

# 2025 Zenith Aircraft Homecoming: Open Hangar Days & Fly-In Gathering 9/12/25

**Friday, September 19** at Mexico Memorial Airport (Tentative Schedule. Times and topics subject to change)

*The annual Zenith Homecoming event is presented by the Chris Heintz Foundation, Inc.*

**7:30 – 9:00 am Pancake breakfast**, prepared by EAA Chapter 944, compliments of **Wheels and Wings** (Herman Eshuis)

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

- **Zenith Factory Tour:** Travis Kobush, Zenith's production manager, will guide visitors through the newly expanded kit aircraft factory
- **Ongoing Airworthiness for your Zenith:** Matt Heintz will share valuable information about ongoing airworthiness and construction standards for Zenith aircraft designs. Presented by the Chris Heintz Foundation, LLC. (On the ramp by the Zenith hangar)
- **Dynon Avionics for your Zenith kit project** by John Gibson of Dynon (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)

**10:00 - 10:50 am**

- **Introduction to Building your own Zenith Kit Airplane.** Learn about getting started on your own Zenith kit project. Overview of the kit, basic skills and tools, and building tips, with Q&A about building your own Zenith. (Zenith hangar)
- **MOSAIC and Government Issues Update.** Charlie Becker from EAA will discuss the latest FAA/governmental issues affecting Zenith builders and owners, including the latest about the FAA's MOSAIC NPRM, task based phase one flight testing, LODA, Basic Med and fuel issues. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **Corvair Engine:** Check out Corvair automotive conversion components, see Corvair installations in Zeniths and learn more about light aircraft engine operations. William Wynne (On the ramp by the Zenith hangar)

**11:00 - 11:50 am**

- **Propellers: Choosing the right propeller for your Zenith.** Steve Boser, of Sensenich propellers, will discuss how to properly choose the right propeller for your Zenith airplane (in front of the Zenith Hangar)
- **ULPower Engines:** Learn about the lightweight and modern ULPower engines and about their installation and operation in Zenith aircraft. Herman Eshuis from Wheels and Wings / ULPower distributor (in front of Zenith hangar)
- **Garmin Avionics for Zeniths:** Brad Brensing from Garmin Aviation will discuss Garmin avionics solutions for Zenith kit aircraft offered through Zenith. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)

**12:00 pm - 12:50 pm**

- **Panel Discussion: Instrument panels.** Builders/pilots talk about creating a customized instrument panel that will suit your needs and style, with discussion about glass panel displays vs steam gauges, un-panel display, iPads, etc. (Zenith Hangar)
- **Aircraft Engine Oil Analysis.** Zenith builder/pilot Larry Nelson of LNC Laboratories will discuss the importance of oil analysis and preventive maintenance practices. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **Aircraft Insurance for your Zenith aircraft:** Scott "Sky" Smith, of Scott Sky Smith Insurance shares details and answers questions about aircraft insurance as it applies to building and flying a Zenith kit aircraft.

**1:00 - 1:50 pm**

- **Women's Introduction to Aircraft Building workshop:** Hands on workshop by and for women aircraft builders. Come learn about the tools and skills needed to assemble and build a modern kit airplane. (Zenith hangar workshop area).
- **Vinyl Wraps:** Zenith builder Phil Schmidt will share information about vinyl wrap finishes instead of painting (in front of the Zenith factory)
- **How to register and certify your Zenith aircraft,** by Paul Mather, an FAA Designated Airworthiness Representative (DAR) and experienced Zenith builder. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)

**2:00 - 2:50 pm**

- **Zenith Aircraft Assembly Demonstration:** Explanation and demonstration of the features of the latest Zenith kits with final hole size match-drilled parts and components (in the Zenith hangar)
- **Panel Discussion: Paint/Polish/Wrap your Zenith aircraft.** Builders discuss the most popular methods for putting a "finish" on your Zenith aircraft. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **Viking Engines:** Jan Eggenfellner will discuss the Honda-based Viking Aircraft Engines, and show the engine installed in a Viking powered airplane (in front of the Zenith Hangar)

