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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

# Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume LVI Issue #3

February 2024

## 2024 Event Schedule

**EAA Sun-n-Fun**  
April 9 — 14  
Lakeland, FL

**Swift National 2024**  
May 29 — June 2  
Fredericksburg, TX (T82)

**EAA AirVenture**  
July 22 — 28  
Oshkosh, WI

*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's Report By Scott Anderson

The Swift Museum Foundation has received a very generous donation that will cover most of the construction cost of the 4<sup>th</sup> and final phase of our headquarters facility. We will soon be breaking ground on a new 60'x 100' hangar that will be used for the storage of Swifts and Swift parts. This hangar will provide us with much needed storage space. Phase 4 will be replacing the old museum and parts hangars which are slated to be torn down in the near future.

Your Board of Directors has approved this Phase 4 hangar project and the McMinn County Commission has added the new hangar to the Airport Layout Design Plan.

McMinn County has also agreed to extend our current lease agreement with no changes. This new lease will include the new building, making our long-term land lease agreement with McMinn County continue at no cost to us for the duration of the lease.

I will be providing updates as this exciting and unexpected Phase 4 project progresses. We are blessed to have been given this rare opportunity to complete the Swift Museum Foundation Headquarters facility much sooner than we ever thought possible.

It is our goal to keep the Swift Museum Foundation, a unique and strong organization, moving in a positive direction and continuing to be a model for success while supporting the Swift and the SMF membership long into the future.

**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 2024 Report**

*By Paul Mercandetti*

**Swift National 2024 — May 29 - June 2, 2024**

Are we getting excited yet? I am. We are one step closer to our "Super Deluxe Extra Special Swift Extravaganza"...Swift National 2024 in Fredericksburg, Texas!

Pre-registration forms have already started arriving and we are looking forward to a great turnout! Please get your form in soon to allow us to better plan for your arrival. There are lots of things planned for this year's event. Some old, some new, but something for everyone for sure. Thank you to those who offered input to the activities schedule.

Needless to say, a great deal of planning is going into this year's Swift National and our Texas team is up to the task! Terry and Wade are hard at work making sure this event is one of the best!

Plans are in place for forums, food, formation flying, fly-outs, and fellowship! We will, of course, be offering Formation Training again for those who are interested. We are planning a Tactical Route and maybe some balloons. In addition, there will be forums pertaining to maintenance, safety, etc. A guided tour of the National Museum of the Pacific War, located downtown, is planned. And of course FOOD. There will be a fly-out for a BBQ lunch on Friday and transportation from your hotel to, YES you guessed it, "Luckenbach Texas" for dinner and music. And...don't forget about the daily Debriefing at the bar. Our hosts Wade and Terry Gillaspie and crew have a great schedule lined up for you. A big round of applause to our Texas team! They are pulling out all the stops to make this a banner year.

Come one come all, don't be shy! Some of your best friends that you haven't met yet will be there.

**Fairfield by Marriott (830)995-8070**

**Camper Site: Oakwood RV Resort (830)997-9817**

**The Hangar Hotel (830)997-9990 — Located on the Airport.  
Completely booked as of now, but you can get on a waiting list.**

## Swift Formation Committee Report

By Paul Mercandetti

FAST held a Board of Directors meeting at the annual NWOC conference in Florida last week. Jim Roberts, Sandy and myself attended via conference call. The only time frame available was 0600 east coast time. For those of you who know me, you know that I'm not a morning person. So, as rude as it was for me, those on the west coast and our foreign signatories had it far worse.

We all agreed to replenish the dwindling coffers to the tune of \$10 per card holder per year for all signatories until we can build up a modest war chest. Not unreasonable considering the rapid rise in cost for what few items we need to purchase, i.e. website, conference calls, mailings, etc. We are all volunteers, we have no paid employees.

