

2023

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GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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Chuck Norris

Think back to that moment when you first got hooked on RC flying. Maybe it was a parent or grandparent launching a Wanderer on a hi-start and handing you the transmitter; or watching a glow plane at a local park doing loops and rolls just over the tree line from where you were watching a baseball game.

For me, it was at a hobby shop in Pasadena when I was 21 - the owner sold me a Gentle Lady kit and promised if I built it, he would teach me how to fly it.

Hundreds of building hours later, I had an absolutely gorgeous blue-and-white Gentle Lady ready for its first flight. I met that hobby shop owner at the Rose Bowl the next Saturday. He checked out my plane and we did a few hand tosses to make sure everything was straight and trimmed. Then he put it up a hi-start for the first time. That was my moment - seeing that glider climb into the sky at (what seemed) an impossibly steep angle was absolute magic for me. I had seen other models fly of course, but seeing *that* blue and white glider - the one I had built with my own hands - climbing into sky for the first time is something I'll never forget.

(continued)

Message from the President (continued)

Now think back - what was your moment? Remember the person who helped to make it possible? I'd like to invite you to be that person to someone else. Pass your love of flying on to a new pilot. Give someone a chance to fly your plane. Help them test and trim their first model. Teach them the art of how to find a thermal.

Our club exists because of moments like these. Pass them along.

Chuck



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

Next TPG Virtual Club Meeting – February 28, 2023 – Gary Fogel

Hi Gulls,

Come join us for our next club meeting on February 28 at 7:00pm PT as we review previous and future club events, enjoy some show-and-tell (if you are building something new – show it to the rest of us!), a nice lecture, and a raffle; all from the comfort of your own sofa at home via zoom! The virtual meetings are a good way to stay connected, learn more, and discuss topics with other club members.

This month I'll be giving a lecture at the virtual meeting on the history of a pioneering aviator Albert Adams Merrill. Merrill not only helped start educational programs for aeronautics at MIT and Caltech (some of the first in the nation) but experimented with novel control systems, especially those that he believed would make planes safer and more stable.

These designs were first evaluated through a series of manned gliders when he was associated with Caltech; including tailless gliders, weight shift gliders, and those where the angle of attack of the wing could be changed in flight. Such designs can be considered as very early precursors to pitcheron and wingeron concepts now used on RC sailplanes. The lecture will include photos of many of these early designs, so if you've ever wondered about the origin of those control systems, this one is going to be of interest to you!



Albert Merrill on the right standing in front of an early glider design in 1924 near Caltech.

And we'll be sure to have a fun raffle – how can you pass up the chance for a free prize just for showing up? But you have to survive the lecture to get to the raffle...I'll try to keep it interesting. This lecture series will continue in 2023 with meetings on April 25th, June 27th, August 22nd, and October 24th.

The Zoom link for this, and upcoming meetings is [TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link](#)

TPG February/March Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
February 11 th	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 th	TD Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
February 18 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
February 25 th	F3L (F3RES) Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
February 28 th	Virtual Club Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
March 11 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG & TPSSS Fun Fly Day	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
March 12 th	F5J Contest	Perris, CA Will be combined with F5JinLA monthly contest
March 18 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



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 28th 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!

February Issue highlights include:

