

2022  
T  
O  
G



# 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

## Message from the President

### Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Upcoming TPG Events
- 3 Announcing the Poway Invitational!!
- 4 Next TPG Virtual Club Meeting
- 5 Club Meetings, Contests and Activities  
Newsletter This Month
- 6 News from the Slope
- 8 September F5J Contest Report
- 12 September DLG Contest Report
- 15 LSF Report
- 17 TPG History – Modeler of the Year
- 20 Club Membership Update
- 22 Where We Fly – Panoramas
- 23 How We Compete
- 25 How We Connect – Google Groups
- 26 RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum
- 27 What do YOU think?  
TPG Facebook page
- 28 Club Officers and Contact Information
- 29 Photo of the Month Contest
- 37 For Sale/Wanted
- 45 Quote of the Month



Ian Cummings

TPG President Ian Cummings was out this month. He and his wife Ann have been on a 7-week camping journey to meet their new grandson in Bellingham, Washington. They took a leisurely route through Eastern Sierra, Central Oregon and Washington State; then back down Highway-1 along the west coast, visiting several national parks along the way.

RC soaring had to be put on hold, but it was a fair trade for the trip of a lifetime. Here's a shot Ian sent along during his vacation.



The Cummings' campsite in Big Sur

## TPG October/November Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
October 9	TD Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
October 15	DLG Contest Poway Invitational	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
October 22	Redman Rules Contest	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
October 25	Virtual Club Meeting <i>See announcement next page</i>	Zoom link: <a href="#">TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link</a>
November 5	F5J Foamy Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
November 13	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
November 19	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
November 26	No Shopping Saturday	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!



Thomas Moller's LET DG-1000

## Announcing the Second Annual Poway Invitational!

It's hard to believe that it's been half a year since the 2022 International Hand Launch Glider Festival (IHLGF). Poway is missing all of you! The Torrey Pines Gulls are pleased to announce a special one-day DLG event with fly-offs and trophies on October 15<sup>th</sup>, similar to what we did last year in the fall as the "Poway Invitational".



Pilots at last year's Poway Invitational (Bob Hirsch photo)

If you see this announcement, congratulations, you are invited to Poway!

Mengchen Li will be Contest Director. The pilots meeting will be at 8:45 am sharp, with the contest starting at 9:00 am. The full-day contest will have 8 rounds plus 3 flyoff rounds, hopefully ending around 5:00 pm. Last year's Invitational was a bit exhausting for pilots with 10 preliminary rounds and 4 flyoff rounds, so this year we've opted for fewer rounds and more fun. To that end, we're capping registration at a maximum of 30 pilots. Please register via F3XVault here: [https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event\\_view&event\\_id=2244](https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=2244) The contest will be AMA sanctioned, and all participants must have AMA membership in order to fly at Poway. Standard FAI F3K rules will apply, with the exception that preliminary round scores will carry over to the flyoffs (as is traditionally the case with IHLGF).

The cost of admission is \$15 for TPG members and \$20 for non-members. You may find this year's entry fee is cheaper than last year – how can that be, given inflation? Good question. In an effort to make things inexpensive and informal, we're going to add a lunch break with sufficient time for pilots to order their favorite food in advance, drive into Poway to use the bathroom, pick up food and return in time for afternoon rounds. Low cost, low key, max fun and good times with DLG friends. However, the admission will still include great thermals at Poway, drinks at the field, and our passion. In typical TPG tradition, a portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the USA F3K team. We'll have two pilot categories: Open and Sportsman, with awards to top finishers in open and first place in Sportsman class.

Following the contest, we plan on meeting up for dinner at Phil's BBQ in nearby Rancho Bernardo. Dinner is informal and not included in entry fee. For those from out of town who are interested in practicing/fun flying on Friday or Sunday at Poway, a TPG member is required to be onsite while you fly. We'll do our best to find some volunteers close to the field to be there if you want to make it more than a 1-day fiesta. We have friends driving a long distance, and we understand everyone wants to make the trip worthy of their expense and time.

Again, if you happen to see this, you are invited. It's the time for you to sign up! The link is: [https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event\\_view&event\\_id=2244](https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=2244)

See you in October,  
Team TPG

## Next TPG Virtual Club Meeting – October 25, 2022

TPGers, be sure to join us on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Pacific for our next virtual club meeting! Not only will we review events and things that the club is up to, but we'll hear a great lecture on **“The Fun of F3RES (FAI F3L)”** by Corky Miller and Larry Jolly, as well as continue our FREE raffle for a glider kit. This month's prize is a vintage *Dodgson Designs Todi* kit from the 1970s!

### “The Fun of F3RES (FAI F3L)”

Corky Miller and Larry Jolly will share some of their knowledge and experience about F3RES. The new FAI class “F3L” that utilizes 2 Meter - Light Weight - Bungee launch - RES gliders. They will provide a brief history and then discuss the contest format, model specifications, field setup; and why many say it is the most fun class for thermal soaring today. Larry has been involved with this class since near the very beginning and Corky owns Sonoran Laser Art, designer of Yellow Jacket gliders and has been producing kits for approximately 5 years. Both gentlemen are TPG members.



Corky Miller with his Yellow Jacket



Larry Jolly launching his F3RES plane



Raffle prize – Vintage Dodgson Todi



Todi kit contents

Hopefully, sometime we can get back to meeting in person, but until then, we're eager to generate a meeting place where members can chat, show and tell new products, ask questions, hear a great speaker and win a raffle prize.

In December, the annual holiday party will substitute for our virtual meeting and we're planning on getting together in person for that year-end occasion. The Zoom link for the meetings is: [TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link](#). Google Groups reminders will be sent to members prior to meetings.

## 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 currently 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...**and don't forget** our monthly raffle!

Our next meeting, will be Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speakers will be Larry Jolly and Corky Miller (Sonoran Laser Art – RC plane manufacturer) discussing F3 RES competition. Don't miss 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**

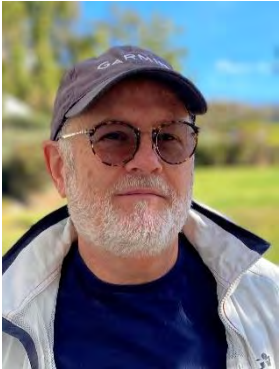
Send pictures, or maybe even an article! It could be just a paragraph with some photos from a great soaring day ...even something interesting you've seen on the internet. I'd like to have the newsletter published by the first week of every month. If there's a project you're working on, don't just post it on RCGroups...share it with your club!

