

2024
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GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129

Website: www.torreygulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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



Chuck Norris

Hi Everyone,

2024 is upon us, and I'm excited about the possibilities for our club this year! We have the new Tow Hook series starting up that gives thermal pilots from beginners to experts a way to have some fun together, joining a new F3L series that I'm personally a big fan of; the DLG side that is looking forward to a great year with the International Hand

Glider Festival, monthly contests and the Poway Invitational. I'm looking forward to getting out to Torrey more often, and I have a personal goal of participating in new types of soaring that I haven't tried yet.

Our new-pilot instructor program is off to a good start, with one new pilot, Logan, already taking advantage of the winter break from school to work with Bret Locke and Bob Hirsch at Poway, getting some flight time on Logan's personal new Conscendo Evolution, and a couple of other planes provided by the instructors. I'm hoping to see this program grow through the year. It's great to see new pilots getting started, and I can personally say it's very rewarding to be there when things start to "click" for someone new.

Thanks to everyone who makes this club work, and here's to a great 2024!

Chuck

TPG January/February Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
January 6 th	Fun Fly Kickoff Event – Bring What You Have!	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
January 14 th	F5J Contest – TPG January Tour Event	Perris Free Flight/Glider Field, Perris, CA Register on F3X Vault
January 20 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
January 21 st	Tow Hook Series – F3RES 2.0m Class	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
January 21 st	Tow Hook Series – F3RES 1.5m class	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
January 21 st	Tow Hook Series – TD Open Class	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
January 27 th	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
February 10 th	Fly & Swap – A Day to Fly and Swap Meet	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
February 17 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



Aaron Wallace photo

Club Meetings, Contests and Activities

The Torrey Pines Gulls hosts monthly contests, fun-fly events, LSF (League of Silent Flight) Soaring Accomplishment Program, onsite clinics and bi-monthly club meetings.

Our club meetings are currently conducted via Zoom, so it's really easy to join in, chat with flying buddies and hear a great presentation about RC soaring and related topics...**our next club meeting is Tuesday, February 27th at 7:00pm.**



Be on the lookout for upcoming meeting details and scheduling for all TPG and related events in the Newsletter and on the Torrey Pines Gulls website at:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org> and <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

Newsletter This Month - Dale Gottdank



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!

January Issue highlights include:

- **Holiday Party Recap (page 4)**
- **2016 Modeler of the Year Dale Gottdank by Gary Fogel (page 10)**
- **Check out our new Team DLG Contest Series (page 21) and Tow Hook Contest Series (page 22)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 33)**

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>.

Holiday Party Recap – Gary Fogel, VP

On Sunday December 9, 2023, roughly 40 TPG members and guests gathered at AleSmith Brewing Co, in Miramar to celebrate a great year for the club. The club provided free pepperoni and cheese pizza, and veggie platter and guests brought a wide assortment of holiday cookies. Beer of course was also available for purchase from AleSmith. The evening started at 4pm with people enjoying each other's company and watching a great slide show provided by Ian Cummings, highlighting photos by Ian, Bob Hirsch, Gary Fogel and others through the year.



Bob Hirsch photo



Chuck Norris presenting Tom with a Certificate of Appreciation (Bob Hirsch photo)

Justin Tolman assisted in setting up a Discord video channel so that TPG members could also attend online. Ed and Charles from Arizona took part in this as well as Cliff Hunter.



Bob Hirsch photo

The awards ceremony started around 5:15pm with club president Chuck Norris reviewing the year and thanking many volunteers for their assistance. First and foremost, this included a vote by those in attendance to approve the new slate for the TPG Executive Council in 2024 which looks oddly just the same as the slate for 2023 with the exception of Tom Watson stepping down as Thermal Coordinator and being replaced by John McNeil in that position. To thank Tom for his years of service to the TPG, including helping not only with TD and F5J duties but also helping to revise our club Bylaws and Membership Guide, etc., Chuck provided Tom with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the club. This was met with a strong round of applause for Tom.

Holiday Party Recap (continued)

Chuck continued to review the many successes in 2023: A great IHLGF, a new F3L series, continued F5J competitions and fun fly series, good work at the slope, Mengchen Li helping with social media, Dale continuing to help with both the newsletter and as secretary, FRIA approved for Encinitas, etc. It's been a lot of work by a lot of people behind the scenes to keep it all going smoothly.

Club vice president Gary Fogel then reminded those in attendance about TPG's push for greater student involvement and training in 2023. Certificates of Appreciation were given to each member who assisted in this process including Walter Quitt, Marty Zimmerman, Ian Cummings, Mark Baldacchino, Bob Hirsch, Chuck Norris, Gary Fogel. Each of these individuals earned their Certificate of Appreciation from the club.



L-R, Mark, Ian, Marty, Chuck, Bob and Gary (Bob Hirsch photo)

Gary also reminded those in attendance that this was a historic year for TPG in terms of presence of our members at FAI World Championships. He called up Mengchen Li (USA F3K team alternate pilot), Tim Traver (USA F3F team pilot), Tom Kiesling (USA F3B team pilot and USA F5J team pilot), Mike Smith (USA F5J team pilot), and Steve Condon (USA F5J team manager) to the front to also receive Certificates of Appreciation and a warm round of applause for representing TPG and the USA at these international events.



L-R, Mengchen, Tom, Steve and Mike (Gary Fogel photo)

Holiday Party Recap (continued)

Chuck then called on Tom Watson as 2023 Thermal Coordinator to review the year end F5J/thermal duration contest awards and hand out plaques for third, second, and first place.

