

LSA Expo opens in Mt. Vernon

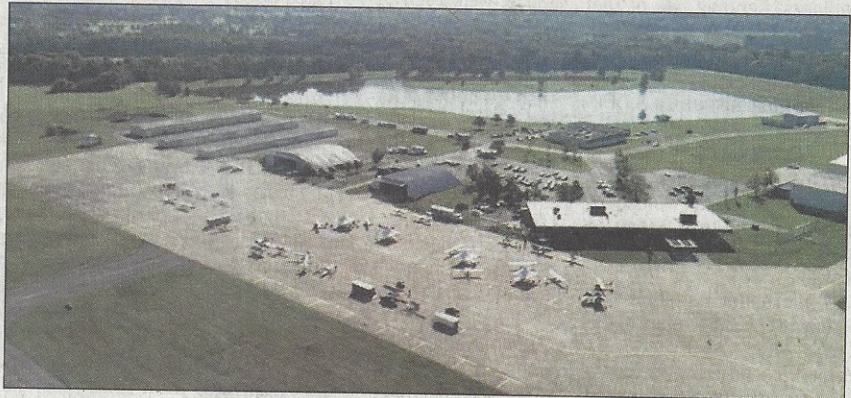
*Light Sport Aircraft Expo
to continue at the
Mt. Vernon Outland
Airport today
and tomorrow*

BY EMILY ROTH

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Aviation enthusiasts from across the country have flown and driven in from across the country to buy and sell prod-

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Submitted Photo

VIEW FROM ABOVE — An aerial view of the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Thursday shows the flightline filling up with vendors. More than 40 various vendors have flown in from across the country for the Light Sport Aircraft Expo.

Expo:

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ucts showcased at the seventh annual Plane and Pilot Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) Expo at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Thursday.

The expo continues today and Saturday the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, camping, parking and shuttle transportation services are available.

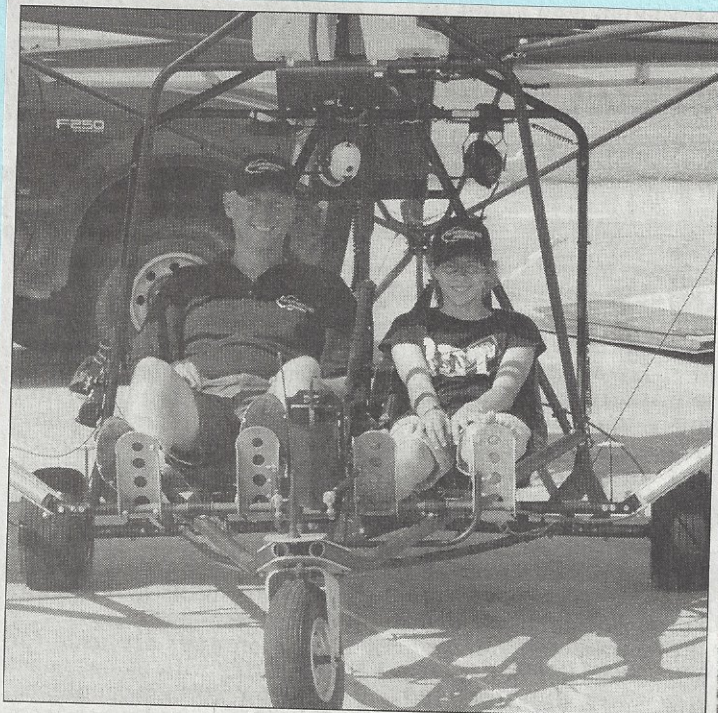
"It's been going great so far today," Airport Director Chris Collins stated on Thursday. "People have flown in from New York, California, the Pacific Northwest, we sold two airplanes [Wednesday] night before the show even started. There were attendees outside the fence, around 5 or 6 p.m. last night. The fence was open obviously, so it was really neat to say 'hey, you'd see more if you came across this side,' ... this is a sales show and you can't sell if you can't get in to see the products. I'm very pleased with the turnout."

More than 40 exhibitors



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

SHOW OF HOSPITALITY — Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Director Chris Collins, LEFT, welcomes a just-arrived pilot and his passenger, coming in from Los Angeles, Calif. on Thursday. The Light Sport Aircraft Expo attracted vendors as well as pilots.



Sentinel photo/EMILY ROTH

ALL IN THE FAMILY — Andy Humphrey, of Heavenbound Aviation, and his daughter Josie Humphrey, 12, sit in their Quicksilver Sport 2SE open-cockpit aircraft on Thursday. Josie has followed in her father's footsteps, already logging hours to earn her pilot's license.

are accessible from the flightline. Attendees are able to shop for different light sport aircraft as well as aviation gadgets sold in the terminal lobby. Several

informative seminars and forums will be presented by professionals in the industry today and tomorrow.

"You have all different types of models of aircraft here," explained Collins. "You have low-winged aircraft, you have high-winged aircraft, you have high-winged short takeoff and land, you've got ultralights, gyroplanes, and even amphibian."

Collins indicated that the beginning of the expo has been a success, and he is pleased with the turnout and interest presented.

"The show is doing what it's designed to do, and that is getting the shoppers with the buyers," he said, "and both of those have come long distances."

Many exhibitors offer demonstration flights, including Andy Humphrey, owner of Heavenbound Aviation out of Johnstown, Ohio.

"This is a Quicksilver Sport 2SE, which is a factory-built model," stated Humphrey, pointing to the two-seater aircraft on display. "We got a factory-built model so we can legally do flight training in it. We've done a lot of flight training now. It's a great airplane, very solid, very rugged. People love it with its wide open cockpit and you fly around 45 miles an hour. People unfamiliar with these airplanes ask, 'How fast does it go?' and I don't care. The point is that it goes slow, that's what we wanna do. Then people ask, 'Well how high does it go?' It goes above the trees. If I wanted to go high I would take the airline."

For Humphrey, aviation is a family affair, as his 12-year-old daughter Josie not only helps him with the expo, but is currently training to become a pilot herself.

"I have so much fun in this, we're skimming along just over the trees," Humphrey continued regarding his open cockpit craft. "I can holler at my neighbors and wave to them. I land in the back yard sometimes. You can pull up right behind hawks and buzzards and geese and fly with them. There's just nothing like it. It's an experience that you can't even describe to people."

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