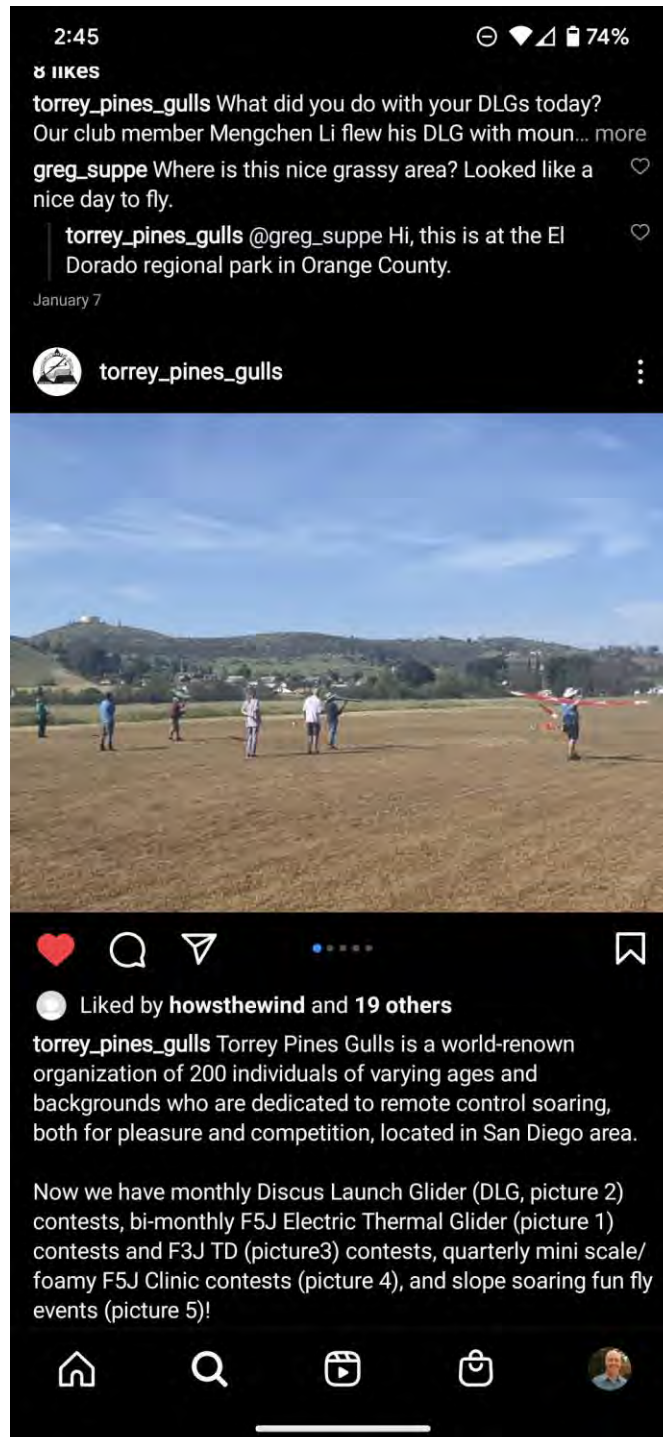
- February Club Meeting Preview – page 3
- New! TPG is on Instagram! – page 6
- First contests of the year – reports starting page 10
- Photo of the Month Contest – page 30

Please send in your articles or photos (communications@torreypinesgulls.org) by the 25th of each month so they can be included in the monthly newsletter. If there are too many, we'll save them for the next issue. 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>.

New! TPG is on Instagram!

TPG's Media Coordinator, Mengchen Li, has created an Instagram account for the Torrey Pines Gulls. If you're already on Instagram, search for [torrey_pines_gulls](#) and click on follow. If you're not on Instagram, well, now's a great time to join!

Also, if you have any photos or videos of your RC soaring activities, contests, builds, fun flies, etc., send them along to Mengchen at media@torreypinesgulls.org and you might find your submittal on a TPG Instagram post.



News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino

Happy February, TP Gulls!



And, Happy belated New Year! It's been seven months since I've written an article here, and some of you were probably wondering what the heck happened to me. I had a partial retinal detachment on both eyes – twice. Yes, after reattaching the retinas the first time, they detached again. I'll spare you all the details, as it been going on for a year; nine surgeries later, and one more to go, I still can't drive yet. The root cause of this is due to really bad astigmatism, which happened growing up in Phoenix, and not wearing sunglasses. If you see flashes, floaters, or shadowing, get to an eye doctor immediately! Enough about that.

On January 7th, we had our first Fun Fly for the year. Although the typical wind pattern for this time of year was light to non-existent, it was still nice to get out in the fresh air and enjoy the spectacular views.



Checkout the offshore wind line. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

The recent mega-rains have really greened-up the whole area, as they have all of San Diego. The grass/ weeds were about eight inches tall, but the very next weekend, Ian Cummings towed out our riding lawn mower and did a super job, giving our landing zone a great haircut. You'll see the pictures below of before and after, and the finished results would make the golf course caretakers jealous! Thank you, Ian!



Our landing zone pre-haircut (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Landing zone after Ian's meticulous work (Ian Cummings photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

You'll see the Fun Fly schedule below; and notice our next one is all about cleaning out your garage and sell, trade, or buy some new planes. I hope to see you out there!!!