- First Place: Mike Smith
- Second Place: Cliff Hunter
- Third Place: Arthur Markiewicz

Gary Fogel followed as 2023 F3L Coordinator to review the year end F3L awards:

- First Place: Gary Fogel
- Second Place: John McNeil
- Third Place: Don Lochhead

Justin Tolman as 2023 DLG Coordinator reviewed the year end DLG awards:

- First Place: Mengchen Li
- Second Place: Justin Tolman
- Third Place: Gary Fogel



Mike Smith (right) accepting the F5J/TD First Place Award from Tom Watson. Cliff Hunter and Arthur Markiewicz not present (Bob Hirsch photo)



F3L Contest Series awardees (L-R) Don Lochhead (3rd Place), John McNeil (2nd Place) and Gary Fogel (1st Place) (Bob Hirsch photo)

Holiday Party Recap (continued)



DLG Contest Series awardees (L-R) Gary Fogel (3rd Place), Mengchen Li (1st Place) and Justin Tolman (2nd Place) (Bob Hirsch photo)

Lastly, Chuck Norris provided a review of the TPG Modeler of the Year Award, which was presented to Cliff and Sandy Hunter for their many hours of repeated mowing at both Encinitas and Poway, maintenance of club equipment for everyone's use, transportation, and ensuring that our fields are their best for our many events. Each trip around Poway or Encinitas requires 3-4 hours of sitting behind the mower, and given the rains from last winter, this was repeated typically monthly or bimonthly throughout 2023. The trophy was delivered to the Hunters by Gary Fogel later in the week, as they were unable to attend the party. Sandy Hunter becomes the first woman to win the Modeler of the Year trophy in its history. Cliff said "Sandy and I would like to thank the membership for selecting us as man and woman Co-Modelers of the Year for 2023. It's a great honor!"



Sandy and Cliff Hunter, 2023 Co-Modelers of the Year. Congratulations!

Following that, the meeting was generally called to a close, with people continuing to enjoy the beer and company until about 7pm. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all members and their families!

News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino

**Happy
New Year
TP Gulls!**



I hope you've enjoyed your holidays! And, I'm hoping that Santa dropped off a new plane or some accessories!! I'm also in hopes that this year will be the best ever at Torrey Pines Gliderport, and that many new members will join in on the fun with a spectacular view!

There wasn't a fun fly event in December, and even if there was, the wind just didn't cooperate. However, as I'm writing this article, there is a series of storms headed our way to bring some much-needed rain and hopefully, wind!

The new calendar of Fun-Fly events is listed below. It's also on our TPG website, but it might be easier to print this page out and attach it to your fridge or near your workbench. I want to point out a couple of things on the calendar.

- 1) January 24-28; the Gliderport will be **closed** to ALL flying activity. Not even the paragliders will be permitted to fly due to the Farmers Open golf tournament. The parking lot will also be closed for access, so plan on some other activity during those days. I'd like to suggest attending Don Lochhead's F5J Fyn Fly at Poway on January 27th. Bring out those Radians and other electric powered foamies and stick-built (up to 2m) birds for some friendly competition. Best of all, it's free! For more details, see page 24 of the newsletter.
- 2) Redman Rules contest was a bust this last November due to lack of wind, so I've scheduled it on March 30th, hoping there will be some breeze. Also, note that there are a couple of Swap meets and a couple of Vintage Woodie Fun-Fly events!

News from the Slope (continued)

I'm hoping El Nino will bring a few of those gale force winds as a few of enjoy flying in the 30-70 MPH zone with PSS and or twisty wings. It's always a blast to see such speed and skill!

Let's get out and enjoy our incredible hobby, an awesome view, and outstanding camaraderie!

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

January 6 th	2024 Kickoff Event – Not on the same date as the Farmers Open. Bring what you have
January 24 th – 28 th	Gliderport closed due to golf tournament
February 10 th	Fly 'n Swap – A Day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
March 9 th	Scale Planes – Both TPG and TPSSS Fun Fly Day
March 30 th	Redman Rules & Landing Contest – Ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd . For the uninitiated, Redman Rules involve beer can bowling and limbo line.
April 13 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
May 11 th	Foamies – AHis, Alulas, Radias – if it's foam, this is your day. And, students from AIAA UCSD and SDSU will learn to fly on members' buddy boxes.
June 1 st	Katie Martin International Tribute. A Bob Martin event for mostly Hobie Hawks
June 8 th	Landing Strip Contest at 1:00 PM – Closest to the pin; ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd
July 6 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PNF – Jesters, AHis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime
August 10 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds
September 7 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood
October 19 th	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day
November 30 th	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house

See you all out at the Gliderport, and Blue Skies!

Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino

TPG History: The Trophy – Gary Fogel

This Month: Dale Gottdank, 2016 Modeler of the Year



I had the pleasure of interviewing Dale for this article. Some modelers are hesitant to talk about their path for a variety of reasons. I had the sense right away in my discussion with Dale that he was just the opposite – he had been waiting a long time to eagerly tell me his story. It's a good one with valuable lessons for everyone in TPG about how much this club can mean and how important personal friendships are in the RC soaring community.

Dale grew up in Brooklyn, New York. One of his dentist father's many hobbies was an addiction to model railroading. He'd filled half their basement with a huge HO scale layout built on top of two-by-four trestles. This, together with slot cars and various paper airplane designs brought home by his father pretty much solidified Dale's interest in building models. By age 10, Dale was already adept at using a few dentist tools (yes, including a drill) for work with model building.

