

2026
MAY



GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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Chuck Norris

Hi everyone,

The 2026 International Hand Launch Glider Festival (April 18-19) was a huge success, and I want to especially thank our amazing team of volunteers. I think this was the smoothest-run IHLGF in recent memory, and it's all down to our great volunteers! You guys rock!

We'll have a full contest report from CD Mengchen Li and Co-CD Gary Fogel in next month's newsletter.

I also want to bring to your attention the Katie Martin International Tribute event happening at the Torrey Pines Gliderport on June 6. Slopers from all over California and beyond will be gathering to remember Katie Martin. This is also probably the biggest gathering of the iconic Hobie Hawks in the world. Come on out and enjoy the event. If you have a classic Bob Martin model, this is the time to bring it out and show it off!

See you there!

Chuck

Photo above:

TPG Members gathered for an exciting session of slope combat at the Poway Slope (Bob Hirsch photo)

TPG May/June Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
May 2 nd	TPG-AIAA foamboard event – 9AM-2PM. UCSD/SDSU Foam Board Design/Build/Fly Contest –	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Mentors wanted!
May 3 rd	Tow Hook Contest F3L/F3RES – 2m & 1.5m	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 9 th	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Radians – if it's foam, this is your day.	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
May 16 th	Team DLG Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 17 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
May 31 st	Tow Hook Contest F3L/F3RES – 2m & 1.5m	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
June 6 th	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!	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
June 23 rd	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
June 27 th	DLG Contest	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



At the slope (Ray Pili photo)

Thank you to our IHLGF 2026 sponsors!

The 31st International Hand Launch Glider was held April 18-19. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our generous sponsors of this event. Click on the logos to visit their websites.

We'll have a detailed contest report from CD Mengchen Li and Co-CD Gary Fogel in our next issue. In the meantime, enjoy some of Ian Cummings' IHLGF photos on the following pages.



2026 IHLGF Photos – Ian Cummings



Flight Line and Contest Central (Ian Cummings photo)



2026 IHLGF pilots (Ian Cummings photo)

2026 IHLGF Photos (continued)



TPG member and Certified Arborist/Tree Climber, Kellen LeBlanc, putting his training to work, rescuing a treed plan (Ian Cummings photo)



Thanks, Kellen! (Ian Cummings photo)



Tom Farley, with homemade recovery tool, doing his part and helping out Chuck Norris (Ian Cummings photo)

2026 IHLGF Photos (continued)



IHLGF Contest CD, Mengchen Li, timing for ZhiGao Tang (Ian Cummings photo)



IHLGF Contest Co-CD, Gary Fogel, after timing for Justin Tolman (Ian Cummings photo)

Club Meetings

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts bi-monthly club meetings virtually via Zoom. It's 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 and a **chance to win a great raffle prize (see below)**.

At our last virtual meeting, in April, we were joined by three outstanding aerospace engineering students from SDSU for a review of their structural analysis and modification of the Yellow Jacket 2M RC glider for the FAI F3L competition class. They discussed the transition from a baseline kit to an optimized platform using computer-aided design modifications, computational fluid dynamics, and finite element analysis to evaluate critical flight scenarios. They reviewed their decision-making process aimed at increasing efficiency in the performance of the Yellow Jacket and shared insights from the construction process preparation for flight testing and competition. Thank you, Daniel, Amelia and Blake!

About 30 TPG members attended the meeting and Paul Nibecker was the lucky winner of the raffle prize, an E-flite Night Radian 2.0m P&P powered RC glider.

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 7:00pm PDT. You can be sure we'll have a fascinating presentation and as always, a time to touch base with flying buddies and friends. The Zoom link will be shared with the club via discord and Google Groups prior to each meeting. It also appears on the Upcoming TPG Events list in the Newsletter.

The Torrey Pines Gulls is happy to announce the return of raffles at the bi-monthly Club Meeting.

Because the meetings are not in-person, we will be using the F3X Vault to coordinate selling raffle tickets, with the winner drawn at the end of the Club Meeting. You must be present at the drawing (logged in to the meeting) to win.

A week or two prior to the meeting, we set up an event on F3X Vault: "TPG Club Virtual Meeting Via Zoom" and provide a link for buying raffle tickets.