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2023

February 11 th	Fly 'n Swap – A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.
March 11 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day
April 15 th	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
May 13 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Ka-8's, Radians...If it's foam, this is your day!
June 3 rd	11 th Annual Katie Martin International Tribute. A Bob Martin event for mostly Hobie Hawks: RCGroups
June 10 th	Landing Strip Contest – Get closest to the pin. Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd
July 8 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PWF...Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 12 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A Day to Fly + Swap Meet. Clean out your garage and make room for more birds.
September 9 th	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies Again! – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas...whatever is built-up wood
October 21 st	Redman Rules & Landing Contest – Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd . For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.
November 25 th	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

See you all out at the Gliderport.
Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino

January F5J Contest Report – Mike Verzuh, CD

Our Thermal Contest series stop for January was at the Poway Field. The format was F5J. We had a nice turnout for the event with 15 people signed up and 14 able to make it. We were blessed with outstanding weather (compared to the rest of the country going through a deep freeze). With five launch/landing lanes we were able to run three groups per round which allowed 5 rounds for the event.

The morning opened up nicely with a clear sky all day, and the wind was light - less than 5 mph. Even though the conditions were good, if you were not in the right place, you found yourself with a short flight. This is especially true with F5j, as pilots took more chances with lower launches. It seemed every pilot took a hit during the event. Both Mike Smith and Steve Condon flew very clean with only minor dings for their throw-outs. One advantage of the F5J format and flying 5 or more rounds is you can throw out one round, so that helped everyone. Downwind thermal reads were good, but you had to have enough launch height to get back to it and work it. I was bitten by that once as well as others. On other flights the thermals upwind just didn't stay together well, so success was to bail and run downwind.

It was really nice to have both our US F5J team members Mike Smith and Tom Kiesling at the event, as well as Sean Summers our F3J Junior World Champion. Best of luck to Mike and Tom at the Worlds later this year.



Sean Summers getting ready



Sean launching with Mike Smith timing

January F5J Contest Report (continued)

Overall, we had an awesome time. 1st through 5th were Mike Smith, Steve Condon, Mike Verzuh, Josh Freund and Ron Rossetti.

Photos courtesy of Candi Summers and Steve Stanton.

F3X Vault scores are below.

Best,

Mike Verzuh



Steve Stanton landing

Rounds (1-5)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (1 Drop In Effect)				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	9 Mike Smith 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	4000.00		1000	970.06	1000	1000	1000
2	10 Steve Condon 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3995.91	-4.09	1000	987.17	1000	1000	995.91
3	3 Mike Verzuh 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3971.90	-24.01	993.83	986.31	991.76	290.22	1000
4	15 Joshua Freund 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3944.73	-27.17	978.85	739.95	985.70	981.82	998.36
5	13 Ron Rossetti 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3911.53	-33.20	963.36	1000	997.48	950.69	934.66
6	8 Tim Traver 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3906.86	-4.67	932.98	1000	965.57	990.09	951.20
7	14 Warren Day 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3878.42	-28.44	903.08	975.34	271.31	1000	1000
8	6 Tom Kiesling 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3868.46	-9.96	1000	954.66	985.17	203.72	928.63
9	2 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3814.84	-53.62	969.16	948.98	931.97	896.69	964.73
10	11 Sean Summers 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3645.04	-169.80	950.98	981.18	1000	630.06	712.88
11	1 Tom Watson 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3635.15	-9.89	746.88	963.22	963.93	482.64	961.12
12	12 Steve Stanton 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3394.30	-240.85	584.45	1000	866.27	0.00	943.58
13	4 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	3371.51	-22.79	674.69	910.71	914.21	871.90	0.00
14	5 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	1840.26	-1531.25	928.70	911.56	0.00	DNS	DNS
15	16 Don van gundy 🇺🇸 🇺🇸	0.00	-1840.26	0.00	0.00	DNS	DNS	DNS

January DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman

Thanks to all 12 pilots that made it out Saturday in the face of a not-so-great forecast. Thankfully we were able to get in a dynamic contest with all 6 rounds before the skies opened up. We were also fortunate to have some new faces make it out to observe our shenanigans. Hopefully we will have some new pilots in the ranks soon.

