

2021  
SEPT



# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)

Editor – Dale Gottdank

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## Message from the President



Ian Cummings

An organization is only as strong as its participants. On that note, I want to encourage everyone to be and remain active with TPG on whatever level you can.

Come out to the fun fly events; participate in (or run) the contests; attend the meetings; and/or volunteer for field maintenance days (which will be

rewarded with a discount on next year's membership dues). I think you'll find the camaraderie of these events to be very fun, informative and rewarding. Better yet, volunteer to work with the TPG Executive Council. Elections will be coming up at the end of the year. If you have the time and interest in running for a position, please contact any of the current Executive Council members.

Happy landings, Ian



Thomas Moller photo

## Next TPG Virtual Club Meeting – September 1, 2021 – Gary Fogel

Hi there TPG - A reminder - on September 1 at 7:00pm we have a great lecture arranged for you as our very own Tom Watson, Steve Condon, and Mike Smith will be telling us more about GPS triangle racing. Their presentation will review the contest format, methods, equipment, strategy, the recent US Nationals and the future of this fun RC soaring competition! Be sure to join us.



Tom Watson



Steve Condon



Mike Smith



Stephan Ruelle photos

## Sky Rider – The latest book By Gary Fogel, TPG Club Historian

TPG Historian Gary Fogel has a new aviation history book being released in September called "Sky Rider: Park Van Tassel and the Rise of Ballooning in the West." The biography follows the journey of Van Tassel from his earliest efforts with balloons in the 1880s in California leading to the first balloon flight at Albuquerque New Mexico in what is now considered as a balloon capital and home to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

Van Tassel then traveled by rail, bringing balloon exhibitions to one location after the next throughout the west and as far east as New Orleans, showing the possibility of manned flight to thousands of spectators. Based largely in the San Francisco bay area, Van Tassel then co-invented a new type of parachute, and embarked on another tour to bring parachuting to the masses with skydives from smoke balloons. Some of these events included the first women to skydive, despite public concern for death defying feats.

He expanded his horizons, bringing ballooning and parachuting to Australia, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Myanmar, and India. He later continued to Africa, Persia, Russia, and Europe before returning to the bay area and helping launch the sport of recreational ballooning with clubs.

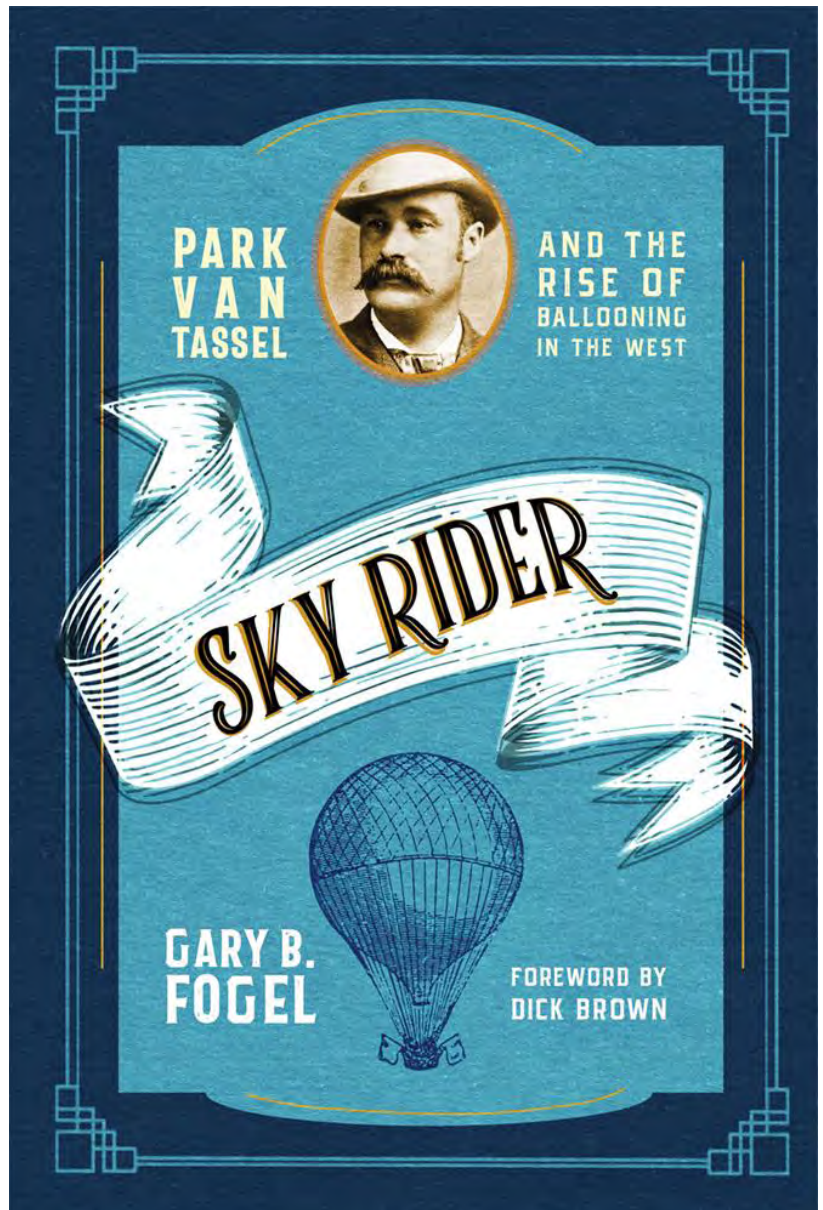
The book weaves together these many journeys (and at least five wives) into a cohesive story that finally places Van Tassel among the prominent aerial exhibitionists of his time. There is even a glider connection to the book, as for a short time Van Tassel was associated with John Montgomery and his balloon-launched gliders in the bay area in 1905.

Perhaps this will be a topic for one of our future TPG virtual club meetings.

The book is available for pre-order here:  
<https://unmpress.com/books/sky-rider/9780826362827>

and here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Sky-Rider-Park-Tassel-Ballooning>





**Psst!!!**

Our annual holiday party (actual and in-person) is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at AleSmith Brewing Company!



