

2025  
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# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

**Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)**

**AMA Charter Club 129**

**Website: [www.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)**

**Editor – Dale Gottdank**

## Message from the President

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Photo above:

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



Chuck Norris

Hi everyone,

I've been writing over the past few years about how important it is to encourage new pilots to get interested in our hobby, and to help get them on a path to success. And it makes me feel great to tell you about some of the things I've been seeing over the past few months.

The Tow Hook Contest series has always had at its heart a fun, relaxed vibe, where you can be as competitive as you want, or just fly for the sheer joy of it. And what has been evolving is an upbeat, creative environment with a mix of experienced and new pilots, with a generous dose of pilots returning to the sport after absences. People are building planes, talking over aerodynamics and model design ideas, and generally having a great time with our sport. It's a welcoming environment for newer pilots, and the cost of planes and equipment is relatively modest and approachable to people wanting to give it a try.

Similarly, the slope combat series at Poway Hill (a.k.a. Tom Farley's backyard!) is particularly intriguing to new pilots. The raw enjoyment of trying to crash into each other is tons of fun, and it's a great way for newer pilots to learn some aerobatics skills trying to kill and avoid. Costs are also modest, and very inexpensive models are perfectly competitive.

## Message from the President (continued)

Toward the end of the last get-together, some local neighbors from the south end of the hill stopped by to ask what it takes to get started, and I hope to see them at future events. We'll be having more in 2025, so there are plenty of opportunities to give it a try. Even if you don't have a combat plane, stop by and you'll likely have a transmitter in your hand joining the fur ball pretty quickly.

And finally, the DLG monthlies have continued to grow and attract new pilots. The cost-of-entry will always be a little steeper with DLG, considering the advantages of the application of technology (and money!) to the art of building ultra-light, ultra-high-performance aircraft. But there is something very special about using muscle power to loft a low 200-grams high performance machine that can use the lightest of thermals, or dance with wind-driven chaos, or run hard downwind hoping to find afternoon thermals lurking among the trees.

All three of these very different kinds of flying are growing and bringing in new and returning pilots. I think it's a real sign of health for our club, and I'm thrilled to see it!

Chuck



Competitive fun at our last Combat Slope Fiesta. Inset: the furball! (Bob Hirsch photo and video screenshot)

## TPG April/May Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies Fun Fly	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Slope Combat!	Poway Slope <b>Must have TPG membership</b> 20 Participants max; Fun Fly! Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Foamy Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: <a href="#">TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link</a>
April 26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Hand Launch Glider Festival	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Radians – if it's foam, this is your day.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Tow Hook Fun Fly & TD	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>

## 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 6)**
- **New Multi-Club F3L Contest Series! (page 7)**
- **Slope Combat event this month! (page 10)**
- **2025 AIAA TPG Student Foamboard Contest (page 13)**
- **Beginners Corner (page 19)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 45)**
- **2-meter Yellow Jacket F3L/RES (Tow Hook) gliders for sale (page 51)**

Please send in your articles or photos ([communications@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org)) by the **25<sup>th</sup>** 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>.



Joe Cormier's 2m Racer chased by Geroge Clarke's 41" MIG on a blustery Torrey Friday in November (Greg Houck 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



## New!!! Multi-Club F3L Contest Series



We are pleased to announce a series of planned F3L/F3RES contest events that will be hosted by the Albuquerque Soaring Association, the Torrey Pines Gulls, and the Phoenix Model Glider Club. These will be low pressure events with the main goal of having fun and encouraging new participants that might not normally attend an RC glider contest. Of note, if our events are successful and significant interest from other clubs becomes apparent, we can certainly consider expanding the series next year.

We currently have these three contests scheduled (see below), which will follow F3L rules; with minor variations made by each of the three sites and contest directors. Additionally, we envision the day prior to each contest (practice day), allowing time to assist newcomers or folks that might desire a little advice on techniques (tow hook positioning, launch height maximizing, etc.).

The Series will culminate in a champion for the three contests (1st - 3rd places awarded), and a Sportsman award for the contestant that places highest in two of the series contests, and has not previously placed (1-3) in an F3L/F3RES event. Each Series contest will have awards for 1st-3rd placers and a team award. Scoring will be accomplished via F3X Vault and updated in real-time.

**2025 F3L International** - Albuquerque Soaring Association  
June 20-21 Evergreen Turf Farm, Estancia New Mexico

**2025 F3L Coastal Cooler** - Torrey Pines Gulls  
August 23-24 Encinitas Field, Encinitas California

**2025 F3L Valley Open** - Phoenix Model Glider Club  
October 11-12 Evergreen Turf Farm, Stanfield Arizona

We hope you will follow along on this thread and make plans to attend some or all of our contests. Initial information associated with the first of the series, the 2025 F3L International in New Mexico has been posted with the Events page on RC Groups. We will continue update this thread.

From: Albuquerque Soaring Association, Torrey Pines Gulls, Phoenix Model Glider Club

Series Committee Members:

Greg McGill, John McNeil, Gary Fogel, Jim Vanderzyl, John Armstrong

## News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator



Bret Locke



### TPG Slopers are in the groove!

The month of March has lived up to its reputation for RC slope soaring in San Diego. On March 8th, a tribute to Dr. Larry Fogel during the TPG/TPSSS Scale Fun Fly at the Torrey Pines Gliderport came together with steady light winds and attendance by longtime members of the TPG. The day started out with the assembly of several beautiful hand-built scale gliders. Followed by the arrival of AMA District X Vice President Mr. Greg Stone.