CD Chuck Norris dusted off Little Ladder for some classic nostalgia in Round 1. Without much energy in the sky, it was challenging to climb all the rungs, but 5 of us managed to get all the way to the top rung and clear 2 minutes. As we moved into Round 2 (3, 3:20s), the lift was still light at best. Only 3 of us managed to get a full 3:20 and nobody managed more than one flight at max time. The theme of light spotty lift remained in All Ups for Round 3. Just a handful of pilots were able to claw out flights at max time. Quick turns were the name of the game in Round 4 in Five Longest. Gary and Mengchen put on a live clinic and showed us all how it's done. By Round 5 (Last 2), the air was increasingly dynamic and longer flights were becoming more than a pipe dream. Mengchen and Chuck were the top earners, each getting two 4-minute flights in the bag. Poker in Round 6 ended the day with raindrops on the horizon. Group B saw Gary & Mengchen duke it out for the overall top earner of the day. Gary was able to nab the longest flight of the day with a 5:37.7 but Mengchen accumulated more flight time and, with that, solidified his perfect day and the number one spot.



Contest action (Mengchen Li photo)

January DLG Contest Report (continued)



Gathering clouds (Mengchen Li photo)

Rounds (1-6)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	8 Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	6000.0		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	2 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5767.5	-232.5	1000	1000	928.1	1000	888.3	951.1
3	10 Christoph Efstathiou 🇩🇪	5121.8	-645.7	1000	830.7	856.5	938.8	840.8	655.0
4	1 Justin Tolman 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5121.2	-0.6	1000	910.5	1000	954.2	795.0	461.5
5	3 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5077.1	-44.1	1000	799.3	721.4	986.5	1000	569.9
6	12 Ron Rossetti 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4778.4	-298.7	771.4	816.1	887.4	887.0	761.5	655.0
7	11 Mike Ray	4300.6	-477.8	771.4	663.0	511.1	736.6	772.3	846.2
8	13 Scott Mccurdy 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4269.7	-30.9	771.4	569.2	523.6	685.3	720.2	1000
9	4 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3399.2	-870.5	571.4	499.8	504.4	823.8	563.1	436.7
10	9 Keith Frankie 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3380.6	-18.6	571.4	705.5	631.1	868.2	604.4	0.0
11	5 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3149.0	-231.6	571.4	615.7	501.8	736.1	262.5	461.5
12	6 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	1899.0	-1250.0	771.4	589.4	538.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

January F5J Fun Fly Report – Don Lochhead, CD

Seven pilots met at the Poway field to kick off the 2023 F5J Fun Fly season. The first to arrive were greeted with the freshly mowed field still showing hints of the overnight frost. By first-up, the temperature crossed the 40° boundary with sunny skies slowly warming things up.



John McNeil photo)

The wind was showing signs of the storm front moving in the next day, shifting several times over the course of the morning from SE to SW and in-between. Thermals were to be found, but due to the shifting wind, they did not follow the typical Poway patterns.

We flew 7-minute flight windows with at least one pilot making close to the maximum each time. By the end of the day, Gary Fogel took first with 5440 points with Chuck Norris close behind with 5316 points. John McNeil placed third. Given this was his first Fun Fly and having to switch to a borrowed plane midway through was an impressive showing.

Check out some photos of the event from Bob Hirsch on the following pages:

January F5J Fun Fly Report (continued)



January F5J Fun Fly Report (continued)



Here are the scores from the F3X Vault; and remember the next F5J Fun Fly event will be April 22nd (the week before the IHLGF). Grab a plane and come out and join in the fun.

