

SWIFT MUSEUM
FOUNDATION, INC.
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2018 Raffle Grand Prize Winner!

Will "Buddy" Kientz
Chesterfield, MO
Congratulations Will!!

2018 EVENT SCHEDULE

EAA AirVenture
July 23-29
Oshkosh, WI
Swift Forum— Tues. 24th
9–10 AM Vintage Hangar

Triple Tree
September 5-9
South Carolina

Red River Swift Wing
October 5-6
Mt. Pleasant, TX

West Coast Swift Natl.
September 27-30
Jackson, CA

Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume XLIX Issue #7

June 2018

Executive Director Report by Scott Anderson

Swift National 2018 was a great success! Excellent weather and a great turn out for the **50th Anniversary Celebration** of our Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.

First I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help keep things running all week. The volunteer spirit and the generosity of the members makes Swift what it is today. Next, I would like to thank everyone who made the effort to attend. A great deal of time and energy goes into preparing for our National Convention. It is satisfying for those of us who get it all ready to see all of you come and enjoy the event. The camaraderie and special events that transpired during the week made it all worthwhile. For those of you who couldn't make it this year, we hope you can next year.

Another special thanks to **Mark Baker, President of A.O.P.A.** for making a trip to Athens to be with us

for our event. He was given a full tour of the facility by our President, Jim "Frog" Jones and I. Ken Coughlin gave him a detailed tour of our parts department. I don't believe that he was expecting all that he saw and was truly impressed. Mark was also treated to some formation flying with Paul Mercandetti and experienced the professionalism of the F.A.S.T. trained Swift pilots. He kindly took the time to speak to the membership about the many subjects that A.O.P.A. is working on for us.



Mark Baker and Paul Mercandetti

David Tulis, the photographer that accompanied Mark, has published on the AOPA.org/news website a great story about their visit and our convention with some beautiful photos. If you haven't seen this yet, take a moment to look. I think you will enjoy seeing our Foundation members at work and play.

I also want to thank Sam Swift for remaining on the Board of Director's for another term and to welcome Paul Mecandetti back as a director. Paul has previously served on the board. He has been and will continue to be a real asset to us all.

SMF Committees**Executive**

Paul Barnett
Paul Mercandetti
Sam Swift
Scott Anderson

Nominating

Paul Barnett
Pick Freeman
Scott Anderson

Audit

Paul Barnett
Paul Mercandetti
Sam Swift

Finance

Sam Swift
Paul Barnett

Scott Anderson

Fund Raising

Jim "Frog" Jones

Newsletter

Pamela Nunley

Nat'l Convention/Fly-in

Paul Mercandetti
Sandy Mercandetti
Scott Anderson

Parts

Steve Wilson
Ken Coughlin
Steve Roth

Formation

Michael Kennedy
Sandy Mercandetti

Building

Roger Weber
Scott Anderson
Paul Barnett

IT/Web

Tracy Rhodes
Jim Jones

Aging Aircraft

Steve Wilson
Ken Coughlin
Dave Carpenter

Special Surprise...

Just prior to swift National I was visited by a couple from North Carolina interested in seeing the museum. David and Kathy Chantry had also brought with them a photograph that they wanted to donate to the museum. Kathy's mother, Lois Jean Brown was in the photo along with three other ladies posing on a GCI-A Swift in late 1945 or early 1946. The photo was a promotional picture for the Kansas City Airport.

As I examined the photo, I noticed the "N" number to be NX33336. I told Kathy and her husband that I had a real surprise for them. We went into the museum

where I showed them our own Serial #2. NX33336.... The very same airplane that her mother had been photographed on some 72 years prior! In a moment of inspiration, I carefully helped Kathy on to the very spot that her Mother had been. We took some great photos, one of which is shown below.



The Chantrys returned home with a great experience that they definitely were not expecting. Kathy was kind enough to send the story behind the photo of her Mother and the other ladies pictured.

Kathy's story:

"Lois Jean Brown later to be Lois Jean Trunk is pictured first from left to right on the wing. She was born in Lees Summitt, MO in 1925. As a young adult she worked as a secretary for General Mills and lived in

Kansas City, MO. In 1945 she earned her pilot's license and was a pilot for the Civil Air Patrol and a member of the "Ninety-Nines." At this time she was in a flying club with eleven others. They had purchased a club plane because they were cheap after WWII. They took turns using it often frequenting the Kansas City Airport. One day she and three of her friends were asked to pose on the first all metal Swift Airplane along with the model Connie Caraway who stands in the back of the photo. They were told it was a promotional photo for the Kansas City Airport. Later in August of 1947 she had plans to take the club plane to the Cleveland Air Show and another friend Benedicta Trunk wanted to go along to build up flying time and stop over in Clarion, PA to visit her family. Once in Clarion they never made it to the Air Show because Benedicta introduced her to her brother, LeMoyne Trunk, and there was an instant attraction between him and Lois. Other folks from the club drove in and ended up taking the plane to the Cleveland Air Show. Lois and LeMoyne were married a year later."