The highlight of the day was Gary Fogel's tribute to his late father, Dr. Larry Fogel. Larry was inducted into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame on June 30, 2024. Gary shared his father's passion for flying model aircraft at Torrey, as well as his interest in teaching and encouraging countless modelers to fly the slope. Gary also shared his and his father's efforts to officially designate the RC pit area at Torrey as an AMA, State and Federal historical site for model aviation. Without their tireless efforts, there would most likely not be RC soaring at Torrey Pines!!! Check out the photos on the next page.

There were also great 20+ mph wind days attracting the usual ballasted crowd of scale, F3F and PSS planes. There was amazing lift and very few manned aircraft in the area. That's what we like.

Next on the calendar are Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies on April 5th, at Torrey Pines Gliderport followed by Poway Combat on April 12th at Poway Slope.

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



## News from the Slope (continued)



Ceremony inducting Dr. Larry Fogel into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame (Ian Cummings photo)



Gary Fogel holding one of his dad's scale gliders as Greg Stone presents the certificate honoring Dr. Larry Fogel's induction into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame (Ian Cummings photo)

### TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2025

April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>st</sup>	Katie Martin International Tribute. A day to remember and celebrate Bob's amazing wife Katie. Lots of Hobie Hawks (Katie's favorite) aloft. All RC soaring aircraft welcome, but be sure to bring out your classic Bob Martin planes too!
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PNF – Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Redman Rules Contest – Ribbons for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> . For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	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 12<sup>th</sup>  
 July 27<sup>th</sup>  
 October 26<sup>th</sup>

**Details on the next page**





## Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Series 2025



### What/When:

A fun day of slope soaring at Poway Slope is scheduled for Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 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"
- Scoring a kill = +1 point
- Getting killed = -1 point

### 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.

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



## 2025 AIAA TPG Student Foamboard Contest – Gary Fogel

It's been a long time since TPG held its own build-and-fly contest. Back in the 1970s, the club had an annual balsa build and fly – the winner being the first to build and fly an RC glider from a pile of balsa for a specific slope duration and land on top of the cliffs without damage. These were fun ways of not only being creative with a pile of balsa typically donated by Mark Smith, but let younger pilots try their hand at design and then flying something rather “unique.”

Fast forward a few decades and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) holds an annual international “design build and fly” (DBF) contest for college students. Each year brings a different task and fun for students. Two local universities, UCSD and SDSU each have their own AIAA chapters, and have subdivisions working to generate their own entries for this contest. AIAA also has a San Diego chapter (<https://www.aiaa-sd.org/>) that helps organize AIAA functions locally. I'm pleased to be a member of that San Diego chapter and serve on the organizing committee to help interface with AIAA-UCSD and AIAA-SDSU.



1970s build-and-fly contest at Torrey

Why not then arrange a local contest with TPG as the host, bringing the two college AIAA chapters together for a fun design build and fly contest of our own in cooperation with AIAA-SD? This is precisely what we did for the first time on March 2, 2025 at Torrey Pines. Planning for the event took several months with discussions with both student chapters to select a date that wouldn't interfere with their course schedules, and the larger AIAA DBF contest. Balsa is far more expensive than it used to be, and foam board serves as a suitable alternate. I volunteered to help find mentors and equipment if the chapters could get the word out and gather students.

Fortunately, five TPG mentors agreed to donate their time and experience (Eric Zanutto, John McNeil, Arthur Markiewicz, Bret Locke, and Chuck Norris); this in addition to two others who donated equipment to the cause (Brian Moore and Ray Pili) and others who volunteered to help (Scott McCurdy and Ian Cummings). I threw in some additional gear in terms of receivers, servos, etc. that would be donated to the students thereafter. Foamboard, additional servo horns, etc. were purchased at Discount Hobby just in case extras were needed (they were).

Scheduling something like this requires a good team. It also requires some luck. We weren't sure if many students would be interested, we weren't sure what the weather would bring, especially for the first weekend in March. But with two weeks to go before game time, more than 20 students had signed up! With one week to go, the weather forecasts offered hope of some good winds. With 48 hours to go the forecast changed to include possible rain and winds of 15kts with gusts >20. Hmm. That feels a bit much for foamboard! But after all of the planning and signups, the contest was going to happen rain, shine, wind or no wind.

## 2025 AIAA TPG Student Foamboard Contest (continued)



The general scene at the gliderport in the early phases with teams hard at work and mentors making the rounds (Ian Cummings photo)

We gathered at Torrey at 10am and waited for a few straggler students to arrive before assigning students to teams. We had more students from SDSU than UCSD and the desire to use all five mentors, so we split the UCSD students equally to two mentors and divided the SDSU students roughly equally among the remaining three mentors. (Bret was given special accommodation to pair with SDSU as he was an Aztec studying mechanical engineering in the past).

Nick Candrella from AIAA-SD and Dr. Mark Anderson a professor from UCSD aerospace engineering and member of AIAA-SD also attended to observe. Gary provided a brief run down on the contest requirements – each team was provided three pieces of foam board, some strapping tape, a mentor and their equipment. The winner would be the first team to have an RC glider soaring for 10 min with a landing on top of the cliffs without shedding a part. TPG mentors would serve as the test pilots in consideration of air safety.

