

Race returns in 2015

*AirVenture Cup
expected to bring
60 to 65 planes*

BY RICK HAYES
rick.hayes@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — Mt. Vernon Airport will again host the EAA AirVenture Cup Race in 2015.

Manager Chris Collins made the announcement during the Airport Authority's regular monthly meeting Tuesday night.

"It's a huge deal," Collins said. "We'll have 60 to 65 airplanes with over 50 of them racing. That translates into lots of shopping, meals and transportation."

Mt. Vernon hosted the event in 2013 and race officials were impressed with the hospitality extended to racers.

Next year's event will be held on the weekend of July 17.

The AirVenture Cup has been rotated every other year between Mitchell, S.D., and Dayton, Ohio.

Collins learned at an event two weeks ago in Oshkosh, Wis., that Mt. Vernon will be the host in 2015, replacing Dayton as the host city.

"They will arrive on Friday, we'll have an open house and Eagle rides on Saturday and the full blown race to Oshkosh on Sunday," Collins said.

He added, "This is a tremendous honor for the airport. To bring this to our home state is a big deal."

The race is one of the fastest cross country air races. According to

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information from EAA AirVenture, the race was founded in 1997, and has grown to be one of the most successful racing events in aviation.

The race is open to experimental aircraft and pilots with at least a private pilot certificate or pilots

flying light sport aircraft. The first race in 1998 started at Kitty Hawk, N.C., and many of the first aircraft in the race participate in the event annually.

Collins reported airport officials are gearing up for the Pilot & Plane Midwest LSA Expo, to be held on the weekend of Sept. 4-6.

"Things are looking good and there is a lot of interest," Collins reported. "We'll have new exhibitors from California and Canada."

Collins said as always, airport officials will be calling on local community members to help volunteer during the weekend event, which coincides with the Cedarhurst Craft Fair.

"We can't do it without volunteers and every year the public comes and helps us roll out the red carpet to Mt. Vernon. It's the friendliest town in aviation," he said.

In other news, the Authority approved its 2014-2015 budget ordinance and the

2014-2015 tax levy ordinance. Authority members also made a motion to place a freeze on the corporate levy. The proposed corporate levy for next year is \$117,372, it was announced.

"The airport is in stable condition financially and we believe this is a statement to the community that we're going to be financially prudent and help taxpayers save money," Chairman Mike Ancona said.