

2024  
NOV



# 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,

This past month has been full of interesting club opportunities: lots of contests, including a Tow Hook contest at Encinitas; an F5J contest, a DLG monthly contest and an F5J Foamy Fun Fly contest, all at Poway; as well as a very fun session with a group of UCSD students learning to fly at Torrey and a first-in-a-long-time slope combat event. LOTS of cool stuff, no matter what kinds of soaring you enjoy.

As you can see from the articles for all of these events here in the newsletter, we have a very vibrant, engaged club. As club membership renewal time comes around this year, remember all the great benefits you get for the low, low membership fee of \$60. What an incredible value!

Chuck

## TPG November/December Events

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
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!
December 10	Year-End Holiday Party	See Announcement on Page 3



October 5<sup>th</sup> Slope Combat in Poway (Screen shot from Bob Hirsch video)





*It's That Time Again Gulls!*

We are happy to announce that this year's  
*TPG Holiday Party* will be held on *Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>* at

*AleSmith Brewing Company*  
9990 AleSmith Court, San Diego, CA 92126 (off Miramar Rd.)

*No cover charge - TPG members & guests only*

*A selection of New York style pizzas from Buonasera and URBN  
will be provided by The Torrey Pines Gulls*

*Bring a dozen holiday themed cookies to share for dessert.*

*Doors open at 6:00 pm, festivities at ~7:00 pm*

- *Free Flight Glider Contest (gliders provided - for free!)*
- *Super Raffle (for those with tickets from club meetings)*
  - *Photos/Year in Review*
- *Year-end trophies & Modeler of the Year Award*

*Please RSVP by December 3 to [vp@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:vp@torreypinesgulls.org)  
(Let us know if you prefer meat/vegetarian/vegan pizza)  
35-person room limit - RSVP early!*

*Hope to see you there!*

*Gary Fogel  
Torrey Pines Gulls  
2024 Vice President*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE



### CALL FOR MODELER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Every year, the Executive Council recognizes one or more TPG members to be recognized as Modeler of the Year based on outstanding contributions to the overall success of the club.

The name(s) of the awardee(s) are added to the plaque on the trophy, which is held by the awardee for the year. A personalized award is also given to each awardee.

If you know of a TPG member you feel is deserving of nomination for Modeler of the Year, please send the name and reason for the nomination to [secretary@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:secretary@torreypinesgulls.org) for consideration by the Executive Council.

This has been a club tradition since 1971...Let's keep it going!

### SLOPE COORDINATOR WANTED – JOIN THE EC!

After serving as Slope Coordinator for the past 7 years, Mark Baldacchino (Thank you, Mark!) is stepping aside to spend some more time on other hobbies and pursuits.

If you enjoy flying at the Gliderport, and want to help with its ongoing status as one of the world's premier soaring venues, consider joining the Executive Council as Slope Coordinator.

Basic duties include scheduling fun-flies and maintenance parties, helping direct new pilots to the proper check flight procedures and writing a **short** monthly "News from the Slope" column for the newsletter. It doesn't take that much time; and attending the monthly Executive Council meetings is a great way to contribute to TPG and have a say in how things are run.

If you have any questions or interest in this position, contact Mark at [slope@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:slope@torreypinesgulls.org) or our club secretary, at [secretary@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:secretary@torreypinesgulls.org).





## 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!

### November Issue highlights include:

- **Holiday Party Announcement (page 3)**
- **Important Notices (page 4)**
- **TPG at the 2024 MCAS Miramar Air Show (page 7)**
- **Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Fiesta 2024 (page 10)**
- **TPG Student Mentor Day at Torrey (page 13)**
- **4 Contest Reports! (starting on page 23)**
- **New Procedure for Joining Google Groups – IMPORTANT (page 42)**
- **Photo of the Month Contest (page 47)**

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 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 the annual Holiday party on December 10 at 6:00pm.** Come and enjoy friends, food, 2024 recap slide show, mini-glider contest, award presentations....PLUS...the Super Raffle drawing!



Yuan Kang Lee

Last month, our speaker was Yuan Kang Lee, current world champion for F1D indoor free flight and member of the San Diego Orbiters free flight club. Members were treated to a presentation about GF1D indoor free flight competition and a recent world championship held in the famed Romanian Salt Mine, where 11 world championships have been flown since 1970. The next world championship will be held in the U.S. in June 2026.

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. At our 2024 meetings, we had random draws for two super raffle tickets and the winners will be able to choose some prizes at this year's holiday party.

