

SWIFT MUSEUM  
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

## 2025 Holiday Schedule

**Christmas & New Year**  
Closed  
December 24th  
through  
January 5th 2026

**Sun-N-Fun**  
April 14-19  
Lakeland, FL

**Swift National 2026**  
May 13—17  
Granbury, TX

**AirVenture 2026**  
July 20-26  
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.*

# Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.



Volume LVIII Issue #1

December 2025

## Executive Director Report

By Scott Anderson

Winter is now upon us and we at the Swift Museum Foundation Headquarters hope that you enjoyed a very Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

We are still working with AirCorps Aviation on having some new parts made available for your Swifts. Long sought after belly repair parts are among those being looked at. All of the available tooling has been sent to AirCorps for evaluation and the news is good! Some new tooling will need to be made but most everything we have sent appears to be usable.

The quotes that we've received are in line with today's pricing. These new belly repair parts will allow repairs to be made properly without using old salvage parts or scabbed together patches. When properly repaired, with new parts, your aircraft looks good as new, not just fixed up. We are very excited to have AirCorps as a partner enabling us to provide these long awaited parts.

AirCorps quality of workmanship is second to none. These top quality parts will be legal for installation on your certified Swifts. We will give you updates as they occur, but we expect to have these parts in our hands sometime next year.

Discussions for other Swift parts are underway with AirCorps as well. We are encouraged and looking forward to a long and beneficial relationship to provide continued support for your aircraft.

Now, with Christmas and New Year right around the corner we want to remind you that Gift Certificates for your favorite "Swifter" are available just by contacting us here at Headquarters.

It is also time to consider the Swift Museum Foundation for your 501(c)3 2025 tax deductible donation. Your support is the life blood of our organization! We thank you all and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!!!

**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  
Steve Roth

**Formation**

Paul Mercandetti  
Jim Roberts

**Building**

Roger Weber  
Scott Anderson  
Paul Barnett

**IT/Web**

Heather Day

**Aging Aircraft**

Steve Wilson  
Dave Carpenter

**President's Comments**

*By Jim "Frog" Jones*

2025 will soon be behind us. However, there is time to consider helping the Swift Museum Foundation with a year end donation. You can also contribute by purchasing one or more of the **Original Factory Bricks** in memory or in honor of someone important to you, or just for you. **Replica Bricks** are available to purchase as well. Replica Bricks will be placed around the original Globe Flag Pole base at the museum entrance. The Original Factory Bricks are on permanent display in the Museum entry hall. This is a unique and special way to support your organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Now is the time to start making plans for the 2026 Fly-In events, Sun-N-Fun, April 14-19, Lakeland, Florida, Swift National 2026, May 13-17, Granbury, Texas. *(This event is being hosted by several of our Texas members. Many thanks to Barbara Wilson, Pat Hockett and Terry Gillaspie.)* Finishing off the dates we have available at this time is AirVenture 2026, July 20-26, Oshkosh, WI.

There is hope that AirVenture 2026 will allow better parking than Swifts have had in the past. This is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swift and other vintage aircraft, who I am certain would like to have special recognition. Those that arrive together can park together. Perhaps plans should be to arrive at AirVenture the Wednesday or Thursday the week before the fly-in starts, with as many Swifts as possible arriving on the same day. This would better allow for group parking. More information to come as plans are made.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

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**Formation Committee Report**

*By Paul Mercandetti*

It's that time of year again. No, I don't mean office parties. It is time to mail your Proficiency Report and your \$15 Formation dues to Swift Headquarters.

Your Proficiency and payment information will be logged in and the reports will be forwarded to me. I will then get your new Formation card out to you in the mail. One report per year is all that is required for you to stay current. But of course, we want you to fly more than that! Remember, Do Not allow your currency to expire! It's a pain to go thru the motions to renew.

If you are interested in hosting a Formation Clinic in the coming year, please contact me and we will try to make it happen. A class of 2-3 people is ideal for a 2 Ship wing card.

Merry Christmas to all and a healthy and prosperous New Year in 2026.

## Swift National Committee Report

By Paul Mercandetti

**Swift National 2026: Granbury, Texas - May 13-17.** If it's not on your calendar, put it on there now. Steve and Barb Wilson along with their able body team have graciously offered to host Swift National 2026. This event will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the iconic Swift.

If you remember, the Globe Swift was built a few miles north of Granbury, in Saginaw and a few miles east in Grand Prairie for TEMCO. Thus, it is fitting for us to return to the point of origin (or at least close by) to celebrate 80 amazing years. Who knew the Swift would attract such an avid following. With the love and skill level of our current owners and the support of your Swift Museum Foundation it is sure to last another 80 years.

Rooms available at Comfort Suites Granbury 817-579-5559. Cars are available through Enterprise. See last months newsletter for more information.

As we enter this holiday season and we get caught up with all the hype to buy, buy, buy. Let us remember the real reason for the season and take a moment to be thankful for all the blessings in our lives... least of which is our beloved Swift. If you are not a believer, please don't be offended and know that we only wish you the very best when we say Merry Christmas.

