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# GULL WINGS NEWSLETTER

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

**AMA Charter Club 129 Website:**

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

Editor – Dale Gottdank

## Message from the President

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Chuck Norris

Hi everyone,

Last weekend I participated in the 2nd ever in the world Team DLG contest at Poway! This was a ton of fun, and please read what John McNeil has written about it in this issue. But what I want to talk about is the incredible resource of creativity we have in our club. We have such a diverse group of people, from all walks

of life, and who love many different types of soaring. I really enjoy talking with people about what they're working on, and what they'd like to do in the future.

If you have any crazy, creative soaring activity ideas that have been percolating for a while, maybe this is a good time to start talking about them with other club members. If you think something might be fun, you're very likely to find other people who would agree with you, and maybe together you'll come up with the next cool, crazy thing we can do together as a club.

I'd love to hear your ideas. Feel free to email me any time at: [president@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:president@torreypinesgulls.org).

Chuck

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

## TPG October/November Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Slope Combat!	Poway Slope Must have TPG membership 20 Participants max; Fun Fly! Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
October 6	Tow Hook Series Contest F3L/F3RES/TD/1.5m	Encinitas Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Virtual Meeting	Zoom link: <a href="#">TPG Virtual Meeting Zoom Link</a>
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	F5J Fun Fly	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	DLG Contest	Poway Flight Center Register on <a href="#">F3X Vault</a>
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house	Torrey Pines Gliderport No Contest Registration Required Fun Fly!



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!

**October Issue highlights include:**

- **Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Fiesta 2024 (page 5)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 38)**

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



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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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!



## Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Fiesta 2024

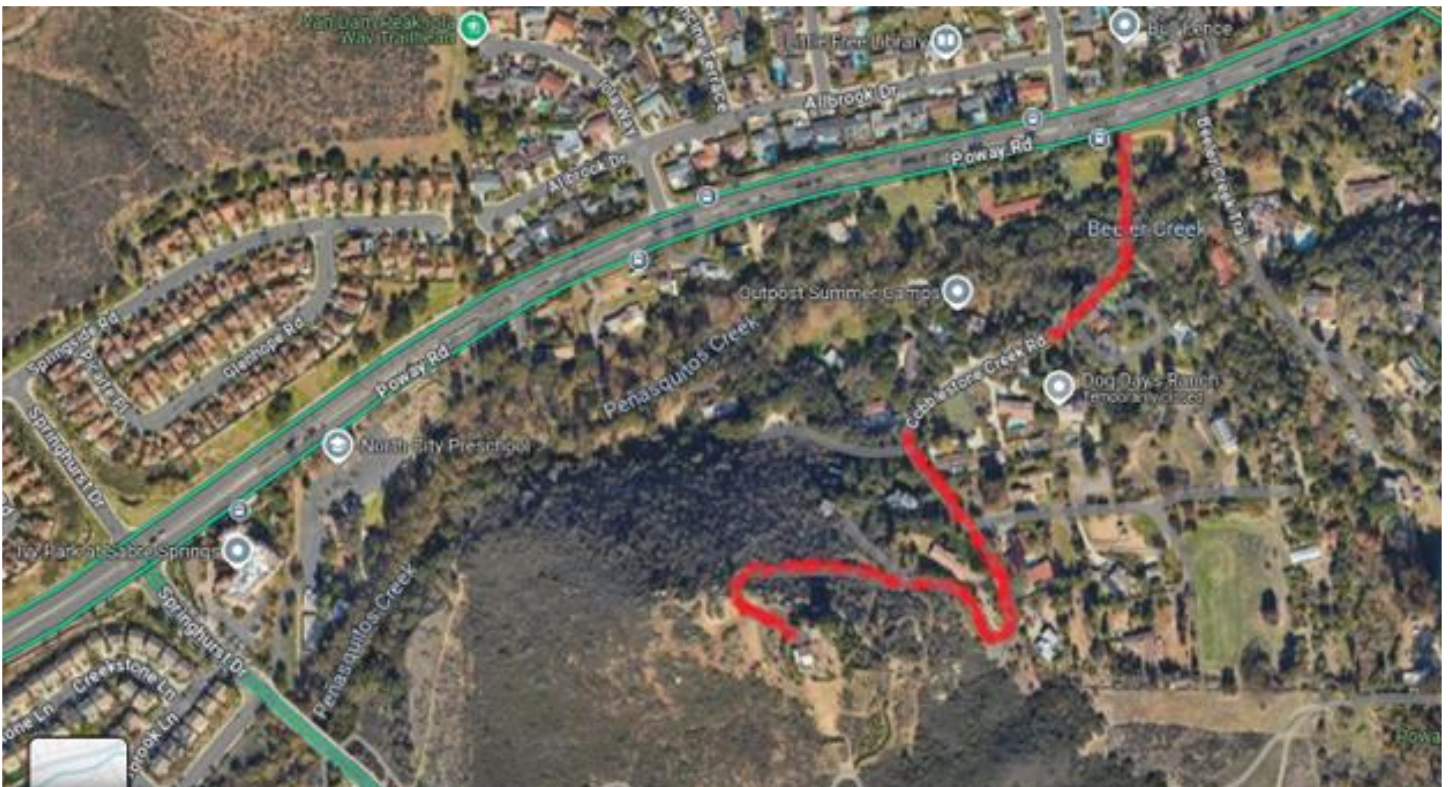


### What/When:

A fun day of slope soaring at Poway Slope on Saturday October 5, 1pm-4pm including foamy combat. If you have other slope aircraft suitable for Poway, those are welcomed too, but the focus of the afternoon will be on combat. Please use the signup link below if you are interested in attending as attendance is limited and first come first served.

### Where:

From I-15, exit Poway Road going east. After crossing the intersection of Springhurst Drive, be in the right lane and look for a right turn on Cobblestone Creek Road, a private road maintained by those living in the direct community. Please drive slowly (<10mph) on Cobblestone Creek Road, smile and wave, be courteous, pull to the side if there is oncoming traffic. Continue following Cobblestone Creek Road slowly and wherever there is a choice, always choose to turn uphill. Tom Farley's home address is 12601 Cobblestone Creek Road (however some map apps will not get you to the house, so follow the red path below).



When you arrive to the top, please pull into one of the designated parking areas. There should be parking for 15-20 cars and we may need to park one behind the other to get them all to fit, but they will fit. Please leave your key in the car with the car unlocked in case parking attendant Tom Farley needs to move your car to fit more cars into the area. The Farleys will be serving a light lunch at noon for those who wish to participate and will have appetizers and drinks available all afternoon. **If you are interested in lunch, please RSVP to Tom at [tfarley1957@gmail.com](mailto:tfarley1957@gmail.com).**



## Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Fiesta 2024 (continued)



**How:** If the winds are forecast to be out of the west, we'll fly combat all afternoon. If the winds are forecast to be fickle, bring a Radian anyway and we'll have fun (but no combat with Radians). The event is designed to be for TPG members and their invited guests only. Please sign up via F3XVault here:

[https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event\\_view&event\\_id=3502](https://www.f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3502)

We are looking for a maximum of 20 on this first combat mission and then will grow from there on future missions. **Future missions are predicated on not bothering the neighbors while on Cobblestone Creek Road on the drive in and out of the facility so please be courteous.**

Tom will have a golf cart available at the house for those who would benefit from transport from the house up to the flying site. Others can make the short walk along the same dirt path.

Expect to fly 48" flying wings made of EPP or white foam, expect to have a lot of fun and "interesting" flying, and be careful of cactus and snakes when retrieving aircraft.

## Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Fiesta 2024 (continued)



### Basic Rules:

- You score a kill when, after you impact another glider, and
  - the other glider is on the ground (or in the cactus), and
  - 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.

- **TPG Membership Required!**

## News from the Slope – Mark Baldacchino, Slope Coordinator



Mark Baldacchino



### Happy October TP Gulls!

There were a few brave pilots that showed up on September 7<sup>th</sup> as we had our second for the year classic woodie Fun Fly. At least the wind came in from the west, but the air was “thick” with humidity. It felt as if one were to walk off the cliff, they would keep walking on the heavy air. 😊 The marine layer yo-yoed in and out, which made for a couple of interesting flights, as a couple of planes disappeared for a moment or two. The temperature was 88 degrees, and for the coast, that made it a bit challenging to stay hydrated. It was still great to get out and enjoy the comradery and the best slope on planet.



You're not seeing things! Yes, that's a Snipe DLG being piloted by Ian Cummings. A perfect plane for the conditions. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



## News from the Slope (continued)



Another shot of Ian enjoying the whole cliff by himself (too light air for paragliders). Check out the fog bank, which kept yo-yoing. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Brent standing in front of his purple Medina, which was another great choice for the day. The other four planes belong to George. He also brought a Park Zone Ka-8 that flew nicely. (Mark Baldacchino photo)

## News from the Slope (continued)

Next up is a day to hopefully recruit some younger pilots from UCSD with the help of a few TPG members with buddy boxes. We'll start this event at 1:00PM as a few of the mentor pilots will be flying DLG's at the Poway field.

### TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

October 19 <sup>th</sup>	UCSD/TPG Buddy Box & Skilled Pilots Mentorship Day
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	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)



## September DLG – Poway Invitational Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The Fourth Annual Poway Invitational took place on Saturday, September 21st, 2024. Eighteen pilots, including four contesting with electric-powered aircraft, convened at the Poway Flight Facility. The dry and dusty conditions were a stark contrast to the lush greenery that usually adorns the area during the spring International. The 8:15am pilot's meeting kicked off the day under clear skies. It was cool early but that wouldn't last long.