October Issue highlights include:

- [Announcing the 2022 Poway Invitational!](#)
- [October 25<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting Preview](#)
- [2008 Co-Modeler of the Year Tom Minegar by Gary Fogel](#)
- **For Sale/Wanted...** Vixen 2 F5J and 3 DLGs for sale and some **FREE STUFF!**

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>.

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



Bob Hirsch for  
Mark Baldacchino



Steffen and Aaron enjoying some late afternoon air (Thomas Moller photo)

Fall is here and we can look forward to cooler temperatures and better wind.

Saturday October 22nd, we bring back Redman Rules! This will be an all-day event. It will include “Beer Can bowling” and a “Limbo Contest”. Additional games may be added like “Precision Landings”. Stay tuned for further updates.

In September we made some more headway with the Gliderport ACA management with regard to safety awareness.

We established a policy of who is responsible for what. If you find yourself having an issue with any of the PG pilots or instructors, please go to the ACA office or to an identified ACA flight director present at the launch/landing area. Direct interaction with PG pilots or instructors is to be avoided.

Simultaneously, we are working on establishing a system for TPG and TPSSS to have a safety officer present whenever possible for PG pilots and instructors to contact, should they have an issue with the RC pilots.

Stay tuned for details



Ray Pili about to launch his Espada (Bob Hirsch photo)



And off she goes! (Bob Hirsch photo)

## News from the Slope (continued)

### TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2022

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 slope!

Blue skies,

Bob Hirsch  
TPG Vice President



Ray Pili about to launch his Espada (Bob Hirsch screenshot)

## September F5J Contest Report – Mike Smith, CD

Well, we had a pretty small turnout this month at the Poway field. Kind of stands to reason though, with temperatures the week before hitting the 90s, with humidity imported from Florida, or New Orleans or Houston or something. It sure didn't feel like San Diego weather! 9 pilots entered and we cranked out a 3 by 3 draw and ran 5 rounds of F5J in some pretty challenging Poway thermal weather.

Round one group A made those pilots feel like it was going to be a cakewalk. Everyone got their times. and launches were as low as 57 meters. Group B walked out to the starting spots and launched at the buzzer with everyone thinking 'no way am I going over 100 meters', and no one did. Lowest launch was 70 meters, but we did start to see some lack of thermal support, with only one pilot making the time in that group.... turned out he launched the highest too. Hmm. Group C included Tom Kiesling, our fearless low launcher and uber far down wind flyer. If I recall correctly, he risked it and went for a low launch that, no matter how hard he tried, and he tried really hard, he just couldn't get that lift to break. He landed out and earned a zero score. Poway rearing its ugly head. Round 2 picked up where 1 left off and handed out some less than max flights to the guys in the first heat, but the rest of the round pilots found lift to keep them up for the 10-min. task. There was lots of carnage in round 3. Only two pilots made their times. Group C was won with a time of 5:39! Nice job Cliff Hunter!



Some launch action at the contest (Mike Smith photo)

Round 4 was better with only 3 pilots not getting their time, but there was an epic battle that took place in group B. I was in that group with Tom Kiesling and Tom Watson. Kiesling and I were bound and determined to win the round and we were not going to let the other get the



## September F5J Contest Report – (continued)

low launch; at least that's what I was thinking when I shut down early. Why is it then when the motor is running at idle and you are feeling strong lift right after launch, low to the ground; I mean it feels really good; the lift just vanishes when you shut the motor off to start the flight? Why does that happen? My lift suddenly felt very mushy and I looked for Tom. My timer/caller, the venerable Ben Clerx pointed me to Tom and said "He'll get out on that." That's all I needed to hear. I thought, if he's getting out, I am going with him, so off to Tom's air I went. It was a crowded little thermal that was bumping and vanishing; pushing east, but with a drift slightly northerly toward the trees like it does when you're low and you don't want to be flying over airplane eating trees. Tom would pop some lift and I would sag; then I'd pop and he would sag. There was one exchange of pops and sags that caused me to move over the field away from the trees, not because I knew the lift was there, just because I did know the trees were not there. To my delight, I hit a much better organized thermal and was finally able to climb. I made my way up while Tom was struggling among the tree-tops. Ultimately, I won that battle. I will take any I can get when head-to-head against Tom. He doesn't give up until there's nothing left to do but land softly and grab a water for the long walk. There is really nothing better than flying head-to-head against your buddies, testing your skill and luck to see who's turn it is for the 1,000 and who's turn it is to walk.





















Mike Smith photo

## September F5J Contest Report – (continued)

We closed out the contest with round 5, and that had groups A and C getting good maximizable thermals and me, Arthur and Don Van Gundy wondering what to do when the wind came up right after all the lift in Group A. The smart money was on Arthur or Don. They launched high; Arthur going to 126 meters and Don shooting for the moon at 145 meters. I, on the other hand, hit that damn bump down low, at idle and thought this is it, and shut down. Remember that I mentioned the wind was blowing. As soon as I killed the motor, I knew I had lost. But there was something there that was keeping me in the air so I kept trying to believe it was a thermal. I took that thing way down the field toward the eastern line of trees. I didn't care where the other guys were; heck they were probably surfing something way upwind just waiting for me to land. But then I saw Don enter my view from the north. Then Arthur showed up following in behind Don. They were a little higher but sinking fast. About that time, I started heading back home and I formed up with Don and Arty. Arty was sinking; Don was sinking and my glider was finding these little pockets of love...Don't ask me why. Don landed short, Arthur hit a 50 landing, and I came in 37 seconds later...and got a 40 landing. So, of course, I had to ask how high they launched.... LOL! I went 27 meters. Better to be lucky than good any day.

I ended up taking first place, with Cliff Hunter in second. Third place was captured by the F3J Junior World Champion, Sean Summers. Sean flew pretty well, especially when his model was listening to his transmitter. He was having quite a few range issues. We were able to figure out the issue, so he can get his radio installed better for next time.

