

SWIFT MUSEUM  
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

## 2025 Event Schedule

### EAA AirVenture

July 21—27  
Oshkosh, WI

### 2025 Nat'l Championship

Air Races  
September 10—14  
Roswell, NM

### West Coast Swift Wing

September 18—20  
Jackson, CA

### Triple Tree

September 22—28  
Woodruff, SC

### Swift National 2025

October 1—5  
Athens, TN

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

# Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume LVII Issue #7

June 2025

## Historic Swift to be Restored

By Jim Roberts

Unless you've been to the Swift Museum at McMinn County Airport, you may be unaware that a squadron of six GC-1B Swift aircraft were drafted by the Texas Forest Service in the mid-forties. In service from 1947 to 1952, the aircraft were employed for aerial fire surveillance, and were equipped with a loudspeaker to coordinate with firefighters on the ground. Chosen from a field of contenders including the P-51 Mustang, Stinson L5, and Interstate Cadet, the forest service Swifts each flew nearly 500 hours per year as they roamed the skies of the Lone Star state.



*N78310 during its Texas Forest Service days.*

An imaginative museum exhibit created by Bryce Ulmer and Scott Anderson tells their story, and includes rare photos of the planes in action. Be sure to check it out when you come to the Swift national convention this October. Even better, someday soon we will be able to see one of these Swifts back in the air, resplendent in her original Texas Forest Service livery.

New SMF (Swift Museum Foundation) member Sophie Huang, from Newcastle, Washington, recently purchased N78310, which was donated to the SMF by long-time member Clyde Edgar, Jr. Though it has not flown in over thirty years, the plane is intact and complete; a worthy restoration project. Sophie took delivery of the aircraft on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, following a quarterly Swift Museum Foundation Board meeting.



*Sophie Huang with her newest restoration project.*

(Continued page 2)

**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

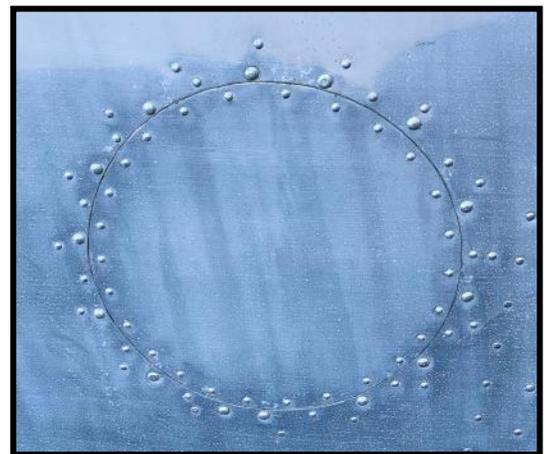
How did a lady from Washington state come to buy this historic Swift, and what gives her the confidence to restore it? Earlier this year, while attending a week-long A&P prep course in Tennessee, Sophie met SMF board member and fellow A&P student Paul Barnett. They hit it off, and inevitably the subject of N78310 came up. Looking for a plane that would be fun to fly and not your garden variety taildragger, Sophie was intrigued by the possibility of restoring the Texas Forest Service Swift. She visited the Swift museum, met with Scott Anderson, and looked over the aircraft. The rest, as they say, is history.

An experienced pilot whose aircraft stable has included various Cessnas (including a Cessna 185), a Mooney, and a floatplane, Sophie should adapt well as a Swift pilot, and her skills honed while restoring various other aircraft will serve her well as she tackles N78310. I have a good feeling about this project, especially after observing as Sophie went to work with Scott Anderson to remove the wings and prepare the aircraft for its trip back to the west coast.

After loading wings, a spare engine, and various other Swift paraphernalia into the back of a large rental truck, and strapping the body of the aircraft securely to a trailer, Sophie remarked that her timing couldn't have been better. She got to spend two days getting to know our board members, and benefited from their experience and help with dismantling and loading her new aircraft for the trip home. She also remarked that the support, collective wisdom, and encouragement of the "Swift Family" was a major reason for her purchase decision. As Sophie and N78310 hit the road for the long journey west, I mused that this would not be the last time I saw them both in Athens.



*Scott Anderson demonstrates how to remove the outer wing.*



*A patch on the left aft fuselage shows where the loudspeaker was mounted.*



*The panel sports a semi-original look.*



SMF leadership (L to R) Mark Holliday, Paul Barnett, Scott Anderson, Roger Weber, Paul Mercandetti, and Jim Roberts join Sophie in celebration as she prepares to hit the road.

## 2025 Swift National Fly-in & Convention October 1—5, 2025

Come and enjoy Food, Fun, Friends and Flying. Like they say, “It don’t get no better than that.”

Book your rooms early at the **Comfort Inn Athens, 423-252-8030**. There is another local event scheduled that same week so be sure to mention you are with the “**Swift Group**”. Also, please fill out and send in the **Pre-registration form** included with/in this newsletter. Your doing so will be a tremendous help in providing the most accurate count possible for our caterers and planning. Thank you in advance for helping us to stay within budget.

We have some new, exciting and fun events planned for you this year!

Bring your lederhosen and appetite for the **Saturday night Banquet and Awards Program**.

