

BUSY RUNWAYS



Sentinel Photo/JASON SILVEY

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport was a flurry of activity from several types of personal aircraft Sunday as pilots take turns using the runways.

Airport hosts successful aviation event

BY JASON SILVEY
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MT. VERNON — The final day of a gyrocopter gathering marked another in a string of successful aviation events that have relocated to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

Airport Manager Chris Collins was one of several people on-hand early Sunday to watch the members of Rotocraft Club Chapter 35 prepare their aircraft for take off at their annual fly-in.

Collins said he was pleased with how the event was managed and drew curious locals to see what the airport has to offer.

"It went over really well," Collins said on Sunday. "It's been well-received and brought out lots of people who were interested in seeing the aircraft and being able to sit in one."

He hopes the fly-in will be a regular event on the airport's annual

PRE-FLIGHT CHECK — A pilot prepares to take off for some aerial fun Sunday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport as part of the Rotocraft Club Chapter 35 Fly-In. The event was held for the first time in the King City this weekend after many years in Shelbyville.



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calendar.

"I think they plan on coming back next year," Collins said.

The Rotocraft Club moved its event to Mt. Vernon after spending many years in Shelbyville. It's just the latest aviation event to come to the airport, which Collins said is part of the administration's master plan.

"It's part of our overall plan to host these 'type club' gatherings. Our town and our facility are laid out just perfectly with the interstates and hotels. From a facility point of view, with our infrastructure and the safety it's a 100 percent home run for these 'type clubs.' We're just thrilled to be able to draw these groups and put money back into the local economy,"

Collins said.

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport will have a busy fall schedule with three more events set in the coming weeks.

"We've got the Plane and Pilot Midwest Life Sport Aircraft Expo coming on Sept. 9, 10, and 11. Then we have the KR National Gathering for two-seat home-built composite aircraft we've hosted every year for about the last six years on Sept. 16 and 17. And on Oct. 15, we'll have the 15th annual Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion," Collins said.

The airport manager was also excited to recently learn that the Ercoupe National Convention will likely be back in Mt. Vernon next year.

"We had them here with us in 2010, but they already had plans to go somewhere else this year. They've already scheduled to come back in 2012, so we could have five aviation events here next year," Collins said.

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