**IHLGF History**

By Gary Fogel

The International Hand Launch Glider Festival (IHLGF) has become world-renowned as a key event in the development of international RC hand launch glider competition. The event started in 1994 from a burgeoning interest in the southern California area in competition with the various AMA Class A (60" wingspan) kits that were available at the time. These early Torrey Pines Gulls (TPG) club competitions gave rise to a concept for a larger regional event (the IHLGF) which quickly grew to international proportion. The competition was the first of its kind on such a large scale, and not only prompted increased pressure for continued development of lighter, stronger, more efficient designs, but new types of competitive rounds, helping lead to the development of the FAI F3K class. Expert pilots flying specialized designs with the goal of staying aloft for several minutes on low altitude thermals, and also enjoying the camaraderie of annual competition in the San Diego sun. The IHLGF is a historic competition in one of the most fascinating areas of RC soaring. This website helps to highlight its history and importance. If you have material to share please contact us so that we can include this in a growing tribute to TPG's involvement in hand launch RC soaring.

**IHLGF 1994 – October 29-30**

Brainchild of Steve Stricklett, Steve Condon and a set of local Torrey Pines Gulls (TPG) HLG fanatics. Two days, ten rounds, plus three rounds of flyoffs. First two-day HLG event ever. 26 entrants. Top three: Joe Wurts, Arthur Markiewicz, Gordon Jennings.

<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com/pdfs/RCSD-1995/RCSD-1995-03.pdf> (page 48-50)

**IHLGF 1995 – May 20-21**

After the 1994 event, TPG explored new IHLGF tasks through a series of monthly club HLG contests. The club added a PA system and electronic scoring system programmed by Don Richmond. Top three: Joe Wurts, Arthur Markiewicz, George Joy.

<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com/pdfs/RCSD-1996/RCSD-1996-01.pdf> (Page 44)

**IHLGF 1996 – June 15-16**

TPG secured contest sponsorship from Airtronics. With the help of the new “electronic mail” to help market the event, it was hoped that this would be the first truly international IHLGF. 75 pilots registered, including pilots from Japan, Austria, and Australia as well as eight U.S. states. The sponsorship and raffle worked so well that TPG donated $1600 to a local child abuse prevention center. Top three: Daryl Perkins, Joe Wurts, Steve Cameron.

<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com/pdfs/RCSD-1996/RCSD-1996-04.pdf> (page 31)

**IHLGF 1997 – June 7-8**

TPG named Tom Clarkson as Hand Launch Coordinator for 1997. Tom instituted a series of 6 TPG monthly contests, including one where local experts were paired with new pilots and scored as teams of two in a “pro-am” sense. On occasion the locals would fly a HLG contest in the morning, go for pizza for lunch, then have a combat session at the nearby Poway slope in the afternoon. 30+ entrants at the IHLGF. Top three: Daryl Perkins, Joe Wurts, Gordon Jennings.

<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com/pdfs/RCSD-1997/RCSD-1997-03.pdf> (page 34)

**IHLGF 1998 – June 6-7**

Ed Slegers of Slegers International was the sponsor of the 5th IHLGF in 1998. 52 pilots showed, and so did the rain on Sunday morning, but only briefly. For the first time TPG offered awards for all three age classes (Open, Junior, “Bald Eagle”). Open class had plaques through 10th’place, Junior and Eagle through 3rd place. Top three pilots in the open class: Joe Wurts, Daryl Perkins, John Roe.

<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com/pdfs/RCSD-1998/RCSD-1998-03.pdf> (page 27)

**IHLGF 1999 – June 5-6**

Northeast Sailplanes was the official main sponsor for the 1999 event. Entrants came from England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Argentina and twelve different states a total of 81 pilots in all. It was the first year that the wingspan limit of 1.5m was rather strictly enforced. Tom Clarkson of the TPG wrote new software to create the pilots matrix to minimize frequency conflicts and randomize the placement of pilots in each heat.

**IHLGF 2000 – June 3-4**

Sanyo Energy, USA became the host sponsor of the millennial IHLGF. This was also the first major international event to make use of the provisional F3K rules as modified by the US, and including some local field modifications as well. This was also the first time when discus launch was introduced to the crowd in So Cal by Dick Barker and Jim Pearson from Seattle, and it quickly became clear that this would forever change competitive HLG launching. This was reinforced when Paul Siegel won the 2000 US NATS with discus launch.

<http://library.modelaviation.com/ma/2001/4/radio-control-soaring-200104>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?874659-IHLGF-time-travel-a-stroll-down-memory-lane> (view trailer for Paul Naton’s video about IHLGF 2000)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uM_lzhcJ94>

**IHLGF 2001 – June 2-3**

The 8th annual IHLGF host sponsor was Multiplex USA. The IHLGF 2001 was the first major contest to truly show the importance of discus launching, as essentially the entire field of competitors had switched to this mode in just one year. Many competitors also made use of small electronic gyros on their rudder servo. It was a great and revolutionary contest. Top three: Joe Wurts, Oleg Golovidov, John Asplund.

<https://www.mail-archive.com/soaring@airage.com/msg35152.html>

<http://fieldguidetomodeling.com/FieldGuide/Display-Article.aspx?KBID=63>

**IHLGF 2002 – June 1-2**

Once again sponsored by Multiplex USA as the host sponsor, 2002 showed a clear diversity of aircraft types in the field. Most were flapped or flaperon, but there were some built-up DLGs. A clear friendly “east-west” rivalry became established by the top competitors. Top three: Joe Wurts, Craig Greening, Phil Barnes.

