

2024
MAY



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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Chuck Norris

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

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

TPG President Chuck Norris is busily working with our IHLG Coordinator, Justin Tolman and the rest of the organizing team, putting the final touches on what promises to be another world class competition. The 29th Annual IHLGF will be co-CD'ed by Mengchen Li and Gary Fogel and will be scored using Tim Traver's excellent F3X Vault System. We have perfect field conditions, thanks to months of rain and an amazing effort on the part of Cliff and Sandy Hunter, who regularly mow the field to keep it in tip-top shape.

There are 78 registered pilots, representing Canada, China, Germany, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, New Zealand and of course, the United States.

By the time you read this, the 2024 IHLGF will be in the books and you'll be able to hear more about it in our June issue.

Cheers,

Dale Gottdank, Editor

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



Poway field mowed and ready for the 29th IHLGF (Cliff Hunter and Bob Hirsch photos)

TPG May/June Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
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
June 1 st	Katie Martin International Tribute	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required More information here: RC Groups
June 8	Landing Strip Contest at 1:00 PM Closest to the pin; ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
June 8	LSF Day at Poway (8:45 am) and Torrey (afternoon). Complete your LSF tasks.	Poway Flight Center and Torrey Pines Gliderport. No Contest Registration Required – FREE!
June 22 nd	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 25 th	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link

LSF Day – June 8th



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, save the date...June 8th, for TPG LSF Day!

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 35) 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!

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!

May Issue highlights include:

- **Special Announcements (page 4)**
- **Thank you to our IHLGF sponsors (page 5)**
- **UCSD AIAA Student Outreach Update (page 6)**
- **2023 Modeler of the Year Cliff and Sandy Hunter by Gary Fogel (page 23)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 42)**

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>.

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 next club meeting is Tuesday, June 25th at 7:00pm. Don't miss out on a chance for TPG's new Super Raffle! (see info below)

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/>



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 June 25th 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 next meeting!

Thank you to our IHLGF 2024 sponsors!

The 29th International Hand Launch Glider Festival was a great success! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank 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 donated for the auction at IHLGF, go to <https://www.ihlhf.com/sponsors.html>. All 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. Back in March, the students updated Gary on the successful flight of their prototype. Gary recently updated the Gulls on their recent project:

"As many of you know our student friends at UCSD are hard at work building a plane for the AIAA Design/Build/Fly contest that takes place in Wichita, KS later this month. Their group leader Kevin Vo sent me an update and I'm eager to share it with you as they had a successful first flight with their competition aircraft just recently. Photos and a screenshot of their video are attached."



Test Flight Team



DBF Competition plane



Screenshot of the test flight

UCSD AIAA Student Outreach Update (continued)

Gary recently received this update from Kevin Vo, the Design/Build/Fly at UCSD Project Manager, following their participation in the national competition in Wichita, Kansas:

Dear TPG mentors,

“The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Design/Build/Fly (DBF) competition went well for our team because we were able to build a well-polished flyable R/C plane that passed the tech inspection with flying colors and we learned a lot through the process as compared to last year. Our pilot, a former UCSD DBF lead and pilot from 2019-2021, notified our team that our current plane flew way better than any of the planes he built in the past. This is evident in the smoother control and stability during when he flew it during our test flights and during the competition.

The 2024 AIAA DBF competition was held last weekend in Wichita, Kansas. Our team ranked 74th out of 107th this year mainly due to an unfortunate crash of our plane on the first mission. It seemed that our elevator servo was too small for the mission and failed to supply sufficient torque when flying at high speeds in winds. We encountered some of these issues during flight tests, but we were unable to attribute it to the elevator until after the final crash.

Overall, I am proud of what the team was able to accomplish compared to last year and I hope our team can learn more from our advisors, mentors, and sponsors in order to improve our performance in the next AIAA-DBF competition.

Thank you very much for the help and support TPG mentors!

Sincerely,

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

Video of test flight: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ea2whPOG1-AuElqVho9Iz7TLS9oZyVQy/view>”

Here's the link to the AIAA Design Build Competition summary:

<https://www.aiaa.org/dbf/competition-information/2024-competition-scoring>

Photos from the competition are on the following pages.

