

AIR RACE CLASSIC



Submitted Photo

Sheila Jolly-Scrivner, RIGHT, was the Local Stop Chair at Mount Vernon Outland Airport for the 45th Air Race Classic. Mount Vernon Airport was selected as the “Best Stop” at the conclusion of the Air Race Classic.

Airport chosen as ‘Best Stop’ for Air Race Classic

Pilots stopped off at airport during race event

BY TRAVIS MORSE
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — Mount Vernon Outland Airport was chosen as the “Best Stop” at the conclusion of the 45th Air Race Classic (ARC).

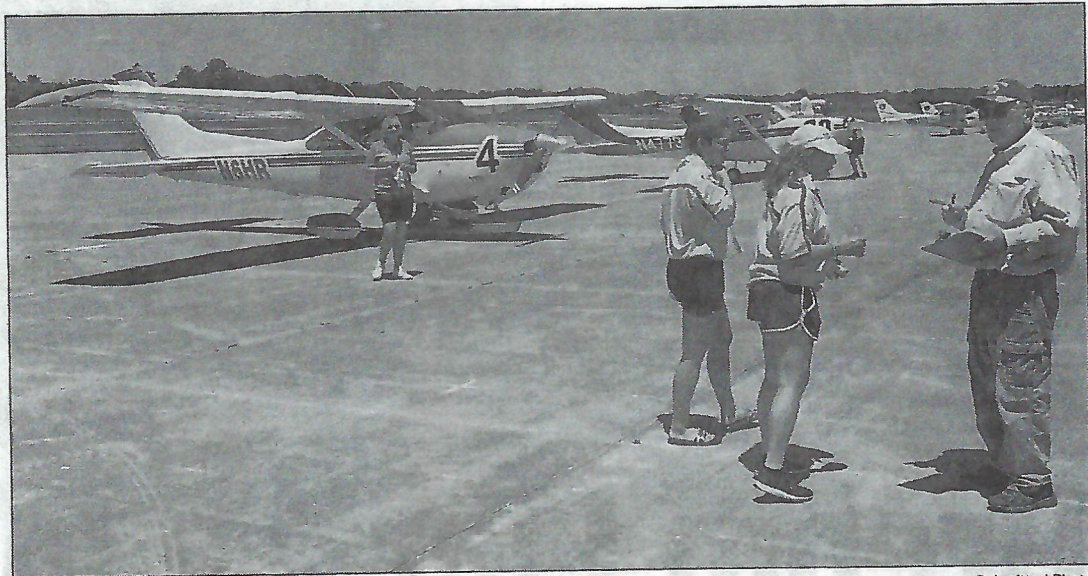
The race in question, a national tradition spanning over 45 years, was held from June 21 to 24. As part of the event, pilots traveled from Lakeland, Florida, to Terre Haute, Indiana, and stopped at several locations in between. Mount Vernon Airport was Stop No. 8 out of a total of nine stops.

At the end of the race, the “Best Stop” Award was voted on by the actual racers themselves via a survey system. Points were awarded based

on several factors, including organized fueling process, ground crew assistance, hospitality/enthusiasm, food/drinks, and interest from the public.

Mount Vernon Airport was selected as the Best Stop and will receive an Air Race Classic plaque some time in the next few weeks, according to a Mount Vernon Airport news release.

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Submitted Photo

BEST STOP — Mount Vernon Outland Airport was chosen as the “Best Stop” for this year’s Air Race Classic. Pictured is Fueling Supervisor Steve Willis, RIGHT, helping out two of the Air Race pilots who stopped in Mount Vernon.

Airport:

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“Considering the caliber of the other stops, this is a tremendous accomplishment,” said Mount Vernon Airport Director Chris Collins. “The volunteers and staff at MVN are friendly, welcoming, and enthusiastic about aviation and Southern Illinois. The racers recognized this as they considered their votes. I am very proud.”

Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners Chairman Marty Cox said Local Stop Chair Sheila Jolly-Scrivner was “incredibly organized” and led the team to be “attentive to the needs of our guests.” Cox also recognized other members of the Mount Vernon team.

“Due to his level of detail and communication skills, no one even noticed Head Timer Don Lewis,” Cox said. “SRT Aviation extended its hours to accommodate everyone and provided immediate maintenance services on at least two race aircraft. This award is reflective of a dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced team at (Mount Vernon Airport).”

According to the event’s website, the Air Race Classic is the epicenter of women’s air racing. Pilots range in age from 17 to 90 years old and come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Race Teams



Chris Collins

consist of at least two women pilots and they must fly visual flight rules during daylight hours only. They are given four days to make flybys at each en route timing point and then to land at the terminus.

Pilots flew by Mount Vernon on the afternoon of June 22 and all day on June 23. Some pilots decided to do the required flyby in Mount Vernon and move on and some chose to land and spend the night in Mount Vernon.

For more information, contact Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

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Marty Cox

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