The local five-and-dime store also had small balsa chuck gliders and kites, and Dale had an interest in anything that would fly, starting with those paper airplanes and then chuck gliders, kites, and even Estes model rockets. Inspired by the NASA Gemini and Apollo programs at age 12 or 13, Dale, his dad, brother and friends enjoyed flying their rockets at the Jacob Riis Park lot near Rockaway Beach to the south of Brooklyn when Rockaway Beach was closed between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Unbeknownst to Dale, this was also the home of the Pennsylvania Avenue Radio Control Soaring Society (PARCS). PARCS later relocated to nearby Floyd Bennett Field. (Floyd Bennett Field has a rich aviation history as New York City's first municipal airport, then a Naval Air Station during WWII, and location of many world record flights, including Howard Hughes' flight with a crew of four around the world in 3 days, 19 hours, and 10 seconds in 1938.



TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

By the late 1960s and early 1970s the facility was hardly used for manned aviation and so we now add Dale's model rocketry fun to all of that cool prior history ...) One day as the kids were flying rockets at Floyd Bennett Field or Riis Park in about 1968/1969, they noticed a group of people flying RC powered aircraft nearby. This included a large Corsair that Dale thought was really cool. Dale didn't get into RC at that time but really thought the concept was amazing.

While in high school, Dale pursued an interest in history and art, and had a natural pre-disposition towards building things. After high school, he was accepted to attend The Cooper Union School of Architecture in New York City's East Village. This prestigious art, architecture and engineering school also offered a free 5-year tuition for students to attend. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree in 1977. Architecture allowed Dale to still use his hands-on building skills as each new project required a design mock-up, usually made of cardboard, balsa, basswood or other materials. This career trajectory allowed him to merge his hobby skills with modeling skills in important and new directions. Following his BArch. degree, he enrolled in graduate school at Princeton University with an interest in urban planning. The program at Princeton helped Dale appreciate a different view of design at larger scales.



Dale Gottdank at Dave's Beach



Dale (6th from left with CR Climmax; red wings; zebra tail) at Dave's Beach CR Aircraft Fest around 2010.

While normally very pricey, due to Dale's academic skills, he received a full tuition fellowship. (That's a lot of tremendous free schooling folks!) Dale graduated with a Masters in Urban Planning (MUP) but most importantly met his wife Nancy in the same urban planning program at Princeton. They moved to New York and married in 1983.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Working as an architect in New York, Dale found time on weekends to re-engage his passion for things that fly. Many in the local community were interested in kites at the time, flying them from a park in Brooklyn overlooking Lower New York Bay. He began to fashion his own kites, from design to sewing the fabric on a sewing machine, to flight testing. It was fun to be flying with other like-minded kite flyers.

In 1985, Dale and Nancy had the opportunity to visit San Diego. Not a bad place, and the weather sure was much nicer than in New York! Plus, San Diego felt like a better (and less expensive) place to raise a family. Their son, Jordan, was born in 1988 and over time, Dale managed to convince his wife that the move was a good idea. After applying for, and receiving his California architect's license, he lined up a job and the family moved to San Diego in 1989.

Dale's projects included "forensic architecture," analyzing construction/design failures and remediation methods. This involved a lot of report writing, and Dale learned a great deal about publishing and editing, which would come in handy in newsletter editing.

On a whim in 1990, Dale happened to stop by the Torrey Pines Gliderport as he always retained that interest in "things that fly" and it sounded like a cool destination. There he saw the RCers flying and WOW; it was just as cool as that Corsair near Floyd Bennett Field but without the motor! On that day he fortunately met Charlie Richardson, who helped demonstrate slope aerobatics with a Turbo. Dale was hooked. An Olympic 650 and manual written by Al Doig was soon in his garage, along with a Futaba transmitter.



Rest stop/park south of the Belt Parkway near the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in the Bay Ridge neighborhood of Brooklyn. Unfortunately, kite flying was prohibited several years ago, apparently due to driving distractions.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Once the Oly 650 was ready to fly, Torrey was probably the right place for test flights, but throwing all that work off a cliff seemed unappealing. Instead, Dale went to the TPG Poway field for some initial flight tests. He set up a hi-start and began launching with successful flights and no crashes. But very soon, George Joy's son, Bryan showed up and informed Dale that he was flying in the wrong place and it would be better if he followed him over to the location of the actual club field. There, Dale was introduced to George Joy, who together with Bryan, helped get the Oly checked out and also provided some flight lessons. After another trip or two to Poway to get the CG and trim correct (including learning to launch off a winch), Dale had the courage to fly it at Torrey. One of the regulars helped, and the flights were fun and perfect. Dale took a great interest in the art of landing. He felt that making a good landing was the best part of the entire flight, so relaunching just to land became its own fun.

Dale continued with a series of RC gliders in the 1990s. A Skeeter – which soon was destroyed – was replaced by a second. His first aileron plan was used Ridge Runt he bought from George Joy. These were followed by a Bob Martin Talon and then a Dodgson Pivot, among others.



Ridge Runt (rebuilt and recovered)



Talon



Dodgson Pivot



Dale with his Oly 650. Zebra stripes would become a theme.

