

2025
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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 Message from the President, however this month is a little different.

As I write this, preparations are under way for the 2025 International Hand Launch Glider Festival, or IHLGF...Our 30th Anniversary Contest!!!

TPG President Chuck Norris is busily working with the rest of the organizing team, putting the final touches on to be another world class competition. The 30th Anniversary 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're looking forward to great field conditions, thanks to some recent rains and an amazing effort on the part of Cliff and Sandy Hunter, who regularly mow the field to keep it in tip-top shape and Tom Foley for scraping the field.

So far, there are 45 registered pilots, representing Canada, China, Germany, and, of course, the United States; and registrations are just getting started.

Visit the IHLGF website, <https://www.ihlgf.com/index.html>, patronize our sponsors and plan on attending, whether you compete or just watch and enjoy the action.

Cheers,

Dale Gottdank, Editor

Photo above:

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

TPG March/April Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
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
April 5 th	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies Fun Fly	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
April 12 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
April 12 th	Slope Combat!	Poway Slope Must have TPG membership 20 Participants max; Fun Fly! Register on F3X Vault when open
April 19 th	F5J Foamy Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
April 22 nd	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
April 26 th – 27 th	30 th Anniversary International Hand Launch Glider Festival	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



2024 IHLGF pilots (Bob Hirsch photo)

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:

- **Thank you to our IHLGF 2025 sponsors! (page 5)**
- **Slope Combat returns for 2025 – Slope Combat Fiesta Report (page 8)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 30)**

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.

At our last virtual meeting, in February, we had a lecture and discussion on ballast, led by TPG Vice-President and Club Historian, Gary Fogel. We also held a random drawing for year-end Super Raffle tickets. Cliff Hunter and Ed LaCroix were the winners!

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22nd, at 7:00pm Pacific Time. You can be sure we'll have a fascinating presentation, a chance to win a ticket to the year-end Super Raffle and as always, a time to touch base with flying buddies and friends.

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!

Thank you to our IHLGF 2025 sponsors!

The 30th International Hand Launch Glider Festival is coming up at the end of April. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank (in advance) our generous sponsors of this event. Click on the logos to visit their websites.

You don't have to fly in the contest to attend and bid on items; and a large percentage of the proceeds will go directly to the USA F3K team for their next World Championship opportunity.



News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator



Bret Locke



It is the season for sloping!

Good day TPG Slopers! The RC slope flying season is in full swing here in San Diego. On February 8th, the TPG hosted a Fly and Swap at Torrey Pines. Plenty of pilots made the event, many planes changed hands, while the winds were coming in directly from the west, creating excellent lift. On February 22 the first Combat Fiesta for 2025 went off in favorable conditions with many smiles and much laughter. See combat synopsis further on in the newsletter.

Next on the calendar are the Scale Fun Fly on March 8th and the Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies on April 5th, both at Torrey Pines Gliderport. These events really showcase the collection of beautiful planes that our members have built, collected and still fly.

Conditions at Torrey Pines Gliderport are favorable, the recent rains have started green growth that is still soft for those carefree landings. As always, safety is still a high priority. Respect the paragliders and remember the blue-sky rule.

The 2025 season for sloping is well underway, so get out there and fly!

Sincerely,

Bret Locke
TPG Slope Coordinator



Alvaro Corzo launching Steffen Peters' Tomahawk ASG-32 (Thomas Moller photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2025

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:

April 12th

July 27th

October 26th



Torrey Pines Gulls February Slope Combat Fiesta – Gary Fogel

On February 22, 2025 we held our first TPG slope combat event of the year at the Poway Slope. Several folks arrived early on site at 11am and the wind was already so good that a few folks flew directly from the parking area. But soon enough, we moved the action to Tom and Debbie's place for some light refreshments (thank you Farleys!) before hiking up to the slope. John, Ian, and Justin were first to launch and were already in combat mode before the "gang" arrived.



Ready to rumble! (Bob Hirsch photo)

Rather than fly in a series of rounds, we just had one continuous flying session that went from about 1pm to 3:30pm. As usual, despite furballs of ~7-10 planes, sometimes collisions were rare! But when they happened, it was fun and with the lift being pretty good, most were able to recover. About half way through the afternoon a separate set of pilots began flying Ahis and Weasels closer to Tom's house, out of the fray, and we had two areas along the bluff working.

Ian Cummings was kind to place a camera on board his Ka-8 and began taking some aerial footage. It was fun and unusual to see a Ka-8 come zooming through a pack of combat wings, but there were surely some great shots. Then, one unfortunate collision between the Ka-8 and a Zagi sent the camera flying off the plane and into the bushes, where we searched in vain. The Ka-8 was fine and will return to recon service at another time. Kevin Halle captured some in-air footage from a quadcopter and it will be interesting to see that footage when it becomes available.



