

2025

FREE



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

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Photo above:

Gary Fogel's F3L Yellow Jacket amid the wildflowers at our Encinitas Flight Center (Gary Fogel photo)

Message from the President



Hi everyone,

Chuck Norris

This month I'd like to talk about a club member who has been absolutely essential to the operations of the club, but who you may have never heard about. Steve Hurd has been the Gulls' webmaster for the past **23 years!** He's taken care of the website and our internal email reliably and with no fuss all that time. It's no exaggeration to say that his behind the scenes work has been critical to allowing the Torrey Pines Gulls to do its work.

Recently, we welcomed a new member, Jake Olefsky, who happens to also be a web professional. Jake and Steve began been collaborating on some ideas for new directions for the website, and together they decided that the best approach would be for Jake to take over as the official webmaster, with Steve backing up Jake and providing the valuable institutional knowledge about the role and tech the club uses.

I would like to personally thank Steve for his many years of service - quietly taking care of business and making it all look easy. And also, a big "thank you" to Jake for picking up this important role. I look forward to seeing some of the new ideas for the website come to fruition in the coming months.

Chuck

TPG February/March Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
February 8 th	Fly 'n Swap – A Day to fly and swap meet.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
February 15 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
February 22 nd	Slope Combat!	Poway Slope Must have TPG membership 20 Participants max; Fun Fly! Register on F3X Vault when open
February 23 rd	Tow Hook Fun Fly and TD	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
February 25 th	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
March 8 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
March 9 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
March 23 rd	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
March 23 rd	Tow Hook Series Contest F3L/F3RES – 2m & 1.5m	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



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!

February Issue highlights include:

- **Club meeting announcement (page 4)**
- **Slope Combat returns for 2025 (page 7)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 36)**

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>.



Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 at Torrey (Thomas Moller photo)

Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts bi-monthly club meetings virtually via Zoom. It's really easy to use Zoom, join in the fun, chat with others; and we typically have a presentation about a topic in RC soaring or something aviation related.

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00pm Pacific Time. Gary Fogel will provide a lecture on ballast – when to use it, how ballast effects performance, and some scenarios that everyone can chime in on to offer their own thoughts on the oft asked question “**ballast or not?**”

The link to the Zoom meeting will be shared with the club via discord and Google Groups prior to each meeting. It also appears on the Upcoming TPG Events able in the Newsletter.



Each virtual meeting also comes with the opportunity to participate in our **Super Raffle** for 2025. We'll have opportunity for two random drawings at each virtual meeting for Super Raffle tickets. At the year-end holiday party, these tickets will be put into a hat and drawn randomly for prizes. Winners have to be present at the holiday party to participate. This last December we had some really great prizes including a RTF Night Radian and other goodies. If anyone out there is interested in assisting with the year-end Raffle please reach out to Gary Fogel.

So come join our 2025 virtual meetings, hang in there through the presentation, get that winning raffle ticket and see what you might win next December! See you at the next meeting!

News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator



Bret Locke



Happy February TP Gulls!

Good day TPG Slopers! Although the weather conditions have not been ideal for sloping, there has been plenty of lift at Torrey with the right plane at the right time. On January 4th, we had the January Kickoff Event with a small, but energetic showing. Everybody flew, and two TPG members were rated for the Gliderport. Into February, we have scheduled a Fly and Swap on the 8th and Poway Combat on the 22nd. Prepare accordingly...

As a side note, if you all don't already know, there is a checkered flag stored in the box next to the frequency board that is to be flown while RC planes are present. Flying the flag is a signal to paraglider pilots that RC gliders will be present within the shared airspace. It also signals that only one paraglider should be within the RC window at any given moment. Back to the flag. Hoisting the flag should be done when arriving at the pit area. **Also, the flag must be put away when leaving the Gliderport.** There is a plastic bag for the flag contained in the aforementioned box. Keeping the flag in good condition and only having it displayed when we plan on flying is important. Please manage the flag responsibly for safe flying and to avoid premature deterioration of the flag.

The 2025 slope soaring season is just getting started. Let's keep it safe, fun and exciting.