But by the late 1990s, time with his son took priority; a change in his path in architecture required additional time, and he dropped flying for a while. By 2007/2008 things were settled enough

To restart his interest in RC soaring and the "Thursday Evening Fun Fly" events set up by TPG and Parviz Kamiab at Torrey were just the ticket. Dale soon bought a Moth from Martin Taraz at North County Flying Machines, and also starting flying his Oly 650 at the TPG Encinitas and Poway fields along with a CR Aircraft Climmax, a refurbished Wanderer, and other aircraft. Even the Pivot had a few goes up the hi-start. At one point, he was gifted a damaged 1990s Sapphire from Drew Arnett, repaired it, and had a few flights at the Poway field.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

At Poway and Encinitas, he began to really understand and appreciate thermalling for the first time. Between 2007-2012, Dale enjoyed RC soaring at a variety of locations in San Diego County including Torrey, Encinitas, Poway, Dave's Beach, Blossom Valley and the former "Instant Lift" near Sorrento Valley. He became interested in power slope scale (PSS) models, building a Spitfire and an Airacobra, flying those at PSS Fest at Cajon Pass in San Bernadino County. He also got into discus launch gliders (DLG) after attended the IHLGF as a spectator; building a Gambler and a Predator II.



NCFM Moth



3-meter Sapphire



Predator II (Yeah...some zebra stripes on the tail 😊)



Jim Scott launching Dale's Beech Staggerwing Foamy at Blossom Valley



Beech Staggerwing



Dale, 2nd from right with 4th place foam scale entry (Beech Staggerwing) at 2011 PSS Fest

In October, 2012, while in New York for some family matters, Dale acquired an unusual staphylococcus infection near his spinal cord resulting in arm and leg paralysis. To make matters even more complex, Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast at precisely this same time! A crazy set of circumstances. Dale's injuries, while severe, were deemed to still provide an opportunity for healing. Through months of rehab, Dale slowly regained use of his arms, and transitioned over time from a motorized wheelchair to a manual wheelchair and then, a walker. He continued working in architecture until his retirement in 2015.

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

In October, 2012, while in New York for some family matters, Dale acquired an unusual staphylococcus infection near his spinal cord resulting in arm and leg paralysis. To make matters even more complex, Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast at precisely this same time! A crazy set of circumstances. Dale's injuries, while severe, were deemed to still provide an opportunity for healing. Through months of rehab, Dale slowly regained use of his arms, and transitioned over time from a motorized wheelchair to a manual wheelchair and then, a walker. He continued working in architecture until his retirement in 2015.

A part of his recovery has involved RC soaring and TPG. He returned to fly with slope friends at Dave's Beach for the Dave Kellogg Memorial Fly in and was welcomed back by many with others launching his planes for him and then Dale flying from his motorized wheelchair. It felt good to be back in the air. Dale also volunteered his time, and at the suggestion of then TPG President Dan Cummins, began serving as Newsletter Editor (a post he has continued to hold ever since). This position also made use of Dale's previous writing and publishing skills. In 2016, the club honored him with the Modeler of the Year Trophy but if the club had a "Comeback Player of the Decade Trophy" he would have earned that too. In 2018 he assumed the additional role of TPG Secretary and has been in this dual role of Editor/Communications Officer and Secretary to present.



Jim Scott (Pismo on RCGroups launching Dale's Dream-Flight Weasel at Dave's Beach



Mark Wood spotting for Dale at Torrey



2019...Back on his feet with Bob Martin at the Katie Martin International Tribute

TPG History: The Trophy (continued)

Dale would like to thank many modelers for helping to keep him active and engaged in soaring, and most importantly to help him through his health issues. These include the crew at Dave's Beach and TPGers (Mark Baldacchino, Dan Cummins, Greg Houck, Cliff Hunter, Brian Laird, Jim Scott, Matin Taraz, Mark Wood, and others). TPG has provided Dale with a purpose through a tumultuous set of circumstances and he appreciates all that the club and RC soaring have meant through some difficult times.

We all hope to see Dale flying lots more in the years to come!



The Spitfire build group at PSS Fest 2011. Dale is 2nd from right.



Dale at PSS Fest 2011, Spitfire in hand.

Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

RENEW YOUR “TPG” Membership for calendar year 2024, please.

Do not be locked out. Renew and/or become a Torrey Pines Gulls member.

Our goal this year is to increase our membership by 10%. If you know someone who may be interested in RC soaring, please invite them to some of our events and encourage them sign up and become a member.

Please use the link below when joining as a new member or renewing an existing membership. Fill out the registration form completely and pay using PayPal, credit card or check. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an individual email when becoming a member.

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/membership/>

Membership Activity Summary as of December 19, 2023

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.

2023/2024 Membership Update		
Date	Since Last Report	Total
2023 – Members		133
2024 – New and Renewed Members	17	39
Google Group Members	1	134

Membership Processing

Please use the link below when joining as a new member or renewing an existing membership. Fill out the registration form completely and pay using PayPal, credit card or check. Current members will receive a renewal notice using the TPG Google Group email process. If you have not signed up for the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an individual email.

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/membership/>

All new and renewing members will receive a membership card and key (if requested, for Encinitas and Poway). The key provides access to the gates at our Encinitas and Poway flying sites. Members who fly at the Torrey Pines Gliderport and are Gliderport rated will receive a club lanyard from a club representative at the Gliderport. Members must wear the lanyard with the membership card attached when flying at the Gliderport, for safety reasons. Remember, you must have a current AMA membership to join TPG. To join AMA, follow this link:

<https://join.modelaircraft.org/torreypinesgulls/>

Please contact me at: membership@torreypinesgulls.org if you have not received your membership materials or have any membership-related questions.

Club Membership Update (continued)

Annual Membership

TPG's membership period is January 1st through December 31st. Renewals begin November 1st of each year.

