



Fall 2020 Issue

Hi and welcome to the F5J USA Tour newsletter. For details and scores from past Tour events you can always find links from the [Tour Calendar](#) page. Good flying to you!

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It's been awhile since our last newsletter. Let's catch up!

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2020 Tour events in the queue

[Tour Calendar](#)

Reminder that the F5J USA Tour season runs from Dec 1 through Nov 30.

House Mountain F5J Fall, Oct 10-11, Corryton TN (Eastern region 2-day event). Info [here](#), pilots list [here](#). This event is hosted by **Jim McCarthy** and the *House Mountain RC* club and is the second Tour event for them this season. They have a fantastic pilots list already at 28 with attendees from 8 states. It promises to be a solid competition.



2nd Annual North/South F5J Challenge, Oct 24-25, Visalia CA (Western region 2-day event). Info [here](#), pilots list [here](#), team breakdown [here](#). This is hosted by *NorCal Electric Soaring (NES)* with organizer **Chris Bajorek**. Location is the home field of CVRC. Each pilot gets to join the team of their choosing.

Tour plaques are awarded with the winning team (top 5 scores from each team) taking possession of the N/S perpetual trophy. Last year's shootout was a cliff-hanger right up to the last round.

Texas National Tournament F5J, Oct 31-Nov 1, Greenville TX (Western region 2-day event). Info [here](#), pilots list [here](#). Register @ [F3Xevents.com](#). This event is hosted by **Dan Ahern** and the members of *Soaring League of North Texas (SLNT)*. It is the second Tour event for SLNT this season. At this event they will have a separate class for foamies and lower-performing gliders.



East Coast FALL F5J Festival, Nov 7-8, Farmville NC (Eastern region 2-day event). Info [here](#), pilots list [here](#). This event is hosted by **Oleg Golovidov** and the *Down East Soaring Society (DESS)*.

This is their first Tour event of the season after having to cancel their Spring Festival earlier this year. They already have a respectable pilots list with attendees from 9 states and as far away as Arizona. They will no doubt be adding more to the list soon. Camping is allowed at the field. The weather in November is usually great with cool mornings and comfortable day temperatures.



Flight line at the NATS F5J - July 2020

Results and more pics [here](#) via Jason Cole

Interesting season so far, no?

Well, we got off to a really great start with the Tour season opener in Phoenix followed by the *Southwest Classic F5J* in Phoenix and the *Warm & Sunny F5J* in Florida both in late February. Then the U.S. got hit with a viral buzz saw that cut a gaping hole in our calendar through the end of May. Then in June the clouds parted and contests started up again beginning with *F5J in Visalia*. Contest momentum has continued to remain strong thanks to clubs and organizers who have been able to host them.

A sincere thank you to all who are hosting and attending Tour events. The Tour is baaaack!



2020 F5J USA Tour Standings

As of this newsletter the Tour standings have been updated through the *F5J in the Rockies* event. Most of you know ([Tour scoring](#)) that the standings are based on your best 4 Tour contests. If you have flown at least 4 then you have a chance--at least now--to be in the top 10.

However, if you take a look at the current top 16 (below) you will notice 3 guys **lurking** around the end of the top 10 who have only flown in 3 Tour events so far: **Brady Baggs** with 3074 points, **Justin Rizor** with 3032.5 points, and **Oleg Golovidov** with 2999.2 points. I highlight these gentlemen because they each are averaging ~1000 points per contest and they each will be flying in at least 1 more Tour event.

So...the top 10 will likely go through some shuffling with some guys getting pushed down and some guys out of the top 10. Will **Randy West** retain the #1 slot? Stay

tuned, it's going to be a tight race to the finish. And don't forget the importance of bonus points: the bigger the contest the more bonus points are awarded.

