

MT. VERNON AIRPORT

# Airport hosts expo

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MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Light Sport Aircraft Expo fought weather all weekend but enjoyed a wide audience, according to Airport Manager Chris Collins.

Collins said at least four exhibitors were “weathered out” because of rain and general bad weather in the northeast U.S.

“We’re down a lot because of the weather,” he said. “It’s been a good day despite of the poor weather.”

He said no light sport aircraft, which must fly by visual flight rules, were able to take off at all on Friday, and not until 1:20 p.m. Saturday.

Larger aircraft were permitted to operate under instrument flight rules, however, he said.

Light sport aircraft are no less than 1,320 pounds, Collins said.

Collins said on Saturday that he wasn’t sure what the attendance was to the

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## EXPO

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event, which charged an \$8 per person admission, but mentioned that the event sold out of arm bands.

Attendees on Sunday were able to hear the first-hand account of the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon by U.S. Air Force Col. Matt Swanson.

Swanson was present in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, and held a presentation on his experiences.

“It’s as fresh as it was the day I was there,” he said. “It’s another day on the cal-

endar. I try to get other people to remember, because things are easy to forget. I do this free of charge because it’s the right thing to do.”

His presentation included an account of his day before the attacks occurred, a video of footage of the Pentagon after the plane struck the building, and a tour of the inside of the building.

“I tell people about what I did up until I got home that night,” he said. “I got home and turned on the TV, because I wasn’t glued to the TV like everyone else. To see how the rest of the world reacted flabbergasted me,

that’s when I started getting choked up. I got the global significance, the perspective, then.”

Swanson said his presentation focused on ordinary civilians who stayed at the Pentagon to help and did “extraordinary things.”

He said the shows of support from Americans across the country were touching.

“When people show their simple support,” he said, “it helps a lot.”

9-12-11