

SWIFT MUSEUM
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

2025 Event Schedule

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 #1 I

October 2025

Congratulations To Our 2025 Swift Raffle Winners!!!

Grand Prize — Josie Buckley - \$30,000 Engine Credit or \$20,000 cash!
(#10171620827881)

2nd Prize — David Schaffner - Garmin D2 Mach I Watch (Value \$1,199)
(#10171621721653)

3rd Prize — Nicki Hovanec - Garmin aera 660 GPS (Value \$899)
(#10171621546223)

4th Prize — Kobuk Kastella - Apple iPad Mini (Value \$499) (#10171621649962)

5th Prize — Pete Lasko - BrightLine Flight Bag B4 (Value \$249) (#10171621862771)

Congratulations to all our winners and very special *Thank You*, to **everyone** who participated in support of the Swift Museum Foundation!

You enable us to continue our mission in support of the Swift.

Swift National 2025 — A Great Fly-In!

By Paul Mercandetti

I think it's safe to say this years Swift National and the West Coast Fly-in were total successes. Although I was unable to attend the West Coast this year, I have it on competent authority that they had a great gathering. Judging from the pictures I saw I'm sure it was.

As for Swift National 2025, I was there and I was smiling from ear to ear the whole time! We had a high of 25 aircraft and 80 people which is a bit on the low side, but you couldn't tell from all the activity in the air and on the ground. The sheriff came by with his radar gun. The speeds were high but no tickets were issued. The "Tactical Run" was well attended, and to our amazement, no one got lost. We had a blast trying to bust those balloons. I don't know what they were made of... I was sure I hit at least one of them but Don said NO. We held a 'Formation Ground School' and got some training in as well. The fly-out to Crossville was great with 8 aircraft (6 in formation and 2 in trail). The CSV patrons were very appreciative with 10 gallons of fuel for each aircraft.

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 Continued)

Flying and food go hand in hand with this group. This year the flying fun AND the food was GREAT. Our very own Andreas Montgomery with "some help" from his Mom (*I'm sure it was the other way around*) outdid themselves with a Low Country Southern Boil luncheon AND an Octoberfest dinner. Both were amazing! We can't thank Mrs. Montgomery and Andreas enough for their efforts. We borrowed the "Octoberfest" theme from the West Coast guys as it was October and a great idea. Thanks guys!

The Friday night dinner was provided by our regular caterer. As always, the food was excellent. The "Tennessee Hillbilly" theme was a hoot! Most people dressed accordingly and the pictures will tell the rest. The Tsali Vineyard was beautiful with an exquisite sunset. We even had some appropriate music piped in for the occasion. Many thanks to our donors who helped to defray some of the costs and to our dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to make this a great time for everyone!

Looking forward to Swift Nationals 2026... Steve and Barb Wilson had such a great time that they have volunteered the Red River Swift Wing to host next years Swift National in Granbury, Texas. It will be the 80th year of the Swift and only fitting that we should return to where it all began (at least close by). We will be readjusting our time frame back to May in 2026 to accommodate our hosts. Stay tuned for more information. We hope to attract some of our great West Coast family to this more central location.

As mentioned, next year marks the 80th year of our Swifts. We will be promoting this milestone heavily in the aviation community, especially at Sun-n-Fun and Oshkosh. Your participation at these events will help to promote the future of the Swift. Any ideas you have in this area are greatly appreciated. We are always interested in promoting the Swift to young aviators. They are the future of Swift and this organization. Remember, we were all there once, let's share this great experience of the Swift and pass it on!



Tsali Notch Vinyard — Tennessee Hillbilly Night



Beautiful East Tennessee Sunset on Hillbilly Night



“Oktoberfest Ladies”

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**Founded —1968 by
Charles E. “Charlie” Nelson**

Swift National 2025 Award Recipients

Grand Champion Original — N80966 — Mark Holliday (TN)

Reserve Gr. Champion Original — N80741 — Danny Pitts (NC)

Grand Champion Modified — N3729K — Steve Roth (VA)

Reserve Gr. Champion Modified — N78012 — Jim Roberts (TN)

Grand Champion Super Custom — N78168 — Miles Green (WI)

Reserve Gr. Champion Super Custom — N80836 — Jerry Kirby (TN)

Best Interior — N78204 — Wade & Terry Gillaspie (TX)

Best Panel — N78109 — Pat Hockett (TX)

Best Paint — N80836 — Jerry Kirby (TN)

Best Polish — N78012 — Jim Roberts (TN)

Most Original — N80966 — Mark Holliday (TN)

Ladies Choice — N80836 — Jerry Kirby (TN)

Greatest Distance by Swift — N3820K — Rocky Rutter (TX)

Greatest Distance Traveled — Bill & Dot Shepherd (WA)

Presidents Award — Jennifer & Paul Barnett (MS)

Significant Contribution — Terry & Wade Gillaspie (TX)

N78168 — Miles Green

◆ **Grand Champion Super Custom**



N80836 — Jerry Kirby

◆ **Reserve Grand Champion Super Custom**

◆ **Ladies Choice Award**

◆ **Best Paint**



N80966 — Mark Holliday
◆ **Grand Champion Original**

N80741 — Danny Pitts
◆ **Reserve Grand Champion Original**



N3729K — Steve Roth
◆ **Grand Champion Modified**

N78012 — Jim Roberts
◆ **Reserve Grand Champion Modified**
◆ **Best Polish**



N78204 Wade & Terry Gillaspie
◆ **Best Interior**
◆ **Significant Contribution**



More National Award Photos...



