



# Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce Mainstreet News

100 West Jackson Street  
(573) 581-2765

Mexico, MO 65265  
(800) 581-2765

www.mexico-chamber.org  
Fax: (573) 581-6226

## Zenith Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Zenith's 20th anniversary celebration will take place at the annual Zenith Aircraft Open Hangar Day and Fly-In gathering at the factory in Mexico, Missouri in September. A Zenith banquet will be held on Friday evening, September 21, with the Open Hangar Day and Fly-In activities the following day, on September 22 at the Mexico Memorial Airport. Zenith suppliers and makers of engines and avionics will attend for the celebration and to meet with Zenith builders and pilots. Educational seminars, workshops and demonstrations will take place on both Friday and Saturday, September 21 & 22, 2012. Dozens of Zenith customer-built airplanes will fly in for the activities, and many builders and owners (some of whom have been flying Zenith / Zenair designs since the 1970s) will swap stories and tips with first-time builders in this annual celebration of flight. Already some Zenith customers from Canada and across the U.S. have indicated they'll be flying in for the activities.

A brief ceremony to celebrate Zenith's 20th anniversary is scheduled at the factory on Saturday morning at 10:00 am with the City of Mexico mak-

ing a special presentation, followed by the annual group photo in front of the Zenith factory. The Mexico communi-



**A GOOD FIT.** Zenith Aircraft Owner, Sebastian Heintz is next to a CH 650 Plane. Heintz commented that Mexico has been a good fit for Zenith, "A town in the middle of nowhere, and the middle of everywhere."

ty is invited to come out and be included in the group photo! The Mexico Boosters will be onsite Saturday serving their famed rib-eye sandwiches (as well as burgers, hotdogs, and refreshments).

Zenith Aircraft Company is based at the Mexico Memorial Airport-Hagan Brothers Field, and manufactures and sells complete airplane kits for building light aircraft. Zenith manufactures the parts that make up the airplane and ships the complete kits (crated in one big box) to customers across the United States, and around the world. The

Zenith factory in Mexico produces the aluminum alloy airplane parts using modern CNC routers and press brakes, and employs a dozen skilled workers. Customers who buy the kits typically assemble the "Do It Yourself" project in their own garage and install their own engine and instruments (avionics) on the airplane before their first flight. The all-metal aircraft are produced using modern 6061-T6 aluminum alloy parts, and fastened together primarily with blind ("pop"-type) rivets, making them both quick and easy to assemble.

Zenith produces a popular high-wing STOL (short take-off and landing) light sport utility "sky jeep" airplane that is used around the world in off-airport locales (for missionary work, humanitarian aid, crop spraying, flight training, medical relief work and anti-poaching campaigns). Zenith also produces a new low-wing Zenith CH 650. This "cruiser" is a sleek two-seater with a gorgeous bubble canopy. This newest design has already been featured on three magazine covers (one in the US, one in the UK, and one in Spain):

(continued on page 2)

**ZENITH**  
AIRCRAFT

**1992 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR 2012**

**Zenith Aircraft Co. • Mexico, Missouri**

*1992 - 2012*

**Zenith Aircraft Company**

Manufacturer of Quality Light Aircraft Kits

Mexico Memorial Airport  
Mexico, Missouri

facebook.com/zenithair

[www.zenithair.com](http://www.zenithair.com)

# Zenith

from page 1

In the U.S. the two-seat designs meet the definition of a “Light Sport Aircraft” for operation by Sport Pilots. Zenith has recently introduced “quick build kits” for all its models, supplying the kits with factory-assembled fuselage assemblies.

Zenith Aircraft Company also maintains factory demonstrator aircraft at the airport for flight tests and for customer demonstration flights, and the company hosts monthly two-day “hands-on” workshops in the factory to give prospective builders the opportunity to gain building experience prior to committing to an entire kit airplane project. Customers from across the U.S. and from around the world routinely visit Zenith Aircraft Company at the Mexico Airport (spending time and money in our local community).

Zenith is owned and operated by Sebastien Heintz, who started the company in 1992 with his father Chris Heintz, the designer of the aircraft produced by the company. A native of France, who was raised in Canada, Heintz was attracted to Mexico because of its central location within the United States, excellent airport facilities with land available on the airport grounds and the available workforce. The company’s first employee, Roger Dubbert, has been with Zenith from the beginning and is responsible for demonstration flights and customer relations. Travis Kobush, Zenith’s production manager, started with the company more than 18 years ago.

Zenith Aircraft Company is a past recipient of the Commerce and Industry Award (2009) from the Chamber and the City of Mexico “in grateful appreciation for outstanding civic responsibility and generous contributions to advance the growth and welfare of Mexico, Missouri.” Previous awards also include the 2003 G. Andy Runge Ambassador Award “in appreciation for bringing great statewide and national recognition to Mexico, Missouri,” the 1999 Missouri Industry of the Year (small size) award from the Missouri Department of Economic Development “for outstanding contributions designed to make Missouri a better place to live and work,” and the 1998 “Excellence in Tourism” award from the chamber.

