

ARC Terminus event shines through

Mt. Vernon welcomed pilots from across the country

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MOUNT VERNON — Organizers say that the Air Race Classic Terminus celebration in Mount Vernon was a great success despite some rainy weather over the weekend.

From Thursday, June 25, to Monday, June 29, Mount Vernon welcomed pilots, crews, officials, and supporters from across the country as the city served as Terminus Host for the 2026 Air Race Classic. The ARC is known as the nation's premier all-women air race.

Starting on Friday, June 26, the local community was invited to Mount Vernon Outland Airport to watch the ARC teams arrive at the Terminus. Also, a special Youth Day was held on Saturday, June 27, featuring meet-and-greet opportunities with ARC pilots and crews, pilot and crew trading cards and posters available for autographs, hands-on educational activities, collegiate aviation representatives, and more.

The originally scheduled Young Eagles airplane rides for youth could not be held due to weather concerns. However, they have been rescheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 11.

"Being any part of this race is life changing," said Sheila Jolly Scrivner, Air Race Classic Terminus Event Coordinator. "Witnessing first hand the spirit, the dedication, the commitment and the drive to fight the elements of nature, time, and mechanics is mind



Sentinel Photo/TRAVIS MORSE

AIR RACE CLASSIC — This past weekend's Air Race Classic Terminus celebration in Mount Vernon was a great success despite some weather challenges, organizers said Monday.

blowing. This particular year presented many challenges yet the racers illustrated perseverance,

determination and great decision-making. We at Mount Vernon Airport were thrilled to be the Terminus and celebrate all of the incredibly wonderful teams."

Scrivner added that the weekend-long celebration could not have been possible without the help of community sponsors and volunteers.

"A huge shout of thanks and appreciation to each and every one of them," Scrivner said. "A special recognition to Angela and Heather and their team at (Mt. Vernon) Tourism for hitting it completely out of the park. The 49th Annual Air Race Classic racing teams put a whole

new meaning to this (Chuck Aaron) quote: 'Never quit. Never give up. Fly it to the end.'"

Organizers were also very proud of the Mount Vernon community for stepping in at every level to accommodate the ARC racers and their friends and family, Scrivner said.

"That list is very, very long and we are very, very blessed with all that helped us make it a huge success," Scrivner said.

RACE RESULTS

This year's race

lasted from June 23 to 26, and included 45 teams made up of 104 women pilots. The pilots took off from Alton and ended the race at Mount Vernon.

During the race, pilots were met with a variety of challenges regarding weather, decision-making, aircraft performance, and strategy, states an ARC news release. After the judges reviewed each team's GPS tracking data, the teams were scored accordingly.

The following are the Top Scoring Teams for

the Competition and Intercollegiate Classes

COMPETITION CLASS

• **1st Place:** Team 9 - "Over The Moon!" - piloted by Alicia Sikes & Nancy Rohr in a 1998 Mooney M20J.

• **2nd Place:** Team 11 - "I think I can..." - piloted by Lara Gaerte & Brenda Thibodeau in a 1979 Cessna 182RG.

• **3rd Place:** Team 20 - "DC3-1" - piloted by Debi Dreyfuss & Joy Halcott in a 2005 Cessna 182T.

• **4th Place:** Team 31 - "SHenanigans" - piloted by Jeanné Willerth & Julia Rew in a 1999 Cessna 182S.

• **5th Place:** Team 8 - "OrcaHawks" - piloted by Elizabeth Menozzi & Bethany Carter in a 1962 Cessna 172C.

INTERCOLLEGIATE CLASS

• **1st Place:** Team 24 - "Liberty Belles I" - piloted by Sarah Schumann, Moriah Langford & Maddison Simkins, representing Liberty University in a 2024 Cessna 172S.

• **2nd Place:** Team 28 - "Boiler Up, Hangar Down" - piloted by Alexa Marsh & Annika Bobek, representing Purdue University in a 2021 Piper PA-28-181.

• **3rd Place:** Team 25 - "Liberty Belles III" - piloted by Chloe Leonard, Ashley Asselin & Ashley Legoas, representing Liberty University in a 2024 Cessna 172S.

• **4th Place:** Team 38 - "Whiskey Row Racers - Saguaro" - piloted by Yen Pham & Kaetlin Halseth, representing Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott in a 2023 Cessna 172S.

• **5th Place:** Team 36 - "Whiskey Row Racers - Prickly Pear" - piloted by Sophie Grimm & Liana Curcio representing Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott in a 2023 Cessna 172S.

All 2026 team scores and placements are available on the Air Race Classic website at

<https://www.airraceclassic.org/results/>.