

2026 Zenith Aircraft Homecoming: Open Hangar Days & Fly-In Gathering 9/15/26b

Friday, September 18 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 - 10:00 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, Inc. (on the ramp)
- **Flying Challenge Briefing:** Zenith builder/pilot Larry Nelson has organized a flying challenge for Zenith pilots. Attend this briefing to learn about the rules and course for the flying challenge (or find Larry for more details). (South end Zenith hangar)
- **3D Scanning and Printing for Experimental Aircraft** - Oliver and Martina Reik of Midwest Flying Machines, a builder assistance center in Michigan that specializes in Zenith kits, will share details about their additive printing experiences.

10:15 - 11:15 am

- **Zenith Aircraft Assembly Demonstrations:** Hands-on demonstrations of the kit assembly procedures and tools needed to build your own Zenith kit airplane, with an overview of final hole size match-drilled parts and assemblies (South end Zenith hangar)
- **MOSAIC Sport Pilot / LSA 2.0:** EAA's Charlie Becker will provide the latest updates about the FAA's MOSAIC (Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification) rule and how this new rule affects aircraft builders, owners, and pilots. (West end of Zenith factory)
- **Corvair Engine:** Corvair engine guru William Wynne will share details about Corvair automotive engine conversions that have become a popular engine choice for many. (On the ramp by Zenith hangar)

11:30 - 12:30 pm

- **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 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:** Josh Mattson of Garmin Aviation TeamX (experimental) will discuss Garmin avionics solutions (including the new AXIS panel) for Zenith kit aircraft offered through Zenith. (West end of Zenith factory)

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

- **STOL Flying.** Sheldon Heatherington will share tips and techniques on how to get the most performance out of your aircraft and how he flies STOL safely. He flies a Rotax-powered STOL CH 750 and has been flying in the National STOL circuit for six years. (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. (south side of Zenith factory)
- **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. (West end of Zenith factory)

2:00 - 2:50 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, by assembling a small project. (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. (West end of Zenith factory)

3:00 - 3:50 pm

- **Zenith Aircraft Floats:** Zenith has resumed manufacturing the all-metal "Zenair Floats" for light aircraft. Explanation and demonstration of the new kits (featuring final hole size match drilled parts) and details about float flying (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. (South end Zenith hangar)
- **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. (South end of Zenith factory)
- **Viking Engines:** Jan and Alissa Eggenfellner discuss the modern automotive-based Viking Aircraft Engines, and show the engines as installed in Zenith aircraft (in front of the Zenith Hangar)

4:00 - 4:50 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 (West end of Zenith factory)

5:00 - 7:30 pm (and later)

- **Zenith Builders Banquet Dinner:** Informal BBQ buffet dinner on the ramp in front of the Zenith Aircraft factory, starting around 5:00 pm. Cash bar opens around 5:00 pm. Updates from Zenith Aircraft (with special guests) presented following dinner. Awesome door prizes, and more! [Purchase your dinner tickets in the Zenith office or online](#)



2026 Zenith Aircraft Homecoming: Open Hangar Days & Fly-In Gathering

Saturday, September 19 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**, supported in part by **AVEMCO** aviation insurance)

8:30 - 9:30 am

- **Zenith Factory Tour:** Travis Kobush, Zenith Aircraft's production manager, will take visitors through a detailed guided tour of the Zenith kit aircraft factory (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, Inc. (On the ramp by the Zenith hangar)
- **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). (West end of Zenith factory)

9:45 - 10:45 am

- **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)
- **AeroLEDs** - Susan Calvin of AeroLEDs will share details about their powerful LED landing, taxi, recognition, and navigational lighting solutions for Zenith airplanes (West end of Zenith factory)

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 - 12:00 pm

- **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)
- **One Week Wonder 2027** - Learn about the return of the One Week Wonder to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2027 where a Zenith CH 750 Super Cruiser will be built in just seven days! Learn how you can be a part of it! EAA's Charlie Becker, Brian Hughes from Aspiring Aviators, and Sebastien Heintz from Zenith Aircraft.
- **Building and Flying your Zenith for IFR** - Larry Nelson will share details on his IFR experiences in his Zenith (airport terminal)

12:15 - 1:15 pm

- **Social Media and Building / Flying your Zenith.** Carson Stilson, who has recently built two Zeniths (STOL CH 750 Super Duty and a STOL CH 701) shares his building and flying experiences with millions of "followers" on social media, making him one of the most watched aircraft builders ever! He will share his experiences and recommendations using social media (in the Zenith hangar)
- **Dynon Avionics for your Zenith kit project** by Michael Schofield of Dynon (West end of Zenith factory)
- **Aerodynamic external fairing kits** for Zenith aircraft, by Mark Seaver of North American Aerospace Holdings. Also flooring, seats, interiors and accessories (in front of the Zenith Hangar)

1:30 - 2:30 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)
- **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. (in the Zenith hangar)
- **3D Printing for Experimental Aircraft** - Peter Eiberger will share tips and info about creating and using 3D (additive) printed parts to his Zenith CH 750 Cruiser (West end of Zenith factory)

2:45 - 3:45 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)
- **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. (West end of Zenith factory)
- **Viking Engines:** Jan and Alissa Eggenfellner discuss the modern automotive-based Viking Aircraft Engines, and show the engines as installed in Zenith aircraft (in front of the 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. Awards will be presented following the dinner. Purchase your dinner tickets in the Zenith office or online.





Onsite Camping!



September 18 & 19, 2026 - Mexico, Missouri



See the planes!



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 Homecoming fly-in a success! Thank you for being part of it!



- **Be a part of the Official GROUP PHOTO in front of the Zenith factory with the airplanes. 10:50 AM on Saturday**
- **FRIDAY Zenith Builders “Banquet” Dinner:** Informal BBQ buffet dinner, on the ramp with the planes in front of the Zenith Aircraft factory, starting around 5:00 pm. Cash bar (served by the local Elks lodge) opens around 4:30 pm. Awesome door prizes and updates from Zenith and special guests. Purchase your dinner tickets in the Zenith office or online.
- **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 2026 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.

