

2023  
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# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)  
AMA Charter Club 129

Website: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)

Editor – Dale Gottdank

## Message from the President

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Chuck Norris

Hi Everyone,

First off, I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to be an instructor! We're off to a good start, but we still need you! Hit that easy checkbox on the membership renewal form, and you'll be helping keep our club healthy into the future.

Second, I would like to thank Jim Burkett for donating a brand new, RTF Gentle Lady to go to some new pilot interested in getting started in soaring. His very generous gift will go hand-in-hand with our training program. If you know someone just getting started, this may be their first plane! Thanks, Jim!

And finally, don't forget to RSVP for the holiday party, December 10<sup>th</sup> at AleSmith Brewing Company. It'll be good to hang out, maybe enjoy a local brew, and do a little celebrating. The details are on page 3.

See you there!

Chuck

## TPG December/January Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	TPG Holiday Party	4:00 PM AleSmith Brewing Company 9990 AleSmith Ct, San Diego, CA 92126
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Contest	Perris Free Flight/Glider Field, Perris, CA Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tow Hook Series – F3RES 2.0m Class	Encinitas Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tow Hook Series – F3RES 1.5m class	Encinitas Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tow Hook Series – TD Open Class	Encinitas Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>



Duel in the sky at the November DLG contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

*It's That Time Again Gulls!*

We are happy to announce that this year's  
*TPG Holiday Party* will be held on *Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>* at  
the *AleSmith Brewing Company*  
9990 AleSmith Court, San Diego, CA 92126 (off Miramar Rd.)  
No cover charge  
Pizza and veggies will be provided by  
The Torrey Pines Gulls

*Bring a dozen holiday themed cookies to share for dessert.*

Doors open at *4:00 pm*, and we'll kick off the 2023 annual  
meeting and awards presentations sometime after *5 pm*.

*Please RSVP by December 4*  
*(Let us know if veggie platter/veggie pizza only)*  
to [vp@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:vp@torreypinesgulls.org) so we can give our host a head  
count.

*Hope to see you there!*

Gary Fogel  
Torrey Pines Gulls  
2023 Vice President

## Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts monthly contests, fun-fly events, LSF (League of Silent Flight) Soaring Accomplishment Program, onsite clinics and bi-monthly club meetings.

Our club meetings are currently conducted via Zoom, so it's really easy to join in, chat with flying buddies and hear a great presentation about RC soaring and related topics...**and don't forget** our monthly raffle!

Our next meeting is the Annual Holiday Party on December 10<sup>th</sup> **at 4:00 pm. Don't miss it!**



Be on the lookout for upcoming meeting details and scheduling for all TPG and related events in the Newsletter and on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org> and <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

## Newsletter This Month - Dale Gottdank



Dale Gottdank

Please contribute to our **GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER**

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

December Issue highlights include:

- **Holiday Party Announcement**
- **2015 Modeler of the Year Ray Pili by Gary Fogel**
- **Photo of the Year Winner**

Please send in your articles or photos ([communications@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org)) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month so they can be included in the monthly newsletter. If there are too many, we'll save them for the next issue. Photos should be in their original, high-resolution format. The newsletter can be found on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>.

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



Mark Baldacchino

Happy  
December  
and  
Happy Holidays  
TP Gulls!

I hope you're all winding-down the year by wrapping up projects at work, and/or spending time with family and friends!



Our November 11<sup>th</sup> fun fly event, Redman Rules contest was a bust due to insufficient wind. We packed up and left after a couple of hours. In speaking with Mike Redman, we'll schedule this event next year in March when the wind "should" be more predictable.

There was a pretty good turnout for the "No Shopping Saturday" Fun Fly just after Thanksgiving. The wind picked up about 11:30, and stayed past the forecast time of 2:00; and was still prevalent until we left, almost at sunset.

I have next year's schedule ready to go, and I'll have it posted here in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, check your plane's airworthiness. Look at your clevises, servo connectors, and battery health. Repair any damage to covering, or cracks with composites birds. Most of all, take it easy, enjoy this time of the year, and don't miss our Holiday Party on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December!