Competitors for the Fourth Annual Poway Invitational (Bob Hirsch photo)

Despite the early start to the long day, the air was active and there was lift to be found early in Round 1 (Task K, Big Ladder). In Group A, Cory Shantz started the day strong, dropping just 10 seconds across his 5 flights to take the K. In Group B, Gary Fogel raised the bar and dropped only 8 seconds to take the K. By the time Group C took the field, conditions were quickly becoming more active and challenging. Ed LaCroix took the K in the group, dropping 27 seconds. The strong showing from these three pilots right off the bat in Round 1 set the tone for the entire prelims.

The daunting Task G (Best Flight) greeted pilots in Round 2. But the air was active and the top pilots took advantage of the conditions. In Group A, Shantz and Fogel both flew a maximum 9:59 to share the K. In Group B, our youngest competitor, Will Lalla, put in a fantastic 9:59 to take the K over Charles Martin (who missed sharing the K by a mere half second). In Group C, 6 pilots flew for over 5-minutes but LaCroix was the only pilot who was able to fly the entire working time to earn the K.

By Round 3 (Task J, Last 3), the air was heating up and so was the competition. With one minute of spare working time, this task often sees multiple pilots sharing the K. In Group A, Shantz and electric pilot Arthur Markiewicz did just that, maximizing all 3 of their flights. In Group B, Fogel was the lone pilot nabbing all 3, 3-minute flights. Three pilots in Group C got the job done to share the K: LaCroix, John McNeil and Lalla.



## September DLG – Poway Invitational Report (continued)

Swift decision making and efficient quick turns would reward pilots in Round 4 (Task H, 1,2,3,4). In Group A, Shantz would drop only 9 seconds to take the K over Mike Smith. In Group B, Milan Bregman put in a stellar four flights and would drop only 8 seconds to take the K over Justin Tolman. In Group C, Fogel dropped just 9 seconds to take the K over Markiewicz.

Many pilots capitalized on the lifty afternoon air of Round 5 (Task A, Last Flight - 5:00 max). In Group A, Fogel, Scott Mccurdy and Mike Swanson put in great flights to maximize their times and share the K. In Group B, Shantz was again all alone at the top after a remarkable flight. Cory was deep down wind to the east, below tree height, only to take advantage of a booming thermal that saved his contest (as that thermal was the only way his one plane was coming back). In Group C, all six pilots shared the K after full 5-minute flights (Bregman, Smith, Lalla, Chuck Norris, Martin & McNeil).

An hour-long break allowed pilots to grab a bite to eat at Rubio's or rest and relax.



Arthur Markiewicz (Bob Hirsch photo)



Cory Shantz (Bob Hirsch photo)



Cliff Hunter (Bob Hirsch photo)



Ian Cummings (Bob Hirsch photo)



## September DLG – Poway Invitational Report (continued)

After lunch, breezy but very lifty conditions prevailed for Round 6 (Task C, AULD). In Group A, working the west end of the field mostly by himself, Tom Farley had the best 3 flights to take the K over Tolman. In Group B, Fogel and Smith found lift in all 3 of their flights to max their times and share the K. In Group C, it was Shatz who was perfect in all 3 of his flights to earn the K.

The late afternoon air of round 7 was a perfect time for Poker. In Poker, each pilot has up to 3 self-nominated declarations to accumulate 9:59 of flight time. In Group A, Shantz went “all in” and his single flight was successful in taking the K over Tolman’s 3-flight 8:29. In Group B, carnage ensued. Swanson’s two-flight 4:30 snagged the K by just one second over Norris’ 3-flight 4:29. LaCroix and Lalla both suffered landouts. In Group C, Fogel took a conservative 3-flight approach to the challenging conditions to rack up 7:29 and take the K.

Big, cyclical lift had moved in by Round 8 (Task B, Last 2). You either found a big ride or came right back. In Group A, Markiewicz’s two flights accumulated 4:16 but that was enough to earn him the K over Farley. In Group B, Smith, LaCroix, Fogel and Tolman got their first 4-minute flight. All 4 subsequently got hammered on their second launch. While Tolman landed out, Smith’s second flight of 1:44 edged out the rest of the group to take the K.



John McNeil (Bob Hirsch photo)



Pilot Will Lalla with Mike Smith timing (Bob Hirsch photo)



Arthur Markiewicz (Bob Hirsch photo)



Pilot John McNeil with Gary Fogel timing (Bob Hirsch photo)



## September DLG – Poway Invitational Report (continued)

Heading into the flyoffs, Shantz and Fogel were tied with perfect scores after the drop. LaCroix, Smith, Bregman, Tolman and Markiewicz rounded out the 7 pilot flyoff field.

Round 9 (Task I, 3 Longest) kicked off the flyoffs around 4pm. Shantz put in 3 excellent flights, dropping just 10 seconds, to take the K over Fogel.

