



March 2022 Issue - UPDATES EDITION

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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2022 Tour events in the queue

[Tour Calendar](#)

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

The 2022 Tour season is off and running! Already 2 well-attended Arizona events under our belt with 1 more going on in Georgia this weekend and another happening in California a week later.

Happening “Now”

Mar 19-20 – F5J South East at Orlando Buzzards, Americus GA Info [HERE](#). Awesome pilots list for this one!

Mar 26-27 – F5J in Visalia #1 at CVRC, Visalia CA Info [HERE](#).

Coming In April



April 9-10 – East Coast Spring F5J Festival at DESS, Farmville NC Info [HERE](#). Organizer/CD **Oleg Golovidov** has another great Tour event lined up

with the pilots list growing nicely.

April 9-10 – Southern Cal F5J at F5JinLA, Perris CA Info [HERE](#). Organizer/CD **Warren Day** has done an incredible job growing F5J in Southern Calif. How big will his next Tour event get? Can't wait to find out!



April 30-May1 – BRASS F5J at BRASS, Fisherville VA Info [HERE](#). Organizer **Tom Broeski** and CD **Duane Beck** have great plans for this event. Last year's contest went well and their pilot list for this one is on the rise. Check it out!

Coming In May

May 14-15 – F5J in the Bluegrass at Louisville Area Soaring Society (LASS), Elizabethtown KY Info [HERE](#). Organizer/CD **Marc Marcum** has a great weekend of F5J planned. Their equipment (including 3 timing boards!) is tested and ready. Already over 30 pilots signed up.



May 7-8 or 14-15, 4th Annual North/South F5J Challenge -- Fred Weaver Memorial, Location TBD Two teams battle it out with the winning team taking home the trophy cup for the year. Choose your team during signups. [NES](#) is hosting with organizer/CD **Chris Bajorek**. Tentative location is Perris CA, also possible at Visalia, to be confirmed soon.



Flight line at Southwest Classic-Feb 2022

Introducing a new Advisory Group

Since the Tour's inception in 2017 we have been fortunate to have volunteers in the **Tour Advisory Group** ([link](#)) that have been responsible for helping to run and manage the Tour. They have done a great job and will continue to serve the Tour.

2022 Pilot Advisory Group

We just established a second advisory group. Having passed the 5 year mark for the Tour, with increased pilot participation and an increased level of competition it felt like the right time to assemble a second group, this one consisting of active experienced F5J Tour pilots who can participate in key discussions and help reach decisions that will help to make the Tour better. To that end I'm happy to announce the 2022 Pilot Advisory Group. Members of this additional group are not only active Tour pilots but they also have a deep background in other soaring competition disciplines.

Thank you guys for stepping up to help move the Tour forward.

Jim Monaco
Lenny Keer
Jim McCarthy
Oleg Golovidov
Brady Baggs
Warren Day



(click to view map)

F5J USA Tour Standings- Now up on f3xVault.com

by Chris Bajorek

For 5+ years I have been manually maintaining the Tour's [Pilot Standings](#) pages via two spreadsheets. The first sheet is a biggie with many contest results tabs and cross-linked calculations. The second “horizontal scrollable” standings sheet came about after a suggestion from **Oleg Golovidov** a number of years ago. Both sheets have served us well but at one significant cost: my time. Every month took hours of computer time to import, link, and then cross-check the standings points to make sure everything was correct.



Programming expert **Tim Traver** (and a damn good F5J pilot it turns out too 😊) has been maintaining the f3xVault.com RC soaring competition web database for years. Not long ago Tim decided to incorporate F5J into his site in a major way and has been very kind in allowing me to offer suggestions, do testing, etc.

The result? The Tour now has a *Series Overall Standings* page on f3xVault.com:

[Tour Pilot Standings](#)

This new page brings you significant additional features *and* me time savings.

