

Airport prepares for

Midwest LSA Expo

Approximately 35 vendors are expected for this year's expo

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — With the Midwest LSA Expo about a month out the Mount Vernon Airport Au-

thority Board of Commissioners received an update on expo preparations.

According to the expo's website, the expo will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 9 through Sept. 11 at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. Midwest LSA Expo, Inc. specifically organized the unique event to sell Light Sport Aircraft (LSA), LSA Ancillary Services and LSA

related Services. Airport Director Chris Collins explained that the expo is an event that allows pilots to purchase a variety of different aircrafts.

"People from all across the country are shopping for a particular airplane, they can come to one place, talk to the representatives and take test flights," Collins said. "If you are searching for a high or low wing

model you can fly both of those, if you are looking for a short take off and land airplane, you could come and talk to the exhibitors that have that type of model and fly all of them. It is a very popular event for that industry."

Collins said that approximately 35 vendors are expected for this year's

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expo. He said that the seminars are going to remain in the corporate hangar after it was moved there last year.

"That worked out really well and we are going to keep that going this year that way people can socially distance," Collins said.

Collins said that the airport is always looking for volunteers/ambassadors for the expo.

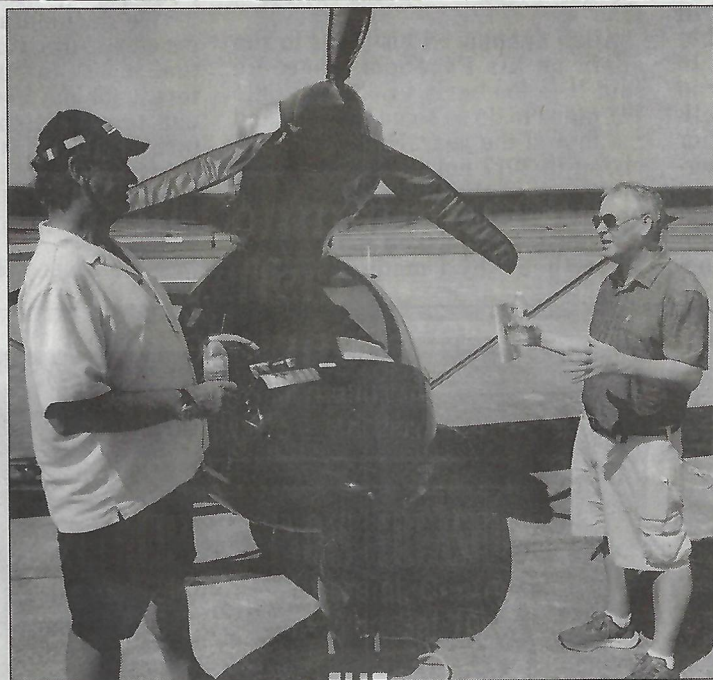
"We give you an orange t-shirt and we constantly check on our visitors and exhibitors. We pass out free water and we basically kind of cater to their every need," Collins said. "We are remembered for this every year at the other shows. Constantly we hear there is no show like the Mount Vernon show as far as taking care of visitors."

Collins said that even though it is an industry-gear event, the public is still invited to look and learn about the different aircraft.

"It does produce a good economic return to our economy in the form of hotel rooms, because most of the exhibitors are staying in hotel rooms and of course they all eat and shop while they are here," Collins said. "I would think it is a little bit of an economic shot in the arm in our region as well as a bullet point on the airport's resume for hosting."

Airport Authority Board Chairman Marty Cox said that the airport is excited to welcome back the expo and that it would not be possible without the workers such as Collins and Airport Administrative Assistant Sheila Jolly-Scrivner as well as their volunteers.

"It seems to get bigger and better every year and it is one of our favorite times of year at the airport," Cox said. "We are always appreciative of the volun-



Sentinel File Photo

MIDWEST LSA EXPO — Pilot Brian Wezensky of Rochester Hills, Michigan, **RIGHT**, speaks with vendor Deon Lombard of Fort Pierce, Florida, about the L600 Eagle Aircraft during a previous Midwest LSA Expo. This year's expo returns Sept. 9 through Sept. 11 at Mount Vernon Airport.

unteers that we have to pull it off. I know Chris and Sheila do an unbelievable amount of work, but it could not be pulled off without the quality volunteers.

We have a lot of people from the community that step up and help out with this."

The airport will continue to follow CDC and IDPH guidelines. Hand sanitizer will be available. For more information or to inquire about volunteering the public may call (618) 242-7060.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

• Collins said that between



Chris Collins

9 and 10:30 a.m. today the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation Gateway Chapter will be stopping at the Bonnie Cafe on their way to an airshow in Kentucky. He said that residents will be able to see a UH-1 Huey Helicopter as well as Cobra Attack Helicopter.

• The board presented a certificate of appreciation to Jay Grafton in celebration of his one year anniversary as Aviation Program Director.

• The board was given an update and is in the process of discussing with the Mount Vernon Fire Department on a fuel related mandate.

• The board heard various project updates.

• The board approved prevailing wage rate ordinance 2021-04.

3-13-21

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