

2024
APR



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,

April is now upon us, and that means the International Hand Launch Glider Festival!! April 27 and 28 are the big days. If you're a DLG pilot or an aspiring one, this is not to be missed. Two full days of challenging tasks, camaraderie, and spectacle at the world-famous Poway flying field!

Maybe you're not a DLG pilot? Come on out anyway! We have lots of sponsors to check out, an auction to bid on, where you can pick up some really sweet gear; and it's really fun to watch the flying action. The Poker task by itself is hugely entertaining unless you're the guy who called "All In" right before a down cycle! And the flyoffs on Sunday will feature some of the best pilots in the world duking it out for podium spots.

Chuck



Click on the image above to visit the official IHLGF website



2023 IHLGF pilots. Join the fun this year! (Bob Hirsch photo)

TPG April/May Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
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	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
April 27 th – 28 th	29 th International Hand Launch Glider Festival	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 11 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Radians If it's foam, this is your day.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
May 11 th	Redman Rules & Landing Contest Ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
May 11 th	Students from AIAA UCSD and SDSU will learn to fly on members' buddy boxes.	Torrey Pines Gliderport Please come to help out and bring your buddy box setup if you have one
May 18 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 26 th	Tow Hook Series – F3RES 2.5m, 1.5m + TD	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open

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, Editor



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!

April Issue highlights include:

- **Special Announcements (page 4)**
- **Thank you to our IHLGF sponsors (page 5)**
- **Order your IHLGF Tee Shirt now! (page 6)**
- **IHLGF Auction! (page 7)**
- **First ever Team DLG Contest Report including link to video (page 18)**
- **2022 Modeler of the Year Mark Baldacchino by Gary Fogel (page 23)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 47)**

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.



Order your IHLGF Tee Shirt now!

Here's a look at this year's IHLGF event tee. The front of the white tee is adorned by the 2024 event logo, commemorating the 29th IHLGF, with a stylized "29" reminiscent of a meandering thermal track. The back is adorned by a (still evolving and pending changes) stack of the sponsors who have generously offered their support for this year's event.



The shirt is a 5.6oz cotton/poly blend that is a bit heavier, and slightly more robust, than the shirts we've used the past few years.

We currently have 15 shirts sold at \$30. If we can get the number of pre-orders up to 30 shirts, we are in a position to be able to drop the price to \$25 (and offer a \$5 refund to anyone who has already paid).

If you are an IHLGF contestant and would like to order an event shirt, please head back to the registration page on the [F3X Vault](#), and update your selection. We will be able to accept tee shirt pre-orders through April 3rd so don't delay!

If you would like to order a shirt and you're not a contestant, please send an email with size (M-L-XL-XXL only) to dlg@torreypinesgulls.org and make a \$30 PayPal payment to paytpg@torreypinesgulls.org.

-Justin (on behalf of The Management)

IHLGF Auction!

Whether you're competing in the International Hand Launch Glider Festival, or simply a spectator enjoying the action, here's a chance to score some great RC stuff and help support the USA F3K Team.

IHLGF AUCTION

We will once again be holding our not-so-silent Auction with the proceeds supporting the US F3K Team. We have a great collection of goodies that are not just limited to F3K but are great for all RC pilots.

We will announce the final list of items along with auction schedule in the days before the contest so stay tuned.

Aircraft

- CX5
- Deviant
- Phantom
- CX Fling

Servos

- CHASERVO
- KST A08
- FrSKY H5701
- SAVOX SV1232MG
- HITEC D131MW

Gear

- HITEC RDX1 Charger
- JR X14 Transmitter
- FrSKY X18 Transmitter
- GliderCG CG Scale
- ARMSOAR Batteries

News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino



Happy April, TP Gulls!

On Saturday, March 9th, we had a small, but fun Scale plane Fun-Fly day. The wind was pretty much nonexistent at 11 when I showed up, but slowly filled in from the west at ~10 MPH. There was one plane that was set up in the pits when I arrived, which was a 4m, DG500 rescued and refinished by Merrill Brady. About 1:00 PM. The wind was good enough to fly, and the fun began



Merrill, his wife, and his DG-500 from Downey, CA (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

Gary Fogel and Ren Deleo, President of TPSSS (Torrey Pines Scale Soaring Society), showed up right as the wind picked up. Gary brought a couple of beautiful planes; a TG-3, and 1-26 that are in the photos below. Ray Pili showed up as well, pulling double duty of helping Merrill launch, but really came out to obtain more training in paraglider flight. The highlight of the day was Merrill flying his DG-500, and even with his big mustache and my poor vision, I could see him smiling ear-to-ear! He has decades of building and flying experience, and was such a blast to see him fly out over the Pacific!



