

2022  
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# 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

You may have heard rumors that the Federal Aviation Administration has begun enforcement of the new regulations regarding Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Unfortunately, our gliders are categorized with drones and fall within these regulations. According to unconfirmed reports, an AMA flying site in San Diego County was temporarily shut down due to non-compliance with the new FAA regulations by its members.

Simply put, recreational pilots flying a UAS weighing over .55 pounds are required to register with the FAA and display their registration number on the outside of their aircraft. You must also carry proof of completion of the FAA TRUST Certificate while flying. I want to encourage each of you to go online and get these two requirements taken care of. It should only take a few minutes. The TRUST certificate is free and designed to be fail proof. The cost of FAA registration (aircraft weighing .55 to 55 pounds) is \$5.00 and is valid for three years. Please be warned; there are a number of third-party websites offering FAA UAS registration at a huge markup. Make sure you use the official FAA website. Here are the links:

The Recreational UAS Safety Test: <https://trust.modelaircraft.org>

FAADroneZone: <https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/>

(continued next page)

## Message from the President (continued)

In other news, your Executive Council is working on obtaining permission from San Diego County for limited run electric launch (F5J) at our Encinitas field. In the meantime, please don't endanger our lease by flying any electric powered aircraft there. We will keep you updated on the County's response.

Happy Landings,

Ian



Steffen Peters' Valenta Model Salto over Torrey (Thomas Moller photo)

## February General Meeting Recap – Dale Gottdank

On Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our first General Meeting of 2022. Club Historian, Gary Fogel opened the meeting by providing an overview of upcoming TPG events, including TD, F5J, Foamy F5J and DLG contests, as well as Gliderport Fun Fly's and the April General Meeting. Individual events were covered by Don Lochhead, Tom Watson and Gary.

This was followed by Gary announcing the TPG Member Reference Guide, which can now be accessed on our website ([Member Reference Guide](#)). This replaces the long-ago published hard-copy member book and contains detailed information on membership, communications, flying disciplines, field locations, rules and more.

During the show-and-tell/sell Cliff Hunter offered for sale, a Sonoran Laser Art 3.6M Yellow Jacket F5J/ALES sailplane. Check it out in the For Sale/Wanted section near the end of the newsletter.

We were then treated to a well-researched and presented lecture by Mengchen Li, assisted by Gary. The topic of the presentation was Feng Ru: Early Powered Flight in California and China. Feng Ru was known as the Father of Chinese Aviation. Mengchen has been a TPG member for 3 years. Since completing his bachelor's degree at UCSD, he is currently working on his Ph.D. at UCLA in materials science.

### TONIGHT'S LECTURE: FENG RU: EARLY POWERED FLIGHT IN CALIFORNIA AND CHINA



- Guest Speakers:
- Mengchen Li and Gary Fogel
- AIAA SciTech meeting in January, 2022



Also, he's a fierce competitor at our monthly DLG contests. Thanks Mengchen and Gary!

The last part of our meeting was the return of the TPG Raffle! Conducted by Veep Bob Hirsch, two very nice prizes were won:

- Brand new Turnigy Accucel-6 80W 10A 1~6S Balancer/Charger won by Ian Cummings
- Vintage Craftair Windrifter SD100 sailplane won by Dale Gottdank



Turnigy Balancer/Charger



Craftair Windrifter SD100

## TPG March/April Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
March 12	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Registration Required Fun Fly!
March 13	TD Contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
March 19	DLG contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
April 9	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Registration Required Fun Fly!
April 3	F5J Contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
April 16	DLG contest	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
April 23-24	International Hand Launch Glider Festival (IHLGF)	TPG Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>



The TPG Executive Council is planning to revive our Mentoring Program, which was very popular and helpful for new RC soaring pilots just getting into the hobby. Back in the day, we had a couple of “club” planes, a radio or two and a “buddy box” setup for true newbies. Times have changed, and now most new pilots will have purchased their own RTF or ARF foamy Ahi or Radian, etc. but could still use plenty of help learning the basics of flying safely at Torrey, or catching thermals at Poway or Encinitas. It's also a great way for new pilots to meet the regulars and begin participating in our contests and fun fly events.

**We're asking for just a bit of** your time to help get a new pilot started; maybe at one of our **Gliderport Fun Fly events, or a DLG contest, or just anytime...no long term commitment. Just fun.**

We'd like to get the Mentoring Program up and running with a few volunteers in early 2022. If you'd like to help out with your time and experience, as well as contributing to the growth of our club, please contact [communications@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:communications@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, onsite clinics and bi-monthly club meetings.

Our club meetings are conducted via Zoom, so it's really easy to join in, chat with flying buddies and hear a great presentation about RC soaring and related topics.

