

SWIFT MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

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## 2025 Event Schedule

**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 #9

August 2025

## Executive Director Report By Scott Anderson

The generosity of our Swift members continues to amaze me.

We recently received the donation of Swift N80501, Serial #4. This Swift is the sister ship to Serial #2 and #3 which we have in our museum. It is complete but is definitely a large project that would require an inspired craftsman who understands the significance of this special Swift if they were to restore it to flying status. That would replace serial #8 as the oldest flying Swift in existence. #4 has the original 85 Continental engine that it was built with in 1945. The early Cessna 120/140 style yokes are still in it as is the Beech Roby prop with the hand crank for pitch change mounted on the instrument panel. Being such an early model, it has many unique items that the factory quickly changed in the later model airplanes.

The Board of Directors will need to have a serious discussion on what we need to do with this donation. Whether we keep it as a significant addition to the museum or seek out the right person to bring it back to airworthy status will be an important decision. We are also receiving another Swift being donated by the family of another long-time member. Norm Fox and I are leaving soon to retrieve this Swift from upstate New York. These donations are vital to our continued existence and we are most grateful to the loyal members that include the SMF in their thoughts when the time comes to part with their beloved Swifts. Our Swift trailer tires have barely had time to cool off due to the number of Swifts being relocated across the country by Swift members. For example, three trips to Washington state in recent months among other travels to other various locations.

On a different topic, we are accepting resumes for the position that I currently occupy. I have been doing the job of Executive Director for almost eight years now and I am approaching the time to retire allowing me to spend more time with my family and check off bucket list items before my time runs out. If this is something that interests you, we are looking for someone, preferably from within our membership, with extensive knowledge of the Swift and a strong background in business management. You can send your resume or call if you have any questions. I may be contacted at Swift Museum Foundation Headquarters at 423-745-9547 or email at [swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com](mailto:swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com). A passion for the Swift is the most important quality we need. This is your opportunity to be a vital part of the Swift Legacy!

**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 2025 — October 1- 5**

*By Paul Mercandetti*

**Please send in your Pre-registration Forms in ASAP.** This is a great help to us in planning and it costs you nothing up front to let us know your plans.

We are getting close for Swift National 2025, October 1-5. Catering is in place, shirts and hats are ordered. We are on track and looking forward to seeing all our Swift family.

As usual we will have Formation Flying forum and training, Safety forum, Maintenance forum, as well as plenty of time for friends and stories. It's all about air-planes and camaraderie.

We will provide transportation to the hotel when you arrive by Swift. There will also be golf cart assistance in getting your baggage from the airplane. Please don't forget your tie-downs.

**Wednesday** is a meet and greet with dinner at the local Gondolier restaurant.

**Thursday** will include Formation and other forums, general flying, and formation training. Lunch on the field by Andreas Montgomery and his team.

**Friday** is more flying and forums with lunch catered on field. Friday evening dinner will be off site at the Tsalis Notch Vineyard. The theme of the evening is "Hillbilly" so bring your overalls, jeans, gingham, and straw hats. There should be plenty of personal vehicles along with the van for transportation. It's only 15 minutes away from the field and will be a really fun time.

**Saturday** is the fly-out to CSV (Crossville) for both formation and single ship for those wanting to participate. There will be plenty of fellowship at base camp if you chose to stay behind. An Oktoberfest themed dinner with German style food and lederhosen will be catered by Andreas and his Mom. Dress appropriately. We will be honoring our fallen members before the dinner. If You are aware of any of our members who have passed away in the last year please let us know their names to make sure we do not miss anyone.

Just trying to hit the highlights. A lot of planning and a lot of stuff goin on. And the ladies are not to be forgotten as we will have side trips planned for them as well. Hope to see you there.

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**Formation Committee Report**

*By Paul Mercandetti*

**PLEASE!!!** If you are planning on joining us for Swift National Formation Training please come prepared. Download the manuals from [FLYFAST.org](http://FLYFAST.org) and know the hand signals before you get here.

