



March 2019 Issue

Hi and welcome to the F5J USA Tour newsletter. Spring is in the air with three Tour contests already in the books and many more coming. Time to get out and do some F5J USA Tour flying!

Tour events in April-May

[Tour Calendar](#)

East Coast Spring F5J Festival, Farmville NC, April 6-7. Event details [here](#). Message from organizer **Oleg Golovidov**:

“Down East Soaring Society is inviting all F5J pilots to enjoy the spring weather with us at our annual F5J event near Farmville NC.

You will have a chance to fly with and "beat up" on a couple of USA team members while enjoying the friendly atmosphere of the event. Lunch will be provided both days and it is an event in itself: southern style BBQ and homemade cookies are usually served!

We have had visitors from far away states previously and hope to see you there again! The pilot list is just over 20 pilots currently and we surely could use 5-10 more entrants.

So do not be shy - sign up now and join us in playing the F5J game.”



F5J in Vegas, Sandy Valley NV, May 5-6. This is the 3rd annual F5J event in Vegas and has been the Tour's biggest event each year. This is an amazing site for F5J. Event details [here](#). Message from organizer **Jim Monaco**:

“The F5J in Vegas event is now just 6 weeks out, so it's time to get registered at <https://www.f3xevents.com>. Soon sign-ups will be available for lunches as well. Lunches will be catered again by the local community groups. The price will be \$20 for 2 days of lunches. I'm expecting the menus next week. Hope to see everyone there... Jim”



Video: F5J in Vegas 2018 from the air

(click picture for video) Video credits - Greg Douglas

Pilot Standings

**Got
F5J
?**

Tour Info

Team F5J USA Update

by David Beach, Team Manager

[Team Website](#)

World Championship event: August 12-16, 2019 in Trnava, Slovakia

Great news! **Ali Khani** of [Flight Comp](#) has committed to sponsor the team with a generous donation of a [CCM Optimus F5J](#) plane to the team fund-raising raffle. Just visit the [team donation page](#) to have a chance at adding this beautiful model to your fleet. You will receive one raffle ticket for every ten dollars donated via any of the "Gift Level" options.



Special thanks also go to **Michael Gardner** and the members of the **St. Augustine RC fliers** in Florida. They kindly donated \$400 from the proceeds of the Warm and Sunny F5J contest to the team travel account.

I'm also pleased to announce that three clubs have already expressed their support of the team with **Club Sponsorship** donations. Thanks go to **CVRC** (California), **EVEF** (Arizona) and **DESS** (North Carolina). Who will be next? The unfinished GliderScore compatible LED display prize was on display at *Southwest Classic F5J* contest and should be complete in time to be on display at the *East Coast Spring F5J Festival* in North Carolina.

The team's fund-raising meter currently stands at 45% thanks in part to the \$8000 contribution from the AMA. The team earned this contribution based solely on the number of competitors at the team select competition held in Denver last year. We don't yet know where or when the 2021 team selects will be held, but it's not too early to think about having your club prepare a bid. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the process.



The USA team pilots have been busy preparing for the event through model preparation, practice, and contest attendance. As of today, there are 208 pilots in the pre-contest and 150 pilots representing 29 countries competing for the championship. It's definitely going to be exciting, and hopefully we will also have some fun!

On behalf of the team I want to thank you all for your support and encouragement.

David Beach
Team F5J USA



FAI F5J Rule-making Update



As reported last month the F5J USA Tour's Advisory Group has been participating in a 17 country working group that discussed and voted on proposed F5J rule changes. That work was officially concluded on March 13. The goal of this effort has been to forward recommendations to the FAI F5 sub-committee for consideration at the F5 Electric meeting on April 5-6 in Lausanne Switzerland.

Two members of our Advisory Group have been especially active in this process: **Steve Neu** and **Jim Monaco**. Steve Neu is a member of the F5 Electric sub-committee which encompasses F5J. Steve will be traveling soon to participate as one of 16 representatives in the FAI F5 meeting in Switzerland. Their work and voting will result in rule changes that affect FAI F5J rules starting in 2020. Jim Monaco has been the USA Tour's rules expert and has taken a “deep dive” and led discussions on some of the more controversial F5J rules. Jim's rules discussions have taken place both on RC Groups and as a part of the 17 country working group.

Working Group results - The F5J USA Tour Advisory Group discussed each of the working group proposals and established a position that we felt would best represent USA pilots. We're happy to report that our positions tracked the working group votes for a majority of proposals. However, as you might suspect we did not “get our way” with every proposal. A couple of the items that did not go our way:

- *Gyros and altimeter hardware* - This proposal prohibited installation of any hardware in a plane other than the AMRT (limiter). The USA argued from the position that altimeter hardware should be allowed for practice flights but disabled during contests. This proposal passed with 15 yes, 1 no (USA), and 1 abstaining. If this rule goes into effect the F5J USA Tour will likely institute a new rules deviation to allow altimeter hardware while disallowing its use in contests.
- *Emergency motor restarts* - This proposal for allowing restarts failed by a vote of 6 yes, 10 no, and 1 abstaining. This means that the F5J USA Tour will probably continue with this as an FAI rules deviation.

In the end we feel fortunate to have been invited to participate in this international working group process. As soon as we hear how the sub-committee votes went we will let you all know.

RC Groups F5J rule change reference threads:

[USA F5J Rules 2019 Rules Change Proposals](#) (Jim Monaco)

[Comment thread for F5J rule proposals from US F5J pilots](#) (Steve Neu)
[More than gyros in the rule change proposals](#)
[Gyros in F5J](#)

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](#).



Southwest Classic F5J, Stanfield AZ, February 2019

Video: F5J in Florida, March 2019
(click picture for video)

