

# EAA Fly-In offers aviation education

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*An educational seminar  
on aviation careers paired  
with free flights highlighted  
this year's event*

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MT. VERNON — Despite the lack of military aircraft on display — an effect of the federal government's recent two-week shutdown — the Experimental Aircraft Association's Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion held Saturday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport was deemed a success by event organizers.

A new addition to the activities this year was a seminar hosted by Leland Widick, a Federal Aviation Administration designated pilot examiner based at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

Widick's seminar, "Let's Wing It" was geared towards young individuals interested in an aviation career.

The focus of Widick's seminar was to educate people on the many possibilities of careers in aviation and how to pursue those possibilities.

Widick told the audience there are good opportunities for careers in aviation in the near future. He estimated that in the next 10 years, the country will need 80,000 pilots.

"If you're interested in aviation or flying at all, now is the time to think about it," stated Widick.

The seminar did not focus solely on how to become a pilot. In fact, it did quite the opposite.



Sentinel Photo/GREG PETERSON

**EAGLE FLIGHTS** — Pilot Dave Mullinax, **SECOND FROM RIGHT**, prepares to take, **FROM LEFT**, Isiah and Brennon Nix and Mikayla Walters, **RIGHT**, on a flight in a Piper Aarow model III single-engine airplane. Free flights were provided for youth during the EAA Fly-In held Saturday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

## Aviation:

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Widick even said, "Pilots can't do their job until a bunch of other people do their job."

Jobs such as flight scheduling, fueling, food services, safety inspection and maintenance were just a few of the aviation-related positions mentioned.

Widick said that if younger members of the audience

liked video games and enjoyed problem solving, then a career as an air traffic specialist, also known as an air traffic controller, might interest them.

He described these professionals as "unsung heroes," who have to assist thousands of planes in the air every hour.

Widick also told the audience that there are many careers in aviation that most people wouldn't think of, an example being agriculture. He explained that many farmers use planes to feed fish farms or apply fertilizer

and pesticides.

After the seminar, young members of the audience were encouraged to participate in the free Eagle Flights sponsored by EAA Chapter 1155 pilots.

Many children lined up to receive a flight in one of the several single-engine aircraft, receiving a first-hand introduction into aviation.

Some kids had been on flights before, while others were flying for the first time, but everyone seemed to enjoy the aviation experience.

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