

2023
MAY



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

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 3 Upcoming TPG Events
- 4 Club Meetings, Contests and Activities
Newsletter This Month
- 5 AMA History Project – Torrey Pines Gulls
- 6 Help Support Our USA F5J Team!
- 7 News from the Slope
- 12 April TD Contest Report
- 13 April DLG Contest Report
- 15 April F5J Fun Fly Contest Report
- 17 Club Membership Update
- 19 Where We Fly – Panoramas
- 20 How We Compete
- 23 What is LSF?
- 26 How We Connect
- 30 Club Officers and Contact Information
- 31 Photo of the Month Contest
- 38 For Sale/Wanted
- 39 Quote of the Month



Chuck Norris

This is usually the spot where we have our monthly Message from the President, however this month is a little different.

As I write this, final preparations are under way for the 2023 International Hand Launch Glider Festival, or IHLGF.

TPG President Chuck Norris is very busy, along with our DLG Coordinator, Justin Tolman, putting the final touches on what promises to be another world class competition. This year's IHLGF will be co-CD'ed by Mengchen Li with assistance from Gary Fogel and will be scored using Tim Traver's excellent F3X Vault System. We have perfect field conditions, thanks to months of much needed rain and an amazing effort on the part of Cliff and Sandy Hunter, who regularly mow the field to keep it in tip-top shape.

By the time you read this, the 2023 IHLF will be in the books and you'll be able to hear more about it in our June issue. In the meantime, here are some pics of the pre-contest Poway field. Thanks to all the TPG volunteers and good luck to the competitors!

Cheers,

Dale Gottdank, Editor

Message from the President (continued)



Mowing just a few days before the contest (Cliff Hunter photo)



Beware of landing out...these are some tall weeds! (Cliff Hunter photo)



Early morning fog and overcast will make way for a bright, sunny day (Bob Hirsch photo)



Friday, April 28th...some early practice and EZ UPs in position (Justin Tolman photo)

TPG May/June Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
May 6 th	Students from UCSD & AIAA-SDSU will learn to fly on club member buddy-boxes.	Torrey Pines Gliderport Come on out and lend a hand. Bring your buddy-box if you have one
May 13 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Ka-8's, Radians...If it's foam, this is your day!	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
May 20 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 21 st	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 27 th	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 3 rd	Katie Martin International Tribute	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required More information here: RC Groups
June 3 rd	F3L Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 10 th	Landing Strip Contest – Get closest to the pin. Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
June 11 th	TD Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 17 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 27 th	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link



Jim Birkett with his Espada R at Torrey after landing (Ian Cummings 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 April 25th, when we enjoyed an excellent presentation by our own Tom Kiesling discussing the design and construction of his own F5J models and the upcoming F5J World Championships in Dupnitsa, Bulgaria. Thanks Tom! Our next meeting is June 27th.



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!

May Issue highlights include:

- **Help Support the USA F5J Team!**
- **TPG Club History now posted on AMA Website**
- **Photo of the Month Contest**

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>.

AMA History Project – Torrey Pines Gulls


From the AMA website:

“It is our on-going endeavor to save the history of model aviation by collecting the stories of model aviation enthusiasts, the histories of modeling companies, clubs, and other organizations, as well as other compilations of historical data about the hobby/sport that is model aviation”.

The AMA has gathered over 1,000 modeler biographies, 61 club histories, and 26 company histories completed and has posted them on the website:

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/history-recognition/history-project/ama-history-projects-club-histories>


Recently, Club Historian and VP, Dr. Gary Fogel, submitted our club history which has been posted to the AMA History Project:



The AMA History Project Presents:
History of the TORREY PINES GULLS
RADIO CONTROL SOARING SOCIETY

AMA Club Charter #129
 Started in the late 1960s

Written by GF; Reformatted and edited by JS (03-04/2023)



The following was written by Dr. Gary Fogel and was submitted for use by the AMA History Project in January 2023.



The Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (AMA #129)

The Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG; www.torreypinestpg.org) is one of the first clubs that chartered with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA; chartered club #129) dedicated solely to RC soaring. Formed by a collection of enthusiasts in the late 1960s and chartered in 1970, the club started its activities at the famous Torrey Pines Gliderport in San Diego, California. By that time, Torrey Pines was already established as a world-class site for slope soaring by manned sailplane enthusiasts ever since Charles Lindbergh's coastal soaring flight on February 24, 1930 along the ridge in a sailplane designed by Hawley Bowlus. At Torrey, slope lift is generated on a regular basis by the westerly winds as they come off the ocean and meet the 300-foot-high cliffs. Ideal days for flying RC sailplanes at the location are generally when the wind is nine MPH or more from the west. Of course, lighter/more efficient

To enjoy the article in its entirety, follow this link:

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/TorreyPinesGullsRadioControlSoaringSociety.pdf>

Help Support Our USA F5J Team!