Huge Ladder in Round 10 required perfect execution in challenging conditions. Fogel bested the group with just a 2-minute flight on the group's first launch. Fogel and Markiewicz would both maximize their 2nd launch and get all 5-minutes. Huge lift cycled through for the group's final, 7-minute, attempt and 6 out of the 7 got all, or nearly all, of their 7-minute flight. After 3 launches, Fogel took the K by 16 seconds over Markiewicz and put some distance between himself and his closest competitors.

Two more launches in Round 11 (Task D, 2x5) would decide it. Smith put in two stellar flights, dropping just 3 seconds to take the K but Fogel wasn't far behind, dropping just 7 seconds.

At the end of the day, it was Gary Fogel who carried preliminary round consistency through the flyoffs to take the win. Mike Smith was second and Cory Shantz was third. Arthur Markiewicz was our top motorized pilot who finished 7th overall.



L-R, contest winners Mike Smith (2<sup>nd</sup>), Gary Fogel (1<sup>st</sup>) and Cory Shantz (3<sup>rd</sup>) (Bob Hirsch photo)

Huge thanks to Tom Farley for bringing equipment over from Encinitas and working to stripe the field with Chuck Norris on Friday afternoon. Thanks to Don for handling the contest speakers and sound system. Thanks to Chuck for the clockboard, laptop and F3XVault troubleshooting assistance. Thanks to Bob Hirsch for photographing the event. These contests don't happen by accident and your help and support is invaluable.

Thanks to the pilots who invested their time and effort to be a part of our little contest!



# September DLG – Poway Invitational Report (continued)

## F3X Vault Scores

### Rounds 1-8

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (1 Drop In Effect)							
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
1	<b>20</b> Cory Shantz  	7000.0		<del>1000</del>	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2	<b>10</b> Gary Fogel  	7000.0		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	<del>857.1</del>
3	<b>3</b> Edward LaCroix  	6654.0	-346.0	1000	1000	1000	976.4	<del>796.0</del>	806.1	888.9	982.6
4	<b>21</b> Mike Smith  	6573.9	-80.1	812.3	781.6	990.0	990.0	1000	1000	<del>0.0</del>	1000
5	<b>13</b> Milan Bregman  	6511.7	-62.2	902.9	860.6	990.2	1000	1000	932.4	<del>434.1</del>	825.6
6	<b>1</b> Justin Tolman  	6211.2	-300.5	875.3	840.9	986.9	995.9	<del>561.0</del>	963.6	851.3	697.3
7	<b>16</b> Arthur Markiewicz  	6207.5	-3.7	824.0	913.2	1000	962.3	841.3	666.7	<del>100.2</del>	1000
8	<b>5</b> Charles Martin  	6153.7	-53.8	934.7	999.0	948.0	959.6	1000	475.4	<del>402.9</del>	837.0
9	<b>7</b> Will Lalla  	6092.2	-61.5	624.8	1000	1000	840.7	1000	695.0	<del>388.9</del>	931.7
10	<b>4</b> Chuck Norris  	5949.6	-142.6	813.4	<del>160.3</del>	886.7	975.3	1000	525.7	996.3	752.2
11	<b>6</b> John McNeil  	5916.7	-32.9	935.3	618.2	1000	878.4	1000	<del>416.3</del>	761.4	723.4
12	<b>15</b> Clifford Hunter  	5591.4	-325.3	938.5	542.7	881.5	944.6	888.7	<del>527.1</del>	802.1	593.3
13	<b>14</b> Mike Swanson  	5541.4	-50.0	720.1	579.8	703.0	928.5	1000	610.0	1000	<del>503.9</del>
14	<b>17</b> Tom Farley  	5399.7	-141.7	813.8	<del>228.5</del>	888.9	832.8	704.3	1000	401.4	758.5
15	<b>8</b> Scott Mccurdy  	5347.3	-52.4	975.1	367.1	842.6	838.9	1000	603.3	<del>150.3</del>	720.3
16	<b>22</b> Ian Cummings  	4654.9	-692.4	559.1	471.0	872.6	899.1	715.0	<del>241.1</del>	777.8	360.3
17	<b>11</b> Don Lochhead  	4438.1	-216.8	729.8	182.1	971.1	930.0	<del>0.0</del>	711.1	601.1	312.9
18	<b>23</b> Mike Ray	2604.9	-1833.2	740.2	245.2	676.3	943.2	<del>0.0</del>	DNS	DNS	DNS

### Flyoff Rounds 9-11

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)		
				Round 9	Round 10	Round 11
1	<b>10</b> Gary Fogel  	9945.4		951.9	1000	993.5
2	<b>21</b> Mike Smith  	9443.8	-501.6	917.7	952.2	1000
3	<b>20</b> Cory Shantz  	9367.8	-76.0	1000	867.1	500.7
4	<b>13</b> Milan Bregman  	9018.7	-349.1	897.2	898.6	711.2
5	<b>16</b> Arthur Markiewicz  	8539.6	-479.1	849.1	980.7	502.3
6	<b>1</b> Justin Tolman  	8428.1	-111.5	755.5	684.8	776.6
7	<b>3</b> Edward LaCroix  	7882.8	-545.3	537.3	513.3	178.2

We look forward to seeing everyone again soon. TPG will continue with our monthly contest series on October 19th. Also coming up this fall is the Cal Challenge in Visalia on October 12th & 13th. Then there is BSOAZ hosted by our friends at SWSS in Arizona on December 7th & 8th. It's also never too early to start planning for the 30th iteration of the IHLGF on April 26th & 27th, 2025.