**In the meantime...**

For the big screen TV slideshow, we're going to need some great photos and videos from all you club members. So, this fall, when you're fun-flying, practicing, competing, or whatever, take some photos and videos of your planes and flying buddies for us all to enjoy in December. **Horizontal Format Preferred.**

Please send them to  
[communications@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org).

**Thanks!**

## Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts monthly contests, fun-fly events, LSF (League of Silent Flight)) Soaring Accomplishment Program, onsite clinics and bi-monthly club meetings.

*This year, after a long hiatus, club meetings have returned. Our next general meeting, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, will feature our own Tom Watson, Steve Condon and Mike Smith, who will be providing a presentation on GPS triangle racing.*

Be on the lookout for upcoming meeting 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!

September Issue highlights include:

- [Profile of 2001 Modeler of the Year Jerry Craft](#)
- [Holiday Party Sneak Peek](#)
- [New book by Club Historian, Gary Fogel](#)
- [Items for sale!](#)

Please send in your articles or photos ([communications@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org)) by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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

Hello Gulls,

### Activity Membership Summary 2021

The table below is a summary of new and renewal membership activities based on completed registration forms received from members for July and August 2021.

2021	July	August
Total Members as of 5-19-2021	127	135
Outstanding renewal members	31	31
Average Club Member Age	65	65
Google Group Members as of 4-20-21	123	124
New Members	28	8

We have seven renewals or new members. Please welcome Joseph Schiavan, Richard Redhead, Gregory Paul, Bill Buchwald, Randy Nopasri, Joseph Gregory, Chang Mun, and Moss Rosen.

We welcome all of the new and renewing members to Torrey Pines Gulls Soaring Society. All new and renewing members will receive a membership card and key. For the members who slope fly at Torrey Pines Gliderport and are Torrey Pines Gliderport rated; you will receive a membership card and key; and a lanyard will be given to you by a club member at Torrey Pines Gliderport. You must wear the lanyard and membership card when flying at the Torrey Pines Gliderport effective January 1, 2021 for safety reasons.

Remember, you must have a current AMA membership to join TPG. To join AMA, follow this link: <https://join.modelaircraft.org/torreypinesgulls/>

Please contact me ([membership@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org)) if you have not received a 2021 renewal membership card and key. The key gives you access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites.

### Membership Processing:

You should have received a renewal notice using the new TPG Google Group email process. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group you will be sent an individual email. Please use the following link when renewing your membership:

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

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

However, if you chose to pay by check or cash, please email me at: [membership@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org) 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.

## Club Membership Update (continued)

Annual Membership Dues are as follows:

- Full Members – \$60 per year
- Youth Members (19 years or younger) – \$5 per year
- Student Members (full-time) – \$30 per year
- Receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues. \$10 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. The Torrey Pines Gulls has the following types of membership:

**Full Members.** Full Members of the Society shall consist of those persons who are and remain Full members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), 5161 East Memorial Drive, Muncie IN 47302, have signified their interest in model aeronautics and a desire to be such a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society, Inc. and have paid all requisite dues.

**Youth Members.** Youth members of the Society shall consist of those persons who are 19 years or younger and remain Youth members of the AMA, have signified their interest in model aeronautics and a desire to be such a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society, Inc. and have paid all requisite dues.

**Student Members.** Student members of the Society shall consist of those persons who have a current full-time student status at a college or university, have current membership (full or youth) in the AMA, have signified their interest in model aeronautics and a desire to be such a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society, Inc. and have paid all requisite dues.



David Fierro photo

## Club Membership Update (continued)

Your yearly membership allows TPG to continue to provide you with:

- Access to three Flying Fields in La Jolla (Torrey Pines Gliderport), Encinitas and Poway.
- Monthly (or thereabouts) fun-fly events 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 RC soaring pilots 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](http://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.

Cliff Hunter

Membership Chairman

[membership@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org)

760-703-4497 cell



Ian Cummings photo

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



## Google Groups – Staying Connected

**Don't forget to join** 

For all current and recently joined TPG members:

Yahoo Groups no longer supports 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](mailto: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!

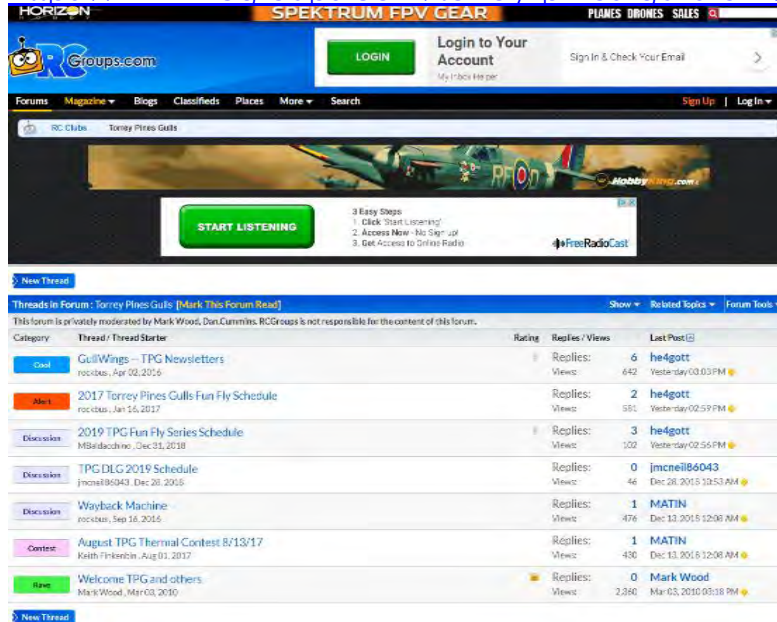
## RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

# 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
Cool	GullWings – TPG Newsletters roccdas, Apr 02, 2015		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccdas, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 561	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule M8elAcchine, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 202	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcnel86043, Dec 28, 2015		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcnel86043 Dec 28, 2015 12:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccdas, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2015 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finbench, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2015 12:08 AM
New	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,240	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?

