

SWIFT MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
223 COUNTY ROAD 552  
ATHENS, TENNESSEE 37303

OFFICE 423-745-9547  
PARTS 423-744-9696  
FAX 423-745-9869

WEB SITE:  
SWIFTMUSEUMFOUNDATION  
.ORG

EMAIL:  
SWIFTMUSEUMFOUNDATION  
AOL.COM

---

## 2022 Event Schedule

**Sun-n-Fun**  
April 5-10  
Lakeland, FL

---

**Oshkosh**  
July 25-31  
Oshkosh, WI

---

**Swift National 2022**  
TBD

# Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume LIV Issue #2

January 2022

## Executive Director's Report

*By Scott Anderson*

2022 is getting off to a busy start here at Swift Headquarters.

Parts department inventory is almost finished thanks to the hard work and organization methods that Sue has brought to our foundation. Thanks Sue!

Paul Mercandetti and Norm Fox are enroute to pick up a donated Swift in Pennsylvania. Upon its arrival here we will evaluate the condition of the aircraft. We will then determine what will be the best option to create the most benefit for your organization. We will pass along that information as soon as possible.

Many thanks to Bozi Filipaj for this generous donation. Any option chosen by the Board will bring great value to the foundation and help our growth in 2022.

A Board of Directors meeting will be held here at Headquarters March 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. Among the usual topics of discussion are Swift parts production, museum growth, and the 2022 Swift National Fly-in Convention. Fly-in dates will be discussed. We will inform everyone as soon as that date is set.

The Swift World has been busy with members preparing their Swifts for the upcoming flying season. Airplanes have been changing hands with new owners getting proper check-outs and mechanics getting the materials that they need to properly care for members Swifts.

Please remember to contact us here at Headquarters for any of your Swift needs. We will do our best to help in any way we can as we look forward to a Happy and Safe year ahead.

Thanks to all for your continued support and interest in the Swift!

**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**

Paul Mercandetti  
Jim Roberts

**Building**

Roger Weber  
Scott Anderson  
Paul Barnett

**IT/Web**

Tracy Rhodes  
Jim Jones

**Aging Aircraft**

Steve Wilson  
Ken Coughlin  
Dave Carpenter

## Swift National Fly-in and Convention Report

*By Paul Mercandetti*

At this time we are awaiting the next meeting of the Board of Directors to finalize plans for the Swift National 2022 Fly-in and Convention. As always, your input is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me via phone call, email, or snail mail with any of your ideas and/or suggestions for OUR next convention. I value your input!

---

## Swift Formation Committee Report

*By Paul Mercandetti*

Keep those proficiency reports coming! I will begin to send out Formation Committee cards next week. Cards will be printed for all active members.

If you have not already done so, fill out a Proficiency Report and include a check for \$15 and send it to Sue at Swift headquarters. She will record the information and forward the report to me. I will then put your card in the mail. Its that simple. I'm still looking for about 20 more reports. Please...Do not let your card expire. It makes my life much more difficult and I'm just a volunteer. Thanks in advance.

*Checkspeedgeardown*

---

## The Swift That Opened the Camarillo Airport Submitted by Bill Weaver

Many thanks to Bill Weaver for sending this one in. Thanks also to Mark Oberman, (President, Channel Islands Aviation) for locating the story in his book and sharing the photocopy on page 3.

