

SWIFT MUSEUM
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

2025 Event Schedule

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 #10

September 2025

Executive Director Report By Scott Anderson & Pam Nunley



Remembering Ken Coughlin

In last month's issue we reported the passing of Ken Coughlin at the age of 95 in Oklahoma City, OK. Ken was a Charter member of the Swift Museum Foundation (Originally the International Swift Association) since August of 1969 and had played a vital role in the support and growth of our organization from the beginning. Ken enjoyed maintaining, modifying and most of all, flying his Swift, N80744, which he purchased in 1965 and owned until his death.

Ken served on the Swift Parts Committee for many years assisting with various projects. He was well known for his attention to detail and thoroughness in preparing FAA documents for STC and Field Approvals that were unmatched by any others I have seen. Ken also served at length, as our Historian, cataloging, sorting, and recording, countless historical documents, drawings, and data. His work was invaluable. You would be hard pressed to pick up a document or drawing in our building that he hasn't touched.

Ken's contributions to the Foundation were all volunteer. He gave of his time and expense unselfishly all to the betterment of our group. After the loss of his wife, Honor, Ken would make at least two trips per year from his home in Oklahoma City to Athens, spending several weeks each trip volunteering. He was a tremendous help to then Executive Director, Pam Nunley, in picking up Parts Department duties, fielding technical calls from the membership, and countless other duties. Ken was like family.

During Swift National each year, Ken came early and would stay the entire week working in Swift Parts to assist members with parts sales and answer their many questions about their aircraft. Ken shared his knowledge

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

of the Swift willingly helping everyone he could have a better and safer Swift experience.

When I was preparing Serial #3 for display, now proudly hanging in our museum, it was Ken who stepped up and provided the paint materials, new glass and the other items needed to make #3 one of the most popular and significant displays our museum.

I was proud to work beside Ken for eleven consecutive ten-hour days as we assisted AirCorps Library's Ester Aube in scanning thousands of drawings and documents in our technical data files. Those efforts resulted in the protection of our data from loss from potential fire or storms forever and made the availability of the data much more accessible to Swift owners and mechanics for the continued support of the existing fleet. Those efforts also provided the approved data for having "owner produced parts" made when new or used parts were not available.

In 2018, Ken's generosity and dedication to see that the Swift Museum Foundation, Inc. be one of the greatest Type Clubs ever, Ken came forward again. This time making it possible for the Swift Museum Foundation to build the much needed Phase 3 building. Ken donated nearly all the funding required to erect that wing of our new facility. It was dedicated the "Ken Coughlin Annex" officially during our Swift National Convention that year. Ken wasn't looking for recognition or thanks for all of the work or unwavering support he provided over the many years he was with us. That was just simply Ken. A man who deeply cared about the future of the Swift and the people who loved it as much as he did.



I know you're now flying your "Heavenly Swift" Ken.

Your smile and friendship to so many will be sorely missed. You were one of a kind and a special part of our Swift family — Thank you Ken for making our lives a little brighter.

Godspeed dear friend.

Full obituary for Kenneth B. Coughlin, Jr.
<https://www.smithandkernke.com/obituaries/kenneth-coughlin>

Chairman's Report

Paul S. Barnett

We are just a few short days away from the **2025 National Convention** and I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to encourage our Membership to prepare for a wonderful event in Athens, TN October 1st – 5th in our beautiful Museum Facility built by You for You. That being said, let's prepare ourselves along with our aircraft for this wonderful event.



swiftraffle.com



Our **2025 Raffle** has gotten off to a rather sluggish start; it's my personal belief that each of us are pulled in so many different directions with various commitments and obligations throughout the year, we find ourselves not being able to focus. As of this writing, I am asking for your personal attention and consideration to supporting our Museum's largest contributor to our inventory and equally as important to aiding in daily operational expenses.