Every two years, the FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale) holds the F5J (Electric Powered Thermal Duration Glider) World Championship competition. This year's competition, organized by the Bulgarian Aeromodelling Federation and Modelclub Ikar will be held in Dupnitsa, Bulgaria.

What makes this year's competition so special, is that for the first time, TPG has not one, but three members on the USA F5J team. Congratulations Team USA!

TPG members Mike Smith and Tom Kiesling (pilots) will be headed for Bulgaria this August along with Team Manager, Steve Condon; making this a trifecta for TPG at the World Championships!

Attending the World Championships is no small undertaking and depends on donations from RC manufacturers, soaring clubs and private individuals. When you have a chance, check out the USA F5J Team website (still a work in progress) at <https://teamf5jusa.org/>. If you're able, please donate what you can to help our guys and Team USA fly to victory in Bulgaria this summer! Follow this link to make your donation: <https://teamf5jusa.org/index.php/donations>



Mike Smith



Tom Kiesling



Steve Condon

News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino

Happy May, TP Gulls!



Our classic woody Fun Fly, on April 15th, was another outstanding event! There must have been at least 25 pilots, and 40 planes throughout the beautiful spring day. The temperature was in the mid 60's, and the wind was mostly from the west in the ~10 MPH range. There were pilots that haven't been there in years; and it was great to see their faces light-up being reunited at the world's best slope! There were planes built in the 70's as well as old designs that were built a few weeks ago. Planes such as the Bird of Time, Gentle Lady, Bob Martin's Coyote, Sagitta 900, Windfree, Windward, Top Flight Antares, Ridge Rat, Hobie Hawk, and on and on. The pictures below represent a thousand more words that I can offer. Also, the wildflowers growing around the area made the event even more spectacular!



A plane show like a car show (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



A picture-perfect day! (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Planes and more planes! (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



The craftsmanship on some of these planes is world-class. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Our "flower-fence-encampment" (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



...and a flower path to our pit area. Mark Baldacchino photo

A little addition to our Fun Fly schedule on the next page, is on May 6th, when we will have students from UCSD and maybe a few from SDSU who are studying Aeronautical Engineering, come out to learn to fly on buddy-boxes.

May's big event is all about foam planes, or as I recently heard, "Foam Coolers". Ahis, Alulas, KA-8's, Radians, etc. If it has a prop, please ensure that the prop is either taped or rubber-banded back so it can't rotate. It's a safety rule of flying with paragliders.

Just like the March Fun Fly, I again observed at this last one, that a few of you were helping spot for the pilots who were flying. Great Job, guys! We are doing our part in keeping us safe and securing site for future enjoyment at the Gliderport!

News from the Slope (continued)

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2023

May 6 th	Students from UCSD & AIAA-SDSU will learn to fly on club member buddy-boxes.
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, and Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino

April TD Contest Report – Cliff Hunter, CD

Unfortunately, we had a poor turnout due to other conflicting contests. We had three pilots show up for our April 16th contest.

I changed the tasks to 4 rounds: five-minute rounds with a 100-point landing. The day was cloudy and cool. We had a flyer, a timer and winch line retriever. It worked perfectly! We all had a great time and a very relaxed contest. We all took home ribbons! The results are noted below.



The pit area. (Cliff Hunter photo)

Rounds (1-4)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Completed
1	4 Erik Larson  	3954.43		954.43	1000	1000	1000	
2	2 Clifford Hunter  	3796.75	-157.68	951.90	873.06	971.79	1000	
3	1 Tom Watson  	3533.24	-263.51	1000	974.09	582.05	977.10	

April DLG Contest Report – Cliff Hunter, CD

The objective was to provide a warm-up contest for the upcoming IHLGF (International Hand Launch Glider Festival) to be held on April 27-29, 2023.

We wanted to provide a contest that included all the weather conditions that we experience at the IHLGF from early morning calm to afternoon winds. We had 7 pilots launching each round and had 8 rounds to fly. We did get Poway weather for sure!

