

2023  
JAN



# 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

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Chuck Norris

Hi everyone! I am excited and a bit intimidated to be representing this fine club as president for 2023! I have huge shoes to fill, and I'll do my best to live up to the high standards set by previous presidents. We start the new year with the club in a very healthy place. Membership looks good, and the club leadership is a very experienced, hard-working team.

One goal I have for 2023 is to attract new members to the hobby and to the club. The new F3L (F3 RES) series is already showing some good participation, even before our new competition series has launched. I plan to participate as well. My first ever RC sailplane was a Gentle Lady, and I'm very much looking forward to flying a 2-meter built-up plane again. If any of you have 2-meter balsa planes still in your hangar, come out and join us for fun and/or competition! The limits on construction and materials promise to make F3L a low-cost way to participate in our fine hobby, allowing new pilots to join in without having to invest a lot of money.

Also, F3K, TD and F5J are often fascinating to spectators, but once they hear how much these birds cost new, potential new pilots turn to thinking "maybe someday" instead of "let's get started!". I'd like to encourage our experienced pilots to consider passing along their older planes to new pilots at price points that are a little more approachable for someone with interest, but isn't ready to invest in a brand-new aircraft.

## Message from the President (continued)

And this is true for all flying disciplines. We each have our own ideas about what kind of flying is most interesting. Consider passing along your enthusiasm to a new pilot! If you're a sloper, TD pilot, triangle racer or cross-country enthusiast, consider if you have something in your hangar you might be willing to pass along to a new pilot, along with help repairing, setting up, and potentially teaching new pilots how to fly. I personally have several planes in my hangar that I'm planning to get flying and then pass along at a modest cost.

I'm very proud to be a part of this great organization and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do in 2023!

Happy New year, Everyone!

Chuck



Brad Lang's Super Hawk over Torrey (Aaron Wallace photo)

## TPG January/February Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	January Kickoff Fun Fly – Bring What You Have!	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fly & Swap - A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	TD Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	F3L (F3RES) Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Virtual Club Meeting	Zoom link: <a href="#">TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link</a>



George's Strega flyby (Marty Dine photo)

## 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 last meeting was the Annual Holiday Party at AleSmith Brewing Company. Check out the recap on the following pages.

Our next club meeting, which will be a virtual meeting on Zoom, is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We're working on bringing you another year of great presentations and some cool raffle prizes.

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!

January Issue highlights include:

- [Holiday Party Recap – page 5](#)
- [2011 Modeler of the Mark Wood by Gary Fogel – page 16](#)
- [New F3L/F3-RES Contest Series – page 25](#)
- [Photo of the Month Contest – page 34](#)

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>.

## Holiday Party Recap – Dale Gottdank

Happily, this year's Holiday Party happened AFTER the stormy weather had passed through San Diego (kind of like last year) and we had about 30 TPG members, family and friends attending. We were treated to delicious ribs, chicken, potato salad and baked beans from Phil's BBQ, provided by TPG, along with excellent brews from AleSmith's extensive menu. I enjoyed their Pale Ale .394; named in honor of Tony Gwynn's career high batting average achieved in 1994. Anyway, back to the party... Outgoing TPG president, Ian Cummings assembled photos and videos from the past year into a slideshow we enjoyed on the big-screen TV in the private party room.



Dale Gottdank photo



Dale Gottdank photo



Dale Gottdank photo



Dale Gottdank photo

## Holiday Party Recap (continued)

Cookies for dessert, some more brew and lots of glider talk, and it was time to get down to business: Electing a slate of Executive Council officers for 2023; awarding of prizes for the 2022 Contest Series and Modeler of the Year Award.

Officers for 2023 are:

President:	Chuck Norris	Thermal Coordinator:	Tom Watson
Vice President:	Gary Fogel	Slope Coordinator:	Mark Baldacchino
Secretary:	Dale Gottdank	DLG Coordinator:	Justin Tolman
Treasurer:	Don Lochhead	Membership Chairman	Cliff Hunter
Communications:	Dale Gottdank		

This year, the competition awards were DLG Open Class, TD, F5J and Combined TD & F5J Open Class. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place plaques were awarded for each. Thanks to TPG Vice-President Bob Hirsch for coordinating all the award plaques. Award winners are listed below.

