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Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume LVI Issue #11

October 2024

Executive Director Report

By Scott Anderson

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Swift Museum Foundation's 2024 Raffle. Our congratulations go out to all the winners as well as our gratitude to everyone who supported this very important fundraiser. The proceeds from the raffle go directly into your Swift Parts Department. This allows us to continue the supply of new parts that keep your Swifts in top-notch shape!

We are steadily working to have even more new parts made. This will provide you with better parts availability than we have had in the past. Airframe items such as belly repair parts and high corrosion area needs are on the list. We'll keep you updated as work progresses!

On October 4th your Board of Directors held the fall meeting here at Headquarters. The very productive meeting was preceded by a two day work session. Faithful volunteers Roger Weber, (all the way from Oregon) Paul Mercandetti, Jim Roberts, and myself worked to begin the move from our old buildings into the storage area of our new building. The amount of progress made by this group was incredible!

This will be the last time we have to move our inventory. It makes serving our membership easier and much more efficient to have everything in one clean, well-lit facility. Awesome job guys....Thank you!!!

Congratulations! — 2024 Swift Raffle Winners

Gary Tritt	Grand Prize Winner
Pat Shuman	2nd Prize — Garmin Area 660
Craig Agapie	3rd Prize — Stratus 3
Kyle Hook	4th Prize — Apple iPad Mini
Buddy Kientz	5th Prize — Brightline B4 Flight Bag

2024 Holiday Schedule

**Thanksgiving
Closed**

November 28—29

Christmas—New Year

Close December 23rd

Re-open January 2nd

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

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
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Fund Raising

Jim "Frog" Jones

Newsletter

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Parts

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Paul Mercandetti
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Building

Roger Weber
Scott Anderson
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IT/Web

Heather Day

Aging Aircraft

Steve Wilson
Ken Coughlin
Dave Carpenter

A Friend Passes**By Jim Roberts**

By now, most of us have heard the tragic news that long-time Swifter, Don Bartholomew, recently perished in an aircraft accident. On September 16, 2024, Don lost his life in a mid-air collision in Nevada over Minden-Tahoe Airport. It appears that Don was arriving after a short hop from his private home field, Pine Nut airport, when his Swift was struck in the pattern by a Civil Air Patrol Cessna-206. I will leave it to the NTSB to determine specifics of the accident.

I met Don in 1998, shortly after my wife, Carolyn, and I purchased our Swift. At the time we were living in Sonoma, CA, and with a reputation as a "Swift guru," Don was the obvious choice to take on a restoration project. I spent many long weekends with Don at his shop at Pine Nut outside Gardnerville, NV, and over the months he transformed our Swift from an ugly-duckling into an award-winner.



Don in 1998 at Sonoma Skypark, in the Roberts Swift.

But more importantly, Don became a good friend, one who Carolyn and I always enjoyed seeing when he flew "down the hill" from Nevada to California. We fondly remember visiting with him at the annual West Cost Swift fly-ins, where he was always accompanied by his golden retriever, Helo. Don and Helo, and later his second golden, Astro, were a family. His love for those dogs showed a gentle side to the man, and we will always miss him.

Don was an accomplished pilot, and was proud that he earned an instrument rating in his Swift (no mean feat). He also served his community as a volunteer with the local search and rescue team, often setting out on a snow mobile in search of lost skiers. Besides his accomplishments maintaining and restoring Swift aircraft, he held several STC's, including his most ambitious one, a sliding bubble canopy for the Swift.

Carolyn recently found on-line a piece written in memory of Don. Authored by Skip Pard-ee, and published in the Carson Valley "Record Courier," excerpts are below:



Karl Johanson shared this favorite photo.

Don's skills as an aircraft mechanic, aircraft restorer, welder, machinist, sheet metal worker, and most everything and anything associated with building, restoring, and maintaining airplanes are legendary. Someone once told me that if you looked at work that had been done on an airplane and it looked too good to be true, Don probably did it.

On Sept. 16, a plane crashed at Minden-Tahoe airport killing Don Bartholomew. I have known Don since the 1980s. When we met, we discovered we had a mutual love: airplanes. I as a former Air Force pilot, he as a professional aircraft mechanic, restorer, and pilot. We have been friends ever since. For as long as I have known Don, he has lived by himself at his hangar next to his small airstrip off of Pinenut Road.

Don was a very kind man. During the time that I knew him, I built two airplanes. He was always there willing to help and advise me. Countless times I went to his hanger seeking help or advice. He always dropped everything he was doing to help. He never asked for any money.