Teams got to work right away. Some teams took quite a long time to think of designs, perhaps forgetting that this was a “race.” Other teams got right to work cutting foam. By noon, aircraft were beginning to take shape. And the 5-10 kts of WSW we had when we started began to turn into the forecasted 15-20kts out of the west. A brief squall line appeared on the horizon. Things really got cold and windy once that blew through and whitecaps were all around. Other TPG members brought out their heavy air gliders, while student teams continued their work on the light weight foam gliders. Ballast was clearly going to be important! TPGer Jim Elgie kindly brought out an additional table for Eric Zanutto's team to use.



## 2025 AIAA TPG Student Foamboard Contest (continued)



John McNeil with his students from UCSD working on their swept wing design (Ian Cummings photo)



Chuck Norris giving some tips about foam construction to a set of students from SDSU (Ian Cummings photo)



Eric Zanutto (right) helps students from SDSU (Team "SDSU Raiders") while TPGer Jim Elgie (left) observes (Ian Cummings photo)

## 2025 AIAA TPG Student Foamboard Contest (continued)

First to take to test flights was a team from UCSD with John McNeil as the mentor. They designed a flying wing with a fixed vertical fin much like a swept-wing moth. The plane suffered from the lack of a solid spar (only foam was allowed!) and it was clear that some additional support was needed to keep the wings from flapping. During their repairs, a team from SDSU (the self-named "SDSU Raiders") took to the test field with their creation, a small polyhedral ship with a conventional tail. They also rubber banded the wings on to the fuse in order to adjust CG on the fly. Very nice. It looked like it flew well in the backfield so off the cliff it went into the strong winds. Mentor Eric Zanutto flew that plane very well and it really didn't require much trim to keep it on an even keel. At times however, the winds were so strong that the plane would be blown back over land, and so Eric had to put the nose down to penetrate back out into the lift band. This worked, and after the required 10 minutes he and the team walked back for a landing in the backfield behind the current RC glider runway. Success! Team SDSU Raiders were declared the winner.

Rather soon thereafter the UCSD team with John as pilot got their aircraft back to test flights, alongside Chuck Norris' squad, a group from SDSU who had built a foam flying wing much like a Zagi. These two aircraft were test flown and then launched from the edge, first Chuck and then John with both making it out past the rotor and into the lift. They flew well once in the lift band! Both aircraft landed successfully after 10 minutes.



Bret Locke (right) making successful test flights with an aileron and elevator design by students from SDSU (Ian Cummings photo)



Chuck Norris piloting test flights with the foam flying wing created by his student team from SDSU. Great throwing form by the student! (Ian Cummings photo)



## 2025 AIAA TPG Student Foamboard Contest (continued)

The second team from UCSD completed a low-wing polyhedral design with a conventional tail. This team was fortunate to have Arthur as their pilot. After a challenging launch from the cliff edge, the right wing folded at the root to present something on the order of a +60-degree dihedral angle while the left wing stayed flat at 0 degrees. The crowd uttered moans and groans when this happened. Ever cool Arthur managed to continue soaring the glider this way for about 5 minutes before drifting back behind the ridge and landing on top near the PG/HG takeoff area. Students quickly recovered the aircraft and got busy with repairs, strapping a set of plyers on top with duct tape as ballast for a valiant second attempt. This was made, but with a landing soon after, to the north along the bowl; but at least it flew. The last team, a group of two from SDSU was assisted by others in a rush to try to get airborne. This plane had elevator and ailerons but a fixed rudder. The ailerons were located inboard on the wing and a brief flight demonstrated that the aircraft did not have much roll control. Bret suggested moving the ailerons outboard, which did help, and at least showed that all five aircraft could be flown on the same day.



TPG member and UCSD student Logan Smith launches their team's creation off the cliff only to observe the right wing spontaneously increase in dihedral in the ~15-20kts of post frontal sea breeze. Arthur (not pictured) is soiling his shorts as pilot (hence, why he is not pictured) (Ian Cummings photo) Inset shows detail from below (Brian Moore photo)

## 2025 AIAA TPG Student Foamboard Contest (continued)

A brief pilots meeting was held to congratulate the winning team “SDSU Raiders” and supply them with their prize – a ready to fly Flight Test Simple Soarer built by Gary Fogel (sans receiver). Mentors pulled whatever equipment they needed from the planes and then student teams were allowed to take their creations home with the hopes of returning to fly more with TPG mentors soon. Everything wrapped up around 3pm, with just about everyone being very hungry having missed lunch in excitement.



Event organizer and contest director Gary Fogel reviewing the day's events and fun with all of the teams and mentors before handing the prize of an RTF Flight Test Simple Soarer to the SDSU Raiders for their first-place performance. Congratulations Aztecs! (Ian Cummings photo)

A great time was had by all, students, mentors, spectators, and contest director. 😊 It was fun to see Torrey being used by students for friendly competitive learning. Meanwhile I'll continue to work with AIAA-SD, AIAA-UCSD, AIAA-SDSU to make this an annual event for TPG. Let's do it again!



