

# OUTLAND NEWS - June, 2023

Welcome to the 11th edition of Mt. Vernon Outland Airport News (Outland News). Outland News is intended to be a quarterly glimpse of all things that make Mt. Vernon Outland Airport a special place including airport tenants (known as Team MVN), airport events, airport projects, community outreach, and long term goals.



## **BONNIE CAFE MT. VERNON**

On July 5th, 2023, Bonnie Cafe Mt. Vernon will close its doors for a major remodel. Upon re-opening mid-month, customers will find the following improvements: expanded seating (additional walls removed), new flooring, new matching tables and chairs, new ceiling tiles, four new matching buffet tables, and an ice cream machine! We wanted to take this opportunity to explain just how big the cafe is to the airport, City of Mt. Vernon, Jefferson County and southern Illinois.



First, airport restaurants are tough. To survive, they must rely on the support of non-flyers. Bonnie Cafe has worked hard to earn the trust of its loyal customer base. Second, airport restaurants have to be supported by the airport partnering with them. The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority and Bonnie Cafe enjoy a strong private/public relationship. Long term health and success is the main goal. This partnership leads to so many financial, statistical, and hospitality benefits for southern Illinois. Below are just a few:



*14 ARMY UH-60 "Blackhawk", operations, 28 service members fed, and 2100 gallons of Jet A Fuel sold!*

-  Full/Part Time Jobs
-  Sales Tax Revenue
-  Aircraft Operations
-  Aviation Fuel Sales
-  Tourism/Hospitality
-  Aviation/Community Events
-  Meetings/Seminars/Parties
-  Local Fund Raising



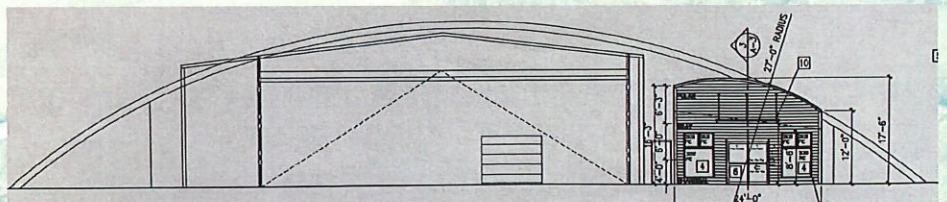
*Coast Guard CH-144 and its crew of ten made the trip from Mobile, AL for dinner at Bonnie Cafe!*



*\$100 Hamburger (aviation lingo) Visitors. Aviators from across State lines often visit for breakfast, lunch, or dinner - seven days per week!*

## **NEW FRONT DOOR FOR SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**

A new vestibule entry will soon welcome visitors to SRT Aviation's Fixed Base Operations. The 770 square feet addition will provide more modern, attractive, and professional ingress/egress. The addition will shift entry westward into the existing counter area allowing a more welcoming and professional feel.



## DOING OUR PART TO COMBAT SHORTAGES

BOEING's Pilot and Technician Outlook (PTO), published in late 2022, projects that 602,000 new pilots, 610,000 new maintenance technicians, and 899,000 new cabin crew members will be needed to fly and maintain the global commercial aviation fleet over the next two years. Jefferies Research Services estimates a domestic pilot shortage of 5000 for the next two years. Jefferies estimates the shortage will increase to 12,000 pilots by 2025.



*Maintenance Technician Apprentice Luke Wright works on an engine at SRT Aviation*

KMVN based SRT Aviation, Flightline Aero Services, Safe Aviation Educators, R & L Irvin Aviation, and several Certified Flight Instructors are working hard to ensure training is available for those that seek a career in aviation (flight or maintenance) or simply want to fly for fun. Flight training is conducted to Part #91 standards allowing students and instructors to work at a pace agreed upon by both parties. Private, Light Sport, and Commercial Certification is possible. For those desiring the aircraft maintenance path, a limited number of apprentice positions may be available. With thirty months of service under the supervision of our Director of Maintenance, the successful apprentice could be eligible to take the FAA Airframe & Powerplant Oral & Practical Examinations.

### SCHOLARSHIPS



EAA Chapter 1155 is excited to have been selected to award and manage a Ray Scholarship. Nekoda Colvin of Mt. Vernon is EAA 1155's 1st Ray Scholar. Pictured with Nekoda is EAA 1155 President Steve Willis. Through the generous support of the James C. Ray Foundation, EAA provides up to \$11,000 to each Ray Scholar covering the cost of their Private Pilot Certification. Nekoda is one of just 144 Ray Scholars across the nation!



EAA Chapter 1155 awarded two local flight training scholarships in April. Mr Joel Beehn (left) and Mrs. Veneda Brown (right) each received \$1000 to continue their flight training at KMVN. Pictured with the winners is EAA 1155 President Steve Willis.



### FLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS



*Solo Flight Joel Beehn (L) and CFI Jay Grafton*



*Solo Flight Dr. Jacques Papazian (R) and CFI Jay Grafton*



*Solo Flight Lisa Irvin (R) and CFI Jay Grafton*



*Private Pilot Dr. Ahmad Samadzai*



*Solo Flight Veneda Brown and CFI Dr. Stan Blank*



*Solo Flight Tim Dunn (R) and CFI Jay Grafton*



*Solo Flight Nekoda Colvin (R) and CFI Jay Grafton*



*Private Pilot Jacob Beachy*



*Solo Flight Craig Finke (L) and CFI Jay Grafton*