Merrill triple checked his radio to the flying surfaces and ready for flight. This plane flew at Visalia, but not at Torrey. Gary's 1-26 and TG-3 in the foreground (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Gary and Merrill chatting after many moons. The wind just came up – let's fly! (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Lefty Ray launching Merrill's DG-500. Ray said it pretty much flew out of his hands. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Ray showed up with a BIG lunch backpack! Actually, he's headed over to the shack to get some PG training. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Shortly after, Ray was flying over the Pacific himself. What a blast that must be! (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Ren launching Gary's 1-26. Mark Baldacchino photo

News from the Slope (continued)



Under that hat, is Merrill smiling from ear-to-ear! (Ray Pili photo)

The Redman Rules contest was after the due date of this writing. Weather prevailing, I'll have a write-up in next month's newsletter.

Next up on our calendar, is one of two Classic Woody Fun Fly's on April 13th. Come on out and bring your built-up birds, and enjoys the day!!

News from the Slope (continued)

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

April 13 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood <i>and rescheduled from March 30th ...</i> 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.
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

March DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The March DLG contest/clinic was held on Saturday the 16th with 11 pilots on the roster. Split into two flight groups, we were thankful to have Tom Farley, Bob Hirsch and Darian Bregman available to help time for us. I scheduled eight rounds, two more than our usual six, hoping to get in some good practice with IHLGF just over a month away. Big, pillowy clouds danced across the sky giving us partly-cloudy conditions all day.



Group shot (Bob Hirsch photo))



Pilots meeting with CD/scoring tent in the foreground (Bob Hirsch photo)

March DLG Contest Report (continued)

Round 1 (Task F- Best 3 out of 6) presented soft and scratchy lift for the first group. Cory Shantz took advantage of his stellar launch height to take the K in Group A, achieving all 3 of his 3-minute flights. No other pilot in Group A was able to get all 3. In Group B, however, 4 out of 5 pilots were able to achieve all three of their 3-minute flights as the dynamic air quickly started to build.

In Round 2 (Task K - Big Ladder), the air was quickly becoming much more buoyant and ground reads were quite indicative of where the lift was. In Group A, I was able to take the K over Cory Shantz. In Group B, it was the rapidly-rising Junior Milan Bregman taking the K over Mengchen Li.

The conditions in Round 3 (Task J - Last three flights) reminded us that where there are thermals, there is also nearby sink. Finding lift and not sink in Group A was Cory Shantz, who was the only pilot in that group to get all 3, 3-minute flights. In Group B, Mengchen Li took the K after surviving a punishing wave of sink that swallowed all the pilots in the group on their third flight.

Round 4 (Task G - 5 x 2) continued with very dynamic and challenging air. Two-minute flights were no easy feat. In Group A, Cory Shantz again took the K after dropping over 32 seconds. In Group B, it was Milan Bregman taking the K after dropping 44 seconds.

By Round 5 (Task C - AULD) the air was becoming somewhat more forgiving and less punishing. In Group A, 4 pilots (Cory Shantz, Milan Bregman, Gary Fogel and myself) all split the K after getting all 3, 3-minute flights. In Group B, Mengchen Li was the only pilot able to get all 3, 3-minute flights.



Justin Tolman launching (Bob Hirsch photo)



Chuck Norris launching with Cory Schantz timing (Bob Hirsch photo)

March DLG Contest Report (continued)

We took a quick break before moving onto Round 6 (Task H - 1,2,3,4). In Group A, Mengchen Li took the K. Gary Fogel had a landout, but recovered well and managed to not lose too much time. Unfortunately, Cory Shantz wasn't so lucky and lost several minutes after landing out way down wind to the east. In Group B, Scott McCurdy took the K over Chuck Norris.

The afternoon air of Round 7 (Task N - Best Flight) brought booming lift. Five out of six in Group A (Gary Fogel, Cliff Hunter, Mengchen Li, Chuck Norris and Milan Bregman) launched at the buzzer and flew the entire 10-minute window to share the K. In Group B, Scott Mccurdy, Cory Shantz and I also flew the entire 10-minute window on a single launch.

The huge air did linger for Round 8 (Task A - Last Flight). In Group A, Mengchen Li, Gary Fogel and I managed to hook up and scratch at cloud base in huge lift. However, Mengchen and Gary were the only two to convert their high-altitude flights into Ks as my plane got tossed into a tree before it could make it back to the field boundaries. Milan Bregman also had a stellar flight into the stratosphere but couldn't get back before the landing window expired. Cory Shantz, Chuck Norris, and Cliff Hunter avoided the Group A drama and shenanigans to share the K in Group B.



Mengchen executing a quickturn. Tom Farley is timing. Ian Cummings launching (Bob Hirsch photo)
(Bob Hirsch photo)

Mengchen Li's consistent and trouble-free day earned him 1st place. Gary Fogel was 2nd and Chuck Norris was 3rd. Cliff Hunter was our top eDLG pilot in 5th overall.