When you register for that event, you will have the opportunity to make a "Donation," which will buy you raffle tickets. One \$5 donation will buy two raffle tickets; no limit.

There will be a raffle sales cutoff during the Club Meeting, which will be announced during the meeting. Typically, the cutoff will occur just before the guest speaker begins. Just before the end of the meeting, we will draw the raffle winner.

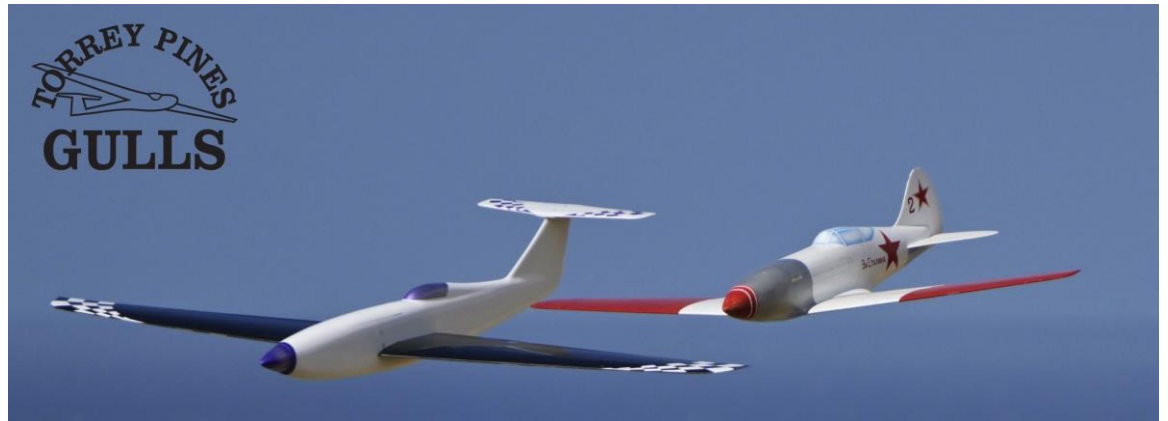
The prize for the next raffle will be announced prior to the club virtual meeting

Good luck!

News from the Slope – Bret Locke, Slope Coordinator



Bret Locke



Consistent Slope Conditions are Predominant!

Weather conditions at typical San Diego slopes are proving to be very consistent; meaning there are usually flyable west winds with increased wind velocities to make things more interesting. The usual overcast conditions have not been present; providing enjoyable bright blue-sky days. The RC Landing Area at Torrey Pines Gliderport is in fair condition and providing adequate area for long soft landings. TPG events in April included:

April 4th, the Gliderport Slope Old School Vintage/Classic Woodies was at Torrey Pines. Attendance was moderate, as were flying conditions, but a good time was had by all. Some wonderful old school balsa-built planes were on display and more than able to fly in the moderate conditions.

April 25th was the ever-exciting Poway Combat Fiesta at the Poway Slope. With plus-up wind conditions and plenty of thermal activity, all that attended flew with great enthusiasm. Two of the six Tomahawks that were purchased in a group buy flew and performed well.

Upcoming Events:

May 2nd, the TPG-AIAA Foamboard RC Glider Contest will be initiated by students and TPG Volunteers. Students from UCSD and SDSU will compete by designing and constructing a glider from foamboard followed by a timed flight by a TPG Volunteer.

May 9th, the Torrey Pines Gliderport Slope Foamy Fun Fly is scheduled from about 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

The spring/summer of 2026 continues as slopes conditions remain ideal!

