

Midwest LSA Expo set for next weekend

*Ninth annual
event begins with
preview show Thursday*

BY LEAH WILLIAMS

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MT. VERNON — A three-day event scheduled at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport next weekend will feature many aircraft options for those looking to take to the skies.

The ninth annual Midwest LSA Expo is set for Thursday and will continue through Sept. 8. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and it is specifically organized the expo to sell light sport aircraft, LSA ancillary services and other related services.

The Midwest LSA Expo Inc. was created to help aviators of all skill levels learn more about the LSA industry and discover the different aircraft types, engines, performance details and other factors about the flight option.

"Imagine they have those car sales at the mall where you can buy Fords, Chevys, Cadillacs and all kinds," Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Director Chris Collins said. "It's like that for airplanes."

According to the Midwest LSA Expo website, Mt. Vernon's proximity to St. Louis and other areas makes it a lucrative location for the event.

"We feel the Midwest LSA Expo is the most convenient and affordable of its type in the country," the website said. "Over 50 percent of the entire U.S. population is within an eight-hour drive from Mt. Vernon."

Approximately 30 to 35 vendors are scheduled to come out to the expo, Collins said.

On Thursday, Collins said a special hospitality event is scheduled at 4 p.m. Patch Lee, a country recording artist from Nashville, Tenn.,

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MIDWEST LSA EXPO — Buyers, sellers and airplane enthusiasts look at the selection of light sport aircraft on the final day of the Midwest LSA Expo at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport last year. The ninth annual expo will be held Sept. 7-9.

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will perform at the event, which is open to the public.

According to his ReverbNation page, Lee moved to Missouri at an early age after his mother passed away, and it was there that he grew up on the music of Charile Daniels and Lynryd Skynryd. After joining the U.S. Army and performing at venues in Europe, he moved to Nashville when he signed with an

indie label.

Lee has performed for various country artists, including David Allan Coe, Merle Haggard, Dierks Bentley, Tracy Byrd, Tracy Lawrence, Brooks and Dunn, Dolly Parton and many others.

Another special event held during the expo is the Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance, which is set to arrive the morning of Sept. 9 and will be on display through Sept. 11.

Collins said the weekend event does create a boost in the local economy as several aircraft enthusiasts, buyers

and sellers flock to Mt. Vernon for the weekend.

"It's good for the city," he said. "These pilots are staying in our hotels, eating here and shopping here."

Collins also credits the volunteers who come and help out during the airport events like the LSA Expo and the recently held AirVenture Cup Race.

"We can't do events like this without our volunteers," he said. "Anyone else who wants to come out and be an ambassador for Mt. Vernon is welcome."

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9-1-17