

# Flight school launched

By LEAH WILLIAMS

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MT. VERNON — SRT Aviation observed its first anniversary Saturday with the announcement that it has begun offering its flight school.

"It's a hallmark day," said Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Chairman

6/1/07

see FLIGHT/Page 3A

## FLIGHT

continued from 1A

Mike Ancona. "It's about getting people excited about aviation in Mt. Vernon again."

Flight instructor Russ Brown, a Mt. Vernon native, has returned to the area after spending 15 years earning various degrees and accreditations.

So far, Brown said, at least 15 people have expressed interest in participating in the flight school. Last year was the last time Mt. Vernon-Outland Airport had its own flight school, and Brown said he is looking forward to soaring the skies.

"It's been a long road for these guys," Brown said. "We just want to get the flights up and, this week, get everybody signed up. I'm just excited people are getting involved."



Russ Brown, full-time instructor for SRT Aviation's newly implemented flight school, poses next to a plane Saturday afternoon. LEAH WILLIAMS/REGISTER-NEWS

Other local part-time instructors are Steve Willis, Ray Xanders and Carl Heinrich.

The Piper Cherokee 140 aircraft will be available for flight instruction or if interested persons would like to rent the plane.

Reflecting on the past year,

SRT President Rich Camey said the fixed-base organization has had many accomplishments in its short time in Mt. Vernon. Those achievements include rebuilding many antique planes and working on the Charles Lindbergh Serial No. 2 plane.

The FBO has also seen an

### GETTING INVOLVED:

For more information about the flight school, you may contact SRT Aviation at 244-7746.

increase in general aviation traffic, freight and cargo planes, military aircraft and charter planes.

Airport Manager Chris Collins said offering the flight school gives members of the community something to seek out.

"It helps get more people involved, and we found that this is something that people want to pursue," Collins said. "SRT is one of the things that put the Mt. Vernon airport on the map."

Camey said he foresees other services being added to SRT, including — possibly — a charter service.

"We want to generate more traffic and get more people involved in Mt. Vernon and in aviation," he said.