Our next meeting, Tuesday, April 26th, will feature Doug Fronius, speaking about the Robin, the oldest still active glider to have ever flown at Torrey Pines. **We're really looking forward to it.**

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!

March Issue highlights include:

- [1st Foamy F5J Clinic and contest report of 2022](#)
- [Blue Thermal Anime highlights soaring!](#)
- [2003 Modeler of the Year, Lenny Brzezinski by Gary Fogel](#)

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. 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 Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

**REMINDER: It is that time of the year to renew your 2022 TPG Membership. So far this year, we have had 101 new and renewed members. Note: We still have several who have not renewed. Please do so as soon as you can. The field access gate locks for 2021 have been removed. You need a key for 2022 locks to access the fields.**

As a reminder, instead of our traditional mailed registration form to each member, we have transitioned to a web-based process. Please use this link when signing up: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/membership/>

Please fill out the registration form completely. We will use this information to help the club's Executive Council plan and develop future events, competitions and activities for members.

Please take the time to review the [Torrey Pines Gulls Membership Guide](#) which will provide answers to many of your questions regarding Torrey Pines Gulls activities.

Membership Activity Summary as of February 22, 2022

The table below is a summary of new, renewed and lifetime members based on completed registration forms received from members in the past month.

Membership for 2021/2022	January – December 2021	Paid New Members for 2022	Paid Renewal Members for 2022	Total Paid Members For 2022
Members for 2021 (incl. 4 lifetime)	136			
New and Renewal Members for 2022	4	12	101	103
Google Group Members*	127	5	NA	132

\*Note: if you are not a member of Google Groups and want to be, please contact [membership@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org).

Please welcome our new members this month, Martin Dine and Joseph Bukovchik

All new and renewing members will receive a membership card and key. The key gives you access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites. For members who slope fly at Torrey Pines Gliderport and are Torrey Pines Gliderport rated: In addition to the membership card and key, you will receive a club lanyard from a club representative at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. You must wear the lanyard with the membership card attached when flying at the Torrey Pines 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 me ([membership@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org)) if you have not received your membership materials or have any membership-related questions.

## Club Membership Update (continued)

### Membership Processing:

You 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. Please use the following link when renewing your membership:

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

We request online payment via PayPal or 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.

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.

## 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

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:

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!

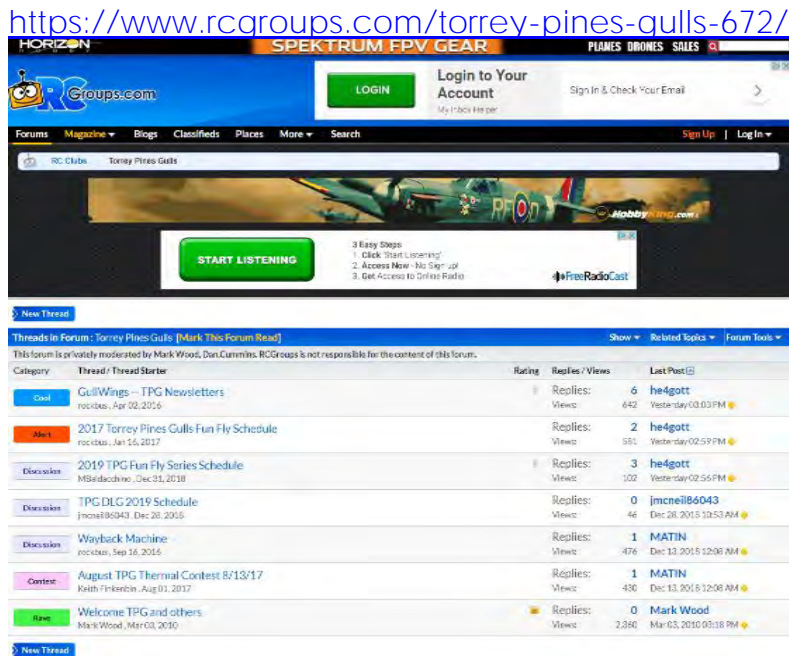
## RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

# 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
Good	GullWings - TPG Newsletters roccas - Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccas - Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 551	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MBaruchino - Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcnel86043 - Dec 28, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcnel86043 Dec 28, 2018 12:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccas - Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Thierstein - Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
None	Welcome TPG and others MarkWood - Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,360	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 09:18 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?