Sincerely,

Bret Locke



News from the Slope (continued)

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2025

February 8 th	Fly 'n Swap – A Day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
March 2 nd	UCSD/SDSU Foam Board Design/Build/Fly Contest – Mentors wanted!
March 8 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day
April 5 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
May 10 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 7 st	Katie Martin International Tribute. A Bob Martin event for mostly Hobie Hawks
July 5 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PNF – Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 9 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
September 6 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
October 18 th	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day
October 19 th	Redman Rules Contest – Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd . For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.
November 22 nd	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

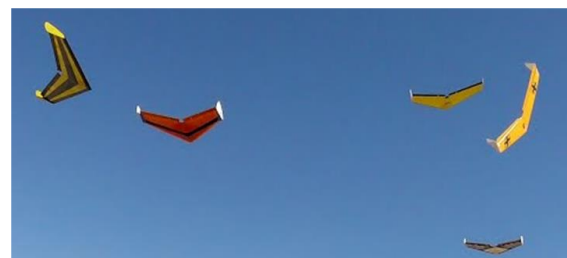
Also, check out the next page for details on our next Poway Slope Combat session. Events are scheduled for:

February 22nd

April 12th

July 27th

October 26th





Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Series 2025



What/When:

A fun day of slope soaring at Poway Slope is scheduled for Saturday February 22nd, 1pm-4pm including foamy combat. This will be the first in a series of four combat sessions during 2025. If you have other slope aircraft suitable for Poway, those are welcomed too, but the focus of the afternoon will be on combat.

Where:

From I-15, exit Poway Road going east. After crossing the intersection of Springhurst Drive, be in the right lane and look for a right turn on Cobblestone Creek Road, a private road maintained by those living in the direct community. Please drive slowly (<10mph) on Cobblestone Creek Road, smile and wave, be courteous, pull to the side if there is oncoming traffic. Continue following Cobblestone Creek Road slowly and wherever there is a choice, always choose to turn uphill. Tom Farley's home address is 12601 Cobblestone Creek Road (however some map apps will not get you to the house, so follow the red path below).



When you arrive to the top, please pull into one of the designated parking areas. There should be parking for 15-20 cars and we may need to park one behind the other to get them all to fit, but they will fit. Please leave your key in the car with the car unlocked in case parking attendant Tom Farley needs to move your car to fit more cars into the area.

Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Series 2025 (continued)



How: If the winds are forecast to be out of the west, we'll fly combat all afternoon. If the winds are forecast to be fickle, bring a Radian anyway and we'll have fun (but no combat with Radians). The event is designed to be for TPG members and their invited guests only.

A link to the F3X Vault event sign-up will be provided via Google Groups as we get closer to the event.

We are looking for a maximum of 20 on this combat mission and then will grow from there on future missions. **Future missions are predicated on not bothering the neighbors while on Cobblestone Creek Road on the drive in and out of the facility so please be courteous.**

Tom will have a golf cart available at the house for those who would benefit from transport from the house up to the flying site. Others can make the short walk along the same dirt path.

Expect to fly 48" flying wings made of EPP or white foam, expect to have a lot of fun and "interesting" flying, and be careful of cactus and snakes when retrieving aircraft.

Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Series 2025 (continued)



Basic Rules:

- You score a kill when after you impact another glider,
 - a) the other glider is on the ground (or in the cactus), and
 - b) you complete a loop or a roll
- Walking down the hill to get your downed plane is "the walk of shame". You can earn back some respect if you walk through cactus 😊
- If someone on the hill says "I am not a target", you must avoid hitting their lovely, crunchy, aircraft"

Advice:

- Bring water and sunscreen and a hat
- Bring strapping tape (field repairs will be required 😊)
- Be prepared for your cheeks to hurt from grinning...yes...those cheeks!

If anyone needs help building, setting up, or whatever, just ask in the #Slope Soaring channel on the TPG Discord server.

Scoring a kill = +1 point

Getting killed = -1 point

At the end of the series, the pilot with the most points = Top Gun

F5J Foamy Fun Fly & Contest Report – Don Lochhead, CD

Ten of us met up January 5th on a bright sunny morning at Poway to kick off the 2025 soaring season. First arrivals at the field were greeted with lingering signs of the overnight frost, but temperatures eventually climbed into the mid-70's.