UCSD AIAA Student Outreach Update (continued)



The AIAA Design/Build/Fly at USCD project team



At the competition

UCSD AIAA Student Outreach Update (continued)



News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino



Happy May, TP Gulls!

I can remember one other time that we had perfect weather during the work week and the weekends were not favorable for three or four weeks in a row since I've lived here; and it happened again! We had to move the Redman Rules contest, and last month's Vintage/Classic Woodie Fun Fly was cancelled due to south wind conditions. So, there's not a lot to report for this month, but we're going to make up the lost ground for this month! On May 11th. We'll have a TRIPLE Header; Foamy Fun Fly, Redman Rules Contest, and UCSD students will be there building aircraft from foam board, and flying their creations with the help on TPG mentors. Don't miss this one!



Conditions were better on April 14, the day after our scheduled fun fly. Thomas Moller's 5.3m DG-1000, piloted by Steffen Peters, flying overhead as a full-sized sailplane passes through (Thomas Moller photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

Another big event that's being coordinated is the Katie Martin International Tribute on June 1st. There will be a lot going on this day as well, as we'll have pilots with Hobie Hawks, Bob Martin models, as well as other built-up classics from that era. This event usually draws an average of 40 pilots from around the country, but I've seen up to 80 pilots and over 250 planes at the world's best slope. Of course, all planes won't be flying, as this event is more like a car show, and catching up with old friends and making new ones. For safety, we're limiting the number of planes in the sky to seven (7) at a time and we'll ask to have at least one spotter for paraglider traffic. If you're not a club member, please bring your AMA membership card, and please check-in at the Gliderport office. We want this to be a fun, safe day!

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

May 11 th	<p>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.</p> <p>Students from UCSD AIAA will be building aircraft from foam board; then fly their creations with club members' buddy boxes.</p> <p><i>and rescheduled from March 30th ...</i></p> <p>Redman Rules & Landing Contest – Ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.</p>
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

April F5J Contest Report – Steve Condon, CD

The April 14th F5J contest on the morning after some light overnight rain could not have made for a more beautiful day! We all found ourselves reveling in the parklike setting of the freshly mowed Poway field (Thank you Sandy and Cliff Hunter!!) surrounded by flowers, blue sky and puffy clouds. To top off the truly idyllic setting, the soaring conditions were just as phenomenal.



L-R, Dale Osborn, Bob Schumacher, Steve Hurd, Mike Smith, Cliff Hunter Mike Verzuh, Arthur Markiewicz, Steve Condon and Don VanGundy. Side note: Arthur is holding a Zagi THL that is not his contest airplane! It was gathering dust in my rafters for about two decades, so I gave it to him last year and he has been flying the heck out of it!

Thermals were popping right at 9:00 when we started and as the day went on, lift was everywhere. Mike Smith showed what the Phoenix DF is capable of on a day like that with 4 of his 6 launches under 20 meters! I also managed to make a low-level save with my PDF from about 4 meters. Great airplane for the conditions! Cliff Hunter also had some amazing low-level (less than 20 feet altitude) excitement hanging in there with his Ultima 2 for several minutes in what would normally have been just moments away from landing.

One of the brief but truly spectacular moments of the day was when we spotted two birds circling to the northwest of us and suddenly realized it was a pair of BALD EAGLES!! It was a rare treat for sure.

The social aspect of the day was also a lot of fun and even though we were all concentrating on competing, there was a lot of banter and a lot of laughs. The majority of the guys there have been doing this together at the Poway field for more than 3 decades now!!

April F5J Contest Report (continued)



Cliff Hunter (foreground) and Steve Hurd launching (Tom Farley photo)



Mike Verzuh (pilot) with Arthur Markiewicz timing (Bob Hirsch photo)



Steve Condon launching his Phoenix DF with Mike Smith timing (Bob Hirsch photo)

April F5J Contest Report (continued)

With the way the F5J contests run these days, it is honestly such a low stress competition format for both the participants and the organizers. Everyone pitched in to get the field set-up and once the landing tapes and sound system were in place, we had a short pilot's meeting and got underway just before 9:00 by starting Tim Traver's remarkable F3X Vault timing app and from that point on, the contest literally ran itself. We entered scores on our phones and at the end of the 6th round, we were done!!



