



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,

Hi everyone! As you know, we are very fortunate to have three beautiful flying locations available to us as club members. But each of these locations has obligations and rules we must follow in order to maintain our ability to use them. Fortunately, the main rules at each location are pretty simple:

Poway

Our main obligation at Poway is to avoid flying over the horse operations to the southeast. Treat that area as an absolute no-fly zone to avoid any issues with spooking horses.

Second, although Poway allows electric-launched sailplanes, this is for *launch only*, and planes must land before the motor is used again. No powered flight is allowed outside of launch.

Encinitas

At Encinitas, our agreement with the County of San Diego does *not allow any electric flight at all*. Winches, hi-starts and hand launch are the *only* launch methods available to us at the current time. We hope to get permission to use electrics at Encinitas at some point in the future, but until that happens, the rule is *no electrics allowed*.

In addition, please avoid flying over the houses to the north and west.

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

Message from the President (continued)

Torrey Pines Gliderport

No electric-powered flight of any kind is allowed at the gliderport. You're welcome to fly planes with motors (Radians work great!), but **only** if the motor or prop are unused and preferably, disabled. Removing the prop or securing it with tape are good methods.

But the most important thing to remember about flying at Torrey is that we fly in a shared airspace, and we all have to cooperate to maintain a safe and cordial flying environment. Always be aware of the environment, anticipate what might be coming, and use a spotter if you don't have a clear view of any possible obstructions.

We've all seen instances where the paragliders have bent or completely ignored the rules, but the best approach is to work with the slope coordinators to get things resolved.

Finally, I'd like to say *thank you* for your cooperation in this - it's absolutely essential that we maintain a good working relationship with the landowners at all three sites, or we risk losing access to locations that many clubs across the nation can only dream of having.

Chuck



Aaron Wallace's Fox heading in for a landing at Torrey back in March (Thomas Moller photo)

TPG July/August Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
July 6 th	Aerobatics Day – TWF/PNF – Jesters, Ahis, Shrikes; whatever turns on a dime	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
July 13 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
July 14 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
July 21 st	Tow Hook Series Contest F3L/F3RES/TD/1.5m	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault when open
July 27 th	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
August 10 th	Fly 'n Swap Again! – A day to fly and swap meet. Clean out your garages and make room for more birds	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
August 17 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
August 27 th	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link

LSF Day – July 27th



We had planned on an LSF day in March but that was canceled due to inclement weather. The next opportunities to work on LSF tasks will be twofold:

July 27 – come join us at the F5J fun fly at the Poway field. This is also a perfect way to work on LSF eSAP tasks including thermal duration, spot landing, and contest tasks.

Not familiar with the tasks?

Visit <https://www.silentflight.org/> or see my column in this month's newsletter (page 23) that describes the tasks and has a list of TPGers and (I think) the levels they are currently working on.

Hope to see you there!

Gary Fogel, LSF Coordinator

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!

July Issue highlights include:

- **Katie Martin International Tribute wrap-up in News from the Slope (page 6)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 31)**

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 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 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, August 27th at 7:00pm. Don't miss out on a chance for TPG's new Super Raffle! (see info below)

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/>



A long ago in a galaxy far, far away, the Torrey Pines Gulls used to have regular monthly meetings in person; and at each meeting, members would have an opportunity to win some great prizes in a raffle.

One of the prizes each month was a "Super Raffle" ticket that allowed the winner to attend a really amazing raffle at the holiday party and get some additional goodies.

Unfortunately, we no longer have in-person meetings but we're doing the best we can with virtual club meetings via zoom. The next meeting will be August 27th at 7pm with a presentation. However, at that meeting we're also going to have a random draw for two super raffle tickets and the winners will be able to choose some prizes at the year-end holiday party. So come join the virtual meeting, hang in there through the presentation, get that winning raffle ticket and see what you might win in December!

See you at the next meeting!

News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino



Happy July TP Gulls!

Last month, we had two events at the slope. On June 1st, it was the Katie Martin Tribute, which was also the 50th anniversary of the Hobie Hawk. Pilots from around the country showed up with multiple planes.

Keith McLellan was the MC and did a great job with hosting the event. Bob Martin and Larry Jolly also were in attendance to help facilitate with Keith's efforts. As you'll see in the photos below, there isn't enough room in the pit area for everyone and their planes, so the east side of the walking path in the LZ was used to hold the many who showed.



