

Mt. Vernon hosts fifth year of the Light Sport Aircraft Expo

The LSA Expo will offer aircraft enthusiasts all over the country a chance to research and shop

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MT. VERNON — The Plane and Pilot Midwest LSA Expo is just a little over a week away, with the expo running from Sept. 5 to 7.

The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is ready to celebrate its fifth year hosting this event. The fifth year will certainly be special, as there are several new additions to the event.

The biggest change is that for the first time in the history of the event, the admission will be free. Both admission and parking will be free for all guests.

Airport Manager Chris Collins stated that the free admission was

“part of trying to go all out and further promote aviation.”

A new attraction is the commemorative Air Force's B-25 Bomber “Maid in the Shade,” which will make an appearance at the expo. The aircraft will fly into the airport Sept. 3, and stay through Sept. 9. The airport encourages people to witness the landing.

John Snider will also bring his turbine-powered Mosquito XETreme Helicopter for the first time. Snider is an authorized dealer and distributor of Personal Rotorcraft LLC, and he will be showing off and selling his light-weight helicopters.

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Collins said “We’ve been trying to get them to come since we started.”

The Bowers Fly-Baby National Fly-In will also come to the expo.

Collins explained that Fly-Babies are single seat experimental home-built aircrafts. He informed that people can build them in their own garage. There was only one Fly-Baby last year, but this

year there should be around five or seven.

The event will also feature the St. Louis Women With Wings Aircraft Wash. The aircraft wash will only take place on Saturday, and the proceeds will go to aid aspiring young female aviators in the St. Louis area.

Collins described the aircraft wash as “a car wash for planes.”

The airport recently hosted the AirVenture Cup Race, but the upcoming expo will be an entirely different sort of event.

The best thing to compare it to, according to Collins, is a

plane and aircraft version of when all the car dealerships get together and host a sales event in one location.

Pilots and interested parties will be able to look at the various aircrafts, talk with sellers, sit in the aircrafts, and even test fly them. There is no better opportunity to research or purchase an aircraft than at the LSA expo.

Collins informed that the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is “one of two airports in the country that do that.”

There will be pilots and aircraft enthusiasts from all over the country attending

the expo. Collins commented that they’ve had people come from as far as Alaska.

Even though the airport is ready to host the event, there is always a need for additional volunteers. Collins stated that ambassadorship is “what keeps bringing groups back.”

Showing locals and out-of-state visitors a fun and hospitable time is a good for Mt. Vernon, and volunteers help make that possible.

The expo will offer aircraft enthusiasts, local or traveling, a weekend of fun and opportunity. 8-27-13
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