

2024
MAR



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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Photo above: Mike Lance and Thomas Moller flying Thomas' Mystique by Ian Cummings



Chuck Norris

Hi Everyone,

I'm now in my 2nd year as club president, but I have to say I sometimes still feel like such a noob. There are just SO many talented people who have DEEP roots within this organization! One of the true joys of my role is getting to meet interesting people and hearing about how they've enjoyed and contributed to our club and sport over the years

Last Sunday, at the inaugural Tow Hook contest, I met a guy many of you know; Don Van Gundy. I was putting away my Explorer, and he mentioned something about the wing bag, and how he was the one who made it. Ever since I acquired the Explorer and wing bag from Keith Finkenbiner's collection, I had admired that bag and how perfectly designed it was for its purpose. Don told me about how he designed it, why it was set up the way it is, and how he went through multiple iterations making it better. It's just one example of how our members make this club the unique and amazing group that it is!

(continued next page)

Message from the President (continued)

Speaking of Tow Hooks, the inaugural contest was a big success, and I think it will be popular. Being able to fly my 2m RES plane and my Explorer TD in the same contest was very satisfying! The contest had a very relaxed vibe that I really enjoyed. Come out and give it a try next time! Pretty much anything that can go up a winch or Hi Start is eligible one way or another, so this is a good chance to fly planes you might not have flown in a while.

Chuck

TPG March/April Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
March 9 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
March 16 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
March 17 th	Team DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
March 24 th	Tow Hook Series – F3RES 2.5m, 1.5m + TD	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault Put classes (up to 2) you will fly in comment
March 30 th	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.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
April 13 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
April 13 th	Old School Vintage Classic Balsa Woodies – BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
April 14 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
April 20 th	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
April 27 th – 28 th	29 th International Hand Launch Glider Festival	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault

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 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...Our last meeting, on February 27th, featured our own Gary Fogel, presenting a lecture on pioneering aviatrix, Ruth Blaney Alexander.



Our next club meeting is Tuesday, April 23rd at 7:00pm. **Don't miss out on a chance for TPG's new Super Raffle!** ([see info on the following page](#))

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!

March Issue highlights include:

- Special Announcements (page 4)
- Thank you to our IHLGF sponsors (page 5)
- UCSD AIAA Student Outreach Update (page 6)
- 2018 Modeler of the Year Steve Hurd by Gary Fogel (page 23)
- Photo of the Month Contest (page 44)
- Planes for Sale! (page 48)

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>.

LSF Day, To Be Rescheduled – Gary Fogel



We'd planned on having a March 2nd fun fly at Poway to help folks interested in achieving their LSF tasks. The weather however, didn't cooperate and we had to cancel the event. So, keep an eye out for future announcements about the rescheduled date. In the meantime:

What are the tasks? It depends on the level you are working on but you can find additional information here:

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

or see my column in this month's newsletter (page 36) that describes the tasks and has a list of TPGers and (I think) the levels they are currently working on.

We'll have a hi-start available and might have a sport winch available. If you are interested it would help for me to have a head count (gary...@gmail.com), and also knowledge of the levels you intend to work on. Please do not forget to bring your SAP or eSAP forms. And of course, even if you just want to come out and fly and have fun and not do anything with LSF levels, that's totally fine and fun too!

The Super Raffle Is Back! – Gary Fogel



A long ago in a galaxy far, far away, the Torrey Pines Gulls used to have regular monthly meetings in person; and at each meeting, members would have an opportunity to win some great prizes in a raffle.

One of the prizes each month was a "Super Raffle" ticket that allowed the winner to attend a really amazing raffle at the holiday party and get some additional goodies.

Unfortunately, we no longer have in-person meetings but we're doing the best we can with virtual club meetings via zoom. The next meeting will be April 23rd at 7pm with a presentation. However, at that meeting we're also going to have a random draw for two super raffle tickets and the winners will be able to choose some prizes at the year-end holiday party. So come join the virtual meeting, hang in there through the presentation, get that winning raffle ticket and see what you might win in December!

See you at the meeting!

Thank you to our IHLGF 2023 sponsors!

The 29th International Hand Launch Glider Festival is coming up at the end of April. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank (in advance) our generous sponsors of this event. Click on the logos to visit their websites.

If you want to see more about the sponsors and the goodies they are donating for the auction at IHLGF, go to <https://www.ihlgf.com/sponsors.html>. You don't have to fly in the contest to attend and bid on items; and a large percentage of the proceeds will go directly to the USA F3K team for their next World Championship opportunity.



UCSD AIAA Student Outreach Update

Over the past year or so, TPG Vice President and Club Historian Gary Fogel has been working with the UCSD chapter of AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) <https://aiaa.ucsd.edu/> on the annual Design/Build/Fly competition. This included inviting the students to participate in TPG Fun Flies at the Gliderport using members' buddy boxes to experience the excitement of slope soaring. Gary recently received the following email and photos from their current project.

Dear Gary Fogel,

Thank you and the Torrey Pines Gulls Glider Club for support of the Design/Build/Fly (DBF) at UC San Diego project team during the 2023-2024 competition year!

Today I am excited to share with you some very good news in regards to our team's progress in building an R/C plane for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) DBF competition.

During the 3-day weekend, our team successfully built and completed test flying our prototype R/C plane. The flight test was conducted yesterday during the President's holiday. This test flight was done mainly to validate the general flight and take-off characteristics of the plane we designed and fabricated with no payload. We needed this completed during the 3-day weekend because our Design Report is due this Friday, February 23rd and we wanted to include the test flight in the report since it will significantly improve our competition score. After our team submits the Report, we will begin construction of the competition plane to prepare it for the next test flight, where we will test the plane's ability to complete the payload missions outlined in the competition rules.

The competition plane differs from the prototype plane because it incorporates more features in the design which is required to complete the missions of the AIAA-DBF competition, such as the wing fold mechanism and payload bays. In addition, we aim to make the plane more aerodynamic by building a circular fuselage and cutting down on the plane's empty weight.