**3:00 - 3:50 pm**

- **Social Media and Building / Flying your Zenith.** Carson Stilson, who recently completed his STOL CH 750 Super Duty (and flew it to the Zenith Homecoming from Utah) shared his build experience with hundreds of thousands of viewers on social media over two years. He will share his past experience and future plans. (in the Zenith hangar)
- **The Recreational Aviation Foundation.** Zenith pilot Rob Overly will share details about RAF and its mission and work in creating and preserving back-country airstrips for recreational access. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **More Zenith Aircraft Assembly Demonstrations:** Hands-on demonstrations of the kit assembly procedures and tools needed to build your own Zenith kit airplane (in the Zenith hangar)
- **DUC Propellers** - Gaetan from DUC Propellers will share details and information about the popular DUC propellers, and provide useful guidance to help builders/pilots choose the right prop for their aircraft/engine (in front of the Zenith hangar)

**4:00 - 5:00 pm**

- **ENGINE Panel Discussion:** Engine company representatives, owners and pilots of various Zenith aircraft will discuss the specific engine they are flying behind in their Zenith, and will share their experiences (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **Aerodynamic external fairing kits** from North American Aerospace Holdings for Zenith aircraft, by Mark Seaver of North American Aerospace Holdings. Also flooring, seats, interiors and accessories. (in front of the Zenith Hangar)

**5:00 - 7:30 pm (or later)**

- **Zenith Builders Banquet Dinner:** Informal BBQ buffet dinner (served by Pig Up & Go) gathering of Zenith enthusiasts, builders & pilots on the ramp in front of the Zenith Aircraft factory, starting around 5:00 pm. Cash bar opens around 4:30 pm. Updates from Zenith (with special guests) presented after dinner. Awesome door prizes, and more! [Purchase your dinner tickets in the Zenith office or online](#)



# 2025 Zenith Aircraft Homecoming: Open Hangar Days & Fly-In Gathering

**Saturday, September 20 at Mexico Airport** (Tentative Schedule. Times and topics subject to change)

The annual Zenith Homecoming event is presented by the Chris Heintz Foundation, Inc.

The Saturday events at the Zenith factory include self-guided Zenith factory tours, hands-on building projects inside the factory, Zenith aircraft on display in the air and on the ground, along with educational seminars throughout the day. Stay for the late afternoon fried chicken dinner and awards ceremony starting at 4:30 pm.

**7:30 – 9:00 am Pancake breakfast** (prepared by **EAA Chapter 944**, compliments of **KITPLANES** magazine and **AVEMCO** aviation insurance)

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

- **Zenith Factory Tour:** Travis Kobush, Zenith Aircraft's production manager, will guide visitors through the Zenith kit aircraft factory, including a sneak-peek at the Zenith expansion currently underway (Zenith Hangar)
- **Design and construction for your Zenith:** Matt Heintz will give valuable information involving ongoing airworthiness and construction standards for Zenith aircraft. Presented by the Chris Heintz Foundation, LLC. (On the ramp by the Zenith hangar)
- **Scratch-building your own Zenith:** Learn about the skills and tools needed to scratch-build your own Zenith just from the Drawings and manuals. Presented by Clint Gosch, a Zenith scratch builder (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)

**10:00 - 10:50 am**

- **Transition Training and First Flight Preparedness: Phil Cook of Lavion Aero** will share details about transition training and first flight preparedness in the Zenith that you built (or purchased). (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **Zenith STOL CH 750 SD and STOL CH 801:** Randy Shannon will share information and details about his two Zeniths, and he'll share details about his latest project (in front of the Zenith hangar)
- **Equipping your Zenith Homebuilt for IFR Operations, and learning to fly IFR in it,** by Larry Nelson who recently did that!

**10:00 – 3:00 - Zenith Aircraft Show:** A select group of Zenith aircraft builders and flyers will judge the Zenith aircraft flown in to the Homecoming, to choose a number of exceptionally built, equipped and finished Zeniths. The winners will be announced after the Saturday dinner, with some fantastic prizes to be awarded. (Airplane owners: Register your Zenith at the gazebo outside of the Zenith factory hangar all day Friday or on Saturday morning, and display the Zenith prop card on your aircraft to be "judged").