Setting up early before the tribute flight (Ian Cummings photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

The event started at noon, with the tribute flight of a Hobie Hawk with some of Katie's ashes, accompanied with a Super Hawk, both blue and white. A raffle was held with lots of kits, prebuilt planes, as well as many accessories. I believe there was \$850 raised, which was given to the American Heart Association. There was also a trophy awarded to the Pilots' Choice, which is basically the best-looking plane (see photo below). The wind did indeed cooperate with at least four hours of flying and no mishaps. We could have used more help with spotting, as the window got crowded with seven or so planes and PG traffic at times. Our parking lot, even though recently expanded, was over capacity, but all were able to park nearby. The local news, Fox 5 showed up, giving us some publicity, which you can see here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aVkZ2H9DBs>



Meet the MC, Keith McLellan who ran the show. (Ian Cummings photo)



This Hobie won Pilots' Choice award. It really deserved it. Bob Martin Talon at left. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Lots of Hobie Hawks and all sorts of planes (Ian Cummings photo)



Katie's ashes being flown for the tribute in the Hobie Hawk, below the Super Hawk (Ian Cummings photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Several pilots enjoying the steady ~10 MPH breeze (Ian Cummings photo)

Going forward, this event will be run by the Torrey Pines Gulls. We have a volunteer who graciously agreed to coordinate the event, who most of you know; Walt Quitt. We might change the activities and organization a bit, but some early ideas will be included in an agenda to follow; and will have volunteers sign up with time slots for spotting; safety first! So, this isn't a one man show, and Walt will need your help in getting this done. When he taps you on the shoulder, please pitch in and give us some help.



A big turn-out, as you can see. Hopefully, next year will be even bigger. (Ian Cummings photo)

There are many more photos here from Ian: [Ian Cummings Katie Martin Tribute Link](#)

News from the Slope (continued)

The second event in June was the very next weekend, June 8th. This was our landing contest. This is a great opportunity to just help with one's spot landing skills, and it was just for fun; and the best part...it was free!

There were only two participants; Bret Locke and Walt Quitt. The best, closest landing to the pin was 9' with a Wanderer, with no airbrakes, piloted by Bret. To do something a bit different, we also did a best average, and Walt, flying a ParkZone Ka-8, took the honors. So, both pilots earned blue ribbons. I'll schedule this event some other time next year, so as to not be so close to a major event.



Bret (L) and Walt (R), each taking home a blue ribbon! (Mark Baldacchino photo)

In just a few days, it's our annual aerobatics day. I'm hoping the wind will be cranking... >15 or more, as it'll be spectacular to see these planes bank and yank on a dime. Bring some ballast if the wind forecast looks favorable.

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

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

Blue Skies!
Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino

June DLG Contest Report – Chuck Norris, CD

What a day! We had 19 pilots, and we flew three groups, but still wanted to get in 6 rounds of flying. This meant we were on a tight schedule to get through 18 flight groups total (6 rounds, 3 groups). I arrived extra early to make sure all the tech was running flawlessly before the 8:45am pilots meeting. Fortunately, everything just worked with no fussing (a first!), so I had extra time to fly and talk to people before the contest.



Pilots meeting (Paul Nibecker photo)



Pilots meeting (Paul Nibecker photo)



Competitors for the June TPG DLG monthly contest at Poway (Paul Nibecker photo)

June DLG Contest Report (continued)

We had a nice contingent from up north in attendance - and we were also joined by Tom Farley flying his first contest. It was great to see everyone, and good to see a new pilot getting involved. Tom is learning quickly, posting some very respectable scores, especially for his first contest.

We started at 9:00am sharp with Task H - 1,2,3,4 minutes, any order. I think that's generally a good way to start a contest because it gives pilots time to explore a bit if the air is light, but in this case that wasn't needed - the day warmed up quickly, and lift was developing during the pre-contest flying. The air was quite good through most of the 1st task - there were a lot of great times recorded.

Task 2 was 5 x 2 min, and the lift was starting to get a little bit more elusive - although Justin Tolman and Brent Lytle posted some excellent times, most people had at least some trouble finding enough lift for 5 2s.

Task 3 was Big Ladder, and conditions were improved a bit. Several pilots in each group managed to string together four solid flights.



