

Operations see increase

Jet traffic rises,
airplane quantity drops

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MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority reported a 3.75 percent increase in operations at Outland Airport in its 2010 Aviation Report Tuesday.

The report, created by Airport Manager Chris Collins, listed total operations at approximately \$21,225, an increase over 2009's \$20,456 despite soaring fuel costs. Collins credited much of that improvement to the wide variety of activities happening on the property.

"I attribute a lot of that to the operators we have out on the field and their capabilities as well as having a restaurant here and the things we do like Saturday breakfasts," he said. "There are

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a lot of events here that drive operations to the airport."

The report did include some bad news for the airport, however. The quantity of planes registered at the airport dropped to 42, costing the facility much-needed revenue. Collins said there is a positive cause behind the negative change.

"A couple airplanes moved to other airports that just built hangars, so that's not necessarily a bad thing," he said. "These airplane owners are from out of town and had to keep the planes here in Mt. Vernon, but now that they're able to go somewhere five or ten miles from their house, they have to make that step."

Collins also reported some good news for the airport from 2011's numbers so far: To date, jet operations

have increased 46 percent over 2010, and FAA estimates predict that business jet traffic and light sport jet traffic will continue to go up in the near future.

"From January 1, 2011 to (March 7), we've already had 38 jet operations. We had 26 over that term in 2010, and I hope that trend keeps going," Collins said. "Aviation may be rebounding, at least on the corporate side, and that's great news for us."

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