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (11)				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	7 Mike Smith  	4000.00		1000	1000	<del>453.90</del>	1000	1000
2	3 Clifford Hunter  	3956.45	-43.55	956.45	1000	1000	1000	<del>0.00</del>
3	9 Sean Summers  	3867.12	-89.33	1000	977.22	<del>375.00</del>	984.54	905.36
4	10 Ron Rossetti  	3833.31	-33.81	953.99	879.32	<del>530.36</del>	1000	1000
5	4 Arthur Markiewicz  	3809.09	-24.22	1000	887.28	1000	921.81	<del>627.74</del>
6	8 Tom Kiesling  	3714.15	-94.94	<del>0.00</del>	973.11	1000	741.04	1000
7	6 Don van gundy  	3391.84	-322.31	786.71	924.87	889.88	790.38	<del>454.99</del>
8	1 Tom Watson  	3366.54	-25.30	782.34	1000	<del>483.26</del>	601.79	982.41
9	5 Dale Osborn  	2462.00	-904.54	1000	<del>171.95</del>	547.31	369.24	545.45

The unsung hero in this event and any events we run using F3XVault is our own Tim Traver. Tim is in Europe right now competing in the F3F World Championships, but he was there with us in spirit at this contest. I am familiar with the Vault in setting up and scoring a contest, but I have never run an event with Tim's timing app. I downloaded it Saturday night, went through the super quick and easy set up and contest download procedure and that was that. I did that same thing at the field using my cell phone hot-spot and we were off the races. It works flawlessly. We did not run a clock board, but the sound system and timing ran like a Swiss watch. Thank you so much for all your work on this system, Tim.

I also want to make sure that Don Lochhead is applauded here too. He built and manages the TPG radio sound system. He recently replaced the batteries in the radio boxes and they ran perfectly the whole event. Though we didn't use the clock board, kudos to Chuck Norris for persevering and getting the clock board up and running for future events. We F5J guys are certainly reaping the rewards from the F3K guys and their efforts to build contest support systems.

## September F5J Contest Report – (continued)

A few more photos from the event, below.

In other news my new Phoenix DF has flown and she's a keeper.

Cheers all. See you at the field

Mike Smith



My Phoenix DF (Mike Smith photo)



Mike Smith photo



Mike Smith photo



Mike Smith photo



Mike Smith photo

## September DLG Contest Report – Gary Fogel, CD

Despite the rather hectic summer schedules as they convert to fall, seven pilots showed up for the monthly DLG contest on September 17, 2022 at Poway. After several weeks of heat and humidity, it was nice to arrive at the field with overcast skies, cool temperatures and no wind. The contest started slightly late, due to some technical issues, but by 9:15am we were under way. With 7 contestants, we split the rounds into three groups of either 2 or 3 pilots. In the rare case where there was a single pilot in a round due to the draw, we shifted someone over to make it 2. This happened only once.

Round 1 was Task B – last two flights (3:00 max) in a 7-min window. Despite the overcast, the air was surprisingly buoyant, and three-min air was possible, but it seemed to disappear quickly. Nearly everyone managed to get at least one 3-min flight, those who got it first had to decide to keep it as it wasn't clear another 3-min ride would come around. Ron Rossetti won group A with a total of 4:47.5, Mengchen Li and Gary Fogel took groups B and C with 6 min each.

Round 2 was Task F – best three flights, six launches (3:00 max) in a 10-min window. Again the 3-min air hung around and there were times where the lift basically **didn't move for a while** given there was no surface wind. This meant launching and returning to the same lift repeatedly, but in some cases, you had to find the narrow rope at low levels that led up into the chimney of the thermal. Gary, Mengchen, and Justin Tolman managed to max their times, and all pilots made at least one 3-min flight, including newcomer Mike Ray, who very nearly got all three.



Pilots taking part in the monthly DLG contest at Poway (Gary Fogel photo)

## September DLG Contest Report – (continued)

Round 3 was Task H – 1,2,3,4-min flights in any order in a 10-min window. The air started to become more dynamic during this round as there were times when lift was hard to find, but there were also times when lift was plentiful. Fresh off a great performance in the F5J contest, Cliff Hunter worked his magic in group A and fell only 10 seconds behind Mengchen's total of 9:34.9. Gary Fogel got lucky on a first launch in the round and managed to hook up for a 4-min flight, and thereafter everyone seemed to struggle a bit in group B. By the time we got to group C, the lift was back and both Justin and Ron made >8-min totals.

Round 4 was Task E – Poker (2020) with a maximum of 3 pilot nominations. Who doesn't like poker when its timed precisely when conditions are the most dynamic? At the start of group A, it seemed that neither Justin, Cliff, nor Mike could find more than 1:30 air. Justin called a 2 for his second flight and managed to get it; his total of 3:30 exceeding Cliff's 3:00 for the round. Tough stuff. In group B, the lift returned and Mengchen put up a very nice 7:33.7 total. However, just as group C got started and the sun was clearing through the clouds, a giant dust devil formed east of the field; the type that takes dead leaves off the trees and carries them to the Moon. This thermal was drifting surprisingly quickly to the east, leaving much of the field in sink in its wake. Don Lochhead and Gary Fogel suffered through this, with 1-min and 2-min calls leading Gary to be pleased with a total of 6:02.7. Bleh.

Round 5 was Task A – last flight (5:00 max) in a 7-min window. By now the skies were generally cloudless, and it was a tight contest to see who would end up in first. Of 7 pilots, 5 made their 5-min flight, which was very good! Mike Ray had an epic flight. soaring for the first three minutes of his flight between 50-100 feet over one of the trees. Finally, the thermal broke loose and the last two minutes of the flight was far more relaxed...great flying Mike!

The 3-group approach per round leaves many pilots pleased with 1000 points. It also has a way of making the scoring tighter at the top. In the end, Mengchen and Gary tied for first, while Justin Tolman placed third by just 195 points. Everyone had a fun day and we enjoyed some Rubio's fish tacos afterward for lunch. Thanks to Chuck and Don for their support with equipment and thanks to Cliff and Sandy for making the field look so super!



