

STATE OF THE AIRPORT FY 2015/2016

AIRPORT OF THE YEAR

The airport was named the 2015 Illinois General Aviation Airport of the Year by the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics in May. The airport was also awarded the honor in 2007.

EAA ALUMINUM OVERCAST AT SALUTE TO FREEDOM

The Annual Salute to Freedom Celebration was enhanced this year due to a visit by EAA's Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress *Aluminum Overcast*. *Aluminum Overcast* provided a background for a celebration honoring the Greatest Generation on Friday July 3rd. Twenty-six WW2 Veterans attended the ceremony and were photographed in front of the iconic bomber.

AIRVENTURE CUP RACE

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport hosted the 2015 EAA Airventure Cup Race – a cross country air race that kicks off EAA Airventure Oshkosh. The race has occurred annually since 1996 and is patterned after the cross country air racing of the 1920s and 1930's. Race organizers alternate the course each year between a western starting point of Mitchell, South Dakota and a southern starting point of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Although the 2015 race start was altered due to weather, nearly 75 aircraft departed for Wisconsin on Sunday morning.

KOZIARA TERMINAL AT FULL OCCUPANCY

With the signing of a Lease Agreement in late July, the Koziara Terminal no longer has any vacancies. Two Girls Cheesecakes and Desserts leased the last vacant MVAA Suite adjacent to the airport administrative offices. The last time the Koziara Terminal was at 100% occupancy was in the late 1970's when the building was much smaller (the terminal was expanded in the late 1990's).

PLANE & PILOT MIDWEST LSA EXPO

The 7th installment of this national event was held in early September. Mt. Vernon Outland Airport has become the place to shop, spend one on one time with aircraft representatives, and take demonstration flights in the aircraft of their choice. The event continues to draw manufacturers/importers as well as focused attendees from across the country and Canada.

BALLOONS OVER MT. VERNON

Seventeen balloons were on display at the Balloons Over Mt. Vernon Balloon Glow in October. Large crowds came back on Saturday morning for the United Way pancake breakfast, EAA Young Eagle Flights, and first ever Balloons Over Mt. Vernon Car Show.

The EAA Veterans Reunion Ceremony on Saturday afternoon featured a reading of Veterans added to the Jefferson County Hall of Honor over the last year. Local WW2 Naval Aviator, Lyle Endicott sat in the cockpit of a Grumman FM2 “Wildcat” – the same model he piloted in the WW2 Pacific. Sunday morning brought good balloon flying weather and nearly all balloons were in the air by 8:30 a.m.

AVIATION REPORT

The Annual Aviation Report released in February showed total operations at 27,270 – up from the previous year’s 24,190. The 11.3% increase was attributed to increased jet, cargo, and training activities as well as the many aviation events held at the airport. Based tenancy remains solid at 51 aircraft, including 9 multi-engine, three helicopter, and one jet – the first registered at the airport since the late 1980’s.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Jet Maintenance and Aircraft De-icing Services were added during the calendar year. Personnel from SRT Aviation, the airport’s Fixed Base Operation, attended Hawker Beechcraft and Williams Turbofan training in September. The certification gained allows airport based technicians to perform maintenance services on Hawker Beechcraft turbojet aircraft. SRT and MVAA personnel completed aircraft de-icing training through the National Airline Transportation Association as well as the USA Jet Airlines Site Specific Training. The airport now offers Type I De-Icing and Type IV Anti-Icing Services.

MOMENTUM 2020

In February, the airport embarked on another proactive capital development plan titled *Momentum 2020*. *Momentum 2020* will implement FAA mandated projects, increase badly needed aircraft storage capacity, and further the revitalization of airport areas that will be needed for future economic development. *Momentum 2020* will be funded through General Obligation Bonds, Airport Improvement Program Entitlements, and possible FAA discretionary grants. Airport administration strives to make capital improvements to the airport with little to no increase of property taxes. To date, the MVAA has accomplished this goal as the Overall Tax Rate has decreased over many of the last seventeen years!