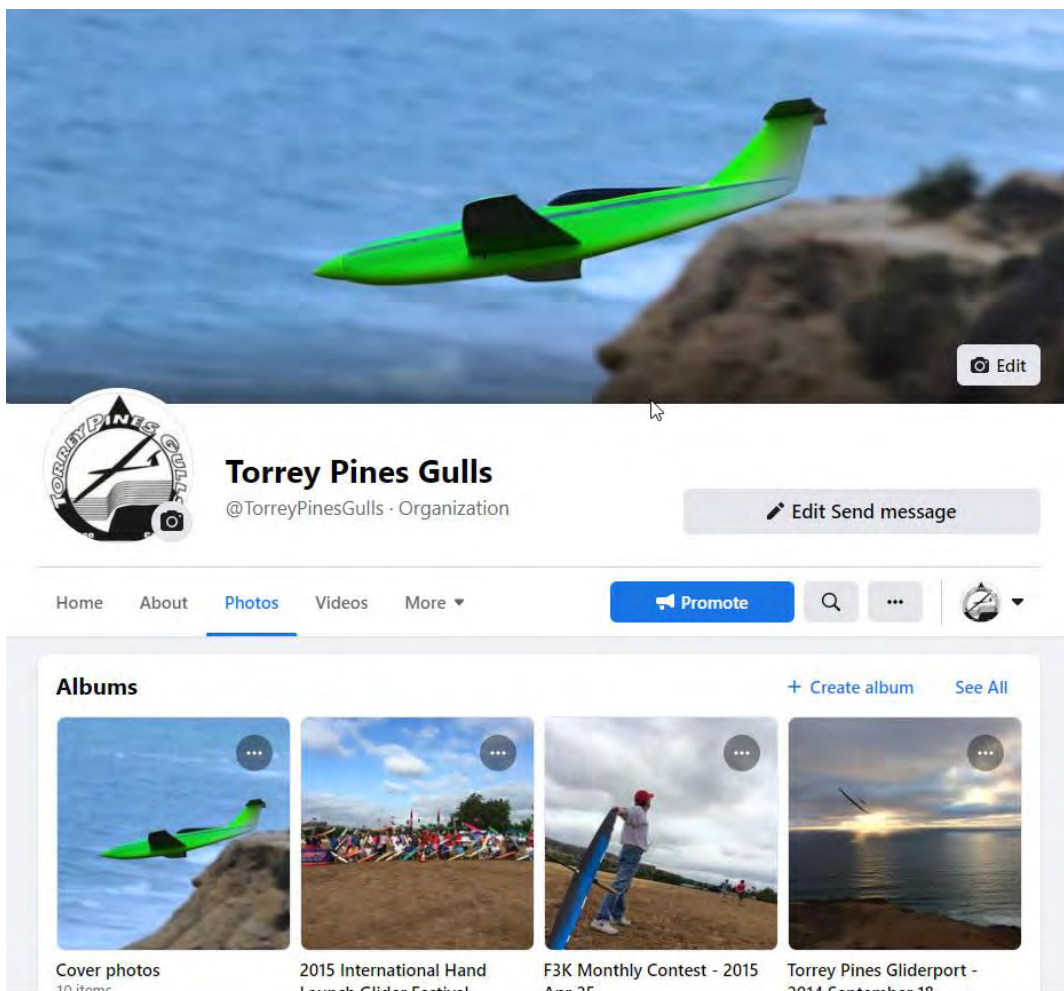
You can express your opinion at: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

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/>



**Torrey Pines Gulls**  
@TorreyPinesGulls - Organization

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- Cover photos (10 items)
- 2015 International Hand Launch Glider Festival
- F3K Monthly Contest - 2015 (Apr 25)
- Torrey Pines Gliderport - 2014 (September 18)

## 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 March 2022, TPGulls!



This month brings a couple of my favorite things of the year; the beginning of spring and day light savings time! Yay – more flying time in late afternoons! I also hope the weather pattern has changed from the last four months or so. I read somewhere that we slipped into a La Nina weather pattern here lately, thus the poor wind conditions We are, however, moving to a neutral weather pattern.

Our last fun fly event on February 12<sup>th</sup> was a success. Although it was 85 degrees and there was no wind (yes, 85 in February); and **we didn't** even make it out to the mound/pit area to fly, lots of planes were available for sale. Gentlemen from Palm Desert, Palmdale, and LA, as well as locals came out to clear-out their fleets. I got there around 11:00 am, and half of the planes were already gone. Here's a pic from when I just arrived:



Green LZ, but look at the wind line way offshore. Hopefully, that's the end of that weather pattern.  
(Mark Baldacchino photo)

## News from the Slope (continued)

I'll be getting ahold of a few of the Torrey Pines Scale Soaring Society (TPSSS) members to alert the rest of the club to come out and join us Gulls for the Scale Fun Fly event on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Come on out and see some world class craftsmanship as well as, in my opinion, the most beautiful class of RC soaring!