## Swift Landing Gear Emergency Extension Check, Verse 2

By Jim Roberts

In last month's newsletter I shared a story of a self-induced problem while performing a test of the emergency landing gear extension system. Among the positive responses I received came a suggestion to emphasize the proper circuit breakers to pull. My article included a checklist I made for performing the procedure, and step 2 says, "Pull the Landing Gear CB." Because most Swifts have a separate CB for the hydraulic pump and one for the landing gear lights, I want to clarify: Pull the "Gear Pump" circuit breaker, or the CB in your plane that powers the hydraulic pump for operating the landing gear.



A portion of Jim's circuit breaker panel, showing the 35 Amp Gear Pump CB, and the 5 Amp Gear Light CB.

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**Jim "Frog" Jones**

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jim@dixie-industrial.com

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**Jim Roberts**

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Founded —1968 by  
Charles E. "Charlie" Nelson

## Swifts in the News

By Jim Roberts

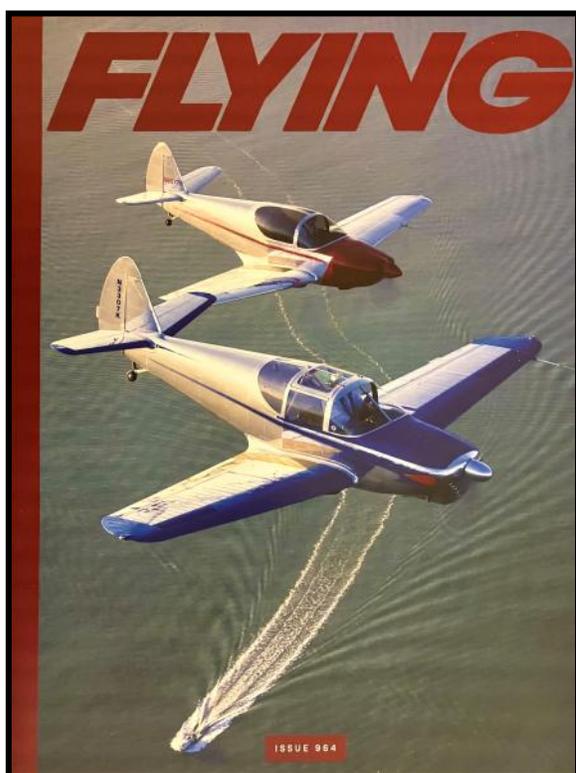
Our Swift family has gotten some great media exposure lately. First, the November 6, 2025 issue of **General Aviation News** featured a story by prolific author, Sparky Barnes. “**Tales From the Swift National Fly-In**” features interviews with many Swifters along with photos of their planes. You can find the pdf copy online at [generalaviationnews.com](http://generalaviationnews.com) by searching under “Print Archives.” The issues are listed chronologically with the oldest dates first, so scroll down the page until you find the 11-6-25 issue. There’s also an online version of the story that has many great photos. You can find that by searching on the General Aviation News website. Click the magnifying glass icon in the upper right corner of the home page to get to the search function, then type in “Swift.”

In its November 2025 issue, **Flying Magazine** features a story on the Swift aircraft and the Swift Museum Foundation. It includes interviews with Vern Rooze, Ron Schmidt, Gary Moore, Paul Mercandetti, and myself. The story is written by Meg Godlewski, technical editor at *Flying*, and I’d like to thank Jim “Frog” Jones, SMF Honorary President, for working with Meg to make this happen. You can find the online story here:

<https://www.flyingmag.com/globe-swift-is-more-than-an-aircraft-its-a-community/>

The print edition of the magazine sports a cover shot of west coast Swifters Denis Arbeu and Bill Stein in formation over San Pablo Bay in San Francisco. Denis is leading, with Bill on the wing. They tell me that the picture is from an air-to-air photo shoot in 2009, with photographer Jessica Ambats shooting from a Citabria. One shot, taken over the Golden Gate bridge, graced the cover of the September 2009 issue of *Plane & Pilot*. Both photos are reproduced here courtesy of the photographer.

It’s always a treat when the media shines a light on our beloved Swift. Thank you to everyone who contributed your time, your personal tales, and your Swift knowledge to make these stories possible!



Denis Arbeu and Bill Stein grace the cover of the November 2025 issue of *Flying* magazine.