We started the morning with the pilots meeting mainly focusing on how to score launch height for those without a Motor Run Limiter/Altitude recording device. We ended up with a less than perfect solution of assigning a default height of 200 meters for those without.

There are a number of devices out there. The Nano or V4+ from Altis ([Hyperflight](#) or sometimes [SUSA](#)), the Gliderkeeper ([Aloft](#) or [SUSA](#)) and the CAM F5J ([Hobby Club](#)). As a result, we will soon start requiring the device (for those who want to fly for score). So, if you don't have one yet, please get one.



Pilots meeting (Gary Fogel photo)

The field consisted of Night Radians against John McNeil's 1980 vintage, Larry Jolly designed, Electricus. Hopefully, in the future, a few more pilots will look up into their rafters to see what classic planes they can bring out for these events.

We flew 6 rounds of 7-minute flights. Conditions started out calm with small pockets of light lift for the first two rounds. By round three, the lift was a bit more generous, allowing multiple pilots in each flight to score good times. Landings proved to be a challenge. The combination of no flaps or spoiler plus no residual vegetation to slow your plane down made hitting the 50-point rare, with only four landings hitting the top mark. John McNeil made a couple of very impressive landings, leaving the crowd wondering how he ever got his plane so close to the pin from such a high altitude with so little time left on the clock.

F5J Foamy Fun Fly & Contest (continued)



Group launch (Gary Fogel photo)

John started out in first place with round one and held that position over the full six rounds, with Gary finishing second and Arthur taking third.

Our next F5J Foamy Fun fly will be April 19th. Unless you are a newbie to the Foamy Fun Fly, remember to get an Altis if you want to compete for score.



Launching! Check out that paint scheme. (Gary Fogel photo)

F3X Vault Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	4 John McNeil 🇺🇸 🏆	6000.00		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	2 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🏆	5864.29	-135.71	1000	864.29	1000	1000	1000	1000
3	7 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🏆	5137.52	-726.77	798.22	1000	939.83	729.99	669.48	1000
4	8 Ray Pili 🇺🇸 🏆	4339.90	-797.62	734.23	531.88	1000	95.83	1000	977.96
5	6 Tom Farley 🇺🇸 🏆	4304.36	-35.54	1000	642.86	850.00	795.92	663.85	351.73
6	5 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🏆	4132.83	-171.53	366.44	600.29	854.30	1000	534.46	777.34
7	Steve Hurd 🇺🇸 🏆	3836.91	-295.92	700.30	622.86	768.21	546.31	226.78	972.45
8	Tom Drake 🇺🇸 🏆	3818.69	-18.22	424.33	390.99	601.72	734.69	889.04	777.92
9	1 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🏆	3637.28	-181.41	418.80	629.19	450.00	977.78	776.74	384.77
10	Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🏆	2975.86	-661.42	85.47	1000	441.26	488.47	177.60	783.06

January DLG Contest Report – Cliff Hunter, CD

Introduction

The January 11th contest was a true test of pilot's ability to launch, land and have quick turn arounds with accuracy and control.

Event Overview

The Hand Launch Contest featured multiple categories, allowing participants of different age groups and skill levels to compete. The rounds were simple yet challenging. We flew eight rounds. Everyone had a fun time, and we did not have Santa Anna winds at all. The weather had winning conditions for everyone.



Left to right front row, Justin Tolman, Milan Bergman, Arthur Markiewicz, Cliff Hunter, and Mengchen Li. Back Row Tom Farley, Chris Efsthathiou, Kevin Jantz, John McNeil, and Will Lalla (Bob Hirsch photo)

Winners – Open/Youth Class

- First Place** Mengchen Li Open Class - with a perfect round of 8,000 points
Second Place Milan Bergman - Open Class – Youth Class – 7480.4 points.
Third Will Lalla – Open Class -Youth Class – 7220.9 points

Note: this is the first time the club has had two youth pilots in the top three positions. Congratulations to the young members of the club.