It's amazing how this little airplane that we all love has affected so many lives over the years. Things that might otherwise be lost to time if not for the existence of our Swift Museum!

President's Comments by Jim "Frog" Jones

A very successful Swift National 2018 and celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the International Swift Association/Swift Museum Foundation is behind us and what a great celebration it was. With 43 Swifts in attendance on Friday, Wednesday had about 15 Swifts on the field. Thursday June 7th was a very special day for the Swift Museum Foundation, in attendance was Mark Baker, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and David Tulis, Editor of AOPA Electronic Newsletter and Staff Photographer. Mr. Baker was invited to attend Swift National at Sun N Fun 2018 in April. They were given a tour of the completed facility to include offices, factory brick display, parts department, formation ground school, and the museum. Mr. Baker then addressed those in attendance in the museum. He talked about 30 minutes and then fielded questions. To cap his visit off he was given a ride with Paul Mercandetti in a 4 ship Swift flight with the David Tulis, riding in the 5th Swift piloted by Ben Wilson, as photographer. Those in the flight were Paul Mercandetti, Jerry Kirby, Don Abbott and Jim Roberts. The AOPA electronic Newsletter featured photos of the event on Friday June 15th and AOPA Television the same day.

Jim Busha, Editor of EAA Sport Aviation and Susan Dusenbury, President of Vintage Aircraft Association would have been in attendance if it had not been in conflict with a Young Aviators Fly-in at Triple Tree. We look forward to hosting a tour of the Swift Museum in the near future.

We had excellent participation from aviation vendors with the donation of products used in the silent auction and as raffle door prizes. Those who participated in the silent auction got some very fine product as excellent prices.

There was a Missing Man Formation on Friday afternoon in memory of members who have "Gone West" this past year. They are Arya Maya, Paul "Stuck" Barbour, John Barber, Byron Benton, Ted Cash, Mel Eisaman, Tom & Stella Richardson and Harry Henning. Please keep their families in your prayers.

The next event is Oshkosh/AirVenture July 22- 29. Swift has special parking on rows 83 and 84 West, about 20 parking spaces, please contact Steve Wilson to reserve a parking place. Steve and Barb Wilson have handled the parking for a number of years and arranged for the Swift dinner on Tuesday evening. The Swift forum will take place on Tuesday morning, 9:00 AM, at the VAA Type Club Building located next to the Red Barn.

Until next time, Fly Safe, Fly Often and Burn Gas To Go Fast. See you in Oshkosh.

Jim "Frog" Jones

Oshkosh Parking, Dinner & Forum by Steve Wilson

As usual the parking is reserved through Sunday afternoon and after noon on Monday they are given away. I do my best to keep a few if possible, so I need to know if the Swift is arriving late. Park where you are told, and if not in the Swift parking, call me and we'll see what can be done.

Those planning to attend should **contact me via e-mail stevewilson@aol.com OR text 817-578-9877**. I will need **planned time of arrival, pilot's name, and aircraft registration number**.

The **Swift dinner** at Oshkosh will be at:

"Primo"(same restaurant as last year), **2605 Jackson St., Oshkosh, WI.**

Swift Forum: Tuesday, July 24th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Vintage hangar.

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Founded by

Charles E. "Charlie" Nelson
1968

The Swift Association and The Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.