Sincerely,

Bret Locke
TPG Slope Coordinator

News from the Slope (continued)



Some of the vintage woodies at the fun fly (Michael Gillen photo)



A few more (Michael Gillen photo)



Tomahawks at the Poway Combat Fiesta (Bob Hirsch photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

SAFETY ALERT:

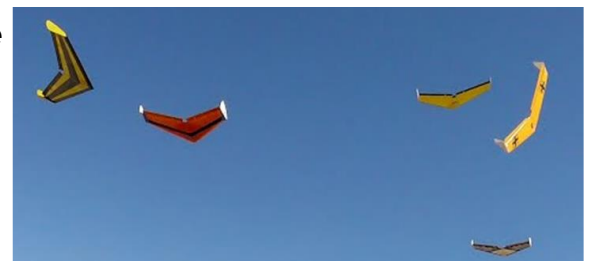
Our most effective safety practice is the Blue-Sky Rule; your depth perception cannot be trusted; Maintain Situational Awareness; and fly with a spotter if feeling overwhelmed by your plane or by paraglider traffic. In uncomfortable situations (i.e. numerous paragliders in the R/C window), landing is always a great option. If warranted, politely ask the Gliderport flight director to help clear the RC window.

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2026

May 2 nd	TPG-AIAA foamboard event – 9AM-2PM. UCSD/SDSU Foam Board Design/Build/Fly Contest – Mentors wanted!
May 9	Foamies – Ahis, Alulas, Radians – if it's foam, this is your day.
June 6 th	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 4 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PNF – Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 8 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
September 5 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
October 17 th	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day
October 18 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.
December 5 th	No Shopping Saturday – A week or so after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

Also, keep an eye out for details on our next Poway Slope Combat session.

The next event of 2026 is scheduled for July 25th, 2026



March DLG Contest Report – William Lalla, CD

The contest was in preparation for IHLGF (International Hand Launch Glider Festival) so the task list was chosen to be brutal by the contest director (William Lalla). The morning started off raining, but as soon as the rain moved out, we got started with our contest albeit a bit later than usual.



DLG pilots (Bob Hirsch photo)

Round 1 was Task E (3 nomination Poker) and the ground was still cold, releasing small early thermals. Pilots had to make their guesses on how long they thought they could keep their plane up, before they launched. It wasn't easy for group A, but Mike Smith took the K with a 7:16 and highest after, being from Chuck Norris of 3:30. That group had less than half of Smith's score! Then group B went up with better air than before. Scores were mostly 900s with Arthur Markiewicz taking the K over the group.

Round 2 was Task L (Single flight). Pilots were only allowed one throw for the whole round and conditions were improving over Round 1. Group A had very high scores with 3 pilots getting the K. However, John McNeil's battery almost died in his plane, so he had to land early in that group. Group B had air that was booming, so 5 pilots took the K.

Round 3 was Task D (Two Five-minute flights). The local bug catchers (small birds) were over the field and showing us what the air was doing. It definitely didn't disappoint because the air was as great as round 2 group B. Group A had 2 pilots take the K with the rest of the group following up with 900s. Group B had Will Lalla take the K and the rest of the group following with close or good scores.

March DLG Contest Report (continued)



Midday photo (William Lalla photo)

Round 4 was Task H (1,2,3,4 in Order). This task isn't usually flown in order but the contest director called for the challenge. Group A was flown through a sink cycle of the day and Arthur Markiewicz took the K with an 8:37. Then Group B had improved conditions with Mengchen Li taking the K with a 9:56.

Round 5 was task B (Last two 3min flights in 7mins). Conditions were in a sync cycle at the beginning of round 5 but the birds were still around. Group A couldn't make the full time and Will took the K with a 4:54.7. Group B had 6 pilots take the K with a full time of 6 minutes.

Round 6 was task K (Big ladder, 30 second climbs starting form 1 minute). The conditions had a bit of a prevailing wind but still on the birds indicating lift. Group A had Mengchen Li take the K with the rest of the group following with high scores. Group B John McNeil took the K and the rest of the group followed with high scores.

March DLG Contest Report (continued)

The contest concluded with the podium of Arther Markiewicz in 3rd place, Mike Smith in 2nd place and Mengchen Li in 1st place! I hope everyone had fun for the most part. I know what I choose to host; maybe it could have been worse or not as bad, but it's fun to hear everyone's reaction. Thanks to everyone who participated and read this write up!

