

Mt. Vernon Airport hosts successful third LSA Expo

Three-day light sport aircraft event concluded Sunday

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MT. VERNON — The final day of the third annual Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo capped a successful weekend for Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, aircraft vendors, and aviation enthusiasts.

Warm, sunny weather Sunday brought welcome conclusion to the event which began under clouds and rain on Friday. The three-day expo brought in visitors from across the country to converge in the King City.

"It was a good weekend for as poor as the weather was," airport manager Chris Collins said. "Exhibitor response has been that most everyone here were serious shoppers."

Glenn McCallister representing Skybound Aviation of Cape Girardeau, Mo., said this was his third year attending the expo but his first as a vendor of Remos aircraft. McCallister and Bev Clear formed the company earlier this year, and he said the crowd was made of both those interested in flying and experienced aircraft looking for new equipment.

"It's a mixture of both. I went 20 years before I bought a plane. I think most are veteran attendees as well as local people who are curious about flying," he said. "I think we get leads of two kinds: aircraft leads and flight school leads. And we had some rental interest as well from people who live close."

Clear enthusiastically called the event at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport "the best show ever."



Sentinel Photo/JASON SILVEY

PLANE SHOPPING — Aviation lovers from across the country inspect a variety of light sport aircraft for sale from numerous vendors Sunday at the third annual Midwest LSA Expo at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

McCallister said, "I'm an airplane-aholic as most of us are. Light sport, because of the science, the speed, and the cost, is the part of aviation that is going to be strong. People can get an aircraft and have a blast on weekends, which is what light sport is all about."

Airport Board member Greg Martin said the healthy crowd at the Midwest LSA Expo helps promote the airport and the community.

"Some are interested in getting started with flying. Some are looking at upgrading their planes. It's just like buying a car," Martin said. "It brings in a lot of people from out of town and out of state who have to stay at motels and have to eat. It brings in money to our economy, and they all seem to like our facility."

McCallister agreed and said, "It's definitely gotten beyond the regional stage."
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TAKING OFF — Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Manager Chris Collins, RIGHT, sees off visitors at the end of the Midwest LSA Expo's third and final day.