Rounds (1-6)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	5 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5440.18		440.18	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	3 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5316.57	-123.61	1000	736.84	651.40	1000	928.33	1000
3	6 John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4244.92	-1071.65	903.43	460.94	385.50	868.35	1000	626.70
4	7 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4069.62	-175.30	731.60	1000	498.38	389.87	658.70	791.07
5	4 Bob Hirsch 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	3626.16	-443.46	487.73	778.65	676.38	696.97	0.00	986.43
6	2 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	3060.04	-566.12	341.20	558.35	1000	282.28	201.74	676.47
7	1 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	2982.98	-77.06	1000	693.36	313.92	606.06	0.00	369.64

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

For the 2023 calendar year, the club membership is 99. That is great news! Please renew your TPG Membership for calendar year 2023. Gate locks for 2022 will be removed February 1, 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 January 22, 2023

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 1/22/2023		
Date	12/19/2022	1/22/2023
New Members	1	10
Renewed Members	25	89
Total new and renewed members for 2023 to date	61	99
Google Group as of 12/19/2022	157	

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 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 1st through December 31st. Renewals begin November 1st 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

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 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

Hand Launch / DLG / F3K Contest Series



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

How We Compete (continued)

F3L/F3-RES Contest Series



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

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 25th, June 3rd, August 26th and November 4th. The year's series events may be found on [F3X Vault](#).

Come join us at the quarterly contests on Feb 25th, June 3rd, August 26th and November 4th. If you would like to be added to a TPG-internal email chain focused on F3L, please let me know: garyfogel@gmail.com

How We Compete (continued)

F5J Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic Series



Don Lochhead

January 28th was the first event for 2023. We started out calling this a foamy event last year because the Night Radian was (and continues to be) the most popular plane to fly. However, as the year progressed, we began 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. Read about our January event on page 14.

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=2602

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 April 22, 2023.



One of last year's F5J Fun Flies (Bob Hirsch photo)



January 2023 F5J Fun Fly (Bob Hirsch photo)

What is LSF? – Gary Fogel



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 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. 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!

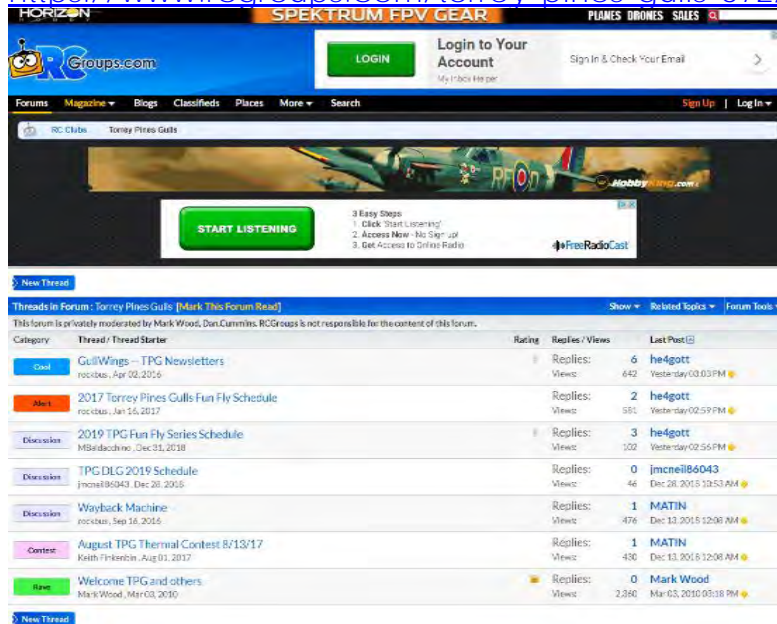
RCGroups – Torrey Pines Gulls Forum

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 Finbren, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
How	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?

