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GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

Torrey Pines Gulls Radio Control Soaring Society (TPG)

AMA Charter Club 129 Website:

www.torreypinesgulls.org

Editor – Dale Gottdank

Message from the President

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Chuck Norris

Hi everyone,

Have you ever considered getting more active in our fine club? The Executive Committee of the Gulls is the group that does the planning and makes sure the club continues to run smoothly. And guess what? You don't have to have any special skills or qualifications to become a committee member - we'll help you get up to speed. We would love to have your voice in our discussions, and having a more diverse committee helps us look at things in new ways, and helps us make better decisions. Please give it some thought, and reach out to me or any other committee member and we can help figure out what might be a good role for you.

Like me a few years back, you may be thinking “what makes me qualified to be on the executive committee?” The short answer is. if you care about this club, and are interested in helping it be successful and healthy, then you're qualified. And it's a good thing to have turnover in the executive committee membership - new voices bring new ideas and renewed energy, and help to give the club a “deeper bench” which makes the club more resilient.

Think about it!

Chuck

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

TPG September/October Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
September 7 th	Old School Vintage Classic Woodies Again! – Balsa BOTs, Olys, Sagittas – whatever is built-up wood	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
September 21 st	DLG Contest Poway Invitational	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
September 22 nd	Team DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
October 5 th	Slope Combat!	Poway Slope No Contest Registration Required Must have AMA membership Fun Fly!
October 6	Tow Hook Series Contest F3L/F3RES/TD/1.5m	Encinitas Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
October 13 th	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
October 19 th	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
October 19 th	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault
October 22 nd	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link
October 26 th	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on F3X Vault



Mike Smith launching at the July F5J contest (Cliff Hunter photo)

Newsletter This Month - Dale Gottdank, Editor



Dale Gottdank

Please contribute to our [GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER](#)

Send pictures, or maybe even an article! It could be just a paragraph with some photos from a great soaring day ...even something interesting you've seen on the internet. I'd like to have the newsletter published by the first week of every month. If there's a project you're working on, don't just post it on RCGroups...share it with your club!

September Issue highlights include:

- **The Return of Slope Combat! (page 5)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 29)**

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



Aaron Wallace's flying his ASW-27 at Torrey (Thomas Moller 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 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, October 22 at 7:00pm. Don't miss out on a chance for TPG's new Super Raffle! (see info below)



John McNeil

Last month, our speaker was TPG Thermal Coordinator John McNeil, who provided a talk on capacity and wire-size planning for radios, motors, and BECs. 21 TPG members were provided with a better understanding of the underlying science that enables our RC aircraft to fly efficiently and safely; including some very informative video, showing actual test conditions.

Thanks John!

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 October 22nd 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!



The Return of Slope Combat!



It's been quite some time since TPG sponsored a Slope Combat session. Anyone who's ever participated in a Slope Combat event knows how much fun it is when a bunch of foamie combat wings (or other foamie aircraft) take to the skies and a riotous furball ensues. Only one will be the last plane flying, but getting to that point **IS THE POINT!**



When: **October 5, 2022**

Where: **Poway Slope**

There will be more information to follow as we get closer to the event date. For those of you who already have a weapon of choice...you know the drill. For anyone who might need a bit more info:

Basic Rules:

- You score a kill when after you impact another glider,
 - a) the other glider is on the ground (or in the cactus), and
 - b) you complete a loop or a roll
- Walking down the hill to get your downed plane is "the walk of shame". You can earn back some respect if you walk through cactus 😊
- If someone on the hill says "I am not a target", you must avoid hitting their lovely, crunchy, aircraft"

Advice:

- Bring water and sunscreen and a hat
- Bring strapping tape (field repairs will be required 😊)
- Be prepared for your cheeks to hurt from grinning...yes...those cheeks!

If anyone needs help building, setting up, or whatever, just ask in the #Slope Soaring channel on the TPG Discord server.

AMA Membership Required!

News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino



Happy September TP Gulls!

We're in the middle of summer, and the temperatures and monsoon moisture won't let us forget. 😊 We had our second swap meet Fun Fly on August 10th, and there were a couple of members who brought out some planes to sell. Although there wasn't a lot of activity in the sales department, the comradery was great! The wind was pretty much out of the west, and fairly light around 10 AM, so a few of the small UMX planes were able to get some airtime, which was nice to see.