Gary Fogel and I have been discussing ways to introduce our awesome hobby to some younger blood. You'll notice below in the schedule, that on May 14<sup>th</sup> we'll have students show up and we'll introduce them to RC soaring on a buddy box. They'll get to see some different kinds of foamies, so that they can easily get their feet wet and keep our hobby thriving.

### TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2022

March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Ka-8's, Radians...If it's foam, this is your day! Also, it's AIAA-UCSD Day, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics for UCSD Students
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Katie Martin International Tribute. A yearly classic: <a href="#">RCGroups</a>
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Landing Strip Contest – Get closest to the pin. Ribbons for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PWF...Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies Again! – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Redman Rules & Landing Contest – Ribbons for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> . For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

See you all out at the Gliderport.

Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino  
Slope Coordinator

## Club Competition Activity

### Thermal Duration / F5J Contest Series

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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 2022 TPG TD & F5J contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4013905-2022-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-TD-F5J-contest-schedule.>

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

### Hand Launch / DLG / F3K Contest Series

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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/>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2022 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4040675-2022-TPG-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series#post48416967.>

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

## Club Competition Activity (continued)

### 2022 Foamy F5J Clinic and Fun-Fly contest Series

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Don Lochhead

For 2022 we will be continuing with our F5J Foamy events at Poway, with combined Clinics and contests scheduled for Saturday mornings from 9-12 on:

- May 28
- August 27
- November 5

Based on our popular DLG Contest and Clinic format, this year we are going to emphasize the “Clinic” aspect while continuing to fly contests. This is first and foremost a fun-fly event. So, if you are just getting started in F5J or just looking for an excuse to dig out your Foamy for a morning of relaxing flying this is the event for you.

The subject of the February Clinic will be tune-up tips for the Radian. These planes are pretty good right out of the box but many pilots have found ways to improve the flying characteristics even more. So come out prepared to show off your mod's and pick up even more tips. Future clinics will cover the aspects (rules, strategies, scoring, timer duties, etc.) of F5J contests that are a bit different from other TD events.

The contest element will be set up to emphasize the fun-fly aspect. We will have the field configured with landing tapes and the sound system. To get the most flying in for everyone, the flight window will be reduced from the regulation 10 minutes down to 7 minutes. We will plan on at least five rounds so everyone will get in plenty of stick-time.

We will ask everyone to pre-register on F3X Vault:

([https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event\\_view&event\\_id=2048](https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=2048)) and will be using self-entry of scoring results to give those of you who may not have used this system yet a chance to get some practice. Entry fees for the Clinic and contest will be free for TPG members and \$5 for non-members. We have opened a thread on RC groups so everyone can stay up to date on the event:

(<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4038751-2022-TPG-Foamy-Clinic-and-Contest>).

We are hoping that this event will help to introduce new pilots to what TPG has to offer. The council is considering the purchase of a club Radian that would be available for new members to learn to fly on. To make this work we will need some club members to offer to act as mentor pilots. If you would be interested, please contact any council member.

See you on May 28<sup>th</sup>!



## February F5J Contest Report – Steve Condon

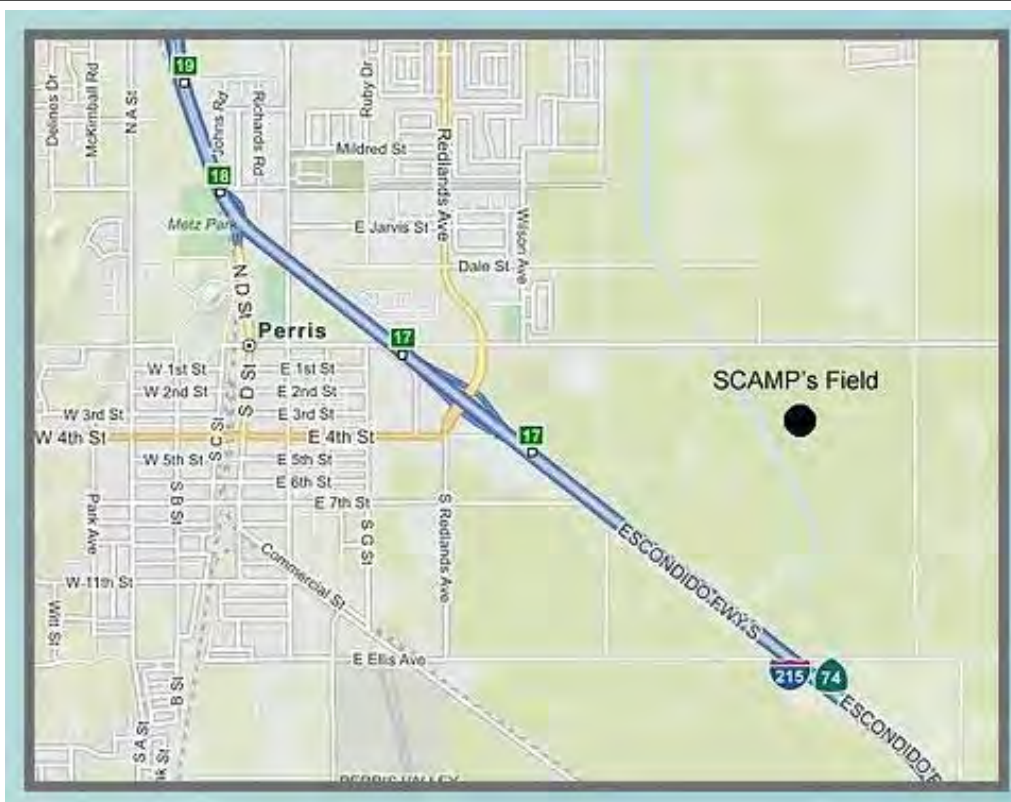
We had a unique situation for our 5J contest this month in that it was in direct conflict with another F5J event at the same time. Warren Day, the CD for F5J in LA asked if we would be open to combining events and we agreed.