1. Task D Ladder – 30 second increase in flight times up to 2 minutes
2. Task E Poker - (Pilot Nominated)
3. Task K Big Ladder – 1 minute increase 30 seconds each flight
4. Task M Huge Ladder – 3 minute, 5 minute, 7 minute – three throws
5. Task C All up last down 3 minute max
6. Task D Two flights 5 minute max
7. Task A last flight 5 minute max
8. Task H 1 minute, 2 minute, 3 minute 4 minute

Round 1 had 10 out of 13 pilots make all their times.
Round 2 had only 2 out of 13 pilots make their times.
Round 3 had only 2 out of 13 pilots make their times.
Round 4 had only 2 out of 13 pilots make their times.
Round 5 had only 3 out of 13 pilots make their times.
Rounds 6,7, & 8, had only 2 out of 13 pilots make their times.

Note: The times were much more difficult to get as the day went on!



Contest pilots

April F5J Fun Fly Contest Report – Don Lochhead, CD

Six pilots met at Poway for the April F5J Fun-Fly under near perfect conditions. Skies were clear, winds were light and consistently from the west and it finally warmed up to more typical spring temperatures.

We had a good variety of planes including Radians, a Yellow Jacket and a vintage Solius Justin found somewhere deep in his garage.

With six of us, we flew two three-pilot heats for each of the six seven-minute rounds. Conditions were challenging enough to leave some pilots short of the seven-minute goal, but most heats saw one or more pilots nearly maxing out their time. Most pilots chose to launch high, to maximize time to seek out a thermal. Hitting the pin on landing proved to be difficult because the dry/short “grass” on the field made for long slides into home.

Justin Tolman topped the podium with Gary Fogel in second and Cliff Hunter in third. Our next fun fly is July 29th. Everyone always comments after the contest how much fun it is, so if you have not done this before, try to get out and join us.

Don



Contest launch (Gary Fogel photo)

April F5J Fun Fly Contest Report (continued)



A perfect day for the F5J Fun Fly (Gary Fogel photo)



Eight pilots having a great day!

Scores from the F3X Vault:

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 Justin Tolman  	5526.41		753.68	1000	772.73	1000	1000	1000
2	2 Gary Fogel  	4897.10	-629.31	1000	897.10	1000	1000	1000	0.00
3	5 Clifford Hunter  	4097.18	-799.92	683.82	1000	951.02	416.67	734.91	310.76
4	4 Bob Hirsch  	3946.16	-151.02	0.00	794.74	1000	308.99	877.95	964.48
5	1 Don Lochhead  	3244.19	-701.97	1000	374.67	225.94	401.69	241.89	1000
6	7 Paul Nibecker  	542.02	-2702.17	542.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

For the 2023 calendar year, the club membership is 114. That is great news! Please renew your TPG Membership for calendar year 2023. Gate locks for 2022 have been removed. 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 April 21, 2023

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

2023 Membership		
Date	Since Last Report	Total as of 4/21/2023
New and Renewed Members	5	114
Google Group as of 4/21/2023	162	

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

In 2021, 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 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

Want to get into F5J, but not quite sure how do it? Or maybe you have a Radian in your hangar and are looking for an excuse to get out for a bit of fun-flying. Then come on out to the Poway field and check out one of our F5J Fun-Fly events.

We started out calling this a foamy event because the Night Radian was (and continues to be) the most popular plane to fly. However, 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. This is a fly-what-you-got type event, so everything from a vintage Easy Glider to a brand-new Yellow Jacket is welcome.

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 flying time, we reduce the flight window to 7 minutes. This is a very low-key meet-up and everyone is welcome no matter what your skill level.

For 2023 we have two remaining events scheduled: July 29 and October 28. Pilots meeting is at 8:45 with first up at 9 am. We typically fly five or six rounds, 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=2603

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. Whatever you bring, you are sure to have a great time. If you have been thinking about getting into F5J, but were not sure where to start this is the event for you.



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

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.

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!

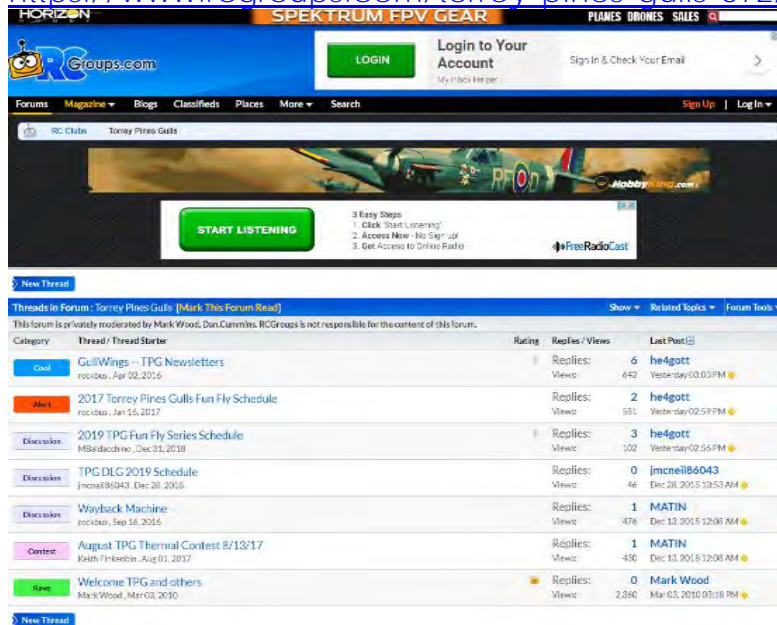
How We Connect (continued)