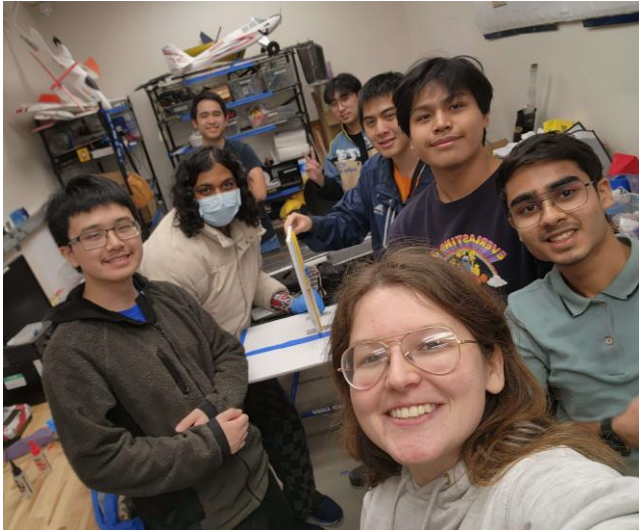
In this email, I included some pictures and a video taken during the test flight as well as some pictures highlighting some of the build sessions.

Again, thank you very much for your continued support of our project team! We hope to share more exciting news with you and TPG as we approach the competition fly-off in Wichita, Kansas on April 18th.

Sincerely,

Kevin Vo
Design/Build/Fly at UCSD
Project Manager 2023-2024

UCSD AIAA Student Outreach Update (continued)



News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino



Happy March, TP Gulls!

With the recent El Nino weather pattern, we've been seeing some nice windy days at the slope. It's so amazing to see the large-scale ships take to the sky and give spectators a real show to behold. One of those days was February 2nd, where a few brave souls flew their planes in the strong winds. Here are a few photos from that day.



L-R; Ian, Ray, Paul, and Jim on the mound. Ray was flying over the LZ. (Thomas Moller photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Thomas on final, spoilers up with his 4.5m ASH-26 (Ian Cummings photo)



Jim and his new 2m Carbon Blade (Thomas Moller photo)



Ray bringing his 6m ASH-26 into the pit area with Paul helping to control the wingtip in the high winds (Thomas Moller photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

On February 10th, the first of two Fly 'n Swap events was held. Thanks to Bob Hirsch for placing a thread in RCGroups and for the photos below, this event was a great success! By the pictures below, it may have been the world's largest outdoor sailplane hobby shop, with the best view! There were classic woodies, scalies, foamies, twisties, DLG's, PSS, composites, full-house, chargers, radios, and just about everything related to RC sailplanes. Here are some photos.



RC soaring enthusiasts from all over SoCal showed up. Great weather and free parking (Bob Hirsch photo)



Many birds going to new homes (Bob Hirsch photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Just a glimpse of what was there. Did I mention kits? (Bob Hirsch photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Lots of stuff for sale. Don't miss the next one in August! (Bob Hirsch photo)



And it came by the truckload! (Bob Hirsch photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Cash was king! (Bob Hirsch photo)

Next up this month, we have two events, weather permitting. First is our scale ship day on March 10th. The TPSSS club will be in attendance as well.

Then, at the end on the month on the 30th, will be the Redman rules contest fun fly. Mike Redman and Bob Hirsch will CD the FREE event and ribbons will be awarded for the top three finishers. **Don't miss this one!**

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

March 9 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day
March 30 th	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.
April 13 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
May 11 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Radians – if it's foam, this is your day. And, students from AIAA UCSD and SDSU will learn to fly on members' buddy boxes.
June 1 st	Katie Martin International Tribute. A Bob Martin event for mostly Hobie Hawks
June 8 th	Landing Strip Contest at 1:00 PM – Closest to the pin; ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd
July 6 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PNF – Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 10 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
September 7 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
October 19 th	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day
November 30 th	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

Blue Skies!
Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino

January F5J Fun Fly Contest Report – Don Lochhead, CD

The January F5J Fun Fly was held after the February Gull Wings publication date, so here's Don's report of the event:

Ten of us kicked off the F5J Fun Fly season at the Poway field with nine competitors flying Radians against one 1.5m eYellow Jacket. The predicted Santa Ana held off for most of the morning, with winds initially coming out of the SE, shifting to SW as the morning progressed. This necessitated shifting the launch direction at the mid-way point. A high-pressure system over the region made finding lift a bit elusive at times, leading almost everyone to choose to launch as high as possible. One exception was Ian, who did hook up with one boomer and caused him to wonder if his motor was back on.



A beautiful day for a Fun Fly at Poway (Ian Cummings photo)

We flew 7-minute rounds, and keeping with the fun-fly spirit, allowed re-launches. The use of a launch height recorder was not required, but is encouraged to give everyone a feel for true F5J conditions. Pilots without one were assigned a default height of 100 meters for scoring purposes. This did provide a bit of a penalty for pilots with devices that reported launch heights above 100 meters. For future events we will increase the default height to somewhere in the 130 to 150-meter range to better level the scoring playing field.

January F5J Fun Fly Contest Report (continued)

After 5 rounds, Gary Fogel placed first, edging out Tom Farley with Steve Hurd placing third.

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No)				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	6 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4468.72		773.95	956.67	1000	1000	738.10
2	7 Tom Farley 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4460.72	-8.00	1000	1000	835.32	1000	625.40
3	10 Steve Hurd 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4377.59	-83.13	648.75	1000	863.77	865.07	1000
4	2 Ian Cummings 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4062.63	-314.96	1000	718.75	806.68	537.20	1000
5	9 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3725.00	-337.63	670.50	933.05	415.27	706.18	1000
6	11 Bret Locke 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3689.10	-35.90	658.86	1000	1000	517.54	512.70
7	3 Bob Hirsch 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3496.49	-192.61	1000	887.03	475.83	508.29	625.34
8	5 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3238.53	-257.96	593.65	756.67	521.63	1000	366.58
9	1 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	2753.26	-485.27	362.07	806.82	582.61	643.27	358.49
10	4 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	2353.98	-399.28	568.10	601.67	1000	184.21	0.00
11	8 Bob Schumacher 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	0.00	-2353.98	NE	NE	NE	NE	0.00

After the flying was over, Ian fired up his grill and treated us all to hot dogs, a great way to finish off a fun morning of flying.