Winners – Motorized Class

- First Place** Tom Farley
Second Place Don Lochhead
Third Place Arthur Markiewicz

January DLG Contest Report (continued)



Left to right, Milan Bregman -2nd, Mengchen Li – 1st and Will Lalla – 3rd. Mengchen is pointing to a “Moon Pie” to eat denoted by Arthur Markiewicz (Bob Hirsch photo)

F3X Vault Scores

#	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	21 Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	8000.0		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	12 Milan Bregman 🇺🇸	7480.4	-519.6	993.6	1000	1000	931.2	1000	555.6	1000	1000
3	9 Will Lalla 🇺🇸	7220.9	-259.5	895.1	848.0	1000	946.1	1000	1000	756.6	775.1
4	14 John McNeil 🇺🇸	6805.8	-415.1	995.1	896.3	771.4	940.9	479.8	879.3	852.2	990.8
5	20 Kevin Jantz 🇺🇸	6439.0	-366.8	929.7	815.0	1000	672.4	1000	549.4	823.8	648.7
6	8 Christoph Efstathiou 🇩🇪	6266.8	-172.2	836.1	1000	771.4	402.6	958.6	960.2	793.9	544.0
7	4 Justin Tolman 🇺🇸	6192.3	-74.5	785.2	1000	771.4	704.6	1000	493.7	680.8	756.6
8	11 Tom Farley 🇺🇸	5778.1	-414.2	1000	825.9	771.4	496.2	719.2	842.4	505.7	617.3
9	13 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸	5677.4	-100.7	979.4	905.0	1000	626.7	370.3	707.0	626.5	462.5
10	10 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸	4847.2	-830.2	770.1	880.7	400.0	1000	513.3	959.3	323.8	0.0
11	19 Keith Frankie 🇺🇸	2272.2	-2575.0	783.5	0.0	257.1	522.3	0.0	709.3	0.0	DNS
12	3 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸	1370.8	-901.4	0.0	799.4	571.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
13	17 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸	0.0	-1370.8	0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS
14	7 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸	0.0		0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS

January Tow Hook Series Contest Report – John McNeil, CD

We held the first Tow Hook of 2025 at Encinitas on January 19th. As usual, everyone dug in to set up the bungees, landing tapes, and timing tent, which your CD really appreciated! The weather was cool and breezy with little lift before we started at 9 am.



Pilots meeting (Gary Fogel photo)

The lift was more promising after the pilot's meeting with some nice six and five-minute flights earned in 2m and 1.5m, respectively. Notably, Brian won round 1 with a 6:01 and 98-point landing – his personal best!



F3L pilots (Jake Olefsky photo)

January Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)

The day proceeded smoothly, and our new arrangement of three 2m bungees and a single 1.5m bungee worked well. The lift, however, had other ideas. Thermals became rare and difficult to work after the first couple of hours. Nonetheless, pilots found rides, especially Arthur, who went on to win despite scoring zero on his fifth flight. We had another fun and largely relaxing day. I had more excitement than I needed, but all ended well.



Gary Fogel test flying Paul Nibecker's 1.5m Yellow Jacket.

Next month, we will focus on helping each other tune gliders and radios, share tips on landing, or discuss whatever topics are of interest. Please bring your new 1.5m planes or anything else you want to work on. I hope to have a good turnout again. Everyone has something to teach and something to learn. We will also set up a winch and hold a 5-round Open TD contest for those who love that format.

F3X Vault Scores

2-meter

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	3112.00		801.00	498.00	817.00	783.00	0.00	213.00
2	Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	3082.00	-30.00	383.00	331.00	509.00	576.00	815.00	468.00
3	David Hall 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2965.00	-117.00	278.00	511.00	784.00	314.00	286.00	792.00
4	Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2922.00	-43.00	208.00	497.00	522.00	754.00	301.00	640.00
5	Brian Moore 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2778.00	-144.00	816.00	458.00	446.00	426.00	296.00	336.00
6	Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2767.00	-11.00	623.00	435.00	782.00	0.00	265.00	662.00
7	Bret Locke 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2229.00	-538.00	277.00	589.00	284.00	432.00	333.00	314.00
8	Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2096.00	-133.00	148.00	172.00	554.00	564.00	432.00	226.00
9	Miroslav Sir 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2076.00	-20.00	328.00	266.00	224.00	286.00	215.00	757.00
10	John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	1847.00	-229.00	303.00	336.00	0.00	530.00	406.00	272.00
11	Paul Nibecker 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	0.00	-1847.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1.5-meter

