

Midwest LSA Expo reaches its conclusion

Airport director calls 2017 expo "one of the best" Outland Airport has hosted

BY JOSH JONES
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MT. VERNON — The ninth annual Midwest LSA (Light Sport Aircraft) Expo reached its conclusion on Saturday as the event drew a crowd of aviation enthusiasts.

According to Sentinel archives, 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.

Chris Collins, airport director for Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, gave his reaction to the

turnout for this year's LSA Expo.

"I rate this one as one of the best we have had," Collins said. "Of course we have been blessed with beautiful weather and that has helped a lot."

Continuing, Collins explained that during the expo 90 percent of the time a plane was in the air, a demo flight was being conducted.

"That means that the show is doing what it is supposed to do," Collins said. "The show is designed to get the customers talking to the exhibitors, the manufacturer reps and taking demonstration reps."

According to Collins, several airplanes were sold during the expo.

"The first one was sold yesterday morning, day two, and the customer flew it out of here yesterday afternoon," Collins said.

Please see **Expo**, Page 5A



Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

REMEMBRANCE — The Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance ran in conjunction with the Midwest LSA Expo on Saturday. Many people took the time to pay respect to fallen soldiers and victims of terror. A special program will be held at 2 p.m. today at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.



Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

PLENTY OF PLANES — There were a number of vendors showing off a plethora of Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) during the Midwest LSA Expo's final day on Saturday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

Expo:

Continued from Page 1A

Over 30 vendors were present for the expo, including John Rathmell, sales manager for Bristell Aircraft, based in Pennsylvania. Rathmell gave his reaction to this year's expo.

"As a vendor, the accommodations and treatment that we get from the guys here at Mt. Vernon is awesome," Rathmell said. "They have a very extensive outreach and we really want to see this show take off. We have been coming here for five to six years."

Collins mentioned that several of the vendors and expo attendees had complimented

the airport on its hospitality and thanked all of the volunteers for making the event possible.

"They were all complimenting us on our hospitality. We have this dedicated water truck going around giving water," Collins said. "Our volunteers are doing their jobs and they are being ambassadors for the area."

During the event people were also able to view Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance which is currently on display. A program involving the memorial is being held at 2 p.m. today at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Collins encouraged people to visit their airport view stream online to check out the airport and what is going on at any time.

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LIGHT SPORT AIRCRAFT



Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

Jeff Kramer, LEFT, talks to Greg Gremminger of Magni Gyro USA about the M16 Magni Gyro Plane during the Midwest LSA Expo on Thursday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. The event continues today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring several light sport aircraft.

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