

Midwest Expo returns to Mount Vernon Airport

*Demo flights, seminars
featured at annual event*

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MOUNT VERNON — A local tradition for roughly 17 years, the Midwest Aviation Expo has returned to Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

The three-day event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

on Thursday, Sept. 4; Friday, Sept. 5; and Saturday, Sept. 6. There is no admission fee and all are welcome to attend.

About 40 aircraft-related vendors will be on hand for the event, and a wide variety of Light Sport Aircraft and other kinds of planes will be displayed. In addition, there will be demonstration flights, seminars, products and services, daily doughnuts and a

fish fry for exhibitors.

And while the expo is geared toward those in the aviation industry, the general public is also encouraged to come to welcome the many out-of-towners in attendance. Organizers estimate that 750 to 1,500 people will attend, with most of them being from across the U.S. and Canada.

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"First and foremost, this event just isn't possible without volunteerism," said Airport Director Chris Collins. "If you want to be an ambassador, you can become one of our volunteers and essentially you're just walking around and checking on our guests."

Collins added that the expo has a noticeable impact on Mount Vernon's hospitality and tourism industries.

"Everyone here is staying in our hotels and eating in our restaurants," Collins said.

The event used to be called the Midwest LSA Expo, but the name was changed last year to Midwest Aviation Expo in anticipation of some FAA updates that were coming. MOSAIC, or the Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification, is a new FAA rule that significantly updates regulations for Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) and sport pilot privileges, online sources state.

Previously, the expo was focused on planes that qualify as Light Sport Aircraft, and there were weight limits and a specified stall speed. The MOSAIC updates eliminated the weight restriction and

increased the stall speed, which opened the market to more aircraft that can be flown under the LSA category, Collins said.

"The name evolved with the MOSAIC rule. MOSAIC expanded the Light Sport Aircraft opportunities," Collins said.

Collins added that the expo continues to get better each year. This year, Stephen Bateman of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association will be leading several of the seminars on topics such as "rusty pilots" who want to get active again, regulatory changes, air space concerns and stick and rudder skills.



Sentinel File Photo

MIDWEST EXPO — The 2025 Midwest Aviation Expo is happening from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 4 through Sept. 6 at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. Pictured is Phillip Pennell, RIGHT, vice president of Future Pilots Fund, showing two visitors a 1962 Piper Cherokee 160 that was on display during the 2023 expo.

"As this event matures, it gets better at the sales aspect of the aircraft and the educational value," Collins said. "The majority of our seminars have FAA Wings credit, and that's the continuing education that we pilots are seeking each year."

The expo offers free admission, parking, camping and ground transportation.

"This is not an air show, it's geared more toward the industry, but we certainly want the public to come and be part of it and welcome our guests," Collins said.

For more information, contact Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

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