

LSA on Display

U.S. Sport Aviation Expo underway in Sebring

January 19, 2012 - The 8th annual U.S. Sport Aviation Expo kicked off Thursday morning in Sebring, Florida, to sunny skies and a forecast of great weather for this weekend's show. More than 100 exhibitors are in place at the indoor and outdoor booths on Sebring Regional Airport (SEF), including airframe, engine, and avionics manufacturers and distributors. Powered parachutes, trikes, and fixed-wing aircraft will have specific flight times each day of the event, which runs through 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Gates are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Camping is available at the adjacent Sebring International Raceway.



Hanson Aviation displays its FK 12 with a Rotax 912 ULS engine at this weekend's 8th annual U.S. Sport Aviation Expo in Sebring, Florida. The next two airframes will have Lycoming AIO-233 engines. See more photos from Sebring on [EAA's Facebook gallery](#).

A full slate of educational forums, supported by EAA, will cover subjects as varied as buying insurance for your light-sport aircraft to tips for passing your practical test to the maintenance of Rotax engines. Forums will be held daily throughout the weekend.

EAA President/CEO Rod Hightower is the featured speaker at tonight's Light Aircraft Manufacturers Association dinner (6 p.m.), while AOPA President Craig Fuller will hold a "Meet and Greet" session at 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

The Expo is under new management this year with the Sebring Airport Authority assuming the production of the event, with Jana Phillips taking over Expo director duties from the retiring Bob Wood. Several new features have been added to the event, including a seaplane base on nearby Lake Jackson that will be in operation on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. under the direction of the Seaplane Pilots Association.

Award-winning speaker and Kitty Hawk National Park Ranger Darrell Collins will make two presentations about the historic first flights of the Wright brothers and the accomplishments of their mechanic, Charles Taylor. The first will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday with an encore performance at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Both presentations will be held in the AeroShell Tent.

Other firsts for the Expo include a live aircraft auction, conducted by AvBid, on Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Alan Jay Hangar, and a model airplane contest on Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. in the AeroShell Tent.

Following the awards and closing ceremonies on Sunday at 2 p.m., between 12 and 20 light-sport aircraft will depart for a group fly-out to the Bahamas.

Attendance Thursday was brisk and with a forecast of sunny skies and 70-degree temperatures, event sponsors are anticipating a busy event. To learn more about the Sebring Expo, [click here](#). Visit [EAA on Facebook](#) throughout the weekend to see updated photos and information. Look for a complete Expo report early next week.