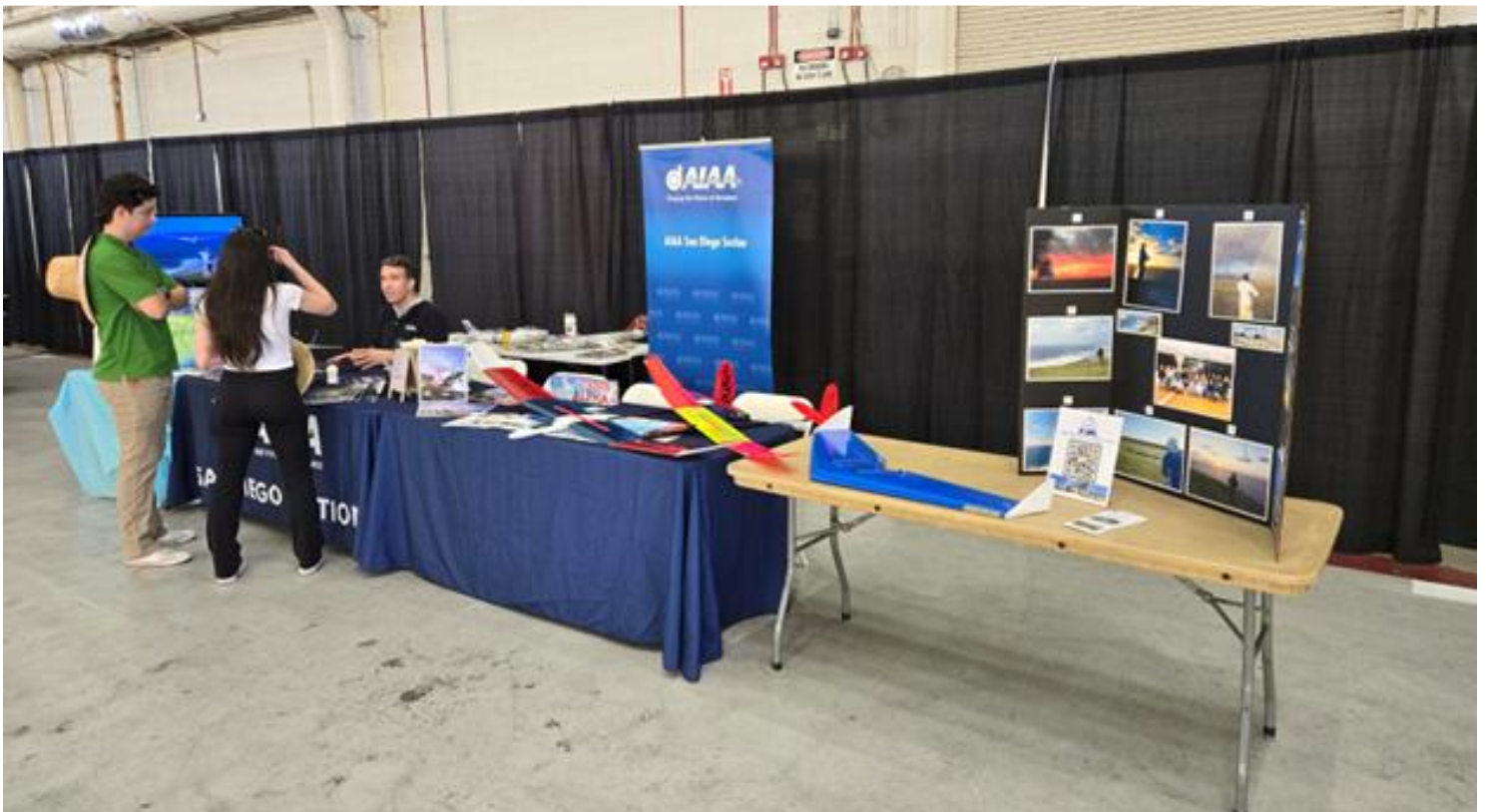
So come join our 2025 virtual meetings, hang in there through the presentation, get that winning raffle ticket and see what you might win next December!

See you at the next meeting!

## TPG at the 2024 MCAS Miramar Air Show – Gary Fogel

In the mid-1980s, during the height of "Top Gun" and everything that went with it, the Torrey Pines Gulls used to have a display at the airshow running for all three days with members manning the booth with lots of good outreach to the public. In 1985 and 1986 we even had permission to provide a demonstration of RC soaring from the runway just as the gates opened and prior to the manned flights. There weren't a lot of spectators at the time, but nonetheless it was fun to launch and land from the runway. I had a few nice flights with a ¼ scale Schweizer TG-3 on the winch but it was too early in the morning for any thermals. Unfortunately, over time the RC events were no longer included in the airshow and TPG decided that the effort to run a booth was not worth the investment of time and energy.

Fast-forward to 2024 when the San Diego Section of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA-SD) is asked to be a part of a new Innovation and Tech Expo associated with the MCAS Miramar Air Show. This expo was intended to have STEM-related displays mainly for K-12 students but really the public of all ages, to encourage their interest in robotics, drones, batteries, computing, etc. AIAA-SD agreed to sponsor a booth, and in turn asked to see if there were any other non-profit organizations interested in assisting with their space helping to support their non-profit as well as AIAA-SD. Given I'm a member of both AIAA and TPG, and given the expo was going to be in the same hangar as where TPG used to display models in the 1980s, it was hard for me to say no.



TPG items associated with the AIAA-SD booth at the Miramar Air Show. Next time we could have larger planes, but the logistics of getting them in and out of the vendor area is a challenge. (Gary Fogel photo)



## TPG at the 2024 MCAS Miramar Air Show (continued)

Thus, on the Sunday morning of the airshow I found myself chatting between 9am and 1pm with about 200 people, having them handle a Zagi THL or a 2m Yellow Jacket and discussing launch and control methods. Unfortunately, base rules preclude the use of transmitters during the airshow, so it was impossible to have kids actively control transmitters. However, I pulled together a set of 50-60 images of different types of RC soaring and displayed these on a TV screen at the booth along with the TPG logo and QR code taking them directly to the club website. (Thanks, Dale, for the QR code!) These images and access to the website helped a lot. I also printed up about 120 trifold flyers for people to take with them for more info. Cliff Hunter provided a poster board of TPG photos that was used previously for outreach – this worked great and added to the display. (Thanks Cliff!)

While there are logistical challenges to all of this it was great fun and there was lots of interest. Adults were interested in knowing where we fly, how its possible to keep a plane aloft without a motor, etc. One modeler from Belgium stopped by and despite barely speaking English, was very excited to see RC models! He immediately went for his cell phone and showed me some beautiful pictures of his old-timer RC aircraft that he flies in Belgium as a member of the Society of Antique Modelers. One person who stopped by was a prior member of the Gulls in the 1970s, was thinking of getting back into it, and was happy to see that we still existed. Two of my former students from SDSU showed up and we enjoyed chatting about their current directions in aerospace. And we enjoyed a solid uptick in website traffic associated with the airshow.



Another view of the TPG exhibit booth (Gary Fogel photo)



## TPG at the 2024 MCAS Miramar Air Show (continued)

All in all, a fun morning representing the Gulls. It was a bit of a challenge at times to chat with anyone over the roar of an F-35 demonstration, and a bit of a challenge to keep kids engaged before their parents pull them off to the next exhibit booth. But for not having had a presence at the airshow in decades, I think this was a good first step. Thanks to the AIAA-SD for providing the opportunity and its something for the 2025 TPG executive committee to decide if it's worth pursuing this again next year. We would definitely benefit from a larger team of volunteers if we do. Thanks again to Nick and AIAA-SD for this opportunity in 2024!