Paul Nibecker photo



Paul Nibecker photo



Paul Nibecker photo



Paul Nibecker photo

June DLG Contest Report (continued)

Task 4, Poker, was where things got interesting. Mengchen had jokingly called “all in” days before in the Discord group, but he followed through, made the call, and then made the flight! Brent Lytle also called “all in” during his group, and also made his flight! It was really fun to see. In group C, Arthur Markiewicz and Gary Fogel also got excellent scores with “end of window” calls after two nominated flights.

Unfortunately, Poker was a disaster for me - I managed to “SAM” Cliff Hunter’s new plane on launch, which resulted in considerable damage to both planes. Cliff’s Fury lost its vertical stab, and made a beautiful pirouette to the ground, but it sustained damage on the fuse and both wings. I hope to be able to repair it, but it will never be as beautiful as it started out ever again. Sorry Cliff!

Task 5 was All Up, Last Down, and conditions were challenging - only Marc Maher managed to get three 3-minute flights.

We wrapped up the day with “Last flight, 5 min max, 7 min window” and conditions were definitely starting to become more variable. Arthur, Mengchen and Gary all managed to make their 5-minute flights, but other than that, even talented pilots struggled to get as many seconds of flight as possible.

Congratulations to top place finishers, Brent Lytle, Gary Fogel and Mengchen Li!



Contest Winners Gary Fogel – 2nd place (left), Brent Lytle – 1st place (center), and Mengchen Li – 3rd place (right). (Justin Tolman photo)

June DLG Contest Report (continued)

The heat was definitely a significant factor through the day - I was sweating and thanking Cliff for his cooler full of drinks before the second round began. We've definitely flown in hotter weather, but the humidity was pretty high as well - a tough combination. Cliff's cooler was just about empty by the end of the day.

Thanks to all participants for coming out, and I'm looking forward to flying with you in July!

Scores from F3X Vault

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	12 Brent Lytle 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	5883.9		993.9	1000	924.0	1000	1000	966.0
2	5 Gary Fogel 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	5690.9	-193.0	1000	1000	999.1	958.1	733.7	1000
3	3 Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	5473.8	-217.1	964.3	967.4	996.3	1000	545.8	1000
4	20 John McNeil 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	5382.0	-91.8	987.4	855.6	1000	1000	628.3	910.7
5	1 Justin Tolman 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	5196.5	-185.5	973.9	1000	994.9	400.7	1000	827.0
6	2 Will Lalla 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4796.7	-399.8	987.9	968.9	932.0	576.9	437.3	893.7
7	18 Marc Maher 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4780.5	-16.2	786.0	978.6	956.3	200.3	1000	859.3
8	16 Arthur Markiewicz 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4758.2	-22.3	0.0	956.5	950.2	963.3	888.2	1000
9	9 Milan Bregman 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4665.5	-92.7	1000	818.1	1000	651.1	942.0	254.3
10	17 Mike Ray	4637.7	-27.8	883.5	883.5	889.7	350.6	630.4	1000
11	14 Matt Nelson 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4485.2	-152.5	840.6	936.4	1000	230.8	816.7	660.7
12	4 Clifford Hunter 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4335.6	-149.6	1000	951.0	936.5	150.3	637.8	660.0
13	6 Don Lochhead 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4207.4	-128.2	949.1	945.1	388.0	403.8	933.1	588.3
14	7 Chuck Norris 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4102.7	-104.7	793.5	864.9	988.1	0.0	624.5	831.7
15	11 Tom Farley 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	4036.9	-65.8	871.0	840.8	830.5	0.0	733.3	761.3
16	19 Scott McCurdy 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	3617.8	-419.1	702.2	943.6	698.7	408.7	586.9	277.7
17	8 Dale Osborn 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	2302.3	-1315.5	483.9	604.9	320.3	150.3	279.2	463.7
18	13 Keith Frankie 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	2213.9	-88.4	761.5	798.1	423.5	230.8	0.0	DNS
19	15 Bob Hirsch 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	0.0	-2213.9	0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS
20	10 Ian Cummings 🇺🇸 🇮🇹	0.0		0.0	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS

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.

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 June 23, 2024

The table below is a summary of lifetime members, new and renewed full members, and youth members; based on completed registration forms received to date.

