

# Midwest LSA Expo returns to Mt. Vernon

*More than 40 light sport  
aircraft will be accessible  
for interested  
parties to browse*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

**MT. VERNON** — The seventh annual Plane and Pilot Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo will soon fly its way into Mt. Vernon once again.

The expo will be hosted by the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport next week, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sept. 13. Free admission, camping, parking and shuttle transportation services will be made available.

"This is an event for airplane shoppers from all across the country and Canada to go to one place and see all the airplane models that are available in the light sport category ..." said Chris Collins, director of Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

"Buyers and sellers can get together and they don't have any interruption from thunderous airshows going on in the background or thousands of other exhibits. That's not what this is. This is a chance for the people who are serious to be able to talk to the exhibitor of their choice in a casual environment and if that shopper is interested then it's easy for them to go on a demonstration flight."

More than 40 exhibitors will be at an easily accessible and demonstration-friendly flightline for interested parties to browse. Not

Please see **LSA**, Page 6A

## LSA:

*Continued From Page 1A*

only will attendees be able to shop for different light sport aircraft, but aviation gadgets will be sold in the terminal lobby and several informative seminars and forums will be presented by professionals in the industry.

Collins said that the benefit of hosting the expo in Mt. Vernon includes, "the infrastructure of the airport and having everything here. Then also the logistics of where we're located in the center part of the country, the intersection of the two interstates, Mt. Vernon's tourism and hospitality industry with all the hotels and restaurants. It's just a really easy, convenient place to have this. I think our metrics say that 50 percent of

the United States population lives within an eight-hour drive. It's the perfect place to have this event."

According to Collins, the farthest that someone has traveled for the event has been from Alaska. The airport also receives visitors from California, Washington and across the east coast, among other locations.

A new seminar this year, being presented by Lt. Col. Mike McMillin of the U.S. Air Force, will be held on Friday and Saturday at 1 p.m.

"The Air Force will be here on Friday and Saturday giving a forum/seminar on temporary flight restrictions avoidance ..." Collins said. "The Air Force is going to the show circuit this year to talk to pilots to make sure that we know to stay far away from these temporary flight restrictions. If you see it on your GPS and you think you're avoiding it, you may not be just because of the way

the satellites draw it. There will be a seminar on that and not be intercepted by the Air Force and get arrested and or pay a big fine."

Another forum titled "Zero Time to Certified Pilot" will explain the process of becoming a certified pilot to those seeking information at 11 a.m. Thursday.

Collins emphasized that the expo is not only a benefit to the airport, but to the wider region.

"Practically everyone you see on this ramp will be spending the night in a hotel room or will be camping here," he said, "so they're spending their money here in our community and we want to thank them for that. They could go anywhere else in the country and they keep coming back here. This is the chance to come out here and be an ambassador for Southern Illinois, Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County." 9-5-15  
eroth@morningsentinel.com