A renewed emphasis was placed on proper training and adhering to the 8900 rules governing waived airspace. If you do find yourself with a chance to participate in an airshow, PLEASE go prepared with ALL the necessary paperwork. Remember, the FAA cares more about paperwork than anything else. It's a reflection of everything you do. We will try to send out a cheat sheet soon with what is laid out in 8900.

Keep current and for those few who have not yet sent in your progress reports and dues in, please do so.

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**Please take a moment to look over any attachments/inserts included with your last two newsletters.**

**2024 Proxy form** — If you are unable to be present at the 2024 Annual Business Meeting of the Swift Museum Foundation conducted during Swift National 2024 in Fredericksburg, Texas please fill out and send in your voting proxy. You may select a Board member or any other member present at the meeting.

**Swift National 2024 Pre-registration form** — Please fill out and return your Pre-registration form asap. This form is for planning purposes only. You are under no obligation.

### Board of Directors

#### Chairman

**Paul Barnett**

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#### Vice Chairman

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#### Scott Anderson

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#### Executive Director

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#### Historian

**Jim Roberts**

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

## **Welcome To Our New Members!**

<b>Larry Komara</b>	<b>Texas</b>
<b>Gary Montpelier</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<b>Kelly Klein &amp; Scott Hatley</b>	<b>Tennessee</b>
<b>Greg Swanson</b>	<b>Alabama</b>
<b>Andre Schneeberger</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>
<b>Steve McLeod</b>	<b>Texas</b>
<b>Kevin Carpino</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>
<b>Paul Frantz</b>	<b>Georgia</b>
<b>Donald McKay</b>	<b>Oregon</b>
<b>Jim Frank</b>	<b>Georgia</b>
<b>Mike Poborsky</b>	<b>Wyoming</b>

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### **The Poetry Corner** **By Jim Roberts**

I know what you're thinking..."The poetry corner?...Roberts has gone off the deep end....the winter has gotten to him....he's in denial on how long it's taking to get that new engine shipped from Continental...he'll be driving to Sun 'n Fun again this year."

Well, yes, that's all true, but be that as it may, I want to share one of my favorite aviation poems with you. Even if you don't have a polished Swift, you can relate to the poem, "Silver Ships." I've lost track of how I came across this, but it just speaks so well to the joys of flying the Swift.

Absolutely nothing can compare to "Guiding my bird of metal, one with her throbbing frame," and who doesn't enjoying "tearing the clouds to tatters," while, of course, maintaining minimum VFR cloud clearance requirements. And when you've had a rough day at the office, there's nothing like "shedding the world like a feather from the tip of a tilted wing."

There's precious little info out there about the author, Mildred Plew Meigs (1892-1944). She was most well know for poems and books for children in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is no clue to the inspiration for this poem, or if she had any ties to aviation. I like to picture young Mildred climbing into a Curtiss Jenny or Fleet biplane, scarf draped over her hat and tied snugly under her chin, gripping the seat bottom and laughing with joy while some dashing aviator introduces her to the magic of flight. Maybe she was inspired by the 1927 Transatlantic flight of "Lucky Lindy" in his silver ship, the Ryan NYP. Regardless of her inspiration, thank you, Mildred, for a poem that is as magical today as it was 100 years ago!

**“Silver Ships”**

by Mildred Plew Meigs

There are trails that a lad may follow  
when the years of his boyhood slip,  
but I shall soar like a swallow  
on the wings of a Silver ship

Guiding my bird of metal  
One with her throbbing frame  
Floating down like a petal,  
roaring up like a flame

Winding the wind that scatters  
Smoke from the chimney’s lip,  
tearing the clouds to tatters  
with the wings of my Silver Ship

Grazing the broad blue-sky light  
up where the falcon’s fare,  
riding the realms of twilight  
brushed by a comet’s hair

Snug in my coat of leather,  
watching the skyline swing,  
shedding the world like a feather  
from the tip of a tilted wing

There are trails that a lad may travel  
when the years of his boyhood wane,  
but I’ll let a rainbow ravel  
through the wings of my silver plane



***Here's hoping you all enjoy flying your silver ships in 2024!***