

15th Annual EAA Fly-In takes place

By **DEREK BEIGH**

derek.beigh@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — More than 50 planes from four states came to Mt. Vernon Airport Saturday for the 15th annual EAA Little Egypt Fly-in.

The event, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., allowed visitors to see a wide variety of aircraft as well as military artifacts, including weapons and movies, and take rides in planes and helicopters.

Airport Manager Chris Collins said he was pleased with the turnout despite several late cancellations.

“We were supposed to have a lot
see FLY-IN/Page 3A



A helicopter takes off at the 15th annual EAA Little Egypt Fly-in Saturday at Mt. Vernon Airport. The craft was one of three attendees were invited to take a ride in at the event, which also featured personal planes, motorcycles, tractors and military memorabilia displays.

DEREK BEIGH/REGISTER-NEWS

10/17/11

FLY-IN

continued from 1A

of warbirds, but things happen with aviation,” he said. “We still have helicopters, young eagles and waco bi-planes people can ride in. And there’s a nice assortment of tractors, motorcycles and military displays.”

Local pilot Steve Watts, who brought his Quicksilver plane to the fly-in, said he always enjoys the event and

hasn’t missed one yet.

“We ought to have 100 planes, but they aren’t all here yet,” he joked. “We had 68 for the (Midwest Light Sport Aircraft) Expo, and we were packed to the gills.”

Mark Harper of the Rend Lake RC Club, which had four miniature planes on display Saturday, said he always hopes that attendees don’t overlook his models with the real thing outside.

“When you crash these no one gets hurt,” he said with a

laugh. “I was building models when I was five years old, throwing something in the air whenever I got the chance. It’s a relaxing hobby. It can be frustrating, but it’s more fun than anything.”

John Schafer of Waterloo, a pilot for 40 years, said he enjoyed adding Mt. Vernon

to the list of fly-ins he’s attended.

“I go to a lot of fly-ins on weekends and meet a lot of nice people. I remember as a kid going to a ton of them with my dad,” he said. “It’s a chance to get way; it’s always great to have a nice day that’s a good excuse to fly.”



**Take a ride in a
Genuine WWII
Warbird**

Saturday, October 15 • All Day

\$150 Sight Seeing Ride

\$350 Aerobactic Ride

First Come, First Serve.

Call Clyde at 217-299-1799 for more information