William Lalla



Podium: Mengchen Li, 1st Place (center); Mike Smith, 2nd Place – (left) and Arthur Markiewicz, 3rd Place (right) (Bob Hirsch 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	8 Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	5997.1		997.1	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	12 Mike Smith 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5818.0	-179.1	1000	1000	1000	866.0	1000	952.0
3	16 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5396.5	-421.5	1000	996.7	993.3	1000	865.3	541.2
4	15 Ray Pili 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5357.0	-39.5	960.5	947.7	903.2	655.7	1000	889.9
5	1 William Lalla 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	5034.6	-322.4	275.2	1000	1000	776.8	1000	982.6
6	11 Milan Bregman 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4982.5	-52.1	206.4	828.5	997.3	987.2	1000	963.1
7	13 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4878.1	-104.4	925.4	803.5	671.7	756.5	872.1	848.9
8	5 Justin Tolman 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4866.4	-11.7	412.7	1000	979.1	727.9	1000	746.7
9	2 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4815.4	-51.0	755.0	1000	218.9	875.2	1000	966.3
10	17 Scott McCurdy 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4702.8	-112.6	206.4	1000	863.2	838.4	832.2	962.6
11	3 John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4485.4	-217.4	935.3	124.4	995.2	584.2	846.3	1000
12	7 Tom Farley 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4446.7	-38.7	562.2	854.8	966.6	651.1	580.6	831.4
13	9 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	4402.1	-44.6	481.5	1000	595.7	558.0	810.7	956.2
14	4 Doug Cronkhite 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	3734.1	-668.0	993.2	1000	997.8	743.1	0.0	DNS
15	10 Kellen LeBlanc 🇺🇸 🇩🇪	0.0	-3734.1	0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS
16	14 Mike Ray	0.0		0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS

Club Membership Update – Christoph Efstathiou



Christoph
Efstathiou

Hello Gulls,

Thank you so much for continuing to renew your memberships. We currently stand at 93 memberships for 2026. This month we welcomed six additional renewals, and two new members to the club. Welcome to our two new members, and thanks for joining us.

If you are an existing member who has not yet renewed, please consider doing so!

If you have not yet received your card and key, please let me know and I will get that to you as soon as possible.

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.html>

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.html>

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 us 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) – \$20 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](#)

Christoph Efstathiou
Membership Chairman
membership@torreypinesgulls.org



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

Thermal Duration (winch launch) contests have been moved into the Tow Hook Series (see the following pages). For F5J contest dates, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/f5j-competition.html>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG F5J contest schedule thread for contest news. In the meantime, check out what's been going on during 2025:

<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:

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Hand Launch/DLG contests, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/discus-launch-glider-series.html>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4841707-2026-TPG-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series-Information>

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.

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG Team DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4861235-2026-TPG-Team-DLG-Series>

For more info, 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

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

The TPG Tow Hook Series was a great success in 2025; more contests, fun fly clinics and even a multi-club/multi state event, The Coastal Cooler, which was held in August.

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Tow Hook Series contests, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/f3l-res-competitions.html>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2026 TPG Tow Hook Contest/Clinic Series thread for contest news.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4861221-2026-TPG-Tow-Hook-Series-F3L-F3RES-TD-sub-250g>

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)

F5J Foamy Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic Series



Don Lochhead

TPG will continue our F5J style foamy fun fly contest (and clinic) Series in 2026 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 typically pause mid-contest for a quick clinic. Subjects generally focus on F5J topics of interest to pilots getting into the format. The events are free but we still ask all pilots to sign up on F3X Vault so we know how many to expect and can run the matrix ahead of time.

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming F5J Foamy Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic events, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<https://www.torreyпинesgulls.org/foamy-fun-fly.html>

Our next fun fly will be held on July 18th. Sign up and come join in on the fun.

https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=4152



Bob Hirsch photo

League of Silent Flight and TPG – 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 in 1969, 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>

Mark Smith was the first local to sign up for the LSF program with LSF #19. His father Rod was not far behind with #28. They may have been flying more with Harbor Soaring Society at that time (1969/1970) than Torrey Pines Gulls but soon were enjoying membership in both clubs. Since then, over 10,000 people from around the world have signed up and received an LSF number.

Don Edberg was the first in the club to achieve LSF SAP Level III (February 2, 1974). Randy Warner was not far behind, completing the level on April 25, 1974.

Don Edberg was also first in the TPG to achieve LSF SAP Level IV (June 27, 1975). Keith Finkenbiner completed the level on July 8, 1975 but was likely living in Illinois at that time. Ben Clerx completed Level IV on September 30, 1975 but was perhaps living in Honolulu at the time.