Cliff Hunter timing for Ron Rossetti. The smiles say they are having fun! (Gary Fogel photo)

# September DLG Contest Report – (continued)

Come join us in October, we hope to have a really nice contest and already have two folks signed up from Arizona.



Justin Tolman timing for Menchen Li (Gary Fogel photo)



Mike Ray timing for Don Lochhead. They look serious, it's a battle! (Gary Fogel photo)



(Left to right) Justin Tolman (Snipe), Menchen Li (BAMF2), Gary Fogel (CX5) in a post contest photo.

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No I				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	<b>4</b> Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	5000.00		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	<b>5</b> Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇨🇳	5000.00		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
3	<b>6</b> Justin Tolman 🇺🇸 🇨🇳	4804.72	-195.28	804.72	1000	1000	1000	1000
4	<b>8</b> Ron Rossetti 🇺🇸 🇨🇳	4653.75	-150.97	1000	1000	910.53	743.22	1000
5	<b>9</b> Mike Ray	3620.80	-1032.95	623.06	887.04	682.13	428.57	1000
6	<b>3</b> Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇨🇳	3339.08	-281.72	841.74	657.59	982.61	857.14	0.00
7	<b>7</b> Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇨🇳	3161.94	-177.14	528.00	641.85	694.46	537.63	760.00
8	<b>1</b> John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇨🇳	0.00	-3161.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Luke Skywalker 🇺🇸 🇨🇳	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

# 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 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, 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)



## TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Tom Minegar, 2008 Co-Modeler of the Year



Tom Minegar grew up in Orange County in the late 1950s and 1960s in a time when the area was still very rural and filled with citrus groves. A neighbor who owned a large orchard also owned private aircraft including a helicopter and Beechcraft twin. That same neighbor routinely offered to take Tom and his brothers up for rides. The rides led to interest in u-control, and Tom went through a series of Cox 0.49 u-control models that lasted only one circle. But it was still fun.

While in high school, Tom met his future wife Debi, and after high school he attended Cal State Long Beach, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1973. This was unfortunately also at the same time as the Vietnam War but Tom wasn't drafted and managed to see the end of the war stateside. For a time, he considered becoming an attorney, but realized after getting accepted to Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount Universities that law wasn't for him. Instead, he recognized that while accounting was nice, in order to get into top managerial positions, a CFO would be the way to do it. This led to a master's degree in accounting from Cal State Fullerton.

Tom and Debi were now married and living in Orange County, while started to raise a family. When Tom's son Tyler was 10, Tom bought a Cox 0.49 u-control for Tyler and they got it to fly...even more than one circle. Tyler decided to try a solo for the first time and the model began to porpoise on the line and then made a crazy uncontrolled flyover and well; that was the end of Tyler's interest in u-control. By the time Tyler was 12, he dragged tom into Frank's



## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Hobby Shop in Orange, California, with an interest in getting a powered RC model. Tyler said, “Dad we can do this for \$150 and I have \$125. All you have to do is put in \$25.” And thus began a journey that was definitely more expensive than \$25 but more rewarding than either imagined at the time.

As Orange County grew, the Minegars decided to move to Carlsbad in north county San Diego. They moved again once to another home in Carlsbad, where they have lived for the last 20 years. By 1994, Tom and Tyler began flying with the Palomar RC Flyers club at their field near Del Mar off Via de la Valle. Learning to fly with the club, everyone was welcoming and happy to have young and enthusiastic members. Tyler especially took to the club and its membership. Throughout junior high school and high school, Tom and Tyler kept flying RC with the Palomar club, with great discussions and father-son opportunity. They were interested in all types of RC flying.

One day, they decided to check out the RC activity at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. There they saw a variety of planes, including a special scale plane built by master craftsman Sal Peluso. Sal was a member of the Torrey Pines Gulls and also the Torrey Pines Scale Soaring Society.

His model included a small pilot in the cockpit whose head would turn along with the rudder. Tom tried to figure out how this was possible. Where is such a small servo under the pilot? Tyler figured it out quickly. “The servo is in his butt dad.” Some quotes are timeless. The Minegars joined the Gulls and began flying at Torrey as well as with the Palomar RC Flyers.



Tom Minegar about to catch his obedient Aquila on the sand at Dave's Beach.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

At about this same time, Tom's friend Parviz Kaimab became involved with the TPG and volunteered to be club president. Given Tom's knowledge of accounting, Parviz asked Tom to consider also serving on the board, which Tom did as secretary and also later as treasurer. And also, about this same time, Cliff Hunter, Keith Finkenbiner and others were searching for a new thermal field for the club. A first try at the San Marcos Landfill didn't pan out, but when the County offered the Encinitas Landfill, the team of Cliff, Keith, and Tom Minegar didn't waste any time. Because of their efforts to secure the field for the club all three were given Modeler of the Year Awards in 2008.

While Tom enjoyed flying at Torrey and also occasionally at Dave's Beach in Carlsbad, when Tyler graduated and went off to college, Tom had additional free time and got more into aerotowing, mainly with friends at the Palomar RC Flyers club. This included scratch building a scaled up "Cloud King" along with John Cutler and using that as a tow plane. The plane still gives many fun tows.

Tom and Debi recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and their son Tyler is now a Vice President of a local drone company. For many years, Tom operated three businesses, a Farmers Insurance agency, an independent insurance agency, and a financial advisory business. While still enjoying time working, he has more free time to also enjoy RC at present, flying mainly with the Palomar RC Flyers in north county.



Tom Minegar with the very large scaled up Cloud King towplane at the Palomar RC Flyers field near Pala

## Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

**Welcome** the following five new and renewed members of the Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society.

**New**-Dmitri Redlin, Milan Bergman, Ramin Farsad MD, and David Roberts.

**Renewed**- Doug Cronkhite

**Renewals Update:** TPG Membership renewal period will begin November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, for calendar year 2023.

Membership Activity Summary as of September 15, 2022

The table below is a summary of new, renewed and lifetime members (3) 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. 3 lifetime)	136			
New and Renewal Members for 2022		32	94	126
Google Group Members*	134		NA	144

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

### Membership Processing

Please use the link below when joining as a new member or renewing an existing membership. Fill out the registration form completely and pay using PayPal, credit card or check. Current members will receive a renewal notice using the TPG Google Group email process. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an individual email.