March DLG Contest Report (continued)

Scores from F3X Vault

Rounds (1-8)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)							
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
1	7 Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	7957.2		972.2	995.2	1000	989.8	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	3 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸	7584.2	-373.0	1000	923.5	921.7	973.9	1000	765.1	1000	1000
3	14 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸	7215.2	-369.0	1000	818.8	783.5	914.8	714.3	983.8	1000	1000
4	13 Cory Shantz 🇺🇸	7167.0	-48.2	1000	962.2	1000	1000	1000	204.8	1000	1000
5	9 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸	7028.5	-138.5	1000	668.4	853.9	745.9	805.6	954.7	1000	1000
6	12 Milan Bregman 🇺🇸	7022.3	-6.2	890.6	1000	932.6	1000	1000	945.4	1000	253.7
7	4 Scott Mccurdy 🇺🇸	6934.3	-88.0	779.4	855.1	936.3	728.1	811.7	1000	1000	823.7
8	1 Justin Tolman 🇺🇸	6706.5	-227.8	1000	1000	952.7	779.6	1000	974.2	1000	0.0
9	8 Mike Swanson 🇺🇸	6545.7	-160.8	931.7	892.1	766.7	778.1	864.6	656.5	791.0	865.0
10	6 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸	5971.9	-573.8	715.2	948.5	714.1	846.6	760.0	739.3	448.2	800.0
11	11 Ian Cummings 🇺🇸	4851.1	-1120.8	477.6	739.9	735.2	528.0	604.3	608.3	694.8	463.0

Our next monthly contest will be on Saturday April 13th. Plan on another eight-round contest. Charles Martin has promised some brutal and punishing tasks as CD. This will be the last monthly tune-up before the biggest contest of the year; the IHLGF on April 27th and 28th.

Sign up for the April monthly here:

https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3057

Speaking of IHLGF, we have a whopping 60 pilots on the roster so far. But there are still some local OGs yet to be accounted for.

Sign up for IHLGF here:

https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3106

Hope to see you there!

Justin Tolman
TPG DLG Coordinator

March Team DLG Contest Report – John McNeil, CD

Torrey Pines Gulls held the world's first team hand launch glider contest March 17. The format is a true team competition as there are no individual scores. Each team of four flies standard F3K tasks together, with three pilots in the air, while the fourth team member times and coordinates. Flights are timed as though there is only pilot instead of three. Each flight starts when the last team member launches and ends when the first lands. If any team member lands out of bounds, then the flight is scored as zero, regardless of what the other pilots do. There are more details on page 35 this issue of "Gull Wings". During the pilot's meeting, Don, Gary, and Chuck were kind enough to demonstrate a 3 min in 5 min window task. I timed and added commentary. Bob Hirsch has created a video: [Team DLG Contest Video Link](#)



Pilots meeting (Bob Hirsch photo)

This event had two teams of four. Both teams flew at the same time, with eight rounds of one heat each. Thus, every round had six gliders in the air and two timers. We had two electric pilots, and as CD I decided to change the team membership to put one electric on each team. I did this out of uncertainty with the new format. It turns out this was unnecessary; electrics were neither an advantage nor disadvantage for a team. Our weather was cold but not unpleasant, with light wind and variable lift. Our teams selected names; my team were the "Gopher Barbers". The other team were "Error 404 - Lift not Found".

March Team DLG Contest Report (continued)



L-R, Team Gopher Barbers – Milan Bregman, Don Lochhead, Scott McCurdy and John McNeil and Team ERROR 404 – LIFT NOT FOUND – Chuck Norris, Gary Fogel, Cliff Hunter and Mengchen Li (Bob Hirsch photo)

This event had two teams of four. Both teams flew at the same time, with eight rounds of one heat each. Thus, every round had six gliders in the air and two timers. We had two electric pilots, and as CD I decided to change the team membership to put one electric on each team. I did this out of uncertainty with the new format. It turns out this was unnecessary; electrics were neither an advantage nor disadvantage for a team. Our weather was cold but not unpleasant, with light wind and variable lift. Our teams selected names; my team were the "Gopher Barbers". The other team were "Error 404 - Lift not Found".



Ready to RUMBLE! (Bob Hirsch photo)

March Team DLG Contest Report (continued)

Team ERROR 404 – LIFT NOT FOUND Report - Gary Fogel

Our team was composed of Mengchen Li, Chuck Norris, Cliff Hunter, and Gary Fogel. Cliff Hunter was using a CX5 F5K eDLG for the contest, while the other three flew standard F3K aircraft.

Right away we had a team huddle before the start of the event to consider different strategies. Given Mengchen is clearly the strongest launcher of the group, we suggested that he might range out faster and further than the rest to help identify thermals in the pre-launch time. We also got in the habit of having the three pilots launch simultaneously in different directions to maximize their search prior to the start of each round, then with 1 min left before the round, we huddled to agree on the best launch direction to pursue. This did not always work out, but it did work well most of the time.

As required by the CD, we rotated the coxswain each round. For the first round this was done rather randomly. Mengchen then proposed that we should rotate the last four rounds in a way that made best sense relative to the task. This also worked well. For instance, if the task involves a quickturn, then the pilot with the motorized aircraft is at a slight disadvantage and thus it makes better sense to have that person be the coxswain in QT rounds.