Larry Jolly completed his SAP Level V on November 16, 1983 but may or may not have been a member of TPG at the time. TPG members Don Edberg completed his on July 8, 1989. Since then, George Joy (1992), Patrick Dionisio (2002) and Keith Finkenbiner (2002) have completed Level V:

- SAP Level III – 51 pilots
- SAP Level IV – 31 pilots
- SAP Level V – 5 pilots

Larry Jolly (1983), Don Edberg (1989), George Joy (1992), Patrick Dionisio (2002), Keith Finkenbiner (2002)

For LSF eSAP, only one pilot in the history of the program has completed Level V – Larry Jolly (September 2, 2015). We need more pilots signing up and completing eSAP levels especially given the popularity of F5J, our regular F5J fun flies, and the opportunity to use electric launch DLGs in our monthly F3K contests.

League of Silent Flight and TPG – (continued)



Who in the TPG is currently working on which levels? I have the following info; if you do not see your name listed and wish to be added please let me know. It's good for us to have a list of current aspirations so that we can help others team up along the way and get to their goals. Don't forget to use 2026 TPG events towards next levels!

First	Last	SAP Level next to achieve	eSAP Level next to achieve
Milan	Bregman	Level I	
Gary	Legerton	Level I	
Mengchen	Li	Level I	
Paul	Nibecker	Level I	
Scott	McCurdy	Level I	Level II
Justin	Tolman	Level II	
Christoph	Efstathiou	Level II	
Ed	LaCroix	Level II	
Jake	Olefsky	Level II	Level II
Eric	Metzdorf	Level II	
Daniel	McFarland	Level II	
Don	Lochhead	Level II	
Ian	Cummings	Level III	
Mike	Verzuh	Level III	
Ray	Pili	Level III	Level II
Tom	Kiesling	Level III	
Mike	Smith	Level IV	
Steve	Condon	Level IV	
Chuck	Norris	Level V	Level II
Gary	Fogel	Level V	Level III
John	McNeil	Level V	
Scott	Condon	Level V	
David	Hall	Level V	
Ben	Clerx	Level V	
Rick	Shelby	Level V	

How We Connect

Questions or concerns?

You can have your questions answered at: www.torreypinesgulls.org

We have a [Contact Us](#) link in the drop-down menu that appears when you scroll over [The Club](#) next to [Membership](#), [Locations](#), [Contests...](#)If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc., 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!

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 Chairman the above steps have been completed, use the following email address: membership@torreypinesgulls.org

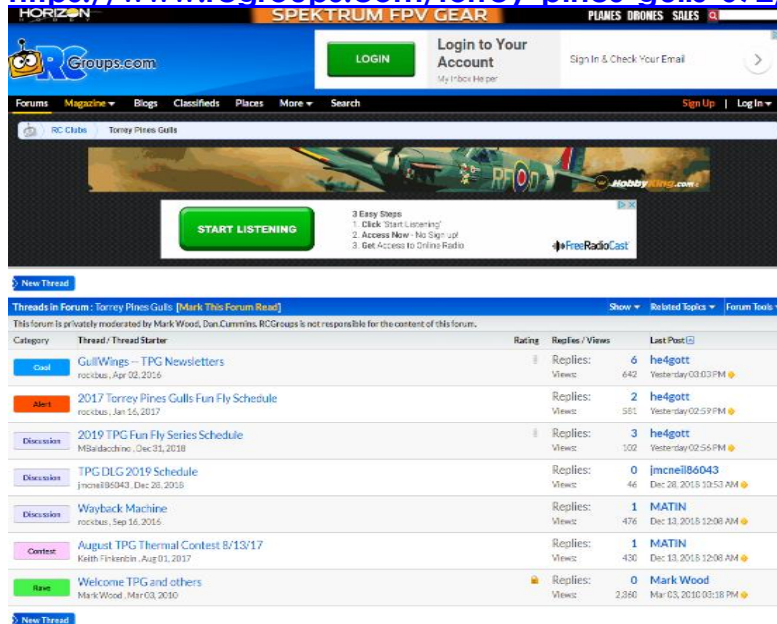
How We Connect (continued)

Are you a member of ?