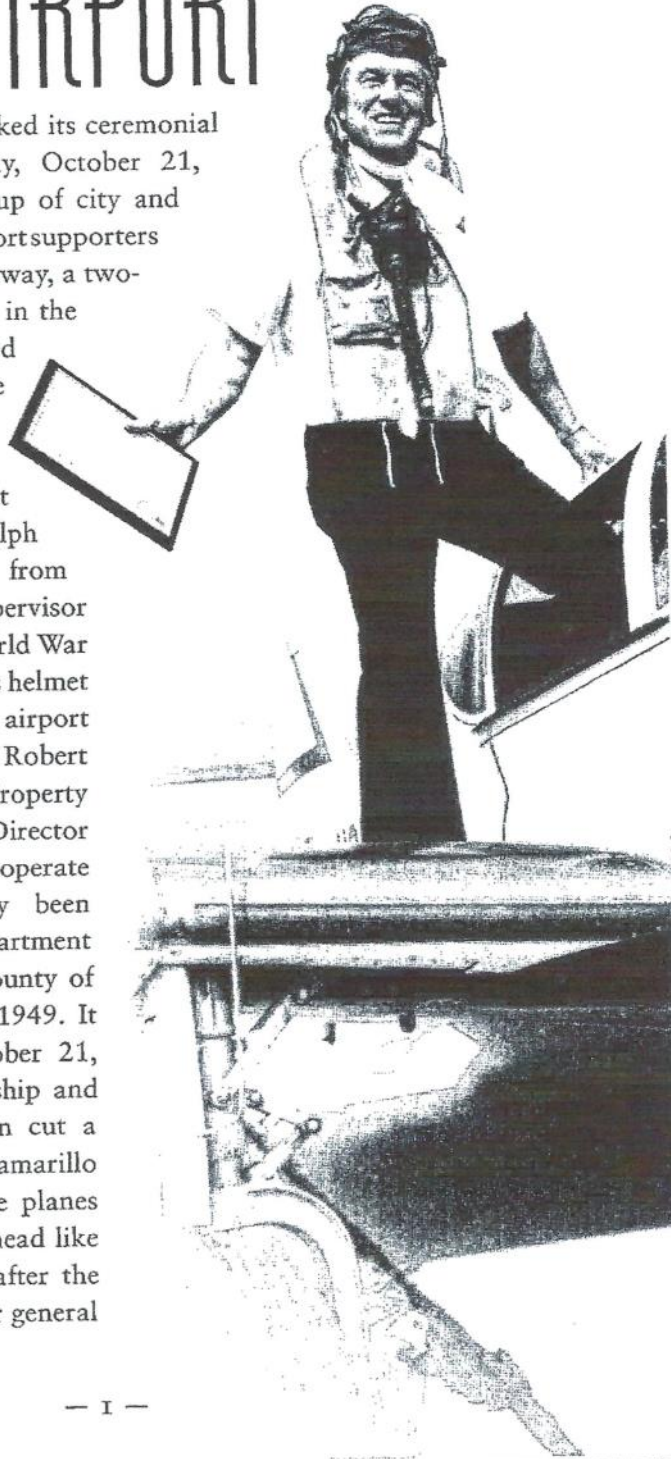
*From Bill Weaver:* "We had several Swifts based at KCMA. I was based there from the late '70's until 2010. Also based there now are Ron Williamson, Clyde Edgar and Bill Babb. Bill Foscharr, Duane Golding, Wally Boeck and Don Gulotta were also there but have since passed away. Great airport with over 600 based airplanes.



## THE BATTLE FOR CAMARILLO AIRPORT

Camarillo Airport marked its ceremonial opening on Thursday, October 21, 1976. As a large group of city and county officials and airport supporters waited next to the runway, a two-seater Swift appeared in the sky, landed gently and taxied over to the crowd. At the controls was Dick Cowger, World War II Ace Navy pilot and administrative assistant to County Supervisor Ralph "Hoot" Bennett. Unfolding from inside the small plane, Supervisor Bennett emerged wearing World War II Mae West life jacket, pilot's helmet and goggles. He handed an airport permit to Camarillo Mayor Robert Pena and Ventura County Property Administration Agency Director Thomas Volk. The permit to operate the airport had originally been issued by the California Department of Transportation to the County of Ventura on September 30, 1949. It had been updated to October 21, 1976 to reflect new ownership and a new name. Officials then cut a red ribbon and declared Camarillo Airport officially open. The planes that had been circling overhead like hawks began landing one after the other. It was a grand day for general aviation.