Paul brought a good collection to the swap meet. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)



Bob and Donny, (seated) taking shade and talking about the lightweight, twisty wing Vortex (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Walt brought a few to sell, too. See the tiny Radian on the regular sized Radian fuse? That's a UMX. Great for light wind (Mark Baldacchino photo)

News from the Slope (continued)

During a Soaring Council meeting about a year ago, it was mentioned by a few paraglider and RC pilots that a flag should be flown near the windsock on the mound when there are RC pilots flying at that time. One of our members bought the flag shown in the picture below, and from what I've heard, there's already positive feedback from the paraglider pilots. Being a public park, sometimes visitors come out to the mound to enjoy the spectacular view when there is no RC activity, so this flag will help distinguish whether there are spectators or RC pilots in the area. This is just another tool to put safety first in our awesome hobby!



This flag is even better than the windsock showing light wind and direction.
(Mark Baldacchino photo)

Our next Fun Fly is scheduled this month on the 7th, and it's all about vintage, classic, built-up woodies. Unless there's a strong storm that day, it should be a normal, (for this time of year) light wind day for these floaters to enjoy flying over the Pacific Ocean. Come on out and enjoy the day!

News from the Slope (continued)

TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

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



Tossing my Ka-8 at the Gliderport (Bob Hirsch photo)

August DLG Contest Report – Don Lochhead, CD

Nine pilots competed in the August contest. The heavy marine layer was all but gone by 10 am, after which it was sunny and in the mid-80's. As typical for Poway, lift cycled from booming, pushing pilots far to the east but quickly shutting down making even a two-minute flight challenging. CD Don Lochhead elected to go with a pilot's choice system to pick tasks.



Competitors for the August TPG DLG monthly contest at Poway (Bob Hirsch photo)

Don picked for Round 1: Poker. Mengchen (who reminded all at the pilots meeting we last flew Poker as Task 1 at the 2019 IHLGF) tested the air with a 3:00 call followed by "Window" for a 9:55 total. Cliff pulled off an impressive 9:25. Heat B pilots were not as successful with Ray taking the K with a 5:02 total.

Round 2 was last two flights / 4 minute maximum. Heat A pilots were graced by generous lift with all but one of the 10 flights making the 4-minute mark. By Heat B the lift was much more elusive with only Justin scoring near max with a 7:54 total.

For Round 3 we flew last three flights / 3 minute maximum. Chuck topped heat A with an 8:44 total with Don taking the K in Heat B with 7:34.

Milan picked the task for Round 4: "L" single flight in 10 minutes. Milan made a good choice, he took first in Heat A with a 9:59. Heat B honors went to Justin, also with a 9:59.

By Round 5 the lift was starting to pick up just in time for Mengchen's pick: Huge ladder. For heat A conditions were favorable for the first two rungs (3 and 5 minutes) but by the time for the 7-minute flight arrived conditions became punishing with the best time being recorded by Mengchen with only a 3:54. Milan took high score with a 12:41 in Heat B.

August DLG Contest Report (continued)

Round 6 closed out the contest with last flight, 5-minute target in a 7-minute window. Justin and Mengchen dominated their heats with perfect 5-minute scores.

When all was totaled up, Mengchen took first with Justin and Milan taking second and third. Big thanks to Justin and Chuck for working through a pesky IT problem which required some significant on-field triage to get all of the scores entered and totaled up.

Our next DLG monthly will be the fourth annual Poway Invitational. As the saying goes, if you are reading this you are invited...

https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3062

F3X Vault Scores Rounds (1-6)

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops in Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	Mengchen Li 🇨🇳	5699.8		1000	1000	884.4	913.9	901.5	1000
2	Justin Tolman 🇺🇸	5554.1	-145.7	554.1	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
3	Milan Bregman 🇺🇸	4349.1	-1205.0	503.7	1000	918.3	1000	503.8	423.3
4	Chuck Norris 🇺🇸	4128.3	-220.8	892.9	795.1	1000	96.5	792.1	551.7
5	Will Lalla 🇺🇸	3652.2	-476.1	302.2	1000	227.3	932.1	432.3	758.3
6	Don Lochhead 🇺🇸	3481.5	-170.7	694.4	1000	224.6	274.5	1000	288.0
7	cliff hunter 🇺🇸	2902.5	-579.0	950.1	501.7	390.6	127.7	552.4	380.0
8	Ray Pili 🇺🇸	2829.7	-72.8	1000	814.6	360.6	358.1	296.4	0.0
9	Ian Cummings 🇺🇸	1697.6	-1132.1	248.0	590.8	5.7	323.5	184.6	345.0