Club Dues are as follows:

- **Full Members** – \$60 per year
- **Youth Members** (19 years or younger) – \$5 per year
- **Student Members** (full-time) – \$30 per year
- **Work Credit** You will receive a credit of up to \$20 on your annual dues; \$10 per each half-day working at any TPG flying field. When filling out your registration form, there is a place to input your hours/credit.

New members joining in the first six months of the year pay the full rate. Those joining in July through September pay half the applicable rate. If you are a new member joining in October through December, you pay the full rate, but your membership is considered paid through the end of the following year.

You can get more detailed information regarding your yearly membership benefits by using the following link: [Torrey Pines Gulls Membership Guide](#), which will provide answers to many of your questions regarding Torrey Pines Gulls activities. Also review the TPG Club Bylaws for more information at: [Club Bylaws](#)

Cliff Hunter

Membership Chairman

membership@torreypinesgulls.org

760-703-4497 cell

Sample Membership Card



Note: TPG membership information will not be shared or sold and will only be used to contact members for purposes of TPG business.

Where We Fly – Panoramas – Ian Cummings

Here are Ian Cummings' immersive panoramas of our world class flying sites; the world-famous Torrey Pines Gliderport, Poway Flight Center, where each year the club sponsors the IHLGF (International Hand Launch Glider Festival) and the Encinitas Flight Center. Clicking on the pictures takes you to our sites:

Click on this photo to visit the Torrey Pines Gliderport.



Click on this photo to visit the TPG Poway Flight Center.



Click on this photo to visit the TPG Encinitas Flight Center.



How We Compete

Thermal Duration/F5J Contest Series



John McNeil

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

For 2024, Thermal Duration (winch launch) contests have been moved into the new Tow Hook Series (see the following pages). For F5J contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website:

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

Also, be sure to look for, and subscribe to, the upcoming RCGroups 2024 TPG Thermal contest (F5J) schedule thread for next year's contest news: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447697-2024-TPG-F5J-contest-schedule>

or contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

We'll kick off the year with a two-day event, January 13th & 14th at the Perris free-flight field with our wonderful CD, Mike Verzuh.

DLG/Hand Launch/F3K Contest Series



Justin Tolman

DLG Coordinator – Justin Tolman

For DLG contest dates, check the calendar on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/calendar/>

For information, contacts, rules, etc. for past and upcoming Hand Launch/DLG contests, check the following link on the Torrey Pines Gulls website: <http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/discus-launch-glider-series/>

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 2024 Torrey Pines Gulls DLG Contest/Clinic Series thread for the latest contest news: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4455963-2024-Torrey-Pines-Gulls-DLG-Contest-Clinic-Series>

or contact Justin Tolman at dlg@torreypinesgulls.org

How We Compete (continued)

Team DLG Series



John McNeil

Thermal Coordinator – John McNeil

We are very excited to announce a two-event series for a new team DLG format!

The Gulls have been playing this super-fun team game on practice days for several years, and we are excited to share it with the community!

The format is team-only; there are no individual scores. Each team requires four pilots. You have plenty of time, so start getting your teams together – and start practicing!

The schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447751-2024-TPG-Team-DLG-Series>

or contact John McNeil at thermal@torreypinesgulls.org

Team DLG format:

- Teams consist of exactly four pilots.
- In each heat, three of the pilots fly while one pilot times and provides team direction.
- Each round, the timer is rotated. After four rounds, all team members will have timed once.
- Contest rounds follow F3K formats except:
 - Flight timing
 - Flight time starts when the last of three pilots releases the model.
 - Flight time ends when the first of three pilots time would end.
 - If any pilot lands out of bounds, then the flight scores zero.
 - (In other words, all three pilots fly each flight together for a single flight time)
 - For Poker:
 - The timing team member makes the time nomination.
 - All three pilots must make the nominated time (see flight timing above).
 - Timer can force the whole team to re-fly to maximize the score

How We Compete (continued)

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



John McNeil

Last Year we launched the TPG F3L series with 4 contests. This format turned out to provide a relaxed and social event. In 2024, we want to modify the program to allow more pilots to fly, and also to preserve AMA TD as an active TPG contest class. With this in mind, we present the 2024 Tow Hook Series.

The schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447735-2024-TPG-Tow-Hook-Series-F3L-F3RES-TD-1-5m>

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

Who

AMA pilots who are interested in flying with friends, improving their thermal flying skills, and competing for fun.

Why

The goals of this program are:

- Provide a fun, relaxed monthly contest where low-cost aircraft can be competitive
- Various classes encourage greater participation
- Overcome the current field limitations for F3L of 12 pilots maximum at Encinitas and 8 at Poway
- Maintain a home for AMA TD competition
- Develop a competitive thermal format for sailplanes under 250g

What

Format:

This format is similar to the successful BARCS FxRES format with modifications to suit our TPG community and fields.

This is a simple format with a 3-hour window, where competitors can fly up to 7 timed flights in each of three different classes, and the best 5 flights count (see the classes section for maximum flight times). There is a landing bonus using F3L landing tapes for all classes. Landings made after the open window will receive zero landing points if within 30 seconds, and zero flight points if more than 30 seconds over.

After the 3-hour open flying window, the CD shall tally the scores and organize three head-to-head fly-off rounds. Each round will have 10 minutes of working time in which to fly 6 minutes max. Landing bonus will be scored. These fly-offs will be between top pilots for 1.5m and 2m classes. There will be no fly-off for AMA TD open class. The exact composition of the fly-offs shall be determined by the CD at the time, based on the number of pilots in each class and relative points separation at the end of open flying. Points in fly-off will be added to points from open flying.

