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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

## 2026 Event Schedule

**Swift Museum  
Summer Break**  
Closed  
July 20-25th

**AirVenture 2026**  
July 20—26  
Oshkosh, WI

**Triple Tree**  
Sept. 21-17  
Woodruff, SC

**West Coast Swift Wing**  
Sept. 23—27  
Jackson, CA

*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 #8

July 2026

## HELP WANTED!

**swiftraffle.com**

**Only 58 days until the drawing —  
you must be “in it to win it”**

Only **358** of the **2,500** available tickets have been sold so far. Now is the time for every member to help by reaching out to friends and family. Supporting the Swift Museum Foundation is easy—but making the 2026 Raffle a success will take all of us.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Text your contacts:** Include swiftraffle.com so they can click the link and enter.
- **Talk with friends:** Do not assume they know tickets are available.
- **Share the digital flyer:** Send the flyer and swiftraffle.com link by email, text, and social media.

**Prefer to pay by cash or check?** Send your ticket information and payment to Swift Headquarters. Your information will be entered, and ticket details will be emailed. Please include your email address with payment.

I hope each of us will actively promote ticket sales for the 2026 Raffle Campaign. This raffle is our museum's greatest source of income and directly helps put parts on the shelves for our beloved Swift.  
*Paul S. Barnett*

**We are about 380 tickets away from breaking even.  
Please help today!**



**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

**Swift National 2027, AirVenture 2026, etc. Report and Info**

*By Paul Mercandetti*

I'm sitting here wondering how can we top the fantastic Swift National event we experienced this year in Granbury? Fortunately, we have some time to think about it. We are open to and will entertain your ideas if you are interested in hosting Swift National 2027. We will then work with you and your timeframe. Until we have a committed host elsewhere, it looks like a Swift Museum headquarters event in Athens, Tennessee, fall of 2027.

What's next on our agenda? Oh yes, **AirVenture 2026!** It looks like a banner year for Oshkosh. We (The Swift) are not the only ones celebrating 80 years of existence. After WWII a lot of companies resumed making airplanes for the civilian market. As the country fell into a recession a lot of those companies went out of business. Even though the companies died their airplanes did not. Those iconic airplanes like the Swift, Luscombe, Navion and more continued to thrive thru the efforts of their owners and eventually the type clubs they created. We are fortunate to be looked upon as a premier type club largely due to the efforts of Charlie Nelson and the involvement of a dedicated, hands-on, membership. Those efforts brought forth the Swift Museum Foundation we enjoy today.

In light of the fact that we will be sharing OSH with other aircraft celebrating 80 years such as Navion and Luscombe, get their early in order have a shot for a decent parking spot. There is no reserved parking.

We will have a table at the Vintage type club building. Stan Price will not be able to attend this year as he is recovering from back surgery. We wish Stan well. He has been a mainstay for us at OSH for many years and will definitely be missed this year. Stan has asked Barb Wilson and myself to secure a good place up front. I'm not that lucky so I'll let Barb do the spot raffle. She is always a big help to us!

The **Swift Dinner** will be **Tuesday evening at the "Mineshaft Restaurant". Happy Hour at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00.** Please stop by the Type Club desk and sign up so we have a seating count. Also, let us know if you need a ride or have extra seats in your vehicle to help out.

The **Swift Forum** is scheduled for **Wednesday morning at 08:00** and will be conducted by Dave Carpenter. You can also volunteer to man the desk for an hour or so. This can be a good way to connect with other Swifters as well.

**Formation Committee Note:** FAST will be conducting a Board of Directors meeting and Check Pilot meeting on Thursday. Jim Roberts, Don Abbott, Sandy and myself will be there to represent you. If you have any questions for FAST contact one of us, we are there for you.

**Kientz T-35**—This year, not only are we celebrating 80 years of the Swift but our infamous father and son team, Bill and Will Kientz, will finally have their T-35 Buckaroo completed and on display. Congratulations guys! It has been a long but worthwhile process that many of us followed on Facebook. Come by and see this amazing bird. You can also help in keeping those fingerprints off it. Swifters know better but you can help keep others from trying. I'm sure Will and Bill will appreciate it. Their Buckaroo will be on display in the Warbird area and at the Vintage Circle (not sure what day, check with us when you get there).

**Triple Tree** is coming up September 21-17 as well as other events. Also, we have had some interest in a Northeast Tour this fall. It may be a little late to plan for this year but we're looking into it. It would have to be a small group as space is limited during leaf peeping season.

## **New Members Welcome To The Swift Family!**

**Dan Dawson — Chico, CA**  
**Michael Payne — Sequim, WA**  
**Adrian B. Ryan — Anchorage, AK**

**We will be closed next week during Oshkosh/AirVenture.  
July 20th thru 25th.**

## **In Memory of John Davis, Jr.**

We are saddened to report the passing of long time Swift member and friend John Davis of Gainesville, Georgia on April 24th, 2026.

John was a very active and supportive member for many years along with his son Lee (N Little Rock, AR) Lee is also a Swift member and is the owner of Swifts N80730 and N78121. John is pictured below with his very nice Swift N2361B.

John retired from Northwest Airlines after a 35 year career. He later served as a flight instructor at Gainesville's Lee Gilmer Memorial airport.