Next fun fly is April 20th so come on out and enjoy the fun.

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3045



Bret flying with Bob timing (Ian Cummings photo)



Ian ready to feed a hungry bunch of pilots (Don Lochhead photo)

Jan/Feb Tow Hook Series Contest Report – John McNeil, CD



Pilots at the event for 2.0m, 1.5m RES and Open TD. UCSD student, Logan with his Snipe at right (Bob Hirsch photo)

Despite threatening forecasts, we held the inaugural TPG Tow Hook event in warm, dry, cloudy, conditions with light wind. We had to move this contest to Poway due to rain within the proscribed 5 days at Encinitas. Per the new format, we set up 2 F3L compliant bungees and one sport winch. These fit nicely on the field, and the wind blew from the west all day. Aside from a line-break, we had no launch problems all day. Three F3L-standard landing tapes were set up at



Pilots meeting (Bob Hirsch photo)

The east end of the mowed area. Speaking of mowed, the field was really beautiful! Thanks again Sandy and Cliff!

I started the pilots meeting a little late, and given that this is a new format, the meeting was a bit long. A few kinks with launch gear and aircraft delayed the start to 9:30. When registration was finalized at the field, we had 8 pilots flying three classes: 4 in TD; 8 in F3RES (2M); and one in the new 1.5m RES class. I plugged all this into a spreadsheet and figured we could fly 6 rounds of 2m, and 5 each of Open and 1.5m. The 2m pilots were allowed a drop. I also allowed two relaunches due to pop-off for the bungee classes (2m & 1.5m) and one pop-off for winch/open.

Jan/Feb Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)



The scoring table (Bob Hirsch photo)



CD John McNeil (Bob Hirsch photo)

Once we got things rolling, the contest went along as well as I could imagine. Pilots were busy timing and flying in challenging but workable lift. Nobody was bored, and nobody except Gary was too busy. Gary flew in all three classes, as well as timed for several other pilots. He was ultimately not able to complete all his assigned flights; but made the best of it as we'll see. In post-action analysis, we decided that three classes are too many for one pilot, so in future, we'll restrict registration to any two of the three classes on offer.

The lift was mostly capped-out for the first half of the day. Later we had some big thermals, but they were rare. All the pilots got right to flying without noticeable sand-bagging, which meant we always had a few planes in the air and a couple launching and landing. This pace was a little less intense than official F3L because we didn't have the clock demanding everyone be in position for person-on-person launches. Similarly, the landing zone was usually open. Bret took advantage of this by making a spectacular last-ditch downwind landing for points while standing around 50 feet away back at the launch line!

At the 1:00pm designated last launch time, everyone had flown what they needed. In 2m, Cliff took third by getting 4 nearly 6:00 flights out of 6. I took 2nd, also with 4 x 6:00; my higher average landing scores allowed me to edge Cliff out. Gary only flew 5 flights, but was within 4 sec of 6:00 on all 5 flights and averaged 96.8 on landings. This put him in first without even flying his 6th flight for drop! Cliff easily won TD with 4 of 5 flights getting to the target 10:00. The only person with an easier win was Gary as our sole 1.5m entrant. Photo at right shows Gary's 1.5m Yellow Jacket with 2m version to its left.



(Bob Hirsch photo)

Jan/Feb Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)



Miro Sir (down from LA) launching his PuRES (Bob Hirsch photo)



Gary Fogel launching his 2.0m Yellow Jacket (Bob Hirsch photo)



Gary looking like he's about to stick the landing! (Bob Hirsch photo)

Jan/Feb Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)



Dave Hall launching his 2.0m Yellow Jacket. Don Lochhead and Cliff Hunter on right (Bob Hirsch photo)



Chuck Norris launching his 2.0m Yellow Jacket (Bob Hirsch photo)

Chuck, Don, David, and Bret each had some high scoring flights and landings. We were fortunate to be joined by Miroslav Sir from Torrance. He flies with a regular group Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This was his first contest of any kind and he flew well. Logan Smith, one of our UCSD members came out and timed in addition to setting up his Snipe. Bob Hirsch took pictures and timed as well.

Thanks to everyone for helping setup and teardown. Thanks to Dave and Gary for bringing a primary sport winch and backup. Thanks for everyone's patience with the changes in schedule in venue and date due to rain; and for their patience while I figured out how to run and score this new format. We only had a few planes land out, and no accidents at all. We learned some valuable lessons and will have even more fun March 24th, hopefully back at Encinitas. This format meets our objective of allowing more pilots to have more flights on the limited field width, so please join us...The more the merrier!

February DLG Contest Report – John McNeil, CD

This month's Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series was held at Poway February 17. The day started with low overcast that was expected to clear, but it never did. That said, there was lift all day. It was just hard to find, hard to work, and disappeared suddenly. All in all, a great day to test your thermalling skills! Thirteen pilots attended and we got started a little late at 9:15. I scheduled 6 rounds with two heats. I added some extra time between rounds, but it was still a busy day. Luckily, we had new student TPG member Logan Smith from UCSD as well as Milan's dad to help time.



Group shot (courtesy of Chuck Norris)

In round 1, which was 5x2:00, Mike Seid showed that the weather was not going to be a factor by racking up a 9:52.8! Truly it wasn't easy and he did some great flying. I 'K'd heat B with only 8:31.8, and was pretty happy with that. When I planned the contest, I thought it would be fun to jump right into all-ups while the lift was still weak in the morning (not knowing it would be weak all day). Gary topped heat A, having dropped a minute with Scott not far behind. Milan won heat B, dropping only 5 seconds.