Are you a member of ?

If you're not...you should be! RCGroups is the most widely used and active online Radio Control Community for everything RC, from planes to cars, to boats, drones, radios, power systems...pretty much anything RC! It includes forums, specific interest threads, blogs, discussions, etc....and, more importantly, The Torrey Pines Gulls Forum.

To get started, click on the link or web page below to get to the TPG Club forum. You can also get there from the **Clubs** link at the lower right of the RCGroups home page and scroll down to Torrey Pines Gulls.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/torrey-pines-gulls-672/>



Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
Good	GullWings -- TPG Newsletters roccdas, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccdas, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 591	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule HSEabachne, Dec 01, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2015		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 28, 2015 12:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccdas, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2015 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finkstein, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2015 12:08 AM
Alert	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,860	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.

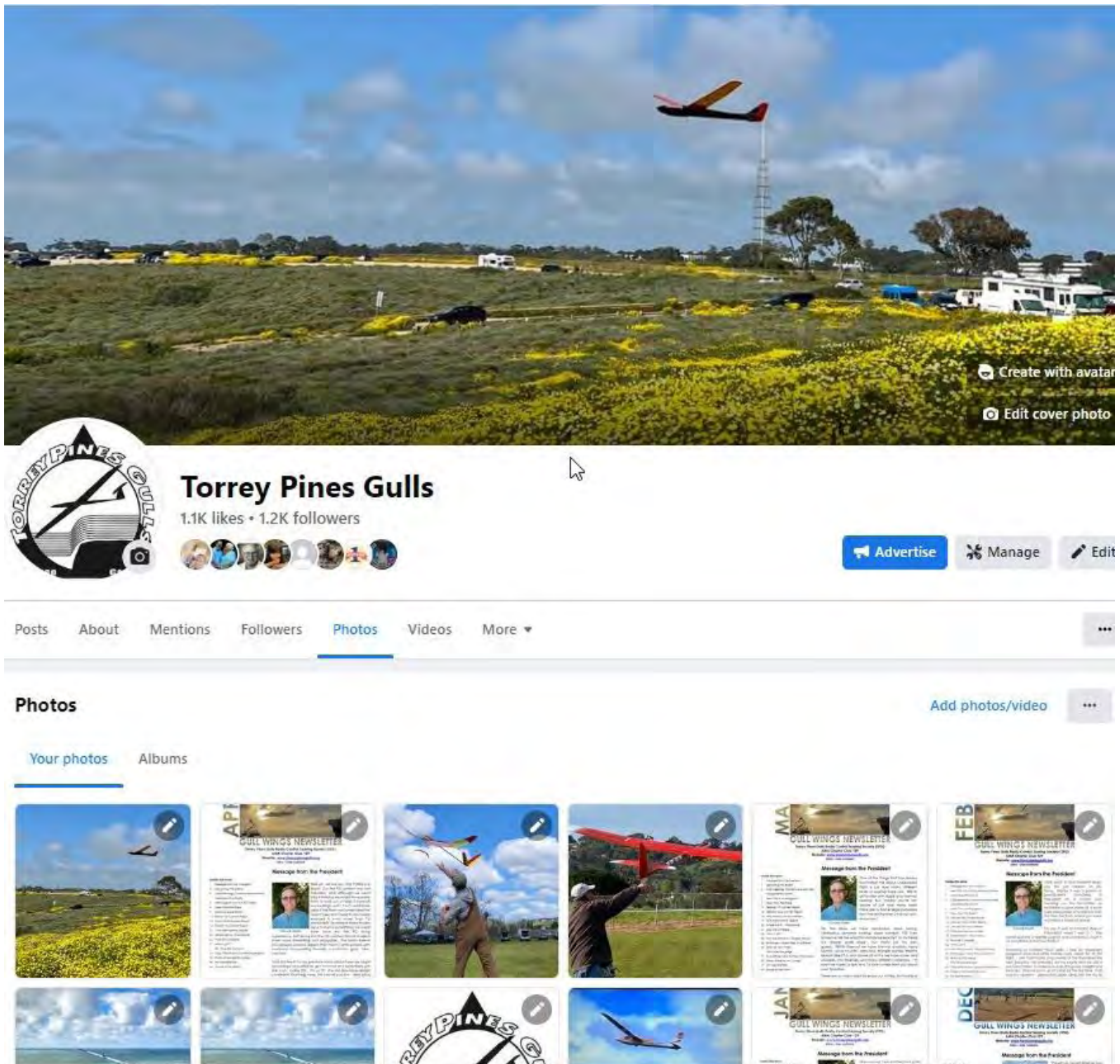
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