Cliff Hunter with his Ultima2 timing (Bob Hirsch photo)



Cliff (pilot) with Tom Farley timing (Bob Hirsch photo)



Steve Condon guiding his Phoenix DF in for a 50-point landing (Bob Hirsch photo)

April F5J Contest Report (continued)

At the end of the day, Mike Smith came out on top with me 15 points behind and Arthur coming in third. Congrats, Mike! A special thank you to Cliff for bringing out the 5J gear and a cooler full of drinks! Another hearty thank you goes to Bob Hirsch and Tom Farley for the great photos and help with timing duties. Thanks again to everyone for coming out and for the teamwork in making it such a fun and easy contest to run!

-Steve



Mike Schumacher launching with Mike Verzuh timing (Bob Hirsch photo)

F3X Vault Scores

Rounds (1-6)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (1 Drop In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	9 Mike Smith 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4992.17		986.74	1000	1000	1000	992.17	1000
2	1 Steve Condon 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4976.50	-15.67	235.29	981.19	1000	995.31	1000	1000
3	6 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4937.91	-38.59	1000	1000	967.64	970.27	1000	6.00
4	3 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4690.79	-247.12	974.32	915.36	928.07	890.45	909.16	963.88
5	10 Steve Hurd 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4555.79	-135.00	920.46	871.22	492.72	1000	836.34	927.77
6	7 Bob Schumacher 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	4415.78	-140.01	922.12	889.50	6.00	671.22	969.62	963.32
7	5 Don van gundy 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3711.95	-703.83	447.26	381.56	970.29	116.63	969.46	943.38
8	2 Mike Verzuh 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	3429.04	-282.91	6.00	967.08	988.67	222.08	999.20	252.01
9	4 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇨🇦	2720.40	-708.64	1000	732.91	344.80	225.35	187.05	417.34

April DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The April DLG contest/clinic was held on Saturday April 13th with 16 pilots in attendance. As we've done most of the year, we split into two flight groups in order to accommodate eight rounds of flying. More rounds means more stick time! And more stick time in preparation for IHLGF was the goal. Charles Martin was CD and he picked some heavy-hitting tasks that kept us working hard all day. We were once again greeted with overcast skies most of the day with winds out of the south. The NWS called for strong gusts upwards of 20mph in the afternoon but thankfully wind of that strength never materialized.



Pilots meeting (Gary Fogel photo)

Round 1 kicked off the event with Task N (Best Flight). Surprisingly enough, there was some buoyant air to be found early in the day. In Group A, Gary Fogel found lift to the northwest and put up a very impressive 8:57 to take the K, over 3 minutes clear of the rest of the group. In Group B, I was able to take the K, finding sustainable lift in a similar area as Gary, with an 8:49.

Round 2 then presented the doozy of Task M (Huge Ladder). This task's 15-minute working window along with a 3-launch limit is daunting early in the day. Up for the challenge in Group A was Mengchen Li who put in an incredible performance, dropping only 6-seconds to take the K. Several pilots in Group B had flight times of around 1 minute on their first launch as some punishing sink rolled through. There was lots of lift in the remainder of the group and I was able to maximize my 2nd and 3rd launches to accumulate 13:13 of flight time to take the K.

April DLG Contest Report (continued)

Round 3. Task L (Single Launch) was primed to take advantage of great conditions. In Group A, Gary Fogel and Mengchen Li put in stellar efforts to accumulate a max flight time of 9:59 to share the K. In Group B, 4 pilots accumulated flight time over 6 minutes, but it was Ryan Woebkenberg visiting from Indianapolis who took the K with a 7:35.

By Round 4, Task J (Last 3x3), conditions were much more dynamic and finding multiple thermals in a short period of time was no easy task. In Group A, I was able to snag all 3, 3- minute flights to take the K. In Group B, Gary Fogel made the best of challenging conditions to accumulate 8:20 of flight time to earn the K.

