

Pilots begin to arrive for Airventure

More than 30 pilots, planes have arrived; 70 expected

BY PHILLIP HAMERSKI
phillip.hamerski@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — The arrival day for pilots for the 2015 Airventure Cup race was Friday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

Over 30 planes and pilots were on hand and Airport Manager Chris Collins says he expects around 70 planes in total to arrive to participate in the race.

"It's been a little sporadic," Collins said. "Several come in at a time then nothing for 10 or 15 minutes then you get six or seven more show up."

In the aviation world, this event is the kick-off to the EAA Airventure events.

"What makes this unique is this kicks off EAA Airventure," Collins said. "EAA Airventure is probably the foremost aviation airshow in the world."

Collins believes hosting the starting point for the race is a big opportunity for the airport. Mt. Vernon Outland Airport has hosted the starting point for the race once before in 2013.

SEE CUP PAGE 3A

CUP

Pilots begin to arrive for Airventure

FROM PAGE 1A

"We're always trying to grow our facility and it just puts us on the map having events like this," Collins said.

Collins added that there is an economic aspect for the community that goes into this as well.

"Economically, every airplane that's here for the race is from somewhere else," Collins explained. "So all these visitors are staying in our hotels, eating at our restaurants and maybe



Florida pilot John Wilson inspects his plane after he landed for arrival day at Mt. Vernon Outland airport Friday. The airport is hosting the starting point to the 2015 Airventure Cup race.

even doing a little shopping while they're here, so there's an economic impact attached to this."

An airport open house will take place today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. where spectators can talk to competing pilots and

inspect race planes.

The race will begin Sunday at 9 a.m. The planes will take off from Mt. Vernon Outland Airport and travel 409 miles to the finish line at Wausau Downtown Airport in Wausau, Wis.

Phillip Hamerski
photos/
Register-News

Pilot Keith Phillips flies his plane during a media flight Friday at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Friday. The airport is hosting the starting point to the 2015 Airventure Cup race.



7/18/15