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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

### **United States to host World Indoor Free Flight competition at West Baden**

**French Lick, Ind.** – The US will host the 2018 FAI F1D World Championship for Free Flight Indoor Model Aircraft. The competition will commence on March 19 and conclude on March 22 with an award ceremony and banquet. The contest will take place in French Lick, Indiana, at the historic West Baden Springs Hotel. The hotel, which opened to the public in 1902, features a 200-foot-span atrium that has been the venue for several Indoor Free Flight competitions.

A total of 14 countries will be represented at the competition. Expert craftsmanship, excruciating attention to detail, and a mastery of aerodynamics are just a few qualities of the world-class competitors who will attempt the longest flights possible with their delicate, rubber-powered balsa models.

Team USA 2018 features four Senior pilots, Kang Lee, Brett Sanborn, Jake Palmer, and John Kagan; and Junior pilots Joseph Szczur, Ross Clements, and Chris Luo. Tom Sova is serving as the team manager and Don Slusarczyk is the assistant team manager.

The competition would not be possible without the help of the [National Free Flight Society \(NFFS\)](#), a Special Interest Group of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, which is headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. NFFS is the only organization in the US that serves the interests of all Free Flight (FF) categories. NFFS was formed more than 30 years ago to promote FF activities and continues as a vital, growing organization dedicated to the advancement of the FF hobby and sport.

World competition is a tradition for FF Indoor model aircraft. The first FAI F1D World Championship was held in 1961 at Royal Air Force Cardington, in Bedfordshire, England. The winner of the inaugural world competition was Joe Bilgri of the US. The FAI F1D World Championship has been held every other year since then in several countries, including Hungary, Italy, Romania, Japan, and Poland.

**What:** 2018 FAI F1D World Championship for Free Flight Indoor Model Aircraft

**When:** March 18-22, 2018, a full schedule is available [here](#).

**Where:** West Baden Springs Hotel  
8670 West State Road 56  
French Lick, Indiana 47432

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*The Academy of Model Aeronautics, founded in 1936 serves as the nation's collective voice for approximately 200,000 modelers in more than 2,400 clubs in the United States and Puerto Rico. Headquartered in Muncie, Indiana, AMA is a membership organization representing those who fly model aircraft and drones for recreation and educational purposes.*

*For more information, visit [www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org).*