Hope to see you on the field!

Justin Tolman

TPG DLG Coordinator

## September Team DLG Contest Report – John McNeil, CD



Team DLG Contest pilots (Bob Hirsch photo)

We held the second-ever Team DLG contest on the Sunday after the Poway Invitational. We were fortunate to be joined by some out-of-town guests, giving us three teams of four pilots. This was ideal, as it allowed us to fly eight rounds with a single heat and be finished by noon. We all got to fly a bunch, with 9 planes more or less continually working lift all over the Poway sky.

The results were:

1. Team "ERROR 404: Lift Not Found"
2. Team "Resident Aliens"
3. Team "Gopher Barbers"

Thank you to Cliff, Don, Chuck, Justin, and everyone else who helped run a successful and fun contest!

### Team Gopher Barbers recap By John McNeil

This iteration of the Gopher Barbers was composed of Don Lochhead, Will Lalla, Scott McCurdy, and John McNeil. We synched as a team pretty quickly and went about the business of finding and staying in lift. The first 2 rounds, which were best 3 3's, then last 2 3's, are not turn-around tasks. Thus, "all" we had to do was churn out 3-minute flights. Of course, the lift was moving around, so we couldn't just return to the same thermal. We hunted for lift in line-formation to cover as much sky as possible. All-in-all, we were off to a good start. Round three was 1, 2, 3, and 4 minutes in any order. Of course, we did not fly the target times in the ideal order. Nonetheless, we got our four minutes in style, with all of us specking out.



Team Gopher Barbers (Bob Hirsch photo)



## September Team DLG Contest Report (continued)

By around 10:30, the thermals started drifting Eastward at a good pace. This proved difficult for us as a team in rounds 4 and 5. Round 6 was 9:59 with unlimited throws. We hooked a ride with our first throw and flew 5:33. The other teams had to re-light into the thermal we found for them, but they had the last laugh as we were unable to follow it downwind for the full window. By round 7, we pulled ourselves together and made two of the three 3-minute targets in all-up, last-down. What felt really good was flying 8 minutes as a team in round 8!



¾ of Team Gopher Barbers (Bb Hirsch photo)



Team Gopher Barbers discuss strategy. (Bob Hirsch photo)

### Team Resident Aliens recap By Ed LaCroix

Prior to the Team DLG contest on 9-22-2024, Charles and I had serious doubts we were going to have much fun with this team format. Discussing it on the drive to the Poway Invitational weekend, we felt there was too much opportunity for communication chaos. And too much opportunity that one pilot would constantly sink the chances of the team with early landings, but we found our fears were unfounded.

Flying as Team Resident Aliens, Charles and I were teamed with Cory Schantz and Justin Tolman. We looked over the tasks and pretty quickly arrived at some overall strategies. Ed chose to be the coxswain for R1- 3 of 6. After that, it went CM, JT, CS, EL, JT, CS, CM.



Team Resident Aliens (Bob Hirsch photo)



## September Team DLG Contest Report (continued)

The highlight of the contest was R6- Poker. We called a 1-minute flight to check air and found nothing. Made a second 1-minute call...and MISSED it! Made the required (and third) 1-minute reflight and \*thought\* we had found lift.

On landing we called end of window, and the last of us to launch would result in a 6-minute flight. We set out for the lift but Ed and Charles were not finding it and were slowly sinking out. Also not finding the target lift, Cory used his launch height to play a hunch, found lift 180 degrees away, and JT told Ed and Charles where to go. But their sink appeared to be dooming them. As they both floated back north, towards the south edge, midpoint of the field, they bumped and turned- with Charles being the lower of the two (20' off the deck?). With JT urging them on, they BOTH made the low save as they drifted down the field to the north and east and got out.

Given that none of us had flown in the previous team event (unlike the other two teams) we felt we executed our strategies well and all of us Resident Aliens are looking forward to the next Team DLG contest. We are ready to go another round with the Error 404 and Gopher Barber teams. As for Error 404's victory? It was such Bullsh\*t! 😏



Ed LaCroix (Bob Hirsch photo)



A team working a thermal (Bob Hirsch photo)

### Team "ERROR 404: Lift Not Found" recap By Gary Fogel

Team "ERROR 404: Lift Not Found" was composed of Chuck Norris, Arthur Markiewicz, Cliff Hunter, and Gary Fogel. While Chuck, Cliff and Gary had flown with Mengchen Li as this team in the inaugural team DLG contest previously in 2024, Mengchen was unable to make it and Arthur served as his replacement. Arthur and Cliff both flew motorized DLGs while Chuck and Gary, well, "chucked."