— I —



*Courtesy of Mark Oberman*

### Board of Directors

#### Chairman

**Paul Barnett**

P. O. Box 546  
Brookhaven, MS 39602  
pbarnett@pbniisan.com

#### Vice Chairman

Paul Mercandetti  
4716 Buffat Mill  
Knoxville, TN 37914  
mercandettipaul@gmail.com

#### Scott Anderson

779 Highway 39 East  
Athens, TN 37303  
swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com

#### Mark Holliday

P. O. Box 243  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042  
markh85@aol.com

#### Jim Roberts

P. O. Box 11744  
Knoxville, TN 37939-1744  
jimswift46@comcast.net

#### Sam Swift

580 Harpeth Trace Drive  
Nashville, TN 37221  
flyboycpa@aol.com

#### Bryce Ulmer

75 Teal Court  
Locust Grove, GA 30248  
bryce.d.ulmer@delta.com

#### Roger Weber

757 Luscombe Street  
Independence, OR 97351  
rogermichaelweber@hotmail.com

#### Steve Wilson

9606 Taxiway Drive  
Granbury, TX 76049  
stevewilson@aol.com

#### Executive Director

**Scott Anderson**

779 Highway 39 East  
Athens, TN 37303  
swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com

#### Honorary President

**Jim "Frog" Jones**

1061 Devon Drive  
Madison, GA 30650  
jim@dixie-industrial.com

#### Historian

**Jim Roberts**

P. O. Box 11744  
Knoxville, TN 37939-1744  
jimswift46@comcast.net

**Founded by**  
Charles E. "Charlie" Nelson  
1968

## Swift Parts Items up for Bid

Your Swift Parts Department has two Gift Certificates available to the highest bidder.

The first is a **\$50.00 McFarlane Aviation Gift Certificate**. No minimum bid.

The second is a **Parker Aerospace Gift Certificate for a set of Cleveland Brakes**.

This set includes:

- (2) #164-14300 brake discs**
- (1) Box of 10 linings #066-10500**
- (50) #105-00200 rivets**

**\$2,076.00 value. — \*A minimum bid of \$1,000.00 is required.  
Please contact HQ's with your offers.**

---

## In Memory of Steve Eastburn



We say goodbye to long-time Swift member and friend Steve Eastburn of Urbana, Illinois. He passed away January 4th due to complications from COVID-19.

Steve was the owner/caretaker of Swift N2404B. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Steve's entire family and many friends.

---

## The Swift And Its Caretakers Making a Difference

### The late Dan Serdynski — His Swift Children's Book Series and Foundation

"I am Tracy Serdynski Stites. My Dad was a member of the Swift flying club in the Southeast for many years. We lost him to Covid in August of 2020. He loved his Swift. My sister and I loved going on individual adventures in "Swifty Poo" as we called it.

Attached is the news article about him, his love for his Swift and the children's book series written about his adventures in his Swift.

The article also covers our The Who I Am Foundation formed in his name to help other families struggling with loved one's in a healthcare isolation unit due to Covid or any other infectious disease. We provide free Patient Support Kits in his name. His Swift Airplane is playing a prominent role in all our information.

If anyone in your association or their family member is admitted into an isolation unit and would need one of our Patient Support Kits, we would be honored to provide it."

Tracy Serdynski Stites  
President, Who I Am Foundation, Inc.  
www.whoiamfoundation.com  
(813) 404-1236



# The Who I Am Foundation



COURTESY/ADVENTHEALTH

AdventHealth Sebring has been using the Who I Am Patient Support Kits in their COVID unit. The kits have been packaged by youth groups, including Beauty Fit for a Queen.

## Loss of family patriarch leads to helping others

By ROMONA WASHINGTON  
STAFF

AVON PARK — Don Serdynski loved the great outdoors and any adventure that came his way. A private pilot and an Air Force veteran, he was a long-time citrus grower. He and his wife loved camping and accomplished the goal of camping in all 50 states apart from Hawaii.

Then in July 2020, he was taken to the hospital with flu-like symptoms as he struggled to breathe. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, he was alone when he left his home. Jo Ann, his wife of 62 years, nor his two daughters would ever hear his voice again because of a ventilator.



with the virus, wouldn't return home.

He died Aug. 15, 2020 at the age of 84.

Through the work of his family, though, his legacy lives on.

His wife and daughters were among the rare, lucky few who were able to suit up and go in to spend a few minutes with her husband and father in the days just before his death. It just wasn't enough and before Don Serdynski's passing, the Who I Am



COURTESY/TRACY STITES

Don Serdynski loved the Florida Gators. Tim Lanier, the nurse in his final hours and a University of Florida alumni, spent time talking to him about the Gators because he found out about Serdynski's love of the Gators through pictures the family left in his room. In the photo with Don is his wife, Jo Ann, and oldest daughter, Tracy Stites.