Nick Candrella, chair of AIAA-SD, was super with kids of all ages. They were really attracted to a puzzle of 3D pieces that when put together would take the shape of an F/A-18. Note the video screen with the TPG logo, which was on a constant loop of photos in the background. We could use an even larger display screen next time. (Gary Fogel photo)

## Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Fiesta 2024 – Gary Fogel

On October 5, 2024, a group of roughly 15 TPG members made their way to the top of the Poway Slope for a combat session. The last combat session at this location was held prior to the pandemic - it was well past time to have another. Fortunately for us, our very own TPG member Tom Farley and his wife Debbie own a home at the top of the slope. They were exceptionally generous in inviting TPG members to park on their property and walk from there to the flying site. Together with Debbie's sister Peggy, they even prepared lunch for those who RSVPed in time! Thank you, Tom and Debbie for your hospitality!

The winds were really quite nice for a first-time event like this, not too light and not too strong. Just enough to have some fun close quarters combat. The lift did cycle throughout the day and there were times when everyone had plenty of lift and energy and times when everyone was scratching just to stay airborne.



The squadron of Poway combat pilots (Bob Hirsch photo)

We held a short pilot's meeting just to review the plan for the day – one all afternoon round of combat with total scores at the end. Pilots who downed a plane had to show a roll or loop to get the “kill.” People were welcomed to fly AHis, Radians or whatever they wanted – however they just needed to declare they were not a target and stay high and away from the ruckus. We did a little bit of test flying near Tom's house and then made our way out to the top of the hill. Tom was kind to transport Dale Gottdank to the top of the hill with a golf cart. It had been more than 5 years since Dale flew due to medical issues and Dale was very pleased to be able to make it and fly with everyone. We got Dale's zebra scheme wing airborne and soon enough he was having a super fun time. Thanks to Justin Tolman, video of the event can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMprF6A4Yrg>



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

And thanks to Ian Cummings; video of the same event from the other angle can be found here: <https://www.icloud.com/photos/#/icloudlinks/0597EgbVCYYXuojy366PRuejg/0/> (Apologies for my terrible launch but at least it was with plenty of speed and up trim rather than down trim - Dale made a nice recovery).

Arthur Markiewicz was unable to attend but nonetheless made available two combat wings for guests to use during the Fiesta. Gary Fogel programmed these to two Spektrum transmitters that Arthur also donated and both aircraft were flown at the slope by Justin Tolman and Scott McCurdy. This was Justin's first time flying an RC flying wing and he did great! I believe it was the first time either member had been involved with combat. Thank you, Arthur for making these planes available for newcomers! We hope to fly with you next time.



Pilots enjoying the combat session (Gary Fogel photo)

Brian Moore and Adina Conwell also attended their first combat session. Brian had fun flying in the ruckus while Adina took the controls of Chuck's Night Radian for a time and was soloing for extended periods of time; 30 minutes or more. It was super to see Adina having so much fun and getting lots of stick time on the slope. Thanks, Chuck for taking the time for training.

Gary Fogel, John McNeil, Ian Cummings, Chuck Norris, and Bret Locke had prior experience with combat sessions and so as soon as Dale was airborne the combat session was "on." We had lots of fun from about 1pm to 4pm. An example of a furball can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXnXVlwB05o&t=1s>



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

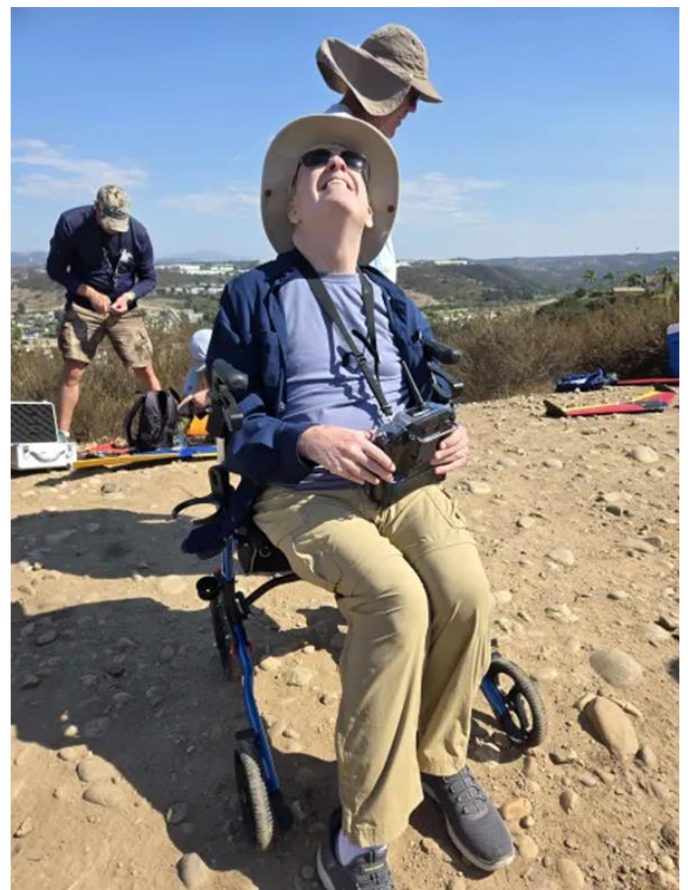
Thanks to Bob for taking video. By 4pm the winds truly subsided and it was time to pack it up. 3 hours of fun went by in what felt like just 30 minutes. The resulting scores from the afternoon combat session:

	<b>Kills</b>	<b>Losses</b>
<i>Gary Fogel</i>	2	0
<i>Ian Cummings</i>	2	1
<i>John McNeil</i>	1	0
<i>Justin Tolman</i>	1	1
<i>Bret Locke</i>	0	0
<i>Chuck Norris</i>	0	0
<i>Paul Nibecker</i>	0	0
<i>Dale Gottdank</i>	0	1
<i>Scott McCurdy</i>	0	1
<i>Brian Moore</i>	0	2

Everyone agreed that we had so much fun that we'll schedule 3 to 4 of these events in 2025 and continue to grow the event with time. We want to be respectful of Tom and Debbie's hospitality, the neighborhood, and show that while we are bashing planes into each other we can still do so safely and in a fun way and as a club. Hopefully this also leads to additional club participation and membership with time. We hope to see you at one of these fun events in 2025!