Team ERROR 404 (Bob Hirsch photo)

## September Team DLG Contest Report (continued)

Prior to the contest, the lift was very buoyant under a low and thick marine layer that covered the tops of the local hills. Similar conditions remained as the contest started. Given that knowledge and our assignment to the west end of the field, we decided as a team to all fly towards the SW quadrant but on slightly different headings. Gary served as the coxswain and Arthur hooked up quickly, and from there, round 1 was pretty easy as the air was generally lifty, and all 9 DLGs were in the same crowded airspace indicating lift. We got the first 3:00, had some difficulty acquiring again (and a minor incident described below) and settled for a 1:47 and then acquired again and got another 3:00 all on the creekside to take the K.

This was Arthur's first task in team DLG. Pretty sure he didn't know what to expect going in, but Arthur is a quick learner and super pilot. During the second flight, and in the middle of the large gaggle of 9 planes, Arthur had a midair with another pilot. It wasn't a severe midair by the looks of it but in the spirit of team competition, Arthur immediately stated "wow I really nailed that guy!" to which fellow team member Chuck said "hey wait! That was me!!!" We proceeded to all bust out laughing which probably caused other teams to wonder what the heck was going on with us. But the incident kept us loose and there was fortunately no serious damage to either plane. We checked both prior to relaunching for that last 3:00 which caused a bit of lost time.

For round 2 Chuck served as the coxswain. He deserved a break after round 1. The task of last two flights 3 min max was again not all that challenging, as the air was lifting everywhere to the creekside. We repeated our process of agreeing on a general direction before launch, fanning out, quickly identifying the best lift in our sector and then merging to secure it. We tied the Resident Aliens for the K.

For round 3 it was Arthur's turn as coxswain. Very quickly he became "Sergeant at Arms" Markiewicz. The task was a 1,2,3,4 and we really felt balanced as Arthur got the hang of telling us to help whoever was the lowest pilot etc. We managed to get the 3 and then 4 and then the 2, but given the discussions on the ground between flights and not all landing at the same time, we dropped a bit over a minute. We were subjected to more deserved barking by our new favorite Sergeant task master. But we were still laughing, having fun, and learning as we went. Very loose. Making it up as we went but with a general plan before each round.

Round 4 was a bit more of a challenge. I believe it was in this round that John as CD had kindly rotated the teams and somehow, we were now at the east end of the field rather than the west end. The timing could not have been more perfect! Cliff, our coxswain directed us along the tree line and we got the first of two 4 min flights. We relaunched into the same thermal. We took the K but in all honesty that one was more about the fortune of field position. Thanks to John for arranging a thermal next to our launch area. We gladly took the K.

Round 5 was a best flight 9:59 max. This one was a challenge. We rotated coxswains again back to Gary. Error 404 launched to the NE and eventually hooked up, joined not long after by Resident Aliens in the thermal. By now, the thermals were going strong with blue skies. And fortunately, at altitude the thermals were wide enough so as to allow for blue sky between DLGs without too much issue. We were very pleased with an 8:16.4 out of the 9:59 and really everyone flew super, especially Cliff who was high man on the stack for quite a while at the limit of vision. But he hung in there! Go team go!



## September Team DLG Contest Report (continued)



Team ERROR 404 ready to do battle (Bob Hirsch photo)



Gary displaying some Team ERROR 404 swag (Bob Hirsch photo)

Round 6 – Poker is hard enough without a team thing but this one really required some strategy. We went in thinking 2 min was a good call. We sandbagged just a bit to see where others would go. They launched mainly to the west and to the NW tree line and indicated nothing, so we opted to go NE again. We got the 2 min call, but barely. However, on the way home we had a good indication of another thermal to the east; so we called 2 again and went back and Arthur found it and we hooked up again. We discussed the need to go for it and scouted on the return in different directions. I can't remember who had the read but we called end of window and relaunched, found it and it ended up being a boomer again. 8:27 total for the K. Chuck did a super job of keeping us all aligned on that crazy round.

Round 7 – With Arthur back in charge, we went for all up last downs. This round ended up being difficult for us. Apparently, we excelled at the downs. We were now positioned in the mid field area by CD order to rotate. We managed a 2:25 on the first flight (first to land) and didn't feel good about it. The next was much easier but everyone got the 3. On the last flight we managed to eke out a 1:04.9 but didn't realize until later that Gopher Barbers had done just slightly better at 1:15.0. In the end, the Barbers took that one with the K. Good work Barbers, nice close shave.