The flight line (Bob Hirsch photo)

Torrey Pines Gulls February Slope Combat Fiesta (continued)



Ian Cummings' Ka-8 with camera mounted (Brian Moore/Adina Conwell photo)



Wel, there WAS a fin. (Adina Conwell photo)



Middle of the action! (Brian Moore/Adina Conwell photo)



This is a fin, isn't it? (Bob Hirsch photo)



"Tis but a flesh wound!" (Brian Moore/Adina Conwell photo)

Torrey Pines Gulls February Slope Combat Fiesta (continued)



A great day to be out enjoying the Poway Slope! (Bob Hirsch photo)



Enjoying a little down time (Bob Hirsch photo)



Back to the fray (Bob Hirsch photo)

Check out this short (but exciting) YouTube video from Bob Hirsch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5cnpDeFuBU>

The next Slope Combat Fiesta mission will be April 12. On that morning, we'll first have a DLG contest at the Poway Flight Center, break for lunch, and then get to the Poway slope in the afternoon for foamy combat. The slope combat is free – all we ask is that you sign up in the F3X Vault, and that you have AMA and are a member of TPG for these events. Come and enjoy the fun!

February DLG Contest Report – Chuck Norris, CD

The second DLG contest of the year was held on February 15th. Congratulations to the winners:



- 1st Place: Cory Shantz
- 2nd Place: Mike Smith
- 3rd Place: Gary Fogel



We had a great Turnout (Chris Efstathiou film photo)

F3X Vault Scores

Rounds (1-6)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	14 Cory Shantz  	5997.5		1000	1000	1000	1000	997.5	1000
2	19 Mike Smith  	5935.8	-61.7	1000	935.8	1000	1000	1000	1000
3	5 Gary Fogel  	5892.1	-43.7	1000	960.5	992.2	1000	967.1	972.3
4	7 Mengchen Li 	5885.8	-6.3	1000	1000	1000	996.7	989.1	1000
5	3 Will Lalla  	5821.0	-64.8	1000	980.8	963.4	876.8	1000	1000
6	13 Milan Bregman  	5757.1	-63.9	1000	987.6	997.0	986.7	999.5	786.3
7	6 Christoph Efstathiou 	5707.6	-49.5	1000	952.8	877.9	1000	950.4	926.5
8	17 Don Lochhead  	5214.4	-493.2	858.5	997.4	959.0	615.7	783.8	1000
9	2 Justin Tolman  	5207.8	-6.6	1000	963.6	992.9	518.7	1000	732.6
10	12 John McNeil  	5153.7	-54.1	992.1	883.7	861.2	589.8	981.8	845.1
11	8 Chuck Norris  	5043.3	-110.4	877.7	888.9	990.2	982.6	379.6	924.3
12	11 Mike Swanson  	4618.1	-425.2	918.8	1000	895.3	376.8	455.5	971.7
13	18 Arthur Markiewicz  	4301.8	-316.3	1000	921.0	962.4	419.0	300.5	698.9
14	15 Mike Ray	3895.1	-406.7	681.5	981.2	609.2	603.0	592.7	427.5
15	16 Neil Zhu  	3866.2	-28.9	633.3	868.9	810.6	1000	379.6	173.8
16	10 Ian Cummings  	3614.0	-252.2	1000	919.8	523.4	248.4	354.3	568.1
17	9 Clifford Hunter  	3483.2	-130.8	714.2	330.6	718.2	683.6	450.8	585.8

February DLG Contest Report (continued)



Mike Ray catching his plane during the contest *Chris Efstathiou film photo)



Some lunch action (Chris Efstathiou film photo)



Launch blur (Chris Efstathiou film photo)

February Tow Hook Fun Fly – John McNeil

We held the first Tow Hook fun fly of the year on Sunday, February 23. We had 10 pilots and set up 2m and 1.5m hi-starts and landing tapes. The weather was ideal for airplane tuning – very calm with a glassy breeze. At the pilot's meeting, I passed along a 1.5m Yellow Jacket donated by Charlse Martin to Michael Gillen, who has just started flying again. Michael, in turn, paid the TPG membership for a student pilot. Thank you, Charles and Michael!

We spent the morning helping each other set our airplanes' center of gravity, tow hook position, and spoiler-to-elevator compensation. Michael put a receiver in the 1.5m YJ and got it flying. At 11:00, we took a break to discuss landing technique, both timing and hitting the spot. We then went back to flying, focusing on landing practice. Around noon, we started cleaning up earlier than on a usual contest day. Everyone was a little tired from the previous day's combat session.

Overall, it was a fun, relaxed day, and we'll be more ready for the next contest on March 23.