The time savings come from Tim adding the ability to **import** a full contest from GliderScore, not just the overall results. Once I get the **flight scores csv** file for a contest the import takes me just minutes.

The additional features come from the fact that the full contest data for each Tour event is imported which allows the Overall Series Standings page to show all the contest details just a few clicks away from that base standings page. No longer do you have to jump between multiple PDF reports to see all the details. Awesome.

Soon I will do a screen video showing how to navigate around this new page although most of you will pick up on how to use it quickly. For now below are a few pointers.

To see the preliminary round total points and the bonus points you simply mouse over the scoring cell, as follows:

Series Overall Standings

		Series1 Events (Best 4 out of 2 Completed Events)			
Pilot Name		E 1	E 2		
1	Chip Hyde	1000.33	1040.06		
2	Gavin Trussell	1023.00	1005.77		
3	Joshua Freund	987.23	1012.30		
4	Lenny Keer	971.19	1019.12	Prelim	982.03
5	Steven Willcox	1019.99	964.93	Bonus	57.00
6	Tim Traver	942.04	1039.03		
7	Tom Kiesling	977.20	952.98		

To see the full contest data for a particular Tour event you can click the contest event column heading e.g. E1, E2, etc as you see in the above screen capture. Or you can click one of the Event Names that is showing in the Series Events list (see below). Either way will take you to the full contest details + statistics generated by the Vault.

F5J USA Tour 2022

Series Name	F5J USA Tour 2022
Location	All Over, US 
Series Web URL	https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?4040501-F5
Series Scoring Type	USA F5J Tour - Event Percentage x 1000 plus bonus points for nt

Series Events

#	Date	Event Name	Location	State
1	2021-12-04	F5J in the Desert 2021	Silent Wings Ranch	 Arizona
2	2022-02-19	F5J Southwest Classic	Silent Wings Ranch	 Arizona

Thank you Tim Traver, we appreciate your efforts!



Note to GliderScore users: Set your calculation precision right!

Most clubs on the F5J USA Tour are using GliderScore. Good choice! Now that we have transitioned to a more direct (f3xVault) way of calculating the Tour's season standings this is an important reminder to set several of GliderScore's contest parameters so that the calculation precision is consistent across all Tour events.



Scoring Options:

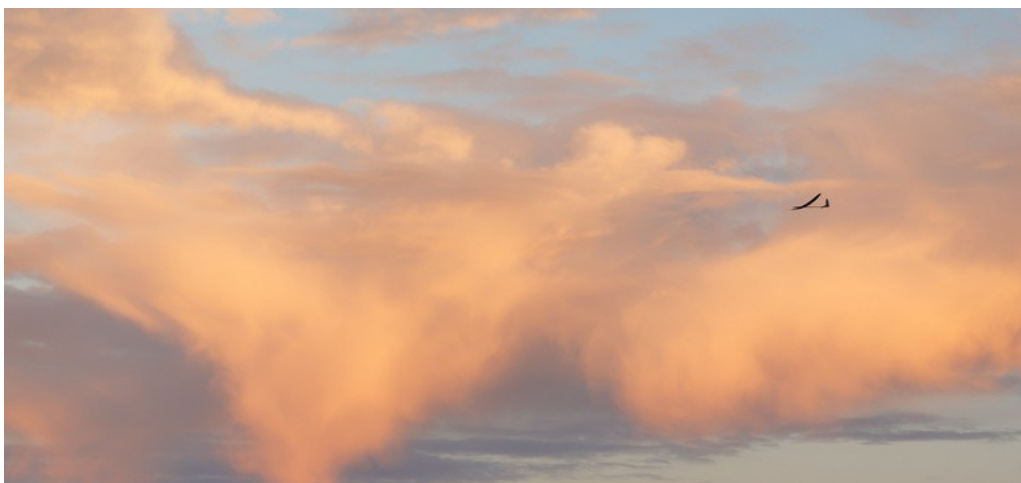
Always use these settings for F5J Tour events.