Before I sign off, here are a few pictures from our November 25<sup>th</sup> "No Shopping Saturday" Fun Fly:

## News from the Slope (continued)



Eric launching his Blade out over the Pacific Ocean (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Bob flying his F3K from the pit area, and Walt working on his UMX ASK-21 (Mark Baldacchino photo)

## News from the Slope (continued)



George brought out a few of his colorful birds. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Ian and his Orca. Man, that plane flies great, and sounds beautiful going by! Tom in the background (Mark Baldacchino photo)

## News from the Slope (continued)



The pit area had about 10 TP Gulls for the “No Shopping Day” Fun Fly (Mark Baldacchino photo)

See you all out at the Gliderport. Blue Skies!

Best Regards!

Mark Baldacchino



## November F3L (F3RES) Contest Report – Cliff Hunter, CD



Saturday morning around 8:30 AM at our Encintas Field. Pilots L to R: Cliff Hunter, John McNeil, Brett Locke, Gary Fogel, Dave Hall, Paul Nibecker and Don Lochhead (Gary Fogel photo)

### THE PLANES

The planes are built up, balsa wood for the most part. They have a 2 meter wing span and are covered in UltrakCote Lite covering or similar materials. They have three control surfaces, rudder, elevator and spoiler. They have tow hooks and weigh from 13 to 16 ounces 368 to 453 grams, my plane is 414 grams or 14.6 oz. They are launched by means of a hi-start (bungee).

### THE TASK

The contest format for F3L (RES) is pretty easy and fun to fly. The goal is to get a 6 minute flight in a 9 minute window of time and land the plane on the 100-inch landing tape at 6 minutes. You have a three minute window of time to attain your 6 minutes in a thermal, or if less, you can relaunch as many times as you like to achieve a better score. However, there is a point in time which (three minutes) where you should not relaunch to achieve your 6 minutes.

We fly as a team, and in this contest we had 3 teams of three flyers. The pilot, the timer and the bungee retriever (walking or running to retrieve the bungee, so if the pilot decides to relaunch, he can)

We have three bungees to fly from and we all launch at the same time. We flew 4 rounds in three groups.

Hopefully, this helps you understand the F3L RES contest format, although the best way is to come out to one of our contests. You might get hooked. 😊 The winners are shown below.

# November F3L (F3RES) Contest Report (continued)

## Rounds (1-4)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Comple
1	<b>3</b> John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	4000.0		1000	1000	1000	1000	
2	<b>1</b> Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	3940.2	-59.8	1000	1000	940.2	1000	
3	<b>4</b> Bret Locke 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	3618.9	-321.3	906.8	782.3	929.8	1000	
4	<b>9</b> Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	3417.8	-201.1	1000	928.6	1000	489.2	
5	<b>5</b> Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	2807.5	-610.3	245.4	836.6	1000	725.5	
6	<b>6</b> Paul Nibecker 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	2421.2	-386.3	425.8	1000	641.3	354.1	
7	<b>2</b> David Hall 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	1992.8	-428.4	995.3	997.5	0.0	0.0	
8	<b>7</b> Manny Gomes 🇺🇸 🇧🇷	0.0	-1992.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



John McNeil (1<sup>st</sup> Place) with Dave Hall, who was timing for him. Note the 100-inch landing tape on the ground behind them (Gary Fogel photo)

## November DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

We held our final DLG contest of 2023 on Saturday November 18th. The skies were threatening at times but we never felt any rain drops. Mike Ray was able to make it back out after taking time off to be with his young family. Dale Osborn had a recent bicycle accident that resulted in a broken rib but he still joined the party while we all took turns throwing for him.



Sunrise clouds (Justin Tolman photo)



Group shot (Bob Hirsch photo)

## November DLG Contest Report (continued)

We started the contest with the original classic ladder (Task D) under heavy cloud cover. In Group A, three pilots made it through 6 flights, but all failed to get to the top of the ladder and finish their 2-minute flight. In Group B, Mengchen Li made excellent work of the conditions and grabbed all 7 flights. In Group C, Scott McCurdy and Gary Fogel also grabbed all 7 flights.

Round 2 (Task B, Last 2 Flights) continued under dark skies. In Group A, Chuck Norris and Cliff Hunter snagged their first 3:00 minute flight but both couldn't make their second launch hook up. In Group B, Fogel and Li masterfully got both of their 3-minute flights in very tough air. In group C, Dale Osborn took the K with a pair of well-flown 2.5-minute flights.