I was the CD for our TPG contest but since Warren was heading up the LA event that was held at the Free Flight field in Perris, CA, it made my workload as CD substantially lighter than usual (i.e. I didn't have to do anything, lol). Thank you Warren!

The turnout was very large for a local one-day contest that also coincided with Super Bowl Sunday...32 pilots! We flew 6 rounds with 4 groups per round and 8 lanes/competitors per heat. It was very efficiently run!

The weather that day was really something. With the humidity low, the temperature when we arrived at the field around 7am was an unbelievable 24°!!! It was chilly for sure but once the sun came out we started warming up and a few hours later it was 86° with spotty and very challenging thermal conditions. There were some crazy rounds where only one or two pilots got the full 10 minutes so scores were all over the place and there were some heart stopping low-level saves.

The contest concluded around 2:30 and everyone got to head out to enjoy the afternoon festivities with family and friends. Nine TPG pilots were in attendance: Tom Watson, Mike Smith, Don Van Gundy, Steve Condon, Cliff Hunter, Mike Verzuh, Tom Kiesling, Tim Traver and Sean Summers. Final standings are shown on the next page with TPG pilots boxed in red.



SCAMP'S Free Flight Field location map – site of the F5J in LA contest.



## February DLG Contest Report – Cliff Hunter, CD

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, we all had an exciting time with great weather and field conditions, and no broken planes for the trip home. Ribbons went to Jun for first place, Gary for second and Chuck for third. Congrats guys! All pilots had an exciting time and wanted 1000-point rounds; everyone trying to do their best.



Back row L-R: Don, Mike, John, Justin, Gary, Chuck and Mengchen. Front row: L-R: Jun, Ray, Ron, Cliff and Dale (Paul Palmer photo)

### Round 1 All Up 3x3

Jun, Gary, Chuck, John all had 1000-point rounds

### Round 2 Poker

Jun, Gary, Justin all had 1000-point rounds

### Round 3 Best 5X2

Jun, Mengchen, Ron all had 1000-point rounds




### Round 4 Last 1X5

Jun, Chuck, John, Cliff all had 1000-point rounds

### Round 5 3x3:20

Gary, Chuck, Mengchen all had 1000-point rounds

## Class Rankings

Open Rankings		
	Pilot	Total
1	 <u>Jun Catacutan</u>	4932.72
2	 <u>Gary Fogel</u>	4610.34
3	 <u>Chuck Norris</u>	4418.53
4	 <u>Justin Tolman</u>	4415.38
5	 <u>Mengchen Li</u>	4162.88
6	 <u>John McNeil</u>	4046.13
7	 <u>Dale Osborn</u>	3522.37
8	 <u>Ray Pili</u>	3384.28
9	 <u>Clifford Hunter</u>	3206.10
10	 <u>Don Lochhead</u>	3143.97
11	 <u>Ron Rossetti</u>	2662.49
12	<u>Mike Ray</u>	2498.22

## February Foamy F5J Contest & Clinic – Don Lochhead, CD

Date: February 26<sup>th</sup>

Location: TPG Poway Flight Center

Five pilots, four flying Radians and one, a 1.5m Yellow Jacket, competed in six, seven-minute rounds.

For the most part, the lift was light with calm winds that moved around during the morning.

