

Lisa Wixom snapped this Cessna 172 as she flew with Craig Johnson in a Cessna 152. Flying the 172 were Jon Gourdeaux and Brett Teat. The planes were returning from the 2006 regional SAFECON held in October in Grand Forks, N.D.



Flight team soars for honors

St. Cloud State's flight team will compete for the nation's top collegiate flying honors May 7-12 at Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus, Ohio. Hosted by Ohio State University, the 2007 Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON) is the seventh national finals competition for which the flight team has qualified in the last 10 years.

"I'm really proud of the team and all they accomplish year after year," said Steve Anderson, chair of the Department of Aviation and advisor to Aero Club, the student organization that generates a flight team for the annual competitions.

Anderson's comment gains significance with an understanding of the context; specifically, that there are only three national intercollegiate team competitions in which St. Cloud State University regularly goes up against the nation's top contenders: men's hockey, women's hockey and flight team.

The hockey teams are members of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA). A National Collegiate Athletic

Association (NCAA) Division I conference, the WCHA has produced the men's national champion eight of the last 10 years, and the women's national champion each year since its inaugural in 2001.

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Aero Club is a member of the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA), which sponsors the SAFECON regional and national flying competitions. However, unlike the NCAA, there are no conference divisions in NIFA, just geographical regions.

St. Cloud State is located in Region V, which has produced the national champion five of the last 10 years. Still, a second-place finish in the regionals qualifies the team for the finals, and in finals competition since 1997, St. Cloud State has ranked in the upper two-thirds of all competing schools.

"The students do most all of the work," Anderson said, referring not only to recruiting team members and preparing specifically for the competition's events, but also to the planning and fundraising that makes it all possible.

The flight team with its second-place trophy and individual awards following the 2006 regional SAFECON. From left: Brett Teat, Coleman Schelitzche, Jon Gourdoux, Paul Borrell, Chad Andries, Lisa Wixom, Craig Cance, Steve Anderson, Craig Johnson and Steve Reese.



While the SAFECON champions of the last decade are teams that receive substantial amounts of funding from their schools — which helps pay for their teams' practice sessions — the Aero Club's team has received only small amounts of funding for travel expenses.

But competing at SAFECON is worth it, according to Anderson.

"Preparing for and participating in the NIFA competitions is a tremendous learning experience for the students and helps them in pursuit of their aviation careers," he said.

"I cannot really put into words what an honor it has always been to be involved with students that work so hard, learn so much, have fun in the process and conduct themselves so professionally."

This year, the team members plan to fly three planes to Columbus, where they may compete in such flying events as power-off landing, short-field approach and landing, navigation, message drop, and simulated and precision flight. The ground events include computer accuracy, ground trainer, aircraft preflight inspection, aircraft recognition, simulated comprehensive aircraft navigation and electronic flight computer.

For more information regarding the SCSU Aero Club, please go online to <http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/aero/>.

SCSU Annual Math Contest!

For more information
mathcontest@stcloudstate.edu
(320) 308-3001
http://web.stcloudstate.edu/mathcontest/

For 40 years, St. Cloud State's mathematics, statistics and computer science programs have held an annual mathematics contest for students grades 7-12. One day each spring students across Minnesota compete for the awards given to the top 15% in each grade level.

$$D_{s,x} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left\langle \left(\sum_{n=1}^N v_{x,n} \tau_n \right)^2 \right\rangle}{2 \left\langle \sum_{n=1}^N \tau_n \right\rangle}$$

Airport Day

Aviation Ambassadors

An annual event sponsored by the Aviation Ambassadors to promote SCSU aviation and general aviation overall.

Open to the public and great for all ages!
 Free parking and admission. Held each spring at the St. Cloud Airport.

For more information
SCSU Aviation department: (320) 308-2107
 or
Aviation Ambassadors Events Web site:
<http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/ambassador/cal.htm>



Event may include:

- State Patrol helicopters
- Aircraft static display & booths
- Free flights for kids
- Representatives from the Army National Guard & Mayo Clinic Flight Department

Relay for Life

American Cancer Society Relay for Life fundraiser is held each spring at St. Cloud State!

An overnight event where teams of usually 8-15 volunteers keep someone walking or running on the track at all times. Along with a Luminaria Ceremony in honor of those who have fought cancer, the night includes entertainment, food and prizes.



For more information, visit the Web site
www.acevents.org/relay/mn/scsu