A group photo of the various students, teams, and mentors after a really adventurous fun day with flying foam! (Ian Cummings photo)



## Beginner's Corner – LiPo Battery Safety – Jake Olefsky

Even the small Lithium Polymer (LiPo) battery packs used in our gliders can pose fire and safety risks if mishandled. In addition to the intense heat and flames that are difficult to extinguish, LiPo fires release toxic gasses like hydrogen fluoride which are very hazardous. Granted, the chances of having a battery fire are very small but the risk is very large, so it makes sense to take precautions. After doing some research, I have compiled this list of recommendations for best practices.

### Charging

Charging is when LiPo batteries are most vulnerable. A LiPo can ignite or explode if overcharged or charged improperly.

- **Use a charger specifically designed for LiPo batteries**, and double-check that it's configured for your battery's correct cell count and voltage. Good LiPo chargers have a balance-charging mode which ensures that each cell is charged evenly to the same voltage. This is important because an imbalanced cell can overcharge and trigger a fire.
- As a rule of thumb, **charge at 1C** (a current equal to the battery's capacity) or less. For example, an 850mAh battery should be charged at 0.85A max. Some batteries support 2C or higher rates, but charging faster generates heat that can shorten the lifespan. Slower charging is gentler and safer.
- After a flight, your LiPo may be warm. Charging a hot LiPo can lead to overheating or cell damage. **Allow LiPos to cool** to ambient temperature before recharging.
- When charging, choose a safe location. Should you charge your batteries on a wooden bench in your garage next to your half built Yellow Jacket and a bottle of paint thinner? No! **Use a non-flammable, heat-resistant surface** like concrete or a stone paver from Home Depot. Keep the area clear of any flammable materials. The internet says that some people charge LiPos inside their fireplaces. Not a bad idea.
- **Stay nearby and periodically check** the battery's temperature during charging. If it gets too hot to touch or you notice swelling, stop the charge immediately and move the battery to a safe area.
- Keep a smoke detector nearby to alert you to the first sign of fire.
- Keep a Lithium or Class ABC fire extinguisher or a bucket of dry sand within reach. **Do not use water on a LiPo fire**, as burning lithium can react violently with water.



## Beginner's Corner – LiPo Battery Safety (continued)

### Charging (continued)

- **Fire-resistant LiPo charging bags add a layer of protection.** However, these bags are not an excuse to charge with impunity. These woven fiberglass bags can resist fire long enough for you to react, but not much more. Search for "lipo battery bag test" on YouTube if you want to see what happens. If you want a good bag, check out liposack.com created by TPG member Mark Wood.
- For an extra layer of protection, you could **charge your batteries inside a fireproof container**, like a metal ammo box. Beware though, in a tightly sealed box, pressure can build up and BOOM! To prevent this, remove the rubber gasket or drill a hole to allow gases to vent. If you charge batteries in the box, you'll need a hole for the wires to exit anyway, so that will act as the vent. The ammo box will contain the flames while allowing the toxic smoke to exit.
- For even more protection, you could **invest in a product designed specifically for charging LiPo batteries**. One product I found is called the Bat-Safe (bat-safe.com). I purchased one, and it makes me feel safer and less batty. It has a thick fireproof shell, special vents that filter any toxic smoke, and a built-in conduit for the cables to enter. There is plenty of room inside for several batteries.
- Unless you want a fire in the trunk of your car on the freeway, **don't charge your batteries in the car on the way to the field.**
- **Never charge a damaged or puffy battery.** If a battery is visibly swollen or has been crushed or punctured, do not charge it. Such batteries should be safely disposed of. You can't just chuck them in the trash. Fire hazard, remember?



The nearest battery disposal location is:

City of Poway's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility  
12325 Crosthwaite Circle  
Poway, CA 92064

Also, from the City of San Diego, Environmental Services:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/hazardous/battrecycle>



## Beginner's Corner – LiPo Battery Safety (continued)

### Storage

When LiPos are not in use, treat them with the same respect as when they're charging.

- **Store batteries in a non-flammable vented container** (discussed above), away from anything that can catch fire. A cool, dark, dry location is ideal.
- LiPo batteries can deliver high current if their terminals connect accidentally and short out, and this can cause instant overheating and fire. To prevent this, **make sure the battery terminals are protected** (caps, tape, separate bags, etc.)
- It may be convenient to be able to grab a fully charged battery out of storage, but you should **never store a LiPo fully charged for extended periods**. Don't store them fully discharged either, as both extremes can lead to cell damage. The recommended practice is to store them at ~3.8V per cell (about 40-50% charged). Most LiPo chargers have a mode that will charge or discharge the pack to ~3.8V per cell automatically. It's a bit of extra work at the end of a flying day, but it greatly prolongs the life of your batteries and reduces hazards. Cells stored at 3.8V not only last longer, but have less risk of fire as well.
- Periodically, open your storage container and visually inspect the batteries. **Look for any signs of swelling or damage**. It's rare for a properly stored LiPo to deteriorate suddenly, but packs can sometimes swell over time especially if stored at full charge or in high heat.



- Don't leave the same battery unused for over 6 months. Try to **cycle through your batteries** at least a few times a year.

## Beginner's Corner – LiPo Battery Safety (continued)

### Transporting

LiPo batteries must also be handled carefully when you're on the go. Physical damage or short-circuits during transport can be just as dangerous as charging.