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

All new and renewing members will receive a membership card and key (if requested, for Encinitas and Poway). The key provides access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites. Members who fly at the Torrey Pines Gliderport and are Gliderport rated will receive a club lanyard from a club representative at the Gliderport. Members must wear the lanyard with the membership card attached when flying at the Gliderport, for safety reasons. Remember, you must have a current AMA membership to join TPG. To join AMA, follow this link: <https://join.modelaircraft.org/torreypinesgulls/>

Please contact me at: [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)

### Annual Membership

TPG's membership period is January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Renewals begin November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Club 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
- Work Credit You will receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues; \$10 per each half-day working at any TPG flying field. When filling out your registration form, there is a place to input your hours/credit.

New members joining in the first six months of the year pay the full rate. Those joining in July through September pay half the applicable rate. If you are a new member joining in October through December, you pay the full rate, but your membership is considered paid through the end of the following year.

You can get more detailed information regarding your yearly membership benefits by using the following link: [Torrey Pines Gulls Membership Guide](#), which will provide answers to many of your questions regarding Torrey Pines Gulls activities. Also review the TPG Club Bylaws for more information at: [Club Bylaws](#)

Cliff Hunter

Membership Chairman

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

760-703-4497 cell

### Sample Membership Card



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

## Where We Fly – Panoramas – Ian Cummings

Here are Ian Cummings' immersive panoramas of our world class flying sites; the world famous Torrey Pines Gliderport, Poway Flight Center, where each year the club sponsors the IHLGF (International Hand Launch Glider Festival) and the Encinitas Flight Center. Clicking on the pictures takes you to our sites:

Click on this photo to visit the Torrey Pines Gliderport.



Click on this photo to visit the TPG Poway Flight Center.



Click on this photo to visit the TPG Encinitas Flight Center.



## How We Compete

### Thermal Duration / F5J Contest Series

---



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

---



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.](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)

## How We Compete (continued)

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

---



Don Lochhead

November 5<sup>th</sup> marks the fourth and final event for the year. We started out calling this a foamy event because the Night Radian was (and continues to be) the most popular plane to fly. However, as the year progressed, we have been simply calling it a F5J Fun Fly because any glider under 2 meters that can be flown to the F5J rules as we apply them at Poway is welcome. In fact, our February event was won by Corky Miller flying his Yellow Jacket.

We configure the field with landing tapes and the sound system to get as close to full-up F5J flying as possible. To maximize everyone's time flying we reduce the flight window to 7 minutes.

If you have been thinking about getting into F5J, but weren't sure where to start, this is the event for you. Night Radians are not only affordable but also fly surprisingly well. In fact, they have even been known to be spotted at our regular F5J monthly contests.

Pilots meeting is at 8:45 with first up at 9 am. We typically fly five rounds of a 3-heat format finishing up by noon. The event is free to TPG members and \$5 for guests. We do ask everyone to pre-register on the F3X Vault so we know how many pilots to expect and can run the matrix ahead of time.

[https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event\\_view&event\\_id=2335](https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=2335))

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.

See you on November 5<sup>th</sup>!





## How We Connect – Google Groups

# 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!

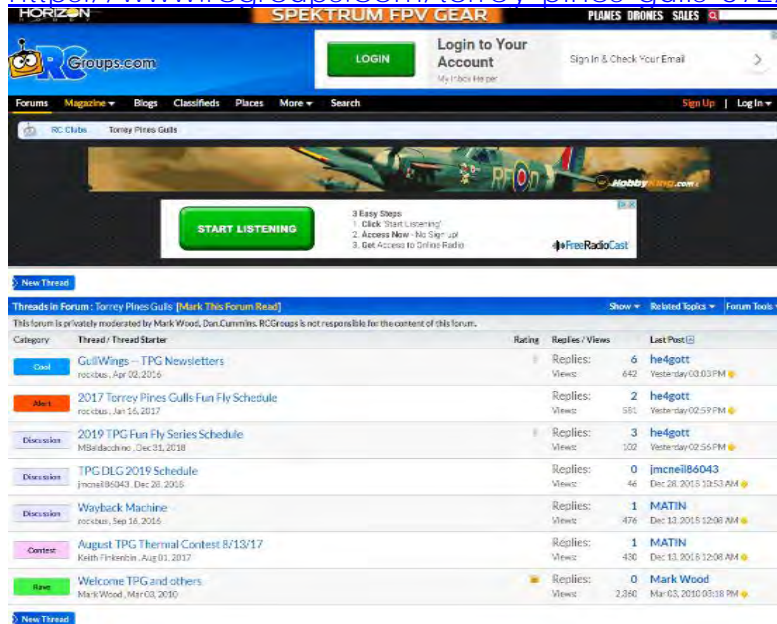
## RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

# 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
Cool	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: 561	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule M8elbocline, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 202	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 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 Finbech, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
New	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,240	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?