Round 3 was time for everyone's favorite quick-turn exercise (Task G, 5x2) in Round 3. In Group A, Justin Tolman took the K, dropping roughly 13 seconds. In Group B, Li took a little tumble but still took the K after dropping 44 seconds. In Group C, Fogel took the K, dropping only 7 seconds.



Cliff Hunter launching (Bob Hirsch photo)



Pilot Cliff Hunter with timer Don Lochhead (Bob Hirsch photo)

## November DLG Contest Report (continued)

By Round 4 (Task H, 1234), the air was becoming more active and thermal activity was picking up. In Group A, Li put in a masterful effort, with beautifully efficient quick turns, and dropped less than 4 seconds. In Group B, McCurdy took the K and in group C, it was John McNeil.

Round 5 (Task C, AULD) brought challenging, volatile air; a great time for timers to be on the sidelines. In Group A, Li maxed his first 2 flights and outlasted the group in hammering air on their third throw to take the K. In Group B, McCurdy cleaned up by maxing all 3 of his flights (the only pilot of the entire round to do so). In Group C, Tolman took the K.

The dedicated and brave were able to capitalize in Round 6 (Task A, Last Flight). In Group A, Li and McCurdy put in fantastic flights and maxed their time. In Group B, Fogel took the solo K as the only pilot to get all 5 minutes in the group. In Group C, Chuck Norris scratched around not much higher than launch-height and took the K with a 3:47.



Menqachen Li quick turn (Bob Hirsch photo)



John McNeil launching (Bob Hirsch photo)

## November DLG Contest Report (continued)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)						Sub	Drop	Pen	Percent	
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6					
1	<b>3</b> Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	6000.0		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000		6000.0	0.0		100.0%
2	<b>6</b> Gary Fogel 🇺🇸	5859.8	-140.2	1000	1000	1000	952.1	907.7	1000		5859.8	0.0		97.7%
3	<b>12</b> Scott Mccurdy 🇺🇸	5747.8	-112.0	1000	855.1	892.7	1000	1000	1000		5747.8	0.0		95.8%
4	<b>2</b> Justin Tolman 🇺🇸	5372.7	-375.1	771.4	864.0	1000	985.1	1000	752.2		5372.7	0.0		89.5%
5	<b>8</b> Chuck Norris 🇺🇸	5305.7	-67.0	771.4	1000	868.5	954.3	711.5	1000		5305.7	0.0		88.4%
6	<b>1</b> John McNeil 🇺🇸	5242.1	-63.6	1000	637.6	957.9	1000	762.6	884.0		5242.1	0.0		87.4%
7	<b>11</b> Dale Osborn 🇺🇸	5064.6	-177.5	1000	1000	848.3	685.5	922.5	608.3		5064.6	0.0		84.4%
8	<b>7</b> Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸	4639.6	-425.0	1000	886.4	769.8	662.8	520.6	800.0		4639.6	0.0		77.3%
9	<b>5</b> Don Lochhead 🇺🇸	3612.1	-1027.5	518.5	820.8	846.2	775.6	302.7	348.3		3612.1	0.0		60.2%
10	<b>10</b> Mike Ray	784.4	-2827.7	571.4	213.0	0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS		784.4	0.0		13.1%

Mengchen Li took top honors, followed by Gary Fogel and Scott McCurdy.

Our next monthly contest will be on January 20th, 2024. Keep an eye out for more info on the 2024 season!

Justin Tolman  
November CD/TPG DLG Coordinator

## TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Ray Pili, 2015 Modeler of the Year



Ray Pili was born in Chicago to a physician father and a nurse mother. He spent his early years growing up in the Philippines until the family returned to the States. Ray enjoyed building static plastic model aircraft with his brother, but didn't have much additional exposure to model aircraft other than that. After high school, Ray went to Marquette University in Milwaukee, earning a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering.

Beech Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas offered a co-op program where it would be possible to work and complete his degree - this simultaneously allowed Ray to explore aviation. He earned a private pilot's license at Beech, primarily flying Beech Skipper and Musketeers. Beech Aircraft also had a company park equipped with a model aircraft airport.

During Ray's last semester, engineering jobs were plentiful and he accepted many out-of-state plant interviews. Ray eventually picked Hughes Aircraft in Fullerton, California. Not only did two other Marquette graduates work there, but it was pretty close to both the beach and Disneyland. He worked on a Navy sonar program. Ray liked the effort enough to stay with Hughes Aircraft for more than 15 years.