Round 5, Task I (3x320) is similar to the previous round's Task J but flight times are increased by 20-seconds, eliminating the surplus 1-minute of working time and therefore making it a quick turn task. In Group A, eDLG pilot Arthur Markiewicz was able to make the best of mid-day conditions by accumulating 9:14 of flight time to take the K. In Group B, Ryan Woebkenberg edged Mengchen Li by just 4 seconds to take the K.

After a quick break to enter scores and grab a bite to eat it was time for Round 6, Task E (Poker). With only 3 pilot nominations permitted in a 15-minute window this task can easily result in lots of dropped time. In Group A, most of the pilots started with conservative 1:00-2:00 calls to test the air. Some played it safe with their second call as well, but Arthur Markiewicz called a 5:00 and was only able to pull it off with an amazing low level save. Arthur went on to take the K with 10:00 of accumulated flight time. In Group B, everyone seemed to have the opposite idea of group A's "play it safe and conservative" strategy. Mengchen Li and I both tested the conditions with short first flights and then we went for longer second flights; Mengchen with an 8-minute second call to my 5-minute second call. Back on the ground first after getting my 5, I called "window" with Mengchen still in the air on his 8 and with ~6 minutes of working time left. Mengchen was able to make it back for his 8, ultimately earning him the K. However, neither of us made it back for our 3rd flight: Mengchen landed just off field but my Tair was captured by a plane-eating tree near the entry gate.

The afternoon conditions of Round 7, Task D (2x5) proved to be some of the most challenging of the day. In Group A, CD Charles Martin accumulated 7:01 of flight time on his two flights to take the K over Tim Traver's 3:57. In Group B, Arthur Markiewicz and his eDLG took the K with only 4:16 of accumulated flight time on two launches. Everyone struggled with really tough conditions.

The tough conditions persisted for the last round of the day, round 8 Task G (Last 2x4). 4 pilots in Group A were able to connect and get all of their first 4-minute flight meaning their second launch attempt would be their last. Milan Bregman was able to make the best of both flights, accumulating 5:42 to take the K. In Group B, Ed LaCroix accumulated 6:10, besting Mengchen Li's 5:35, to take the K.

At the end of the 8-rounds, it was Mengchen Li taking top honors. Arthur Markiewicz was 2nd overall, and top eDLG pilot, and yours truly was 3rd.

April DLG Contest Report (continued)



Group shot (Bob Hirsch photo))

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	Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	7279.3		450.2	1000	1000	974.8	993.4	1000	953.3	907.6
2	Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸	6970.9	-308.4	759.9	712.1	964.9	858.8	1000	1000	1000	675.2
3	Justin Tolman 🇺🇸	6764.8	-206.1	1000	1000	832.6	1000	922.6	636.4	581.5	791.7
4	John McNeil 🇺🇸	5953.4	-811.4	583.1	794.0	344.7	844.8	990.3	950.0	525.9	920.6
5	Milan Bregman 🇺🇸	5889.4	-64.0	428.0	160.7	797.9	979.4	990.1	633.3	900.0	1000
6	Charles Martin 🇺🇸	5485.5	-403.9	575.4	428.7	929.9	733.3	580.3	318.2	1000	919.7
7	Tim Traver 🇺🇸	5422.5	-63.0	407.8	905.1	278.8	644.6	939.8	746.0	563.2	937.2
8	Christoph Efstathiou 🇩🇪	5235.8	-186.7	492.4	729.3	975.4	822.2	931.3	272.7	181.9	830.6
9	Edward LaCroix 🇺🇸	4687.3	-548.5	639.3	652.6	0.0	962.6	797.1	409.1	226.6	1000
10	Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸	4660.6	-26.7	556.7	329.5	392.7	750.7	724.4	579.8	369.4	957.4
11	Scott McCurdy 🇺🇸	4528.2	-132.4	854.6	763.8	145.1	862.0	705.1	200.0	365.6	632.0
12	Ryan Woebkenberg 🇺🇸	4123.4	-404.8	444.8	852.7	1000	825.9	1000	0.0	DNS	0.0
13	Gary Fogel 🇺🇸	3901.0	-222.4	1000	901.0	1000	1000	0.0	DNS	DNS	0.0
14	Don Lochhead 🇺🇸	3428.6	-472.4	437.2	238.6	262.1	494.1	601.7	397.8	552.4	444.7
15	Dale Osborn 🇺🇸	3128.8	-299.8	365.8	574.0	582.2	424.4	375.4	250.0	285.7	271.3
16	Ian Cummings 🇺🇸	2598.3	-530.5	394.3	250.2	102.0	493.3	550.3	136.4	350.3	321.5
17	Captain ...c Picard 🇺🇸	0.0	-2598.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	DNS	DNS