50 Years of History, Fun, Friends, and Our Magnificent Swifts by Steve Whittenberger

Just a few short years ago, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of our beautiful Swifts. There is absolutely no way to cover all that has happened with the Swift since its inception in 1941 in just a few short paragraphs. The story is dynamic, the key people ever changingbut....the one constant is the *Swift*. Although they were all built in a short period of time and were essentially the same at the outset...that is no longer true. The *Swift* is undoubtedly one of the most modified aircraft ever built with changes limited only by the imagination and talent of those who own them. However, a *Swift* is and will always be....a *Swift*. Rugged, reliable, feisty, and yes.....beautiful and flies like a dream. If you are interested, I recommend to you at least two books: “The Swift...the First 50 Years” which was compiled and written by our President, Charlie Nelson, and “The Globe/TEMCO Swift Story” by Stanley G. Thomas. Both of these volumes are well researched and feature information from some of the luminaries in Swift history such as: John Kennedy, President of Globe Aircraft; Robert McCullough, President of TEMCO; “Bud” Knox, the driving force behind the all-metal Swift design who pushed to get it certified and produced; Pop Johnson, a self-made aircraft builder who developed the original idea of a low wing monoplane and then sold the idea to Mr. Kennedy; J.E. Dyer, President of Univair, who bought the type certificate, jigs, and parts from TEMCO when they brought Swift production to an end in 1951; and many, many other key individuals who influenced the journey of the Swift along the way.

This year we celebrate yet another milestone in the world of the Swift as the Swift Association celebrates it’s 50th year. It all began in the early 1960’s when a small group of Swift owners gathered each year at the EAA fly-in in Rockford, Illinois (later to be moved to Wisconsin and become the great Oshkosh AirVenture we know today) to compare and share their experiences with their Swifts. In these discussions, one thought seemed to always surface...“Somebody ought to do something where we can stay in touch and help each other out with these birds.” So, after the Rockford EAA fly-in in 1968, one of them, a guy by the name of Charlie Nelson, decided to do just that. He went home to Tennessee and ran an ad in the October 1968 issue of Trade-a-Plane. The ad was listed under “Swift Miscellaneous” and read as follows:

“SWIFT ASSOC. now being formed. Non-profit for mutual aid to owners and improvement of the Swift. For free information about Newsletter and possible annual get-together write Swift Assoc. Box 644, Athens, Tenn. 37303.”

This small article yielded 126 enthusiastic initial replies who wanted to know more. Charlie wrote and mailed the first newsletter in December of 1968....and thus the “Swift Association” was formed. After a six month trial, it was decided that the annual \$2.00 dues would be raised to \$5.00...mostly to cover postage, paper, and ink. Charlie’s daughter Pam, then a teenager, helped her dad by folding newsletters (which were printed on an old mimeograph machine), stuffing and addressing envelopes, and applying stamps in Charlie’s basement.

The Swift Association was off and running and soon became the “International Swift Association” after the addition of Canadian and South African members. In 1977, the organization would develop into the Swift Museum Foundation, Inc, enabling donations and further growth as a non-profit organization. The membership rapidly swelled from the original 126 members to approximately 1000 worldwide...about the same number of Swifts known to be in existence at the time.

Charlie would go on to write the monthly Swift Newsletter for the next 43 years with passion and dedication to the Swift and the organization. Success involved leadership, luck, hard work, and a dream by everyone involved to someday have a strong organization that would benefit all Swift owners.

Through the years, the fly-ins increased in size from the first Swift fly-in hosted by Bobbie Maxwell at Athens, Georgia in 1968 to the first Swift National in Ottumwa, Iowa in 1969 which recorded 32 Swifts in attendance. In later years, Swift Nationals and fly-ins included over 130 Swifts and were held at various places such as Rockford, IL; Athens, GA; Venice, FL; Seymour, IN; and finally on to 10 years at Kentucky Dam in Gilbertsville, KY. There the annual meetings really got into high gear with the aerobatic shows by some very talented pilots: Mark Holliday, Dave D’Arcy, Bill Shepherd, Chuck Lischer and Joe “Spitfire” Wynen. Former Swift owners Larry Kingry and Harry Shepard performed in their Waco Meteors (now known as Marchettis) and were later joined by Carl Pascarell and Bob Gandt to form the Red Hawks aerobatic team.

Subsequently, it was decided that Swift should have a more permanent home and, after a lot of discussion, Athens, Tennessee was deemed the logical choice. A very important event occurred around that time as well and that was a

telephone call from Univair stating they were selling the Swift portion of their business. Swifters immediately assembled emergency meetings to see if it was possible to purchase the type certificate, parts, jigs, etc. as it was the only way to keep access to actual Swift parts. Over 50% of the membership pledged support and funds for this critical purchase, a real tribute to the depth of their love for the wonderful Swift. Had they not done so, the type certificate and parts would have gone to Europe and, undoubtedly, parts would be much more expensive and hard to get today. As a result, the Swift Museum Foundation became the owner of the Swift.... lock, stock and barrel. The down payment was made in March 1980 and the final payment was made in March 1982.... on time. Two buildings were secured to house the parts and equipment: Charlie Nelson and Jim Sliger donated their 50 x 80 hangar and Dr. L.H. Shields donated a 60 x 120 derelict hangar that needed to be finished. Inventory and logical storage of the parts was a huge challenge which Sam Wickham led the charge to fix. Joe Ranson was hired as the Swift Parts man and Dot Runyan was hired as the Office Manager. In 1987, Pam Nelson Nunley returned to Swift as an Office Manager and went on to become the Executive Director of the organization until her retirement last year.