In the end, first place went to visiting pilot Corky Miller (designer of the Yellow Jacket) edging out Dale Osborn who came in second. Although his times were slightly lower than Dale's, he won the competition based on launch height and landing points.

We had a couple of spectators drop by who expressed interest in getting involved in this activity, so hopefully we will see some new faces in the future.

The next Foamy event is May 28<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendar and join in!



Corky Miller launching his Yellow Jacket with Don Lochhead timing. Cliff Hunter launching Radian beyond (Dale Osborn photo)

## LSF Report – Gary Fogel



Gary Fogel

Hi Gulls,

Picking up where Ray Pili left off last year, I'm serving as the 2022 TPG LSF Coordinator. Although we haven't planned any LSF-specific events for 2022, club TD and DLG competitions qualify for LSF SAP (Soaring Accomplishment Program) credit and the Foamy F5J Clinic and Fun-Fly contest Series and F5J contests qualify for LSF eSAP (Electric Soaring Accomplishment Program) credit. Depending upon club member interest, additional LSF Attempt Day events may be scheduled

In the meantime, here's some general information about the League of Silent Flight program.

<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php>.

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. With Poway and Torrey within fairly close proximity, it is absolutely possible to complete Level I in one day with help from witnesses.

## LSF Report (continued)

In order to participate in the LSF program, please go to: <https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>. Bring the voucher as well as your AMA card to one of the TPG events and get started! It's as simple as that.

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 down load 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, which 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,

Gary Fogel  
LSF Coordinator  
[lsf@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:lsf@torreypinesgulls.org)

## Blue Thermal Anime – Gary Fogel

From 2015 to 2018, a popular Japanese manga called Blue Thermal focused on the story of a young athletic girl who finds her way into the sport of soaring, helping her college team perform well in a race. In December 2021 it was announced that the manga will be converted into a full-length anime of the same name and released soon. You can see more via the official trailer (in Japanese):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf27Jws-mwU>

Additional description of the storyline can be found here:

<https://honeysanime.com/blue-thermal/>

I'm not great at Japanese but its nice to see soaring being popular enough to be portrayed in an anime. Hopefully one day the anime is released in the US with subtitles. Either way hopefully things like this can help encourage younger audiences to check out soaring.

Gary



Image courtesy of OtakuStan Twitter

## TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel



### This Month: Lenny Brzezinski, 2003 Modeler of the Year

Lenny Brzezinski came to the TPG through an interesting set of circumstances and in a short amount of time converted the TPG raffle at the club meetings into an amazing monthly success. With an interest in aviation, in about 1973 Lenny had bought his first RC glider. He built it, but couldn't afford a radio at the time. The glider ended up being given to a friend and it's not clear what became of it. With a new job at Rohr Industries, he moved from Encinitas to Chula Vista in 1979 to be closer to work. For those not familiar with Rohr, the company was founded by Fred Rohr, who was famous for having made the fuel tanks for Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis. Reuben Fleet helped Rohr found Rohr Aircraft Corporation in 1940 and by the 1960s they had expanded considerably. Rohr Industries produced the original subway cars for the BART system in the bay area as well as the Metro in Washington, D.C. among other products. Rohr remains a San Diego institution, now operated by the Collins Aerospace division of Raytheon.

Now armed with a solid job at Rohr, Lenny went out to a hobby store and purchased a kit for a Goldberg Sophisticated Lady. He built the glider and began flying it on his own from a hill near Proctor Valley Road. However, the first flight didn't go well and the glider crashed, requiring repairs. Fortunately another RCer from a club in Chula Vista was in the area the next time and he checked the aircraft and noticed that the angle of incidence was off – with down elevator baked in on the Sophisticated Lady's t-tail configuration. Once this was fixed, the aircraft flew great and gave many hours of enjoyment for Lenny.

For Christmas in about 1980 or 1981 Lenny received a Gentle Lady kit from a friend in Imperial Beach. He enjoyed flying the Gentle





## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Lenny and Sophisticated Lady on his own in the south bay. However, his interest in RC was off and on, and after being let go from Rohr, he moved to Utah and started working with a landscaper. It was the right move because the landscaper was also into RC gliders! Lenny bought a Sig Ninja sloper and flew that and other aircraft like a Sig Riser 100 from the famous Point of the Mountain soaring site south of Salt Lake City into the early 1990s. He bought a hi-start and started thermaling with the Riser 100.