April DLG Contest Report (continued)



Milan Bregman (L) with John McNeil timing. Apparently, they got the dress code memo. (Darian Bregman photo)

Our next monthly contest will be on Saturday May 18th and will be CD'ed by Gary Fogel.

Sign up for the May contest/clinic here:

https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3058

Hope to see you there!

Justin Tolman
TPG DLG Coordinator

Mar/Apr Tow Hook Series Contest Report – John McNeil, CD

We held the rain-delayed Tow Hook contest on Saturday, April 20, at the Encinitas field. The weather offered mostly overcast skies with patches of blue and light lift. We had eight pilots, all of whom flew 2m F3-RES. Three pilots also flew in the 1.5m class. We started flying right at 9:00, and, despite a mild downwind launch condition, no one sand-bagged, waiting for better lift. Gary and I decided to fly all of our 1.5m fights first. Miro's first flight of the day was with his vintage 1.5m Goblin, recording an excellent 4:45 with a 299 landing. I struggled to make my times while Gary made it look easy.



Tow Hook pilots (Paul Nibecker photo)

Meanwhile, the other pilots diligently started flying and racking up points. Most first flights were short, but we started seeing 6-minute flights on the following launches. The lift was weak, but the thermals were closely spaced and not blowing downwind particularly fast. Our wood RES "gas bags" excel in these conditions and are a joy to fly. The morning went smoothly with no bungee problems. We had 2-3 planes in the air, pretty much continuously.

Our launch cut-off for the day was 1:00. By 10:30, Gary and I had finished our 5 1.5m flights each and turned to 2m. We decided, just for fun, to fly head-to-head. We alternated launch lines and did not wait for good conditions; we just launched as soon as we landed and the lines were available. Miro continued to switch between 1.5m and 2m. The wind started to come up. While it was not particularly strong, the thermals started to run downwind quickly. Our five pilots flying 2m only finished about noon and had a chance to sit and chat.

Mar/Apr Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)



Gary Fogel and Bret Locke (Paul Nibecker photo)



Cliff Hunter with his 2-meter Yellow Jacket (Paul Nibecker photo)



Launching! (Paul Nibecker photo))



Gary nailing a landing with CD John McNeil timing (Paul Nibecker photo))

Mar/Apr Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)



Break time (Paul Nibecker photo)



...and more flying (Paul Nibecker photo)

Meanwhile, Gary, Miro, and I continued to hunt lift, run downwind, and then press home. Six-minute flights were available, except for one notable cycle where all three of us struggled for two minutes. I managed to surf behind the landing tapes for 30 seconds longer than Gary, which proved pivotal.

In the end, Gary easily won 1.5m. Cliff took third in 2m, while Gary earned 2nd, and I squeaked the win by 92 points out of 4400. Thank you, Cliff and Sandy, for mowing. Also, thanks to Paul for taking pictures and setup. Thanks to all the pilots for helping with setup and tear-down, and for being great guys to hang out with on a Saturday!



Winners (L-R) Cliff Hunter, John McNeil and Gary Fogel (Paul Nibecker photo)

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Cliff and Sandy Hunter, 2025 Modelers of the Year



2023 was an exciting year, not only for the TPG but also in terms of weather, as it was one of the wettest on record for San Diego. The wet weather meant lots of plant growth at our club fields, and Cliff and Sandy Hunter spent many hours mowing Encinitas and Poway (kudos to Ian Cummings for also helping to mow Torrey after the amazing assortment of Spring flowers). Plants grew so quickly that sometimes Cliff and Sandy had to mow more than once in the same month just so other members could enjoy flying at our contests or other events. Because of their efforts to mow and also help maintain our mower, the club awarded them both with the Modeler of the Year Award in 2023. Now I've already provided a full bio for Cliff's background as a firefighter and modeler. But what about Sandy Hunter? With this award, she becomes the first woman to win TPG's Modeler of the Year, and so I felt it important to provide her bio as well, to the membership.