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

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

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



Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
Goal	GullWings – TPG Newsletters roccas, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccas, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 561	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MBaradachino, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 28, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccas, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Finkestein, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 436	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Item	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,840	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 03:18 PM

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

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

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

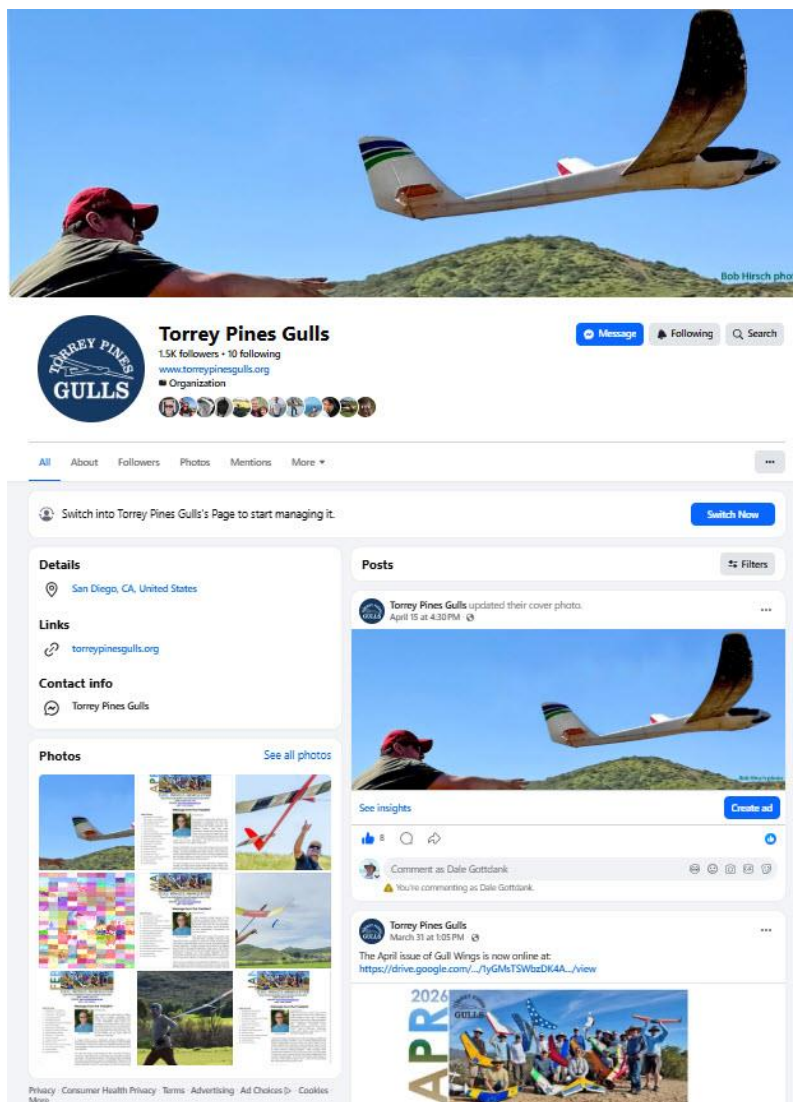
RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

How We Connect (continued)