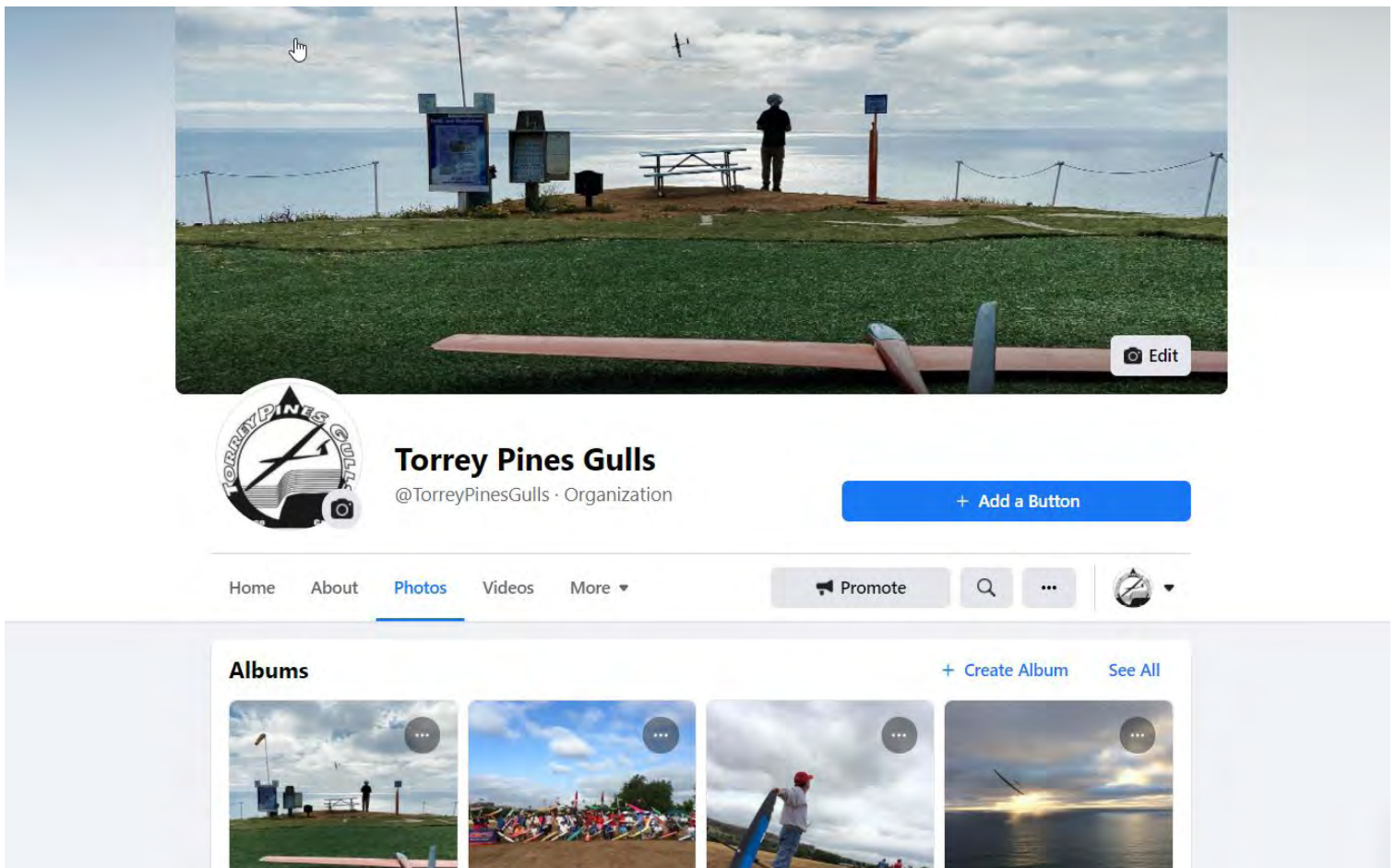
You can express your opinion at: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

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/>



## 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.

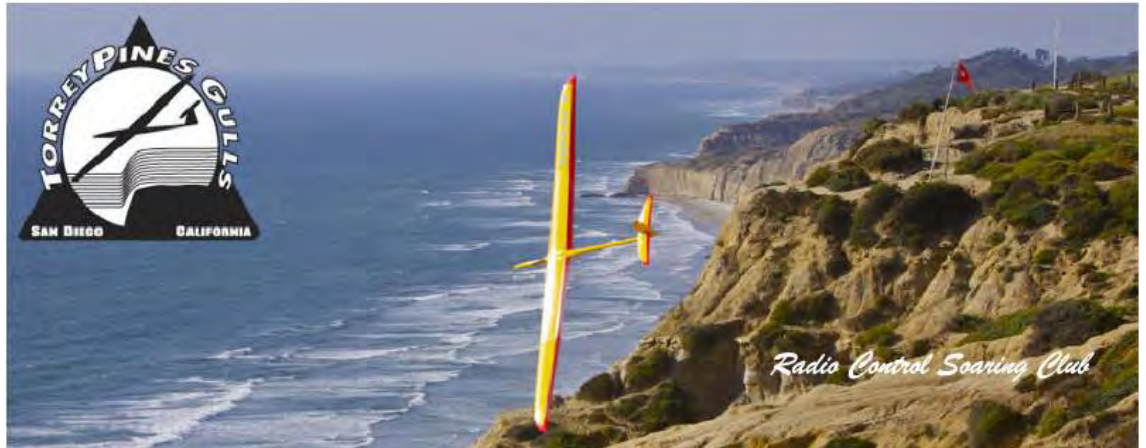


## News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino

Happy September, TPGulls!



I hope many of you were able to go on a vacation and or spend some quality time recharging your “batteries!” Since we didn’t have a newsletter last month, I have a report on two Fun Fly’s that we had; Aerobatics Day, and our 50<sup>th</sup> TPG Anniversary.

On Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> we had an Aerobatics, TWF/PNF day with a whole bunch of different planes. The day was cloudy, but the lift was there to enjoy a fun-filled day of flying. Man, those twisty wings can sure roll! Wow!



Just a few of the awesome planes that were there (Mark Baldacchino photo)

It’s great to see some of the “old timers” show up from days past, as well as to see a smile on their faces. A rediscovery of this great hobby for these guys has been a goal of mine, and seeing it come to fruition is very motivating!