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2749.00		330.00	686.00	693.00	690.00	350.00
2	John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	2598.00	-151.00	262.00	270.00	683.00	692.00	691.00
3	Miroslav Sir 🇺🇸 🇵🇱	1598.00	-1000.00	181.00	170.00	196.00	402.00	649.00

January F5J Contest Report – Mike Verzuh, CD

This event was the second year the Torrey Pines Gulls hosted the F5J Tour kickoff event. The goals were to combine the normal January TPG F5J series monthly with an F5J Tour USA January Kick-Off Event, and was scheduled for January 25th and 26th. The venue selected was the Perris Free Flight field about 80 miles north of San Diego. This field is very wide open and a “pure” thermal field with no landscape interactions close by from trees, shrubs, etc. It was a combination of support from F5JINLA, Perris Free Flight and Riverside Radio Control Clubs, with support from all clubs. Part of our entry fees went to secure the entire field without any “No Fly” zones. The RRCC club gave up their planned activities to do so – thanks very much. Kudos go out to Warren Day for providing outstanding coordination support and on -the-field equipment. Also, this event is donating to the United States F5J Team to support the team's efforts at the World Championships in Argentina coming soon.



Gathered pilots' group (Mike Smith selfie photo)

The weather gods smiled on us for the first couple of rounds, as the weather was absolutely perfect – for those rounds. After that, the wind picked up to make for a very challenging event. The wind was strong all day, with gusts to 25 mph. Most pilots were max ballasting their ships and often that was not enough. Mistakes were made by going too far downwind – many by me! One round, I let myself get drawn out, and with the dust particles in the air creating poor visibility, I had to power up not once but twice to get home.

January F5J Contest Report (continued)

We were able to get in eight rounds on Saturday. The forecast for Sunday was 95% chance of rain and more wind. As the forecasts are pretty reliable, I called the contest on Saturday. It turned out to be a good call, as we had much needed rain all day Sunday. This allowed our out-of-town guests from up north and Arizona to drive home in the daylight. As I mentioned, the wind created some very challenging conditions. This was a good test and practice for our US team members in attendance. We had one round that Mike Smith won, beating everyone with a 3 minute 43 second flight. Fortunately, we only had one mishap with the strong wind. Milan lost his new plane when the elevator failed. He was doing very well up to that point.

Congratulations to our top five: Mike Smith, John Butler, Tom Kiesling, Steve Wilcox and Warren Day. They all flew a strong contest. Thanks very much to those that helped put this together, my co-CD Mike Smith, Bob Schumacker, who took care of landing tapes, and many who helped out with setup.



1st Place – Mike Smith



2nd Place – John Butler

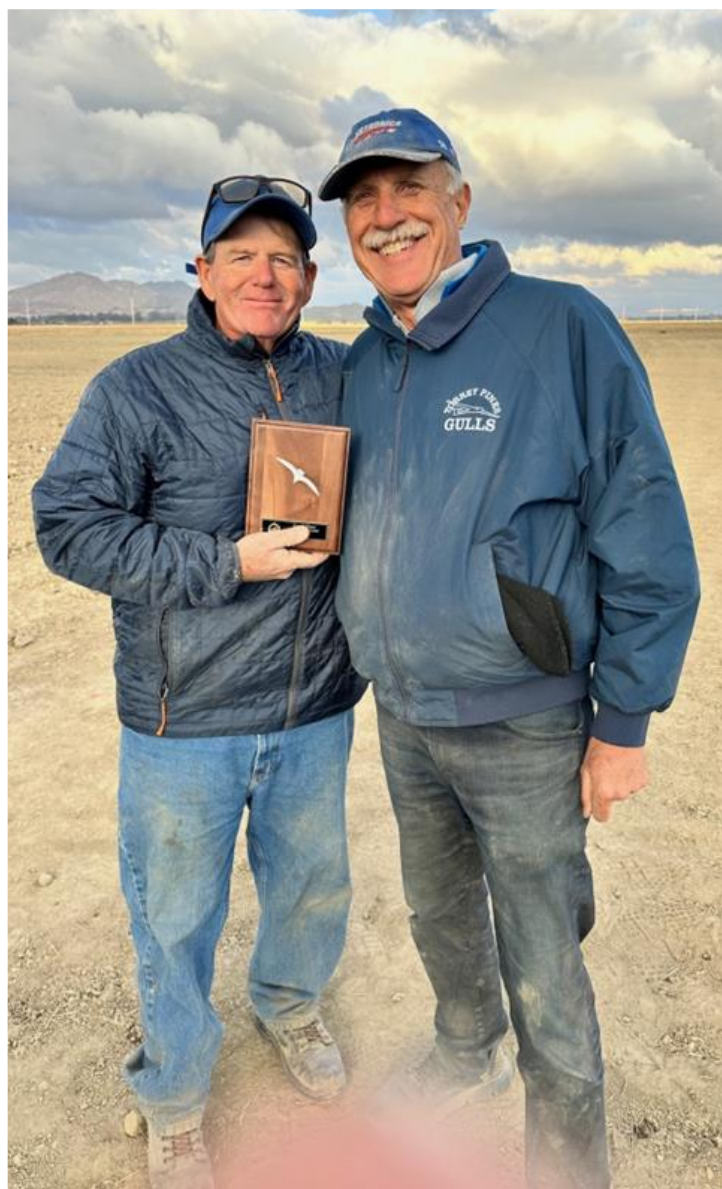
January F5J Contest Report (continued)