Living in Tustin, he was still largely unaware of model aircraft as a hobby; windsurfing at Cabrillo Beach near San Pedro became his passion. Interestingly, he remembers windsurfing right near Point Fermin, but never did go up to check out the RC gliding activities at the time.

Hughes Aircraft was eventually purchased by Raytheon and the Fullerton office was set to close. The choice of commuting daily from Tustin to El Segundo or moving to Tucson, Arizona wasn't especially pleasing.



## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

He thought about going to Newport, RI to continue work with Navy Labs, but to our good fortune he instead decided to transfer to San Diego to work on a Navy amphibious ship program. Ray settled in Carlsbad in 1998 with his wife and family.

When Ray's son RJ was a youngster, Ray's brother sent him a box with a transmitter and model aircraft so that Ray and his son could have a flying activity together. Ray purchased a Wind Warrior Slayer, an electric powered RC flying wing and took it to Dave's Beach (Little Beach) near the end of Palomar Airport Road. Ray didn't know how to fly, but a kind local RCer named Andy flew the maiden flight. He suggested learning to fly with a Wing Warrior Raider. This would have been in the early 2000s. His son also enjoyed slope soaring a Dream-Flight Weasel, but skateboarding soon took greater interest. Dave's Beach was close by, fun, with a good group of pilots helping others learn to fly.



A picture of the group at Dave's Beach circa 2010. Ray stands on the far left, Dale Gottdank in the center with the red-winged plane, to his left is Gary McCann, Chip Greely in the back, Louis DeCarlo (red shirt), Greg Houck (blue shirt), and Neil Cameron with the CR Raider.



Ray Pili at the Gliderport

In 2006, Ray decided it was time to go to Torrey to see what that location was like. He'd heard good things about the lift, but not so good things about the politics. He wanted to check it out for himself. By that time, he had purchased a 60" Shark sloper from Oran Bloodsworth and took that with him to Torrey. Arriving at the pit area, he met a friendly RCer and TPG member, Kenny Talbert, who helped get the Shark dialed in.



## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Soon after, David Klein signed Ray off to fly Torrey. Torrey was super, people were friendly, and Ray learned more about TPG. Mark Canfield was also flying at Torrey regularly and knew Ray from shared time at Dave's Beach. Mark Canfield and others got more into F3F slope racing and Ray went along and participated in a few races at White Point, Grass Mountain, and Vincent.

Around this time, Chris Barkley convinced Ray, Mark, James M, and James D to start dynamic soaring, first at Poway, then later at Bill Hill (discovered by Bill Hill, Kevin Bagwell's buddy). This was the start of the "Amateur DS Junkies." Ray met up with Mark and Gary Legerton (who had also started RC soaring at Dave's Beach in the early 2000s) at Parker Mountain when a slope race at Vincent was cancelled. There, Ray witnessed chest thumping dynamic soaring flown by Gary. In about 2016 or so, Ray wondered what the fuss was about discus launch gliding, and so he came out to Poway and got hooked on that as well. Then he wondered what the fuss was about aerotowing large scale gliders. Sure enough, after purchasing a DG-1000 from Ron Brown and making a trip to Visalia with Thomas Moller and Steffen Peters, he was hooked on that too.



As with many slopers, Ray has experienced his fair share of epic lift at Torrey. This is a pic that Ray snapped in March of 2016 of a rain squall heading in at the cliff. Someone please launch before it arrives!

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Ray landing a DLG in a landing circle at Poway as a part of his initial foray into LSF achievement levels.



Ray about ready to winch launch his Fred Sage Addiction at Poway with Eric watching.

During this journey through different types of RC soaring, Ray decided to help volunteer for the TPG. He first volunteered as Treasurer, then became Slope Coordinator. As Slope Coordinator, he had the goals of maintaining club access to the Torrey Pines Gliderport, encouraging more fun flys at the cliff, and building a better understanding between the RCers and the ultralights (paragliders and hang gliders). He helped with a trainee program that others participated in as well, both at the slope and at inland locations off hi-starts. He would especially like to thank Mark Canfield, Kevin Bagwell, Chris Barkley, James Duarte, and James Muller who helped him learn to fly RC and to explore DS at locations like Poway slope, Bill's Hill, Parker, Weldon and others. Phil Davy helped show Ray the joy of slope aerobatics at Torrey, and Ray also wanted to thank John McNeil and Gary Fogel for starting him in thermalling with DLGs. Ray's favorite plane is an Espada R from about 2014 that was once owned by Phil Davy. It's on its second fuselage now/ but still is a great flier.

## TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

More recently, Ray has been working for General Atomics on a project related to propulsion for long-endurance space missions. He's also serving as chair of the Torrey Pines Soaring Council and helps TPG wherever he can at the slope or thermalling. He's been a great resource to the club for many years, but his many efforts were recognized in 2015 with a well-deserved Modeler of the Year award. Thanks for all you do Ray!



Ray landing his DG-1000 at a recent Visalia Aerotow event (Thomas Moller photo)



Ray (left) accepting the TPG Modeler of the Year Trophy from then club President Dan Cummins (right)

## Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

[RENEW YOUR TPG Membership](#) for calendar year 2024, please!

Do not be locked out. Renew and/or become a Torrey Pines Gulls member. Our goal this year is to increase our membership by 10%. For the 2023 calendar year, the club membership is 127. If you know someone who may be interested in RC soaring, please invite them to some of our events and encourage them sign up and become a member.

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 October 23, 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
2023 New and Renewed Members	0	127
2024 New and Renewed Members	17	17
Google Group Members	0	133

### 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 look for and subscribe to the upcoming RCGroups 2024 TPG Thermal contest (F5J and F3L) schedule thread(s) for next year's contest news:

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

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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](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 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

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.

We've completed all of our fun flies for 2023, but keep an eye out for announcements for the 2024 F5J Fun Fly schedule. As in 2023, 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.

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](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 11 members who are SAP Level I and 3 members who are eSAP Level 1. 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)



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; we had on such LSF day on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

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>

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

## How We Connect

### 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.

# 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!

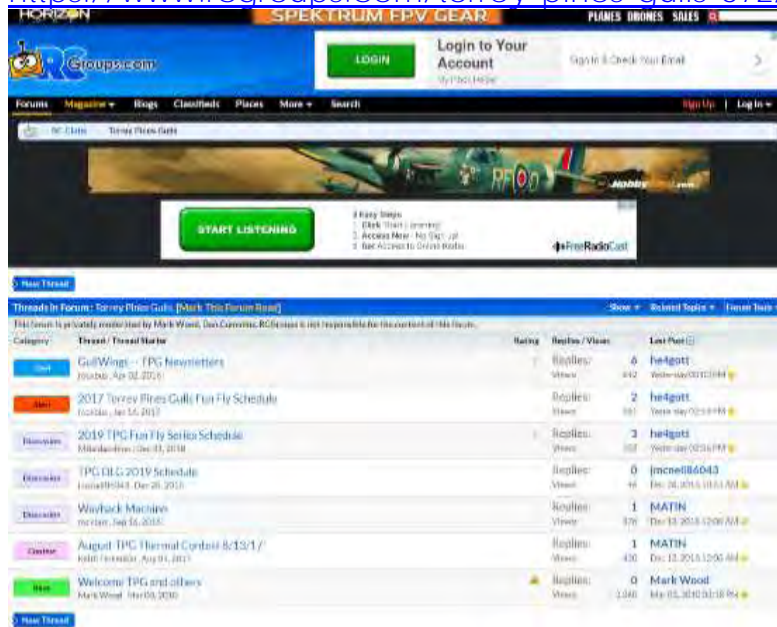
## How We Connect (continued)

# 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
Blog	Gull Wings - TPG Newsletters founder, Apr 01, 2015	Replies: 6 Views: 442	6 442	hefgott Wed: 04/01/2015
Event	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule tcc124, Jan 15, 2017	Replies: 2 Views: 881	2 881	hefgott Wed: 01/15/2017
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MarkWood, Dec 01, 2018	Replies: 3 Views: 103	3 103	hefgott Wed: 12/01/2018
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil66043, Dec 20, 2018	Replies: 0 Views: 46	0 46	jmcneil66043 Thu: 12/20/2018
Discussion	Wayback Machines mccr, Sep 16, 2015	Replies: 1 Views: 376	1 376	MATN Thu: 12/16/2015
Event	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/15-17 founder, Aug 01, 2017	Replies: 1 Views: 430	1 430	MATN Thu: 12/01/2017
Blog	Welcome TPG and all here MarkWood, Mar 05, 2010	Replies: 0 Views: 1,246	0 1,246	MarkWood Thu: 03/05/2010

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.

