

# Mt. Vernon Airport to host KR Gathering and Fly-in next weekend

BY MATT BARBA

MT. VERNON MANAGING EDITOR

MT. VERNON — With 24 KR pilots pre-registered, and dozens more visitors signed up to attend, this year's KR Gathering and Fly-in is expected to be one of the largest gatherings for homemade aircraft enthusiasts.

This year's KR Gathering will be held Sept. 28-29 at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport and there are already close to 90 people registered to attend the event, including several from across the United States and even more from outside the country.

Larry Flesner, one of the organ-

izers of the event, explained that the gathering of KR1 and KR2 aircraft is a celebration of the first flight of the KR1, an aircraft that he said revolutionized construction methods as it was one of the first to use fiberglass in its construction.

"With KR aircraft, it's not a kit that you buy the components and build it at home," said Flesner. "Instead, you buy the plans and then you build the components yourself."

It is the fact that owners build their own planes that makes the



Submitted Photo

**ON DISPLAY** — A KR aircraft was on display at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport at the 2011 KR Gathering and Fly-in. This year's event will be held from Sept. 28-29 at the airport.

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KR Gathering so interesting for non-pilots and owners to attend, Flesner added.

"Each one of them is different. It's a design that lends itself to modification and the design has evolved over the years. Each one that is out there will be different in some way and it really showcases the ingenuity and capabilities of different people," he said.

This is the eighth year that Mt. Vernon has hosted the KR Gathering, Flesner said, and he attributes that to the support that Chris Collins, manager of the Mt. Vernon airport, and the City of Mt. Vernon's elected officials who go out of their way to help make the event a success.

"We get excellent support from Chris and the city, and it's that support that keeps bringing the KR Gathering back to Mt. Vernon," said Flesner.

While the KR Gathering is not an air show, the public is invited to come out to the airport and look at the planes, Flesner said.

An awards banquet will be held Saturday night where pilots and owners will be presented with various awards, including awards for workmanship.

There will also be forums on construction of KR aircraft, as well as engine maintenance and other topics, held throughout the weekend.

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mbarba@morningsentinel.com