Foundation began to take shape. Tracy Stites, Don's oldest daughter, said it was during those last five days that she and her mother, Joan, were allowed to place photocopied pictures in his room of those things her dad



COURTESY/TRACY STITES

This is a mock up of a completed Patient Support Kit provided by Who I Am Foundation.

Don Serdynski, who was diagnosed

with her husband and father in the days just before his death. It just wasn't enough and before Don Serdynski's passing, the Who I Am

FOUNDATION | 5A

## Serdynski honors dad's memory with new book

By ROMONA WASHINGTON  
STAFF

AVON PARK — While Jo Ann Serdynski and Tracy Stites do their work to honor Don Serdynski through the Who I Am Foundation, his younger daughter Kelly Ann Serdynski has written a book to remember and honor her dad.

Kelly, who is an early interventionist for a West Virginia school district, said she was only home for a week before having to return to work. "I left Florida angry that there would be no memorial to him (due to COVID-19 restric-



SERDYSKI

tions). He was such a great man," she said. Not only did she go home and start working on "Donald Bryan and His Amazing Swift Airplane," but she started a series. She said this book, her third, "is truly a story about my father, with an inspirational message for young people."

"I realized he was going to be in the Library of Congress, and I started to find peace in this," she



COURTESY/KELLY SERDYSKI

This book, "Donald Bryan And His Amazing Swift Airplane," was written and illustrated by Don Serdynski's younger daughter, Kelly. She had it published in memory and honor of her dad, who died last year of complications from COVID-19. It is available at Barnes and Noble.

said. Not only is the story written by Kelly, but she is also the illustrator. "All of the artwork is

my own, done inside a little art studio in the forest. I got inspired to do my own illustrations when one of my children I work with drew me a picture. It was a circle and a line only on the paper, but when she told the story of what it was, it was a Unicorn having a birthday party for her friends. I realized that children don't expect perfect, they have the gift of imagination. My books are really whimsical and cute. Don't expect any graphic arts by a computer. You will see eraser marks, and even mistakes, but

BOOK | 5A

## BOOK

FROM PAGE 1A

they are all my own," she said.

When Don Serdynski got his first Swift, Kelly said she would fly with him to Lakeland and Venice Beach. "I loved to go upside down," she said.

Her dad was a world traveler and, as a member of the Swift Association, he would attend many fly-ins. His favorite place to visit? The Grand Tetons, which is now Kelly's favorite place to visit. "We were fortunate enough this summer to put some of his ashes there."

In fact, the love of The Grand Tetons has led to Kelly volunteering with the Wolf Grizzly Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, where she is a spokesperson and does conferences for their mission. A book by Kelly to be published in spring will be available through the center's gift shop with half of the proceeds going into expanding their grizzly sanctuary.

Kelly's books are all available at barnesandnobles.com. She has also written "Delilah's Day," her first book; her second book was "Delilah's Day at Pappy Newt's Farm," a true story about visiting a farm in Pennsylvania. It features my cat Delilah, and her special needs sister Jizzy. My latest is Donald Bryan and his Amazing Swift. It is truly a story about my father, with an inspirational message



COURTESY/KELLY SERDYSKI

This page taken from Kelly Serdynski's "Donald Bryan and His Amazing Swift Airplane" depicts the things her dad loved - his Swift airplane, citrus and the orange and blue of his beloved University of Florida Gators.



COURTESY/SERDYSKI FAMILY

Don Serdynski loved to travel and often did by flying his Swift airplane where he wanted to go.

for young people. All 3 are deeply personal. My book coming in October features Avon Park, Florida. It is very specifically, Lake Lotela. I have so many coming out, that I honestly can't say a number.

My first book was Delilah's Day! It was about my amazing cat Delilah. My second book was Delilah's Day

at Pappy Newt's Farm. This is also a true story about visiting a farm in Pennsylvania; the third is "Donald Bryan and his Amazing Swift." All three, she said, are deeply personal.

Her most recent book, "Delilah's Day with her Nana and Gan-Gan," published just last week, features Avon Park, specifically Lake Lotela.