Sandy regularly travels to RC gliding events with Cliff. They are like two peas in an RV pod and have been sharing those experiences since the 1990s when Cliff was regularly flying with the North County Clouds at San Marcos. Together they made many trips to Visalia or Gilbert, Arizona or other locations to enjoy thermal duration contest and the good friends. In those



days, Shirley Finkenbiner would accompany Keith to the same contests and so Sandy and Shirley became good friends. It was common in those times for women to attend the meets and be a part of the camaraderie. Wives and children would also regularly attend the TPG annual holiday party, and as a result, most members knew each other's families. We might think of reviving these aspects through potlucks or lunches at the field after contests as they were an important source of growth and engagement for the club.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

But how did Sandy become an expert field mower? One unfortunate day in 2011, Cliff was involved in a rollover accident with fire equipment. He was very fortunately okay; however, it was up to Sandy to take over the mowing duties at their house while Cliff was recovering. Armed with the “I can do this!” attitude, despite a few broken water pipes, Sandy got the hang of it quickly.

Today Sandy and Cliff split the mowing duties at their house as Sandy really enjoys the fun of riding on the mower. At locations like Encinitas or Poway, it might take 3-4 hours per site to do the job well, and while Cliff and Sandy often take turns for each lap, there are times when Sandy just keeps going and Cliff can't get her to stop as it's just too much fun. Sandy enjoys the swallows that follow the mower in search of food and loves other birds in the area. She and Cliff are also cautious of the bees that sometimes live in the trees, and she recalls one time when they were mowing and a large bee swarm came through and set up their nest in the trees at Poway.

Sandy hasn't yet gotten into RC gliding. Not sure why as it seems more fun than mowing, but perhaps Cliff isn't ready for the competition. He might not ever see his planes again!



Cliff and Sandy Hunter with the mower – someone should put wings on that thing!

But in all seriousness, TPG isn't just for guys, and we should think of events that help bring families back to TPG and hopefully also include more women in the sport in years to come. For now, we're all fortunate that Sandy accompanies Cliff to many events and is willing to spend her time on a mower so that we can enjoy our time in the air. Thanks, Sandy (and Cliff) for your efforts!

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)



One of several bee hives that have enjoyed the Poway trees.

This article is the last in my series to document the efforts of each TPG Modeler of the Year Awardee (until a 2024 awardee is named 😊). When Dale Gottdank suggested the idea back in late 2016, I probably should have done the math and determined how many articles there actually would be; but with the first article published in February 2017, here we are, and they are complete and that's a good feeling. Dale and I are now talking about other ways to make use of this content in support of TPG. However, I hope that you've enjoyed the series

and realize how many amazing modelers we have with diverse backgrounds and interest willing to volunteer lots of time to keep TPG going. Without their efforts, TPG would not be what it is today! To anyone reading this, please consider helping to volunteer time for the club, either as an officer or as a contest director, or with social media, etc. We all have skills that can be used to help the club in some way. It's up to you to raise your hand and volunteer and maybe one day be added to the list of TPG Modeler of the Year Awardees. Mark Smith had a vision 54 years ago to establish a trophy that would encourage and reward volunteerism within TPG. I know he would be pleased that we're still celebrating this trophy and its volunteers in 2024. You can do it! Just raise your hand and volunteer.



Sandy Hunter enjoying mowing on the "Green Fields of Poway" in 2023.

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 as of April 25, 2024

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: April 25, 2024	Since Last Report	Total
2023 – Members		127
2024 – New and Renewed Members	6	86
2024 - Google Group Members	6	145

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:

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/lfstory.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/lsf-program/lsf-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” Adaczik 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!