CONTEST FORMAT	CLASS	1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE	2 <sup>ND</sup> PLACE	3 <sup>RD</sup> PLACE
TD	OPEN	Mike Smith	Tom Watson	Arthur Markiewicz
F5J	OPEN	Mike Smith	Arthur Markiewicz	Tom Watson
COMBINED TD & F5J	OPEN	Mike Smith	Arthur Markiewicz	Tom Watson
DLG	OPEN	Gary Fogel	Mengchen Li	Ron Rosetti

## 2022 TPG MODELER OF THE YEAR – MARK BALDACCHINO

This year's TPG Modeler of the Year Award goes to Mark Baldacchino. Mark has been serving as TPG's Slope Coordinator since January 2019. In addition to providing his monthly "News from the Slope" report for the newsletter, he's been able to build on our traditional Gliderport events by expanding the program into a variety of monthly Fun Flies. Working with the Gliderport concessionaire and the Torrey Pines Soaring Council, he's helped maintain good relations between the RC and paragliding communities; and coordinate the Katie Martin International Tribute Fly-In. Congratulations and thanks, Mark!



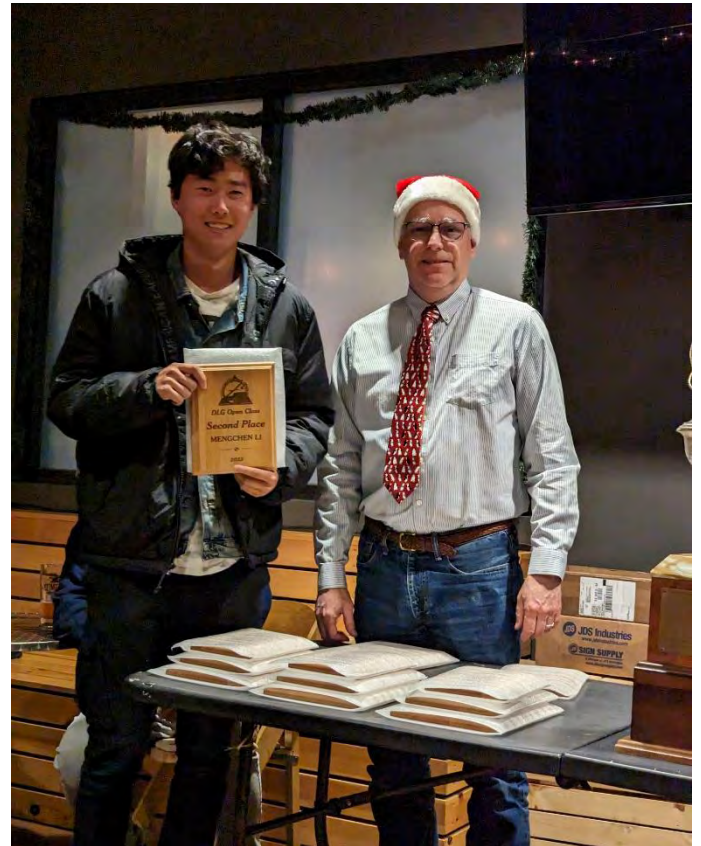
TPG president Ian Cummings (right) presenting the Modeler of the Year award to Mark (left). Mark's wife, Patty and VP Bob Hirsch at center (Dale Gottdank photo)

## Holiday Party Recap (continued)

Below are a few photos of the winning pilots who were present at the Holiday Party. Congratulations, guys!



Mark Baldacchino, TPG 2022 Modeler of the Year (Dale Gottdank photo)



Mengchen Li, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place DLG, with DLG Coordinator Chuck Norris. Excellent! (Dale Gottdank photo)



Mark's name added to the trophy plaque (Dale Gottdank photo)

## Holiday Party Recap (continued)



Mike Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Place in TD, F5J and Combined TD/F5J. Congrats Mike! Cliff Hunter at right (Dale Gottdank photo)



Arthur Markiewicz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in TD; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in F5J and Combined F5J/TD. Nicely Done! (Dale Gottdank photo)



Mengchen Li, won the raffle prize – a vintage Dodgson Todi kit (Dale Gottdank photo)



1983 Modeler of the Year, Angelo Orona talking about the "old days" at Torrey (Dale Gottdank photo)



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



Bob Hirsch for  
Mark Baldacchino

Another year at the Torrey Pines Gliderport has passed, ending with an improving relationship with most (we're still working on it) of the paraglider flight directors and instructors. Plus, getting into the habit of having a spotter when we fly has helped reduce the number of close calls with paragliders. Let's keep it up as we enter the New Year!

Some things to remember for January. Don't forget to re-up your waiver at the Gliderport. They've streamlined the process, so it doesn't take very long; and it's all done on your phone. Also, the club's first event of the year happens on Saturday Jan. 7th. It's a Fun Fly..." Bring what you have," or as I like to say, "Fling what you bring."