As we proceeded through the rounds, I think we each grew a bit more into the role as coxswain. At first it was very difficult timing for three pilots simultaneously and making clear commands to all pilots. “Go near Mengchen” didn’t help as it was often also confusing which planes were flown by which pilots. So, the coxswain had to keep track of where three team planes were relative to the opponent planes, which of the three was performing the best, which was performing the worst, and then direct the lower two to the best performer using typically geographic or compass directions. Later as the thermals became better, the role of the coxswain changed slightly to “hopping” between pilots and helping to coach the lower pilot towards lift. This felt more intuitive, like the assistance one timer would give to their pilot. However as soon as the “low” pilot was now no longer low, the coxswain was free to then run over and help the new “low” pilot to make sure they would find a ride to the sky. The role of coxswain is taxing and will require practice to master. All in all, a really fun format and a new set of challenges presented by the same familiar tasks viewed in a completely different way.



John, Mengchen and Chuck posting scores (Bob Hirsch photo)



Chuck, Gary and John posting scores (Bob Hirsch photo)

March Team DLG Contest Report (continued)

Team Gopher Barbers Report - John McNeil

Our team were Don Lochhead, Scott McCurdy, Milan Bregman, and John McNeil. We also started with a team huddle and decided that in-general, we would stay close to each other in the air. We had extra time between rounds, and used that time as best we could to test air all around the field. Then we discussed the best lift during the one-minute no-fly and launched there together. This strategy worked pretty well, but our timers also had difficulty picking which plane was whose. This was compounded by the reality that the spotty lift meant we usually had 6 planes in each thermal, not just our team. There was more emphasis on turning the same direction in a thermal than usual, and even so we had some minor touches in the air, luckily with no damage.

Each round offered unique challenges, for example, in the 1, 2, 3, 4, task the timer (who we dubbed the coxswain given their active coordination role) had to decide and communicate to the team what the goal was during each flight. Scott was coxswain for poker and did an outstanding job making achievable calls for the team, winning the round. Another interesting challenge as a pilot was when to tell the coxswain that I was going to land early. I did this once, and Don called everyone in just as I hooked up about 10 feet off the ground and climbed out. That put us in the awkward position of having two pilots who had been doing fine, but now were committed to landing, while I, the pilot in the most trouble was doing climbing-out. This shows there is a lot to learn about flying this format, and it is really interesting and fun! I personally like flying poker with someone else making the calls. I also enjoyed being coxswain while our team



Gary launching with Chuck acting as coxswain for Team ERROR 404 – LIFT NOT FOUND (Bob Hirsch photo)

March Team DLG Contest Report (continued)

CD's wrap-up:

ERROR 404 won the day with great flying and team coordination. All pilots reported having a lot of fun. As CD I'd like to thank Chuck, Don, and Cliff for bringing the gear, Bob for taking pictures and video, and the TPG EC for encouragement and coordination. Finally, I'd like to thank my friends the pilots, who tried something new with a spirit of adventure and fun. Our next Team Event is the day after the Invitational - so Sunday September 22. We would love to have more teams at the next event, so start planning and practicing now!



Contest winners, Team ERROR 404 – LIFT NOT FOUND – Chuck, Gary, Cliff and Mengchen (Bob Hirsch photo)

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Mark Baldacchino, 2022 Modeler of the Year

Last month we reviewed Steve Hurd's biography as he earned the 2018 Modeler of the Year trophy. In 2019 Chuck Norris received the award for the second time, largely for his efforts helping to build an electronic clockboard for F3K and F5J. In 2020 Keith Finkenbiner received the award for the second time, for amazing generosity in donating the proceeds of the sale of his aeromodelling collection to the TPG; and in 2021 Ray Pili received the award for the second time, for his service in a variety of roles for TPG, for helping to reinvigorate the LSF program at TPG and effort to help create the Foamy F5J clinic/contest series (no photo below as Ray was unable to attend the holiday meeting that year). That's a lot of second times, but all for important efforts made on behalf of the Gulls.



Chuck Norris receives the Modeler of the Year award in 2019 at the holiday party along with his First Place showing in DLG for 2019.



Keith Finkenbiner with the TPG MOY trophy in 2020. Keith spent countless hours for the TPG (and RC soaring in general) and very generously donated the sale of proceeds from his aeromodelling collection to the TPG in 2020. Keith is definitely missed by many.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Mark Baldacchino's family hails from Malta in the Mediterranean Sea. During World War II, his father worked as a 16-year-old to help with overhauls of tail wheel assemblies for the British Spitfire, giving his father a connection to the aero-industry. The family moved to Ontario, Canada after the war, with Mark's father assisting with the AVRO Canada company CF-105 Arrow jet fighter. But having just moved from Malta to snowy Canada, he found it difficult to handle the snow and cold temperatures. He took a job with Garrett in Phoenix working as a machinist, and Garrett later was purchased by Honeywell. Mark was born during this time in Phoenix, the only American-born Baldacchino in the family.