Tom Farley, Adina Conwell, and Chuck Norris (L-R) all enjoying Adina's first experience with a large slope. She did great! (Bob Hirsch photo)

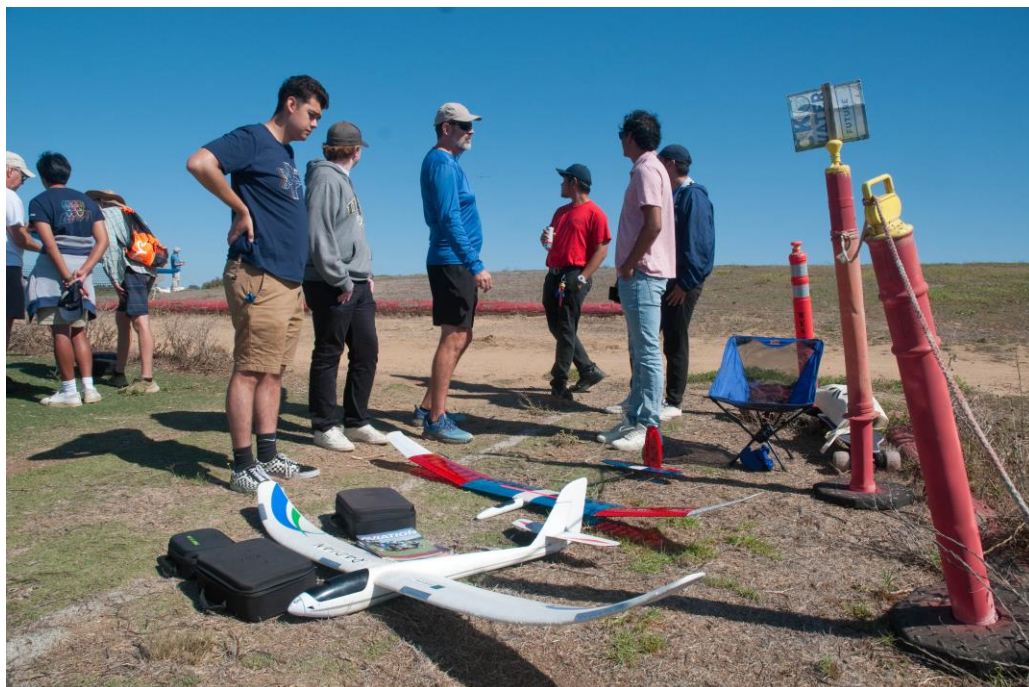


Dale Gottdank having a super fun afternoon (Gary Fogel photo)

## TPG Student Mentor Day at Torrey – Gary Fogel

On October 19, 2024 we repeated last year's successful student-mentor day at Torrey with ~25 students from AIAA-UCSD led by their group representative Jorge Vergara. Also in attendance were Nick Candrella, Chair of the AIAA-San Diego Chapter as well as Noah Rubin, a professor of electrical engineering at UCSD. These individuals were led by five TPG mentors Ian Cummings, Chuck Norris, John McNeil, Marty Zimmerman, and Gary Fogel to a fun day of instructional flights at Torrey. Bob Hirsch also attended as photographer and assisted another TPG guest not hailing from UCSD with mentoring. Craig Hanson also attended and was one of the first off the cliff with his Windfree to "test the waters" and show there was sufficient lift for soaring.

The weather cooperated in that it was a beautiful southern California day. However, that sunshine didn't come with a lot of wind. The forecast was for 8kts out of the west but I'd say at best that was more like 6kts. One paraglider scratched on the edge just for a bit before giving up. So, RC training was relegated only to very light floaters at altitudes below "three mistakes high" (not ideal) but without any PG traffic (ideal).



Students milling about at Torrey before the start of the training session (Nick Candarella photo)

Gary led things off just after 1pm with a review of the history of the gliderport and its four forms of flight, including a safety briefing for window rules. The group walked to the top of the LZ and reviewed landing areas and also manned sailplane operation layout. After the briefing, students divided among mentors and received further instruction on transmitters, radios, servos, control, and operation of buddy boxes. When everyone was ready, planes were thrown off into the light lift, with students rotating through to have time on the various aircraft. John flew an Ro-8, Ian flew a radian with a rubber band around the prop, Chuck flew a Yellow Jacket, Marty flew an Amigo. While those flights were being made Gary assisted another set of students that arrived from SDSU (Gowdham, Issac, and Diego) with discus launch practice in the backfield. With the light wind conditions, it was clear there were thermals to the north over the parking areas and golf course and a few launched with a CX5 confirmed this. Flying thermals at Torrey is rare and fun! Chuck later also joined in a demo of discus launching with a BAMF2 for the students as did Scott McCurdy who showed later with his BAMF2. Without any PG/HG traffic we were operating RC both on the slope and DLG from the LZ and that was fun and unusual.



## TPG Student Mentor Day at Torrey (continued)



Chuck Norris explaining control systems to attendees (Nick Candrella photo).



John McNeil giving students a pre-flight briefing. (Bob Hirsch photo).



## TPG Student Mentor Day at Torrey (continued)



Marty Zimmerman ready to go for training with his Amigo (Bob Hirsch photo).



John McNeil launching his Ro-8 from the cliff edge with a student waiting on the buddy box (Nick Candrella photo).



Ian Cummings launching his radian from the top of the mound. (Nick Candrella photo).

## TPG Student Mentor Day at Torrey (continued)



Ian assisting a student on the buddy box who is getting ready for the solo. (Bob Hirsch photo).



Success! "Look ma, no instructor thumbs on the control sticks!" (Bob Hirsch photo).

By 3pm the wind subsided and it became increasingly challenging to slope soar. We called it a day. The students milled about for a bit longer and things were finally concluded around 4pm.

We had a fun time and Jorge sent an email later on behalf of AIAA-UCSD saying "Thank you sir for hosting an amazing and informative event at Gliderport!" Thanks to the mentors who took the time and effort out of their day to help with these students. 4 of the 5 mentors left the DLG contest at Poway early to arrive by 1pm at Torrey and that dedication was additionally appreciated.