With the nearly \$2 Billion Powerball Drawing behind us; why not try your hand at winning \$20,000 Cash or a \$30,000 Ly-Con Engine Overhaul Credit; the odds are much more favorable....your investment today will bring significant rewards tomorrow. As of this writing, we have sold a mere 831 tickets of our 2,500 available tickets. (Every Ticket Counts)

See you in Athens 😊 *Sincerely, Paul S. Barnett*

Swift National 2025 — October 1- 5

By Paul Mercandetti

We are almost there. By the time you get this you should be packing! We're so looking forward to seeing everyone and enjoying your company.

We think you'll enjoy the Friday and Saturday night dinner venues. They are a little different this year and should be a lot of fun for sure. Of course, it's all about friends and the great little airplane that brings us all together. After all, who doesn't enjoy getting together for good food and a party?

Please, don't forget your tie-downs! Also, bring your costumes for our "Tennessee Hillbilly" night and "Octoberfest" night if you have something. It will be fun! We're excited to see you SOON!!!

Formation Committee Report

By Paul Mercandetti

If you're planning to attend **Formation Ground School** during Swift National, please come prepared. Time is limited, and time spent flying is much more fun!

New members — please bring proof of insurance. All forms and information can be accessed on flyfast.org.

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

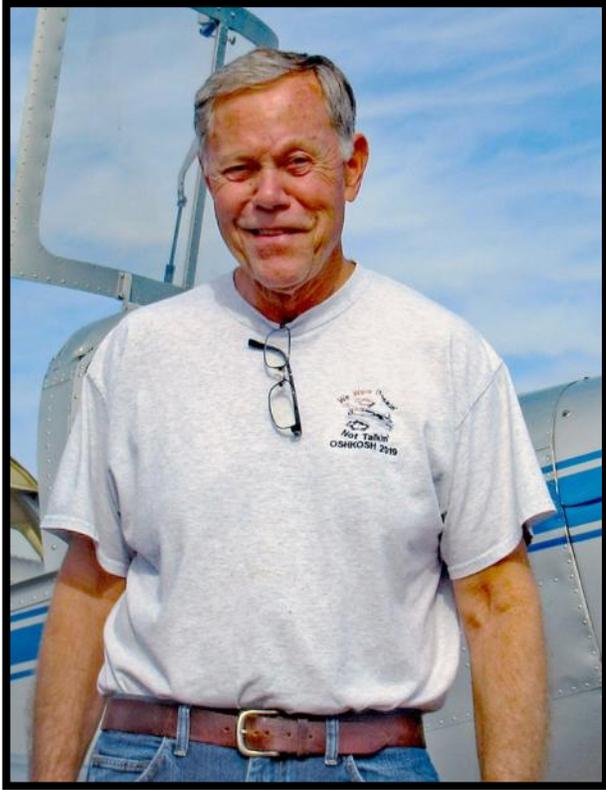


Photo courtesy of Sparky Barnes

VAA Hall of Fame to induct Mark Holliday

Congratulations to our own Mark Holliday! Mark will be inducted into the EAA VAA Hall of Fame on November 12, 2025.

Mark is a charter member of our organization and has been instrumental in almost every aspect of our history. We are delighted to hear this wonderful news! There is no other person more deserving of this honor than Mark. His love for the Swift and aviation coupled with his character and knowledge, has made Mark a beacon for the Swift. Again, Congratulations Mark!

Those wishing to attend the induction ceremony in Oshkosh may learn more at <https://www.eaa.org/eea-museum/eea-museum-events/eea-sport-aviation-hall-of-fame-banquet>, and may register to buy tickets at <https://www.eaa.org/halloffame/register>

Presidents Comments

By Jim "Frog" Jones

I am saddened to report the passing of **Joyce Whittenberger**, wife of Steve Whittenberger, on August 12, 2025 in Boerne, Texas. Steve and Joyce are longtime, very active, members of the Swift Museum Foundation and the Southern Swift Air Group (SSAG). Steve was a member of the Swift Formation Flying group and served as SMF Newsletter Editor for several years. Steve also served on the SMF Board of Directors. Joyce was a active volunteer at Swift National and SSAG events. She introduced Carol and me. What a blessing that was for both Carol and me. Joyce and Carols relationship went back to their time in grade school, in Peru, IN.