- **Transport your LiPos in a protective container.** As mentioned above, fireproof bags, ammo cases (vented) and Bat-Safes are all good options. Many people combine methods, by placing batteries inside a bag and putting the bag inside the ammo case for double protection.
- **Never leave LiPos in a hot parked car** for long periods, as high heat can damage them or increase fire risk. A cool, shaded spot in the vehicle is preferable.
- **Do you want a fire in your pants?** Never carry LiPos loose in a pocket or tool box where they might rub against coins, keys, screws, or other metal parts and cause a dangerous short.



- **Avoid impacts, punctures and pressure.** Make sure nothing heavy or sharp can crush or puncture your batteries. When putting the battery in your glider, don't bend or force it. After a crash landing, inspect your batteries for damage. When in doubt, retire the battery.

That's a lot of stuff to remember; and I had definitely been doing some things wrong. Oops! Here are the changes that I will be making to my own process: Charge batteries inside my new Bat-Safe, remove the gasket from the ammo can that I use for transporting batteries to the field, and return batteries to 3.8V at the end of the day for storage.

## March F5J Contest Report – Steve Condon, CD

On Sunday, March 9 we had nine guys come together the first morning after daylight savings with slightly sleepy eyes but still full of the usual lively banter. After all the rain earlier in the week, we got blessed with a beautiful bluebird day and the Poway field looked like a park. Thermals started out very weak, but soon we were able to launch low and battle it out with some risky launch heights and tough flights.

There were abundant small thermals, so it was not easy at all, which made for some fantastic low level saves during the day. Notably, Cliff Hunter worked his Ultima 2 out to max out his time from only 3 or 4 meters off the ground as he was heading to the landing spot just a few minutes into the flight. Well done, Cliff! I also managed to hook up twice at low level...the first one I came up short but the last one was caught only about 4 feet off the ground. I think it's the lowest I've ever saved a flight from and I was happy to get a max that time. The Phoenix DF is amazing to fly in those low & tight thermals! As Arthur pointed out earlier in the day, we've come a long way over the years to be flying 40–43-ounce 4m ships compared to the old fiberglass RnR Genesis with its 2.9m span weighing in at around 75 ounces!



RnR Genesis from RC Groups Classifieds 2022



Steve Condon with his Phoenix DF

We also had some excitement with not one, but two models landing high up in the trees by the creek bed. Luckily Tim Traver and Mike Verzuh were able to retrieve their airplanes with little to no damage! Amazingly, they were both in the same flight group which illuminates how challenging the air was at times.

The one guy who didn't get hurt too much during the contest was Mike Smith... he managed to stay tough throughout the first 5 rounds to take home the blue ribbon. Congratulations, Mike! Hot on Mike's heels with a great overall performance was Warren Day, who made the long trip down from LA to join the fun. Great flying, WD! Steve Stanton hung in there to take 3rd place honors and the whole contest of 6 rounds was wrapped up around noon. What a great way to spend a Sunday morning! See you next time, guys.

Steve Condon, CD



## March F5J Contest Report (continued)



View of the contest from the CD tent (Steve Condon photo)

### F3X Vault Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (1 Drop In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	<b>5</b> Mike Smith 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	4959.18		1000	966.36	1000	1000	992.82	237.22
2	<b>8</b> Warren Day 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	4910.96	-48.22	736.36	1000	995.96	945.40	1000	969.60
3	<b>7</b> Steve Stanton 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	4779.26	-131.70	974.45	936.00	880.77	313.40	988.04	1000
4	<b>1</b> Steve Condon 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	4671.62	-107.64	1000	885.60	272.24	786.02	1000	1000
5	<b>2</b> Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	4648.95	-22.67	604.55	944.49	915.38	907.09	905.00	976.99
6	<b>3</b> Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	4573.14	-75.81	850.00	893.19	438.46	1000	954.55	875.40
7	<b>4</b> Steve Hurd 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	4540.09	-33.05	912.78	877.60	1000	854.93	859.13	890.58
8	<b>6</b> Mike Verzuh 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	2613.72	-1926.37	629.07	1000	984.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	<b>9</b> Tim Traver 🇺🇸 🇮🇪	2241.14	-372.58	998.24	994.11	248.79	0.00	0.00	0.00



## March DLG Contest Report – Don Lochhead, CD

Twelve of us hopped into the way-back machine and set the dials for October 29, 1994, the first ever IHLGF. In honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IHLGF, we flew the first six rounds from the inaugural IHLGF. Of the six tasks from 1989, only one has survived unchanged to 2025: 5x2. The remaining five were related to their current version and you could see the heritage. We all agreed that it is impressive that these tasks were chosen given the state of art for airplane construction at the time. Even more impressive was that javelin launch was the style of the day; a 25-foot launch height was considered to be good. Conditions for the contest were favorable and taking the K required a near perfect time. It would be interesting to know what was needed to take the K back in the day.



We had a great Turnout of DLG and eDLG pilots(Chuck Norris photo)

Task 1 was three longest flights but no limit on how long a flight could be. Similar to our current 3x3:20 but any flight length allowed. Task 2 was a five-minute flight in seven minutes. Close to today's 5 in 7 without the "last-flight" restriction.

Task 3 was probably the most interesting of the old-school tasks. This task required the pilot to fly at least 3 flights, with each flight required to be longer than the previous. This required a bit of pilot-timer strategy. Pretty much everyone chose to fly two shorter flights, waiting to mark lift and then fly out the window for their third flight.