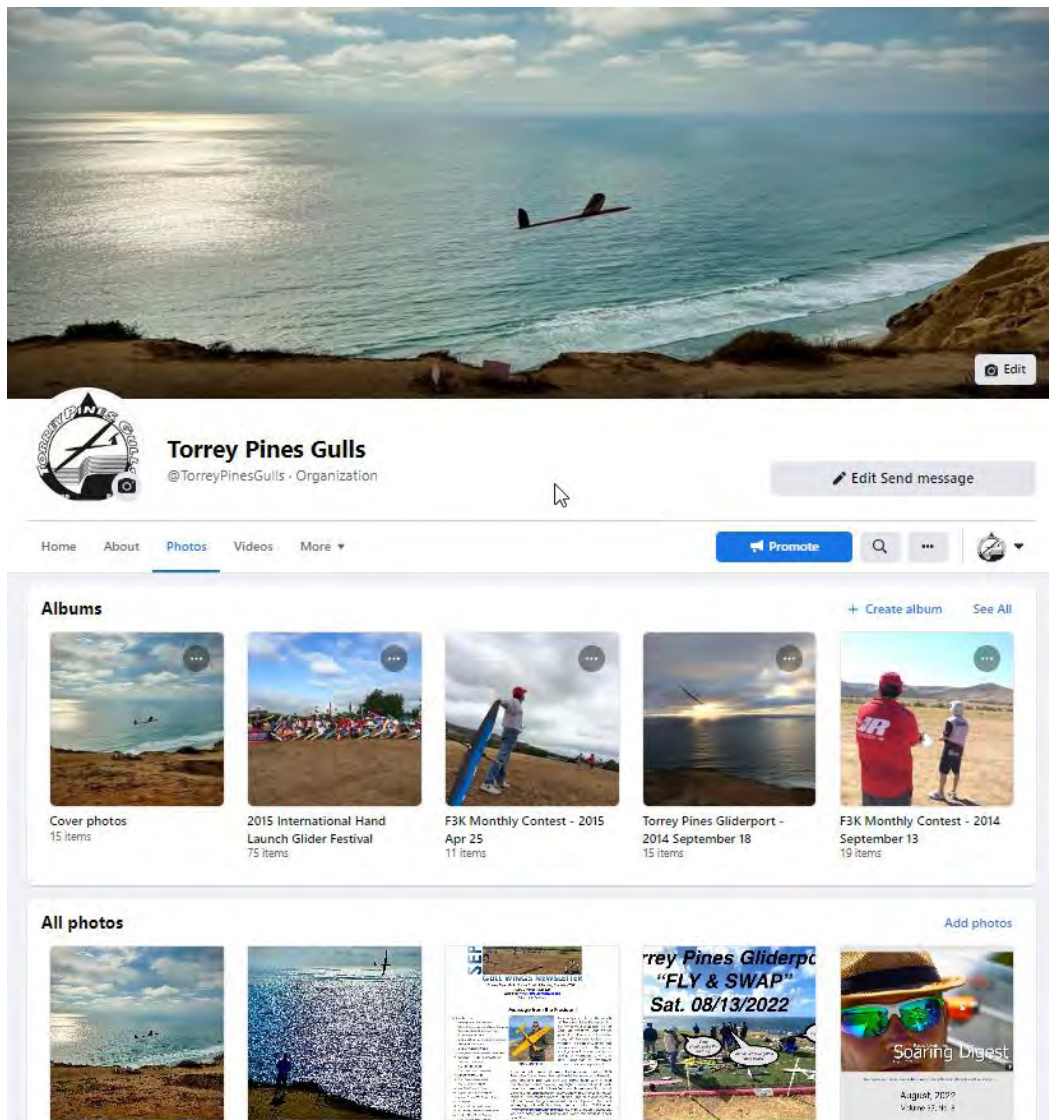
You can express your opinion at: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

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 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>
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:lsf@torreypinesgulls.org">lsf@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	<a href="mailto:web@torreypinesgulls.org">web@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Historian	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:historian@torreypinesgulls.org">historian@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
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

## 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)

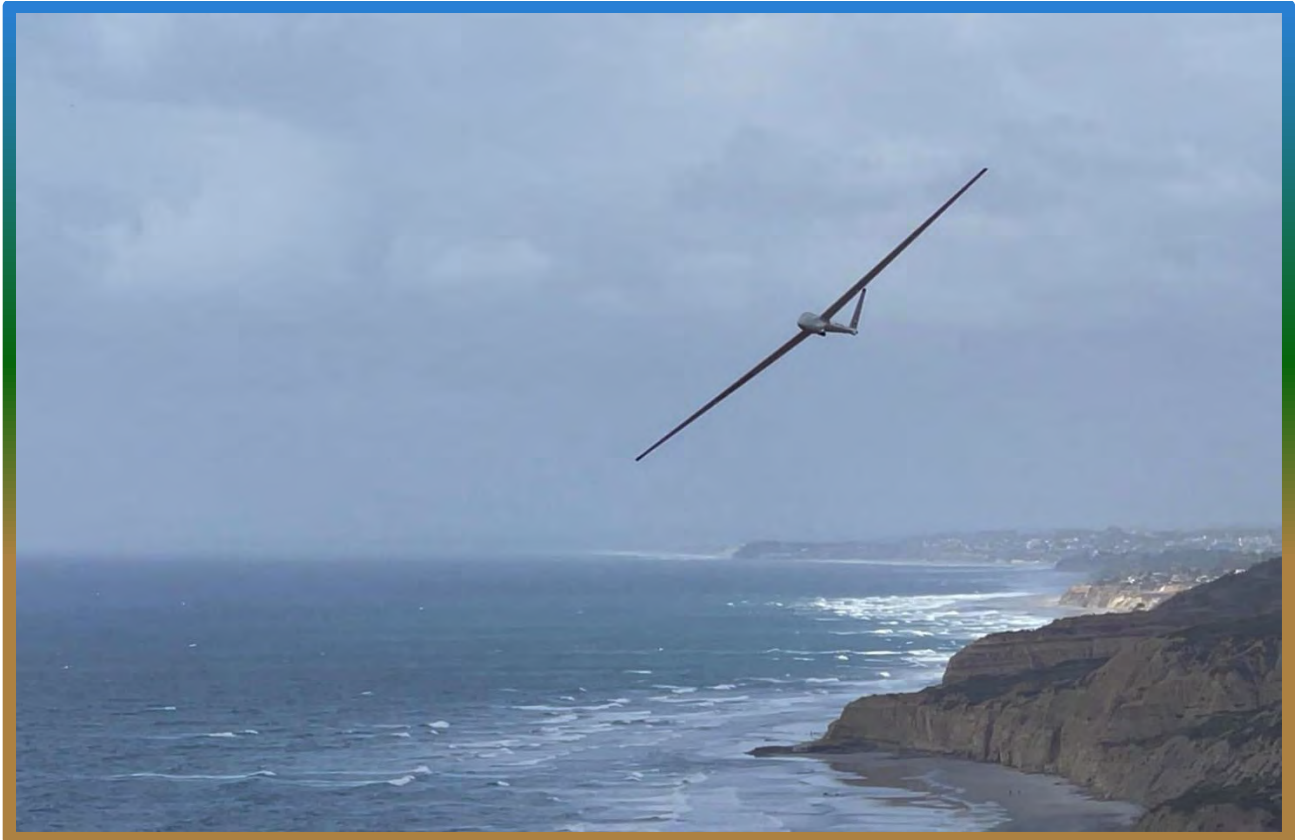


February Winner – George Clarke's close flyby with his Ka-8 at Torrey (Mark Baldacchino photo)