N3820K Rocky Rutter
◆ **Greatest Distance By Swift**



N78109 Pat Hockett
◆ **Best Panel**

Reflections on Swift National

By Jim Roberts

Swift National 2026 is now two weeks in the rearview, and I'm still enjoying it. To take a line from Triple Tree Aerodrome, "Fun, Fellowship, and Hospitality" were the guiding principles, and that second one, "fellowship," is what I enjoyed the most.

Among the good times spent with friends I may only see once or twice a year, enjoying real tasty vittles, and a chance to dance the skies, three experiences stood out for me that define the Swift experience, and what it means to be a "Swifter."

First was the mass formation flight that I led to Crossville Saturday morning. Paul Mercandetti coordinated with the good folks at CSV to arrange parking at their annual airport open house, and they were just thrilled to have some smoke and noise overhead for the spectators. We put together six planes: me, Will Kientz, Paul Mercandetti, Billy Budd, Blake Uhl, and our youngest Swifter, David Probst, with Sandy Mercandetti in his right seat. Tom Gray flew as "Tail end Charlie" to keep an extra eye on traffic for us. The flight came off without a hitch, and the crowd loved the display, as well as meeting the pilots and ogling the Swifts. It was gratifying to see our Swift formation training program paying dividends, and a testament to the skill and proficiency of a group of pilots who seldom get the chance to fly together.

The second special experience was riding right seat with Billy Budd while he flew #2 in the four-ship missing man formation Saturday before dinner. It was a cool and smooth evening...perfect for formation... and while Don Abbott led us around the east Tennessee skies, I had the chance to just relax, soak in the view, and reflect on those friends who have gone West. When Don brought our flight over the Swift Museum at the end of "Taps," Jerry Kirby pulled up into the setting sun leaving a gap between Lead and #4. My vision always gets a little blurry when I look over at that gap, but I know that over time the good memories will help fill it.

Finally Sunday morning came, and I kept company with friends fueling up for the flight home. Dr. Bruce Kaufman's super Swift had a low tailwheel tire, and when it quickly deflated after we aired it up from a compressor, we knew a tube change was in order. Fortunately the FBO had a tube in stock, and after we rolled the plane into the "Ken Coughlin Annex," Scott Anderson provided tools for the operation.

(Continued)



Bruce Kaufman (left) and Bryce Ulmer
celebrate a successful tube transplant.

I was prepared to help, but soon Bryce Ulmer arrived on the scene and I became redundant. With Bryce's help and an assist from Mark Holliday, the job was soon complete, and Bruce was on his way home. No better place to have a flat tire! Watching everyone pitch in to get Bruce in the air drove home the true blessings of our group. Once a Swifter, always a Swifter...how sweet it is!

Executive Director Report

By Scott Anderson

We have recently received two donated Swift projects. Bids are being accepted from SMF members only for these aircraft. The bidding period is in effect until December 17, 2025.

N8050I, serial #4, could be the "oldest flying Swift" in existence. It will require a talented craftsman to restore this Swift. #4 has the original Continental C-85 engine and Beech-Roby propeller that was installed when new at the factory. This airplane has unusual items that are seen only on the earliest Swifts such as Cessna 120 style yokes, corrugated wing-walks and the propeller control crank mounted on the instrument panel. The correct vertical fin and fabric rudder are included.

There are corrosion issues as shown in these photos.



N2349B is also available for bidding. This is a lightly modified Swift with a Continental C-125 engine. The cowling has been modified for down-draft cooling and a door to enter the cabin has been installed. No approvals for these modifications show in the aircraft records but these changes could easily be returned to original configuration. The airframe is very clean and straight making it an excellent candidate for restoration. **See photos on page 8.**

We also have a Set of Thomason Sticks for sale. They have been built by one our most talented members with some minor changes to improve the design. This will require approval to the changes to the STC by the FAA. Available without the STC for \$3,000.00 or with the STC as written for \$3,500.00. **Photo pg. 8 Contact Headquarters for more information on each of these listings.**



**Upper & Right
Photos of Swift Project N2349B
Offered for bids. Details on page 7**

Left is photo of Thomason Sticks offered for bids. Details on page 7.

Contact SMF Headquarters for additional information.

