

Mt. Vernon Airport ready for September aircraft expo

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Board holds final meeting before Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo and is seeking volunteers

BY EMILY ROTH

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is gearing up for the Plane and Pilot Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo and, according to the airport Board of Commissioners who met on Tuesday night, plans for the September show are on schedule.

"Things are looking really good," said Airport Director Chris Collins. "We've got new interest and a lot of new exhibitors coming, one from Canada, one from California. Of course we always seem to have one or two from Florida."

Collins stressed that while he is optimistic about the expo, the airport is still seeking volunteers to help the event run smoothly.

"As always we need volunteers," Collins continued. "We can't do this event without volunteers. You always kind of worry about it at this point and then when the day comes you're always really surprised because of the number of people who come out to help."

The sixth annual Midwest LSA Expo is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 4-5.

According to the expo website, the event was created to educate aviators about all facets related to the LSA industry, including the many different aircraft types, available engines and LSA performance, to promote the sale of LSAs, the use of LSA aircraft for flight training and in rental fleets, and to promote economic development in the

Southern Illinois region.

Collins also continued to state that Mt. Vernon continues to grow in reputation throughout the aviation community. "I can't say enough about it," he said. "The public always comes and helps and rolls out the red carpet for our vendors. Mt. Vernon is on the map as the friendliest place in aviation."

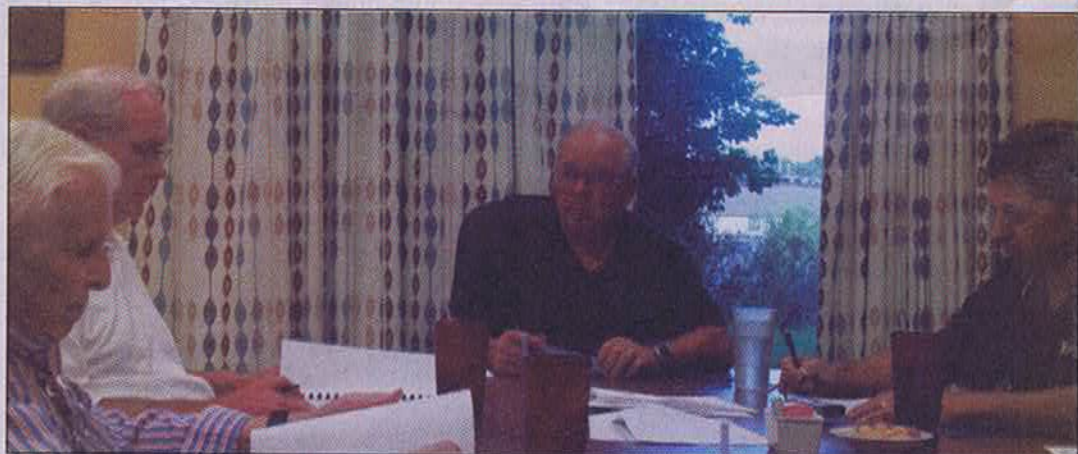
"That's a real tribute to you and the staff and everybody here in taking the extra effort to do that," said Chairman Mike Ancona to Collins on behalf of the board. "We all know in this industry it's rare. You should be proud of that claim. Keep it up."

IN OTHER NEWS:

- The airport has been selected as the venue for the 2015 Air Venture Cup Race in July over Dayton, Ohio. It is the country's fastest cross country air race.

"It's a tremendous honor for the airport and our state," said Collins.

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Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

FINAL PREPARATIONS — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night. It was the last meeting before the Plane and Pilot Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo.

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