In 1997, Lenny moved back to Chula Vista once again to work at Rohr, this time bringing his RC gliders with him. Somehow he became aware of the Torrey Pines Gulls and decided to check out a club meeting at the San Diego Air and Space Museum. He was hooked and signed up right away, as this really put his RC glider career in full motion. He bought a 3m thermal ship from Ron Scharck and a Sapphire from Patrick Dionisio and really had fun exploring thermal duration competition with the TPG at monthly contests at Poway. Arthur Markiewicz sold Lenny a Sharon Pro and, well, one wasn't good enough so Lenny bought another as a Christmas present to himself. In the late 1990s Lenny also became interested in aerotowing, flying for a time with the International Scale Soaring Association at meets in Apple Valley using a larger plane he purchased from George Joy. Lenny's skills at thermal duration improved and he began to work his way from novice to intermediate to expert class at the monthlies and also dabbled in hand launch gliding for a time.



Lenny Brzezinski holding an RC scale sailplane in front of Payson Lake at Utah



Lenny's 1/4 scale Twin Astir soaring at Torrey Pines.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

In about 2001, Lenny volunteered to serve as the manager of the raffle at the club meetings. He took this job very seriously and worked closely with Discount Hobby Warehouse to bring some amazing stuff to each meeting: transmitters, kits, servos, receivers, Monokote, you name it, it was at the raffle. Lenny successfully ran the raffle for several years and attendance at the meetings definitely increased.

In the early 2000s Lenny was also at Torrey one day when the full scale sailplanes were operating. He took a ride in a Blanik and then took another. These were short hops but he was hooked. He joined the Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California, becoming their webmaster and also winch driver for many years. He even autotowed gliders at Jacumba using his truck. He never did get a glider license but enjoyed flying with friends and the beauty of soaring from the inside of the plane rather than the outside. I had the pleasure of interviewing Lenny for this article. He wished to convey to the club that "If you have any thoughts of flying at all, RC gliders or full scale gliders, pursue it! It is so much fun. Pursue what you want to do."



Lenny working as winch master for the Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California



Typical winch launch operations at Torrey Pines for the full scale sailplanes.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Lenny retired from Rohr in 2010 and still lives in Chula Vista. He was flying RC regularly from about 2010-2015 but hasn't flown in a while due to other diversions. Perhaps we can coax him back to Encinitas or Poway sometime soon!



Parviz Kamiab (left) and Lenny Brzezinski (right) getting ready to winch a TD model at Encinitas.



Lenny (front) and Roman Wrosz soaring in a LET L-23 Blanik somewhere over Jacumba in the east county.

## 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); so horizontal format photos are preferred.

Email your photos (JPG format and original high-resolution version, please) to Dale Gottdank at [submit@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:submit@torreypinesgulls.org). Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description. Note: Photos submitted during November will be included in the 2023 Photo of the Month contest starting in January.