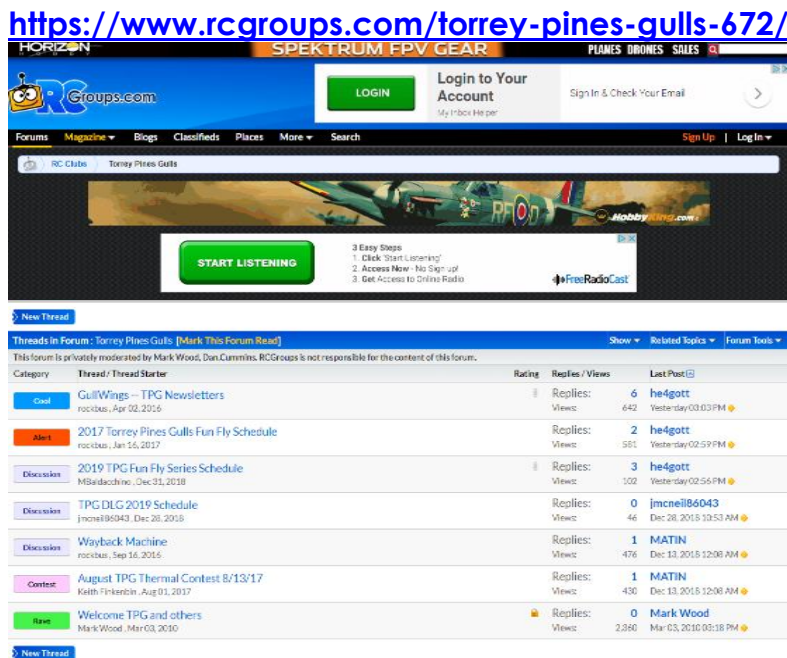
How We Connect (continued)

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/>



The screenshot shows the RCGroups website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'FORUMS', 'MAGAZINE', 'BLOGS', 'CLASSIFIEDS', 'PLACES', and 'MORE'. A 'SIGN UP' link is in the top right. Below the navigation bar, there's a 'RC Clubs' section with a search bar and a 'Sign Up | Log In' link. The main content area features a 'START LISTENING' button and a list of forum threads. The threads are listed in a table with columns for 'Category', 'Thread / Thread Starter', 'Rating', 'Replies / Views', and 'Last Post'.

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 M5arbackline, 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 **facebook** Page

If you haven't had a chance yet, check out our TPG Facebook page by clicking the links below for new content posted by club members and friends.

<https://www.facebook.com/TorreyPinesGulls/>

Bob Hirsch photo

Gary Fogel photo

Torrey Pines Gulls
1.4K likes • 1.4K followers

Message Following Search

Posts About Mentions Followers Photos Videos More

Switch into Torrey Pines Gulls's Page to start managing it. [Switch Now](#)

Intro www.torreypinsegulls.org

- Page - Organization
- San Diego, CA, United States, California
- torreypinsegulls.org [Promote Website](#)

Photos [See all photos](#)

Posts [Filters](#)

Torrey Pines Gulls updated their cover photo. [Just now](#)

See insights [Create ad](#)

Like Comment Share

Comment as Dale Gottsdank
You're commenting as Dale Gottsdank.

Torrey Pines Gulls
April 3 at 1:03 PM

Thanks again, to Cliff and Sandy Hunter for keeping our fields in flying condition. They mowed the Poway field today.

Privacy · Consumer Health Privacy · Terms · Advertising · Ad Choices · Cookies · More · Meta © 2024

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)



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

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



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



Another SpaceX launch, another great photo! (Milan Bregman photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Ian Cummings' Orca on a soft cliffside landing spot at Torrey (Ian Cummings photo)



Mike Schumacher Launching with Mike Verzuh timing at the April F5J contest at Poway (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Cliff Hunter (foreground) and Steve Hurd launching at the April F5J contest (Tom Farley photo)



May Co-Winner – Steve Condon guiding his Phoenix DF in for a 50-point landing (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co-Winner – Gary Fogel's Yellow Jacket amid the Encinitas field wildflowers (Gary Fogel 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:

“I’ve got sunshine on a cloudy day. When it’s cold outside, I’ve got the month of May.”

~ Smokey Robinson, “My Girl”