It was a perfect day for a Tow Hook fun fly at the Encinitas field. (Cliff Hunter photo)



TD Coordinator John McNeil launching 2m Gentle Lady for new member Michael Gillen (Chuck Norris screenshot)



And away she goes! (Chuck Norris screenshot)

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

Great news! We have 94 paid memberships for 2025...9 of them new members 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 February 27, 2025

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: February 27, 2025	Added Since Last Report
New TPG Members	9
Youth Members	0
TPG Renewals and New Members to Date for 2025	94

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



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
Olefsky	Jake	Working on 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

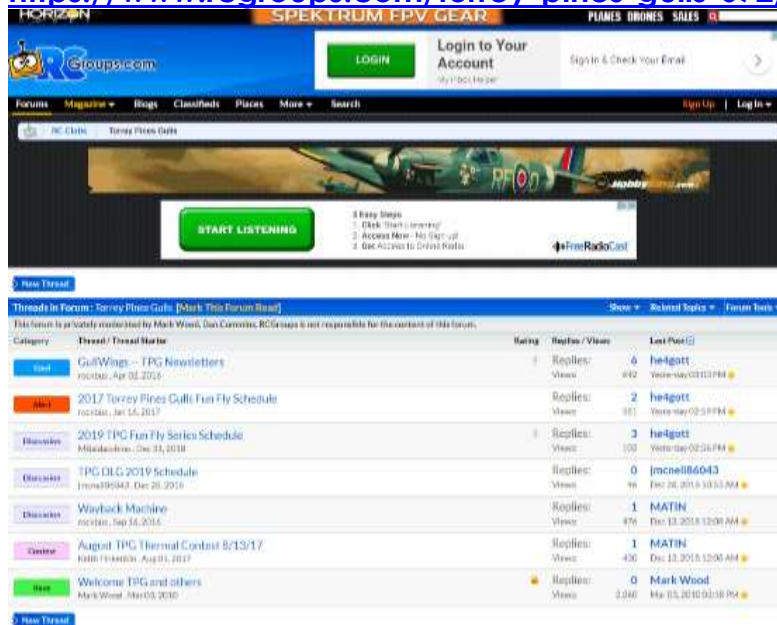
How We Connect (continued)

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/>



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/>



Torrey Pines Gulls

1.4K likes • 1.5K followers



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 Switch into Torrey Pines Gulls's Page to start managing it.

[Switch Now](#)

Intro

www.torreypinesgulls.org

 Page · Organization

 San Diego, CA, United States, California

 torreypinesgulls.org

[Promote Website](#)

Posts

 Filters



Torrey Pines Gulls updated their cover photo.

1m · 

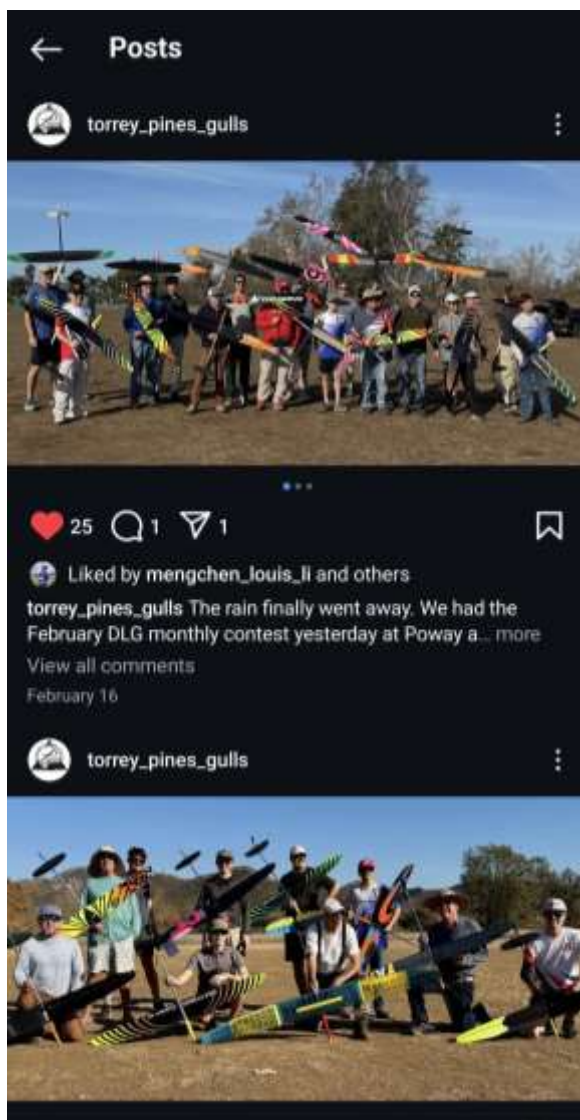


How We Connect (continued)

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)



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



Alvaro Corzo launching Steffen Peters' Tomahawk ASG-32 (Thomas Moller photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Winner – Colorful combat wings and pilots at the February Slope Combat Fiesta (Bob Hirsch photo)



TPG Classified Ads Policy

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

" Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn."

~ Lewis Grizzard



Torrey Winter Solstice (Walt Quitt photo)