Most importantly, we all hope to see our official Slope Coordinator, Mark Baldacchino, back at the slope starting sometime this month. Mark has endured most of 2022 going through multiple eye surgeries and months of healing. Looking forward to a full recovery!

I'd like to share some random photos I took at the Gliderport during 2022; some new members, new builds about to be maiden, the Katie Martin International Tribute Fly-In, etc.

It was my pleasure to fill in for Mark and as a result, get to know more members in 2022.

Here's to a happy and healthy New Year of flying at Torrey!



# News from the Slope (continued)



# News from the Slope (continued)



# News from the Slope (continued)



# News from the Slope (continued)



## News from the Slope (continued)



## News from the Slope (continued)

Here's our schedule of fun fly events for 2023. We hope to see you at the slope this year!

### TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2023

January 7 <sup>th</sup>	2023 Kickoff Event – Bring what you have.
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fly 'n Swap – A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Ka-8's, Radians...If it's foam, this is your day!
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Katie Martin International Tribute. A Bob Martin event for mostly Hobie Hawks: <a href="#">RCGroups</a>
June 10 <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 8 <sup>th</sup>	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PWF...Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies Again! – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
October 21 <sup>st</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 25 <sup>th</sup>	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

That's all for this month, see you all in the air and please fly safe!

Blue skies,

Bob Hirsch

## TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Mark Wood, 2011 Co-Modeler of the Year



2011's Modeler of the Year trophy was shared by three club members, Don Lochhead, Mark Wood and Mark Canfield. We've already covered Don Lochhead, 2009 Modeler of the Year in the November 2022 issue of Gull Wings. This month, I'll focus on Mark Wood and next, on Mark Canfield.

Mark Wood was interested in airplanes at an early age. Growing up near El Monte, California he used to ride his bike to watch airplanes at the local airport. He made some early attempts at building stick and glue model aircraft at age 15 but most of these would be toasted shortly after they left the building board. After high school, Mark enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the USS Kitty Hawk between 1973-1977 and learned the skills of an electrician. The Kitty Hawk was as stationed at North Island, San Diego and he enjoyed his service on board the second aircraft carrier named after the location made famous by the Wright Brothers.

After leaving the Navy, Mark worked as an electrician in Navy shipyards, mainly in the state of Washington. It was there, in one of the shipyard shops that he overheard someone talking about a new generation of model airplanes – those made of an indestructible type of foam. He was seriously intrigued and went to the local hobby shop to buy his first RC plane, a Multiplex Teddy. This was in about 1992. The Teddy was a basic beginner's model with a pusher prop set behind the wing operating on a Speed 400 brushed motor and plastic prop. It wasn't very efficient, but it was the gateway drug that hooked Mark. Soon after Mark learned of powered foam flying wings offered by Zagi.



- 2001 JERRY CRAFT  
IAN HIRSCHSOHN
- 2002 TPG SLOPE NEGOTIATING  
COMMITTEE
- 2003 LENNY BRZEZINSKI
- 2004 JOHN DAVIES
- 2006 PARVIZ KAMIAB
- 2007 DREW ARNETT
- 2008 KEITH FINKENBINER  
CLIFF HUNTER  
TOM MINEGAR
- 2009 DON LOCHHEAD
- 2010 JOHN BRUNER
- 2011 DON LOCHHEAD  
MARK WOOD  
MARK CANFIELD



## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

These too used Speed 400 motors in a pusher configuration and Mark and his friends enjoyed zooming around the field at Port Orchard Airport with Zagis, Razors, and other flying wings, destroying several in the process. Flights were generally quite short due to the small batteries, but improved larger motors meant additional thrust and speed requiring even larger battery packs. Mark found a nice battery pack from the RC car industry made of AA cells, folded it in half and put that in the Zagi. With that pack and an improved motor, he was able to stay up for 15 minutes at a time, making his friends rather jealous. At the time, he was interested mainly in speed and aerobatics. The planes survived long enough until the foam in the center of the wing became "soft" after a sufficient number of hard landings and crashes. In this condition, a really super-fast flying wing when stressed at high speed would enter flutter, leading to an eventual ejection of the battery, and spectacular disintegration. If the plane is going to end up in the trash can, it might as well go out in style!