**10:50 am: Annual "Group Photo"** of builders and their planes in front of the Zenith factory.

**11:00 - 11:50 am**

- **Introduction to Building your own Zenith:** Introducing the Zenith kits! Learn about getting started on your own Zenith kit project. Overview of the kit, with Q&A about building your own Zenith. (Zenith hangar)
- **Continental / Titan aircraft engines,** by Vadim Cateli of Continental Aerospace Technologies (in front of the Zenith hangar)
- **"Building my Zenith kit in 18 months (and not being retired)"** Peter Eiberger will share tips and info about building his Zenith CH 750 Cruiser (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)

**12:00 - 12:50 pm**

- **Carson Stilson's STOL CH 750 Super Duty** - Carson will share details about his Zenith STOL CH 750 that he completed earlier this year and flew to the Homecoming from Utah. Walk-around tour of the airplane (in front of the Zenith Hangar).
- **Dynon Avionics for your Zenith kit project** by John Gibson of Dynon (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **Hand Painting Your Airplane:** Roll and Tip Method, by Steve Aupperle who painted his own CH 750 Cruiser by hand. *This presentation is back by popular demand!* (Zenith Aircraft hangar)

**1:00 - 1:50 pm**

- **Flying Demonstrations:** Short Take-Off and Short (Precision) Landing as well as other flying demonstrations, at Mexico Memorial Airport (weather permitting, time subject to change)
- **Zenith Aircraft in the classroom: Learn from those in the field using Zenith kits to inspire the next generation,** presentation and discussion by Andy Ovans of ApexAerospace.org about school projects (Zenith hangar)
- **AeroLEDs** – Mark McCormack of AeroLEDs will share details about their powerful LED landing, taxi, recognition, and navigational lighting solutions for Zenith airplanes (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **First engine start:** Dean's CH 750 with UL Power engine (in front of the Zenith hangar)

**2:00 - 2:50 pm**

- **Second (and subsequent) Owners of Zenith kits and flying airplanes:** Discussion and information useful to owners of "used" Zenith homebuilt aircraft, whether the owner of a used kit or a used flying Zenith (Zenith Hangar)
- **Garmin Experimental Solutions for Zeniths:** Factory rep from Garmin International will discuss Garmin avionics solutions for Zenith kit aircraft offered through Zenith. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **Viking Engines:** Jan Eggenfellner, Viking Aircraft Engines (in front of Zenith Hangar)

**3:00 - 3:50 pm**

- **Beyond the Build: What You Need to Know.** There are lots of things besides drilling and riveting that you need to know when building your own aircraft. Charlie Becker from EAA will walk you through the "other stuff" like in process inspections, builders logs, FAA paperwork, taxes, insurance, and much more. (Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Hangar)
- **DUC Propellers:** Gaetan from DUC Propellers will share details and information about the popular DUC propellers, and provide useful guidance to help builders/pilots choose the right prop for their aircraft/engine (in front of the Zenith hangar)
- **ULPower Engines:** Learn about the lightweight and modern ULPower engines and about their installation and operation in Zenith aircraft. Herman Eshuis from Wheels and Wings / ULPower distributor (in front of Zenith hangar)

**4:00 - 5:00 pm - Dinner and Closing Ceremony** in front of the Zenith Aircraft factory. Cash bar opens at 3:30 pm. Fried chicken dinner starts at 4:00 pm. Awards will be presented following the dinner. Purchase your dinner tickets in the Zenith office or online.



# 2025 ZENITH HOMECOMING

## Open Hangar Days & Fly-In



**Friday & Saturday, September 19 & 20, 2025**

Zenith Aircraft kit factory in Mexico, Missouri (KMYJ) [www.zenithair.net](http://www.zenithair.net)