Let's do more of these!



Some of the remaining students and mentors posed for a picture at the end of the student-mentor day session (Nick Candrella photo).



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



Mark Baldacchino



### Happy October TP Gulls!

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we had several UCSD students participate in flying at Torrey Oines Gliderport with buddy boxes. I was out of town that weekend, but our VP, Gary Fogel, was gracious enough to take pictures and write an article about the event on that day. ☺

I thought for this month I'd reflect on the past seven years, or so, while I was the slope coordinator. I had so much fun in getting pilots out to Torrey to enjoy our fantastic hobby, and work with the Gliderport management to help with our number one priority, which is safety. Here are a few photos that I have collected over the years.



One of our Classic Woodie Fun Fly events about six years ago (Mark Baldacchino photo)



## News from the Slope (continued)



Same event, different angle. Mike and Tom are discussing their next build. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Victory! Bob Hirsch completed his first solo at Torrey. Nice work! (Mark Baldacchino photo)



## News from the Slope (continued)



I'm not sure what Fun Fly event this was, but it was a BIG one. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Our very first landing contest, which proved to be a blast (Mark Baldacchino photo)



## News from the Slope (continued)



One of the pilots took this aerial shot from a camera mounted on his sailplane. We are indeed spoiled to have such an awesome place to fly.



Such teamwork! Installing more AstroTurf in our pit area (Mark Baldacchino photo)



## News from the Slope (continued)



Laying down the landing strip. Thanks to Stephen Peters' tractor, this chore was so much easier. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



Masked bandits! Yes, this all occurred during the COVID pandemic. It was great to do some physical activity in the fresh air and sunshine. (Mark Baldacchino photo)



## News from the Slope (continued)

With a little trip down memory lane, and reminiscing of some fun times, it brought back some great memories. But, enough of looking backwards; it's time to look forward and continue to grow and make this site a world-famous slope. As of this writing, we don't have a replacement for me as slope coordinator. Please consider this role as it was so rewarding to me. Let me know!

## TPG Gliderport Schedule for 2024

November 30 <sup>th</sup>	No Shopping Saturday – A couple of days after Thanksgiving to get out of the house
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Blue Skies!  
Best Regards,

Mark Baldacchino



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

## October Tow Hook Series Contest Report – John McNeil, CD

We met at Encinitas on Sunday, October 6, for the final Tow Hook of our 2024 season. Conditions started with a low marine layer. It was so low that a full bungee launch would put you into the clouds, making it hard to see! Nonetheless, there was some lift to find, but it was often challenging to work. Really, it was a CD's dream – we love to make pilots work for their time.



Pilots meeting

We had two pilots flying off the winch, three flying 1.5m, and 12 flying 2m. Given a late start due to visibility and an epically snarled bungee late in the day, we had a busy day. I greatly appreciate the help setting up contests and maintaining equipment. For example, the week before the contest, Brett, Paul, Brian, Milan, and I replaced all the hi-start rubber and then had some fun flying. After this contest, Paul took all the hi-starts home to make the tubing attachment points more reliable and replace the line on the bungee we snarled. The F3X Vault scores are on the following page.

The 2024 Pilots agree we want more events in 2025. Accordingly, the TPG EC has scheduled ten events next year. As attendance grows, and to make time to help each other, we will hold two types of events. Seven events will be bungee-only for 2m and 1.5m. We will replace the winch with another 2m bungee. These days, we will fly in the same format as in 2024, with six rounds for 2m and five for 1.5 in the four-hour open-flying window. The other three events will host a 5 round winch contest alongside a fun-fly for bungee planes where we will place 2m and 1.5m bungees. These fun-fly days are meant to make time for pilots to trim planes together, practice, Q&A, and whatever else we can think of to help each other.

Finally, I would like to share the fun of CD'ing these events next year. It is pretty easy, and I promise you will receive lots of help! **Message me on Discord if you'd like to be a Tow Hook contest director.**



## October Tow Hook Series Contest Report (continued)

### F3X Vault 2M Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)					
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	Gary Fogel  	4039.00		800.00	807.00	818.00	802.00	482.00	330.00
2	John McNeil  	4016.00	-23.00	360.00	595.00	811.00	631.00	814.00	805.00
3	Manny Gomes  	3555.00	-461.00	808.00	798.00	0.00	775.00	739.00	435.00
4	Clifford Hunter  	2315.00	-1240.00	342.00	318.00	464.00	292.00	390.00	509.00
5	Brian Moore  	2144.00	-171.00	386.00	328.00	0.00	300.00	584.00	546.00
6	John Locke  	2125.00	-19.00	384.00	289.00	405.00	331.00	416.00	300.00
7	Chuck Norris  	1910.00	-215.00	310.00	0.00	0.00	229.00	697.00	674.00
8	David Hall  	1572.00	-338.00	298.00	238.00	349.00	0.00	297.00	390.00
9	Don Lochhead  	1435.00	-137.00	240.00	714.00	236.00	245.00	0.00	0.00
10	Paul Nibecker  	1334.00	-101.00	165.00	210.00	294.00	190.00	268.00	207.00
11	Miroslav Sir  	1321.00	-13.00	390.00	0.00	255.00	376.00	300.00	0.00
12	Jake Olefsky  	533.00	-788.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	166.00	240.00	127.00

### F3X Vault 1.5M Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)				
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	Gary Fogel  	4740.55		1000	744.90	1000	995.65	1000
2	John McNeil  	3807.76	-932.79	712.84	1000	396.53	1000	698.39
3	Miroslav Sir  	1376.56	-2431.20	141.41	323.62	244.57	352.17	314.79

## October F5J Contest Report – Steve Condon, CD

On Sunday the 13th we had nine guys come out to Poway on a beautiful soaring day. The air was buoyant early on with light thermals developing right away which made for a really fun competition! Using F3X Vault makes running the contest so smooth for both the CD and the participants so kudos again to Tim Traver! I also want to thank Mike Smith for not only bringing out the speakers and landing tapes, but also providing the computer we ran the contest on and ensuring it all ran well. Thanks to Cliff Hunter for bringing out the cold drinks and a big ol' box of pomegranates for us to take home.