How We Compete (continued)

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

Aircraft Classes

Pilots may fly in any or all of the classes below. We will fly up to 3 classes depending on attendance:

- 1.5m RES bungee launch. Max flying weight is 250g. Construction materials and techniques must follow F3L rules. Maximum flight time is 5 minutes.
- 2m RES bungee launch. Construction materials and techniques must follow F3L rules. Maximum flight time is 6 minutes.
- AMA thermal duration open class. Winch or bungee. Skegs are allowed. Maximum flight time is 10 minutes.

Equipment

At least three landing tapes will be provided, marked for F3L. AMA TD will use the same landing bonus formula as the other classes.

F3L compliant bungees will be provided by the club and set up at the CD's direction. At the CD's discretion, all bungees may be shortened from F3L standard to accommodate field conditions.

Winches:

A single winch will be provided by the club when at least 2 pilots register at least one week in advance. The winch shall be set up in parallel with, and at the same length as the stretched bungees. The winch will not have a retriever. The winch shall be run until the chute is at the turn-around after every launch.

When

Refer to posted schedules on RCGroups and the Torrey Pines Gulls website.

Where

TPG Encinitas Flight Center, except within 5 days following rain, when the contest will relocate to the Poway Flight Center.

How

John McNeil, in the role of TPG Thermal coordinator, will recruit a CD for each contest. This format does not require the sound system or timing board, but does require bungees and sometimes a winch.

How We Compete (continued)

F5J Fun Fly and Contest/Clinic Series



Don Lochhead

TPG will continue our F5J style foamy fun fly contests (and clinic) in 2024 at our Poway field. This is truly a fun-fly and a great way to get into F5J style flying. Any foamy or stick-built plane up to 2m (or so) is welcome. Night Radians are very popular but we also see Yellow Jackets and a variety of other vintage foamy aircraft.

We fly 7-minute windows with standard F5J landing tapes. If you are just getting started and do not have an Altis yet, no problem. Your timer will give you the 30 second call to cut your motor and the CD will announce a default launch height to be used for scoring purposes.

We typically pause mid contest for a quick clinic. Subjects generally focus on F5J topics of interest to pilots getting into the format. The events are free but we still ask all pilots to sign up on F3X Vault so we know how many to expect and can run the matrix ahead of time.

For 2024 we have four events scheduled:

January 27
April 20
July 27
October 26

Our kickoff event in January falls on the weekend that the slope is pretty much inaccessible due to the parking lot being closed for the golf tournament. To take advantage of this, we'll hold a "Slopers vs Flatlanders" fun-fly. So, all of you slope pilots dig out your foamies (or whatever you have) and come out to Poway and join in on the fun. Ian has volunteered to fire up his grill for "sausages for all" after the contest. It's free, but please sign up on the F3X Vault so we can run a matrix and know how many to expect for lunch.



Bob Hirsch photo

[F3X Vault Event Link](#)

What is LSF? – Gary Fogel



Gary Fogel

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

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

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

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

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

The people who originated the program in the 1970s arranged it such that it was easy for novice pilots to attain Level I with minimum effort. However, as pilots proceed through intermediate levels, they have to attend contests (with increasing number of total contestants per contest to qualify) and accumulate points (and/or wins). For instance, for Level II a contest can be as few as five participants, whereas by Level IV the contest has to be at least 15 participants. This requirement helps drive interest in contests as they are crucial towards proceeding to the next level. Those interested in the LSF program help foster contest development.

What is LSF? – (continued)



Similarly, pilots who regularly hone their skills at contests generally improve in overall performance and over time, seek increasingly different and difficult tasks. By the time a pilot achieves Level IV, the Level V tasks can feel daunting. A 2-hour thermal duration flight. An 8-hour slope duration flight (some refer to this as the “bladder test”). A goal and return cross-country flight of 6.2 miles out and 6.2 miles back. Its longer than it seems. And Level V requires 3 contest wins at large contests over 20 participants. These days it can be hard to find contests of this size, and the requirement to win them really means the pilot has to be on the top of their game. It can take years or decades for a pilot to complete Level V. Some pilots never do complete Level V; in fact, only 138 people in the history of the program have done so.

So how do you get started? It's **EASY**. Firstly, go to:

<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php/lsf-program/lsf-tasks>

and print out a copy of the voucher form. Choose the path you wish (SAP and/or eSAP)

Bring the appropriate voucher with you to any of our many TPG events in 2024 and participate! If, for instance, you are flying in an F5J contest, each landing can be considered as a spot landing for the Level I and II requirements. Even the contest flights can have sufficient time to satisfy Level I requirements. Whenever you do make an achievement, have the contest director or your timer sign your form as a witness. We have Torrey Pines Gliderport (and other slopes) at our disposal – easy to get a 15 min slope flight with your buddies.

Once you've completed all of the Level I tasks, submit the completed voucher to LSF Secretary Walter “Wally” Adaczik at lsf_secretary@silentflight.org as a pdf scan or photo that clearly shows the witness signatures. Wally will then review your voucher and email you your acceptance or rejection of the voucher submission. If for some reason your voucher is rejected, you will have to adjudicate rejections with Wally.

A question then – who in the TPG has what LSF levels in SAP and eSAP? Well, we collect that information as a part of membership renewal. The Table on the following page provides the current LSF Levels for those who indicated so on their membership forms. This can (and should!) of course change over time.

