvault com to setup the tasks, print score cards, make the flight matrices, and record the scores. At the pilot's meeting we decided to run 5 rounds of 3 heats each instead of our standard 6x2 format. This solved our problem with the odd number of pilots and is the format used at the Cookie Toss series up in Long Beach. I was able to rebuild the flight matrix in few minutes, and we got the contest rolling just a few minutes late.

I exercised my CD's discretion and called the now discontinued small ladder to start. The first flight group started before the air was active, so only Gary got all 5 flights. The second two heats had an easier time with this task. The second round was 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the conditions were nice with about half the pilots making these times. Round three was 3 x 3:00. The conditions became more challenging with some clear, but short, down cycles, however, a good fraction of our contestants were up to the task. One pilot (me) got in trouble North of the trees, and in desperation turned in a low thermal and ended up hitting the tree behind the timing tent. Luckily, the tree spat me out and the plane landed fine. With a little help we recovered the plane and managed to get a 1:18 - this despite me forgetting I had a minute or working time and giving up. Luckily my timer snapped me out of it and we got a flight in.

In a clear sign that I, as CD, I am a powerful leader, Dave immediately treed his plan in the next heat. While I appreciate the urge to emulate me, I don't appreciate being bested. Whereas I hit the middle of a tree and bounced out, Dave landed perfectly and gently in the tip-top of our tallest tree. Happily, he was able to get hold of an arborist who retrieved the plane in time for lunch at Rubio's. Meanwhile, we started round 4 which was 3 x 3:20. The lift was much more "interesting" with the thermals moving rapidly South East and with lots of sink between the thermals. During this round two flocks of American Pelicans joined at the top of a thermal Gary was flying in while I timed for him. They were spectacular in their white and black plumage. They rode that thermal out of site through the no-fly zone. I hope Gary did OK that round, I was much more interested in those birds.

We wrapped up the contest with all-ups. Again the conditions made everyone work for their times. Standing there for 90 sec. while the thermal you spotted disappeared to the East requires excellent air reading. In my last flight I went downwind while Gary and Brent got a read upwind. I landed quickly while they specked-out. The difference was I was standing at the East end of the field, while Gary and Brent were halfway up the field, this allowed them to feel the wind shift just before the buzzer, and before it reached me. So now I know, even with the ability to launch and cover ground, where I stand on the field is still important.

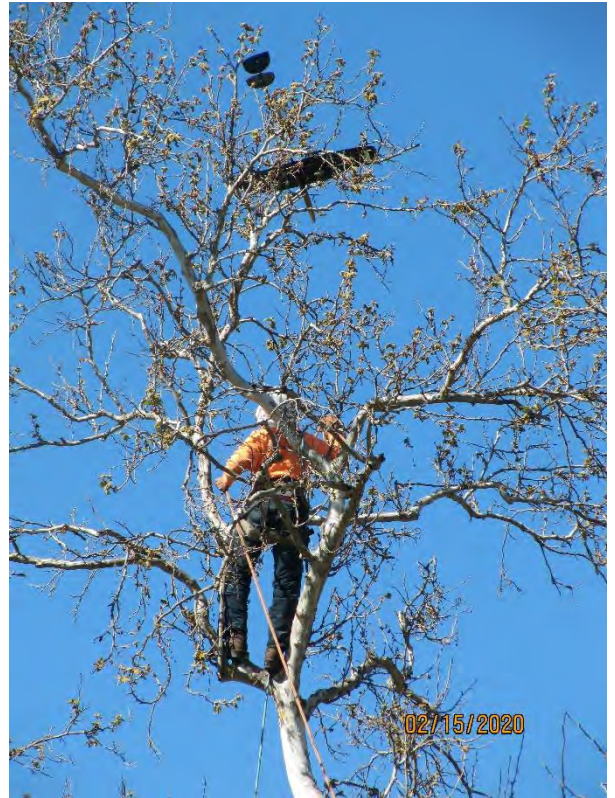
F3K/DLG Hand Launch Gliders February Contest Report (continued)

Thanks to all the pilots, and all the club members who have made being a CD an easy and fun job. If you are considering directing a contest, give it a try, it's never been easier!