F5J pilots (Bob Hirsch photo)

The conditions were perfect for competition because it was possible to catch a thermal at around 20 meters high, but they were not all that easy to hang on to so we saw everyone in the contest drop at least one flight with either a zero or a really low score.

As usual, there was great camaraderie and banter among the participants as well as a lot of cooperation to time for each other. Thank you to Tom Farley and Bob Hirsch who came out to spectate but got drafted into timing. Both of them also took some great photos as you can see.



Simultaneous launches by Steve Condon, Mike Smith and Tom Kiesling (Tom Farley photo)







## October DLG Contest Report – Justin Tolman, CD

The October DLG contest/clinic event was held on Saturday, October 19th with 14 pilots in attendance. For this round we once again split the field into two flight groups in order to get in eight rounds and maximize flying time. A small front moved through the day before leaving dry, cool air behind. It was a chilly 40 degrees when I opened the gate at 7am.



DLG pilots group shot (Jake Olefsky photo)

In warmups, it was clear that lift was going to be sparse and hard to come by in Round 1 (1,2,3,4). In Group A, John McNeil made great work of the tough conditions, amassing 9:04 of flight time, nearly a minute more than Will Lalla and the rest of the group. In Group B, deep to the southwest, I managed to find one lone thermal in a sky full of mush. That thermal allowed me to capture my 4:00 flight on the way to accumulating 9:41 and taking the K over Gary Fogel's 8:20.

With tough conditions persisting in Round 2 (Last 2x3), 3-minute flights were no easy accomplishment. Mengchen Li, was the exception in Group A, as the only pilot getting both of his 3-minute flights taking the K over Fogel. Similarly, in Group B, John McNeil took the K as he was the only pilot able to put up 2, 3-minute flights



## October DLG Contest Report (continued)

Round 3 (Best 5x2) came along and thermals were still weak and lackluster. At least this task didn't demand we stay in the air for very long. In Group A, Fogel put in the most efficient performance, dropping just 11-seconds, to take the K over yours truly. In Group B, Milan Bregman matched Fogel's efficiency from the previous round, also dropping only 11-seconds. Will Lalla and Mengchen Li put in great flights and were just tenths of a second short of Milan's time.

Everyone expected conditions to start changing by Round 4 (Big Ladder) but weak lift persisted. Will Lalla, coming off a great showing at the Cal Challenge in Visalia, made great work of the challenging air in Group A to take the K over McNeil. In Group B, Mengchen bested the group by nearly one minute to take the K over Tom Farley.

In Round 5 (3x3:20) we started seeing glimpses of more consistent lift. In Group A, Bregman took advantage of the improving conditions as he accumulated 8:35 of flight time to take the K over Cliff Hunter's 8:14. In Group B, Fogel accumulated 9:48 of flight time to steal the K over my 9:46.

By Round 6 (Last 1x5) those elusive thermals finally started showing up. In Group A, Lalla, myself and Mengchen managed to get our 5-minute flights to share the K. In group B, Scott McCurdy, Bregman and Fogel also found 5-minute air to share the K.

After Round 6, we took a short break. At this point, a few pilots (Bob Hirsch, Gary Fogel, Chuck Norris, Ian Cummings and John McNeil) headed to the Torrey Pines Gliderport in order to mentor and introduce several UCSD students to slope soaring.















The rest of us stuck around for some afternoon chaos and carnage. By Round 7 (AULD), typical "run down wind Poway" was in full effect. In Group A, Bregman chased thermals downwind while Farley stayed out front and up wind. Both pilots made their second and third 3-minute flights but it was Bregman's 2:22 first flight that earned him the K over Farley. In Group B, I was able to make my first and second flights by running with thermals down wind. Sticking with the same strategy for my third flight, I raced down wind but found no sustaining lift. Aborting that effort just in time allowed me to barely clear the trees by the entry gate and somehow make it back to the field to take the K. Menchen was a victim of the challenging air and suffered a landout in his first flight.

Booming, downwind thermals persisted in Round 8 (Last 2x4). In Group A, Tom Farley decided that running downwind wasn't for him though as he made fantastic work of some upwind wave lift to take K over Mengchen. In Group B, I attempted to find Tom's wave lift but it had vanished by then. Instead, Bregman and I both got our first 4-minute flights chasing thermals down wind. We both chased lift downwind again for our second flights where Bregman landed out and I managed a 2:57 to take the K.

After eight rounds of very diverse flying conditions, I managed to accumulate the most points. Milan Bregman was 2nd and Mengchen LI was 3rd.

## October DLG Contest Report (continued)

### F3X Vault Scores

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Completed Rounds (No Drops In Effect)							
				Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
1	<b>1</b> Justin Tolman 	7510.7		1000	693.3	980.7	841.5	995.2	1000	1000	1000
2	<b>14</b> Milan Bregman 	7182.7	-328.0	885.1	848.3	1000	875.0	1000	1000	1000	574.3
3	<b>2</b> Mengchen Li 	7119.3	-63.4	821.6	1000	998.1	1000	880.1	1000	658.7	760.8
4	<b>4</b> Will Lalla 	6707.6	-411.7	914.5	671.7	998.6	1000	863.5	1000	735.2	524.1
5	<b>13</b> Scott McCurdy 	6505.4	-202.2	891.7	662.5	926.2	769.2	887.2	1000	864.6	504.0
6	<b>12</b> Don Lochhead 	6288.8	-216.6	786.3	830.8	933.7	856.6	710.3	767.7	760.4	643.0
7	<b>10</b> Tom Farley 	6270.6	-18.2	660.7	638.9	924.9	906.7	705.7	611.3	822.4	1000
8	<b>3</b> Gary Fogel 	5498.6	-772.0	860.6	868.3	1000	769.7	1000	1000	0.0	0.0
9	<b>9</b> Clifford Hunter 	5201.0	-297.6	309.8	775.0	968.8	813.8	958.9	243.3	714.1	417.3
10	<b>6</b> John McNeil 	4757.9	-443.1	1000	1000	961.0	979.5	817.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
11	<b>7</b> Chuck Norris 	4584.6	-173.3	840.0	791.1	963.4	871.4	898.7	220.0	0.0	0.0
12	<b>8</b> Ian Cummings 	3018.4	-1566.2	589.7	507.8	661.7	422.2	480.0	357.0	0.0	0.0
13	<b>5</b> Dale Osborn 	2447.5	-570.9	NE	610.6	317.0	NE	505.2	131.7	680.1	202.9
14	<b>11</b> Bob Hirsch 	1692.6	-754.9	659.1	477.8	555.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



Justin– 1<sup>st</sup> (center), Milan – 2<sup>nd</sup> (right) and Mengchen – 3<sup>rd</sup> (left)  
(Darian Bregman photo)

Next up is our final contest/clinic of the year on November 16th. Gary Fogel will be CD.