Don's family here in the valley were his two golden retrievers. The first one was named Hilo (pronounced Hee-lo). When Hilo died, Don then got Astro. Astro was a big, rambunctious dog. When I would visit Don, Astro would come running up, stand on his back legs and put his paws on my shoulders and lick my face. I am 6 feet, 6 inches tall.

My favorite memory of visiting Don is the day I was there talking with him for probably about a half hour and I realized that I had not seen Astro. I asked about him, and Don said, "Well, I haven't seen him since this morning." You could sense the concern in his voice. When I left Don's place, I drove my old Cadillac around a while looking for Astro, but did not find him. My Cadillac was not built for those dirt roads. Later that afternoon when my daughter got home from high school, I told her we're going looking for Astro. She had a four-wheel-drive Ford Explorer. We drove around the Pinenuts quite a while, and suddenly way in the distance there was a flicker of gold. I said to her, "there he is."



Don and Astro at the 2018 West Coast Swift fly-in.

When we got to Astro, he was filthy dirty and having a ball. He came running over, jumped in the back of the Explorer, and we drove him home. It was like bringing a father's lost son home to him. I told my daughter sometimes you do things that make your whole day. This made my entire year.

In closing, for our friend Don, "Sit tibi terra levis."

Remembrance of Don Bartholomew from his West Coast Swift Wing family—

Submitted by Karl Johanson

We lost a very special West Coast Swift Wing officer, Don Bartholomew (74), on September 16th. Don was one of our most knowledgeable Swift A&P/IA's in the entire Swift universe. Many of us operate Swifts with Don's STCs such as Sliding Canopy, Electric Trim and Sticks, to name a few.



Missing Man Formation

Don always had the time to talk, provide assistance with troubleshooting problems, or perform pre-buys and annuals. All of us out here along, with many other friends around the country, remember Don's special friend and "fly-in mascot" Astro. They were always in attendance. Astro may have gotten more attention than Don, but he didn't mind ;-). We will always remember Don's Maintenance Clinics at our fly-ins, his great formation skills and above all his friendship and gentle nature. On Friday Sept 20th, fellow Swifters led by Paul Mercandetti performed a Missing Man salute to Don B and other Swifters Gone West in 2024.

Photo by Sparky Barnes

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

West Coast Swift Wing Fly-In Report

Submitted by Karl Johanson



The airspace over Jackson-Amidor was abuzz with Swifts (31 total) arriving from all over the US beginning Thursday morning Sept 19th. We were well prepared to receive them, having earlier erected a 20 x 40 ft tent on the ramp and multiple pop-ups to ensure all were afforded shade from the unrelenting sun i.e., the rain free weather we had ordered from Mother Nature ;-). Coolers were stocked with multiple options

(libations) for hydration and relaxation! This was the 40th year since West Coast Swifters began hosting this event back in 1984 and we really wanted it to be a memorable experience for all who came to celebrate, just as our friend and event proponent, Don Bartholomew, would have wanted. There were many activities for all to enjoy, perhaps most importantly, the simple option of just sitting in the shade, enjoying a cold beer and getting to know fellow Swifters, several of whom had journeyed to Jackson for the first time.