You can find the scores here:

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=1796

John



Treed plane (Don Lochhead photo)



Group photo (Sandy Hunter photo)

LSF Report – Ray Pili



No LSF events planned until April.

Check the TPG website, RCGroups and future newsletters for updates.



Ray Pili photo)

Blue Skies,

Ray Pili
LSF Coordinator
tpgslope@gmail.com

TPG at 50: Looking Back – Gary Fogel



Ken Banks and his high-speed Albatross around 1975 (Larry Fogel photo)



S

RC pit area and pilot's mound in the late 1970's or early 1980's (Larry Fogel photo)

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel



This Month: Richard Bledsoe, 1990 Co-Modeler of the Year

By Gary Fogel

Richard Bledsoe is one of the TPG members I just do not have a lot of information on. I know he was a member of the TPG by the early 1980s, flying primarily in open class and 2-meter thermal duration. Rarely if ever at the cliff. His plane of choice back then was a Sagitta 600 a classic TD plane designed by Lee Renaud in 1982. (Check out some nice photos of what appears to be the prototype Sagitta 600 on display at Torrey in the RCM article!

<https://pulling-gz.blogspot.com/2015/02/rcm-sagitta-600-article-and-plan.html>

A resident of La Mesa, he spent much of 1986 working his way up the contest circuit, attending each TPG monthly thermal contest. By the October 1986 contest Richard and Angelo Orona tied for first place in Open Class B and had to have a fly-off. Richard won. I believe it was his first contest win. That year, Richard finished 10th overall in open class and 9th overall in 2 meter. He dropped slightly to 11th in open class and 10th overall in 2-meter in 1987. It seems he may have taken a break from RC in 1988 as there isn't much of a record to go on in the newsletters about his activities, but he came back to fly in a few contests in 1989.



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

In 1990 Richard stepped up to volunteer as club Treasurer. At the start of 1990, the club had 170 members. By December 1990 the club had 190 members! This growth was also due to great work by Joe Souza the Membership Chairman, but Richard helped get the “books” in order. He decided to continue on as Treasurer in 1991. In February 1991, the club held its 1990 annual banquet. 40 people attended the banquet at the Seapoint Hotel on Feb 23 with Larry Jolly serving as the distinguished speaker to discuss his career and modeling experience. At the meeting, both Richard Bledsoe and Joe McBride were co-awarded the Modeler of the Year Award, each getting to keep it for 6 months at their homes.

After that I lose track of Richard, he seems to have left the board in 1992, and there isn't much more about him. But we do appreciate his great effort at that time.



Early Sagitta 600 from 1982 article by designer, Lee Renaud

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



Solo Poway morning (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Winner – Mark B. launching his Ka-8 at Torrey (Bob Hirsch photo)



February Winner – Phil Davy flying DS laps with his Pitbull F3B 2x ST (Chuck "Slopedaddy" Erdahl photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Natural and man-made wonders (Will Deatrck photo)



DLG Launch (Will Deatrck photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Snipe in motion (will Deatrck photo)



March Winner – Ahi late afternoon (Matin Taraz photo)

Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Craig Hanson	TPGulls@gmail.com
Vice-President	Ian Cummings	ian@iancummingphoto.com
Past President	Craig Hanson	craighanson1256@gmail.com
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	donloch@sbcglobal.net
Thermal Coordinator	Tom Watson	tewatson@sbcglobal.net
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	dgottdank@gmail.com
Slope Coordinator	Mark Baldacchino	mbaldacchino@san.rr.com
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	cfhunter@att.net
Winchmaster	Mark Canfield	mcanfield5@roadrunner.com
F3K Coordinator	Chuck Norris	chuck@cnorris.com
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
Safety Officer	Mark Baldacchino	mbaldacchino@san.rr.com
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	steve@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	garyfogel@gmail.com
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Mark Baldacchino	mbaldacchino@san.rr.com

Executive Officers



Craig Hanson



Ian Cummings



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Tom Watson



Mark Baldacchino



Cliff Hunter



Mark Canfield



Quote of the Month:

“March brings breezes loud and shrill.”

~ Sara Coleridge



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)