

# **WEST COAST SWIFT WING**

## **OCTOBER 2018**

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It certainly has been a frustrating weather/smoke time since our last newsletter. However, weather here in Northern CA has been quite nice the last couple of weeks. I am hopeful conditions will be excellent for the Westover fly-in—keeping our fingers crossed.

### **Karl Johanson report on Cottage Grove**

The trip to Cottage Grove July 5<sup>th</sup> was one for the record books. Perfect weather, a great host (thank you Kent Koester) and support team from Diamond Point, helpful volunteers, nice location (Oregon Aviation History Museum) and a nice group of Swift owners who came from Seattle, San Diego, Phoenix, Louisiana, (yes, Louisiana), Texas and others I may have missed. Even Don Thomson made a cameo appearance ;-). There were a total of 23 Swifts and one Great Big Blue T-6 on the ramp.

Donna and I flew up on Thursday, stopping once in Colusa, CA for fuel and a stretch. When we taxied in to the ramp the local FBO folks came out to greet us thinking we were coming in a day early with a nice Globe Swift to display at their airshow that weekend! We had to thank them for the offer and departed on up to Cottage Grove. The trip took 5.5 flight hours which wasn't too bad for us coming up from San Diego, gotta love zero headwinds!

When we arrived at Cottage Grove (our first time here) we taxied into the transient parking and looked around but saw no one let alone a Swift and immediately began second guessing ourselves thinking maybe we got the dates confused, wrong weekend, maybe even cancelled?? While sitting in the plane we were greeted by a young lady on bicycle who clearly knew what a Swift was and proceeded to inform us that our group was actually down the hangar row that we were sitting on about another 500 feet, duh! Next time read the directions Karl!

There was a fairly large group of early birds like ourselves so it was great to see so many familiar faces on arrival at the museum. There were badges for all, a memory lane photo board with a Gone West area to honor the Swifters we lost in the past year. Thank you Dot Shephard and Kent for bringing all the pictures! After getting the plane tied down we proceeded over to the hotel which is located across the street. But before that, right across the street from the airport fence gate was a medical marijuana dispensary so if you needed to get high after flying high, the option was just a few steps away from the ramp. Sure struck us as an odd location!



**Dinner on Thursday was at a nearby Mexican restaurant and the food was good as were the margaritas, you can see I am beginning to like this place! A great source of satisfaction for the munchies if you felt that hankering after stopping at the pot shop ;-)**

**We started and finished every evening in the bar at the hotel which was comfortable and the beer was cheap. We were definitely not in San Diego! Time to get together and reminisce, share some stories talk about trips we'd taken and just good fun. Having been a Swift owner for going on 17 years, I've come to regard my relationship with the Swift community fly-ins more like family reunions.**

**On Friday and Saturday Ken and one of his friends provided groups of us with kayaks to go paddling down the river which wraps around the airport. The combination of shallow water and my 225lb load in the kayak made for some interesting encounters with the rocks on the river bottom but no damage done to either the river or kayak. Donna worked it like a pro and led the group most of the time. Maybe we found a new water sport to pursue :-) The river passes so close to the airport east end that we literally pulled the kayaks out there and had a short distance to return them to the owner's hangar. We concluded that Kent has it made in the shade.**

**Friday's dinner was held at the hotel restaurant and it was well done. Food was good and it was great to have us all in one room. That was followed by movie night, which was chosen by popular vote, The Great Waldo Pepper!**

**Saturday morning John Johnson in his T-6 departed with Ozzie Nelson, Kent Koester, Bill Shepard and Bill Gass to do some local flying and a missing man formation at a QB event nearby. They did some tight passes for our entertainment with John in hot pursuit. That evening we were treated to a barbeque feast done by none other than Chefs Johnson, Mahoney, and Hook. Gerry Mahoney had brought a truck down earlier with all the barbeque equipment all the way from Diamond Point (which also meant he had to come back a get it the following week! Thank you Gerry for going the extra mile (or 300).**



**With lots of help from the ladies and guys we had nice table set ups, beer and wine and of course great tri-tip, chicken, baked potatoes and all the trimmings! We even had a Swift Cake for dessert. It just doesn't get any better than that.**



After dinner, Guido brought out his pristine Taylor guitar and played it like he stole it. We were delighted to sit and be serenaded by his Spanish love songs. Who knew this guy was ready for a spot on America's Got Talent! I strummed a few chords on it and immediately decided what I wanted for Christmas, maybe even more than a Garmin gadget for the plane!