In about 1998, Mark was sent from the shipyard in Washington State back to North Island in San Diego to serve as an electrical supervisor on some new facilities at the base. It was during this time that he discovered the Dymond Modelsports hobby store in Kearny Mesa and its host of other aircraft offered for sale. Helmut and his wife ran a very "European" hobby store where it was possible to buy imported kits but also parts for many different aircraft. Mark purchased a 60" wingspan electric sailplane, first outfitted with a Speed 400 but then upgraded to a brushless motor with faster and faster speeds. While Mark was aware of model clubs in San Diego it wasn't long before he travelled back up to Washington State to continue with his regular line of work, taking the electric sailplane with him. Flying one day from the shoreline at Long Beach, Washington, he realized that as he neared the cliff nearby, he could throttle back and ridge soar. Free lift! This was cool. A bald eagle came from nowhere and joined him, wingtip to wingtip in paired soaring flight, with people on the beach commenting how cool it was. After this, Mark was now a soaring addict.



With NCFM (North County Flying Machines) Halfpipe at Dave's Beach, 2005

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Western Washington state has some slopes near the ocean; however, many are covered with trees. Working a day job as an electrician for a nearby retirement home, he noticed that the home had a clearing so that the view of the ocean could be enjoyed. From here he enjoyed ridge soaring on occasion; and also at the west end of the Hood River Bridge. At the latter location, recovery was not an option and every landing had to be perfect. At Lacey, Washington, Mark saw Dieter Mahlein flying an F5B plane using a large pack of sub-C NiCad cells which were common at the time. Mark really liked the grace and speed of F5B and it further fueled his interest.

Finally, in 2002, the shipyard in Washington made Mark an offer he couldn't refuse; offering a permanent relocation to San Diego. Woohoo! He was now able to start enjoying many of the different aspects of both electric model aircraft and RC soaring that San Diego had to offer. During this time, he met a few people from TPG and other clubs. He was also very familiar with the famous Torrey Pines Gliderport.

Mark began flying exhibitions at RC model shows, first at the RCX show and later at the AMA Expo (both of which helped organize for many years). At one of the RCX shows at about this period a friend (Charlie Wang) showed Mark a new type of flat silver battery and promised that this LiPo pack would forever change aeromodelling. Mark was already flying with many well-positioned friends: Jim T. Graham (original owner of RC Groups); Jim Burke (current owner of RC Groups); Sean Palmer (owner of Castle Creations), etc. While LiPo was the rage, people were charging them with any charger possible and as a result LiPo fires became well known. After Mark's friend Tim Gantz had a serious fire with a LiPo, Mark took interest in doing something about improving the situation. Some modelers were using bulky ammo cans to store and bring their LiPos to the field. A few brave souls stored their LiPos in old firefighter socks made of a fireproof cloth. While at North Island, Mark eyed a welding table and there nearby was some welding cloth. He put two and two together and came up with a working prototype of a storage bag for LiPo batteries made from the welding cloth. Despite the difficulty of sewing that glass cloth, tests with a 3 cell LiPo indicated that the idea had merit.

With a second prototype that included a flap at the top of the sack, Mark took them to his friend Steve Belknap, who at the time was a leading distributor of battery packs for the electric aircraft community through his company Diversity Model Aircraft. Steve immediately saw the financial opportunity. Steve convinced Mark that it was time to go into business and start selling these bags right away. Mark was the ideas guy; Steve was the businessman; who would be the seamstress? Mark knew a lady named Tracy Gantz who sewed uniforms for local schools and hired her to make as many bags as she could. She produced 50 bags on a Thursday night. Mark and Steve took these the next Friday morning to the Silent Electric Flyers of San Diego (SEFSD) field near Sea World for the large 2006 Midwinter Electrics event that was happening that weekend. Steve offered the bags for sale in his Diversity Model Aircraft booth. By the end of the day all 50 were sold. The next night Tracy worked again to produce 50 bags. These were brought to the field on Saturday morning and by noon all 50 were sold.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

The next night Tracy worked again to produce 50 bags. These were brought to the field on Saturday morning and by noon all 50 were sold. These bags became the beginning of a new company Woodworks Products which markets the now very popular "LiPo Sack" via [www.liposack.com](http://www.liposack.com). Knockoff products have been offered internationally but the LiPo Sack continues to be the leader in the field. (Please check out the Survivors Gallery on the above link to really see how well the bag holds up to LiPo fires. The result of this safety device is many garages, cars, and people saved.) Mark continues to sell the LiPo Sack not only to the hobby market but also with alteration to the airline industry that suffers from the same concern about LiPo fires.



In about 2002 Mark also started flying regularly at slope soaring sites in San Diego County, including those operated by the TPG and those not, such as Lake Hodges, Dave's Beach, Horse Canyon and other sites.