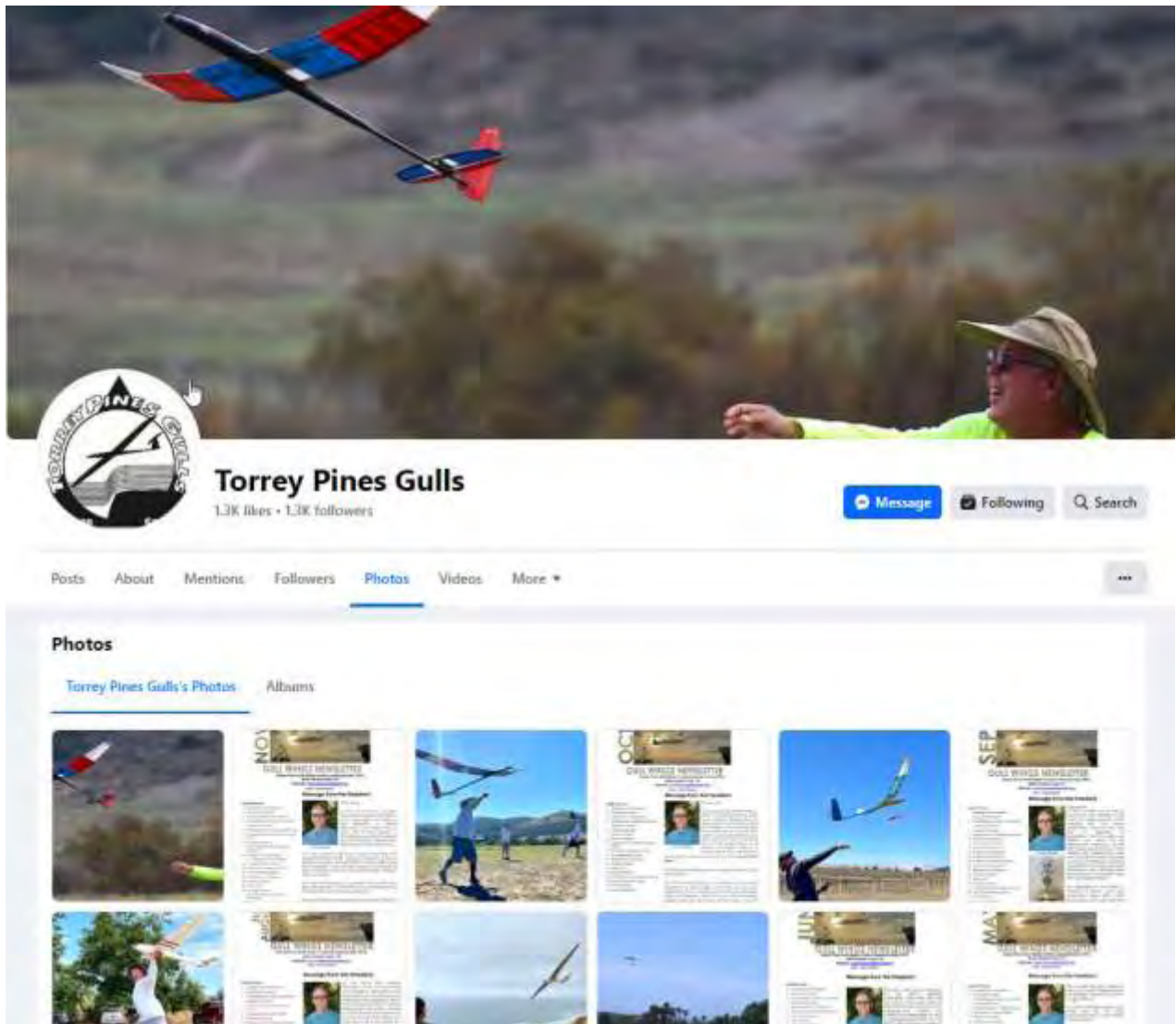
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