The expanded pit area with the new artificial turf has really been helpful in bringing more pilots out to these Fun Fly’s, too!

## News from the Slope (continued)



As you can see, there were planes of all types; not just aerobatics. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Check out the windsock. You don't see that every day. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

## News from the Slope (continued)

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, we celebrated our club's 50th anniversary, again. I say "again" because the real anniversary celebration was to be in 2020, but with the pandemic, we just couldn't make it happen.

It was another cloudy day, but the sun peeked-out every now and then. The temperature was perfect, at 73° F, and the wind was straight in at ~10 mph. For something fun to do, and something that hasn't been done at the slope for many years, we decided to have a bit of competition. Not the usual F3F type racing, but a landing competition. Much like TD or F5J, landing closest to the pin determines the winner. I made a nylon tape and marked in in feet and inches, rather than points per meter. We put the tape right in the middle of our new artificial landing strip, and dove right in.

We completed four, (4) rounds of landing, with six (6) competitors. The only rule was that one is required to launch their plane normally out over the cliff edge, then walk back and land. There was no order in which to land; just coordinate with the other pilots as to **who's going back to land**. We also didn't specify a class of plane for this contest, so there were planes as small as a Weasel and as large as a 4m moldie. We also didn't ask for an entry fee; just signup and participate! I believe everyone had a blast, and we blew through these four rounds in about an hour. I had enough 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons that were given for each round. It was fun to see how some competitors did better with each round, and to see others actually do worse – we'll blame it on the wind! 😊 Half of the planes didn't have, or use spoilers or flaps, so "dorking" a landing at the end of the tape was fun to watch. On a side note, Arthur Mickiewicz showed up not knowing that we had a fun fly or a contest, and ended up taking home three ribbons!



Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fun Fly Landing Competition (Mark Baldacchino photo)

## News from the Slope (continued)

Here are the participants, and what they flew:

- |                     |            |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| • Arthur Markiewicz | DG-600, 4m | • Arthur Markiewicz | DG-600, 4m |
| • Ian Cummings      | Orca, 4m   | • Ian Cummings      | Orca, 4m   |
| • Craig Hansen      | Windfree   | • Craig Hansen      | Windfree   |

Here are the top three finishers in each of the four rounds, with their landing results:

### Round #1

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Arthur Mickiewicz | 3'-11" |
| 2. Ian Cummings      | 5'-0"  |
| 3. Jim Birkett       | 11'-4" |

### Round #2

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Ian Cummings      | 4'-1"  |
| 2. Arthur Mickiewicz | 7'-6"  |
| 3. Jim Birkett       | 12'-9" |

### Round #3

- |                      |        |   |
|----------------------|--------|---|
| 1. Ray Pili          | 3'-10" | The closest to the pin of all rounds – by an inch!                      |
| 2. Scott Holmes      | 5'-6"  |   |
| 3. Arthur Mickiewicz | 35'-0" | Yes, that's 5 feet outside of the tape, but closer than the last three. |

### Round #4

- |                 |        |                                  |
|-----------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Craig Hansen | 3'-11" | – same as Arthur did in round 1! |
| 2. Ray Pili     | 4'-5"  |                                  |
| 3. Scott Holmes | 13'-6" |                                  |

It was really great to see everyone having fun; and to keep the momentum going, I'm getting some help from an old timer who used to coordinate Beer Can Bowling and Limbo Line competition for the October Fun Fly. This ought to be a fun filled day!

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2021:

- Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – LSF & Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – Landing, Beer Can Bowling and Limbo Line Contests – Let's see who are the top three at this stuff. Ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – No Shopping Saturday – a couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino  
Slope Coordinator



## Club Competition Activity

### Thermal Duration / F5J

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Tom Watson

#### Thermal 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 2021 TPG TD & F5J contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3771517-2021-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-TD-F5J-contest-schedule>

or contact Tom Watson at [thermal@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:thermal@torreypinesgulls.org)

### Hand Launch / DLG / F3K

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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](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 2021 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3798531-2021-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-Contest-Clinic-Series>

or contact Chuck Norris at [dlq@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:dlq@torreypinesgulls.org)

## Club Competition Activity (continued)

### Foamy F5J

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Ray Pili

For 2021 TPG is hosting a Foamy F5J contest series at the Poway Flight Center.

This series is open to everyone with AMA (must be Full or Youth membership) and a Foam F5J sailplane with the intention to introduce folks to F5J. Guests are welcome to compete; no experience is necessary. The format will be geared for first time F5J contestants. Expect ample time between rounds to get your stuff together, timer help, understanding Rules and Task support, and responsible use of the "Mike Smith Rule". Registration is via F3X Vault. CDs are welcome to volunteer. The schedule for the rest of 2021 is:

Oct 3 Register at the F3X Vault:

[https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&country\\_id=0&state\\_id=0&search=](https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&country_id=0&state_id=0&search=)

Examples of Foam F5J planes are: ParkZone Radian and Radian XL, EFlite Night Radian. Multiplex Easy Glider, Solius. This list is not exclusive. Other planes may be acceptable but please check with the CD prior to registration. The spirit of the requirement is to allow contestants to compete and learn with inexpensive planes. **If you don't have an F5J competition altimeter, come fly anyway...we have a workaround.**

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2021TPG Foamy F5J Schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3803797-2021-TPG-Foamy-F5J-Schedule>

\*These contests count toward LSF Level I Requirements. See LSF Report in this newsletter.

### F5J Explained

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Mike Smith

#### CD Mike Smith

This event is open to all electric sailplanes, so anyone 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>

To learn more about F5J, follow this link:

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

Mike Smith, CD

## July TD Contest Report – Tom Watson, CD

Field: Encinitas Flight Center

Date: July 11, 2021

Six pilots flew in TPG's July TD contest. The weather was quite warm with some high clouds and very light breezes. Task times were 5 – 8 – 10 – 10 minutes with a standard 100 point tape landing. There was very good lift available for the entire contest, though sometimes one had to range out to find it.

Everyone had fun and it was a good flying day. The scores were tight at the top...Mike Smith won, behind him in second by just 0.75 points was Tom Watson, and another 4.91 points down was Arthur Markiewicz in third. Put another way, in a 4,000 point contest the spread between first and third was 5.66 points!