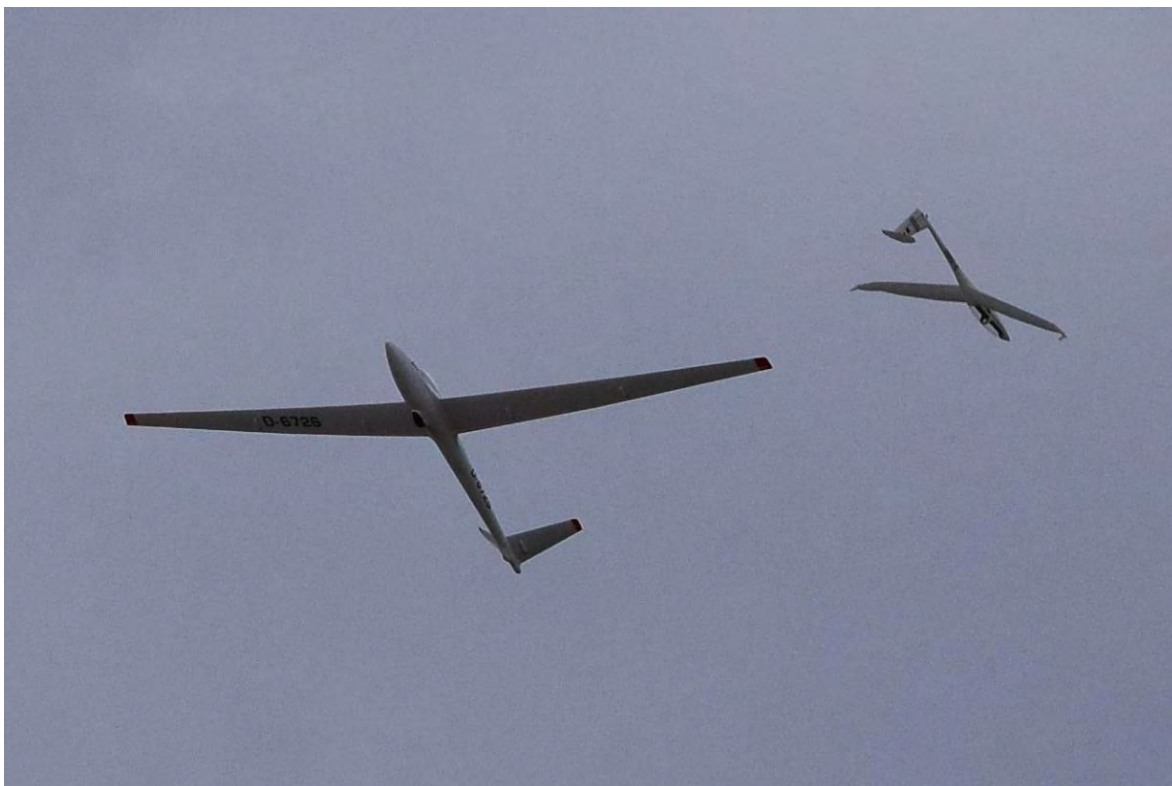


January Winner – Thomas Moller's Paritech DG-1000 at Palomar RC field (Steffen Peters screenshot)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



February Winner – George Clarke’s close flyby with his Ka-8 at Torrey (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Salto and DG-1000 sky ballet (Greg Houck photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Early arrival to the swap meet and not quite Fun Fly on an 85 degree February day (Walt Quitt photo)



From a stage production of DLGn' In the Rain



DG-1000 over Torrey (Greg Houck photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Steffen Peters' Valenta Model Salto (Thomas Moller photo)



March Co-Winner – George's Joe Cormier Racer heading out over Torrey (Greg Houck photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Co-Winner – Steffen Peters' Valenta Model Salto approaching over Torrey (Thomas Moller photo)



## Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Ian Cummings	<a href="mailto:president@torreypinesgulls.org">president@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Vice-President	Bob Hirsch	<a href="mailto:vp@torreypinesgulls.org">vp@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Past President	Craig Hanson	
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	<a href="mailto:secretary@torreypinesgulls.org">secretary@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	<a href="mailto:treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org">treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	<a href="mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org">communications@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Thermal Coordinator	Tom Watson	<a href="mailto:thermal@torreypinesgulls.org">thermal@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Slope Coordinator	Mark Baldacchino	<a href="mailto:slope@torreypinesgulls.org">slope@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
DLG Coordinator	Chuck Norris	<a href="mailto:dlg@torreypinesgulls.org">dlg@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	<a href="mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org">membership@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	<a href="mailto:mike@themapsmith.com">mike@themapsmith.com</a>
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TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Mark Baldacchino	<a href="mailto:soaringcouncil@torreypinesgulls.org">soaringcouncil@torreypinesgulls.org</a>

### Executive Officers



Ian Cummings



Bob Hirsch



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Tom Watson



Mark Baldacchino



Chuck Norris



Cliff Hunter



AND WANTED

### 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.

\$750.00 Ready to Fly – Contact Cliff Hunter (760) 703-4497 or [cfhunter@att.net](mailto:cfhunter@att.net)

### Yellow Jacket 3.6M Electric F5J and ALES

- Rudder/Elevator/Flaps
- Dualsky Motor
- 2 – Tattu Lipo pack – 1300mAH
- 34mm diameter turbo folding prop spinner
- Aeronaut 11 x 7 prop
- 2 – MKS 6110 servos for rudder and elevator
- 2 - KST Daviga DS213 servos
- Talon 35 speed controller
- Spektrum AR9300 receiver, ready to fly if you fly Spektrum DX9
- Altis altimeter V4+



See additional photo next page



AND WANTED





AND WANTED

Servos! – Contact Cliff Hunter (760) 703-4497 or [cfhunter@att.net](mailto:cfhunter@att.net)

- |        |  |           |
|--------|--|-----------|
| 2 New  | JR DS398 Digital wing servos             | \$40 each |
| 2 New  | JR DS378 Digital wing servos with frames | \$40 each |
| 2 New  | JR DS368 Digital servos                  | \$35 each |
| 7 used | JR DS378 Digital servos with frames      | \$40 each |
| 1 used | JR DS398 Digital servo                   | \$35      |





AND WANTED

Spektrum AR631 DSMX 6-Channel Receiver  
Brand new! Removed from Radian BNF (minus retail packaging)

Asking \$50.00 – local pickup  
Street Price: \$85.00

Contact Don Lochhead  
[treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org)





**Quote of the Month:**

*"All the calculations show it can't work. There's only one thing to do: make it work."*

*~ Pierre Georges Latécoère, early French aviation entrepreneur.*

