

Executive Director's REPORT



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ZENITH AIRCRAFT HANDS-ON KIT BUILDING WORKSHOP AT SEBRING EXPO

For the first time ever, Zenith Aircraft Company is bringing its famous two-day hands-on kit aircraft building workshop to the Sebring U.S. Sport Aviation Expo.

The workshops have become popular with sport aviation enthusiasts who have considered building their own aircraft, but were not sure if they could handle the required skills, workspace and tools. During the workshop, which begins on Wednesday (January 25) and runs until Thursday afternoon (January 26), participants actually construct a Zenith Aircraft rudder assembly from a standard kit. Additional hands-on

projects and demonstrations will be held on the following two days of the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo at the Sebring Expo workshop tent.

In the hands-on workshop process, participants tackle many activities including learning how to read drawings (blueprints) and work from assembly instructions (manuals). They learn the procedures for putting together an aircraft assembly, including drilling, de-burring and blind riveting. As part of the building process they cut, file and fit the aluminum alloy (sheet metal) parts. In the end, they have an assembled rudder that is ready to install on an

airplane.

“The rest of the airframe is constructed the same way as the rudder using pretty much the same tools,” said Sebastien Heinz, President of Zenith. “People get far more out of the workshops than just a rudder. Most importantly, they learn that building is easy, enjoyable and something that can engage the whole family. With modern technology and good instructions, aircraft construction has become much simpler than most people imagine.”

The two-day, hands-on workshop is an excellent way to learn about building your own amateur-built aircraft and

about the many advantages of owning and flying an airplane that you’ve built yourself. For many, building an aircraft (from a kit) is a very rewarding experience, and today’s modern kits make it easier and quicker to build than even before.

Workshop fees are \$375 and include the complete rudder kit for a Zenith aircraft. Additional helpers can participate for free. To learn more about the workshop program visit ZenithAir.com, and visit the Sebring U.S. Sport Aviation Expo website for details about the aviation expo in Sebring, Florida, January 25 - 28, 2017.

MAPPING THE WAY FORWARD: LIVING THE LIFE YOU DESERVE

La’Shanda Holmes, U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter

Why she is a local hero and a game changer: Holmes overcame early adversity in her life to become the first black female helicopter pilot in the history of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Holmes’ early life was difficult to say the least: Her mother committed suicide when she was

2, and after abuse occurred in the foster home where she lived, Holmes was separated from her sibling. Afterward, Holmes bounced through the foster care system until she found stability at 17 with the people she still calls her “parents.”

The first time she was out over the water in a helicopter, Holmes knew she was hooked.

“We did hovering and flying low over the water. I was like a little kid. It was like nothing I had ever done or seen before. It was awesome,” she said. “Everyone in the aviation community was so close. There was a real sense of

camaraderie that I wanted to be a part of.”

The culmination of her years of hard work were realized when she received her wings at graduation. Pinning her was Lt. Jeanine Menze, the Coast Guard’s first black aviator. Meet Ms. Holmes at Sebring Expo at the all new YAZ (Young Aviators Zone).



PISTONS AND PROPS

The Classic 12 Hour at Sebring, Pistons and Props,



was a celebration of the lasting connection between legendary race cars and Sebring's rich aviation history. The on-track and on-the-runways Classic 12 Hour

celebration paid tribute to both the legendary auto race and historic Hendricks Field, the iconic military and civil aviation facility on which the 12-hour

event is run every year.

The Classic 12 Hour, Pistons and Props, saw vintage aircraft land on one of the Sebring runways and taxi into the paddock to be displayed right alongside the historic race cars. A group of race car drivers judged the planes for "best in show" honor and much more.

TECNAM P2002 SIERRA GETS LUXURY UPGRADE, AIRCRAFT TO DEBUT IN FLORIDA JAN. 25

Italy's Tecnam aircraft company, manufacturer of light sport aircraft in the United States and ultralights in Europe, has upgraded its P2002 Sierra to the MkII second-generation model.

The two-seat aircraft is powered by a 100-horsepower Rotax engine. It can reach nearly the top speed allowed in the light sport category—120 knots—thanks to a redesigned engine cowling. It will also be available as an experimental category airplane in addition to a light sport aircraft and ultralight.

The upgraded aircraft, intended to match continuing customer demands for more luxurious aircraft, will arrive at Tecnam's factory showroom in Sebring, Florida, and be featured at the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo Jan. 25 to 28. It could arrive as early as the end of December with additional aircraft joining the Florida fleet in February.

It is positioned in the marketplace just beneath the company's Astore super luxury model. Cramming all possible options into the Astore might drive the price as high as \$195,000, while doing the same for the Sierra would reach only \$178,000. The base price depends largely on the Sierra's avionics package but ranges from \$150,000 to \$160,000 for an aircraft with Garmin G3X Touch avionics and two 10.6-inch screens.

The model number P2002 refers to the year that it was designed. New features include

more clearance beneath the canopy so that even someone 6 feet 5 inches and wearing a headset won't have to duck as the canopy is closed prior to flight. It is Americanized, meaning that while it has a steerable nose-wheel, it also has toe brakes. Seats will slide farther forward and aft, coming closer to the seats found in the super luxury two-seat Astore. The upgraded Sierra will be available in three styles: standard, premium, and power. Power refers to the motif, not to the engine size. Seats and interior reach the highest level at

the power style.

Bydanjohnson.com noted recently that numbers from the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) show that Tecnam has 20 percent of all the reported piston single-engine aircraft deliveries in the first three quarters of 2016. There were 601 deliveries but not all aircraft manufacturers report deliveries to GAMA.





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SITE MAP

- Future Development
- Existing Industrial Park
- Catalyst Site
- Airport
- Future Commerce Park
- Sebring International Raceway



ACCELERATE YOUR BUSINESS'S POTENTIAL