How We Connect (continued)

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/>

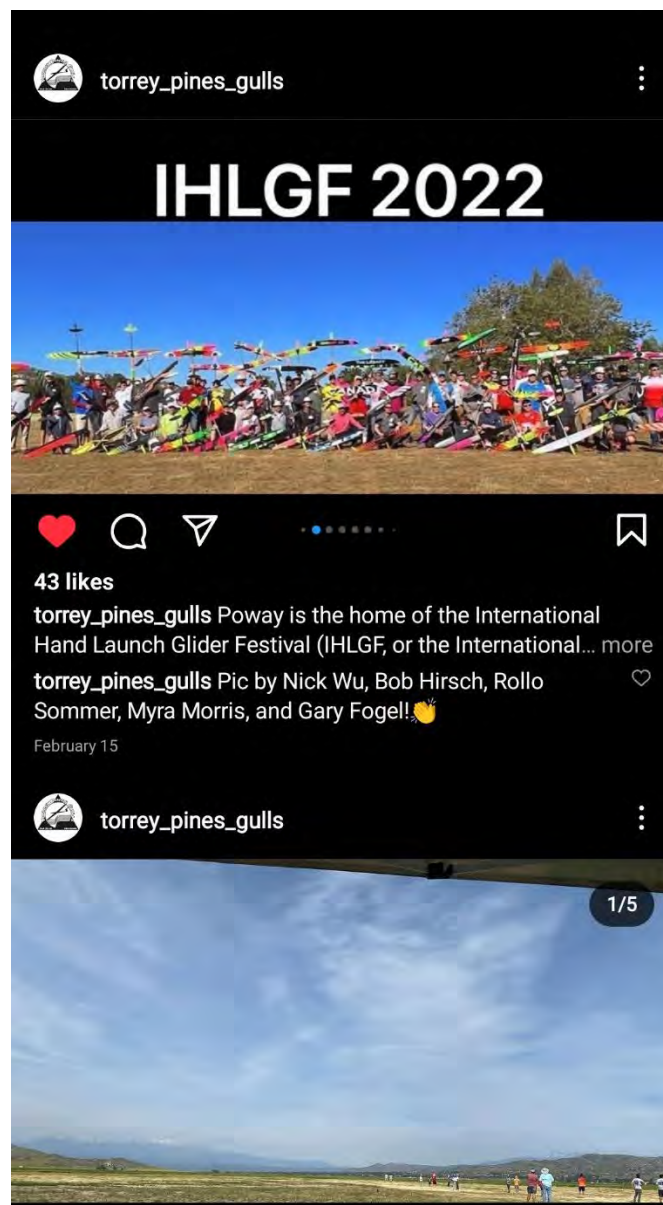


How We Connect (continued)

TPG is on 

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.



From last year's IHLGF

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 following year's 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)



February Winner – Ian Cummings launching his Cyril (Marty Dine photo)



March Winner – Arthur Markiewicz launching at the monthly TD contest at the Encinitas field (Cliff Hunter photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



April Winner – Christoph Efstathiou launching Don Lochhead's Medina at the inaugural TPG F3L contest in Poway (Gary Fogel photo)



Marty Dine launching at Torrey (Marty Zimmerman photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Brad Lang's Graupner model (Josh Orozco photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Jim Birkett flying his Blade at Hodges (Jim Drake photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Winner – Craig Hanson's Windfree flying over the amazing wildflowers at Torrey (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. 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.

Spektrum PowerStage, Battery & Smart Bundle

Smart Battery 5000 mAh 2s battery
 Charger S150 Smart Charger
 \$50 dollars or best offer

Cliff Hunter
 760-703-4497 cell





Quote of the Month:

*“The world’s favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May.”
~ Edwin Way Teale*



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)