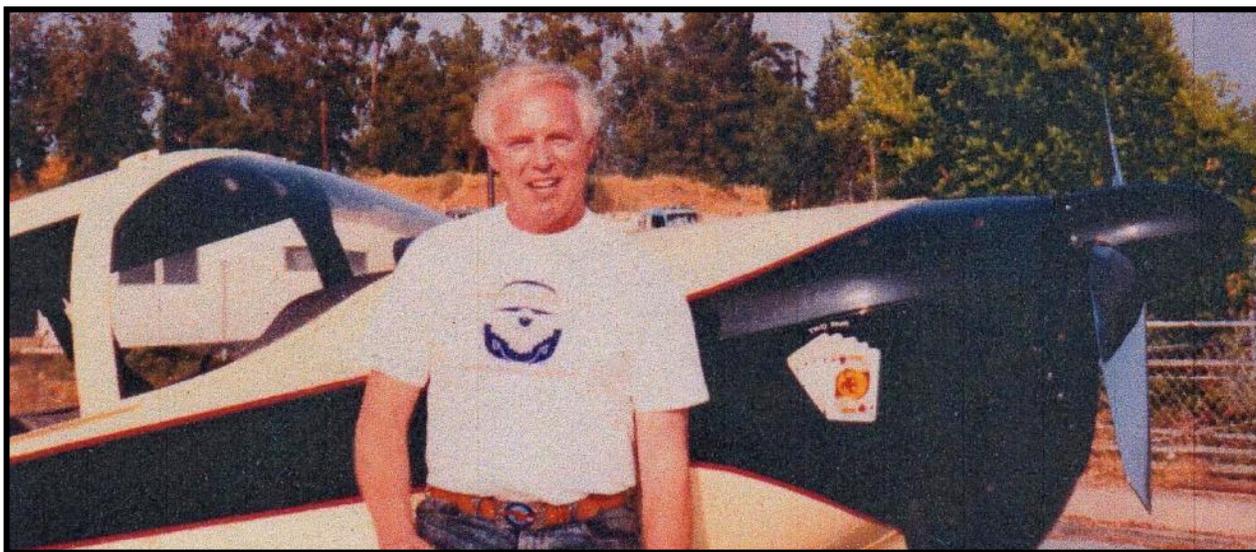
The September 2009 cover of *Plane & Pilot* showcases Denis Arbeu (Lead) and Bill Stein over the Golden Gate Bridge.



## In Memory of Allan Erickson

We are saddened to report the passing of long time SMF member Allan Erickson of Chatsworth, California. Allan and his wife Bonnie own Swift N3232K. Allan was a very active member of the West Coast Swift wing and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bonnie, Allan's entire family, and his many friends. Godspeed dear friend.

Many thanks to Dennis Wittman for sharing a copy of the handout distributed by Bonnie at Allan's QB memorial on Sept. 6th. Below is a portion of that handout.



### ALLAN CARROLL ERICKSON

August 4, 1938 - June 15, 2025

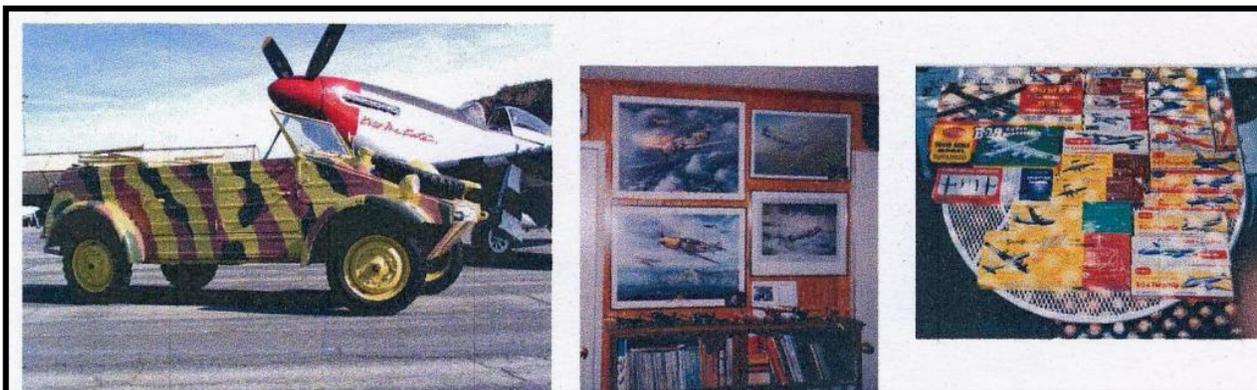
From childhood to adulthood Allan was plane crazy. He ate, drank and slept aircraft. Except for the necessary scotch before dinner.

For several decades he was a model maker at Revell, Inc. and Northrup Grumman. His home is testament to that, as he collected EVERY airplane he made and all it's parts.

He flew several aircraft but a favorite was the Citabria (Champ). Bonnie got her license and they both enjoyed weekend flying maneuvers. In 1984 they bought a 1946 Globe Swift with the advice from friends Denis Arbeau, Buzz Winslow and Gordon Brown, all Swifters.

In 2010 the QB LAX Hangar inducted him, It was a dream of a lifetime come true. And over the last years many great times he shared with all the fellow pilots.

He will be honored today as the Condor Squadron will be setting him free to fly again. He thanks you all.



# SKYWAYS

*Including* **THE FLYING SPORTSMAN**



**EX-GI'S, LEARN TO  
FLY FOR FREE!**

FEBRUARY 1947 **25¢**

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, Swift filled New Year!