



Lakeland, FL

SUN 'n FUN is pleased to welcome **National STOL's Central Florida Classic Competition** to headline their first annual Holiday Flying Festival and Car Show, taking place December 4-5, 2020. Come join the fun as the best pilots in the growing sport of Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) converge on Central Florida to show off their amazing aircraft!

The National STOL Series is a competition series with events planned in Oregon, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Minnesota and the Carolinas. The series successfully launched earlier this year in Gainesville, Texas, with 56 Competitors from across the United States turning out for the inaugural event, competing to show who can takeoff or land in the shortest distance.

Through an exclusive broadcast with Live Airshow TV, the event was streamed live across the world, with more than 275,000 domestic and international viewers, and over the past few months, the event continues to live up to the hype as **viewership has rocketed past 1,000,000** on all the viewing platforms.

Doug Jackson, founder of the National STOL, is looking forward to bringing the competition to Central Florida. "National STOL is very proud and humbled to be featured in the first annual Holiday Flying Festival and Car Show at the SUN 'n FUN Expo Campus," he said. "To be a partner with this iconic organization is a great honor, and we look forward to putting on a great show!"

"The best part about STOL flying," says Jackson, "is that **anyone at any age level can compete**. Whether you just got your private pilot's license at the age of 17, or you've been flying for decades, if you've mastered short takeoffs and landings, then you are already prepared for this competition."

Greg Gibson, Chief Marketing Officer and Air Operations Director for SUN 'n FUN, is enthusiastic about bringing the National STOL Competition to their Holiday Flying Festival. "We are very excited to partner with National STOL to bring their Central Florida Classic competition to Lakeland," he said. "**The fun and energy this sort of flying brings is unique**, and we can't wait for the audience at this brand-new event on our campus to see it. It's a great headliner for our weekend."

The National STOL Competition uses a fixed line that competitors must land beyond, and their distance is recorded when their tires stop. For takeoffs, pilots start on the line and take off in the shortest distance. In both cases, the distance is measured from the start line.

Competitors will fly in a series of qualification heats leading up to the finals. Open Practice will be on December 3rd, with the first round of competitions on Friday, December 4th. This round will be open to all competitors, with up to 125 competing for the top 6 spots in their class. The following day, Saturday December 5th, the top 30 with the shortest distances from the previous day will compete in final round

to achieve the lowest scores. Winners will walk away with a huge cash purse of \$12,500 and other prizes!

The event will again be streamed live online, broadcast via Live Airshow TV's network-quality production platform. "We rely on Live Airshow TV's top-shelf lineup of services for the annual SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo each year", said Gibson, "they have really taken us to a new level and we are very pleased to have them carry this new event for us as well."

Food and social activities are planned throughout, plus fans can enjoy lots of entertainment at the Holiday Flying Festival. There is music, a balloon glow and night airshow on Friday evening, followed by a 5k run and balloon launch Saturday morning just prior to the opening of the Car Show. Static show aircraft will be on display, plus dozens of vendors and exhibitors. RV, Tent, and Aircraft Campers are welcome, and **admission is free** with only a \$20 parking fee per vehicle. Aircraft flying in park for free!

Interested competitors can sign up today for the Central Florida Classic on the National STOL website, www.nationalstol.com or on the Central Florida Classic STOL area of the SUN 'n FUN Holiday Flying Festival and Car Show Website at www.flysnf.org. **Registration is limited** to the first 125 competitors and **will fill up**.

Proceeds from the SUN 'n FUN Holiday Flying Festival and Car show will **benefit education and scholarship programs at the Aerospace Center for Excellence (ACE)**. For more information about this internationally recognized STEM education campus, please visit www.aceedu.aero.

For more information, please contact Greg Gibson at ggibson@flysnf.org.