TPG Membership		
Date: June 23, 2024	Since Last Report	Total
2023 – Members		127
2024 – New and Renewed Members	3	94
2024 - Google Group Members	0	145

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

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-flight 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 max. 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 4-hour window, where competitors will fly a number of flights in the window to be determined by the CD based on that day's registration (see the classes section for maximum flight times). There is a landing bonus using F3L landing tapes for all classes. Launches made after the open window will receive zero landing points if within 30 seconds. All launches must occur during the open window. After the 4-hour open flying window, the CD shall tally the scores and may choose to have fly-off rounds. Points in fly-off will be added to points from open flying.

Launches:

Pilots launching RES from bungees are allowed to re-fly if they have a pop-off up to two times in the open window. Winch launch (TD) pilots may have one re-fly if they pop-off.

Landings:

Landings count if there are no shed parts. Upside-down is ok. Landings where the nose is buried and the tail is in the air are also given a zero score.

How We Compete (continued)

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

Aircraft Classes

Pilots may fly in any one or two of the three 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 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.

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 (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.

For 2024 we have two more events scheduled:

July 27
October 26

Come on out and join the fun!



Bob Hirsch photo

What is LSF? – Gary Fogel



League of Silent Flight



Gary Fogel

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

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

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

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

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

What is LSF? – (continued)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is LSF? – (continued)



League of Silent Flight

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 III	
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 Name	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
View	GullWings - TPG Newsletter torrey - Apr 01, 2019		Replies: 4 Views: 642	hehgott Yesterday 02:33 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule torrey - Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 91	hehgott Yesterday 02:33 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MarkWest - Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 100	hehgott Yesterday 02:33 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043 - 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 12:00 PM
Event	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 MARK FRANCHI - Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:00 AM
View	Welcome TPG and others MarkWest - 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.

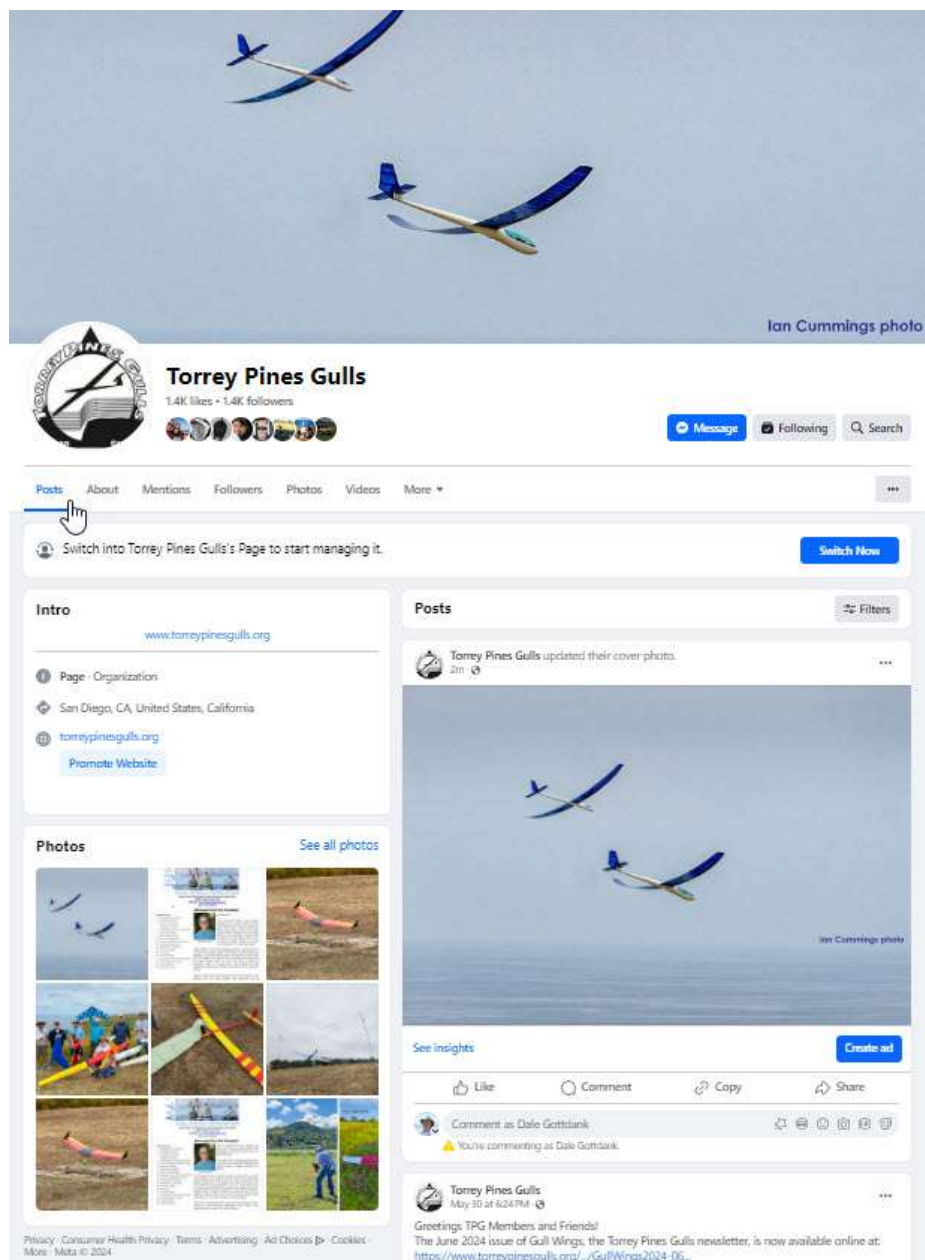
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

