

Checking out the 'Sting'



Eric Rieke of Sport Air shows off the Sting aircraft to Gary Frieden of Downes during the opening day of the Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo trade show at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. The event will continue through Saturday. For more photos from the trade show, visit our Web site, www.register-news.com. TESA CULLI/REGISTER-NEWS

LSA enthusiasts gather at Mt. Vernon

By TESA CULLI

tesa.culli@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — The opening day of the Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo saw an increase in vendors and visitors over last year.

"We've had a steady stream of people coming through the doors," LSA Expo Committee member Bonnie Jerdon said. "We have aircraft flying in, which we didn't have last year due to the weather, and that's making it nice."

This is the second year for the trade show, which is designed to provide a place for light sport aircraft manufacturers and



"We've had a steady stream of people coming through the doors. We have aircraft flying in, which we didn't have last year due to the weather, and that's making it nice."

LSA EXPO COMMITTEE MEMBER BONNIE JERDON

support industries to show their products and services to aviators who are interested in purchasing an aircraft, or who already own a light sport aircraft.

"This is one of the few places where manufacturers can line up their product and

visitors can compare one to another and see the aircraft," Jerdon said. "That's one of the big draws."

The Midwest LSA Expo is one of two

see LSA/Page 3A

LSA

continued from 1A

LSA expos held in the country, with the other in Sebring, Fla.

As a premier event, organizers and volunteers work hard to make sure visitors and vendors alike are given a big welcome to the

community.

"On Wednesday night, we invited the vendors to a dinner hosted by the (Jefferson County Development Corporation)," committee member Brandon Bullard said. "After we had welcomed everyone to the community and the airport, one of the vendors got up and thanked us on behalf of the vendors. He said last year he

brought two planes, and signed up to come back because he felt so welcome — and brought seven planes this year."

Jerdon said the group expects Saturday to be the busiest day of the Expo, and said residents should be seeing several aircraft in the skies over the King City.

"Sunny skies are good to see," Jerdon added.