For the **Friday Night Shindig**, bring your overalls and any fun Hillbilly outfits! Who knows, there might even be a jug or two of Tennessee moonshine floating around. Not too heavy on the jug though, as we need you ready for the fly-out on Saturday morning.

**Oshkosh:** Plans are in the works for a mass arrival on July 17<sup>th</sup>. So, if you are planning to attend AirVenture this year and would like to be part of a group arrival, please contact Stan Price for details at 817-371-3450. This will enable us to park together. We have also been working to reserve a block of parking spots as well. Not sure if this will happen. We’ll keep you posted.

### Board of Directors

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#### Historian

#### Jim Roberts

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Founded —1968 by  
Charles E. “Charlie” Nelson

## Presidents Comments

*By Jim “Frog” Jones*

**Swift National 2025** is four months away. Fly-in Chairman Paul Mercandetti, Sue, Scott and the Swift Board of Directors are planning and preparing for the event Oct. 1-5 at SMF Headquarters in Athens, Tennessee (MMI). It will very difficult to have a Swift Fly-In to compare to the one in Fredericksburg, Texas last year. Wade and Terry set the bar high! Paul has shared some of the details of activities earlier in this newsletter and will keep you informed as others are finalized.

In an effort to keep registration cost as low as possible for attendees, we are offering sponsorship support for the following.

Transportation Vans \$600.00

Table & Chair Rental \$800.00

Music for Friday Night – To Be Determined.

Band for Saturday Night — Sponsorship complete!

If you are interested and willing to make a donation for any of these items please contact Sue or Scott at headquarters 423-745-9547 or email to [swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com](mailto:swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com)

Please consider making a donation in support of the Swift Museum Foundation, Inc. by participating in our Original Factory Brick or Replica Brick programs. All donations made to the Swift Museum Foundation are tax deductible through its 501(c)3 status.

**Oshkosh 2025** for mass arrival on July 17<sup>th</sup> contact Stan Price for details, 817-371-3450. Details are in last month's newsletter. If you arrive Oshkosh together you get to park together.

Swift Forum Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 AM in the Vintage Type Club Building.

Swift Dinner Tuesday 6:00 PM July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mineshaft Oshkosh - 2041 Koehler Street - Oshkosh, WI - 54902. Contact Barbara Wilson for reservations **817 578-9878**.

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## Formation Committee Report

*By Paul Mercandetti*

As they say, no news is good news. All's quiet right now on the FAST side at least until OSH.

Your “Tennessee Pterodactyls” have been having fun flying around at different events, how about you? Let me know of your formation exploits and send us some pictures and a few details. We will feature them in our newsletter. Even if it's just a couple of you going out to breakfast or lunch, we would like to know how you're enjoying your Swift and sharpening your formation skills!

Remember, stay active to stay proficient and stay safe out there.

## In Memory Alan Erickson

We are deeply saddened to report the passing of long time California Swifter **Alan Erickson**. We have just received this news and have no other information at this time. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bonnie and the entire family as well as their many friends. God speed dear friend.

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We have received news of several other SMF members and friends of Swift who have passed within the last few months. We do not have any additional information. They are listed below.

**Gary Allen** of Nashville, Tennessee passed April 17, 2025. Gary was a long time member of SMF.

**Bruce Bolton** of Watertown, Tennessee passed May 17, 2025. Bruce was a former Safety Inspector for the FAA. He was a great friend to Swift and our membership offering advice and guidance to promote safety in the Swift.

**Mac Mendoza** of Lancaster, California passed January 2, 2025. Mac was a long time Swift member.

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

<b>John Zubrod</b>	<b>VA</b>
<b>Jon G - Mach 5 Aviation</b>	<b>CA</b>
<b>Drew Steward</b>	<b>IN</b>
<b>John Zubrod</b>	<b>VA</b>
<b>Cody Welch</b>	<b>FL</b>
<b>Arthur Watanade</b>	<b>WA</b>
<b>Larry Fletcher</b>	<b>AL</b>
<b>Steven Christensen</b>	<b>AL</b>
<b>Dan Schneder</b>	<b>MD</b>
<b>Joseph Caron</b>	<b>AZ</b>
<b>John Mulvey</b>	<b>CO</b>
<b>Richard Tourville</b>	<b>TN</b>
<b>Olivia Robbins</b>	<b>AZ</b>
<b>Brandon Elmore</b>	<b>VA</b>
<b>Dan Schippers</b>	<b>CA</b>

## **Correction to Last Months Printed Issue**

*Below is the photo and complete last paragraph of the Jim Roberts article titled "Swift Tales, Part Two". A portion of this paragraph was inadvertently omitted. Please accept our sincere apologies.*



**Carolyn Roberts at Sonoma Skypark, with N78012 and a matching 1948 Hudson Commodore.**

With a small welcoming committee on hand, I wiggled my toes, took a deep breath, and lined up on the 2,400' by 40' runway. This would be the most challenging paved field I had landed on, and somehow I pulled it off. The next entry in the log shows a 0.3 flight that same day, with the notation, "Carolyn's first ride!" After eight weeks, including seven days flying 20.1 hours over 2,100 miles, our Swift was home.