Mark grew up in Tempe. He and his father enjoyed RC boats of all types starting at roughly age 11 at Chaparral Lake in Scottsdale. This included power boats (A, B, C, (.20, .40 .60 nitro)) hydro and mono-hull classes and sailboats. By age 15, Mark job his first job at Arizona's largest hobby shop, Desert Hobbies, and proceeded to spend most of his income on RC gear and



At age 11, Mark started in RC. The boat on the far right was built by his uncle in Malta, and fitted with RC equipment. His dad and he built the hydroplane in the middle, next to his brothers Newport 12-meter yacht.



bring that home on his 10-speed bike. Boat racing was his specialty and he and his father would travel to various contests regionally including the famous boat pond on Vacation Island at Mission Bay, San Diego. He remembers racing at age 12 in the Marblehead 50/800 sailboat class at Mission Bay, against some very top-quality skippers; Bob DeBow, Chuck Black, Terry Allen and others. National champion Terry Allen ended up befriending Mark and served as his mentor in the Marblehead class. The Baldacchino's enjoyed visiting San Diego on a regular basis. Even when Mark was just 4 or 5, they visited on a family vacation and went to the Torrey Pines Gliderport, enjoying the spectacle of what that was like in the 1970s with hang gliders, RCers and manned sailplanes all flying at the same time. He saw a Hobie Hawk in a hobby shop and even as a kid remembers thinking to himself "I gotta have one of those someday." But throughout elementary and middle school, RC boating was Mark's passion with his father.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Mark and his dad starting a .60 outrigger hydro in Scottsdale AZ.



Mark's .60 outrigger speeding along in Scottsdale.



Mark's .60 mono-hull. His high school graduation present to himself. The paint job was done by a custom car shop, and the hardware was handmade by his dad being a machinist.



1/12, 1/10 electric, and 1/8 scale nitro cars that Mark enjoyed racing.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

In high school, Mark purchased a Gentle Lady kit with an interest in getting into RC soaring, but his dad wasn't as interested. Mark built it anyway, took it to a local park, and without any prior instruction or assistance, got up the courage to throw the plane to see how it would fly. Sure enough, it started to fly across the entire length of the park. Mark panicked, pushed down on the control stick hoping to get it to come down – it came down – and busted the nose. Without anyone helping him to progress, he decided to sell it instead of continuing down that path at the time. Instead, he migrated to RC cars, enjoying on-road and off-road racing, both electric and nitro. He got into RC car racing and continued that for a few years.



A regatta with Marbleheads and Newport 12's in 1979, in Scottsdale, AZ.

Following his high school graduation, Mark took a position right away in 1985 as a stock clerk at Honeywell, the same company where his father and brother worked. Mark began a career that took him from stock clerk to administration to planning and filling orders to purchasing and acquisition, eventually to project management. He got married in 1987 and started a family.

However, not done with RC soaring, he purchased a Great Planes Spirit kit in 2003, built it, and taught himself how to fly with a hi-start on a football field in Glendale, Arizona. Fortunately, this time there wasn't a lot of crashing involved, so progress was made. The day he caught his first thermal and specked out – he was HOOKED! This was seriously fun. He sold his power boats to focus more on family and RC soaring. He tried to encourage his two kids to also get into RC soaring but that never took hold.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



A few Marbleheads and 36/600's in his dad's garage/ marina.



Mark, far right, racing Marbleheads in San Diego with the best regional skippers.



Mark's (at left) best day in RC sailing, winning the 36/600 Nationals in 1998, with 23 of the top skippers in the nation.

In 2005, Honeywell made the decision to outsource all of its customer support programs to India and Mark was left unemployed. He fortunately found a position at Pratt & Whitney Composites in San Diego, a small facility in Kearney Mesa, producing fiberglass interior panels for the C-17 Globemaster. Mark and the family moved to San Diego and as a part of this job, Mark also had the fortune to start interfacing more directly with customers like Boeing. He also joined the San Diego Argonauts and started sailing RC boats at the boat pond again just like old times. He volunteered his service to both the Argonauts and the American Model Yacht Association, serving as the national secretary of the Santa Barbara sailboat class for eight years.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

In 2008, he took a new position with Maxwell Technologies providing customer support for their radiation-shielded semiconductors for satellites (the Single Board Computer (SBC)). This effort allowed Mark to further expand his network to include support for NASA JPL, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Space X, and many other customers. In 2015 he became a Project Manager for General Atomics, being solitarily responsible for all of the spare parts, (everything except the fuselage), and ground equipment for the USAF, MQ-9 Reaper. His main task was to ensure the warfighter had the needed parts overseas on time, and under budget. He would also coordinate efforts of getting the production MQ-9's out of Poway's production line to Grey Butte's flight test facility in the high desert.

By about 2017, Mark had grown proficient enough with sailboat racing that something was missing. He reached out and joined the Torrey Pines Gulls and was trained and checked out by Ian Cummings and Ray Pili at Torrey using Ray's foamy Ka-8 and a buddy box. No problems; and slope flying provided its own fun, camaraderie and skill set. Sort of like three-dimensional sailing. He dropped membership in the Argonauts and joined the TPG. Having served as slope coordinator already for several years, Ray Pili saw an opportunity in an enthusiastic new member with program manager experience and asked Mark if he wanted to serve as slope coordinator, to which Mark was pleased to say yes. Mark proceeded to build a Bird of Time, Aquila, and other woodies – all of the planes he wished he could have afforded and flown as a kid. This included donated planes for his restoration, etc. He now has considerable expertise restoring woodies. He helped coordinate F3F races at Torrey for Tim Traver and for a time got into F3F but while he loves speed, he also bought three, 4-meter, scale glider and loves the look and feel of scale gliders in flight. Ian Cummings, Marty Zimmerman, and Ray Pili have been the ones to have helped Mark the most on his journey, Mike Lance. Thomas Moller, and Sal Peluso, also have helped him the most for scale soaring and building.