Round 3 was best 3x3:00 with unlimited throws. Having a little spare time, we saw better times all around. The lift continued to be on, then off. We'd have lift over the creek, then 5 minutes later that was shut down with sink, while the area north of the trees started working. Even when the lift was working, thermals were hopping around like a boiling pot. I found the conditions really fun, if not classically great. Round 4 was quite similar but the task was 3x3:20. Theoretically this is a turnaround task, but landing early is an effective, if expensive way to buy time to look around and think. This was how both Mike and I won our respective heats.

February DLG Contest Report (continued)

When I planned the contest, I figured things would be great by round 5, so I scheduled the giant ladder. However, Justin, Gary, and I could only get 1 min when we were trying for 3 on our first throw. Finally, a big thermal picked up behind the tents and ran northeast. Justin spotted it and I followed. Gary intentionally flew a short 1 min for his 5, then relighted for a daring downwind run to catch up with us and get his 7:00. The combination of strategic thinking and self-confidence earned him another 1000 points. Mike and Milan got much better totals in heat B.



Contest scoring area...check out the "cold weather" wear. (Chuck Norris photo)



This shot of an All Up – Last Down launch provides a pretty good idea of what the day was like (Logan Smith photo)

February DLG Contest Report (continued)

Finally, it was time wrap up with the much anticipated classic 5-nomination poker. As a CD, I was really pleased to see how eager our pilots were to fly this difficult task! They all thanked me profusely on the forums and even bought me free beer!

What a bunch of steely eyed missile men! Gary, Bob, and Don did really well in heat A with 8:25, 7:32, 7:05 respectively. Mike and Chuck did great with 9:15 and 8:25 in heat B. Mike seemed to have plan as he flew 4x1:50 then at 1:55.

In the end Gary topped the field with Mike just behind him. Milan made a great showing with an excellent third place. Cliff won electric followed by Don and Bob.

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	3 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5923.0		960.1	1000	1000	962.9	1000	1000
2	11 Michael Seid 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5540.3	-382.7	1000	540.3	1000	1000	1000	1000
3	Milan Bregman 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	5149.6	-391.7	969.3	1000	1000	773.9	911.3	495.1
4	4 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4943.4	-206.2	961.2	975.7	843.3	822.7	431.6	908.9
5	5 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4832.1	-111.3	864.4	820.1	843.9	910.8	571.1	821.8
6	9 Scott Mccurdy 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4722.3	-109.8	883.9	897.5	866.5	895.0	704.2	475.2
7	6 John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4687.7	-34.6	1000	706.8	823.5	1000	779.4	378.0
8	1 Justin Tolman 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4414.8	-272.9	936.1	666.7	987.4	821.0	825.4	178.2
9	7 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4021.2	-393.6	788.5	456.6	638.3	729.8	566.4	841.6
10	2 Bob Hirsch 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3165.5	-855.7	630.1	536.8	759.0	343.6	0.0	896.0
11	10 Ian Cummings 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3090.1	-75.4	767.7	773.9	684.1	459.0	261.4	144.0
12	8 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	2367.1	-723.0	784.1	846.5	736.5	0.0	DNS	0.0
13	Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	165.7	-2201.4	165.7	DNS	0.0	DNS	DNS	0.0

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Steve Hurd, 2018 Modeler of the Year



Steve Hurd was born in Oakland, California, and at a young age in the 1950s, moved with his family to Escondido. His father, a doctor in Escondido, also maintained an interest in general aviation, earning his private pilot's license from either San Marcos Valley Airport or McCormick Airport (both of which are now part of San Marcos' industrial parks). As a child in his elementary school days, Steve grew up with an interest in the space program and flying free flight models, but the model airplane interest didn't last all that long. He enjoyed flying in his dad's plane and received his private pilot's license in the late 1960s, graduating from Escondido High School in 1969. After high school, Steve attended Palomar College, and started working in the hospitality industry throughout the San Diego area, mostly in the food and beverage sector. Through the 1980s his interests diversified into real estate and property management. Through the 1980s his interests diversified into real estate and property management.

Steve really didn't have much exposure to RC models until running into a person flying a Gentle Lady RC glider on a hill near his work in La Costa near Stagecoach Park. That looked pretty cool! He got his own Gentle Lady kit and started building. Between 1985 and 1992, Steve enjoyed flying RC gliders with a friend, Paul Schulte, largely on their own at various locations in North County San Diego. Steve would fly his Gentle Lady while Paul flew a Hobie Hawk regularly at the top of La Costa near a water tank after work and also at Beacon's Beach in Leucadia and Swami's in Encinitas. Steve's first radio was a 4-channel Airtronics and he also enjoyed building and flying a lot of the lower cost Bridi Tercel kits which used to be available for \$15 each. Those were fun days of just flying whenever and wherever you wanted! He was aware of the activities of the North County Clouds and their efforts with thermal duration contests in San Marcos. While he did stop by to fly there occasionally with Keith Finkenbiner, Bill Liscomb and others, he never officially joined the club.



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

By the late 1980s, Steve moved to Maui to take a position in resort management. There he befriended modelers in the Maui Island Soaring Organization (MISO) club who were flying at various locations including the Poli Poli Park on the NW side of Haleakalā and from slopes north of Kahului. The experience on Maui taught Steve to do more with less, as it was difficult to obtain kits and equipment. The locals taught him a lot about “improv.” building and flying with foam designs, etc., for both thermal and slope. He really enjoyed flying heavily-ballasted PSS style foam planes from the slopes in the constant trade winds. Super fun!

However, in 1992 Steve returned to San Diego when Paul Schultes gave him a new start in the healthcare insurance market, an area he has continued with to the present. This career move provided Steve with some additional financial independence. Simultaneously the Internet was “new,” and Steve had a hobby of website design. At that time, very few Insurance brokers had any website presence at all. Within a year of setting up his own website, Steve quickly outpaced others in finding new clients! He was an early adopter of search engine optimization; building his own computers, learning how to use tools like Microsoft Frontpage and applying it all to the insurance industry. This experience would pay off later for TPG but allowed Steve to serve a wider region for his insurance business.

