

# Midwest LSA Expo returns this weekend

*This marks the tenth  
year for the event*

**BY JOSH JONES**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Aircraft enthusiasts from all over the country will be coming to Mt. Vernon this weekend as the 10th annual Midwest LSA (Light Sport Aircraft) Expo will make its return to the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

The expo will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept 6, 7 and 8 as

Airport Director Chris Collins noted that for those who have enjoyed the event in the past they can expect the same format.

"We are not changing from the formula of the previous years," Collins said, "which allows shoppers and buyers of airplanes from all across the country and Canada a chance to interact with airplane manufacturer reps, do some comparison shopping and do a demo ride in the different models that they are looking at potentially purchasing."

According to the event's website, Midwest LSA Expo, Inc.

specifically created the event to educate aviators about all facets related to the LSA industry including the many different aircraft types, available engines, and LSA performance; promote the sale of LSA's, the use of LSA aircraft for flight training and in rental fleets and promote economic development in the Southern Illinois region.

Around 40 vendors related to aircraft are expected for the event as Collins explained that Midwest LSA Expo differs from other events that the airport holds but provides a great oppor-

tunity for Mt. Vernon.

"It is a very focused event. It is not an air show or an event where we are doing Young Eagle rides for the kids. That is what most people are used to seeing us do at the airport," Collins said. "This is more about people coming all across the country that are focused and looking to potentially purchase an airplane."

The event also allows people interested in the industry to see what is currently going on. Seminars focusing on special use airspace, digital charting, traffic patterns, flying with rotax engines,

gyroplanes will be held throughout the event. The event draws roughly 600 people each year.

"The other side of the coin is that people who want to see the innovation or attend a seminar, they can do that at the Midwest LSA Expo," Collins said. "The public is encouraged to come out and like I say every year this is your chance to stick your hand out and shake hands and say welcome to Mt. Vernon and Southern Illinois, we are glad you are here."

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Sentinel File Photo

**LSA EXPO RETURNS** — Jeff Kramer, LEFT, talks to Greg Gremminger of Magni Gyro USA about the M16 Magni Gyro Plane during last year's Midwest LSA Expo at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. This year's Midwest LSA Expo will be Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at the airport.

## Expo:

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The band Almost Blue will be performing 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday located inside the

corporate hangar. At 5 p.m. Thursday for the tenth annual event Collins will be presenting legacy awards to exhibitors that have been participating in the Midwest LSA Expo since its start. An airplane dedication cere-

mony will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information people can call Mt. Vernon Outland Airport or visit the event's website.

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