The memorial service for Joyce will be at 10:45 AM Friday September 19, 2025 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Pavilion 5, in San Antonio, TX. The burial will take place afterwards in Section I. The short ceremony will begin promptly and last less than 30 minutes. Steve and Joyce are blessed to have their final resting place flanked by graves of two WW II heroes. Afterwards everyone will drive to Boerne for lunch. If you live in the area and would like to attend, please RSVP to Steve's daughter Wendy Bingham cellphone 281 415-7183.



Member Spotlight: Jerry Kirby

By Jim Roberts

If you've been a Swifter for a while, you know Jerry Kirby. If you're new to our family, you should get to know him. I'm proud to call Jerry my friend of over 20 years, and his accomplishments are many. Jerry is a member of the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame, so let's start with their comments: *Jerry Kirby is a long-time staunch and tireless advocate for aviation. He has introduced more than 425 youngsters*



to flying through EAA's Young Eagles Program. He has performed air shows at EAA's AirVenture, Sun N Fun, at Tennessee Aviation Days and in 2017 he flew a Swift at The Paris Air Show in Le Bourget, France. He once flew a Legend Cub from his private airfield (38TN) near Westmoreland, to Fairbanks, Alaska. Kirby holds a Commercial Pilot's Certificate, with Instrument privileges, single-engine land & sea, multi-engine, and glider ratings and is Low-Level Aerobic, Formation Lead and Wingman qualified with more than 9,000 hours of flight time.

Jerry Kirby with Miss Bodacious in her former paint job. Photo by Sparky Barnes

How's that for a resume'? But as they say, "Wait...there's more." Jerry bought his Swift, NC80836, in 1985, and at the time it had a stock canopy and one-piece windshield. Serial number 239 now sports a sliding bubble canopy, control sticks, and a custom fiberglass cowling housing a 180 HP Lycoming O-360. The transformation took place in 2003, when Jerry took the plane to Jim Thomason in South Carolina, who installed the sticks, canopy, and new engine.

A proud Swifter shows off his latest investment.





Looking good in the Tennessee sun!

As long as Jerry has owned the Swift she's been named, "Miss Bodacious." Turns out that the former owner, Tom Hartley, bought the plane in 1949 and christened it "Miss Bodacious Brown." in honor of a lady friend. Jerry dropped the last name, and she's been "Miss Bodacious" for the last 40 years. Once white with red trim, Miss Bodacious got a makeover this summer, and now shines in a red, white and silver-grey livery. According to Jerry, after Swift guru Bo Mabry installed a new fiberglass cowling last Spring, paint was necessary. Rather than just paint the new cowling.....well, you know the story.



Jerry keeps the Swift on his 1,900' grass strip, Sugar Grove Airport (38TN) in Westmoreland, Tennessee, about 35 miles northeast of Nashville. Keeping company with the Swift is a beautiful J-3 Cub. His lovely and gracious wife, Linda, is the beacon that guides Jerry home at the end of every flight, and he's one blessed man indeed!

Jerry and Linda enjoying the annual hangar party in Bowling Green, KY.

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

2nd Prize



02™ Mach 1
Aviator Smartwatch

3rd Prize



GARMIN
aera® 660

4th Prize



Apple iPad Mini

5th Prize



BrightLine Bags®
54 SWIFT Modular Gear Bag

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

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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.

Welcome To Our New Members!

Steve Sims

Georgia

Wes Williams

Georgia

Paula Thomas

Tennessee

Robert Thomas

Illinois

Wayon Collins

Tennessee