Mark Wood's LipoSacks have saved lots of models and garages! To learn more check out [www.liposack.com](http://www.liposack.com)

He flew many different aerobatic planes including a stretched-wing CR Contender originally built by Steve Condon (a plane he still owns), a Pike Precision, a foamy Ka-8, etc. **Mark's chief interest was in having fun, and not competition.** His enjoyment was flying with friends like Mark Canfield or Marty Dine, following each other in the endless lift at Torrey, and having good times. At the end of 2009, Mark volunteered to serve as Slope Coordinator for 2010 at a time when Mark Canfield and Marty Dine also volunteered to help run the TPG. This was at a time when Robin Marien had just begun his service as concessionaire at the Gliderport and **relations between the PG/HG and RC weren't all that great.** Mark Wood, Mark Canfield, and Marty Dine helped to turn that around and keep the site secured for RC soaring.

Mark wood helped train new pilots, get them set up with Torrey ratings, etc. He was also good friends with Bob Martin and encouraged the organization of the Katie Martin International Tribute fun fly, an annual tradition that continues to the present. **One of Mark Wood's happiest memories at Torrey was the day when Dale Gottdank returned to Torrey after a life-altering illness.** Mark handed him the transmitter to a Gentle Lady and enjoyed helping his friend Dale get back in the sky.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



At Torrey, helping Dale Gottdank, who suffered a spinal cord injury a year before, get back in the air. BTW, Dale's now walking with the aid of a walker.



Mark Wood (left) helping newcomer Jim Rellas (right) check out his new sloper at Torrey. (March, 2010 issue of Gull Wings)



A typical Torrey day ten years ago (Gull Wings, March 2012)

By 2011, Mark retired and needed to move to Tehachapi. This required that he give up his position as Slope Coordinator to Alvaro Corzo, something he wished he didn't have to do. But he continued flying RC at slopes in the Tehachapi area, and earlier this year just moved with his wife to Pensacola, Florida. There aren't a lot of hills in Florida but I'm going to bet that Mark will find and fly them soon.

Mark's motto in life is that things happen for a reason – we should be grateful for what we get and if you are grateful then things will keep going. He's grateful for his time with friends in the TPG and for having been honored with the 2011 Modeler of the Year Award for his service to the club at the slope.

## Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

For the 2022 calendar year, the club membership was 134. **That is great news! With that said, it's time to renew your TPG Membership for calendar year 2023.** Please use the link below when joining as a new member or renewing an existing membership. Fill out the registration form completely and pay using PayPal, credit card or check. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an individual email when becoming a member.

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

### Membership Activity Summary as of December 19, 2022

The table below is a summary of lifetime members, new and renewed full members, and youth members; based on completed registration forms received from members.

2023 Membership as of 12/19/2022		
Date	11/21/2022	12/19/2022
New Members	6	1
Renewed Members	29	25
Total new and renewed members for 2023 so far	35	61
Google Group as of 12/19/2022	154	

### 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

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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 2023 TPG TD & F5J contest schedule thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4241075-2023-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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Justin Tolman

#### DLG Coordinator – Justin Tolman

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 2023 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4260691-2023-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series>

or contact Justin Tolman at [dlg@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:dlg@torreypinesgulls.org)



## How We Compete (continued)

### F3L/F3-RES Contest Series – **NEW!**

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Gary Fogel

Recently, the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) approved a new contest format for hi-start launched thermal soaring with rudder-elevator-spoiler (RES) aircraft. This type of event had been flown for many years as F3-RES but its formalization as the new “F3L” program for “RC thermal gliders RES” was approved in 2021. The rules for this can be found in the current FAI Sporting Code for Aeromodeling under Volume F3 Soaring.

[https://www.fai.org/sites/default/files/sc4\\_vol\\_f3\\_soaring\\_22.pdf](https://www.fai.org/sites/default/files/sc4_vol_f3_soaring_22.pdf)

A goal of the F3L program is to serve as a low-cost introduction to RC soaring competition that is achievable even for those who have average skills.

F3L has been gaining in popularity in the US, and our recent virtual club meeting in late 2022 on the topic by Corky Miller and Larry Jolly inspired many to try it out. So, in 2023 we have established a new F3L program with quarterly contests. We will be using the FAI rules and have year-end trophies for open and sportsman classes. Contests will be held at the Encinitas Flight Center with pilots meeting at 8:45am, first launch at 9:00am. A small entry fee will be required to help offset the costs of club equipment. Additional information will be forthcoming on the RC Groups TPG F3L contest thread:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4259523-2023-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-F3L-%28F3RES%29-contest-schedule>

Come join us at the quarterly contests on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, August 26<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>. The year's series events may be found on [F3X Vault](#).