SCORING Options <i>i</i>	GroupScore <input type="text" value="Points"/>	TotalScore <input type="text" value="Truncated"/>	to <input type="text" value="2"/>	Decs
<input type="text" value="Drop worst Task scores"/> <i>i</i>	1 at Rnd <input type="text" value="5"/>	2 at Rnd <input type="text" value="99"/>		

Scoring Rules:

Use these settings for F5J Tour events. 600 secs is for 10 min working time rounds, 900 secs for 15 min working times. Set the *Timing decimals* parameter to 0 and 1 pts/sec. If you have never set up an F5J Landing Bonus table you can create one with Distance 5/Points 5, Distance 10/Points 10, etc all the way to Distance 50/Points 50.

SCORING Rules <i>i</i>	DURATION
Duration target time	<input type="text" value="600"/> secs <input type="button" value="View Lndg"/>
Timing decimals / Points/second	<input type="text" value="0"/> decs <input type="text" value="1.0"/> pts/sec
Landing bonus	<input type="text" value="F5J Enter Points"/>
Deduction from flight score	<input type="text" value="Height Penalty"/>
Nominal Launch Height	<input type="text" value="200"/> Metres
Penalty/Metre [up to]/[over] Ref	Up to <input type="text" value="0.5"/> Over <input type="text" value="3.0"/>
Number of timekeepers	<input type="text" value="1"/> <i>i</i>



F5J in the Desert - Dec 2021

FAA regulations and enforcement affecting F5J

As some of you in the western region know CVRC in Visalia CA started negotiations last year with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for formal altitude approvals above 400'. They are expecting a long-term agreement soon. Only one other Tour club--RMSA in Denver--has a formal altitude agreement with the FAA.



Some have heard rumors that the FAA has begun enforcement of regulations regarding Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Unfortunately, our gliders are categorized with drones and fall within these regulations. Rumors in Southern California have been circulating that one or several club fields in SoCal in the last few years have been visited by the FAA who were looking to verify registrations. The rumors go deeper but after hearing from enough SoCal folks even with multiple versions of each story it's still clear the FAA is taking a more active enforcement role now, at least in Southern California.

The Tour itself will never require pilots or hosting clubs to verify FAA compliance. However, if you want to be compliant you can do these two things as directed by the FAA:

- (1) If you are flying a plane weighing over .55 pounds (8.8oz) you are required to [register with the FAA](#) and display the registration number on the outside of your plane, and
- (2) You must also carry proof of completion of the [FAA TRUST Certificate](#) while flying.

Please take our FAA Poll

For the first time since the Tour was started a club in the west--Central Valley RC in Visalia--is now requiring all F5J Tour pilots to prove they have both done the FAA registration process and have passed the FAA's TRUST test. *Would this affect your plans to participate in Tour events?* Please take the poll and let us know. Thanks much!

[Tour FAA Poll](#)

Tour Organization

Chris Bajorek, Chairman

Tour Advisory Group – This group is responsible for helping manage the Tour. It includes the following key supporters and pioneers of USA-based F5J.

Lee Wolfe	Steve Neu
Lenny Keer	Larry Jolly
Jim Monaco	David Beach

Pilot Advisory Group – Members of this group are active F5J Tour pilots with deep background in other soaring competition disciplines. They participate in key discussions that make the Tour better.

Jim Monaco	Lenny Keer
Jim McCarthy	Oleg Golovidov
Brady Baggs	Warren Day

If you want to share feedback feel free to contact any of us directly, or you can send an email to Chris Bajorek [here](#).



Suggestions?

Periodically we get feedback on ways to improve the Tour. Most of the time our Advisory Groups discuss your feedback and may decide to implement pilot-requested changes. In this way we consider every pilot on the Tour as an informal member of our team. In other words, changes we implement often come directly from you the pilots who fly in Tour events.

So if you have thoughts and ideas by all means pass them our way. Thanks.