Rank	Name	Percent	Total (best 4)	No. of Contests
1	WEST, Randy	100.00	4008.50	7
2	WILLCOX, Steve	99.48	3987.70	7
3	ARMSTRONG, John	97.84	3922.00	7
4	KHANI, Ali	97.35	3902.10	4
5	WILLCOX, Steve Jr	97.20	3896.20	6
6	JOHNSON, Tim	92.78	3719.20	4
7	BAJOREK, Chris	92.29	3699.50	5
8	KEER, Lenny	85.38	3422.60	5
9	THOMPSON, Dale	79.50	3186.90	4
10	BAGGS, Brady	76.69	3074.00	3
11	RIZOR, Justin	75.65	3032.50	3
12	GOLOVIDOV, Oleg	74.82	2999.20	3
13	ESTINGOY, Daniel	68.46	2744.10	3
14	ROSEBERRY, Mike	67.34	2699.40	4
15	JUNTUNEN, Brad	66.26	2656.10	3
16	ESTINGOY, Lee	65.44	2623.10	3

F5J USA Tour Top 16- through the F5J in the Rockies event

The 2021 Team Selects - An overview of what's coming

As a result of “virus rescheduling” the next FAI F5J world championships (WC) has been rescheduled in **Bulgaria** to **2022**. That means the USA Team Selects (TS) contest will be held next year (2021). Here is a brief review of the process the USA F5J community will be following that will lead us to the 2021 Team Selects event.

- The organizing AMA body that is responsible for managing the USA F5J TS event is the *USA FAI-F5 Team Selection Committee*¹ that is headed by **Steve Manganelli**. Three members of that committee--**David Beach, Lenny Keer, and Steve Neu** are also *F5J USA Tour* Advisory Group members. Several other active F5J pilots are also on that committee. As such, the USA F5J community is well

1 Full F5 Team Select Committee list is available at [this link](#). Scroll down to “F5B/F5D” list.

represented.

- The TS process is defined, in detail, in the *2018 Team Selection Program Plan*. This is a perpetual document that explains the fees, procedures, etc. to be used in soliciting bids from clubs who wish to have the Team Selects at their field. This document also defines the process of selecting a team manager for the USA WC team.
- According to the Plan the 2021 USA F5J TS must be held **between July 1 and October 30 2021**. The specific date can be chosen by the hosting club based on expected weather and other club needs.
- Bids from potential hosting clubs must be sent to the AMA postmarked no later than **March 31, 2021**.
- The TS event will be run under full FAI F5J rules. All AMRT (altimeter) units must be FAI approved. All planes will be inspected for FAI compliance before the TS contest commences. This may also include verification of minimum wing loading.
- The TS event must be conducted over a 3 or 4 day period. There are no fly-offs. All pilots compete all days. There is one discard over the entire TS event. All but the last day will be 10 minute rounds; the final day's flights will be 15 minute rounds.
- Juniors will compete in the same matrix as senior competitors.
- The top 3 pilots from the juniors and seniors will comprise the USA WC team (i.e. 3 seniors, 3 juniors).

Sometime early next year the committee chairman will start another RC Groups thread on the 2021 Team Selects. That will be the signal to clubs that are interested to prepare and send in their bids (proposals).

If you have any questions ask any of the F5 committee members. Thanks.



F5J in the Rockies-Videos and pics

The *F5J in the Rockies* event in Denver happened recently ([results](#)). It was well attended and turned out to be a very challenging competition in constantly changing conditions. Here's a video of the event via **Ali Khani** of [FlightComp](#):



Pictures courtesy of Randy West:



Saturday pilots meeting



Saturday skies in Denver- Beautiful!

Here's a short video from Steve Wilcox:



About the Tour's Advisory Group

This group is responsible for managing the Tour and includes the following key supporters and pioneers of USA-based F5J: Lee Wolfe, Steve Neu, Lenny Keer, Larry Jolly, Jim Monaco, David Beach, and Chris Bajorek. Each advisor brings significant experience and energy to this group. If you have suggestions or feedback feel free to contact any of us directly, or you can send an email to Chris Bajorek [here](#).