Task 4 was just like the current 1,2,3,4 task, but dropped the requirement for the 1-minute flight. Task 5 was the small ladder with the added twist of starting with a 15 second flight, making this task even more challenging than the modern-day version. To make things interesting, we awarded a 15 second bonus to any pilot that successfully javelin launched that first flight. (Will Lala did, and used his bonus on a later flight to score the K for the task).

## March DLG Contest Report (continued)

Task 6 was 5x2, just like today's version.

When the scores were added up, we had our winners. Justin for first, Arthur for second and Milan for third. Mengchen (currently on injured reserve) finished first in the motorized class.

Our next contest will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be a great chance to warm up for the 30<sup>th</sup> IHLGF so sign up.



Arthur Markiewicz (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Justin Tolman (1<sup>st</sup> Place and Milan Bregman (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)  
(Don Lochhead 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	<b>2</b> Justin Tolman 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5952.0		989.4	1000	1000	962.6	1000	1000
2	<b>10</b> Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5825.1	-126.9	885.4	1000	986.5	1000	1000	953.2
3	<b>13</b> Milan Bregman 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5695.1	-130.0	923.7	1000	1000	1000	771.4	1000
4	<b>3</b> Will Lalla 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5686.5	-8.6	1000	1000	894.8	805.4	1000	986.3
5	<b>6</b> John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5374.2	-312.3	680.9	1000	904.9	975.3	1000	813.1
6	<b>7</b> Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5115.0	-259.2	1000	1000	897.0	674.6	771.4	772.0
7	<b>16</b> Mark Lalla 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5112.9	-2.1	987.6	708.7	895.4	857.9	771.4	891.9
8	<b>14</b> Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	5070.9	-42.0	636.1	1000	914.0	1000	771.4	749.4
9	<b>8</b> Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4877.3	-193.6	605.6	881.0	977.2	820.7	771.4	821.4
10	<b>15</b> Tom Farley 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4819.7	-57.6	718.8	686.7	913.2	1000	571.4	929.6
11	<b>11</b> Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4434.9	-384.8	569.9	1000	761.5	719.5	571.4	812.6
12	<b>12</b> Neil Zhu 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	0.0	-4434.9	0.0	0.0	DNS	0.0	DNS	DNS
13	<b>9</b> Christoph Efstathiou 🇩🇪	0.0		0.0	0.0	DNS	0.0	DNS	DNS



## March Tow Hook Series Contest Report – John McNeil, CD

After weeks of on-and-off rain and drizzle, we were treated to a beautiful day at the Encinitas field. We had veteran pilot Doug Cronkhite join us with a beautiful new VinceRES, but a pushrod problem sent him home early. Hopefully, we'll see him next time! Brian also had pushrod problems but got his sorted out.

The morning lift was very light but smooth. Getting your time was more a question of not sinking than climbing. The lift was sparse, so most of us mixed long with short fights all morning. Later, the wind came up. The thermals got stronger, but remained far apart. By noon, we saw 1:36 and 5:59 flights within 10 minutes of launching.

Somehow, Brian threaded his way through this mixed air, finding lift every flight. His shortest flight was a respectable 3:48, especially given that experienced pilots landed at 1:35 at about the same time. This performance earned him a well-deserved first place! It wasn't particularly close, with the next pilot (me) 6% behind. Great job Brian!

We also flew our sub-250g class on a new hi-start built by Jake Olefsky. It performs well, so the club will make a couple of them as the new standard format for this new class. I managed to win this class with my trusty 1.5m Yellow Jacket.

We will skip April to enable the club to focus on the IHLGF. Our next event is May 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be a fun-fly/tuning day. We will also set up a winch for open-class TD. We will host a 2-day contest on August 23 & 24 as part of a new multi-club series. Check out the announcement on page 7.



Tow Hook contest pilots







## March Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)

### 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	<b>7</b> Brian Moore  	4061.00		807.00	<b>815.00</b>	552.00	782.00	692.00	413.00
2	<b>1</b> John McNeil  	3830.00	-231.00	<b>816.00</b>	805.00	435.00	399.00	<b>798.00</b>	577.00
3	Arthur Markiewicz  	3307.00	-523.00	811.00	352.00	<b>808.00</b>	417.00	237.00	<b>682.00</b>
4	<b>6</b> Clifford Hunter  	2525.00	-782.00	187.00	371.00	756.00	270.00	755.00	186.00
5	<b>4</b> David Hall  	2477.00	-48.00	218.00	219.00	692.00	704.00	287.00	357.00
6	<b>9</b> Don Lochhead  	2331.00	-146.00	0.00	399.00	275.00	<b>793.00</b>	286.00	578.00
7	<b>8</b> Jake Olefsky  	1893.00	-438.00	NE	259.00	312.00	316.00	759.00	247.00
8	<b>3</b> Christoph Efstathiou  	1561.00	-332.00	470.00	284.00	583.00	224.00	NE	NE
9	<b>2</b> Michael Gillen  	0.00	-1561.00	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
10	<b>10</b> Doug Cronkhite  	0.00		NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE

#### 1.5-meter

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	John McNeil  	3041.00		<b>687.00</b>	<b>698.00</b>	<b>276.00</b>	<b>695.00</b>	<b>685.00</b>
2	Michael Gillen  	989.00	-2052.00	198.00	226.00	192.00	164.00	209.00



Chris Efstathiou photo



Chris Efstathiou photo

## Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

**Great news! We have 95 paid memberships for 2025. Thanks for renewing (and new members for joining) so quickly! We still have 24 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 March 24, 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.