# 2025 SWIFT MUSEUM FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

# SWIFTRAFFLE.COM

## \$50 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!!

**1 Ticket - \$50**

BUY MORE  
& SAVE

**5 Tickets - \$210**

**3 Tickets - \$135**

**10 Tickets - \$400**

## GRAND PRIZE

### \$30,000 ENGINE CREDIT



OR

### \$20,000 CASH



## HELP SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE & MAYBE EVEN WIN BIG!

## DRAWING OCTOBER 4, 2025 AT OUR FLY-IN EVENT!!!

### THE SWIFT MUSEUM FOUNDATION

223 COUNTY ROAD 552 ATHENS, TENNESSEE 37303

CONTACT US (423) 745-9547 OR BY EMAIL SWIFTMUSEUMFOUNDATION@AOL.COM



*Employees and Board Members of the Swift Museum Foundation, Inc., their spouse and legal dependents are prohibited from purchasing tickets and are not eligible to win any prize. This includes individuals for whom an Employee or Board Member is the current legal guardian or individuals who they are not legally related to but who reside within an Employee or Board Member (step relationships are also included) household.*

### Board of Directors

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**Historian**

**Jim Roberts**

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

## AirVenture Oshkosh 2025 Report

### By Jim Roberts

AirVenture Oshkosh 2025 is in the books, and by it was another record-breaking event. According to EAA, more than 10,000 aircraft arrived at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh and other airports in east-central Wisconsin. At Wittman alone, there were 16,246 aircraft operations in the period from noon CDT July 17 to noon CDT July 28, which is an average of approximately 108 takeoffs/landings per hour.

Total show planes numbered 2,543 including: 995 vintage aircraft, 910 homebuilt aircraft, 361 warbirds, 101 ultralights and light planes, 75 aerobatic aircraft, 74 seaplanes and amphibians, 18 rotorcraft, and 9 balloons. Attendees numbered over 704,000. Among those were dozens of Swift owners and aficionados.

We estimated over 15 Swifts on the field, and many Swifters arrived by car or the big silver tube. I had the pleasure of arriving in N78012 with three other Swifts: Don Abbott in 767DK, Paul and Sandy Mercandetti in N84799, and Wade and Terry Gillaspie in N78204. We met and staged out of Monroe, Wisconsin; an easy 40 minute flight to OSH. Arriving on Friday afternoon, we beat the heavy traffic on Saturday and Sunday, and were pleased to see several Swifts already on the field when we arrived.

The Swift forum on Tuesday, hosted by SMF board of directors chairman, Paul Barnett, was well attended, with over 60 folks present. Paul did a great job highlighting topics of interest, and was assisted by Steve Wilson and other “Swift Gurus” who fielded questions from the audience. I was happy to see lots of young faces, including some who were interested in adding a Swift to their aviation world. One young man commented afterwards on how encouraging it was to meet such an enthusiastic and supportive group.



*Swifters gather for dinner at Wendt's by the Lake.*

Likewise, our Tuesday night dinner at “The Mineshaft” was a hit. I highly recommend their Moscow Mule. Spoiler alert: It’s not really a mineshaft. Thank you, Barbara Wilson, for making those arrangements. Looks like we have found a good spot for future gatherings.

We all owe a big “thank you” to those Swifters who volunteered at the Swift table in the Vintage hangar. We had a “rock star” location, front and center in the building.

When the aircraft judges tallied their scores, Gary Moore, of Littleton, CO, came home with a “Custom Class C” (151-235 HP) award, for his gorgeous polished super Swift; a repeat of his success at Sun ‘n Fun. If Gary keeps this up, he’ll need a bigger trophy case! I think he can get a sponsorship from Nuvite to further his endeavors.

Finally, no report would be complete without a look at the one thorn our sides: The lack of group parking. I've lost track of the last time we had a row or two set aside for the Swift, and sadly this year was no exception. Our birds were scattered throughout Vintage parking, and only those who arrived together were even remotely (pun intended) parked together. I believe the absence of Swift group parking was because so much real estate was taken up by other vintage aircraft types that were celebrating major anniversaries this year.

I've talked with Paul Barnett, and between the two of us we will work diligently to change this in 2026, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Globe Swift. It's too early to engage with the VAA, as the dust has still not settled from this year's AirVenture, but we will be talking soon to our VAA friends on your behalf. I'm optimistic that next year will see a return of the Swift aircraft to the prominence it deserves, and look forward to a record turnout from all.



Swifts in line for fuel at Monroe Wisconsin: Front to back: Paul and Sandy Mercandetti (N847999), Jim Roberts (N78012), and Don Abbott (N767DK).



Tuesday's forum was popular, with over 60 Swift enthusiasts attending.



Gary Moore with his award-winning Super Swift.



Swifters at our type club table in the Vintage Aircraft Hangar.

Lto R Stan Price, Don Abbott, Sandy & Paul Mercandetti, Pat Hockett, Wade Gilaspie, Barbara Wilson.

