

LSA Expo features Lindbergh model



Sentinel File Photo

LOOKING IT OVER — Attendees at the first LSA Expo at Mt. Vernon Airport examine a Gyro copter. This year's national event begins in Mt. Vernon today and continues through Sunday.

9-9-11

Fourth annual event to include free seminar topics

BY RICK HAYES

MT. VERNON MANAGING EDITOR

MT. VERNON — Planes, exhibits and free seminars are among some of the attractions at the fourth annual Midwest LSA [Light Sport Aircraft] Expo being held this weekend at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

The Expo, now nationally sponsored by Plane & Pilot, will begin today and continue through Sunday.

"This year we have some increased opportunities for participation that we haven't had in the last three years," said Airport Manager Chris Collins. "We have the Lindbergh monocoque that

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will be on display, and the Aviator's Hotline is bringing in a Florida charter pilot that has actually survived two different ditchings in the Caribbean and he will be presenting a program on how to survive an aircraft incident accident into water. They're actually going to film this right here in Mt. Vernon and make it available on DVD."

Pan, Pan, Pan is a pilot's terminology for distress and urgent air traffic control procedures. In 2003, Captain Denis Murphy was the pilot on a charter flight from Havana, Cuba involved in a real life survival event. Murphy was also able to survive an in-flight fire, which forced him to ditch into the Atlanta Ocean when both engines gave out, and getting out of the sinking plane wreck while surviving in shark-infested waters. An Air Force C-130 and an American Eagle Com-

muter airplane plus Coast Guard units searched to no avail but the event culminated in Murphy being rescued by a local fisherman near Marathon in the Florida Keys.

Murphy will present his program at 11 a.m. today and again at 2 p.m. Saturday.

"With Sunday being the anniversary of 9/11, one of the aircraft exhibitors [Col. Matt Swanson] is also an officer in the Air Force and he was at the Pentagon on that day. He's going to be doing a special presentation on Sunday [1 p.m.]. This seminar, and the Pan, Pan, Pan seminar is free to the public," Collins said.

Collins said visitors to the LSA Expo will have seen several changes since last year's event.

"When the people come to the airport this year they're going to see a lot of changes at the airport," said Collins. "There's a huge hangar out there when they first come in, the Hall of Honor, the museum, the new patio for the restaurant. It's just going to be real exciting."

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