Check out the TPG **facebook** Page

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

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

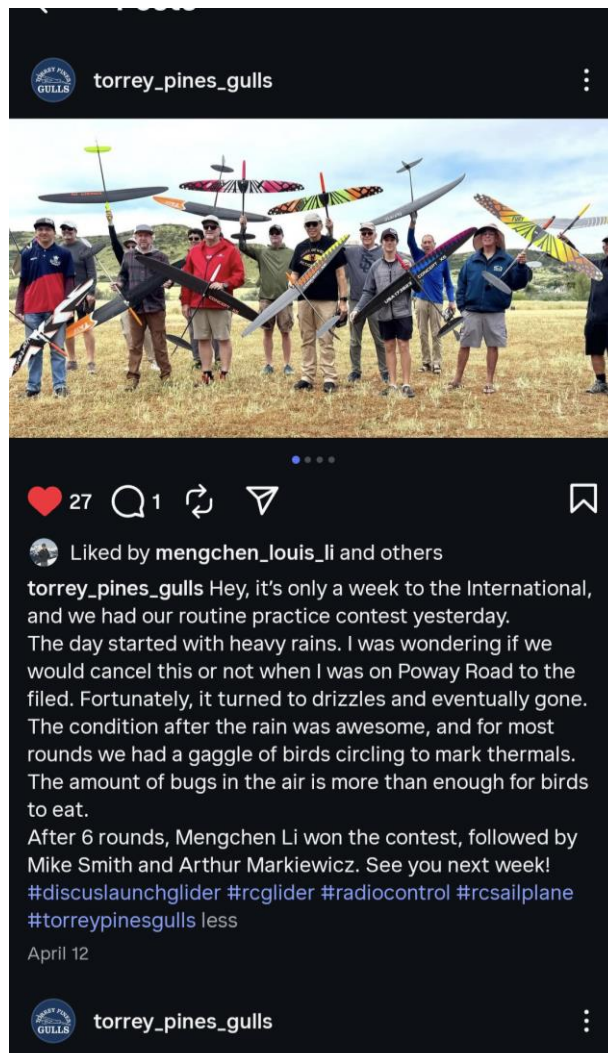


How We Connect (continued)

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.



How We Connect (continued)

Join the Conversation:  **Discord**

Discord is a free website and app that you can download to your phone or computer that gives you access to the Torrey Pines Gulls group chat. This is an active discussion group with interesting conversations happening all the time. It's a great place to ask questions and learn from your fellow members. Event reminders and club news are posted to our Discord server so you can stay up to date with what's happening.

To get in:

1. Visit the Discord website and download the app to your computer or click the 'Open in Browser' link.
2. Or, search through your phone's app store for the Discord app and install it.
3. Create a free account inside the app or website.
4. Scan the QR code or click the link below it to join.



<http://www.discord.gg/vRdV6Fd9nP>

Newsletter Submissions - 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!

Please send in your articles or photos (communications@torreypinesgulls.org) by the **25th** of each month so they can be included in the monthly newsletter. If there are too many, we'll save them for the next issue. Photos should be in their original, high-resolution format. The newsletter can be found on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org>.



Club 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	Christoph Efstathiou	membership@torreypinesgulls.org
IHLGF Coordinator	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	vp@torreypinesgulls.org
Webmaster	Jake Olefsky	tpg@foldnfly.com
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	media@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	historian@torreypinesgulls.org
Raffle Chairman	Michael Gillen	Contact via TPG Discord server

Executive Officers



Chuck Norris



Gary Fogel



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



John McNeil



Bret Locke



Justin Tolman



Christoph Efstathiou

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.



4th Quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec 2025) Winner – Steve Stanton launching his self-designed Cayley at a TPG F5J contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Winner – Lone glider near the Black Mountain Gliderport (Kevin Vu photo)



February Winner – Justin Tolman mid launch (Dave MacNeil photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Co-Winner – Kellen LeBlanc launching at the Tow Hook Contest (Bob Hirsch photo))



March Co-Winner – Group launch at the February Poway Slope (Combat) Fiesta (Bob Hirsch photo))

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



April Co-Winner – John McNeil launching his open class ship at the March Tow Hook Series/TD Fun Fly (Ian Cummings photo)



April Co-winner – Jeff Sinsay launches a well-worn, but still well-flyin' Radian (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Aaron Wallace's HKM ASW-27 over Torrey while PG's soar in the distance (Thomas Moller photo)



Justin Tolman, catching his DLG at the 2026 International Hand Launch Glider Festival (Ian Cummings photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Spring flowers brighten the pit area (Thomas Moller photo)



May Co-winner – Aaron Wallace's HKM ASW-27 (Thomas Moller photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co-winner – Scott McCurdy launching at the 2026 International Hand Launch Glider Festival (Ian Cummings 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:

*“Start again in the month of May
Come on and blow the wires away”*

~ Arcade Fire, "Month of May"



April at the Gliderport. Aaron Wallace's HKM ASW-27 soars over the setting sun (Thomas Moller photo)