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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

# Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume LVII Issue #1

December 2024

## 2024 Holiday Schedule

**Christmas—New Year**  
Close December 23rd  
Re-open January 2nd

Consider a  
**Swift Gift Certificate**  
This Year!

*If your Swift group is planning an event this year please let us know so we can include it in the event schedule.*

### Executive Director Report

*By Scott Anderson*

Looks like we're going to make it through 2024!

This certainly has been an interesting year to say the least. We have great optimism that 2025 will be very exciting as we all move forward together as strong and vital group. It has been a year mixed with sadness, losing long time Swift friends, but also happiness of seeing our membership grow with new, young members that are just as excited as we older members were way back when.

The Swift is something infectious! Not since I was introduced to the Swift when I was 11 years old, has it been far from my thoughts or heart. I know you all have a similar affection. I'm living proof that it doesn't usually or easily go away. It is with renewed commitment that I look forward to helping make 2025 one of Swift's best years ever with the help of our Officers and Directors guiding us across the airways of the future.

I always want to take this time at year's end to thank all of our members for their loyalty and steadfast interest in the Swift Museum Foundation.

Also, thank you to the donors that help support us throughout the year. There is a great deal of overhead to keep this facility running and your help is crucial to our ability to continue supporting the aircraft and the membership. Your generosity is appreciated more than you can imagine.

As a reminder, Swift gift certificates are available in any denomination at any time during the year. Give the "Swifter" you love the gift of something Swift! No need to be concerned about color or fit... It will be perfect!

Please note, if you have placed an ad on our website and your item has sold, please remember to have the ad removed or it will run forever. Ads are free on our website so if you are successful in selling your item, a small donation to the Swift Museum Foundation is always appreciated.

Sue and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year!!!

**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  
Scott Anderson

**National Convention**

Paul Mercandetti  
Sandy Mercandetti  
Scott Anderson

**Parts**

Steve Wilson  
Scott Anderson  
Ken Coughlin  
Steve Roth

**Formation**

Paul Mercandetti  
Jim Roberts

**Building**

Roger Weber  
Scott Anderson  
Paul Barnett

**IT/Web**

Heather Day

**Aging Aircraft**

Steve Wilson  
Ken Coughlin  
Dave Carpenter

**Swift National Fly-in Committee Report**

*By Paul Mercandetti*

Did you miss me? I took a bit of a break from the newsletter as it will be about 16 months between our last Swift National and the 2025 Swift National Fly-in & Convention slated for October 1—5, 2025.

The early planning phases for Swift National are normally slow. However, now that we are approaching the new year, we are beginning to put together an event you will enjoy. Our hopes are that you will make your plans to attend and enjoy the festivities and camaraderie! As an added bonus, this will give you the perfect opportunity to see the progress being made within your Swift Parts Department and Swift Headquarters facility. We feel confident you will be proud of the amazing job Scott, Sue and our faithful volunteers have done consolidating everything that has been scattered all over the airport. Putting these items together in some semblance of order so we know what we have and how to find it will be a great benefit to the entire membership.

As always, we welcome any suggestions you have to help us better serve you. Whether it be for events or activities for Swift National 2025 or ideas for this year's logo. Fresh ideas mixed with popular standards make for a great Swift National 2025! Share your thoughts and ideas. And....get involved in the planning as well, if that's your "cup of tea". We welcome your input!

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**Formation Committee Report**

*By Paul Mercandetti*

All is quiet on the formation front. As cold overtakes most of the country the flying slows down considerably. But it doesn't have to. With the proper precautions these can be some of the best flying days of the year. The air is cool and clear, the performance is great and the results can be invigorating. So, get your buddies together and do a good briefing and have a great flight! **AND.... MAIL IN YOUR REPORTS ALONG WITH YOUR FORMATION DUES!** Once I have your paperwork and dues I will be able to send out your new cards ASAP.

Please, remember to follow the procedure on the new format for "Proficiency Reports". The report must be endorsed by the **flight lead** not you. Forms are available for download at [flyfast.org](http://flyfast.org). If you haven't been on the website in a while take a look at the new web format. A lot of volunteer work has gone into making these changes. Although not perfect yet we are making great progress.

## From our Archives

By Jim Roberts

Last month I mentioned some of the treasures we have in the historical files at Swift HQ. Among those is an April 1946 issue of “Skyways” magazine, which was touted as their second annual personal plane issue. The plane of the month was the 1946 Globe GC I-A Swift, and their pilot report and photos featured NX80502. According to Jim Montague’s list on the SMF website, this plane was GC-IA serial number 5. Monty showed it as possibly destroyed, and its current disposition on the FAA’s website shows “deregistered,” with the last owner being Donald Wilson of Bartlesville, OK.

The five page “Skyways” article, with an additional four pages of photos and two pages of drawings, was glowing. The author, Shelby Calkins, declares, “What we’re driving at is that the Globe Swift is not only a good airplane built in one of the best laid out small plants we have ever seen, but the Swift has a spirit built into it we haven’t seen for many a moon.”

Calkins toured the plant in Saginaw, TX, and noted that, “The executive offices of Globe Aircraft Corporation are in the former Kennedy stables – Mr. Kennedy’s office used to be the tack room.” After introducing John Kennedy as “President, General Manager, and ‘Big Gear’ of Globe Aircraft Corporation,” he observed that, “Mr. Kennedy has assembled a goodly quota of know-how to make the Swift a practical airplane. Bud Knox, the plane’s daddy, is a former Curtis Wright engineer.”