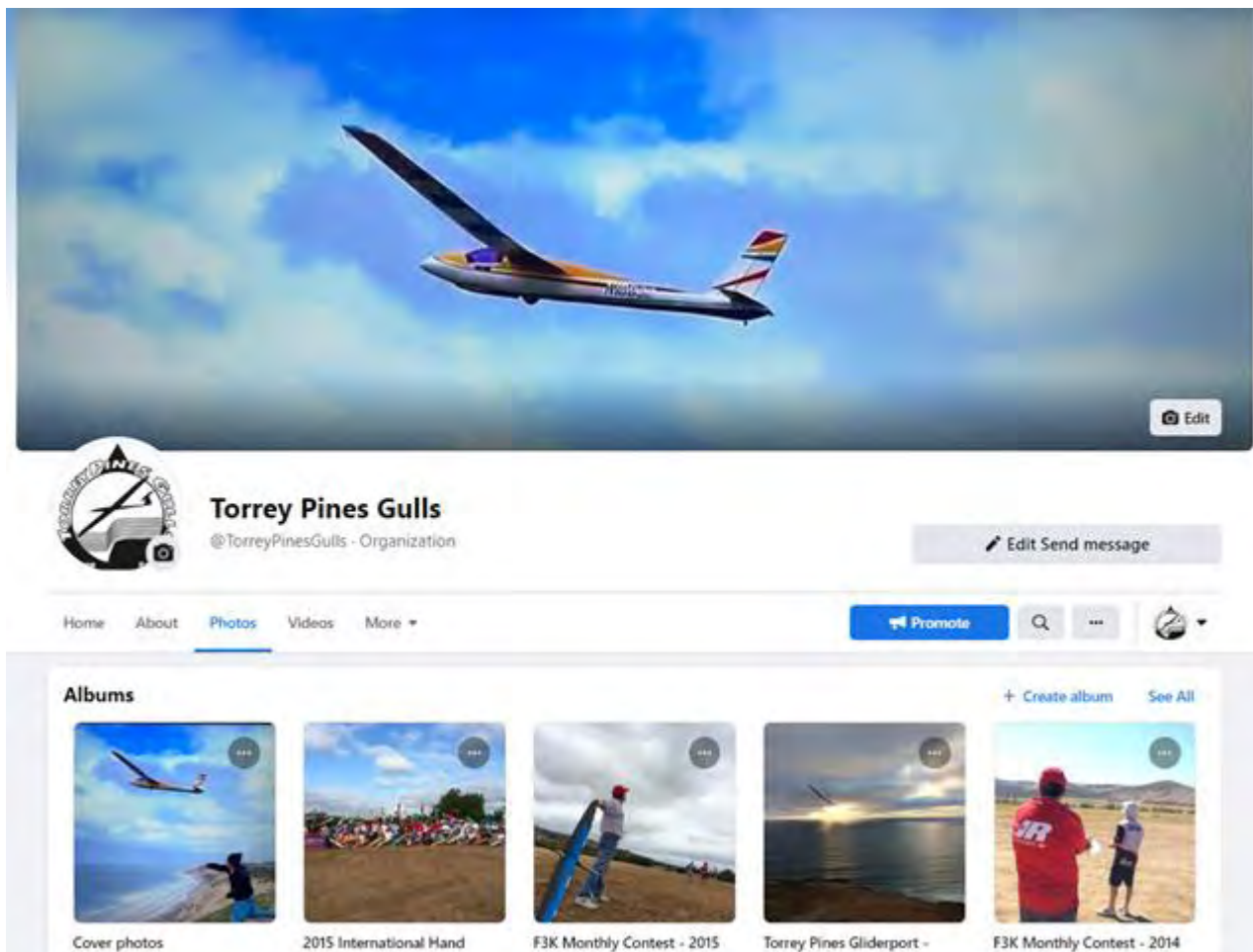
You can express your opinion at: www.torreypinesgulls.org.

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	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
Vice-President	Gary Fogel	vp@torreypinesgulls.org
Past President	Ian Cummings	
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	secretary@torreypinesgulls.org
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	communications@torreypinesgulls.org
Thermal Coordinator	Tom Watson	thermal@torreypinesgulls.org
Slope Coordinator	Mark Baldacchino	slope@torreypinesgulls.org
DLG Coordinator	Justin Tolman	dlg@torreypinesgulls.org
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	membership@torreypinesgulls.org
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	lsf@torreypinesgulls.org
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	web@torreypinesgulls.org
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	media@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	historian@torreypinesgulls.org
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Mark Baldacchino	soaringcouncil@torreypinesgulls.org

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. 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)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Craig Hanson launching his CR Aircraft Contender (Marty Dine photo)



DG-1000 on a blustery Torrey day (Marty Dine photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Marty Dine flying his Big Ceres *Mark Canfield photo)



Mark Canfield flyby with his Pike Precision (Marty Dine photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Aaron Wallace and Thomas Moller flying in formation (Marty Dine photo)



Launching at the January F5J Fun Fly contest formation (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



February Winner – Ian Cummings launching his Cyril (Marty Dine 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. Ads must be submitted by the 25th 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:

“When your hobbies get in the way of your work ...that's OK, but when your hobbies get in the way of themselves, well...”

~ Steve Martin



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)