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 over Torrey (Thomas Moller photo)



April Co-Winner – Merrill Brady's Slingsby Tutor over Torrey (Gary Fogel photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



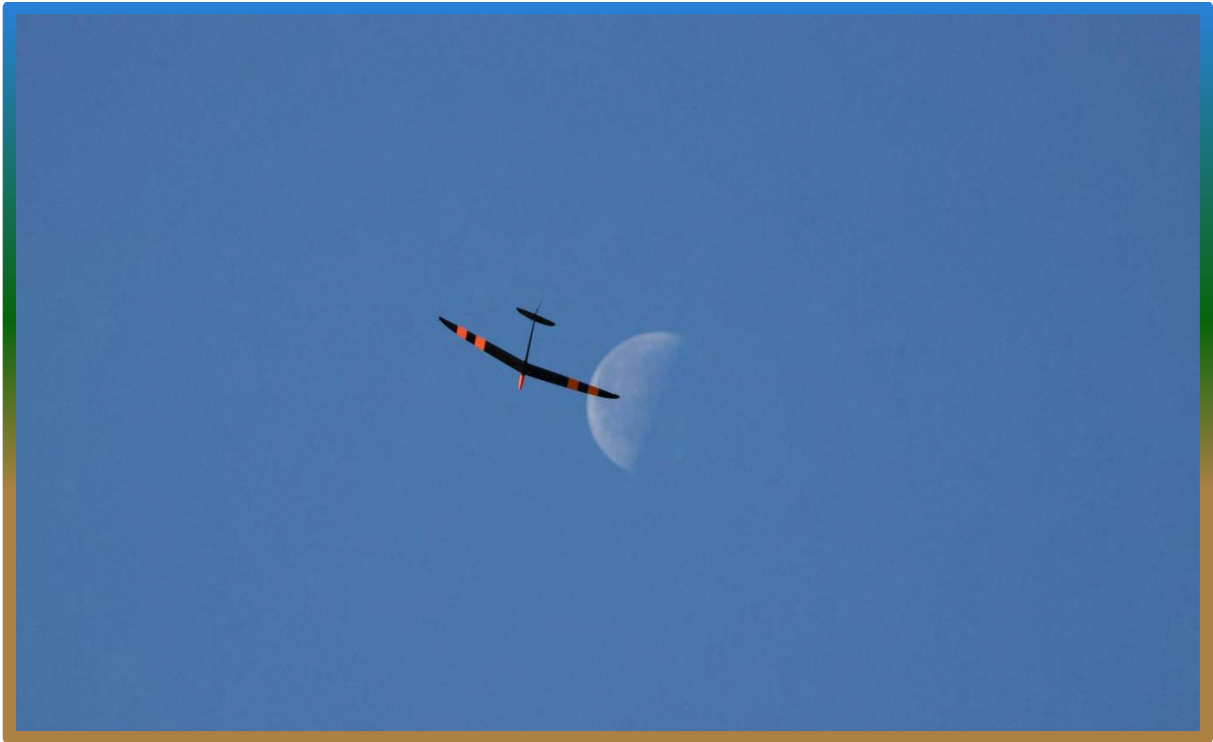
April Co-Winner – Gary Fogel's Schweizer TG-3 after launch by Greg Schibler (Mark Baldacchino photo)



May Co-Winner – DG-1000's, Steffen Peters and Aaron Wallace at Visalia (Thomas Moller photo)



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co-Winner – Another shot of Walther's CX5 from IHLGF pilot Paul Reese of Shoreline, WA