## How We Connect (continued)

# Check out the TPG 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/>

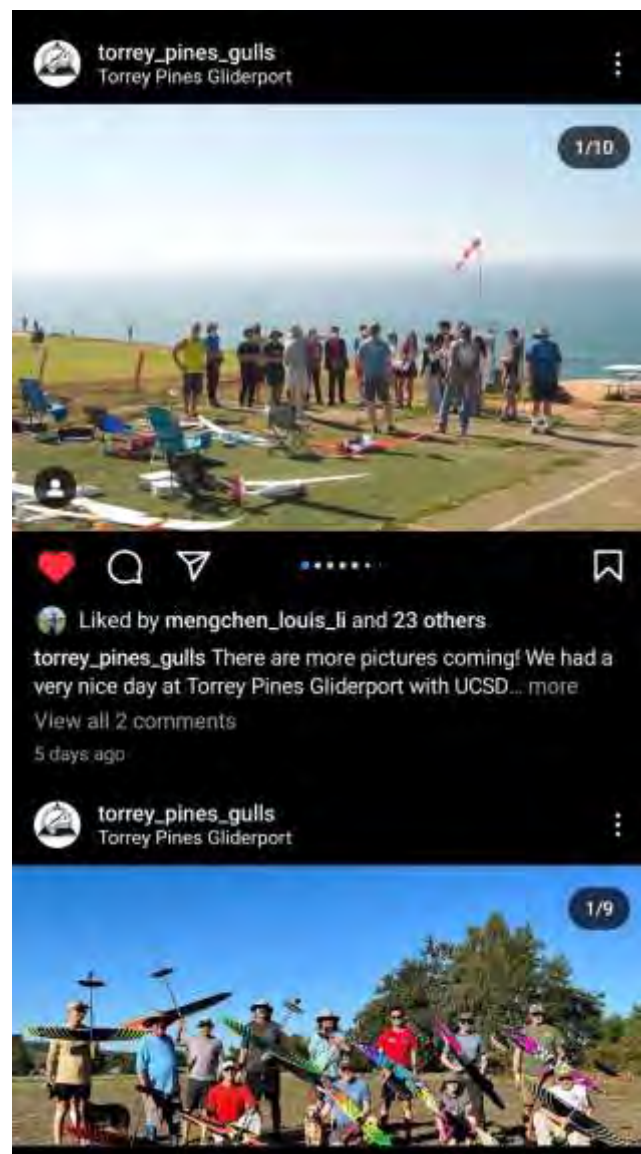


## How We Connect (continued)

### 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](mailto:media@torreypinesgulls.org) and you might find your submittal on a TPG Instagram post.





## 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>
Thermal Coordinator	Tom Watson	<a href="mailto:thermal@torreypinesgulls.org">thermal@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Slope Coordinator	Mark Baldacchino	<a href="mailto:slope@torreypinesgulls.org">slope@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
DLG Coordinator	Justin Tolman	<a href="mailto:dlg@torreypinesgulls.org">dlg@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	<a href="mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org">membership@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	<a href="mailto:mike@themapsmith.com">mike@themapsmith.com</a>
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:lsf@torreypinesgulls.org">lsf@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	<a href="mailto:web@torreypinesgulls.org">web@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	<a href="mailto:media@torreypinesgulls.org">media@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Historian	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:historian@torreypinesgulls.org">historian@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Mark Baldacchino	<a href="mailto:soaringcouncil@torreypinesgulls.org">soaringcouncil@torreypinesgulls.org</a>

### Executive Officers



Chuck Norris



Gary Fogel



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



Tom Watson



Mark Baldacchino



Justin Tolman



Cliff Hunter

## Photo of the Month Contest – 2023 Photo of the Year Winner

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 following year's Photo of the Year competition.



2023 Photo of the Year Winner – Mike Lance & Thomas Moller flying Thomas's Mystique (Ian Cummings)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Tom Drake's Cormier Racer at Cajon (Greg Houck photo)



Ray Pili landing his Paritech DG-100 at a Visalia Aerotow (Bob Hirsch photo)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Nice cloud formation over the November DLG contest at Poway (Bob Hirsch photo)



December Winner – Cliff Hunter launching his eDLG at the November DLG 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:**

*“Blow, blow, thou winter wind”*

*~ William Shakespeare*



Torrey Sunset (Marty Dine photo)