Gary Fogel launching (above) and Arthur Markiewicz "Sergeanting" (right) (Bob Hirsch photos)





## September Team DLG Contest Report (continued)

Round 8 – with Cliff as coxswain we huddled for the last flight round of the contest. We felt the need to go for it from the start as it was best flight and we had unlimited launches so why not go. We launched on time, but somehow 0.5 seconds behind the Resident Aliens. Those Aliens must have some quick trigger fingers. Not sure where the Barbers went initially but by the end, all 12 planes were to the east of the field, enjoying what had to be some of the best lift of the day with pilots having a good time and trying to avoid each other in a massive thermal. If it were this easy throughout the day we wouldn't have had a contest. Argh, missed the K by that 0.5s but hey; we were pleased with the 9:58.5 to end the contest.

All in all, we had a super time and really enjoyed the format. Arthur is now “sold” and eagerly awaiting his next opportunity to bark orders at teammates. ERROR 404 for the win! “To err is human, to win at team DLG divine”



ERROR 404 – Lift Not Found – 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Resident Aliens – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Gopher Barbers – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



## Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter

## RENEWAL STARTS IN NOVEMBER



Cliff Hunter

Hello Gulls,

**Don't forget; your membership is vital to continue receiving club benefits! 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 September 27, 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: September 27, 2024	Since Last Report	Total
New and Renewed Members	3	102
Google Group Members	0	148

### Membership Processing

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

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

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

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

## Club Membership Update (continued)

### Annual Membership

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

### Club Dues are as follows:

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

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

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

### Cliff Hunter

Membership Chairman

[membership@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org)

760-703-4497 cell

### 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

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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](mailto:thermal@torreypinesgulls.org)

### DLG/Hand Launch/F3K Contest Series

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Justin Tolman

#### **DLG Coordinator – Justin Tolman**

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

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

Also, be sure to subscribe to the RCGroups 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](mailto:dlg@torreypinesgulls.org)



## How We Compete (continued)

### Team DLG Series

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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](mailto:thermal@torreypinesgulls.org)

#### Team DLG format:

- Teams consist of exactly four pilots.
- In each heat, three of the pilots fly while one pilot times and provides team direction.
- Each round, the timer is rotated. After four rounds, all team members will have timed once.
- Contest rounds follow F3K formats except:
  - Flight timing
    - Flight time starts when the last of three pilots releases the model.
    - Flight time ends when the first of three pilots time would end.
    - If any pilot lands out of bounds, then the flight scores zero.
    - (In other words, all three pilots fly each flight together for a single flight time)
  - For 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](mailto: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)

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#### **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



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](mailto:lsf_secretary@silentflight.org) as a pdf scan or photo that clearly shows the witness signatures. Wally will then review your voucher and email you your acceptance or rejection of the voucher submission. If for some reason your voucher is rejected, you will have to adjudicate rejections with Wally.

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

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



## What is LSF? – (continued)



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	Level I
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](http://www.torreypinesgulls.org).

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

# Don't forget to join

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](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org). If you are not already a member of the TPG Google Group, you will be sent an invitation to join.

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



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

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

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



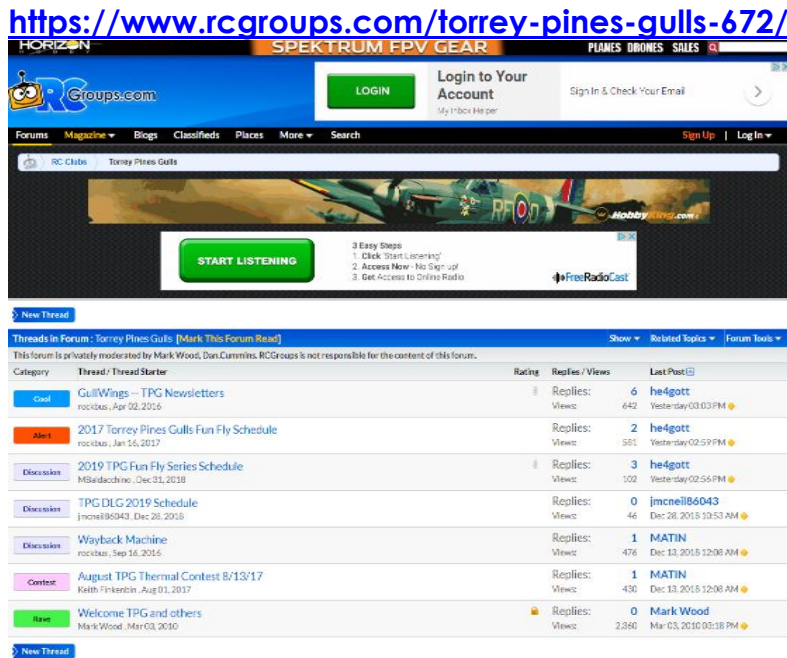
## How We Connect (continued)

