

Fly-in backers hope to bring in astronauts

Fourth annual Wings and Wheels exhibition to take place Sept. 15

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USA TODAY NETWORK

MARION – The wonders of space might come into the Marion airport’s orbit later this year.

Preparations for this year’s Wings and Wheels Fly-in and Cruise-In have begun, with organizers trying for the second year to bring astronauts and NASA’s “Journey to Tomorrow” traveling exhibit to the event, said Terry Cline, spokesman for the event.

“Our fly-in might possibly be the inspiration that (leads) the first person to step on Mars into aviation,” Cline said.

Every year, the fly-in includes an exhibit of antique cars and planes, a ceremony honoring prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action and plane rides available to visitors for purchase. The fly-in is set to take place Sept. 15.

This year is the event’s fourth, and Cline hopes to include high school students in the event by setting up a visit with the astronauts on Sept. 14 and a field trip to the proposed NASA exhibit at the airport.

Cline said he wants to bring exhibits to the fly-in that will “peak the interest of the youth.”

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