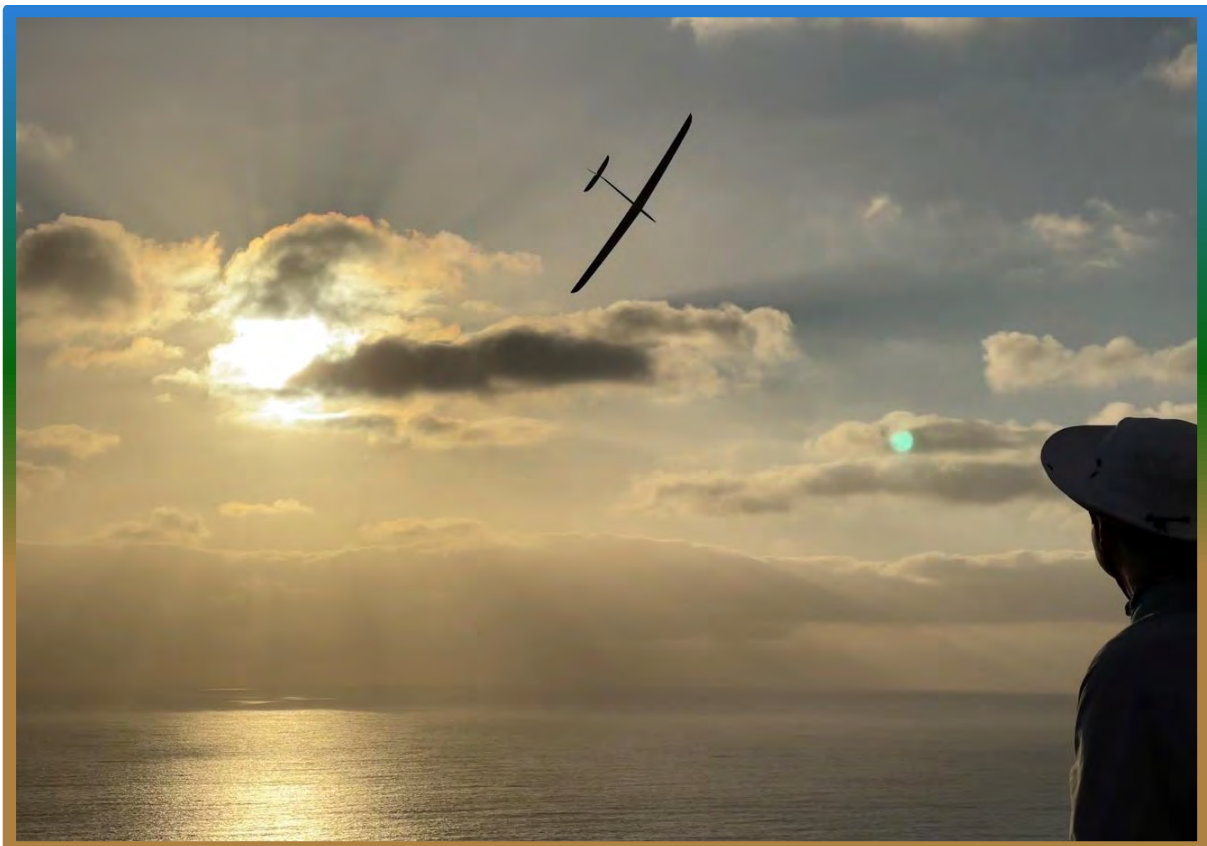


June Winner – May 15<sup>th</sup> blood moon eclipse (Burt Crismore photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Summer Winner – Tom Ramirez (TRISME on RCGroups) launches Matin Taraz's Hellcat at Cajon Pass (Greg Houck photo)



September Co-Winner – Marty Dine with his Espada shortly before sunset at Torrey (Scott Basehore photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



September Co-Winner – Marty Zimmerman with his modified Ventus-c2 in late afternoon (Marty Dine photo)



Steffen and Aaron doing a flyby (Thomas Moller photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Steffen Peters' LET DG-1000 (Steffen Peters/Thomas Moller screenshot)



October Winner – Ray Pili launching his Espada (Bob Hirsch screenshot)



AND WANTED

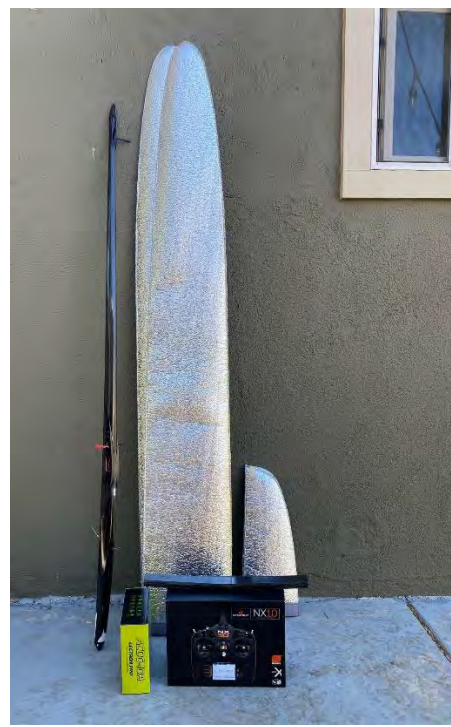
### TPG Classified Ads Policy

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.

#### Vixen 2 F5J – V-tail

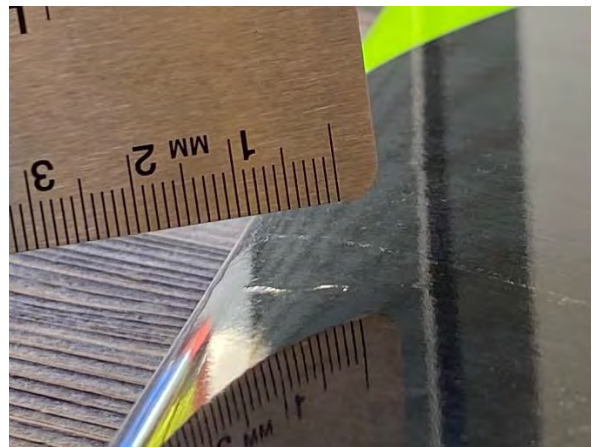
- Ready to fly
- Spektrum NX10 transmitter and 8010 receiver
- MKS 6100 servos
- Neu motor and Castle speed control
- Pristine build!
- Over \$3,200 invested
- Asking \$2,700 for the whole package (might consider parting it out)

Contact Patrick Dionisio at [bpdionisio@san.rr.com](mailto:bpdionisio@san.rr.com)





AND WANTED





AND WANTED

The following items are **FREE** – contact Cliff Hunter 760-703-4497 (cell)

CLAMPS – FREE





AND WANTED

The following items are **FREE** – contact Cliff Hunter 760-703-4497 (cell)

ROUTER TABLE & ROUTER/CRAFTSMAN ROUTER BITS FOR USE WITH ROUTER – FREE







AND WANTED

The following items are **FREE** – contact Cliff Hunter 760-703-4497 (cell)

BALSA AND PLYWOOD – VARIOUS SIZES - FREE





AND WANTED

### Fireblade DLG

KST X08 servos in fuselage. Wing servos were molded in by the builder in Poland, not sure of the type. This was the first Fireblade to fly in the US. No major crashes. All up weight 247gm. Set up for lefty throw. No ballast included. 6-channel JR receiver and 750 milliamp 1s battery included. Shipping not included.

\$350.

John: [drjwo@yahoo.com](mailto:drjwo@yahoo.com)





AND WANTED

### Snipe (Gen 1)

All servos KST. No major crashes, minor rash on the nose cone and leading edge of the wing from weeds. No ballast included. All up weight 229gm. Set up for lefty throw. No ballast included. 6-channel JR receiver and 750 milliamp 1s battery included. Shipping not included.

\$350.

John: [drjwo@yahoo.com](mailto:drjwo@yahoo.com)





AND WANTED

## Flitz

Light, excellent, Flitz with builder mistake on the name on the wing – it's a Ztilf! KST X08s throughout, a couple of minor weed dings on the leading edge, other than that its great. All up weight 247 gm. Set up for lefty throw. No ballast included. 6-channel JR receiver and 750 milliamp 1s battery included. Shipping not included.

\$550.

John: [drjwo@yahoo.com](mailto:drjwo@yahoo.com)





**Quote of the Month:**

***“I’ll get you, my pretty, and your little dog too!”***

*~ The Wicked Witch of the West, “The Wizard of Oz”*



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)