



March 2021 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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2021 Tour events in the queue

[Tour Calendar](#)

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

F5J at CVRC Visalia, March 27-28, Visalia CA (Western region 2-day event). Info and pilots list is [here](#), CD is **Tim Johnson** and the event is at CVRC's home field. As of this writing the pilot count is at 40, a record high for F5J at CVRC. To say there has been an explosion of interest in F5J on the west coast is an understatement. This is going to be an exciting one to watch online: [GliderScore Online scores](#).





East Coast Spring Festival, April 17-18, Farmville NC (Eastern region 2-day event). Info is [here](#), pilots list is [here](#). They are at 20 pilots and will no doubt be adding more soon. Here's a special note from **Oleg Golovidov** the CD:

"Join us for our annual spring F5J event in North Carolina.

We promise to provide an informal atmosphere, friendly but competitive group of pilots, difficult air that we are usually "blessed" with, and lots of enjoyment for both novice and experienced pilots.

We are always looking for more pilots. Let's play some F5J together."





California versus Arizona + friends, April 24-25, Perris CA (Western region 2-day event). Info and pilots list is [here](#), organizer is **Warren Day** and the event is hosted by the new F5JinLA club in Southern

California. This is the first-ever Tour event for Warren's new club and they have been working hard to get things ready. Their non-Tour F5J contest in March had great turnout with 26 pilots.

So F5JinLA is ready for the big time with an interesting format: all California pilots are on one team and all Arizona and non-Calif pilots are on the other.



CALIFORNIA VS ARIZONA
F5J USA TOUR 
2 0 2 1

Each individual pilot still gets Tour points but the combined team scores (details later) will determine whether California is more badass than Arizona. Is there any real question??



Other Tour events coming include:

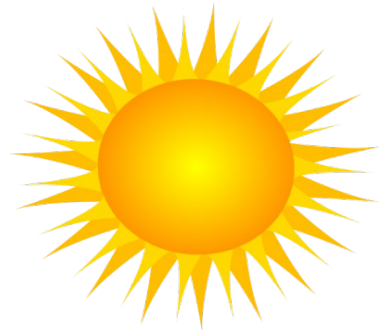
- **RISC Red Rooster F5J in Richmond RI on May 22-23** (info [here](#))
- **SKSS F5J in Newark DE on June 5-6**
- **F5J in Visalia #2 in Visalia CA on June 5-6.**

2021 is looking great for F5J

The [F5J USA Tour calendar](#) has filled out nicely so far with 7 western and 7 eastern events posted. Once the World Championship USA Team Selects event date is known (soon) there are other events in the second half of 2021 that will be added. But for now it has been good to see such an active calendar.

What's going on out West?

One thing that stands out so far for me is the uptick in signups at several western events. While our season opener *F5J in the Desert* last December was down (21 versus 29 last season) the *Southwest Classic F5J* in Phoenix in late February was up by 40%. And the *F5J in Visalia #1* that is happening this weekend is up by a whopping 73% at 40 pilots compared to last season. So why the jump? Well, one reason may be that some individuals are jumping in now because they are feeling more relaxed about the virus thing. But it's more than just that.



F5J planes are not so hard. Based on conversations with western Tour pilots another reason is that there finally seems to be a general understanding that it's actually not that hard to build a decent F5J plane. There are some well-established components for adding electric motors to a full sized glider and many seasoned USA F5J builders are available to help new guys get set up. Also, because so many F5J planes are in circulation now there's a better chance that a new pilot can acquire a less expensive used F5J plane; used planes are a great way for new guys to start out.

Increase in western club F5J activity. Another big reason the western region is seeing a boost is due to two clubs in Southern California that have made F5J a key part of their contest schedule. **Torry Pines Gulls** ([TPG](#)) in the San Diego area is continuing with F5J contests that they started last year, and **F5JinLA** ([link](#)) is a new club that--you guessed it--is totally focused on F5J. So those are two big reasons why SoCal is solidly on the F5J map now. The Phoenix F5J crew recently launched an impressive new club **SouthWest Soaring Society** ([SWSS](#)) after **Justin Rizor** invested in land and substantial equipment to establish a new soaring site "Silent Wings Ranch" on private land. And in Northern California we have a small but focused club **NorCal Electric Soaring** ([NES](#)) that just started doing a local F5J contest series. All of these are bringing new pilots to F5J USA Tour events.

In a phone conversation I had recently with several SoCal pilots another reason for

increased F5J activity in the area is that pilots who used to attend winch-based TD contests are finally realizing that TD isn't coming back. For those that love competition F5J is now a perfect fit for them.

It's exciting to see the increased western F5J and Tour activity. We're on the lookout for the same increase in the eastern region too. One prediction: this year's NATS F5J should be a memorable one.

--Chris

Reaching out to all the new Tour pilots

I had an interesting call yesterday with **Bill Malvey**. We were talking about the increased interest in F5J in southern California and Bill made an insightful observation. He was saying that at Tour events it is often too easy for the seasoned F5J Tour veterans to hang out with just each other. Especially now, with the increase in Tour attendance he suggested that we all should make a special effort to hook up with the new guys and offer to help.

As an F5J veteran think about all the things you understand and take for granted after 4+ years on the Tour: F5J rules, plane setups, altimeter setups, and the BIG ONE: *F5J contest strategy*. There is no contest format more dependent on a solid strategy. New guys can learn quickly from us if we help them make the F5J jump.



So at every contest how about we look around for pilots we don't recognize, introduce ourselves, and help them make the most of their F5J USA Tour contests. It will be good for them and great for the Tour!

2021 Team Selects - A quick update

As reported back in the January newsletter, as a result of “virus rescheduling” the next FAI F5J world championships (WC) had been rescheduled to Bulgaria in 2022. However, based on information from **Steve Neu** we will not know for sure when the next F5J WC will happen until after the next FAI CIAM meeting in early May.

Regardless of the actual WC date, plans for the USA 2021 Team Selects are moving ahead. As of this date (March 24) there is at least one club in the US with a bona fide TS hosting proposal that has already been submitted. After the March 31 submission deadline the F5J TS Committee will review the bids and decide who gets it.

Back in January **Steve Manganeli**, US FAI-F5 Team Selection Program Manager, re-activated the RC Groups thread on the 2021 Team Selection process. Any formal TS announcements will be made in this thread. You can follow that discussion here:

[RC Groups 2021 TS thread](#)

To help you stay current with additional TS news and info we will be adding timely updates to the *TS & WC Info* web page:

[Team Selects & WC News](#)



East Coast Fall F5J Festival, Farmville NC, Nov 2020

F5J Tour apparel - 20% off sale March 26-29

Many of you know that F5J USA Tour apparel has been available for the last two years. New designs have been recently added though the wonderful pro bono work of **Ken Becker**, a professional graphics designer with creative skills (Ken is also a new F5J pilot).



Periodically the SpreadShirt online store offers discounts and free shipping promotions. The next one is a **“20% off everything”** sale from **March 26 through March 29**.

Check out all the new designs here:

F5J USA Shirts & more

Note: *None of this Store's proceeds are directed to USA F5J World Championship teams. Team funds are generated via separate fundraising campaigns on a different website.*



Southwest Classic F5J, Stanfield AZ, Feb 2021

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](#).