## Editor's note;

Many thanks to Tracy for sharing this with us. Dan truly loved his family and his Swift N80836. He was a member of SMF for many years and we are honored to have called him a friend.

Article courtesy of Tracy Serdynski Stites and the HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN—VOL. 102 | NO. 295 An Edition Of The Sun.



## Charlie Sidenstricker Memorial Service Article

*Submitted by Jim Roberts*

*Reprinted with permission from AOPA Pilot Magazine*

### [So long, Charlie...](#)

#### My kind of memorial service

By Bruce Landsberg January 2022

Memorial services are often downers, but this was so much better than sitting in a rented hotel or restaurant banquet room or, worse, a funeral home. Small airports are foreign to so many. Nonflyers marvel at the magic that pilots revere. The western sky beckoned beyond the hangar door as more than 80 people gathered to remember Charlie.



Illustration by Jan Feindt

Inside, a Stearman sat with a Delta Air Lines flag hung on the propeller and a restored Piper Comanche draped with a West Virginia flag commemorated Charlie's home state. A Varga, a gyroplane, and a tired Cessna 150 Aerobat rounded out the aeronautical participants. Oil, avgas, and other assorted aircraft smells complemented the proceedings. Perfect!

Pots bubbled away with boiling shrimp, awaiting conclusion of the ceremony. We stood in the sun as the national anthem was sung a cappella. The U.S. Air Force color guard folded a flag and presented it to Charlie's wife in honor of his military service and for all the veterans who have helped to preserve our way of life.

Simultaneously, a flight of three highly polished Swifts and an RV made a formation pass with the missing man turning west, as we all must eventually. A lone bugler played taps.

A bit somberly we returned to the hangar to partake of shrimp, fiery-hot corn, potatoes, corn bread, and all the comfort food that surrounds such events. On a table next to the lectern was Charlie memorabilia. His Delta captain's hat and wings; a picture of his last command, the Lockheed L-1011;

and a model of his beloved and polished Swift. In short, tribute to a man who loved flight and those who loved the sky.

The mood brightened as friends, wives, children, and grandchildren recounted all manner of Charlie stories, but the constant theme revealed a man who did not compromise and was intensely loyal to his friends. Laughter and tears. Dogs provided solace and life-affirming humor to the gathering. A tribute to love and loyalty—my kind of service.

As I walked back to my hangar and sat quietly in the cockpit of the aircraft I'm privileged to own, there was time to reflect on the blessing that we who fly are surrounded by truly spectacular people. They're endowed with depth, commitment, enthusiasm, joy, intelligence. These are rare commodities in an increasingly shallow and virtual world. Charlie planned and funded this event so that our pilots association, his friends, and family could share camaraderie and aviation in a place he loved. It serves as model for all who call the sky home and see airports as a gateway to both today's world and what lies beyond for all of us.

Reprinted with permission of AOPA Pilot magazine.

---

## EAA Sport Aviation Magazine

### “What Our Members Are Building/Restoring”

### Featuring a Swift restored by SMF Member Cody Coombs

Submitted by Jim Roberts

Reprinted with permission from EAA Sport Aviation Magazine



## KENTUCKY **GLOBE SWIFT**

IN 2003 I PURCHASED N853C from the Swift Museum Foundation. As is a common practice in the Swift community, the previous

owner's family had graciously donated it to them. It had not flown since 1985 and was missing an engine and interior.