Mark doing some training with Ian Cummings at Torrey in 2017 when he was just getting back into RC gliding.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Mark flying a Great Planes Spirit at Torrey in 2018.

Unfortunately, in 2021, Mark suffered a serious retinal detachment in both eyes. Doctors have suggested that the root cause for this issue was not wearing sunglasses for years while in the sun. Twelve surgeries later, his eyesight continues to make improvement, but it is a long road. He wishes to remind everyone to wear your sunglasses whenever flying!



Mark launching his Ka-8 at Torrey in December, 2019.

But Mark has not let these challenges stop him from assisting the TPG. In 2022 as Slope Coordinator, he helped coordinate the installation of astroturf in the pit area and landing strip, and helped with weed abatement, etc. He continues to do everything he can for the club with his super coordinator skills. Mark feels that the TPG is a wonderful collection of people with diverse interests, backgrounds, and ages. It always makes him smile when his efforts help put a smile on someone else's face.

TPG awarded Mark with the Modeler of the Year award for his efforts to expand interest in activities at the Gliderport, helping to maintain good relations between the RC and ultralight communities and coordinate the Katie Martin International Tribute Fly-In. Since then, he helped to restore the TPG Modeler of the Year trophy itself so that it will be able to last another 50 years.

Thank you Mark for all you are doing for the club!

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



Mark receiving the TPG Modeler of the Year Award in 2022 at the holiday party.



Mark Baldacchino enjoying some well-deserved stick time again at Torrey on a buddy box with assistance from Walt Quitt after having not flown in 18 months due to his eye issues!

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%. 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	4	80
2024 - Google Group Members		139

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-fly 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



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

For all current and recently joined TPG members:

In order to maintain a line of communication among members, we have a TPG Google Group. Please make sure that our club Membership Chairman has your current email address. You can confirm this by contacting membership@torreypinesgulls.org. If you are not already a member of the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an invitation to join.

When you join as a member of the private TPG Google Group, the club will distribute notifications, newsletters, contest events and holiday party info, etc. This information will keep you informed of all club activities throughout the year. You **don't** need a Gmail address to participate in Google Groups, but you do need to be a member of TPG.



Google Groups provides a great way of communicating with one another. If you have any questions or concerns about almost anything having to do with flying, building, finding another club member, etc., you can post them on Google Groups. It also allows you to send links and attachments, just like regular email.

...and, very importantly, since all postings/emails are done through Google Groups, your actual email address is not visible when notifications are sent out to the club members. Also, only members of the group can post to the group, so joining the group does not add to your spam burden.

So, verify that the club has your correct email, make sure you receive an invitation to join Google Groups and sign up!

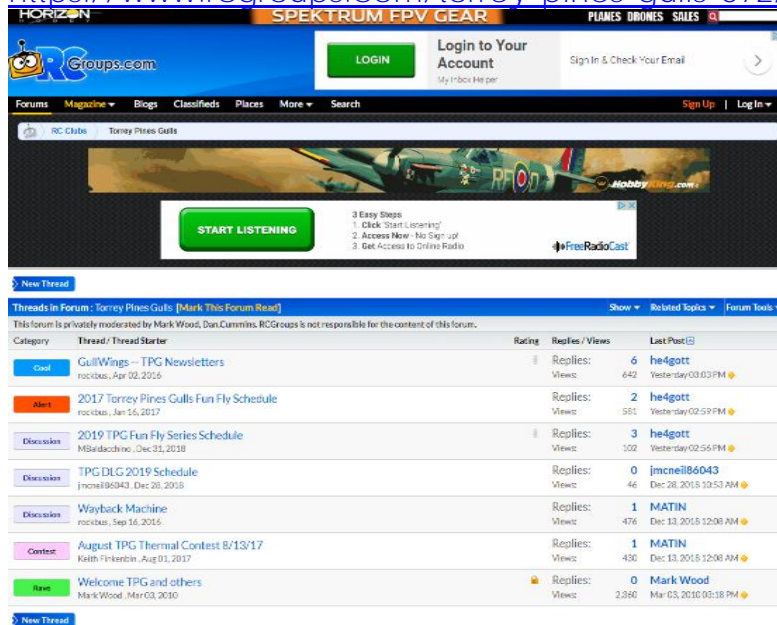
How We Connect (continued)

Are you a member of ?

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

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

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



Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
Good	GullWings -- TPG Newsletters roccdas, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccdas, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 591	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule H5arbackline, 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 12:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccdas, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finkstein, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
New	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,880	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 03:18 PM

If you haven't yet joined RCGroups, click on the **Sign Up** link at the upper right and follow the instructions.