Note that we have many members who are SAP Level I and 3 members who are eSAP Level 1. It doesn't take much for them to get to Level II. At the other end of the spectrum, we have 8 members who are Level IV. It's going to take some teamwork to get them to Level V. In between we have lots of pilots who can benefit by flying in our contests or getting out for some slope duration at Torrey, etc. If you aren't on the list and have achieved an LSF level, please let me know.

What is LSF? – (continued)



How many Level increases can TPG members achieve in 2024 for either SAP or eSAP? Feel free to reach out to me or others on this list and they will be pleased to help recommend some strategies or serve as a witness if they can, for your achievements. On June 8, we're planning an LSF day at Poway and Torrey to help get people signed off. We might throw in some additional LSF days if there is interest.

Use our many contests and fun flies as a way to help advance in these programs. Just be sure to bring your vouchers and if necessary, arrange in advance for the proper number and type of witnesses so they can sign your form afterwards.

Want to find out more? Check out the LSF program at:

<https://www.silentflight.org/index.php>

Last Name	First Name	SAP	eSAP
Blodgett	Edward	Level I	
Bregman	Milan	Working on Level I	
Brooksby	Chris	Level I	
Butler	Alan "Moose"	Level I	
Clerx	Ben	Level IV	Level I
Condon	Steve	Level IV	
Cronkhite	Doug	Level I	
Cummings	Ian	Level II	
Cummins	Dan	Level II	
Fogel	Gary	Level IV	Level II
Hall	Dave	Level IV	Level I
Hanson	Craig	Level I	
Hanson	Kirk	Level II	
Houck	Greg	Level I	
Hunter	Cliff	Level I	
Hunter	Cliff		Working on Level I
Kiesling	Thomas	Level III	
Legerton	Gary	Working on Level I	
Lochhead	Donald	Level I	Working on Level I
McCurdy	Scott		Level I
McFarland	Dan	Level I	
McNeil	John	Level II	
Metzdorff	Eric	Level I	
Miller	Corky	Level II	
Norris	Charles	Level III	Level I
Pili	Ray	Level II	Level 1
Redman	Mike	Level II	
Rozek	Dieter	Level II	
Schafer	Chris	Level IV	
Smith	Mike	Level IV	
Throop	Terry	Level IV	
Ungar	Kyle	Level I	
Verzuh	Mike	Level III	
Ward	Les	Level III	
Warner	Garth	Level III	
Watson	Tom	Level IV	

How We Connect

What do **YOU** think?

You can express your opinion at: www.torreypinesgulls.org.

We have a **QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS** link in the drop-down menu that appears when you scroll over **TORREY PINES GULLS** next to **LOCATIONS, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP...** If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. for the board, here's your chance.

Don't forget to join 

For all current and recently joined TPG members:

In order to maintain a line of communication among members, we have a TPG Google Group. Please make sure that our club Membership Chairman has your current email address. You can confirm this by contacting membership@torreypinesgulls.org. If you are not already a member of the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an invitation to join.

When you join as a member of the private TPG Google Group, the club will distribute notifications, newsletters, contest events and holiday party info, etc. This information will keep you informed of all club activities throughout the year. You don't need a Gmail address to participate in Google Groups, but you do need to be a member of TPG.



Google Groups provides a great way of communicating with one another. If you have any questions or concerns about almost anything having to do with flying, building, finding another club member, etc., you can post them on Google Groups. It also allows you to send links and attachments, just like regular email.

...and, very importantly, since all postings/emails are done through Google Groups, your actual email address is not visible when notifications are sent out to the club members. Also, only members of the group can post to the group, so joining the group does not add to your spam burden.

So, verify that the club has your correct email, make sure you receive an invitation to join Google Groups and sign up!

How We Connect (continued)

Are you a member of ?

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

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

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



Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
Thread	GullWings -- TPG Newsletters foculdas, Apr 01, 2015		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gatt Yesterday 03:13 PM
Thread	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccidao, Jan 14, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 301	he4gatt Yesterday 02:37 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule Mikaelsson, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 103	he4gatt Yesterday 02:34 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 20, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 20, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccidao, Sep 14, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 876	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:01 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Kathie, Feb 03, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:00 AM
Thread	Welcome TPG and others Mark Wood, Mar 05, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,246	Mark Wood Mar 05, 2010 10:18 PM