The club's COVID guidelines are now relaxed significantly, but we continue the process of electronic registration, payments, and competitor score entry on Tim Traver's F3X Vault platform. Everything works well and it saves a bunch of time, so we plan to keep using it.

Our next contest is F5J at the Poway Flight Center, on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

Tom Watson  
CD

### Preliminary Overall Standings

#### Rounds (1-4)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds			
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	5 Mike Smith  	3947.23		994.92	965.22	1000	987.09
2	1 Tom Watson  	3946.48	-0.75	994.92	977.39	979.91	994.26
3	8 Arthur Markiewicz  	3941.57	-4.91	1000	953.04	992.83	995.70
4	3 Sean Summers	3504.26	-437.31	862.94	1000	992.83	648.49
5	4 Mike Varzuh  	3483.63	-20.63	987.31	991.30	505.02	1000
6	7 Steve Hurd  	3060.80	-422.83	753.81	966.96	347.20	992.83

## July DLG Contest Report – Scott McCurdy CD

The monthly DLG contest was held July 17<sup>th</sup>. Ten pilots registered for the contest and I selected 3 heats for each round, due to slightly cooler temperatures compared to the June contest; and to give me a little more time between rounds for my first time as CD.

My appreciation to participants who got up extra early to join the contest. Christoph Efstathiou made the trip from LA County, Marc Maher from Orange County, and Ron Rossetti from Riverside. Jun Catacutan made a best effort to head south to join, but was turned around on the I-15 closure. Hope to see Jun at the August contest. Other pilots were Ray Pili, Dale Osborn, Chuck Norris, Don Lochhead, Cliff Hunter, and Mengchen Li. Thank you all for making this contest work. I arrived at 7:00 AM, surprised to be the second arrival behind Christoph Efstathiou, Christoph and Chuck Norris helped with the setup. Ray arrived with the tablet and the contest started at 9:05 am to very calm winds.



Group photo of the pilots (Susan McCurdy photo)

The first round was 5 Longest Flights (2:00 maximum) and the second round was 3 Longest Flights (3:00 maximum), since I wanted to follow Mengchen's example from the previous contest for warm-up tasks. Thermal heating started early and Chuck Norris and Marc Maher received full scores for both rounds.

Cliff Hunter received a perfect score for Round 2 by demonstrating a Master Class of low altitude thermal hunting.

## July DLG Contest Report (continued)



Next was the All Up/Last Down (3:00 maximum) which is a popular task at Lake Eldorado, and without a timer on the field, makes for an interesting pilot-to-pilot contest. This time it was Ron Rosetti and Marc Maher again with perfect scores.

Round 4 was 2 Flights Max, 10-minute Working Time. I think this is the most challenging task, since there are only 2 throws. A lot of strategy involves whether to launch first or wait until your neighbor shows you where the thermals are and try to catch-up. Ray Pili, Mengchen and Ron Rosetti earned a perfect score. This is the round where the competitor field scores started to separate.

A steady wind picked up for Round 5 Big Ladder and the advantage turned to the pilots that had experience flying in windy conditions and had a strategy to ballast for the conditions. Mengchen, Marc, and Chuck received perfect scores while Ron Rosetti received a near perfect score for a well flown round.

## July DLG Contest Report (continued)



On the Podium: L-R, Mengchen Li (2nd), Ray Pili (1st), Marc Maher (3rd) display their ribbons. (Susan McCurdy photo)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No)				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	<b>4</b> Ray Pili 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4681.91		929.78	1000	983.19	1000	768.94
2	<b>5</b> Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	4665.93	-15.98	1000	714.07	951.86	1000	1000
3	<b>8</b> Marc Maher 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4637.57	-28.36	1000	1000	1000	637.57	1000
4	<b>9</b> Ron Rossetti 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4578.34	-59.23	963.44	650.36	1000	1000	964.54
5	<b>7</b> Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4509.77	-68.57	1000	1000	715.09	794.68	1000
6	<b>2</b> Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4223.50	-286.27	853.44	1000	802.26	912.69	655.11
7	<b>3</b> Scott McCurdy 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	3898.51	-324.99	929.00	615.75	1000	546.82	806.94
8	<b>10</b> Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	3840.45	-58.06	834.59	632.93	745.91	766.16	860.86
9	<b>6</b> Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	3369.30	-471.15	847.20	551.11	555.56	766.16	649.27
10	<b>1</b> Christoph Efstathiou 🇩🇪	3362.14	-7.16	736.95	733.17	569.87	560.11	762.04

## July DLG Contest Report (continued)

### Results:

Congratulations to Ray Pili! Ray has been competing in DLG for 5 years and celebrates his very first win; and even with a mid-air collision. Mengchen Li was a close 2<sup>nd</sup> with Marc Maher still closer in 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a ridiculously close top three grouping and only a few seconds made the difference (by percentage top 3 were: 100%, 99.66%, and 99.05%). These top 3 were so good that Marc Maher received perfect scores for 4 out of 5 rounds only to earn the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish.

Ron Rosetti and Chuck Norris rounded out the top 5 with very strong showing: 97.79% and 96.32% respectively. Congratulations! The final scores can be found at: [F3X Vault](#)

I'm looking forward to seeing you again in September at the Poway Invitational.

Best regards,

Scott McCurdy

## August DLG Contest Report – Chuck Norris, CD

The monthly DLG contest was held August 21 with some wet conditions to start the morning. It managed to clear up later, but here's a panorama of the Poway Flight Center in early morning.



Rainy conditions at the Poway Field (Chuck Norris photo)



Detail (Chuck Norris photo)



Detail (Chuck Norris photo)



Detail (Chuck Norris photo)



## August DLG Contest Report (continued)

Mengchen, John M. and Gary made it to the top 3.

Congratulations!

The final scores can be found at:

[https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event\\_view&event\\_id=1995](https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=1995).