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 • 1.4K followers

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

Intro
www.torreypinesgulls.org

Page · Organization
San Diego, CA, United States, California
[torreypinesgulls.org](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org)
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Torrey Pines Gulls updated their cover photo.
2m

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

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

Comment as Dale Gottdank
You're commenting as Dale Gottdank.

Torrey Pines Gulls
May 30 at 6:24 PM

Greetings TPG Members and Friends!
The June 2024 issue of Gull Wings, the Torrey Pines Gulls newsletter, is now available online at:
<https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/.../GullWings2024-06...>

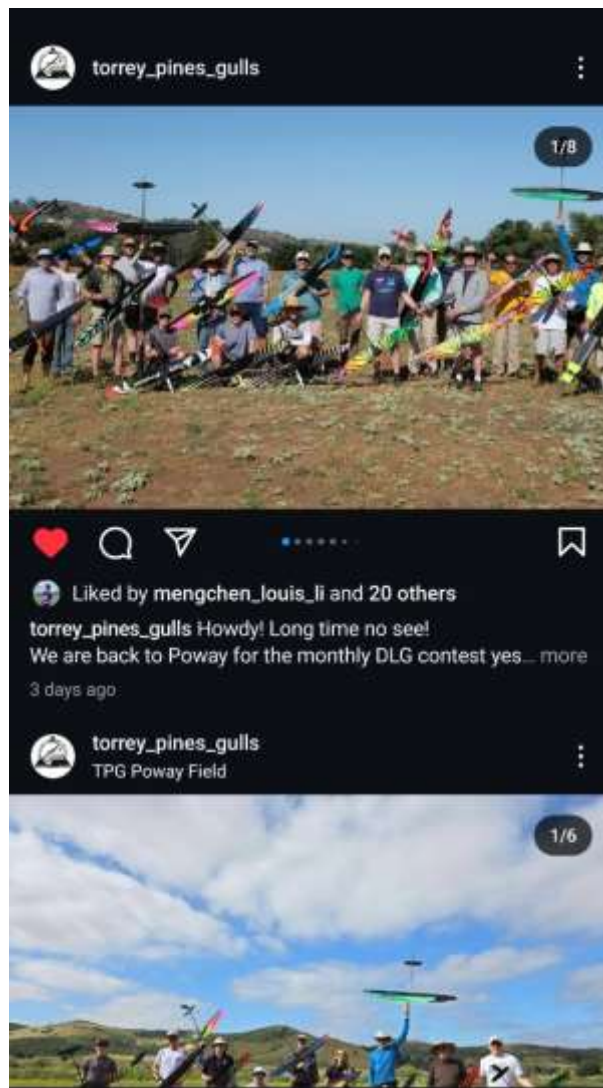
Privacy · Consumer Health Privacy · Terms · Advertising · Ad Choices · Cookies · More · Meta © 2024

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	Chuck Norris	president@torreypinesgulls.org
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)