Now back in San Diego, Steve met Arthur Markiewicz during a time when foam flying wings were very popular. The connection to Arthur led Steve and Paul to the Torrey Pines Gulls. Steve purchased a full-house Sapphire and started flying at TPG thermal duration contests and more regularly at Torrey. He enjoyed the camaraderie of the TPG and began to put in his own efforts as a volunteer with TPG starting in the early 2000s. Armed with his experience with website design he volunteered to develop the club website and serve as the club webmaster. As a member of the TPG, Steve enjoyed regular trips to Visalia and Arizona for TD contests. Through TPG and Palomar RC Flyers member Tom Minegar, Steve also got into scale soaring as Tom was also working in the insurance market. At that time a large group of scale modelers were flying at Horno Field on Camp Pendleton. Steve bought a Multiplex ASW-22 from Ron Brown and found another new set of friends in Mike Lance, Mark Foster, Dan Troxell, Gary McCartney, Scott Monarch, and Ken Kaye.



Steve Hurd enjoying a nice day of sailing on Mission Bay. Life is Good!

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Airtronics Sapphire from the 1990s

Steve then also branched out most recently into FAI F5J but enjoys building the most. Ken Kaye has been a great building mentor, helping Steve with the building of his own light ply/foam 4m gas-powered tug for aerotowing of his own design. Steve also enjoys flying a Rosenthal Cirrus 7.5m/8.0m at aerotow events in Visalia. Towing has now become its own source of fun. **Steve says:** "I'm not the best pilot at the field and my building is even worse (crooked and heavy) but I've thoroughly enjoyed the hobby for the past 45 years and plan to continue until the peepers give out."



Steve Hurd flying his large 50% Hempel Ka-6 at Visalia at one of the spring aerotows.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Steve launching his 40% Paratech DG-1000 via aerotow at Fallbrook.



Steve's Paratech DG-1000 on aerotow out of the Palomar RC Flyers field in Fallbrook.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Steve's Pilatus PC-6 Porter towplane during construction.



Steve Hurd's completed, very large Pilatus PC-6 Porter scratch built towplane. Who's next on the line?

Steve is a firm believer that each of us has our own expertise that can be used to help a club like the Torrey Pines Gulls. He feels that you get back what you give and that community service is an important effort in life. Sometimes it's good to be the guy on the towline, sometimes it is also fun to be the guy doing the aerotowing. Either way everyone has a fun day.

In 2018, the TPG recognized Steve's many years of service as club webmaster by honoring him with the TPG Modeler of the Year award. Thanks, Steve for all your continued efforts with the website!



One of Steve's latest towplanes is this one-off scratch-built tug that combines good qualities of a Bidule tug with a Pegasus tug. He calls it Chiquita. Behind that is Steve's 50% scale Schempp-Hirth Standard Cirrus 75 G/18 model. These are big models! Both pictured at Visalia.

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

RENEW YOUR “TPG” Membership for calendar year 2024, please!

54 members have yet to renew their membership as of this date. 2023 locks have been removed. Renew and/or become a TPG member. Our goal this year is to increase our membership by 10%. 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.

Renewing or new members must fill out the registration on our web site.

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

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.

TPG Membership		
Date: January 26, 2024	Since Last Report	Total
2023 – Members		127
2024 – New and Renewed Members	17	76
2024 - Google Group Members	1	135

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



John McNeil

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

For 2024, Thermal Duration (winch launch) contests have been moved into the new Tow Hook Series (see the following pages). For F5J contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

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

Also, be sure to look for, and subscribe to, the upcoming RCGroups 2024 TPG Thermal contest (F5J) schedule thread for next year's contest news: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447697-2024-TPG-F5J-contest-schedule>

or contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

DLG/Hand Launch/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 2024 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4455963-2024-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series>

or contact Justin Tolman at dlg@torreypinesgulls.org

How We Compete (continued)

Team DLG Series



John McNeil

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

We are very excited to announce a two-event series for a new team DLG format!

The Gulls have been playing this super-fun team game on practice days for several years, and we are excited to share it with the community!

The format is team-only; there are no individual scores. Each team requires four pilots. You have plenty of time, so start getting your teams together – and start practicing!

The schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447751-2024-TPG-Team-DLG-Series>

or contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

Team DLG format:

- Teams consist of exactly four pilots.
- In each heat, three of the pilots fly while one pilot times and provides team direction.
- Each round, the timer is rotated. After four rounds, all team members will have timed once.
- Contest rounds follow F3K formats except:
 - Flight timing
 - Flight time starts when the last of three pilots releases the model.
 - Flight time ends when the first of three pilots time would end.
 - If any pilot lands out of bounds, then the flight scores zero.
 - (In other words, all three pilots fly each flight together for a single flight time)
 - For Poker:
 - The timing team member makes the time nomination.
 - All three pilots must make the nominated time (see flight timing above).
 - Timer can force the whole team to re-flight to maximize the score

How We Compete (continued)

2024 TPG Tow Hook Series - F3L/F3RES/TD/1.5m



John McNeil

Last Year we launched the TPG F3L series with 4 contests. This format turned out to provide a relaxed and social event. In 2024, we want to modify the program to allow more pilots to fly, and also to preserve AMA TD as an active TPG contest class. With this in mind, we present the 2024 Tow Hook Series.

The schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447735-2024-TPG-Tow-Hook-Series-F3L-F3RES-TD-1-5m>

For more info, contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

Who

AMA pilots who are interested in flying with friends, improving their thermal flying skills, and competing for fun.

Why

The goals of this program are:

- Provide a fun, relaxed monthly contest where low-cost aircraft can be competitive
- Various classes encourage greater participation
- Overcome the current field limitations for F3L of 12 pilots max. at Encinitas and 8 at Poway
- Maintain a home for AMA TD competition
- Develop a competitive thermal format for sailplanes under 250g

What

Format:

This format is similar to the successful BARCS FxRES format with modifications to suit our TPG community and fields.