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

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

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

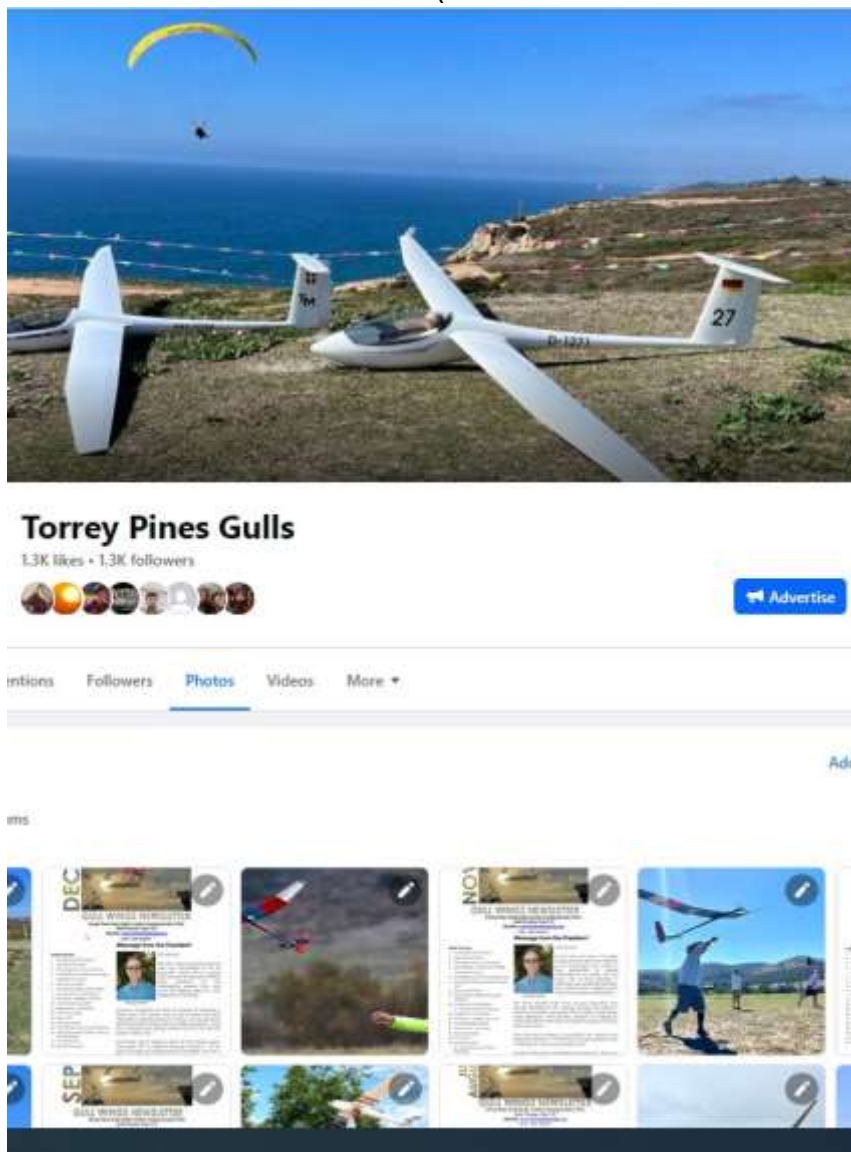
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

How We Connect (continued)

Check out the TPG Page

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

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



How We Connect (continued)

TPG is on

TPG's Media Coordinator, Mengchen Li, has created an Instagram account for the Torrey Pines Gulls. If you're already on Instagram, search for [torrey_pines_gulls](#) and click on follow. If you're not on Instagram, well, now's a great time to join!

Also, if you have any photos or videos of your RC soaring activities, contests, builds, fun flies, etc., send them along to Mengchen at media@torreypinesgulls.org and you might find your submittal on a TPG Instagram post.



Club Officers and Contact Information

President	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
Vice-President	Gary Fogel	vp@torreypinesgulls.org
Past President	Ian Cummings	
Secretary	Dale Gottdank	secretary@torreypinesgulls.org
Treasurer	Don Lochhead	treasurer@torreypinesgulls.org
Communications Officer	Dale Gottdank	communications@torreypinesgulls.org
Thermal Coordinator	John McNeil	thermal@torreypinesgulls.org
Slope Coordinator	Mark Baldacchino	slope@torreypinesgulls.org
DLG Coordinator	Justin Tolman	dlg@torreypinesgulls.org
Membership Chair	Cliff Hunter	membership@torreypinesgulls.org
IHLGF Coordinator	Mike Smith	mike@themapsmith.com
LSF Coordinator	Gary Fogel	lsf@torreypinesgulls.org
Webmaster	Steve Hurd	web@torreypinesgulls.org
Media Coordinator	Mengchen Li	media@torreypinesgulls.org
Historian	Gary Fogel	historian@torreypinesgulls.org
TP Soaring Council (TPG)	Mark Baldacchino	soaringcouncil@torreypinesgulls.org

Executive Officers



Chuck Norris



Gary Fogel



Dale Gottdank



Don Lochhead



John McNeil



Mark Baldacchino



Justin Tolman



Cliff Hunter

Photo of the Month Contest

Each month club members may submit photos of an activity related to soaring and the newsletter editor will post a [winner](#).

A Photo of the Year winner will be selected from among the monthly winners and will receive a prize (their photo will be used as the website and newsletter masthead AND will appear on the following year's club membership card); so **horizontal format photos are preferred**.

Email your photos (**JPG format and original high-resolution version, please**) to Dale Gottdank at submit@torreypinesgulls.org. Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description. Note: December photo of the month winner(s) will be included in the following year's Photo of the Year competition.



December 2023 Winner – Cliff Hunter launching his eDLG at the November DLG contest (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Pilots Aaron Wallace, Steffen Peters, Thomas Moller and Ray Pili (under shade) with their DG-1000's at Visalia (Aaron Wallace photo)



F5J launch at Perris contest in Marc, 2023 (Cliff Hunter photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



January Winner – Thomas Moller's ASH-26 and Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 await launch at Torrey (Aaron Wallace photo)



TPG Classified Ads Policy

Classified ads are free to TPG members for non-commercial purposes. Commercial customers should contact the editor. To submit an advertisement, send the information to communications@torreypinesgulls.org. Ads must be submitted by the 25th of the month to appear in the next issue. All advertisements will remain in the newsletter for the month of issue and will be removed for the following issue. If you wish to advertise for another month, you will need to notify the editor or resubmit.



Quote of the Month:

“I like starting projects in January. That’s the best time to start something.”

~ Carolyn Chute



Torrey Winter Solstice (Walt Quitt photo)