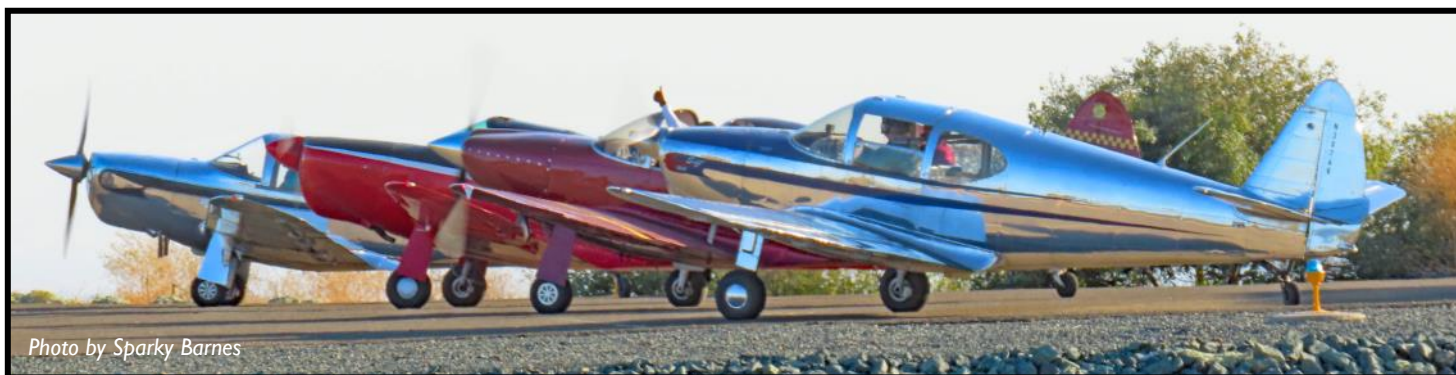


Photo by Sparky Barnes

Hosts for this year were Cathy and Brad Stahl, Al McDonald (all reside in Jackson), Donna and Karl Johanson of San Diego, Gerry Mahoney of Diamond Point, WA, and Richard Clinton from Fair Oaks, CA. While Kyle Hook missed the fly-in to attend a tour in Normandy, France he was on-site with us during our planning session 2 weeks before this event.

There were dinners at The Road House for the earliest birds on Wednesday, outdoors at the Laughton Ranch House Thursday evening, our traditional hangar dinner (Octoberfest themed) at Brad's hangar on Friday night (where we raffled off the magnificent quilt made from past West Coast Swift event shirts and donated by Terry and Wade Gillaspie) and the final night Banquet at Theresa's Restaurant with all of us in our favorite Hawaiian shirts. BBQ lunches at the airport were provided daily by Richard Clinton and his faithful Labrador Retriever, Bella. Ladies enjoyed their own event with a lunch at the historic Hotel Sutter on Friday hosted by Donna Johanson and Cathy Stahl. Other activities for our visitors included riding the old copper ore railway tracks through the hills of neighboring lone in their own carts (2 pax and 4 pax versions). We had 23 Swifters "ride the rails" Friday and Saturday mornings and all came back safe and smiling! Note: The company Rail Explorers have several locations and can be seen at:

<http://www.railexplorers.net>

Brad took a group out to the Black Chasm caves and they descended down several stories underground to tour a giant cavern. This was not for the faint of heart and I heard it was cold down there! Saturday afternoon afforded our many wine connoisseurs a trip out to the ever expanding wine region of Amador County. We dispatched three separate teams to visit three (3) different wineries each and all managed to return to base safely, some carrying suspicious looking bags that I am certain exceeded the TSA limit of 3.5 ounces ;-)

On Friday evening at sundown, Paul Mercandetti, along with Don Abbott, Ben Wilson and Bill Gass performed the Missing Man formation to observe the passing of Don Bartholomew and 3 other Swifters who had Gone West in 2024. Later that evening, Cathy Stahl handed out candles to all and we did the traditional moonlight "Runway Walk" (all 3000 feet to the 19 numbers) and held a candlelight vigil as a final farewell to our good friend Don B.

With the intention of doing some air-to-air photoshoots over the Golden Gate Bridge, 6 Swifts with 12 Swifters aboard led by Sandy and Paul Mercandetti and accompanied by a Beech Bonanza photoshop piloted by Will Sun with formation coach Reese Wolff and a very amateur photographer (me), headed west only to find that the bridge was completely obscured by fog. Undaunted by our meteorological misfortune, Paul had the group perform various formations for my camera over downtown San Francisco and all along the route. We got a few keepers which I have posted on FB. The final banquet was held at Theresa's where we enjoyed a nice dinner, along with the big Swift Raffle which was won by a friend of Reese Wolff! We also awarded trophies for Longest Distance Traveled (Mercandetti's N84799), Best Polish (Sampson N2431B), Best Custom (Hockett N78109) and Best Original (Lossaso N78171) and People's Choice (Naumann N2441B). Each of the awards were designed and manufactured by Cathy Stahl. Karen Palmer, a long time Swifter with hubby David Palmer, once again brought to our event some beautiful hand crafted items (table runners, etc) for us to raffle off and a few were lucky enough to win one of these keepsakes for display in their homes. In a tight race for Best Hawaiian shirt, Reese Wolff narrowly edged out Paul Barnett by 0.2 db on my iPhone's DB "ApplausoMeter" ;-)



Hope we see you back in Jackson in September 2025! Watch for the dates which to be released soon.

All departed Sunday via Swift, Cirrus, Southwest or car and happy to say no reports of any delays. My hat's off to Paul and Jennifer as they made the trip home in one day! As a side note, we hope we'll see a report on the trip home from Terry and Wade Gillaspie and friends as they stopped in Monument Valley and got some great shots along the way.



Additional Photos From The West Coast Swift Wing 2024 Fly-in







West Coast Swift Wing 2024 Fly-in fun!
Our Thursday evening, Oktoberfest themed, hangar dinner at Brad Stahl's.