This is a simple format with a 4-hour window, where competitors will fly a number of flights in the **window to be determined by the CD based on that day's registration** (see the classes section for maximum flight times). There is a landing bonus using F3L landing tapes for all classes. Launches made after the open window will receive zero landing points if within 30 seconds. All launches must occur during the open window. After the 4-hour open flying window, the CD shall tally the scores and may choose to have fly-off rounds. Points in fly-off will be added to points from open flying.

Launches:

Pilots launching RES from bungees are allowed to re-fly if they have a pop-off up to two times in the open window. Winch launch (TD) pilots may have one re-fly if they pop-off.

Landings:

Landings count if there are no shed parts. Upside-down is ok. Landings where the nose is buried and the tail is in the air are also given a zero score.

How We Compete (continued)

2024 TPG Tow Hook Series - F3L/F3RES/TD/1.5m (continued)

Aircraft Classes

Pilots may fly in any one or two of the three classes below. We will fly up to 3 classes depending on attendance:

- 1.5m RES bungee launch. Max flying weight is 250g. Construction materials and techniques must follow F3L rules.
Maximum flight time is 5 minutes.
- 2m RES bungee launch. Construction materials and techniques must follow F3L rules.
Maximum flight time is 6 minutes.
- AMA thermal duration open class. Winch launch. Skegs are allowed.
Maximum flight time is 10 minutes.

Equipment

At least three landing tapes will be provided, marked for F3L. AMA TD will use the same landing bonus formula as the other classes.

F3L compliant bungees will be provided by the club and set up at the CD's direction. At the CD's discretion, all bungees may be shortened from F3L standard to accommodate field conditions.

Winches:

A single winch will be provided by the club when at least 2 pilots register at least one week in advance. The winch shall be set up in parallel with, and at the same length as the stretched bungees. The winch will not have a retriever. The winch shall be run until the chute is at the turn-around after every launch.

When

Refer to posted schedules on RCGroups and the Torrey Pines Gulls website.

Where

TPG Encinitas Flight Center, except within 5 days following rain, when the contest will relocate to the Poway Flight Center.

How

John McNeil, in the role of TPG Thermal coordinator, will recruit a CD for each contest. This format does not require the sound system or timing board, but does require bungees and sometimes a winch.

How We Compete (continued)

F5J Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic Series



Don Lochhead

TPG will continue our F5J style foamy fun fly contests (and clinic) in 2024 at our Poway field. This is truly a fun-fly and a great way to get into F5J style flying. Any foamy or stick-built plane up to 2m (or so) is welcome. Night Radians are very popular but we also see Yellow Jackets (stick-built) and a variety of other vintage foamy and balsa stick-built aircraft.

We fly 7-minute windows with standard F5J landing tapes. If you are just getting started and do not have an Altis yet, no problem. Your timer will give you the 30 second call to cut your motor and the CD will announce a default launch height to be used for scoring purposes.

We typically pause mid-contest for a quick clinic. Subjects generally focus on F5J topics of interest to pilots getting into the format. The events are free but we still ask all pilots to sign up on F3X Vault so we know how many to expect and can run the matrix ahead of time.

For 2024 we have three more events scheduled:

April 20
July 27
October 26

Come on out and join the fun!



Bob Hirsch photo

What is LSF? – Gary Fogel



League of Silent Flight



Gary Fogel

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

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

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

Requirements	Primary	Intermediate			Advanced
Level	I	II	III	IV	V
Thermal Duration	5 min.	15 min.	30 min	1 hr	2 hrs.
Slope Duration	15 min.*	1 Hr.*	2 hrs.*	4 hrs.*	8 hrs.
Precision Spot Landing	5 landings 3m (9.84 ft) or less	10 landings 1.5m (4.92 ft.) or less	None	None	None
Goal and Return	None	None	1km (0.62 mi.)	2km (1.24 mi.)	10km(6.2 mi)
Competition	None	6 contests** w/ 1 place or 3,000 pts	6 contests** w/ 2 place or 4,500 pts	6 contests** w/ 2 places and 1 win or 6,000 pts	6 contests** with 12,000 points including 3 wins

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

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



What is LSF? – (continued)

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

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

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

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

Bring the appropriate voucher with you to any of our many TPG events in 2024 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 Walter “Wally” Adazczik at lsf_secretary@silentflight.org as a pdf scan or photo that clearly shows the witness signatures. Wally 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 Wally.

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 many 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 2024 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. On June 8, we're planning an LSF day at Poway and Torrey to help get people signed off. We might throw in some additional LSF days if there is interest.

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	Level I
Pili	Ray	Level II	Level 1
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.

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 Google Groups

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!

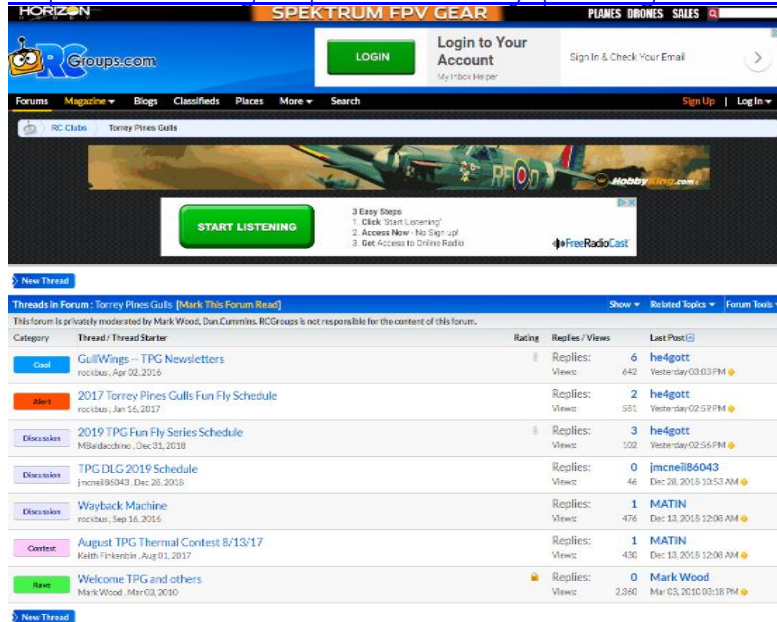
How We Connect (continued)

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/>



The screenshot shows the RCGroups.com website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Forums, Magazine, Blogs, Classifieds, Places, More, and Search. A 'Login' button is present, along with a 'Sign Up' link. Below the navigation bar, there's a banner for 'Torrey Pines Gulls' with a 'START LISTENING' button. A list of forum threads is displayed, including 'GullWings -- TPG Newsletters', '2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule', '2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule', 'TPG DLG 2019 Schedule', 'Wayback Machine', 'August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17', and 'Welcome TPG and others'.

Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Replies / Views	Last Post
Good	GullWings -- TPG Newsletters rocciba, Apr 02, 2016	Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule rocciba, Jan 16, 2017	Replies: 2 Views: 581	he4gott Yesterday 02:57 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule IMBardolino, Dec 01, 2018	Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2018	Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 28, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine rocciba, Sep 16, 2016	Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finkelson, Aug 01, 2017	Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
New	Welcome TPG and others MarkWood, Mar 03, 2010	Replies: 0 Views: 2,860	MarkWood Mar 03, 2010 05:18 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.

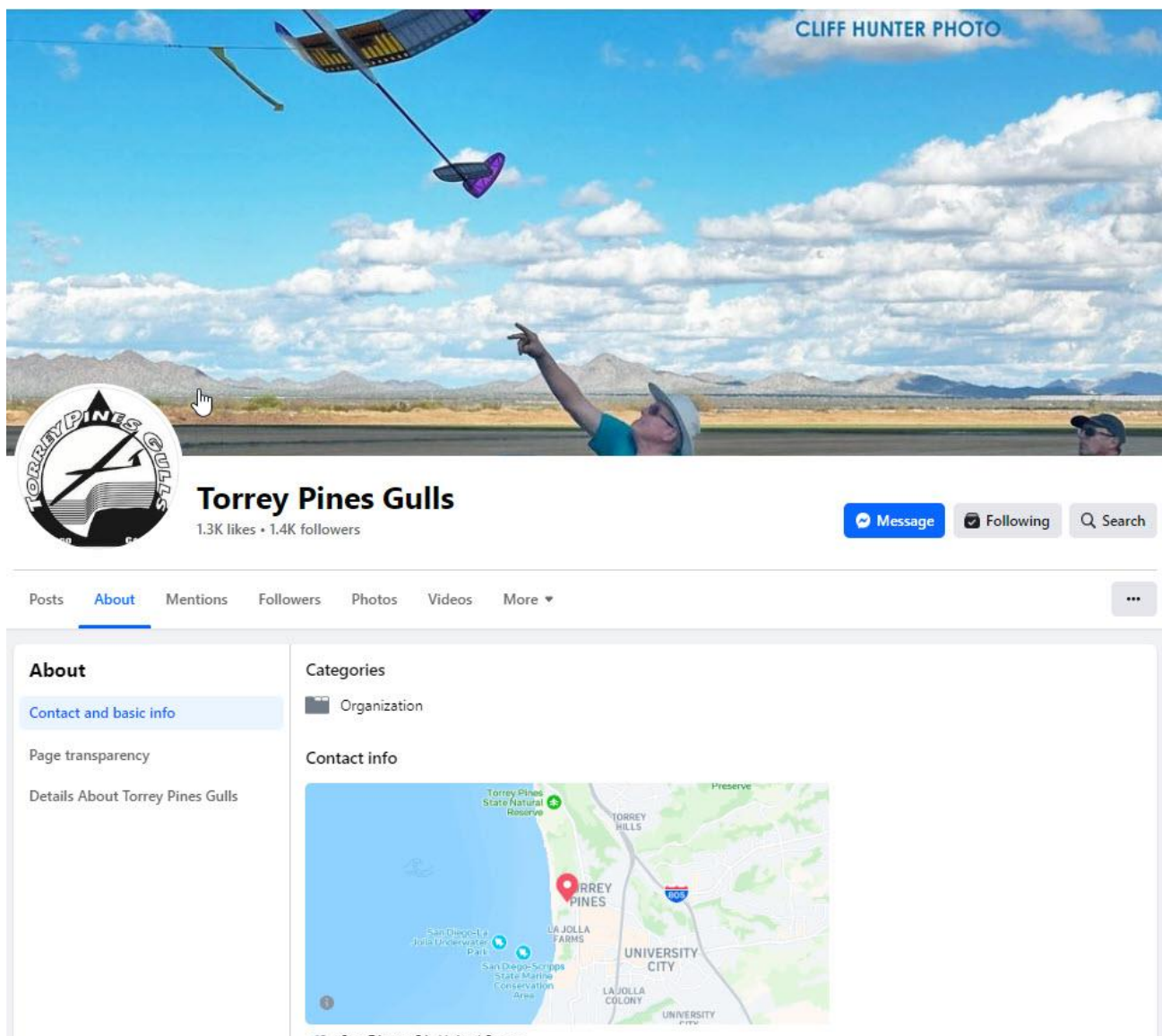
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

How We Connect (continued)