If you would like to be added to a TPG-internal email chain focused on F3L, please let me know:

[garyfogel@gmail.com](mailto:garyfogel@gmail.com)

## How We Compete (continued)

### F5J Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic Series

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Don Lochhead

November 5<sup>th</sup> was 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 an 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=2601](https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=2601)

Also, keep an eye out for the 2023 TPG F5J Fun Fly thread on RCGroups so everyone can stay up to date on the events.

We are hoping that these events will help to introduce new pilots to what TPG has to offer.

See you at our next F5J Fun Fly on January 28, 2023!



# What is LSF? – Gary Fogel



League of Silent Flight



Gary Fogel

The League of Silent Flight (LSF) <https://www.silentflight.org/> is the special interest group (SIG) representing RC soaring to the Academy of Model Aeronautics. LSF has its own lengthy and important history, having first been conceived of in Northern California over 50 years ago, and helps arrange the annual RC soaring Nationals at Muncie, Indiana each summer. Additional info on its history can be found here: <http://www.silentflight.org/images/documents/lfsstory.pdf>

In addition to this, LSF has two types of Soaring Accomplishment Programs (SAPs) that encourage personal skill development in the sport and are fun! There is an SAP that is strictly for RC soaring (the oldest and original SAP) and with the advent of electric launch methods, an eSAP was added more recently that duplicates the original SAP but with the use of electric motors for launch.

Each SAP consists of a series of five levels of achievement with increasing difficulty (Figure 1). The levels involve slope and thermal soaring, spot landings, cross-country flights and participation at contests. A pilot needs to achieve Level I before proceeding to Level II and so forth all the way up through Level V.

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

Fig. 1. The requirements for the LSF SAP and eSAP levels of achievement. (Source: <https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lfs-program/lfs-tasks>)

The people who originated the program in the 1970s arranged it such that it was easy for novice pilots to attain Level I with minimum effort. However, as pilots proceed through intermediate levels, they have to attend contests (with increasing number of total contestants per contest to qualify) and accumulate points (and/or wins). For instance, for Level II a contest can be as few as five participants, whereas by Level IV the contest has to be at least 15 participants. This requirement helps drive interest in contests as they are crucial towards proceeding to the next level. Those interested in the LSF program help foster contest development.

## What is LSF? – (continued)



Similarly, pilots who regularly hone their skills at contests generally improve in overall performance and over time, seek increasingly different and difficult tasks. By the time a pilot achieves Level IV, the Level V tasks can feel daunting. A 2-hour thermal duration flight. An 8-hour slope duration flight (some refer to this as the “bladder test”). A goal and return cross-country flight of 6.2 miles out and 6.2 miles back. Its longer than it seems. And Level V requires 3 contest wins at large contests over 20 participants. These days it can be hard to find contests of this size, and the requirement to win them really means the pilot has to be on the top of their game. It can take years or decades for a pilot to complete Level V. Some pilots never do complete Level V; in fact, only 138 people in the history of the program have done so.

So how do you get started? It's EASY. Firstly, go to:

<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>

and print out a copy of the voucher form. Choose the path you wish (SAP and/or eSAP)

Bring the appropriate voucher with you to any of our many TPG events in 2023 and participate! If, for instance, you are flying in an F5J contest, each landing can be considered as a spot landing for the Level I and II requirements. Even the contest flights can have sufficient time to satisfy Level I requirements. Whenever you do make an achievement, have the contest director or your timer sign your form as a witness. We have Torrey Pines Gliderport (and other slopes) at our disposal – easy to get a 15 min slope flight with your buddies.

Once you've completed all of the Level I tasks, submit the completed voucher to LSF Secretary John Marien at [john@ne-aero.com](mailto:john@ne-aero.com) as a pdf scan or photo that clearly shows the witness signatures. 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.

A question then – who in the TPG has what LSF levels in SAP and eSAP? Well, we collect that information as a part of membership renewal. The Table on the following page provides the current LSF Levels for those who indicated so on their membership forms. This can (and should!) of course change over time.

Note that we have 10 members who are Level I. It doesn't take much for them to get to Level II. At the other end of the spectrum, we have 8 members who are Level IV. It's going to take some teamwork to get them to Level V. In between we have lots of pilots who can benefit by flying in our contests or getting out for some slope duration at Torrey, etc. If you aren't on the list and have achieved an LSF level, please let me know.