Sign up for November 16th here:

[https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event\\_view&event\\_id=3064](https://f3xvault.com/?action=event&function=event_view&event_id=3064)

Hope to see you there!



## October F5J Foamy Fun Fly Contest Report – Don Lochhead

Six of us met up at Poway for the final F5J Foamy Fun Fly of the year. Five Radians took on Brett's 1.5m Yellow Jacket. Conditions were calm with light lift mostly found at the west end and by the water tower and along the creek. Tom Farley posted the best time of the day with a 6:47. Honors for the sole 50-point landing of the day went to Ian Cummings.

After six rounds Ian just barely squeaked past Tom to grab first place. Don placed a distant third.

#	Pilot Name	Total	Diff	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	<b>3</b> Ian Cummings  	5544.71		784.00	1000	760.71	1000	1000	1000
2	<b>6</b> Tom Farley  	5474.25	-70.46	1000	817.52	1000	1000	801.79	854.94
3	<b>1</b> Don Lochhead  	4345.98	-1128.27	714.29	1000	673.21	498.60	1000	459.88
4	<b>8</b> Bret Locke  	3267.08	-1078.90	1000	851.11	0.00	415.97	0.00	1000
5	<b>2</b> Dale Osborn  	2757.19	-509.89	946.00	0.00	1000	486.19	325.00	0.00
6	<b>5</b> Bob Hirsch  	2201.06	-556.13	288.00	404.44	560.71	338.94	0.00	608.97

For the 2024 series we flew three events (four are on the schedule for 2025). First place for the 2024 season goes to Tom Farley with a strong finish over Don Lochhead for second and Dale Osborn for third. Based on two strong scores, Ian looks to be the one to watch out for next season.

Pilot Name	Events	E 1	E 2	E 3		
1 Tom Farley	3	2865.50	100.00%	998.21	880.00	987.29
2 Don Lochhead	3	2147.69	74.95%	616.12	747.76	783.81
3 Dale Osborn	3	2071.04	72.28%	833.57	740.21	497.26
4 Ian Cummings	2	1909.13	66.62%	909.13	0	1000.00
5 Bob Hirsch	3	1775.78	61.97%	782.44	596.37	396.97
6 Steve Hurd	2	1773.98	61.91%	979.61	794.37	0
7 Bret Locke	2	1414.76	49.37%	825.54	0	589.22
8 Arthur Markiewicz	3	1307.13	45.62%	526.77	780.36	0
9 Gary Fogel	1	1000.00	34.90%	1000.00	0	0
10 Ray Pili	1	1000.00	34.90%	0	1000.00	0
11 Brian Moore	1	885.16	30.89%	0	885.16	0
12 Clifford Hunter	1	724.71	25.29%	724.71	0	0
13 Adina Conwell	1	320.50	11.19%	0	320.50	0

## Club Membership Update – Cliff Hunter

# RENEWALS START THIS MONTH!



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 October 22, 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: October 22, 2024	Since Last Report	Total
New and Renewed Members	4	103
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**

In 2024, Thermal Duration (winch launch) contests were 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 2025 TPG Thermal contest (F5J) schedule thread for next year's contest news. Until then, information may be found in the 2024 thread:

<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 look for, and subscribe to, the upcoming RCGroups 2025 TPG DLG contest schedule thread for next year's contest news. Until then, information may be found in the 2024 thread:

<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 2024 schedule and individual contest updates can be found on RC Groups: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447751-2024-TPG-Team-DLG-Series>. This will be updated for 2025.

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 modified the program to allow more pilots to fly, and also to preserve AMA TD as an active TPG contest class.

During 2024, The schedule and individual contest updates were found on RC Groups:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4447735-2024-TPG-Tow-Hook-Series-F3L-F3RES-TD-1-5m>. This will be updated for 2025.

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.

We'll have another series of events coming up in 2025.

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

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!

### New Procedure for Joining Google Groups

Here are the steps new club members need to take to be added to Google Groups if they don't have a Gmail account/address:

1. Go to the [Google Account Sign In page](#).
2. Click Create account.
3. Enter your name.
4. Click Use my current email address instead.
5. Enter your current email address.
6. Click Next.
7. Verify your email address with the code sent to your existing email.
8. Click Verify.
9. Confirm with TPG Membership (Cliff Hunter) the above steps have been completed, use the following email address: [membership@torreypinesgulls.org](mailto:membership@torreypinesgulls.org)

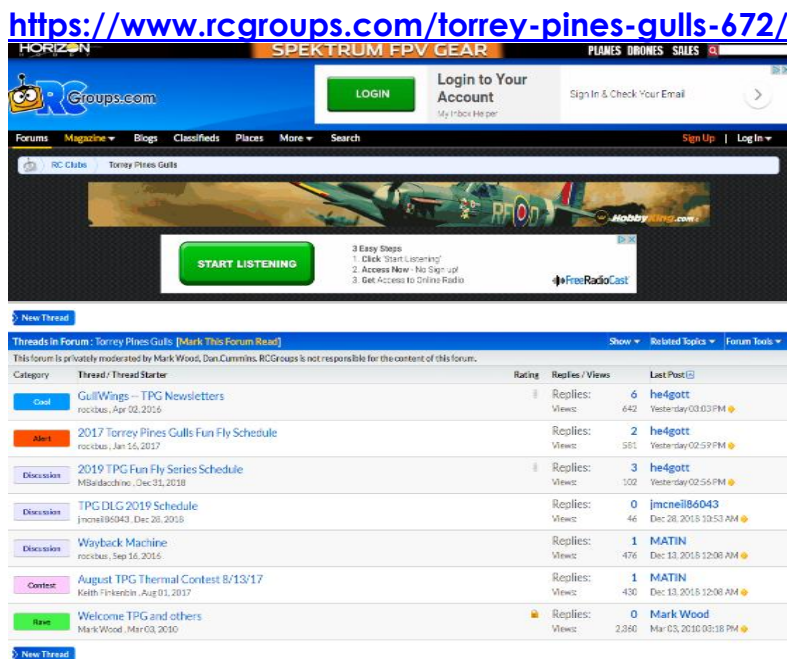
## How We Connect (continued)