Contest Winners Mengchen Li (1st Place), Justin Tolman (2nd Place) and Mystery Arm holding Milan Bregman's (3rd Place) Ribbon Chuck Norris photo)

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.

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 August 20, 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: August 20, 2024	Since Last Report	Total
2023 – Members		127
2024 – New and Renewed Members	0	99
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 one more event scheduled:

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!

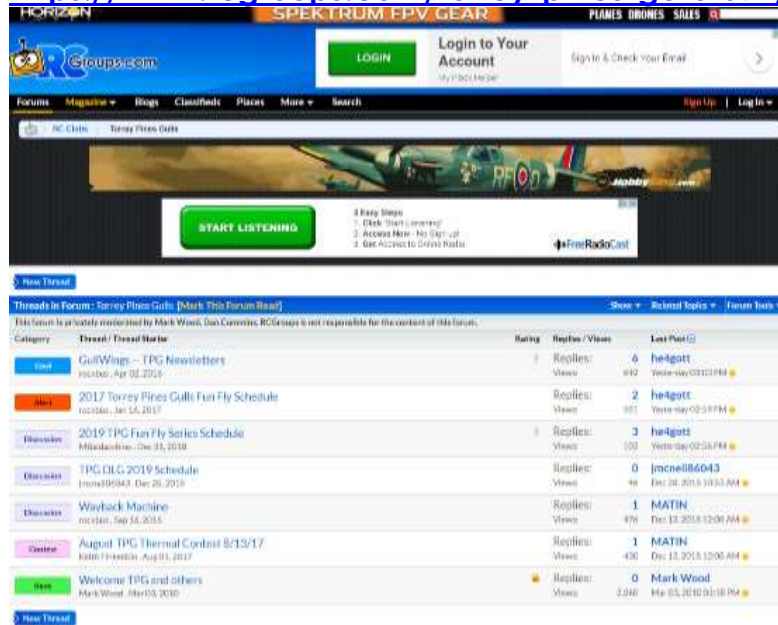
How We Connect (continued)

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 Wed - May 03 03:14 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule torrey - Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 101	hehgott Tue - May 02 03:14 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MarkWood - Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 100	hehgott Tue - May 02 03:14 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043 - Dec 20, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Tue - Dec 20, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine torrey - Sep 16, 2018		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Tue - Dec 13, 2018 12:00 PM
Discussion	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 KARL FRANK - Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Tue - Dec 13, 2018 12:00 PM
View	Welcome TPG and others MarkWood - Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,040	MarkWood Tue - 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.