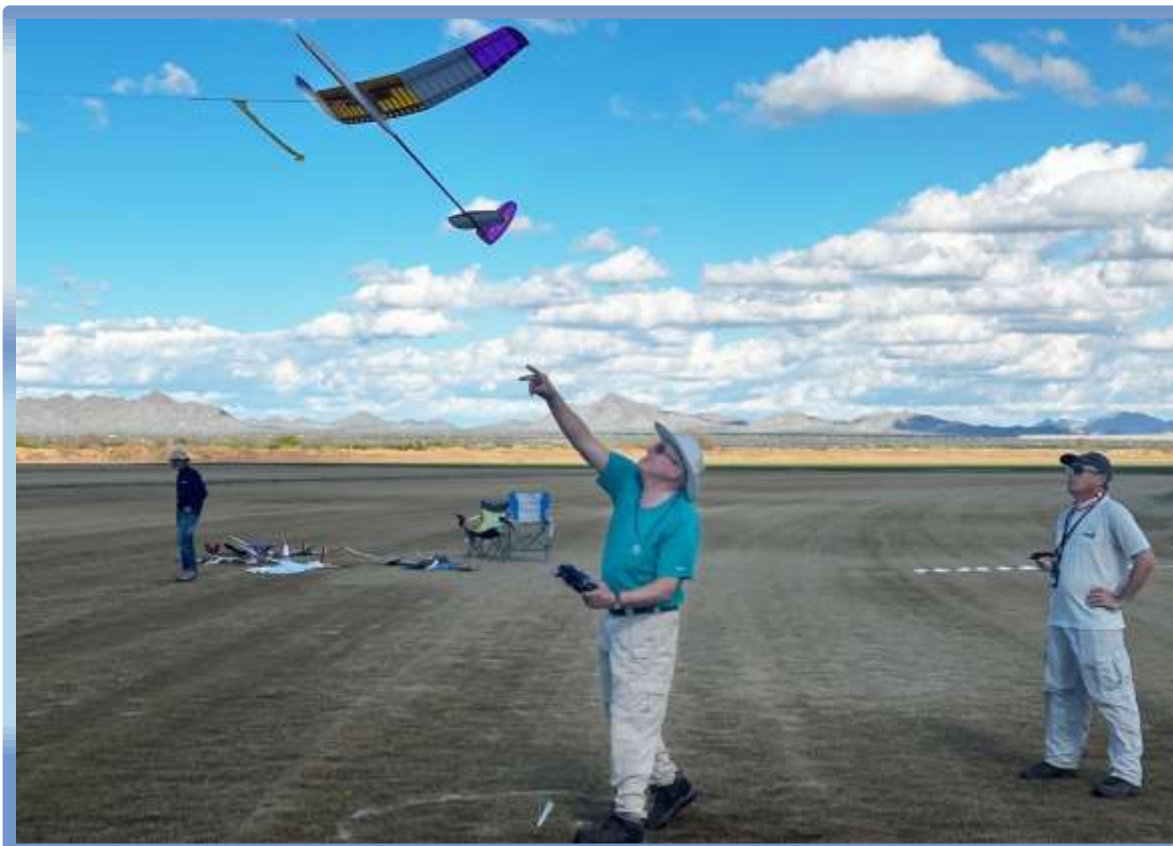


January Winner – Thomas Moller's ASH-26 and Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 await launch at Torrey (Aaron Wallace photo)



February Winner – Steffen Peters' 7.4m Antares over Pacific whitecaps (Thomas Moller photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



March Winner – Dave Hall launching with Gary Fogel timing at the SWSS Bungee Challenge (Cliff Hunter photo)



April Co-Winner – Ren Dileo launching Gary Fogel's 1-26 (Mark Baldacchino photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



April Co-Winner – Ray Pili launching Merrill Brady's DG-500 at Torrey (Mark Baldacchino photo)



May Co-Winner – Steve Condon guiding his Phoenix DF in for a 50-point landing (Bob Hirsch photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



May Co-Winner – Gary Fogel's Yellow Jacket amid the Encinitas field wildflowers (Gary Fogel photo)



June Winner – Brett Locke's foamy wing about to take out the target at the Redman Rules Contest (Beer Can Bowling division) in May (Ian Cummings photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Dave Arnold's Zephyr over Cajon Pass (Greg Houck photo)



Don Lochhead launching his Fury eDLG at the June DLG contest (Pau Nibecker photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



July Winner – Tribute flight at this year's Katie Martin International Tribute; SuperHawk and Hobie Hawk gliders (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:

“Welcome, July! In remaining of half-year, we must fly to reach high.”

~ Vaidesh Vardanth



Torrey Winter Solstice (Walt Quitt photo)