### Preliminary Overall Standings

#### Rounds (1-5)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Dro				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	<b>4</b> Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	4906.85		1000	1000	1000	906.85	1000
2	<b>2</b> John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4803.96	-102.89	964.68	945.06	957.98	1000	936.24
3	<b>7</b> Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4740.99	-62.97	1000	943.49	797.50	1000	1000
4	<b>12</b> Jeff Chipman 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4732.51	-8.48	985.84	1000	1000	880.31	866.36
5	<b>11</b> John Butler 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4633.16	-99.35	1000	1000	1000	633.16	1000
6	<b>8</b> Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4505.83	-127.33	791.63	813.18	1000	1000	901.02
7	<b>10</b> Ron Rossetti 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4139.67	-366.16	744.42	775.51	862.71	951.62	805.41
8	<b>9</b> Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	3782.40	-357.27	886.78	692.66	1000	463.40	739.56
9	<b>3</b> Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	2988.65	-793.75	548.33	748.98	440.34	402.06	848.94
10	<b>6</b> Christoph Efstathiou 🇩🇪	2656.84	-331.81	781.10	713.36	336.67	535.35	290.36
11	<b>1</b> Ray Pili 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	0.00	-2656.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## July Foamy F5J Contest Report – Ray Pili, CD

July's Foamy F5J contest was a challenge! High pressure with hot and humid conditions made for weak and hard-to-find thermals.

6 pilots attended, Gary and his Son Dru came out for their first F5J contest. Gary came in from up north and Dru from down south. New RC pilot Seth, a friend of Mengchen's from UCSD, came out for his second F5J contest. Seth's first F5J contest was his first time flying RC after many hours of SIM time. Rounding out the group was Don, Mike and me. Mengchen helped with timing and coaching Seth. We flew four 10 minute rounds in two heats of 3.

First round; Ray and Gary won their heats. Notable was Don getting 50 landing points. Flights were all 5 minutes or less. Notably, Seth would have taken the 1K but lost on landing points, scoring 959.

Second round; Gary won round 2A with a 9:18 plus burying the others. Seth won 2B over Don, who got points with a lower launch and more landing points but could not overcome Seth's 60 second flight time.













Third round; 3A Seth's lower launch height gave him the 1000 over Ray. 3B; Gary won, maintaining his lead.

Fourth round; 4A Dru had a great round with twice the points as the next competitor, Seth. 4B; Mike did the same with over twice the points over Gary. Strong showing in round 4 by Mike moved him from 5th to 3rd place overall. Nice comeback! Gary had 3K going into 4B, but lost too many points, giving Seth the win.

Congratulations to Seth, very impressive for his second F5J event. See photos on the next page.

Next and last Foamy F5J for 2021 will be Saturday Oct 3.

Contest Scores:

Preliminary Rounds 4							
Pilots 6							
Draw							
Position Chart							
Rankings							
Stats							
<b>Preliminary Overall Standings</b>							
<b>Rounds (1-4)</b>							
#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Completed Rounds
1	6 Seth McLaughlin  	3453.17		959.54	1000	1000	493.63
2	3 Gary Nichols  	3425.20	-27.97	1000	1000	1000	425.20
3	4 Mike Lonnecker  	3402.77	-22.43	725.71	802.63	874.43	1000
4	Ray Pili  	2955.81	-446.96	1000	547.75	990.74	417.32
5	5 Don Lochhead  	2940.07	-15.74	838.15	925.00	944.44	232.48
6	7 Dru Nichols  	1676.69	-1263.38	377.14	0.00	299.55	1000

## July Foamy F5J Contest Report (continued)



Mike, Don, Dru, Gary, Seth, Mengchen and Ray (Ray Pili photo)



The winners – Gary (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Seth (1<sup>st</sup> Place) and Mike (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) (Ray Pili photo)

## LSF Report – Ray Pili



Hi Gulls,

We **didn't plan** any LSF-specific events for 2021, although the Foamy F5J contest on October 3<sup>rd</sup> qualifies for LSF eSAP credit. In the meantime, here's some general information about the League of Silent Flight Soaring Accomplishment Program:

This table outlines the various tasks required for each level. (Source: <https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>)

Requirements	Primary	Intermediate			Advanced
Level	I	II	III	IV	V
Thermal Duration	5 min.	15 min.	30 min	1 hr	2 hrs.
Slope Duration	15 min.*	1 Hr.*	2 hrs.*	4 hrs.*	8 hrs.
Precision Spot Landing	5 landings 3m (9.84 ft) or less	10 landings 1.5m (4.92 ft. or less)	None	None	None
Goal and Return	None	None	1km (0.62 mi.)	2km (1.24 mi.)	10km(6.2 mi)
Competition	None	6 contests** w/ 1 place or 3,000 pts	6 contests** w/ 2 place or 4,500 pts	6 contests** w/ 2 places and 1 win or 6,000 pts	6 contests** with 12,000 points including 3 wins

As you can see, Level I is not that difficult if you are a thermal pilot. If you fly slope only, that 5 min. thermal will tear you down. With Poway and Torrey within fairly close proximity, I believe someone local can complete Level I in one day.

If you are interested in participating in a scheduled LSF event, bring your AMA card, a thermal plane or e-thermal glider such as the E-flite Radian and download a copy of the Accomplishment Vouchers (SAP or eSAP) from the LSF site (<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>). The events are free; you don't have to be a Gulls member.

The Vouchers describe in more detail what each task involves and the credentials of your witnesses.

## LSF Report (continued)

The Vouchers describe in more detail what each task involves and the credentials of your witnesses.

Submittal of a completed voucher is as follows:

1. Email the LSF Secretary John Marien: [john@ne-aero.com](mailto:john@ne-aero.com) a clear photo, or PDF scan of your completed (and signed by witnesses) Voucher.

**That's it. No more sending money or sending your original hard copy.**

John will then review your voucher and email you your acceptance or rejection of the voucher submission. If for some reason your voucher is rejected, you will have to adjudicate rejections with John.

Another nice change is while you are waiting for a reply you can download a new voucher and start on the next level.

As a reminder, LSF is a 5 level program for RC Glider Pilots. Each level has increasingly more difficult tasks. LSF involves Slope flying, Thermal flying, Spot Landings, Cross-Country Flying and Contest participation. Each level must be completed before proceeding to the next. Makes for a well-rounded RC Glider pilot.