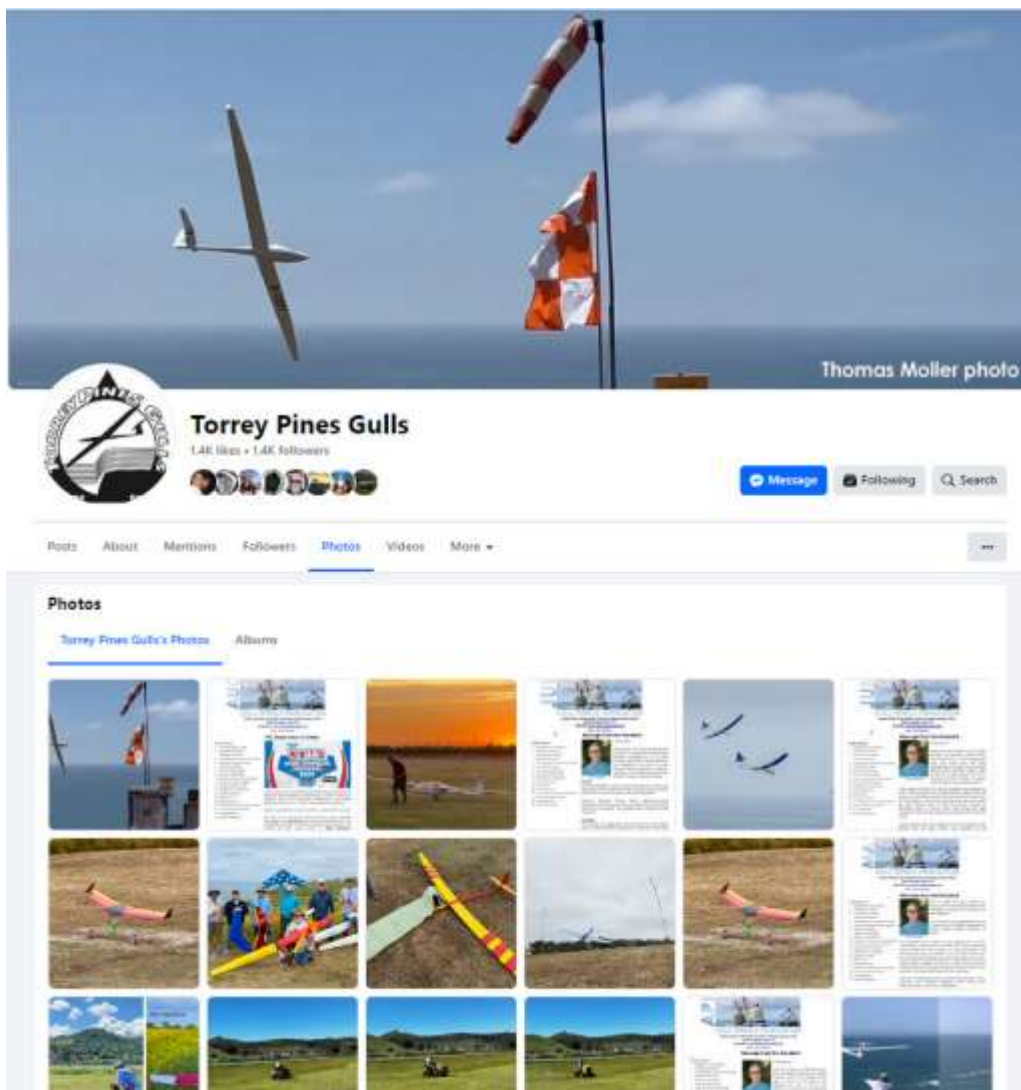
Unlike the old Yahoo Forum, RCGroups allows you to post photos and videos. By subscribing, you can keep up with the latest events, club activities and member postings.

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/>

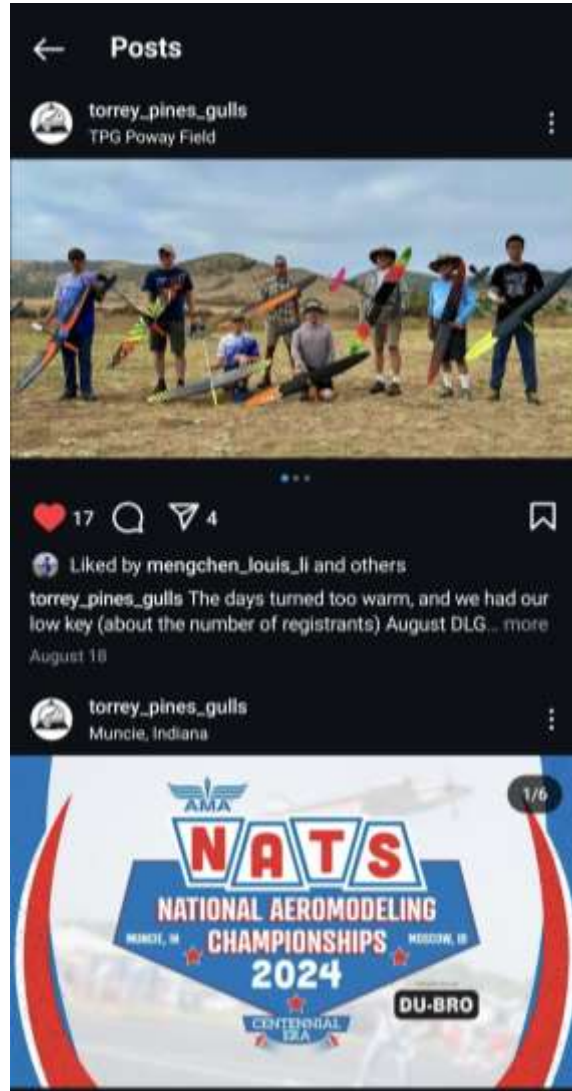


How We Connect (continued)