# Are you a member of ?

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

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

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



Category	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Replies / Views	Last Post
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 MBarbocchio, 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 • 1.5K followers

Message Following Search

Posts About Mentions Followers Photos Videos More

Switch into Torrey Pines Gulls's Page to start managing it. [Switch Now](#)

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

Page · Organization  
San Diego, CA, United States, California  
[torreypinesgulls.org](http://torreypinesgulls.org)  
[Promote Website](#)

**Photos** [See all photos](#)

**Posts** [Filters](#)

Torrey Pines Gulls updated their cover photo.

See insights [Create ad](#)

Like Comment Share

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

Torrey Pines Gulls  
September 20

Greetings TPG Members and Friends!  
The October 2024 issue of Gull Wings, the Torrey Pines Gulls newsletter, is now available online at:  
[https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/\\_/GullWings2024-10...](https://www.torreypinesgulls.org/_/GullWings2024-10...)

2024

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

## How We Connect (continued)

### TPG is on

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

Also, if you have any photos or videos of your RC soaring activities, contests, builds, fun flies, etc., send them along to Mengchen at [media@torreypinesgulls.org](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)

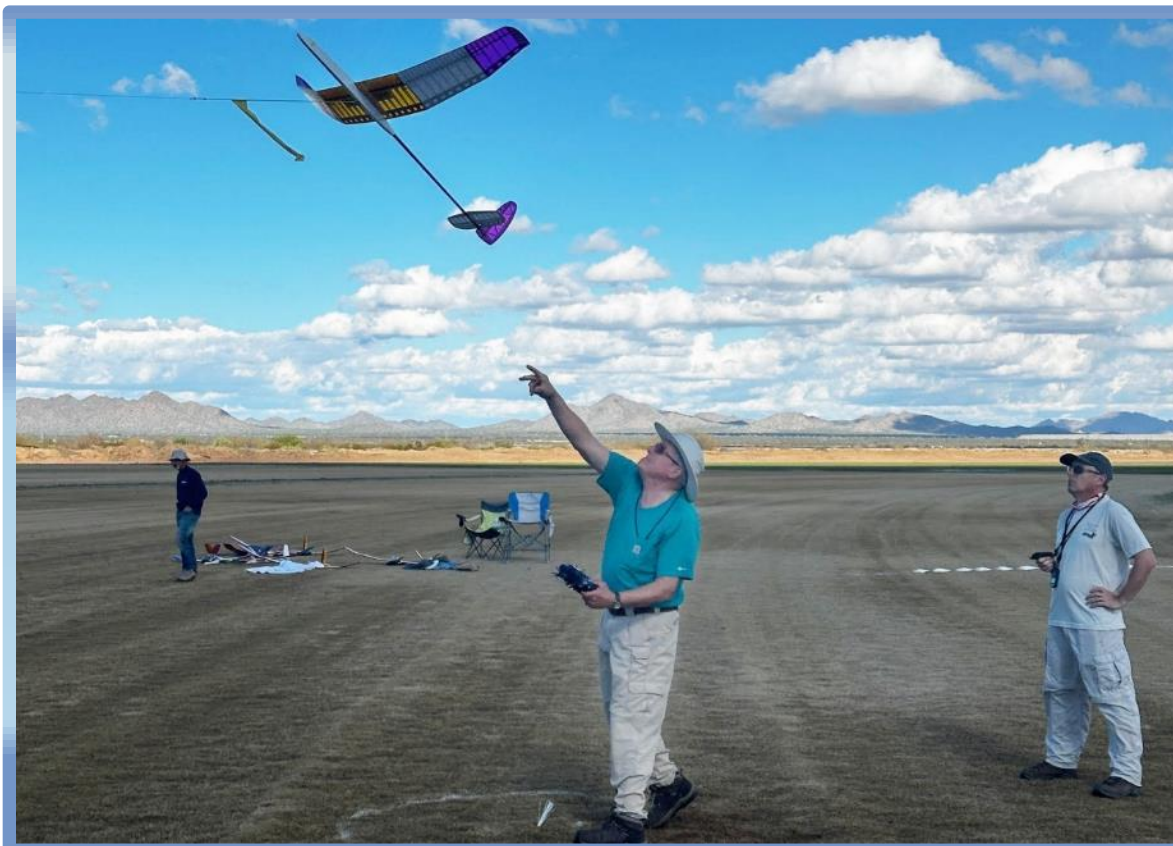


**January Winner** – Thomas Moller's ASH-26 and Aaron Wallace's ASW-27 await launch at Torrey (Aaron Wallace photo)



**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)



**October Winner** – Justin Tolman (TPG DLG Coordinator) at the Poway Invitational (Bob Hirsch photo)



## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



Ian Cummings launching his Radan from atop the mound during Student Mentor Day at Torrey (Nick Candrella photo)



Screenshot of the Torrey Pines Gulls Slope Combat Fiesta 2024 (Bob Hirsch video)

## Photo of the Month Contest (continued)



John McNeil launching his Ro-8 from the cliff edge with a student waiting on the buddy box during Student Mentor Day Torrey (Nick Candrella photo).



**November Winner** – Another shot of the Ro-8 launch (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:**

*"The wind that makes music in November corn is in a hurry. The stalks hum, the loose husks whisk skyward in half-playing swirls, and the wind hurries on..."*

*~ Aldo Leopold*



Torrey Winter Solstice (Walt Quitt photo)