## What is LSF? – (continued)



Last Name	First Name	SAP	eSAP
Blodgett	Edward	Level I	
Brooksby	Chris	Level I	
Butler	Alan "Moose"	Level I	
Hanson	Craig	Level I	
Houck	Greg	Level I	
Hunter	Cliff	Level I	
Lochhead	Donald	Level I	
McFarland	Dan	Level I	
Metzdorff	Eric	Level I	
Ungar	Kyle	Level I	
Cummings	Ian	Level II	
Cummins	Dan	Level II	
Hanson	Kirk	Level II	
McNeil	John	Level II	
Miller	Corky	Level II	
Pili	Ray	Level II	Level I
Redman	Mike	Level II	
Rozek	Dieter	Level II	
Kiesling	Thomas	Level III	
Norris	Charles	Level III	
Verzuh	Mike	Level III	
Ward	Les	Level III	
Warner	Garth	Level III	
Clerx	Ben	Level IV	Level I
Condon	Steve	Level IV	
Fogel	Gary	Level IV	Level II
Hall	Dave	Level IV	Level I
Schafer	Chris	Level IV	
Smith	Mike	Level IV	
Throop	Terry	Level IV	
Watson	Tom	Level IV	

How many Level increases can TPG members achieve in 2023 for either SAP or eSAP? Feel free to reach out to me or others on this list and they will be pleased to help recommend some strategies or serve as a witness if they can for your achievements. If there is interest, we could arrange special LSF days; however, at present, none are scheduled for 2023. Use our many contests and fun flies as a way to help advance in these programs. Just be sure to bring your vouchers and if necessary, arrange in advance for the proper number and type of witnesses so they can sign your form afterwards.

Want to find out more? Check out the LSF program at:

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

## 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!

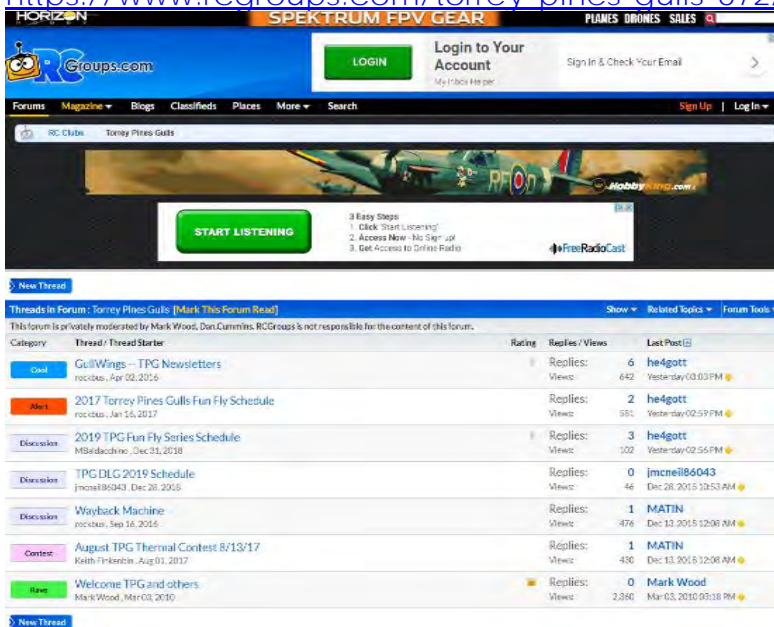
## RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

# 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/>



The screenshot shows the RCGroups website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'FORUMS', 'MAGAZINE', 'BLOGS', 'CLASSIFIEDS', 'PLACES', and 'MORE'. A 'LOGIN' button is prominently displayed, along with a 'Sign Up' link. Below the navigation, there is a banner for 'START LISTENING' with a 'FreeRadioCast' logo. The main content area is titled 'Threads in Forum: Torrey Pines Gulls' and contains a table of forum threads.

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 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 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?