<http://www.ihlgf.com/images/history/pdfs/tpg_apr02.pdf>

<http://www.ihlgf.com/images/history/pdfs/tpg_jul02.pdf>

<http://olgol.com/TabooXL/ihlgf2002.html>

<http://olgol.com/TabooXL/joe-ihlgf.html>

**IHLGF 2003 – June 7-8**

The 2003 event was host sponsored by Airtronics. A special achievement award was presented to Mark Drela for his contribution in the development of XFOIL software, his educational posts, and contribution to the development of hand launch gliders. The competition was tight at the top all the way into the flyoffs when Oleg Golovidov pulled off the upset, taking first place from Joe Wurts by 13 points out of 12000. The “east-west” battle was now firmly “on”. Top three: Oleg Golovidov, Joe Wurts, Paul Anderson.

<http://www.barcs.clara.net/F3K/general/ihlgf2003.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiymYMxt8CI>

**IHLGF 2004 - June 5-6**

The early IHLGFs to this point were flown from a point just to the southeast of the current field. This location made it possible in windy conditions to slope soar a nearby hill to the east. The rules for the 2004 meet penalized this behavior with a zero score for the round. The host sponsor was once again Airtronics. Roughly half of the contestants flew their own designs, many others flew XP-4s or Encores. Top three: Phil Barnes, Paul Anderson, Joe Wurts.

<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com/pdfs/RCSD-2004/RCSD-2004-04.pdf> (Announcement; page 20)

<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com/pdfs/RCSD-2004/RCSD-2004-07.pdf> (page 12)

<http://library.modelaviation.com/ma/2005/1/international-hand-launch-glider-festival-2004-200501> (Full Recap)

<http://www.olgol.com/IHLGF2004/jan_kansky.html>

**IHLGF 2005 – June 4-5**

A “discus style launch” clinic was held for the first time prior to the IHLGF on June 3. Top three: Phil Barnes, Paul Anderson, Joe Wurts.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?331812-IHLGF-2005-Announcement>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?377927-IHLGF-2005-Update-DSL-Clinic>

<http://olgol.com/IHLGF2005/index3.html>

<http://olgol.com/IHLGF2005/index2.html>

<http://olgol.com/IHLGF2005/>

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/Newsletters/GullWings2005-05.pdf>

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/Newsletters/GullWings2005-06.pdf>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?379361-Poway-Results>

**IHLGF 2006**

<http://library.modelaviation.com/ma/2006/11/radio-control-soaring-200611>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?524895-Ihlgf-2006&perpage=50#post5587313>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?524895-Ihlgf-2006&perpage=50#post5598427>

**IHLGF 2007**

<http://library.modelaviation.com/ma/2008/5/radio-control-soaring-200805>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb9yEKuLHHg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxkXoIr0TLE> (2007?)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnP83rss5Vg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WGBK2bvBEU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-la4_cgkVv0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhdU-Ad4ojE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq5NUZtEOQo>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?528289-Ihlgf-2007&perpage=50#post5595093>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?528289-Ihlgf-2007>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?695705-IHLGF-2007-Final-Scores-etc>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?688183-IHLGF-2007-Tasks-Strategies>

**IHLGF 2008**

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?771515-POWAY-2008-finally-genuine-F3K-Rules>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aywmnW1VVpc>

<http://www.rcsoaring.com/photo08.shtml>

**IHLGF 2009**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niDxfHEFolo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0OgTK6QK2A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ymR6gJPLXQ>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?981022-Ihlgf-2009>

<http://louisvillesoaring.org/2009/04/28/bruce-davidson-wins-the-2009-ihlgf>

<http://play.tojsiab.com/YzBPZ1RLNlFLMkEz>

**IHLGF 2010**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3HDgWm6TCA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBgEWCqrg8Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NV35MPBUuXg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiCQTAWV26Q>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?1159536-Ihlgf-2010/page23>

**IHLGF 2011**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUs5ny-ISDQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwUovO5FPaU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiedibwP8U8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6mUAD2lwCQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTagPvHspOc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6o6mBDocgkU>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?1433592-Ihlgf-2011>

**IHLGF 2012**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiOONApZakg>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?1585240-19th-Annual-IHLGF-April-28-and-29th-2012>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?1521040-2012-International-Hand-Launch-Glider-Festival-%28IHLGF%29-Denouement>

**IHLGF 2013**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lz_vmaYyRq0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhBEhFcM6uM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSB2nEDd1dY>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?1856529-US-F3K-Team-Fundraising-at-the-IHLGF>

<http://www.rcsoaring.com/scores/13ihlgf.pdf>

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amaclubs/2013/04/25/tpg-to-host-the-20th-annual-international-hand-launch-glider-festival/>

<http://www.torreypinesgulls.org/Newsletters/GullWings2013-04.pdf>

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?1688732-20th-Anniversarry-International-Handlaunch-Glider-Festival-2013/page11>

**IHLGF 2014**

<http://library.modelaviation.com/ma/2014/11/district-x-201411>

<http://www.modelaviation.com/IHLGF2014> (recap and IHLGF history)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwO34Rw_GjM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYKNzrZS6DE>

<http://rcsoaring.com/scores/14ihlgf.pdf>

**IHLGF 2015**

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2318266-2015-International-Hand-Launch-Glider-Festival>

**IHLGF 2016**

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2501440-IHLGF-2016-May-14th-and-15th-2016!/page9>

**IHLGF 2017**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9tXn2ddoXo>

**IHLGF 2018**

**Additional IHLGF related history**

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?874659-IHLGF-time-travel-a-stroll-down-memory-lane>