## Looking Back and Looking Forward By Jim Roberts

A photo from *The First Fifty Years of the Swift*, published thirty years ago by the Swift Museum Foundation. Just imagine a gathering of this size in 2025.

Make plans now to attend the Swift national convention at McMinn County Airport, October 1-5. We have some new and exciting venues, events, and entertainment in store, so join us for food, fellowship, and flying. We look forward to your return!

### McMinn County

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF THE  
SWIFTS



**HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!**

A photo from *The First Fifty Years of the Swift*, published thirty years ago by the Swift Museum Foundation. Just imagine a gathering of this size in 2025.

Make plans now to attend the Swift National convention at McMinn County Airport, October 1-5. We have some new and exciting venues, events, and entertainment in store, so join us for food, fellowship, and flying. We look forward to your return!

## . **SAVE THE DATES: Thursday to Sunday Sept 17th – 21st**

### **West Coast Swift Wing Fly-in Update**

Greetings from sunny Jackson, California!! The West Coast Swift Wing event planning team is alive and busy! Once again your Jackson-based hosts Brad Stahl and Cathy along with Al McDonald, assisted by a team of Swift family volunteers, are busy with hotels, dinners, tours, Ladies Day, fly-outs, winery selections, etc.

Richard Clinton has volunteered to provide his delicious barbecue lunches on Friday and Saturday at the field.

The Best Western Amidor Inn (209) 223-0211 has once again blocked a bunch of rooms for us and there are more available if needed, at the Holiday Inn. We have requested an expansion of the room block but space is limited, so call soon. Ask for the Swift Group rate which is \$104.99 (excl tax). The Holiday Inn Express is our second hotel and their number is (209) 257-1500. If you prefer a boutique hotel experience, then check out the historic Hotel Sutter (209) 267-0242. This hotel is located in downtown Sutter Creek which will require you to have your own transportation (we can arrange to drop you off after arrival). Rates are approximately \$260 to \$315 per night.

Shirts are being designed and ordered and will be available on arrival. We are including in this email a registration form. Please complete and return to me with a registration fee check for \$50 per person,

If you send in your form and you indicated a shirt size, you will receive priority.

So open up your Foreflight and begin flight planning and set your course to Jackson (KJAQ), California! If you haven't been here before, Jackson is an old gold mining town rich in history and nestled in the Sierra foothills. Gold has since been replaced with grapes and tourism. Like past years, we will have a number of options planned for our visitors this year that will inspire you to make the trip:

- Brad is working on a tour at the Old Kennedy Forging. He is also setting up a breakfast fly-out.
- Last year we had 29 guests "ride the rails" in electric 2 and 4 person rail carts, all reported it was a blast!!!
- Al is working with the folks at Eagles Nest (home of the Sanders brothers Reno race team) to allow us to come in Friday morning to observe several race planes preparing for the Los Cruces Air Races (formerly Reno Air Races)
- Donna and Cathy are setting up the Ladies Day trip to Sutter Creek

Earliest Birds: Wednesday (open plan but we will have suggestions and a dinner site for the flock to gather)

Early Birds: Thursday (expect a touristy agenda that day, dinner will be at a local site).

Friday - Fly-out breakfast to Eagles Nest (tentative, depends on the owner's availability), evening barbecue at the airport. ***Oktoberfest attire suggested***

Saturday - Fly-out to Columbia or TBD. Ladies' day lunch and walkabout in Downtown Sutter Creek, Brewery lunch for the boys, winery tours in the afternoon, evening dinner at Theresa's ***Hawaiian shirt night***.

Sunday - Hugs and farewells to our guests. See you soon in Jackson!

***Your West Coast Swift Wing Team***

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

**Darren Atkins**

**Texas**

**Tony Carvalho**

**Maryland**

**Zach Finn**

**Florida**

**James King**

**Oregon**

**Gary Leonhardt**

**North Carolina**

**Jess Meyers**

**Nevada**

**Chad Stanford**

**Oklahoma**

**Henry Stanford**

**Oklahoma**

**Kenneth B. Coughlin, Jr.** —We have just learned of the passing of our friend and long time Swift member, Ken Coughlin of Oklahoma City. Many of you will remember speaking with Ken here at HQ's during one of his many extended volunteering visits to Athens. Ken also served as our Historian for many years. He will be greatly missed by us all. We will share more information in our next newsletter. Godspeed dear friend.