<b>Date: March 24, 2025</b>	<b>Added Since Last Report</b>
New TPG Members	1
Youth Members	0
TPG Renewals and New Members to Date for 2025	95

### **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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Renewals begin November 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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

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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](mailto:thermal@torreypinesgulls.org)

### DLG/Hand Launch/F3K Contest Series

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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](mailto:dlg@torreypinesgulls.org)

## How We Compete (continued)

### Team DLG Series

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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)**

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#### **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/lfs-program/lfs-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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org)

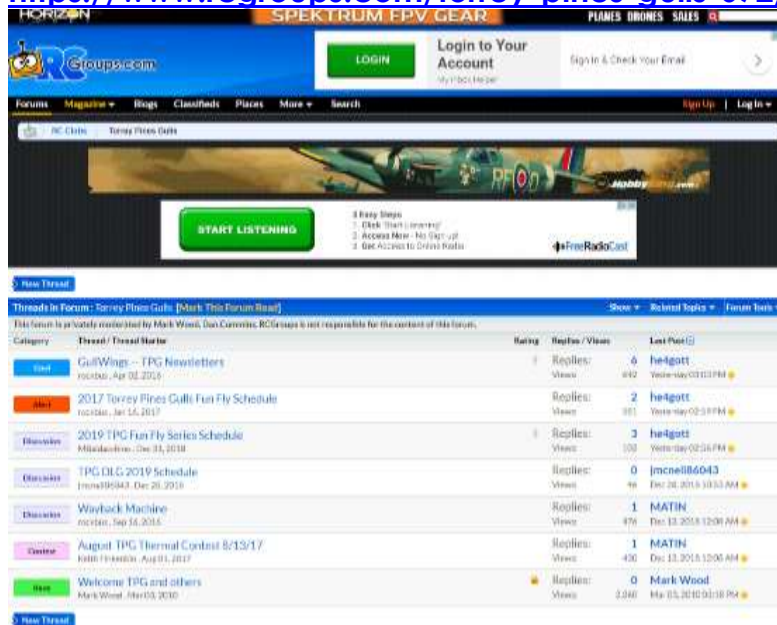
## How We Connect (continued)

# 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
Link	GullWings - TPG Newsletter torrey, Apr 01, 2024		Replies: 4 Views: 442	helgott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule torrey, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 101	helgott Yesterday 02:37 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule Mikaela, One 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 100	helgott Yesterday 02:26 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule torrey, Dec 20, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 20, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine torrey, Sep 16, 2018		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:06 PM
Online	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 KIMM FRENCH, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:06 AM
Link	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,040	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 01:18 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.

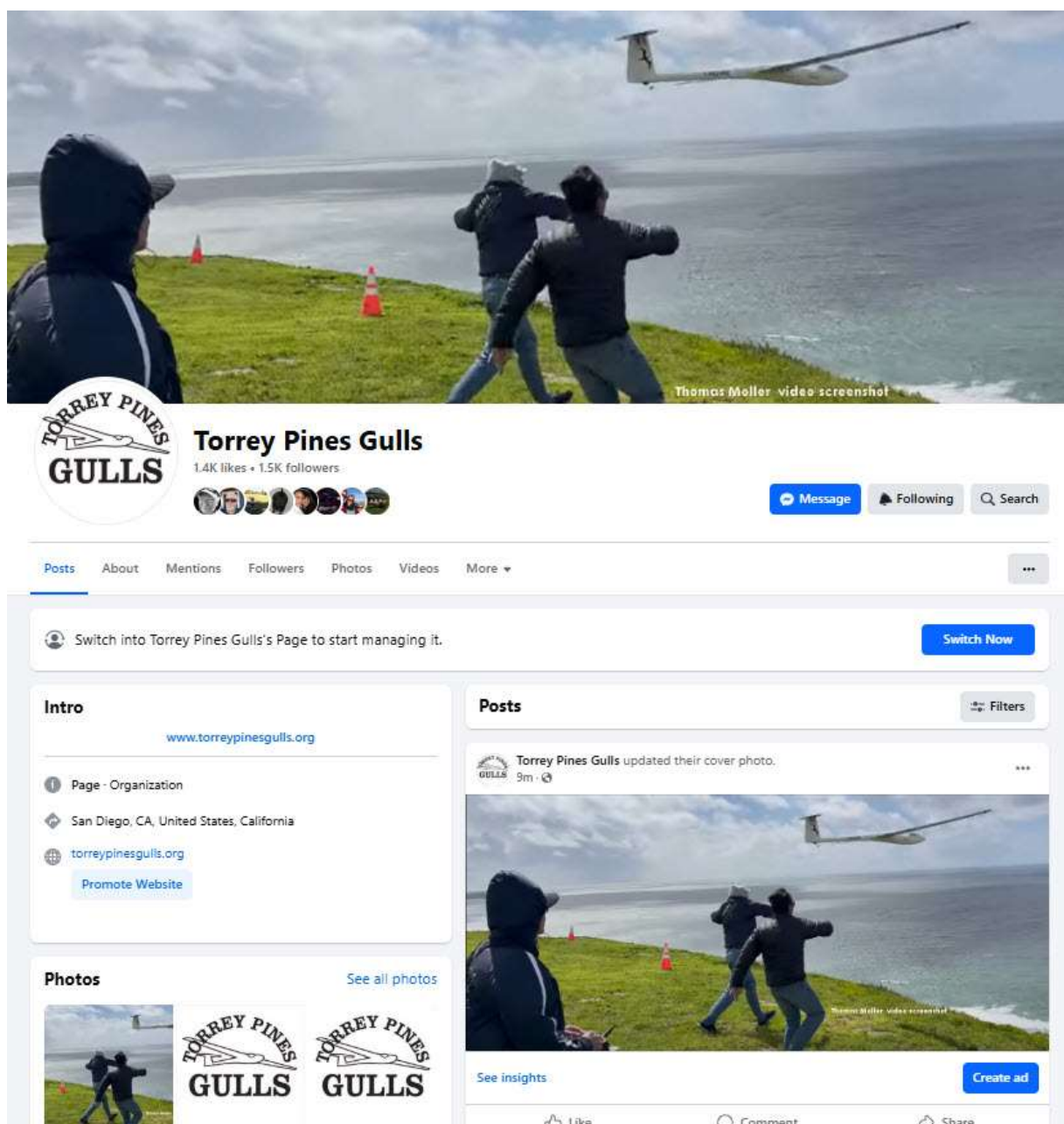
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