Other notable figures included former North American Aviation engineers Jack Steppe and Jack Wright, along with design engineer Eugene Clay, the artist who gave us the wonderful cut-away Swift drawings. Three Consolidated-Vultee veterans also came to Globe: Dave Kilgore (plant manager), Richard Manning (in charge of production tooling), and Lloyd Bender (production planner).

Author Calkin writes, “The 1946 Swift is a far cry from the Swift GC-I built back in 1940. The early model was built of wood and plastics, and Globe had more than \$1,000,000 in orders for the plane when Pearl Harbor threw Globe into war production and out of civilian work. The new model, in addition to all-metal construction, incorporates so many improvements in design and engineering as to constitute virtually a new airplane.” Next month we will look at that “wood and plastic” GC-I. In the meantime, enjoy a photo of serial number 5 in flight.

(Continued pages 4 & 5)

## Board of Directors

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### Historian

#### Jim Roberts

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Founded —1968 by  
Charles E. “Charlie” Nelson



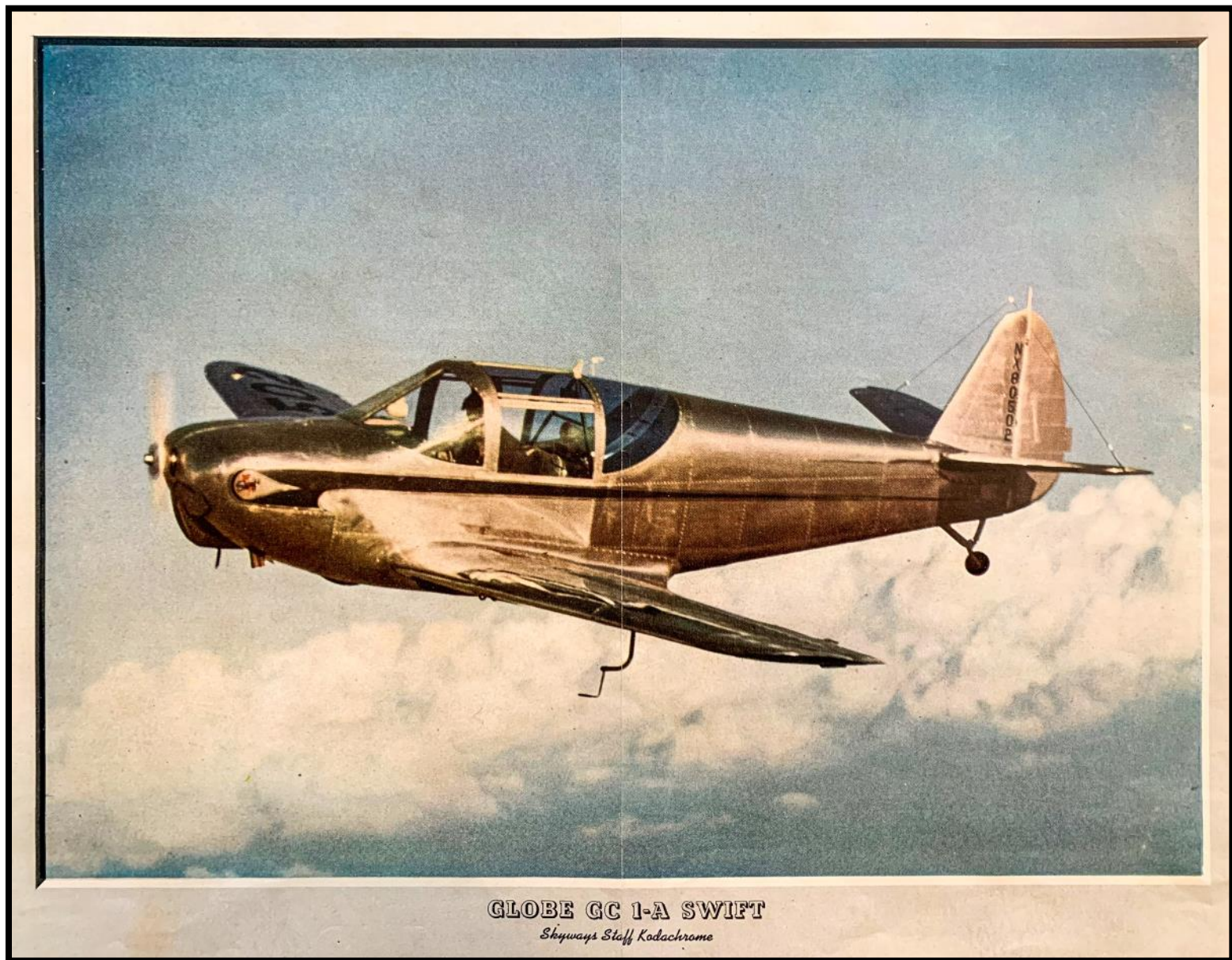
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**Fly your way to top-paying business success  
... in your ALL-METAL *Swift***

**Swift Ad:** This art is from an ad in the December 1945 issue of “Flying” magazine. A fitting photo for our December newsletter, since we have here not a red-nosed reindeer, but a red-nosed Swift!





**NX80502 – Air-to-Air shot of NX80502, GC-1A Serial Number 5. This was a two-page spread in the April 1946 issue of “Skyways” magazine.**

**Are You Looking for That Perfect Gift Idea?**

**If you're looking for that perfect gift for the Swifter on your list, let us help.**

**Put a smile on your Swifter's face with a**

**Swift Gift Certificate!**

**We have Gift Certificates available in any denomination any time of year!**

Your special person can choose from any item we have. Including all parts, clothing items, publications, and more! If you already know what you want, you can place specific orders as well. It's a win either way!

**Give us a call or email today! Don't delay!**

Note: it couldn't hurt to conveniently leave this page on the counter as a little hint ;)