

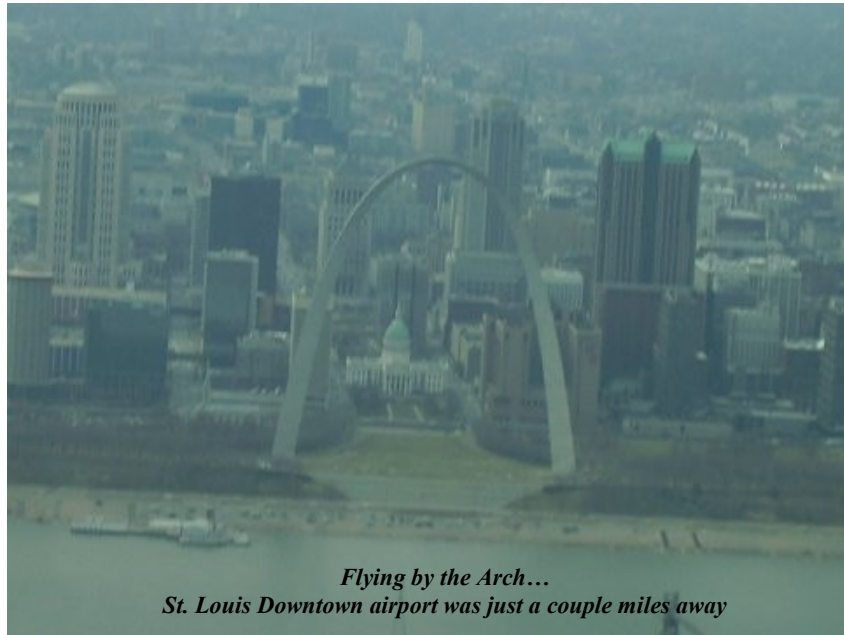
## Mankato to St Louis in 1 day

Hey everybody, this weekend was truly amazing. I keep having more and more amazing flights. Hope this keeps happening for the rest of my life.

I needed to do a solo 300 nautical mile cross country for my commercial rating, so I looked for places to go and thought I would go a bit farther and find somewhere interesting and warm. I picked St. Louis, around 460 miles away. I departed Mankato Saturday morning around 10 am, headed GPS direct to St. Louis Downtown airport. With a 30kt tailwind at 7,500ft msl it took only about 3.5 hours and one tank of gas! That's about 150mph over the ground.

Arriving in St. Louis was pretty exciting. It is a huge class B airspace because St. Louis International airport and the Downtown Airport are close to each other. Air Traffic Controllers helped me out with a VFR flight following and the next thing I knew I was flying right by the St. Louis Arch! It was hard to stay focused on flying the plane with all the sights around and the really busy airspace, but I managed.

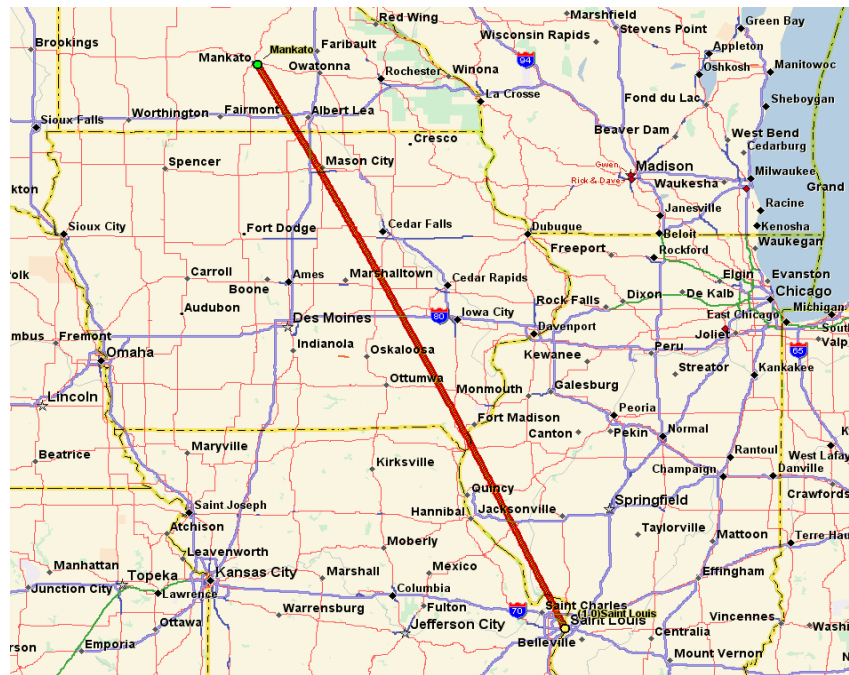
After landing at St. Louis Downtown Airport I checked out the courtesy car and headed for downtown. It's mind-boggling to leave a wintry cold environment in Minnesota and in a few short hours come to St. Louis where the grass was getting green and it was warm! And to think that once upon a time Charles