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)

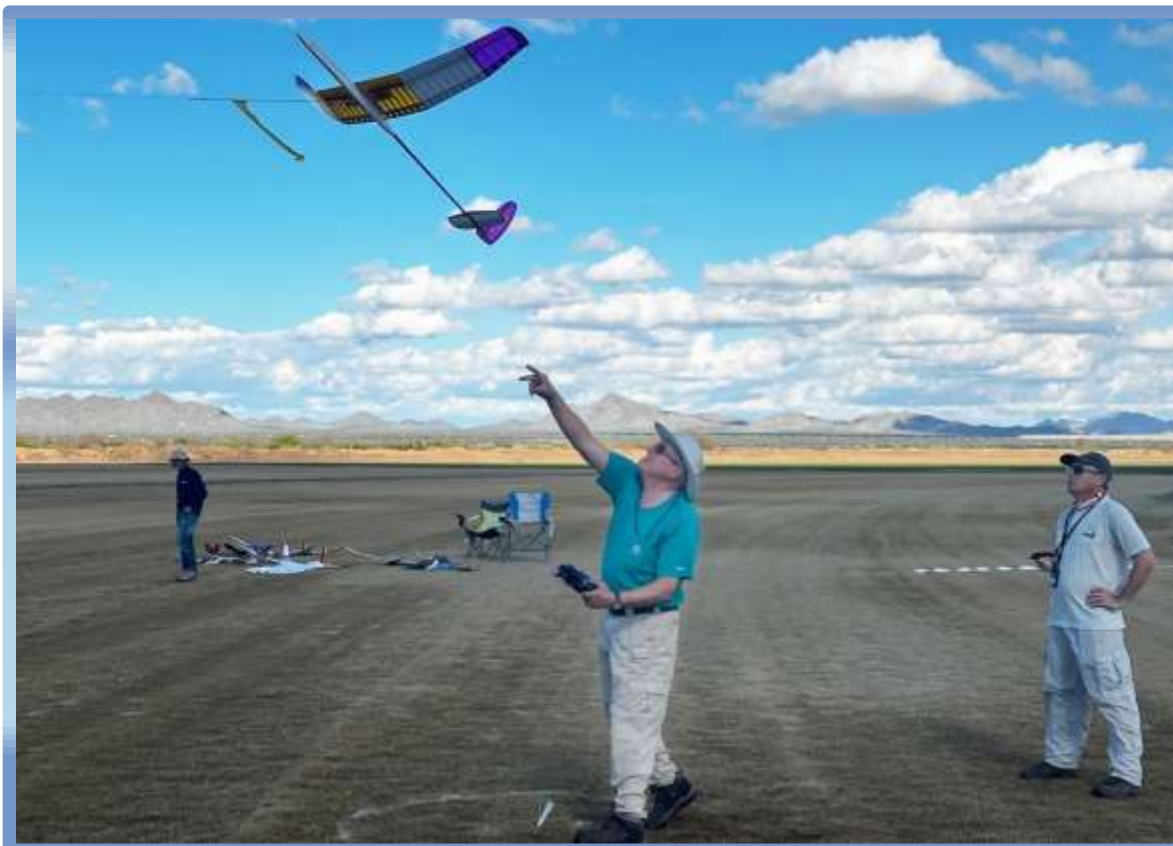


January Winner – Thomas Moller's ASH-26 and Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 await launch at Torrey (Aaron Wallace photo)



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)



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



August Winner – Ray Pili with his 8.8m DG-1000 at the Visalia aerotow (Aaron Wallace photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Torrey windsock and flag (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Incoming Zero at Cajon (Greg Houck photo)

Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Aerobic Spada dynamic soaring (Phil Davy screenshot)



September Winner – Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 at Torrey (Thomas Moller 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:

“We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage.”

~ Henry Rollins



Torrey Winter Solstice (Walt Quitt photo)