# 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
Good	GullWings – TPG Newsletters roccas, Apr 02, 2016		Replies: 6 Views: 642	he4gott Yesterday 03:03 PM
Alert	2017 Torrey Pines Gulls Fun Fly Schedule roccas, Jan 16, 2017		Replies: 2 Views: 581	he4gott Yesterday 02:59 PM
Discussion	2019 TPG Fun Fly Series Schedule MBarbado, Dec 31, 2018		Replies: 3 Views: 102	he4gott Yesterday 02:56 PM
Discussion	TPG DLG 2019 Schedule jmcneil86043, Dec 28, 2018		Replies: 0 Views: 46	jmcneil86043 Dec 28, 2018 10:53 AM
Discussion	Wayback Machine roccas, Sep 16, 2016		Replies: 1 Views: 476	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
Contest	August TPG Thermal Contest 8/13/17 Keith Fikarich, Aug 01, 2017		Replies: 1 Views: 430	MATIN Dec 13, 2018 12:08 AM
None	Welcome TPG and others MarkWood, Mar 03, 2010		Replies: 0 Views: 2,860	Mark Wood Mar 03, 2010 09:18 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 **facebook** Page

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

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

**Torrey Pines Gulls**  
1.4K likes • 1.4K followers

Message Following Search

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Torrey Pines Gulls  
August 30 at 11:31 AM

Greetings TPG Members and Friends!  
The September 2024 issue of Gull Wings, the Torrey Pines Gulls newsletter, is now available online at:  
[https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/\\_/GullWings2024-09...](https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/_/GullWings2024-09...)

2024 SEP

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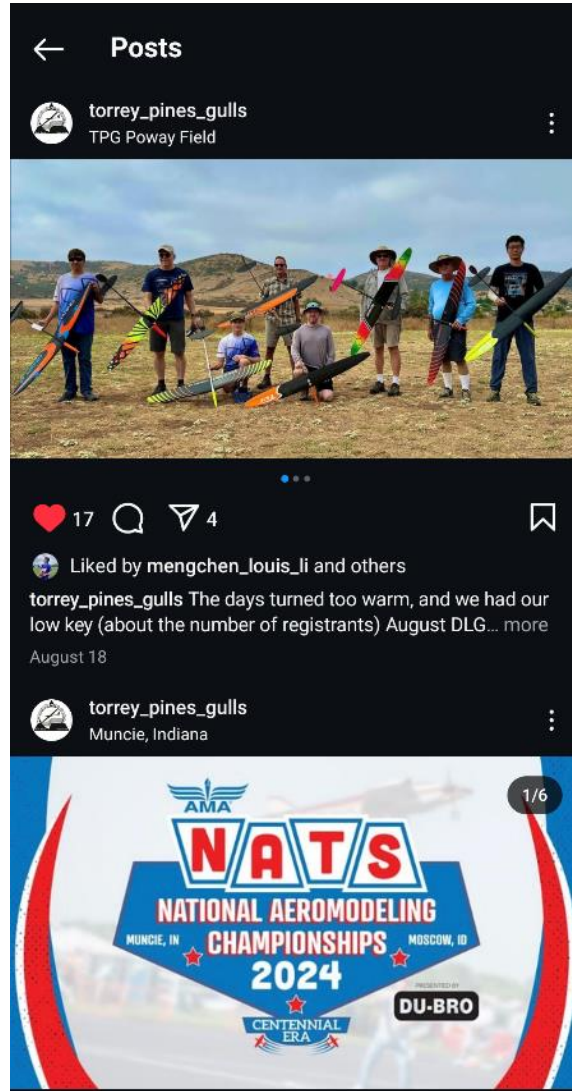


## How We Connect (continued)

# TPG is on

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

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



## Club Officers and Contact Information

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

### 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](mailto:submit@torreypinesgulls.org). Please provide your name, location of photo and photo description. Note: December photo of the month winner(s) will be included in the following year's Photo of the Year competition.



**December 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)



**September Winner** – Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 at Torrey (Thomas Moller photo)



Ed LaCroix about to grab his CX5 (Bob Hirsch photo)



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



TPG Prez, Chuck Norris launching at the Team DLG Contest for Team ERROR 404 (Bob Hirsch photo)



Cliff Hunter (TPG Membership Chair) launching his eDLG Fury at the Poway Invitational (Bob Hirsch photo)



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



TPG Veep, Gary Fogel launching at the Team DLG Contest for Team ERROR 404 (Bob Hirsch photo)



**October Winner** – Justin Tolman (TPG DLG Coordinator) at the Poway Invitational (Bob Hirsch 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](mailto:communications@torreypinesgulls.org). Ads must be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to appear in the next issue. All advertisements will remain in the newsletter for the month of issue and will be removed for the following issue. If you wish to advertise for another month, you will need to notify the editor or resubmit.





**Quote of the Month:**

*"I wish that every day was Saturday and every month was October."*

*~ Charmaine J. Forde*



Torrey Winter Solstice (Walt Quitt photo)