3rd Place – Tom Kiesling trophy



5th Place – Steve Wilcox



4th Place – Warren Day

F3X Vault Scores

[illegible]

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

Great news! We have 84 paid memberships for 2025...9 of them new members and 3 youth members so far! Thanks for renewing (and new members for joining) so quickly! We still have 25 members who have not renewed. Please do so!

Don't forget; your membership is vital to continue receiving club benefits!

Do not be locked out of the gate at Poway and Encinitas. Renew and/or become a Torrey Pines Gulls member. If you know someone who may be interested in RC soaring, please invite them to some of our events and encourage them to 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 December 16, 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.

Date: January 23, 2025	Added Since Last Report
New TPG Members	9
Youth Members	3
TPG Renewals and New Members to Date for 2025	84

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



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

F5J Contest Series



John McNeil

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

In 2024, Thermal Duration (winch launch) contests were 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 subscribe to the RCGroups 2025 TPG F5J contest schedule thread for contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4662319-2025-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 2025 TPG DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4658315-2025-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

Following a successful and fun launch of this new contest format in 2024, we have expanded the team DLG schedule in 2025. Each event will be on a Sunday following a Saturday monthly DLG.

The 2025 schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4662309-2025-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 full details, check out this RCGroups Forum:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4617285-New-F3K-Team-Contest-Format>

How We Compete (continued)

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



John McNeil

TPG Pilots agree we want more events in 2025. Accordingly, the TPG EC has scheduled ten events next year. We are also adding a two-day event in October!

As attendance grows, and to make time to help each other, we will hold two types of events. Seven events will be bungee-only for 2m and 1.5m. These days, we will fly in the same format as in 2024, with six rounds for 2m and five for 1.5 in the four-hour open-flying window.

The other three events will host a 5-round winch/open TD contest alongside a fun-fly for bungee planes, where we will place 2m and 1.5m bungees. These fun-fly days are meant to allow pilots to trim planes together, practice, and do whatever else we can think of to help each other.

The 2025 schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4662329-2025-TPG-Tow-Hook-Series-F3L-F3RES-TD-1-5m#post53309761>

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

Aircraft Classes

- 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. Lighter 1.5m meter bungees will also be setup.

Winches:

A single winch will be on TD days. 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.

How We Compete (continued)

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

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 contest (and clinic) Series in 2025 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.

Be on the lookout for F5J Fun Fly events coming up in 2025.
Come on out and join the fun!



Bob Hirsch photo

What is LSF? – Gary Fogel



League of Silent Flight



Gary Fogel

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

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

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

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

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

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 flys 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 III	Level I
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

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!