Lindbergh was in the same airspace. How cool is that.

After finding a parking spot I went to check out the Arch. I couldn't believe how big it was - 630ft, you

can even go up in it! Underneath there's a couple museums, shops and the elevator to get to the top. It truly is one magnificent engineering design and to think it was made



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back in the 40's. I could have spent all day there.

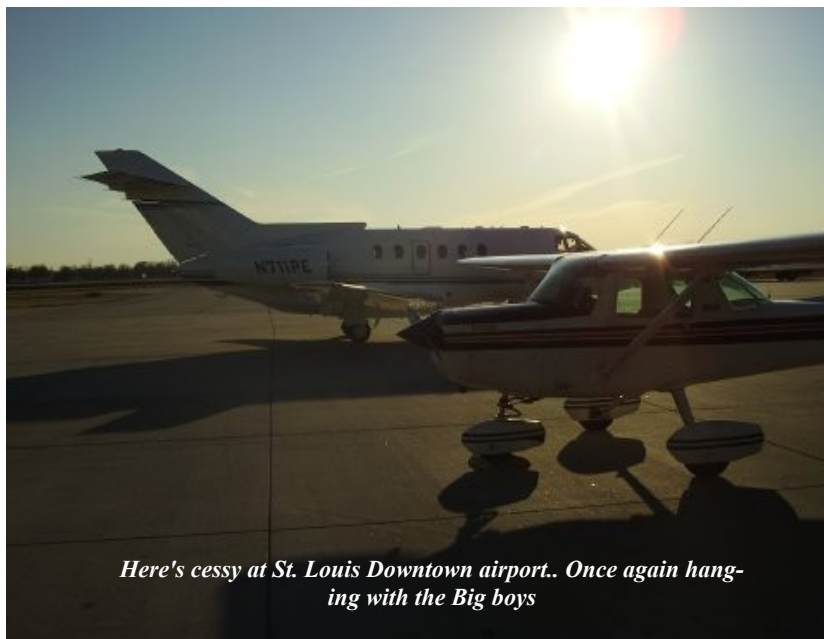
After soaking up the warm weather, the Arch, and the beautiful Mississippi River, I headed back to the airport.

I left around 4pm and had a pretty mean headwind coming back. This time I was only going 92mph instead of 150. To stay out of the stronger winds aloft I stayed low at 1000 ft above ground. An hour later I watched the sunset on another cloudless day. Following my fuel stop in Cedar Rapids I had another hour and a half or so to Mankato. Back in Mankato I stepped out of the plane and experienced cold winter temp and that thing called snow once again.

All in all it was an amazing day; 8.5 hours of sitting in N6111Q, cloudless sky's and great views for the entire flight. I just can't get enough of this flying thing! It's amazing where you can go in a weekend with a Cessna 152!

Blue Sky's Always,

Brian Krueger



*Here's cessa at St. Louis Downtown airport.. Once again hanging with the Big boys*