The incredible spirit and dynamics of the Swift Association have been a constant over the years as the vision and dedication of hard working members kept it growing. It was never easy...but most times it was fun and was filled with many great days of camaraderie and a sense of achievement. And...it was all done with volunteers giving of their time, talent, and resources. As you review these past 50 years and see all that the Swift Association has achieved, from inception to the purchase of the type certificate to the recent completion of our new headquarters, it is remarkable, but it really comes down to...the people in the organization.

The People: So many incredible people...so little space. Pilots, spouses, family, and friends. There is no way to cover them all in this short space and none are more significant than others. Some readily stand out and others quietly contribute with little recognition. That in no way diminishes the accomplishments of any and all. After all we are all Swifters. Here are just a few Swift highlights in no particular order:

The first Swift fly-in was at Athens, GA and sponsored by Bobby Maxwell. After this early gathering the first Swift National was held at Ottomwa, IA in 1969. Award winners at 1969 Swift National: John Williams, Charlie Nelson, Mark Holliday, Ed Ermatinger, Ken Smith, Skip Staub.

Executive Committee during Univair purchase: Bob Autrey, Charlie Nelson, Carl Weddle, Bill Kientz, and Bill Shepherd.

Past Leadership: **President:** Charlie Nelson (SMF's only President)
Board Chairmen: Robert Dickson, Jim Jones, Richard Gulley, Michael Kennedy, Bill Kientz, W.L. "Bo" Mabry, Will Roberson, Pick Freeman
Executive Director: Pamela Nunley

Present Leadership: **Board Chairman:** Paul Barnett
Executive Director: Scott Anderson
Honorary President: Jim Jones

Charter Members: Approximately 240 Swift owners joined the Swift Association within the first year. We are very fortunate to have some of those charter members still with us today and are ever grateful for their leadership, friendship, and knowledge. All were pioneers for the SMF.

Formation Teams: **Swift Magic:** Michael Kennedy, Lowell Sterchi, Dewayne Upton
Canadian Swiftbirds: John Northey, Gene Gillott, Jurgen Harck, Ted Audrain, Rick Scott
Team Swift Patroille de France: Romain Deveaux, Christophe Chicouene, Guillaume Feral, Frederick Grandmougin and others
Venice Vulture Squadron: Jim Jones, Jimmy Williams, Bill Nixon and John Copletz
Perennial Recent Swift National Champs: The Burrito Brothers: Bill Shepherd, Ernie Hansen, John Johnson, Gerry Mahoney et al

Speed Records: NAA World Records: Jim Jones, Asa Brown, Scott Anderson, Charlie Nelson, Joe Ranson, Bill Jennings.

Significant Mods: Jack Nagel, Chuck Lischer, Brian Silcox, Ayra Maya, Roy LoPresti, Vince Fette (*Corbin*), Guillaume Feral, Don Bartholomew, Hugh Evans, Joe Zito, Bill Haley.