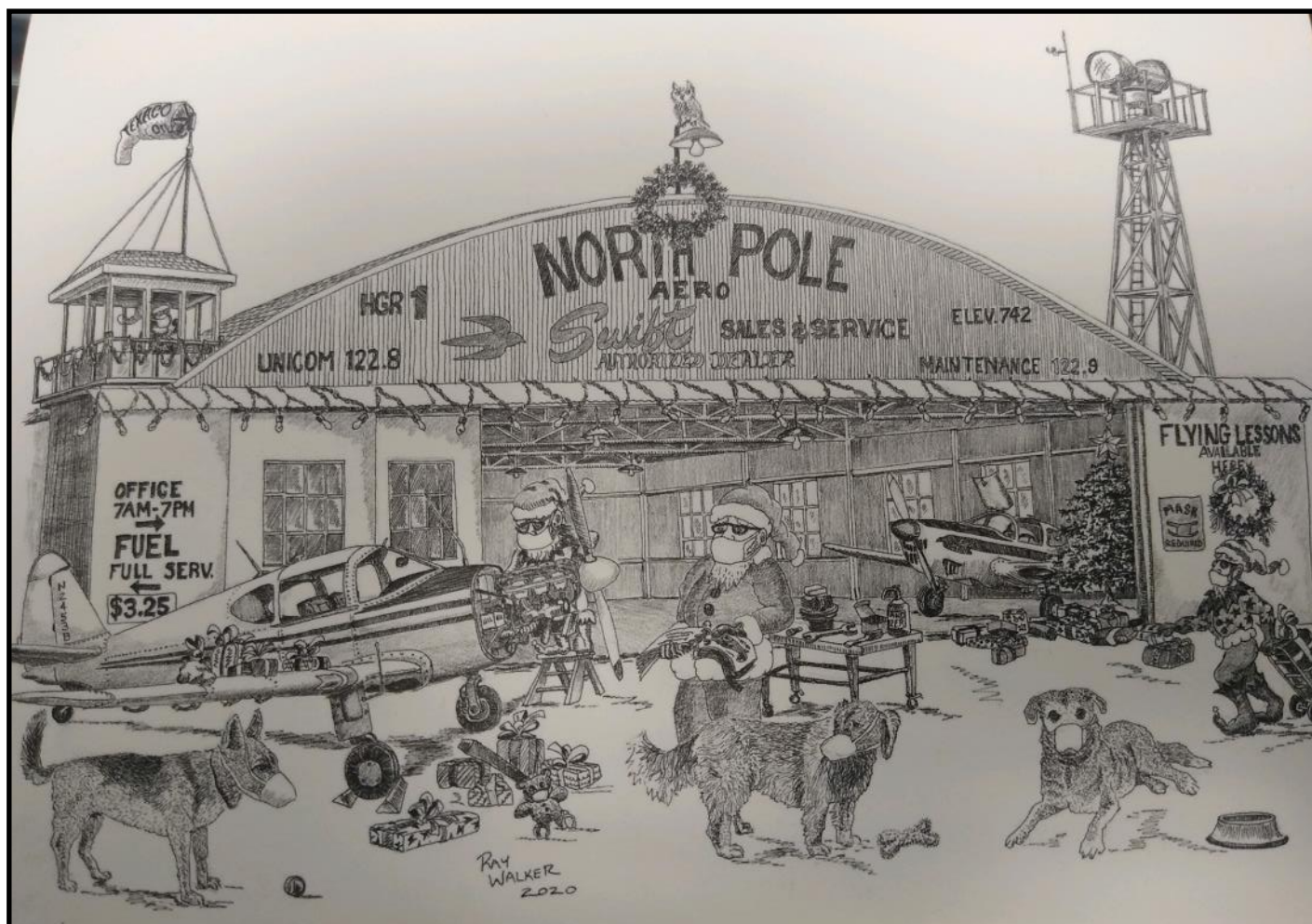
They promptly returned it to flying status and it became a raffle airplane. The winner of the raffle decided on the cash prize, and so I was able to purchase it shortly thereafter.

Since that time it has been a labor of love, gradually updating it and making modifications, as most Swift owners do. Some of which include fiberglass cowling and wing-tips, P-51 style gear doors, Cessna 150 seats, Continental O-300 upgrade, new instrument panel and radios — it still had the old Lear tube type “coffee grinder” radio — and of course adding the checkerboard paint scheme. I consider myself extremely lucky to be charged with being the caretaker of such an amazing machine, an aircraft that was way ahead of its time when it was built in July of 1946.

This past winter I also completed a P-51 pedal plane for my grandsons. As you can see, it has been modeled after its bigger hangar mate. The oldest grandson loves visiting the hangar and “driving” his plane. Hopefully, I can instill in him the same aviation bug that bit me long ago!

**Cody Coombs**, EAA 391267; La Grange, Kentucky  
E-mail: ccoombs@bellsouth.net





Santa's has put the sleigh away and is getting the Swift ready for spring! Santa buys his parts and polishing supplies from Swift Parts... and you can too! Call or email us at Swift HQ's for all your Swift needs.