New Procedure for Joining Google Groups

Here are the steps new club members need to take to be added to Google Groups if they don't have a Gmail account/address:

1. Go to the [Google Account Sign In page](#).
2. Click Create account.
3. Enter your name.
4. Click Use my current email address instead.
5. Enter your current email address.
6. Click Next.
7. Verify your email address with the code sent to your existing email.
8. Click Verify.
9. Confirm with TPG Membership (Cliff Hunter) the above steps have been completed, use the following email address: membership@torreypinesgulls.org

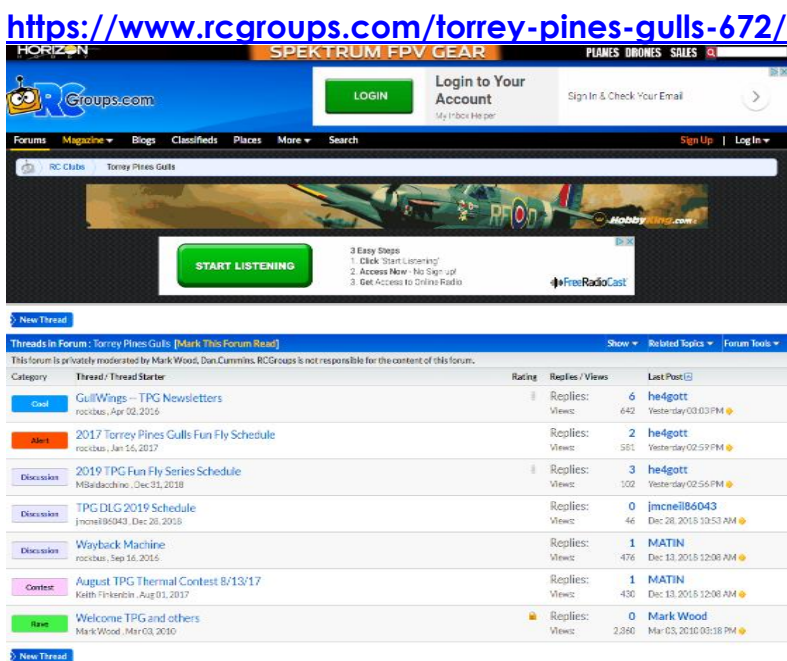
How We Connect (continued)

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 roccioes, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccioes, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 551	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule M8aldachino, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 28, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccioes, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finkelson, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
None	Welcome TPG and others MarkWood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,860	MarkWood Mar 03, 2010 02:18 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.

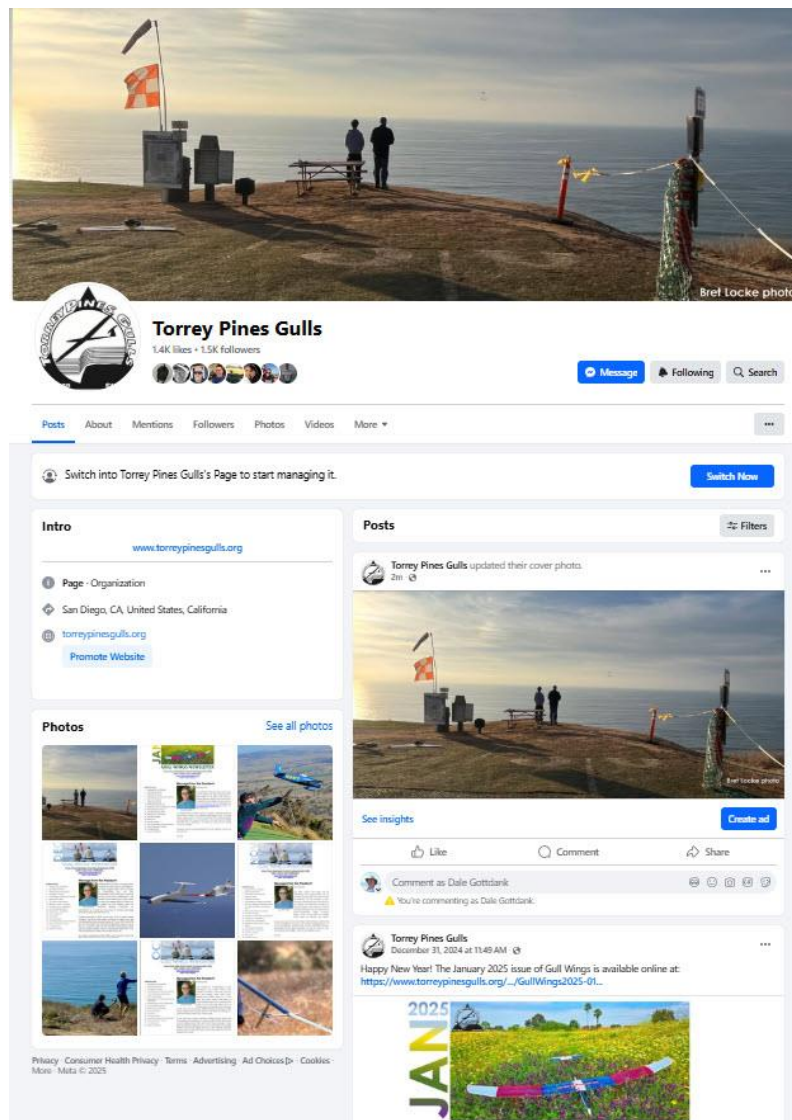
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