- Event: Pete King's Swift now hangs in the Smithsonian National Aerospace Museum. Pete has owned this since 1947.
- Event: Dutch Van Dox, President of Philippines Airlines flew his I45 Swift around the world, including a record long leg from Hawaii to San Francisco with 90 gallons fuel on board.
- Event: Ponie De Wei & wife Letti flew from South Africa to London and return. 25,000 miles, much of it over hostile surroundings.
- Event: 1982 Swift 50 ship fly-out from Kentucky Dam to Athens, TN.
- Event: Swifts from Tennessee to Paris via Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland: Romain Deveaux and Frederick Grandmougin-(solo with no support team.)
- Event: French Connection Swifts in Paris Air Show (a first). Swifts over Normandy Beaches. Landings at Le Bourget, (Lindberghs landing field.)
- Event: Trips to Canada, Alaska, Grand Canyon, Statue of Liberty, Lewis and Clark trail, every state in the union and 5 continents
- Event: Swift Magic performance in El Salvador.
- Event: Texas Forestry Service. 5 years of forest fire service by Swifts 1948-1953. Demonstrated the ruggedness of the Swift.
- Event: Swift's New Headquarters with many volunteers with special mention to Roger Weber, Ken Coughlin, Jim Jones, Scott Anderson, Pam and Jack Nunley, Mark Holliday, Paul Mercandetti, Bryce Ulmer and.....all our dedicated Swift members who supported this project with special contributions in raising funds, planning and completing the project. A proud achievement.
- Event: The Saudi Buckaroo: Bill Kientz, Charlie Nelson, Sam Wickham, Carl Weddle, Clayton Sisson, Bill Harris, Asa Brown, Jim Jones, Mark Holliday, Jim Montague, Joe Ranson, Joey Kemp, Jim Thomason, Don Aydlette and others.
- Events: Decades of numerous Swift Regional Fly-Ins nationwide: Westover, Jackson,CA; Diamond Point, WA; Cottage Grove, OR; Southeast US (Stone Mountain, GA; River Ranch FL; Thomasville, GA; Jekyll Island, FL; Georgetown, SC; Brookhaven, MS; Slobovia, MS; Pensacola, FL;) Lake Havasu, NV; Red River Swift Wing: Denton, TX; Fredericksburg, TX; Pecan Plantation, TX
- Events: Swift National in recent years: Athens, TN, Monet, MO, St Louis, MO, Dayton, OH; Bowling Green, KY; Cleburne, TX.
- Events: Major award winning Swifts were honored as Grand Champions at Oshkosh, Sun n Fun, Swift National and other regional fly-ins.

The list of accomplishments over the years.... all done by volunteers, entrepreneurs, dedicated Swifters is truly amazing. You can now step into the 21st Century with our organization with its new headquarters and significant and growing Museum, and see what a "type club" can really do when challenged.

What is next for the Swift Association after final completion of our spectacular headquarters and parts facility? This, of course, will be entirely up to the leadership and our members. Not far down the road will be the 75th anniversary of the Production Swifts in 2021. This will be another challenge to get maximum participation at Swift Headquarters, Sun-n-Fun, Oshkosh and many other venues.

The Swift Association and its members are at the forefront of all type clubs in America and around the world. We are unmatched in parts support, facilities, and our friendly people. Swift has a proud heritage that has been the epitome of spirit and a can-do attitude for decades.

It is an honor and pleasure to be associated with such a fine group of people who seemingly know no bounds to what they can and will achieve. Well done Swifters....well done!

2018 Swift National Award Winners

Grand Champion Original —— NC80505 — Nan Funkhauser
Reserve Grand Champ Original —— N3796K — Sacha Botbol

Grand Champion Modified —— N3729K — Steve Roth & Lynn Dawson
Reserve Grand Champ Modified —— N58KB — Will and Bill Kientz

Grand Champion Super Custom —— N2387B — Pat & Vicky Moore
Reserve Grand Champ Super Custom —— N78109 — Pat Hockett

Most Original — NC80505 — Nan Funkhauser
Best Polish —— N3315K — Jerry Bauerle
Best Paint —— N78109 — Pat Hockett
Best Panel —— N22GW — Simon Green
Best Interior — N80555 — Ted Williams & Bob Boston
Ladies Choice — N68773 — Paul Barnett

Best 3-Ship Formation Team — “Silver Flight”
 Jim Roberts
 Sacha Botbol
 Ben Wilson

Best 4 Ship Formation Team — “Coco Flight”
 Paul Barnett
 Jerry Kirby
 Don Abbott
 Sand Mercandetti

Charlie Nelson Memorial Award — Paul Mercandetti
Gloria Warden Memorial Award — Ken Coughlin
Significant Contribution — Bryce Ulmer
Significant Contribution — Norman Fox
President’s Award — Members of SMF
Greatest Distance Traveled — Lyndall Green — Australia
Greatest Distance by Swift — N619JW Roger & Bobbi Weber — Independence, OR

Congratulations to all! What a fantastic showing of our beautiful Swifts!

*****Photos in next month’s newsletter*****

Remaining Silent Auction Gift Certificates

We have unsold gift certificates left from our Swift National Silent Auction. They are:

One certificate good for **12 Champion Massive Electrode Spark Plugs**

Two certificates from **Electronics International** for a 50% rebate on **CGR-30P engine analyzers** either Basic or Premium packages.

One certificate from **PS Engineering** for a \$200.00 discount on a **PMA8000G or PMA450B** audio panel.

Contact Headquarters to make an offer!

