

# Mt. Vernon to host annual KR Gathering

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MT. VERNON — More than 250 owners and builders of the KR aircraft will be spending the weekend at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport for the annual KR Gathering.

"It's not a typical fly in," Airport Manager Chris Collins said. "They have forums on engineering, building and engines for their aircraft. It's a chance for the builder pilots to talk about changes in

design and ideas. The airplanes are accessible for everyone to see. If you build something yourself, you're proud to show it off, and they also value people coming

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Collins

## GATHERING

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out and saying welcome to Mt. Vernon and we're glad you're here."

This is the fifth year Mt. Vernon will be hosting the gathering. The participants

tion methods, and the composite material make it easy to shape compound curves that produce fast, clean surfaces that a novice can master. The KR is lightweight and trailerable. ③

"The KR was one of the first home-built planes that utilized the composite mater-

are those who have an interest in building KR aircraft, have built the aircraft or who pilot the planes.

The KR aircraft were designed by Kend Rand and Stu Robinson in 1972. The two engineers, who were working for McDonald Aircraft in California when

ial technology," Collins said. "Back in the early 70s, the engineers had an article in Popular Mechanics, and sold a tremendous amount of plans. Over 1,500 of the aircraft were built back then and flown. As time progressed, engineers and pilots all over the country made this

they met, pioneered a foam and fiberglass composite construction method that is now the standard in home-built, commercial and military aircraft, according to Rand Robinson Aviation. The strength to weight ratio of the construction is superior to conventional construc-

aircraft and did things to adapt and make them even better."

The exchange of ideas between builders and engineers is part of the KR Gathering, which will be at the airport starting at 6 p.m. Friday and concluding on Sunday morning.