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/>

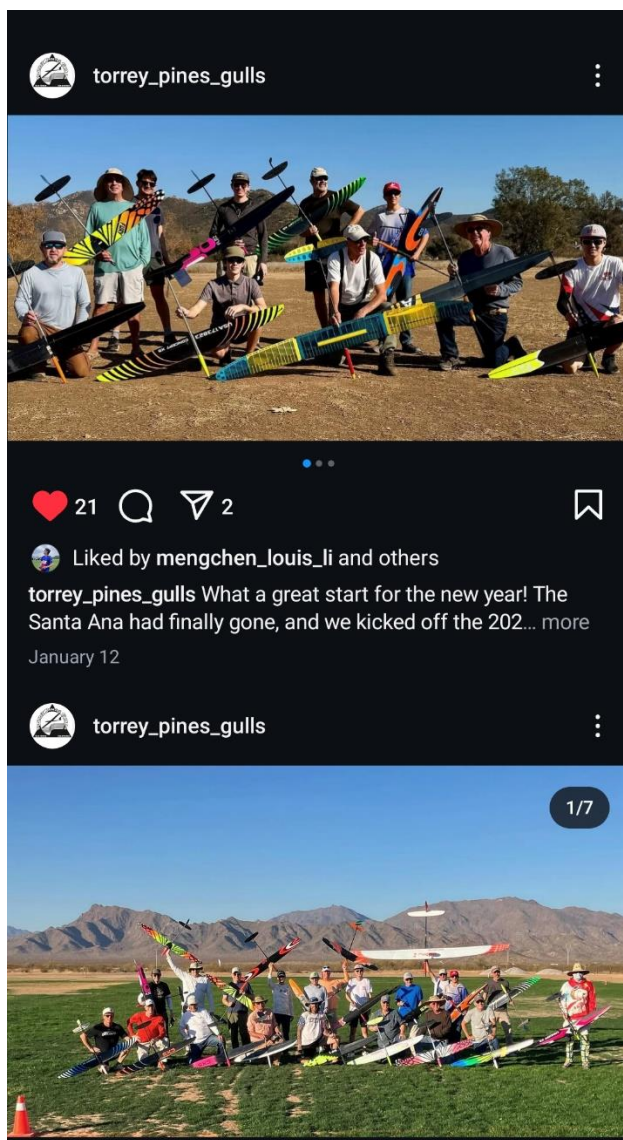


How We Connect (continued)

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	Bret Locke	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	Jake Olefsky	tpg@foldnfly.com
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	media@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	historian@torreypinesgulls.org

Executive Officers



Chuck Norris



Gary Fogel



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



John McNeil



Bret Locke



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 2024 Co-Winner – Joe Cormier's 2m Racer chased by Geroge Clarke's 41" MIG on a blustery Torrey Friday in November (Greg Houck photo)



December Co-Winner – Greg Houck launching Joe Cormier's Zero at Torrey (Matin Taraz photo)



January Winner – Adam Toogood launching Alexis Scott's Bearcat...in Blue Angels livery (Matin Taraz photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



F5J Foamie Fun Fly group launch (Gary Fogel photo)



February Winner – Owen Croucher and Brin Moor at the January Kick-off Fun Fly (Bret Locke 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:

"And the sky, is a hazy shade of winter"
~ *Paul Simon*



Torrey Winter Solstice (Walt Quitt photo)