Check out the TPG 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/>

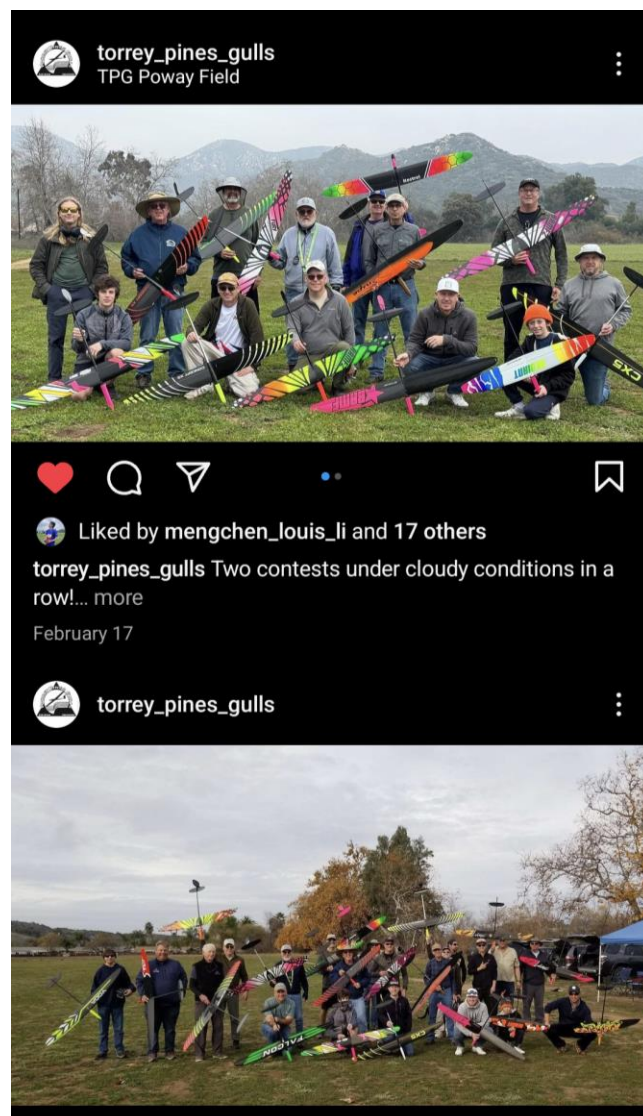


How We Connect (continued)

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.



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	John McNeil	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



John McNeil



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 2023 Winner – Cliff Hunter launching his eDLG at the November DLG contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Winner – Thomas Moller's ASH-26 and Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 await launch at Torrey (Aaron Wallace photo)



February Winner – Steffen Peters' 7.4m Antares over Pacific whitecaps (Thomas Moller photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Dave Hall launching his Yellow Jacket at the SWSS February Bungee Challenge (F3L) contest in Arizona (Gary Fogel photo)



Cloudy day at Torrey UMX Conscendo in a SSW wind (Walt Quitt photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Winner – Dave Hall launching with Gary Fogel timing at the SWSS Bungee Challenge (Cliff Hunter photo)



AND WANTED

TPG Classified Ads Policy

Classified ads are free to TPG members for non-commercial purposes. Commercial customers should contact the editor. To submit an advertisement, send the information to communications@torreypinesgulls.org. 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.

Gerasis Fox 6300 ARF

NIB Kit, but nearly complete right out of the box. All original key components included.

\$250 OBO

Contact: Jerry.Fry

(858) 357-6088

jfry2@san.rr.com

FOX Kat.č. 6300

PG GERASIS

SP-P587

\$250 obo
*Nice Kit. Unbuilt but nearly complete right out of the box.
 Nice workmanship on all parts.*

Rozpětí:	Span	2030 mm	Stavebnice RC polomakety polského akrobatického větrone. Stavebnice obsahuje laminátový trup, laminátovou směrovku, hotové křídlo a výškovku požehlanou folií ORACOVER, rám kabiny, kabinu, modelářskou bižuterii, spojku křídla a obtiskový aršík. Model je určen pokročilým modelářům.
Délka:	Length	1050 mm	
Plocha:	Area	25 dm	
Letová váha:		1150 g	
Zatížení:		46 g/dm	
Profil:	Wing foil	RG 15	

Trup:	6300.1
Křídlo:	6300.2
VOP:	6300.3
SOP:	6300.4
Rám kabiny:	6300.5
Kabina:	6300.6
Obtisky:	6300.7

(continued next page)



AND WANTED





AND WANTED

Xantipa – 120" Span F3J by Jiri Tuma

NIB, purchased in Visalia in ~1999 from Skip Miller, who was the US distributor at that time. The Xantipa won two European League in 1998 and was used by the Belgian and French teams at the World Championship in UK in 1999.

Nearly complete out of the box; just easy assembly and customization at this point. All original components included, including 7 VOLZ Modellbau servos and an 1800mah **battery that hasn't been charged in 20 years.** ;-)

\$1500 OBO

Contact: Jerry Fry

(858) 257-6088

jfry2@san.rr.com



XANTIPA (zantipa)

The Xantipa is an all molded Czech Republic model of approximately 128" in span, weighs 80-83 oz and is the latest effort from the design workshop of Jiri Tuma. It uses the very popular modified 7037 airfoil. It sports a slip on nose cone, 1 piece removable V-Tail, bolt on 3 piece wing, and 90 degree flap capability. Pushrods are installed but need to be attached to the side of the fuselage with shoe goo. Cut your servo and rx/battery access holes with a dremmel. This allows access with a wire and shoe goo to fix tubes to side of fuselage. Do one side at a time and let set up. Simple radio installation is all that is necessary to get the ship soaring. The craftsmanship is excellent, with fit and finish falling into a 10 range, (10 is perfect). I began importing the ship because of its high quality, and have been impressed with its user friendly handling characteristics. Everyone who sees the ship is very impressed with the high degree of quality. It's as good as it gets.

The following are the settings we are flying presently and are very conservative.

CG	-3.70 inches back from leading edge
Tow Hook	- 3.60 inches back from leading edge
Ailerons	- up 3/4" down 1/4" minimum
Flaps	- 25% mix to ailerons minimum
V-tail	- Up and down 3/8" minimum
Launch flap and aileron	- 1/4" camber full span
Camber to elevator mix	- 1/8" full span
Speed reflex	- 1/32" full span

7 Servos included in kit, which the aircraft also supports.

Enjoy,

Skip Miller

(continued next page)



AND WANTED





Quote of the Month:

“March Madness brackets are like a crystal ball for predicting the unpredictable.”

~ Anonymous

