

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

2026 Event Schedule

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 #2

January 2026

Executive Director Report

By Scott Anderson

The New Year is off and running. This is always a very busy time for us here at Headquarters. Sue and Paula are finishing up our inventory report for the CPA to prepare our IRS 990 form for 2025. —No small task. We are also filling out the required forms to renew our insurance coverage for our buildings, liability coverage, and Directors and Officers insurance. —Also lengthy and expensive! All this, while at the same time preparing the monthly newsletter and all our other regular monthly duties. I want to thank Sue and Paula for their hard work serving the membership every day. Special thanks to Pam Nelson Nunley for preparing our newsletter each month.

Thanks to our Swift Museum Foundation Board of Directors for volunteering their time and expertise to keep our organization running smoothly and moving forward. Thank you, to the monthly contributors to our Swift newsletter. Without your continued input we would not have much to report. Remember, we appreciate any input from the membership for newsletter articles as well. If you have maintenance tips, photos, or Swift experience stories—please share! They are all welcome and make our newsletter more interesting. Please contribute! I also want to thank our generous donors that make all the difference in keeping the Swift Museum Foundation a strong and healthy organization.

With 2026 just beginning I thought it would be a good time to remind the membership, both long-time and brand new, how far we have come as an organization and give you just a bit of the history of how we began.

Just over 58 years ago Charlie Nelson placed a small ad in Trade-a-Plane asking for anyone interested in becoming part of a Swift owners group. The results of that ad gave birth to “The Swift Association” (and then *The International Swift Association with membership abroad*). On December 7, 1968 Charlie wrote and mailed out the very first Swift Association newsletter to its members. These newsletters provided a monthly update on activities and general helpful information in the “World of the Swift”. Charlie continued to personally write the newsletter for just over 45 years. Since that first issue in 1968 this organization has not missed a single issue! Yes, you read that right... every month for 58 years, no matter what! This is just one of the reasons why **The Swift Museum Foundation, Inc.** is viewed as a premier Type Club.

(Continued)

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

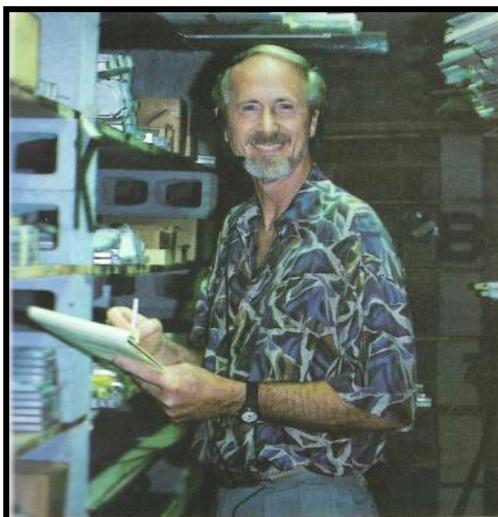
Your current SMF Facilities

It is also a testament to our commitment to the Swift and our membership. So, when you speak to any of the people who make it happen please be sure to remember to thank them as well.

In this issue there are photos of our original Swift museum hangar that housed our museum aircraft and our small, dark, and cold parts department that Joe Ranson and Pam Nunley worked out of for so many years. Charlie Nelson's dream to have a place that supported Swift aircraft began in those old hangars as the newly created Swift Museum Foundation. Charlie and the members of those early years volunteered countless hours and donated dollars with the same pride we have in our new facility today.— Humble beginnings indeed. Due to the continued support of our membership over the years and the same hard work, dedication, and financial support of many—too many to name, but you know who you are, we have grown into the current, incredible, over 18,000 square foot facility we have today. Members and museum visitors alike agree that our Swift Museum Foundation is one of the finest aircraft museums and support systems in the country for the now 80 year old Swifts that we all love. With your support, we continue the mission of preserving the beloved Swift for generations to come. We are extremely fortunate to have had the leadership of Charlie and many others along the way who made it possible. Without their work and dedication none of this would have been possible. Now... we have the watch.

If you are new to "Swift" make your best effort to visit and see for yourself the operation that is here to help you keep enjoying your Swifts for years to come.

I will end by saying **Thank you**, to all of our Swift members, past and present, who understand how special this little airplane is and how it brings us all together as truly a Swift "family". Wishing you all a Happy and safe New Year.



Left:
*Former parts guy
Joe Ranson in the old
Swift Parts hangar in
1995.*



Right:
*Just one shelving area in
the present day Swift
Parts Department.*



Old Swift Museum

Old Swift Parts
& Office Hangar

First Museum

After
improvements

The birth of The Swift Museum Foundation!

With a dream, dedication, perseverance, and giving of time and resources your Swift Museum Foundation is proof that great things can be accomplished! Thank you to every single one, past and present who has had a hand in this mission.. Now, it's your chance to be a part of the future of the Swift.

Swift National Committee Report Swift National 2026 — Granbury, Texas — May 13-17

By Paul Mercandetti

May 13-17— Is it on your calendar yet? I hope so. If you haven't made your hotel reservation yet (**Comfort Suites Granbury 817-579-5559**) you better do it soon before the block fills up and the price goes up. Don't forget, we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of our beloved little bird and we're expecting a great turnout! Cars are available through Enterprise and there will be busses for the activities. There is so much to do in the Dallas - Fort Worth area that you may want to get there early or stay late for additional sites. I'm planning on visiting my old stomping grounds in Mineral Wells (Miserable Gulch) where I attended the U.S. Army Primary Flight School a hundred years ago. ; They have a museum there now if anyone is interested.

Barb and Steve have a night on the town planned for "Cow Town" so bring your boots and lets have some fun. Of course, there will be our usual fanfare of activities like the Formation Clinic, Safety and Maintenance forums. There will also be, what has become a popular event, the Tactical Route just to name a few. If you have any ideas of some fun things to do, let us know soon and we will try to incorporate them into our schedule.

Formation Committee Report

By Paul Mercandetti

This week I am starting the process of sending out current formation cards. Thanks to all of you who have sent in your Proficiency Reports and Formation dues. We started the new year off right with a formation flight on day one. I hope you are having fun with your formation skills.

Next month FAST will be meeting at the NWOC conference and there are usually some things that apply to us that come out of that meeting. In the meantime keep flying and hone those skills and remember.....

Checkspeedgeardownlandingchecklist (all one word)

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



A partial view of the beautiful Swift Museum aircraft display today.