The pure glider program is called SAP (Soaring Accomplishment Program).  
The electric launched glider program is called Electric SAP (eSAP).

Blue Skies,

Ray Pili  
LSF Coordinator  
[lsf@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:lsf@torreypinesgulls.org)

## Steffen Peters – RC Soaring Pilot and Olympian

Many of you know Steffen Peters, a regular at the Gliderport, skillfully piloting his beautiful scale ships over our world-famous soaring venue.

Well, in addition to his well-known RC piloting skills, Steffen has long been involved in Olympic-level equestrian competition.

From the US Equestrian website ([https://www.usef.org/team-usa/athletes/steffen\\_peters](https://www.usef.org/team-usa/athletes/steffen_peters)): *Born in Wesel, Germany, Steffen Peters came to the United States in 1984 to work for trainer Laurie Falvo in San Diego. Southern California was a good fit for Peters, and he made the decision to stay, and became a U.S. citizen in 1992. He has been one of the country's top international dressage competitors ever since, having represented the U.S. at five Olympic Games, four FEI World Equestrian Games, and two Pan American games.*

Steffen competed at the 1996, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020/21 Olympics, bringing home the Bronze Medal in team competition in 1996 and 2016; and this year, achieving 10<sup>th</sup> place in Individual Dressage and taking the Silver Medal in team competition. Congratulations Steffen and the United States Equestrian Team!



Steffen Peters and Suppenkasper (photo courtesy of [Dressage Today](#))



## TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel



### This Month: Ian Hirschsohn 2001 Co-Modeler of the Year

Ian Hirschsohn was a special TPG member who took pride in educating others, especially youngsters, about the joys of RC soaring. I'm not sure if he was the instigator or not, but in 2000-2001, Ian became involved with Torrey Pines High School, mentoring a group of students not only with RC gliders but also with the annual Science Olympiad program. For those of you who are not familiar, Science Olympiad is an annual science competition across high schools in the USA challenging kids to solve specific tasks on their own, generally through hands-on projects. Founded in 1984, the Science Olympiad continues to the present (<https://www.soinc.org/>) and often includes free flight rubber band or glider contests with specific wingspan and/or weight requirements. Having a mentor like Ian to help a team avoid pitfalls is generally key to success, and makes the project fun. In the February 2001 issue of the Gull Wings, Ian wrote, "From my experience any kid that is willing to apply himself or herself (there are as many she's as he's) can win the event, it is not a test of aptitude or innate skill. The rules of each event are published and available months beforehand. The bottom line is that it introduces the kids to scientific principles in pleasurable challenging way. The reason I have been a coach for Science Olympiad for the last 6 years is that many of the students I have instructed have gone on to MIT, etc."

In June of 2001, Ian helped arrange for a visit of the TPG to Torrey Pines Elementary school for an on-site demonstration of thermaling via hi-start and a good assortment of different types of aircraft for static display. This was a part of the school's "Science Discovery Day."



## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

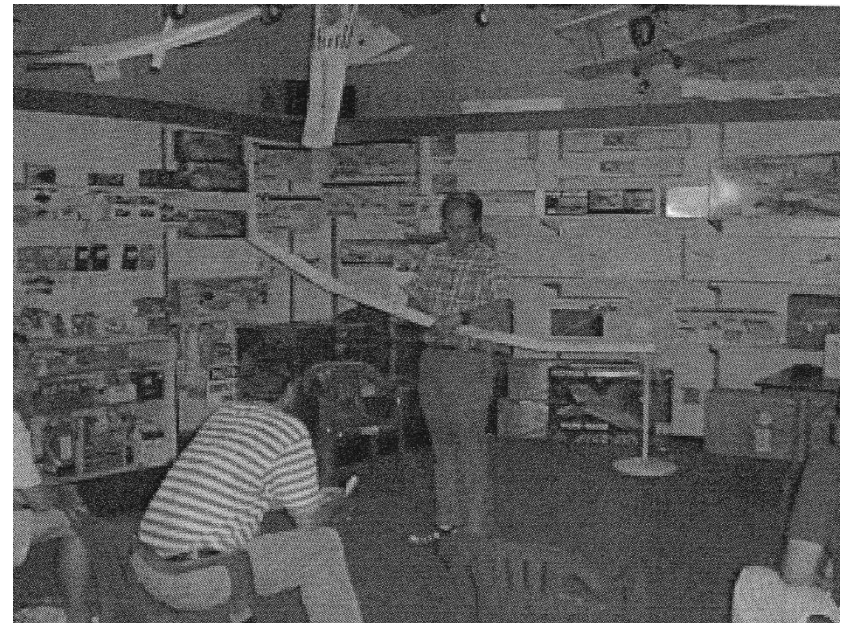
The kids were pleased and later wrote thank you letters to the club that were published in the August 2001 issue of Gull Wings. For instance student Zach Jones wrote “Dear glider enthusiasts, I had a lot of fun in being a part of your glider class. It was my first time being able to be the pilot of a real glider plane. I have seen other people building and fly glider planes. I was jealous and wanted to try to fly one and you made my wish come true. Thank you. Sincerely, Zach Jones.” Hmm. Given Zach was in elementary school in 2001, he should be in his mid-20s/early 30s by now. Paging Zach Jones – paging Zach Jones – now is the time to sign up for TPG membership!

Ian also began holding a TPG training program on Tuesday nights at Discount Hobby Warehouse to help newbies learn how to properly set up aircraft, and assisted in flying instruction at Torrey Pines on Friday afternoons. Jerry Craft (the other co-modeler of the year for 2001) assisted in these efforts. By December 2001, several new TPGers were finishing off their EPP Highlander kits, ready to test fly them at Torrey and continue as new members.

In addition to all of this activity, Ian served as TPG slope coordinator in 2001. In 2002 he became TPG “training coordinator.” Because of his sustained efforts on behalf of TPG and the local community to raise awareness and interest in RC gliding and new members for TPG, the club honored him with the 2001 Modeler of the Year trophy. I’m not sure what became of Ian – if you happen to know please do reach out.