## 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/>



**Torrey Pines Gulls**  
1.4K likes • 1.5K 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.torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)

Page · Organization  
San Diego, CA, United States, California  
[torreypinesgulls.org](http://torreypinesgulls.org)  
[Promote Website](#)

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**Posts** [Filters](#)

Torrey Pines Gulls updated their cover photo.  
9m · [Gulls](#)

[See insights](#) [Create ad](#)

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)



## 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](mailto:media@torreypinesgulls.org) and you might find your submittal on a TPG Instagram post.



## Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Chuck Norris	<a href="mailto:president@torreypinesgulls.org">president@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Vice-President	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:vp@torreypinesgulls.org">vp@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Past President	Ian Cummings	
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	<a href="mailto:secretary@torreypinesgulls.org">secretary@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	<a href="mailto:treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org">treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	<a href="mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org">communications@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Thermal Coordinator	John McNeil	<a href="mailto:thermal@torreypinesgulls.org">thermal@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Slope Coordinator	Bret Locke	<a href="mailto:slope@torreypinesgulls.org">slope@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
DLG Coordinator	Justin Tolman	<a href="mailto:dlg@torreypinesgulls.org">dlg@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	<a href="mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org">membership@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
IHLGF Coordinator	Chuck Norris	<a href="mailto:president@torreypinesgulls.org">president@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:lsf@torreypinesgulls.org">lsf@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Webmaster	Jake Olefsky	<a href="mailto:tpg@foldnfly.com">tpg@foldnfly.com</a>
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	<a href="mailto:media@torreypinesgulls.org">media@torreypinesgulls.org</a>
Historian	Gary Fogel	<a href="mailto:historian@torreypinesgulls.org">historian@torreypinesgulls.org</a>

### 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](mailto: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)



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

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Ceremony inducting Dr. Larry Fogel into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame in March 8, 2025, during the Scale Fun Fly at Torrey (Ian Cummings photo)



Aaron Wallace's Glider-IT Vettore with "fighter escorts" over Torrey (Screenshot from Thomas Moller video))



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Cliff and Sandy Hunter working their usual magic taking care of our beautiful Encinitas field in mid-March (Cliff and Sandy Hunter photo)



Encinitas is blooming (Cliff and Sandy Hunter photo)



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



...and for an encore...Here's Sandy Hunter keeping our Poway field in tip-top shape on March 28<sup>th</sup>. (Brian Moore photo)



Thank you Sandy and Cliff, for all you do for the Torrey Pines Gulls! (Brian Moore photo)



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Aaron Wallace's Glider-IT Vettore maiden over Torrey (Screenshot from Thomas Moller video))



Thomas Moller and Alvaro Corzo launch Aaron Wallace's (pilot) Glider-IT Vettore on its maiden flight. (Screenshot from Thomas Moller video)



AND WANTED

### TPG Classified Ads Policy

Classified ads are free to TPG members for non-commercial purposes. Commercial customers should contact the editor. To submit an advertisement, send the information to [communications@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org). Ads must be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **For Sale -Yellow Jacket GS2 – 2 meters**

##### **\$375 ready to fly**

- Bind and balance
- KST X08 Servos (3)
- Spektrum AR620 Receiver
- Armsoar 500 mAh Battery
- Zepsus Magnetic Switch

Contact Cliff Hunter 760-703-4497



#### **For Sale - Yellow Jacket – 2 meters**

##### **\$320 ready to fly**

- Bind and balance,
- Needs retaping rudder
- Hitec Servos HS55
- Spektrum AR410 Receiver
- Armsoar 500 mAh Battery

Contact Cliff Hunter 760-703-4497







## Quote of the Month:

*" To invent an airplane is nothing. To build one is something. To fly is everything."*

*~ Otto Lilienthal*



Poway spring morning (Bob Hirsch photo)