Once you've navigated to the Torrey Pines Gulls Forum, you can subscribe to the Forum or to any of the individual threads within the Forum.

To subscribe to the Forum, click the **Forum Tools** link and select "Subscribe to This Forum" from the dropdown menu. Then choose from the notification dropdown menu. If you want to subscribe to a specific thread, click to open the thread, and click the **Thread Tools** link. Select "Subscribe to This Thread" from the dropdown menu. Again, choose from the notification dropdown menu.

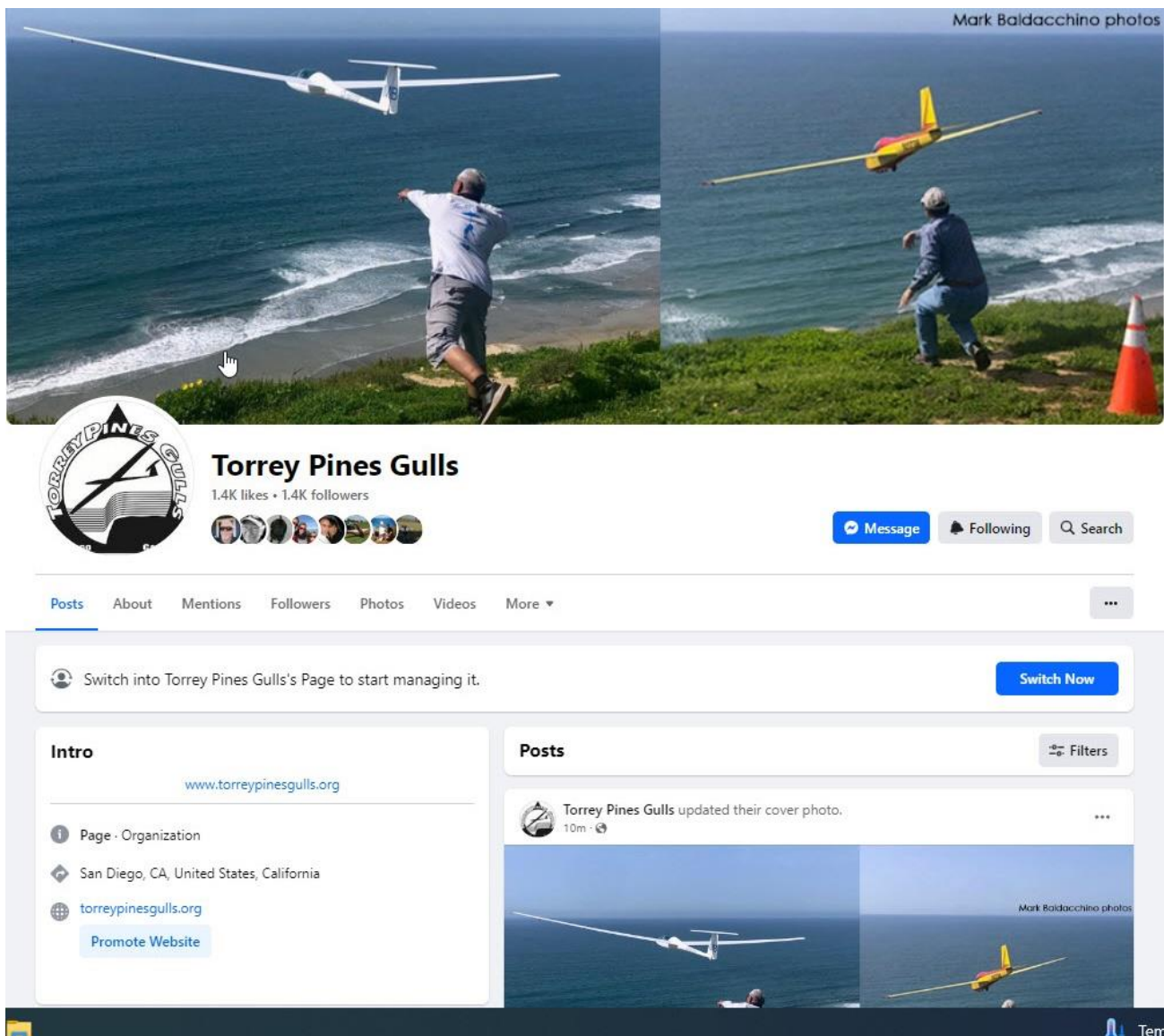
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

How We Connect (continued)