One of Ian's Discount Hobby Warehouse classes (Gull Wings)



Ian explaining RC gliders at one of his classes (Gull Wings)



## Photo of the Month Contest

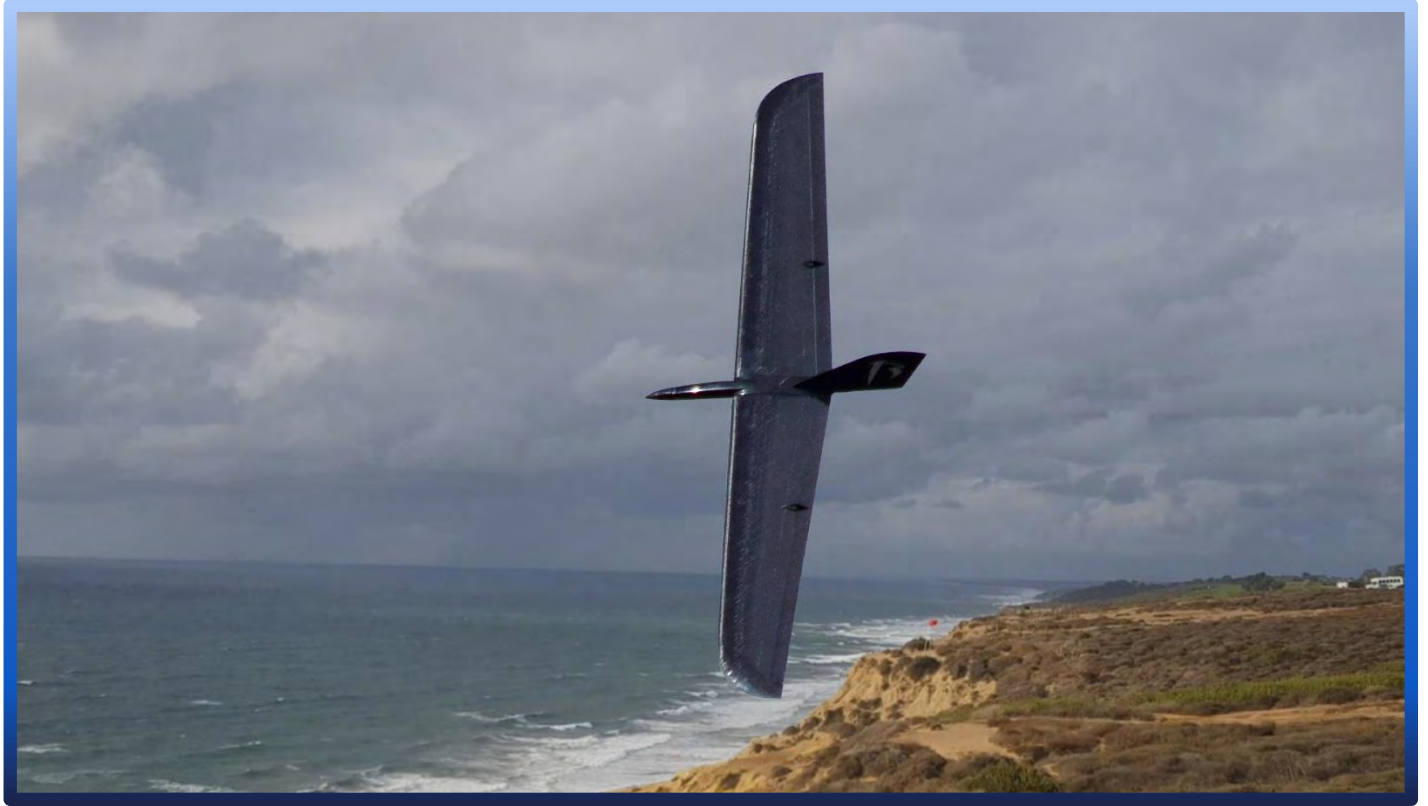
Each month club members may submit photos of an activity related to soaring and the newsletter editor will post a **winner**.

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](mailto:submit@torreypinesgulls.org). Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description.



January Co-Winner – Aaron Wallace's scale ASW-27 coming in to land on a windy Torrey day (Greg Houck photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Co-Winner – Matin Taraz's Raven2 at Torrey (Greg Houck/Matin Taraz photo)



February Winner – Mike Frandsen is about to toss his 28oz. Jester into 40+ mph winds, gusting to over 70 (Ian Cummings photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Winner – Mike Frandsen in the process of saving an inverted launch of his 28 oz. Jester in 45+ mph winds at Torrey in January (Ian Cummings photo)



April Co-Winner – Mengchen Li launching at the March DLG contest (Ray Pili photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



April Co-Winner – Thomas Moller launching Steffen Peters' LET Model DG-1000 (Paul Broyles photo)



May Co-Winner – PSS Ki-84 over Cajon contest (Greg Houck photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co-Winner – Group launch at the April F5J contest (Cliff Hunter photo)



June Winner – Steffen Peters' Arcus at Torrey (Thomas Moller photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



July-August Winner – Andy Grose launching at sunset (Ian Cummings photo)



Matin Taraz flying his Jester at Cape Blanco, OR (Eusebio Garate photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Nick Taraz launching his dad's (Matin) Fw 190D at Cajon. Brian Laird on the sticks. (Eusebio Garate photo)



Brian Laird's "Red Baron" BD-5 at Cajon (Greg Houck photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Landing Brian Laird's "Red Baron" BD-5 at Cajon (Greg Houck photo)



September Winner – Marty Zimmerman launching his Energic at Torrey (Jim Birkett photo)



## Club Officers and Contact Information

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Past President	Craig Hanson	
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### Executive Officers



Ian Cummings



Bob Hirsch



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Tom Watson



Mark Baldacchino



Chuck Norris



Cliff Hunter



TPG Classified Ads Policy

Classified ads are free to TPG members for non-commercial purposes. Commercial customers should contact the editor. To submit an advertisement, send the information to [communications@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org). Ads must be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to appear in the next issue. All advertisements will remain in the newsletter for the month of issue and will be removed for the following issue. If you wish to advertise for another month, you will need to notify the editor or resubmit.



**Quote of the Month:**

*“The end-of-summer winds make people restless.”*

*~ Sebastian Faulks*



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)