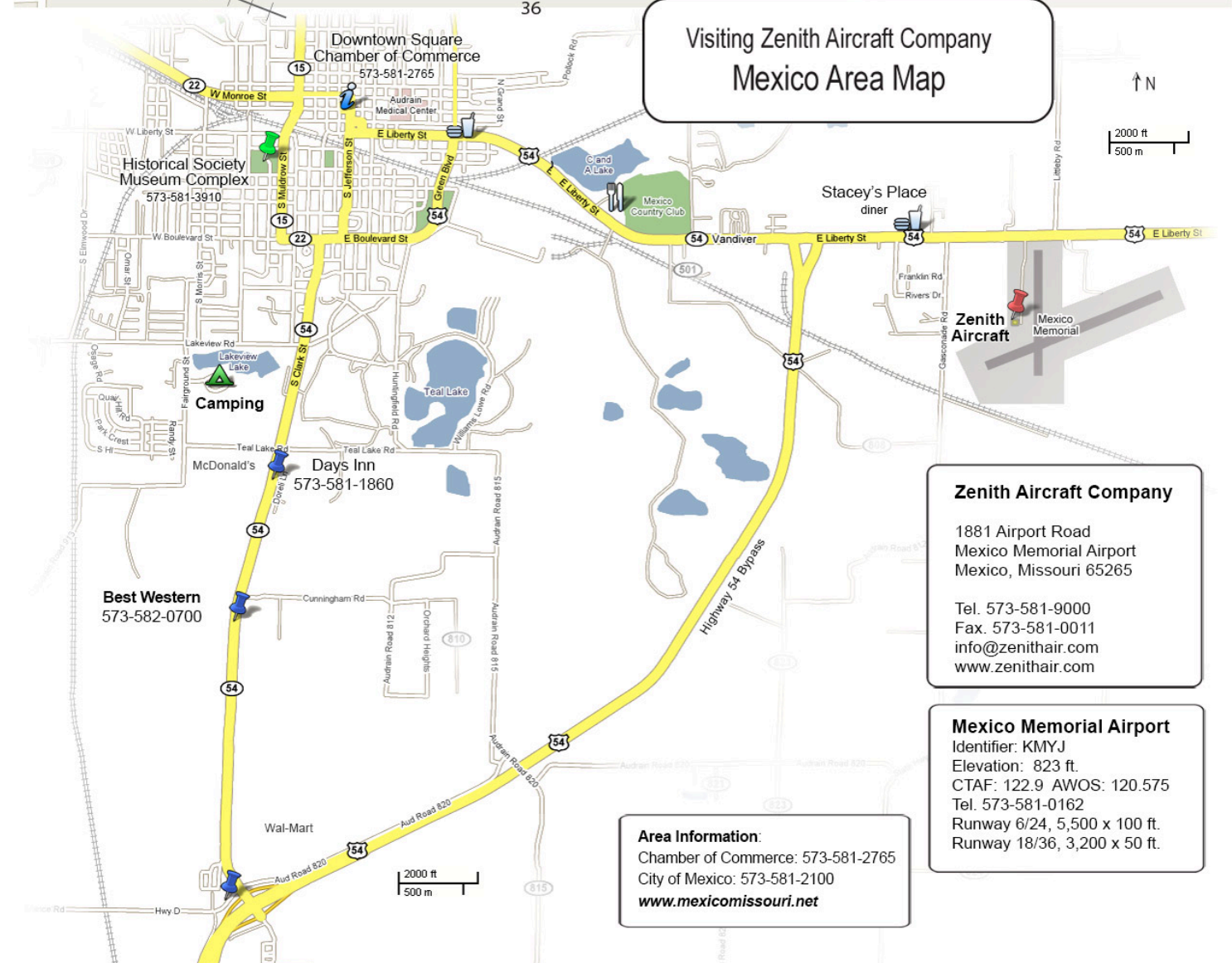
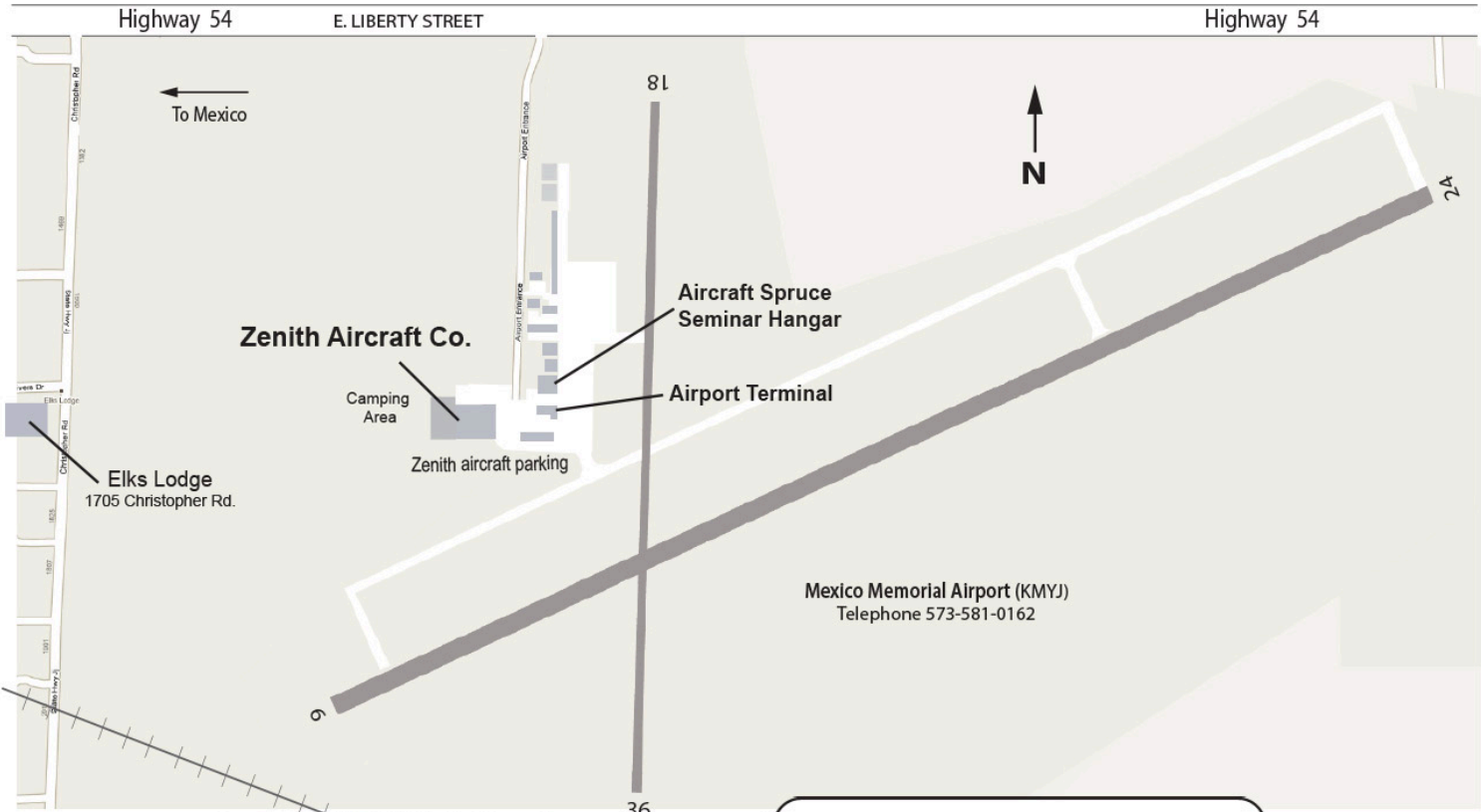
We thank the many participants and sponsors, and most of all, ***we thank the dedicated Zenith aircraft builders and flyers who continue to make this annual event a success!***  
***Thank you for being part of it!***

***A few event highlights you won't want to miss:***

- **Be a part of the Official GROUP PHOTO** in front of the Zenith factory with the airplanes.  
**10:50 AM on Saturday**
- **SATURDAY DINNER AND CLOSING CEREMONY.** 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Cash bar opens at 3:30 pm. Fried chicken dinner starts at 4:00 pm. Awards will be presented following the dinner. Purchase your dinner tickets in the Zenith office or online.

***Remember to proudly wear the 2025 Zenith Homecoming t-shirt and other Zenith apparel!***  
***Available for purchase at the event.***

*The annual Zenith Homecoming event is presented by the Chris Heintz Foundation, Inc., a non-profit formed to further the work of designer Chris Heintz in ongoing education and advocacy of homebuilt kit aircraft.*



**Zenith Aircraft Company**

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**Mexico Memorial Airport**

Identifier: KMYJ  
 Elevation: 823 ft.  
 CTAF: 122.9 AWOS: 120.575  
 Tel. 573-581-0162  
 Runway 6/24, 5,500 x 100 ft.  
 Runway 18/36, 3,200 x 50 ft.

**Area Information:**  
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