Check out the TPG 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/>

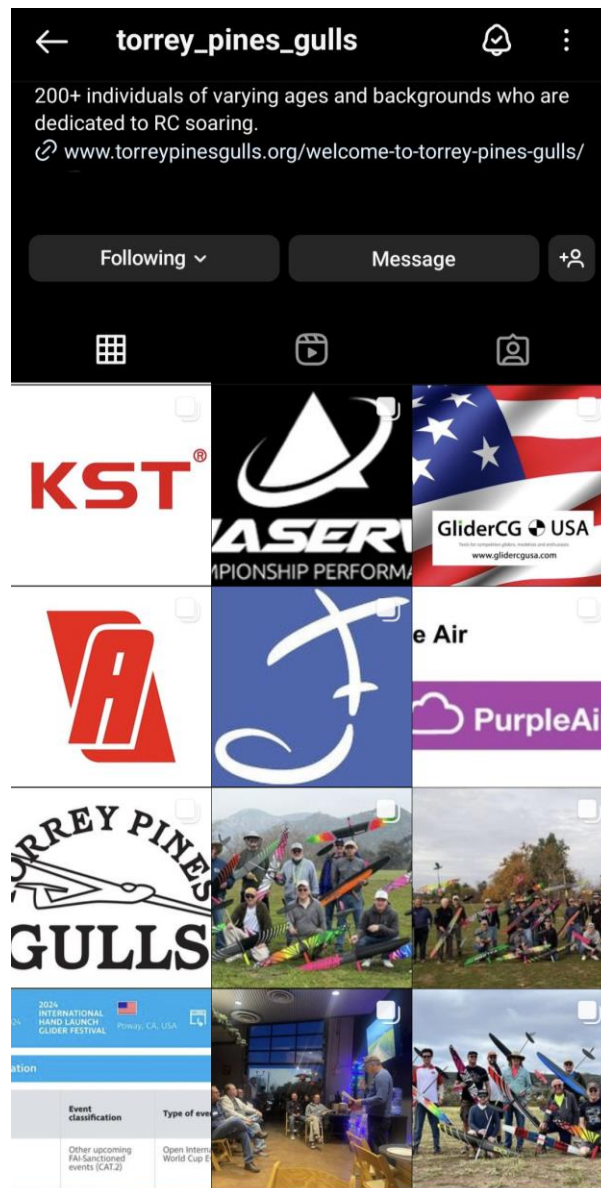


How We Connect (continued)

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	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
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)



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



Aaron Wallace's Fox setting up for landing (Thomas Moller photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Merrill Brady (down from Downey, CA) enjoying a great Torrey day with his rescued and refinished DG-500 (Ray Pili photo)



Mengchen Li catching for relaunch at the March DLG contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



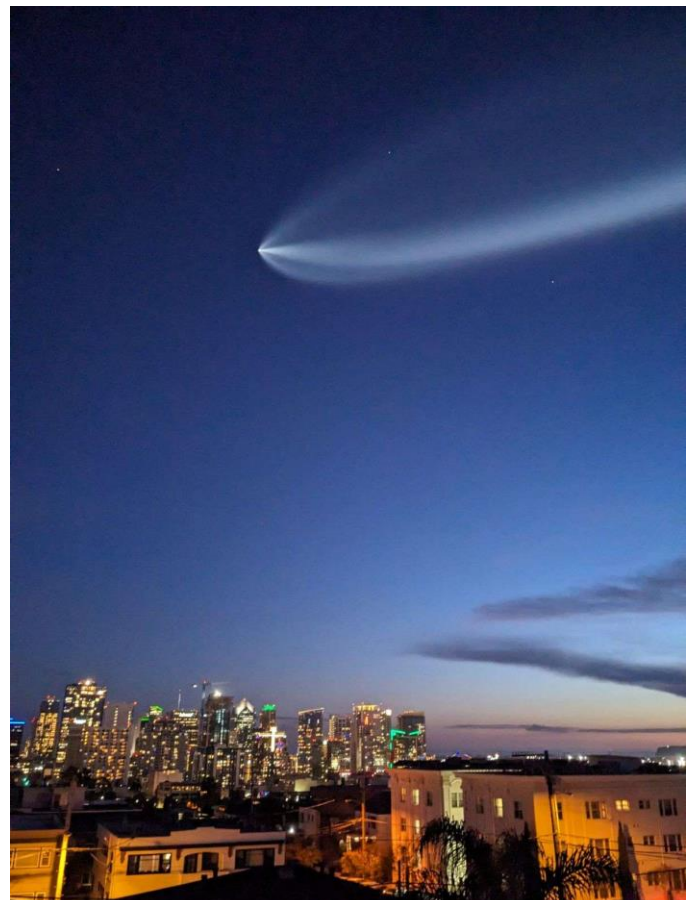
SpaceX Falcon 9 launch as seen from near Torrey Pines, sent in by Gary Fogel; taken by Mrs. Fogel



TPG member Milan Bregman's view of the Falcon 9 launch



This one from Mark Baldacchino's daughter, Natalie



Dale Gottdank's son Jordan took this shot from Bankers Hill

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Ian Cummings launching at the March DLG contest (Bob Hirsch photo)



Justin Tolman launching at the March DLG contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



April Co-Winner – Ren Deleo launching Gary Fogel's 1-26 (Mark Baldacchino photo)



April Co-Winner – Ray Pili launching Merrill Brady's DG-500 at Torrey (Mark Baldacchino photo)



TPG Classified Ads Policy

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



Quote of the Month:

“A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.”

~ Douglas Adams, Mostly Harmless