For details about attending the events, visit Zenith Aircraft Company’s online resources:

Zenith Aircraft Company: [www.zenithair.com](http://www.zenithair.com)

Zenith Builders and Flyers: [www.zenith.aero](http://www.zenith.aero)

Zenith on Facebook: [facebook.com/zenithair](https://facebook.com/zenithair)

Zenith Open Hangar Day/Fly-In:

[www.zenithair.com/news/oh2012.html](http://www.zenithair.com/news/oh2012.html)

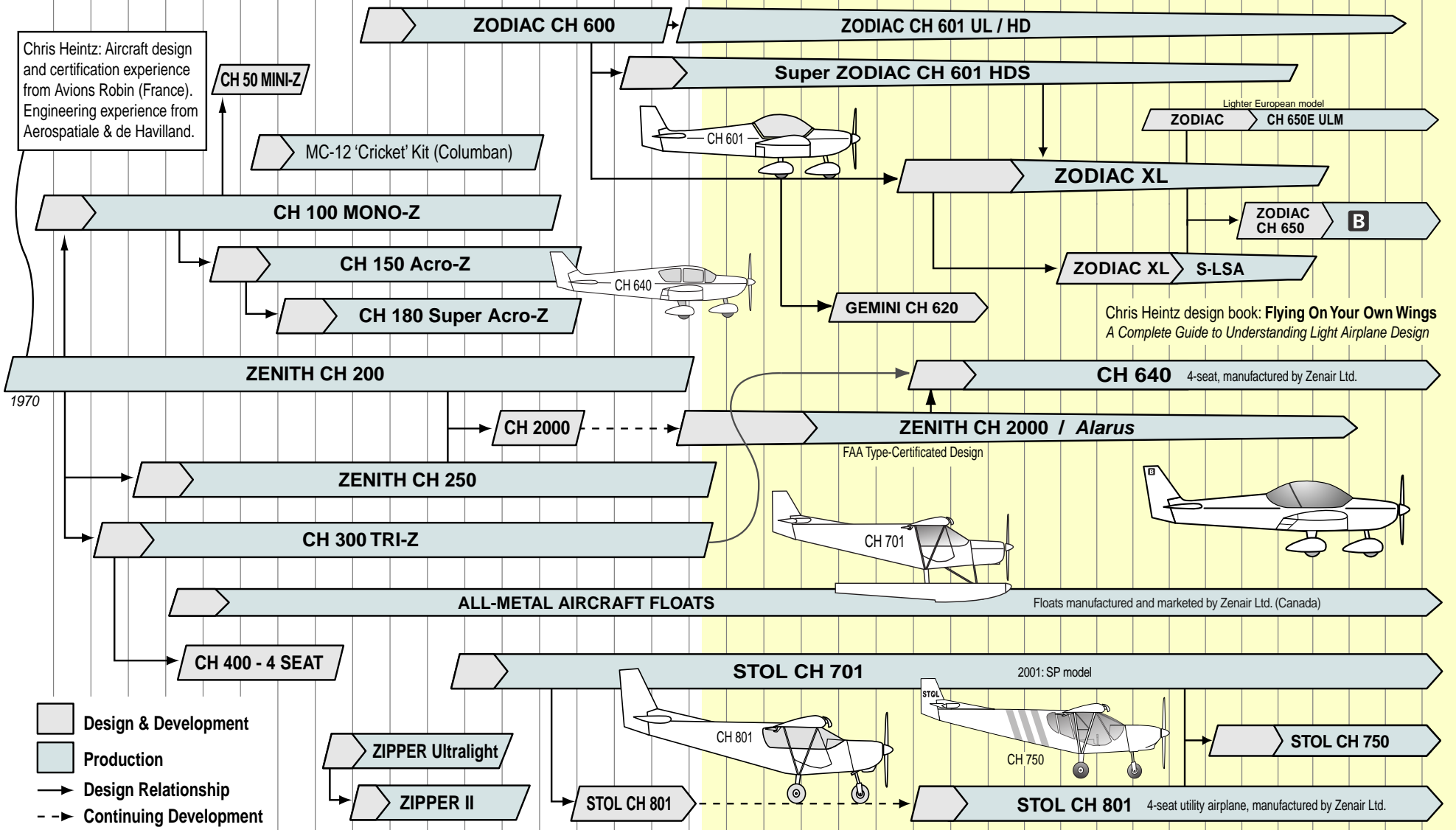
Area mail includes Audrain County, Paris, Vandalia, Perry, Middletown, Farber, Laddonia, Benton City, Wellsville, Martinsburg, Montgomery City, Bellflower, New Florence, Hatton, Auxvasse, Thompson and Centralia areas; out of town mail includes Washington, DC; Quincy, IL; Pittsfield, IL; Topeka, KS; St. Charles, MO; Louisiana, MO; Monroe City, MO; Kansas City, MO; Jefferson City, MO; Columbia, MO; Boonville, MO; Fulton, MO; Moberly, MO. Mainstreet News (USPS # 123-130) is published monthly by Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 West Jackson, Mexico, MO 65265. Periodicals postage paid at Mexico, MO. Postmaster: Send address changes to Mainstreet News, 100 West Jackson, Mexico, MO 65265.

# CHRIS HEINTZ / Zenair: LIGHT AIRCRAFT DESIGN HISTORY

1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 '12

Zenith Aircraft Company: 1992 - 2012 The first 20 years!

Chris Heintz: Aircraft design and certification experience from Avions Robin (France). Engineering experience from Aerospatiale & de Havilland.



Chris Heintz design book: *Flying On Your Own Wings*  
A Complete Guide to Understanding Light Airplane Design

1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 '12