

LSA Expo to return to Mt. Vernon Airport

Event will feature aircraft and seminars

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MT. VERNON — The 11th annual Midwest LSA Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 5 through 7 at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

About 40 aircraft-related vendors will be on hand for the event, and a wide variety of Light Sport Aircraft will be displayed including Part 103, Short Take Off and Land (STOL) planes and gyroplanes. In addition, the expo will feature a number of aviation seminars and forums.

"Each September, we are excited to host Midwest LSA Expo," said Airport Director Chris Collins. "The event brings the aviation industry to Mt. Vernon. The expo places airport professionals and enthusiasts

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Sentinel File Photo

LSA EXPO — Eric Beasley of St. Louis checks out a Bristell Light Sport Aircraft during last year's Midwest LSA Expo at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. This year's expo will take place Sept. 5 to 7 at the airport.

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from across the country on the ramp and in the air. The event also places visitors in our hotels, restaurants and retail outlets. Airport prestige, aircraft operations and an injection into the local tax base benefits all of us."

Collins said he is also pleased there will be many different types of aircraft on display at the expo.

"For many, Midwest LSA Expo will be their first opportunity to see the InnovAviation FX1, an Italian aircraft that made its first flight in the United States at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport earlier this month," Collins said. "The Texas Aircraft Company Colt is another newcomer to the field."

According to an event news release, new Light Sport Aircraft are roughly one-third the cost of legacy training or recreational aircraft. Furthermore, a Sport Pilot License is about 50 percent of the cost of the traditional Private Pilot License. Light Sport Aircraft do have prohibitive regulations such as no more than two seats and daytime operation only, but offer benefits like fuel efficiency and generally newer technology like glass cockpits, the release states.

"Traditionally trained pilots can fly Light Sport Aircraft using only their driver's license as certification they are healthy, allowing many an opportunity to continue flying," the release states.

The forums and seminars at this year's expo will include: "Upcoming Changes to the LSA Rule" from LAMA President Dan Johnson; "Flying with Rotax 9 Series Engines" from Brett Lawton, Leading Edge Airfoils; "Missionary Flying in the Caribbean" from Rodney Mullinax, Flights For Christ; "Building Your Own

Aircraft" from Tim Holvsten, EAA Technical Aviation; "How to Buy a Used Aircraft" from Col. Bob McDaniel, C-141 Pilot, USAF Ret.; "Special Use Airspace" from Lt. Col. Steve Willis, F-16/F-4/T-38 Pilot, USAF Ret.; "The FAA Compliance Philosophy" from Suzanne Mejia, FAA SPI FSDO Manager; "Non Towered Airport Operations" from FAA Designated Pilot Examiner Steve Goetz; and "WINGS — What Kind of Pilot Do You Want to Be" from Warren Smith, FAA FAAST Team.

Collins said most of the sessions are aimed at seasoned aviators but Rodney Mullinax's seminar "Missionary Flying in the Caribbean" will be of local interest. This presentation will take place at 2:15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7.

"Midwest LSA Expo also features an outstanding daily lineup of forums," Collins said. "I appreciate the efforts of Ms. Carol Para of the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics for partnering with Midwest LSA Expo each year to make our forums educational and interesting to our attendees."

For more information on the Midwest LSA Expo, contact the Mt. Vernon Airport.

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