

Midwest LSA Expo deemed successful

Great weather, cool aircrafts, and most of all, teamwork allows the LSA Expo to achieve greatness

BY GREG PETERSON
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Midwest LSA Expo at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport was one of the best ever.

Airport Manager Chris Collins stated that the event “has been wonderful.” He was thankful for the beautiful weather, which helped bring the pilots and locals out.

Collins informed that “we were in the auxiliary parking area [Friday] at 11 a.m. and [Saturday] at 9:45 a.m.” He explained that it is always a good sign when you have to move to the auxiliary parking so early because it reflects an amazing attendance at the event.

Not only was the attendance great on Saturday, but Collins stated that “[Thursday was the] greatest opening day we’ve had.” He added that their Friday was also the best they’ve had, stating that it was “like a normal Saturday,” which is traditionally their busiest day.

Collins said that the “sales are fantastic,” informing that one distributor told him that he sold four aircrafts.

According to Collins, what really made the event a success was a “strong teamwork philosophy.” He couldn’t give enough praise to the volunteerism that contributed to the LSA Expo.

Carl Heinrich, a former contract pilot, commented that through this event, the airport brought so much to Mt. Vernon, adding that “this is a world activity.”

People from all over the country come to Mt. Vernon for the LSA Expo. Heinrich said he talked to a guy from Michigan who was happy to have the opportunity to come to the LSA Expo.

Heinrich stated that there is “nowhere, really, in a 500-mile radius” that offers this kind of event. He said that the only thing like it is in Sebring, Fla., which he commented is “a long way from Oklahoma or Michigan.”

Not only did Heinrich think that the event was a great success, but he was very appreciative of the hard work Collins has done for the event and the airport as a whole.

One of the seeming fan favorite items on display was the Mosquito XET Helicopter, which was sold by Personal Rotorcraft, LLC.

John Snider, a pilot and authorized dealer and distributor of the Mosquito XET, gave demonstration

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flights, where he flaunted how much fun the home-built helicopter can be.

Snider described the essence of the Mosquito XET by saying “It’s a toy, a recreational machine.” The home-built aircraft comes to an approximate total cost of

\$65,000, and it takes anywhere from 300 to 500 hours to complete.

The mini helicopter holds two hours worth of fuel on board and has a cruise speed of 85 mph. It can also do a number of amazing stunts, which Snider demonstrated at the LSA Expo.

Showing off aircrafts wasn’t the only feature of the LSA Expo. There were also several forums on aviation that ranged from a Light Sport Aviation Update forum to a

forum titled, Ipad for the Sport and VFR Pilot. There was even a few seminars on home-built aircrafts.

If anyone was hungry at the event, Wilkey’s Cafe offered their buffet and sold hamburgers and hot dogs outside.

A collaborative effort led to a remarkably successful LSA Expo this year in Mt. Vernon. It will take even more hard work and support from the community to top it next year.

gpeterson@morningsentinel.com



Sentinel Photo

Up and coming pilot

Lisa, Dillon, and Brady Vaira test out a Zenith 750 light sport plane. The plane is a home-built plane, which takes around a year to build. These planes, and many other aircrafts are available at the Midwest LSA Expo at the Mt. Vernon Airport, which runs through Saturday.

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LOOK MA, NO HANDS! — Pilot and authorized dealer/distributor of the Mosquito XET, John Snider, shows how much fun they are to fly. The Mosquito XET is a home-built aircraft that is as fun as it looks.



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THE MOSQUITO XET — John Snider, MIDDLE, explains to potential customers how he built his model of the Mosquito XET. Snider has been working with aircrafts since he was 11 years old.