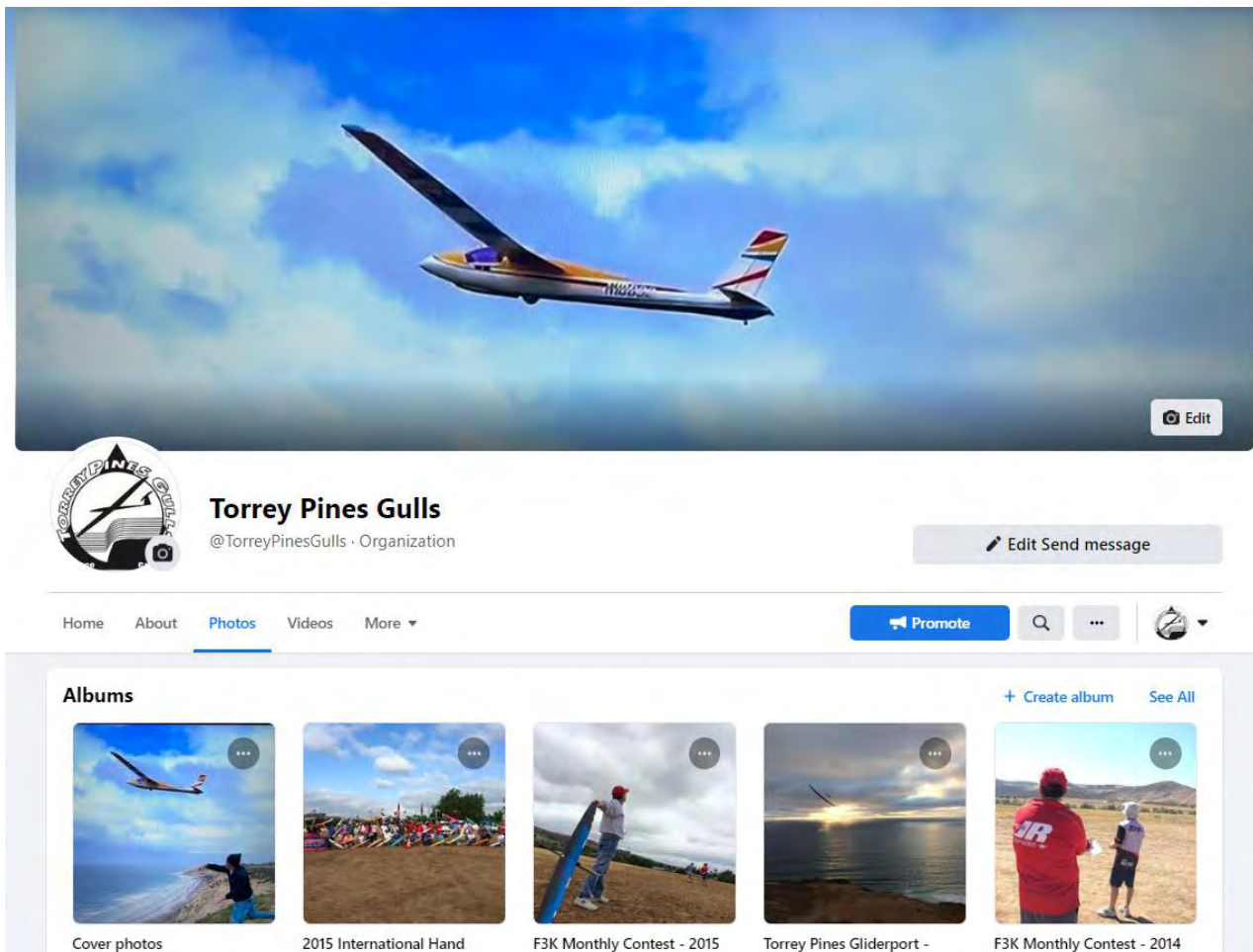
You can express your opinion at: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

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/>



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- F3K Monthly Contest - 2015
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- F3K Monthly Contest - 2014



## Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Chuck Norris	<a href="mailto:president@torreypinesgulls.org">president@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Vice-President	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:vp@torreypinesgulls.org">vp@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Past President	Ian Cummings	
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>
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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



Chuck Norris



Gary Fogel



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Tom Watson



Mark Baldacchino



Justin Tolman



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 Photo of the Year winner will be selected from among the monthly winners and will receive a prize (their photo will be used as the website and newsletter masthead AND will appear on the following year's club membership card); so horizontal format photos are preferred.

Email your photos (JPG format and original high-resolution version, please) to Dale Gottdank at [submit@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:submit@torreypinesgulls.org). Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description. Note: December photo of the month winner(s) will be included in the 2023 Photo of the Year competition.



December 2022 Co-Winner – Mike Lance & Thomas Moller flying Thomas's Mystique (Ian Cummings)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



December 2022 Co-Winner – Mark Canfield's Freestyler (Marty Dine photo)



December 2022 Co-Winner – Steve Condon launching his Vixen 2 at a TPG F5J contest (Bob Hirsch photo)



TPG Classified Ads Policy

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



## Quote of the Month:

*“I don’t know where I’m going from here, but I promise it won’t be boring.”*

*~ David Bowie*



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)