We retired early and most were departing in the early hours (yeah, you know, 9ish ;-). Great flight back with Bill Gass as my wingman until he dropped off to land at Clear Lake and we proceeded on to Watsonville (the entire San Joaquin Valley was so hot there was no way I was refueling anywhere inland between Redding and LA. If you have never stopped in for breakfast or lunch at Watsonville, give it a try, we really liked their café. So Cottage Grove Fly-in was one of the most relaxing gatherings Donna and I have been to, maybe I'm getting a little older and it takes less to entertain me or more likely, I just needed to kick back, unwind and hang out with old friends and this event hit on all eight cylinders.



**Thank you Kent for all the hard work and planning it took to make the fly-in the memorable one it was. We will be back if you decide you can take up the challenge to host again in 2020!**



## **Westover 2018 27-30 September**

There were 26 Swifts in attendance at Westover this year including 2 new Swifters, Mark Plaskon from Schellville, and Jim Larsen from Santa Rosa. Long time Swifter Doug Shuster from Southern Cal made an appearance with a Swift he has been restoring. Paul Mercandetti and Jim Roberts made it in via big silver tube—we sure enjoyed their company.

Lots of camaraderie on the ramp with kicking of tires and war stories galore.

Don Bartholomew gave a maintenance forum that was well attended with a lot of audience participation. We thank him for the info.

The BBQ dinner Friday evening had 45 people having a good time enjoying the food and libations with Kathy Stahl as the bartenderess for the evening. We had lots of socializing and everyone enjoyed the evening.

There was a fly out to Columbia for breakfast Saturday morning.

Brad conducted a tour of his business, Piranha Propellers, with everyone fascinated with the propeller shaping machines.

There was a very nice banquet held Saturday evening at the Highway House (formerly Thomi's) with about 45 folks in attendance. Gerry Mahoney spoke about Dick Collins who went West in August. It was a very moving tribute giving a thumbnail sketch of Dick's life. He and Jeannie will be missed by all.

Viewer's Choice award went to Mark Plaskon  
Tired Butt went to Hal Cope

Thanks to Don Bartholomew, Brad and Kathy Stahl, and Al "Tex" McDonald for hosting Westover this year and next year.

**Date set for next year: September 27th, 28th, 29th 2019**

## Ramp



**Incahoots did the Friday night BBQ**



**Propeller tour**







**Columbia fly out**



**Raffle prize**



Fixing a maintenance problem

### **Legend of Flight Pancake Breakfast**

The Legends of Flight Museum puts on a pancake breakfast the fourth Saturday of the month, April thru October. Oct 27 will be the last one for this year.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
&  
AIRCRAFT DISPLAY DAY**

**Hosted by Legends of Flight & Nut Tree Airport**  
**At the Nut Tree Airport (KVCB) - Vacaville, CA**

**Fourth Saturday of Every Month - April to October**  
**2018 Dates: 4/28, 5/26, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25, 9/22, 10/27**  
**Event Time: 0730 to 1130 / Food Served: 0800 to 1100**

**Fuel Discounts, Modern and Vintage Aircraft on Display**  
**Fuel Discount Provided by the Nut Tree Airport**

**LOF is a Non Profit 501(c)3 Organization**

This is a nice get together with a wide variety of aircraft to peruse. I would encourage you to attend.

## **2018 OTHER FLY INS/AIR SHOWS**

Nov 2-4                      San Bernardino Airport    San Bernardino Fest

Donation recommended for 2018 for a newsletter sent by e-mail is \$5.00 and you must provide us an email address.

**Donations may be sent to Gerry Hampton, 3195 Bonanza Dr, Cameron Park, CA 95682. Make the check out to Gerry or Carol Hampton, WCSW. HOWEVER, all correspondence should be sent to Gerry Hampton either at the home address or to the e mail shown on page 1 of this newsletter.**

Happy Skies  
Carol & Gerry Hampton ☺