Our thoughts go out to Lee and John's entire family as well as his many friends.



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

## Verne Liddle's Globe Swift

*Copyright Sparky Barnes*

On a recent fuel stop at Ingersoll Airport (KCTK) at Canton, Illinois, a gentleman walked across the ramp, eyes focused on a sparkling Swift that sweltering summer day. We exchanged greetings and discovered he was a longtime Swift owner.



During our conversation, Verne Liddle said he remembered receiving a letter from Charlie Nelson, asking whether Verne would be interested in joining a new organization for Swift owners. Verne thought that was a great idea, and he joined in 1968.

Verne, a career pilot, was type rated in the C-46. He also flew DC-8s. He bought N80892, serial number 295, on January 23, 1960. Through the years, he owned other airplanes as well, including a Cessna 150 and a Stinson. Those he let go, but the Globe Swift was the one he held on to for 63 years. When he bought it, it was an 85-hp Swift that had dual brakes.

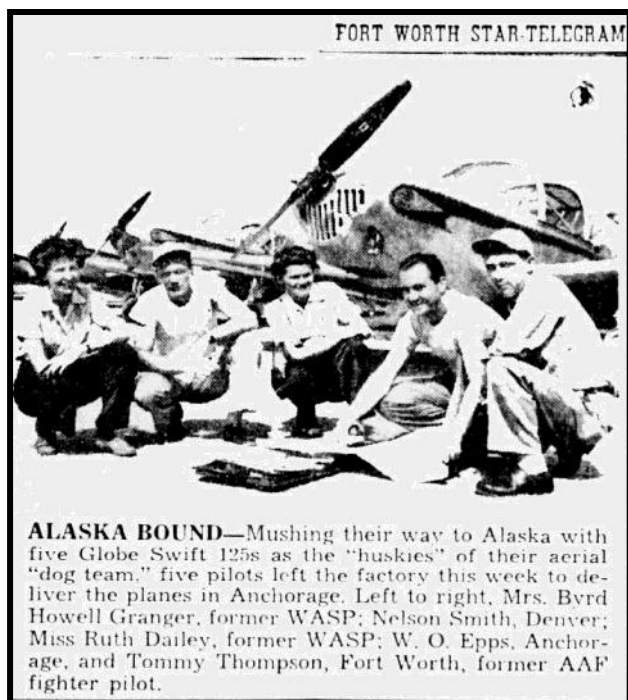
Verne converted it to a 125 in 1961, and it had an

Aeromatic prop. Later on, he added the longer gear doors, a 9-gallon aux tank in the belly, and the Corben faux wing tip “tanks.”

He sold N80892 on March 23, 2023. “I owned it 63 years and never put a scratch on it,” Verne said, “Two weeks after I sold it, it was wrecked.”



Records show that the Swift was destroyed at Belen, New Mexico (KBRG) on May 7, 2023. The NTSB report stated, in part: “The pilot reported that while taking off, the wind shifted to a strong quartering tailwind. The airplane settled to the ground and the propeller contacted the runway before the landing gear could be extended by the pilot. The pilot and passenger exited the airplane unharmed. The airplane was destroyed by the postcrash fire.”



Recalling some of N80892's earlier history, Verne said “two women pilots ferried the Swift to its new owner in Alaska, and there is a newspaper article about that.”

The article reported that the 3,000-mile flight from the factory in Fort Worth, Texas, to Anchorage was being flown by three men (Nelson Smith, W. O. Epps, and Tommy Thompson) and two former WASP pilots (Mrs. Byrd Howell Granger and Miss Ruth Dailey). The pilots were checked out at the factory by W. G. Fuller (assistant vice president) and W. A. Wareing (export sales rep). Their planned route followed the Alcan Highway to Fairbanks and then to Anchorage, with stops including Great Falls, Montana and Edmonton, Alberta.

N80892 was operated by at least four owners in Alaska, before it went to a new owner in Wisconsin in December 1953. It changed hands four more times during the next six years. Then it went to Illinois, Michigan, and back to Illinois, and wound up in the capable and caring hands of Laverne M. Liddle of Canton, Illinois.



*Photos copyright Sparky Barnes*

What a pleasure it was to listen to Verne's treasured memories, and see the photograph of his airplane that was pinned to the bulletin board inside the office building. Next time you're at the Swift Museum Foundation, look in front of the Globe flagpole for Verne's engraved brick. Just think of all the Swift stories that could be shared, if only those bricks could speak!

## Pictures From our Past

*By Jim Roberts*



*An early photo of the Globe GC-1, licensed in March 1942.*

This month I want to share some photos from the Swift Museum's copies of *The Globe Beam*, the in-house magazine of Globe Aircraft Corporation, published from August 1942 through April 1946.

From the first issue in August 1942, we have a photo of the Globe GC-1, which was captioned, "A Streamlined Speedster of the Skyways-Globe Aircraft's GC-1." The photo accompanied a story titled, "Winning War Comes First, Production of the Swift Halted For The Duration." The article

tells how the Globe plant is being converted to military aircraft production, and notes that Globe already has orders amounting to over \$1,000,000 for the Swift (over \$20,000,000 today). The GC-1 is described as having an 80-hp Continental engine, and a landing gear that, when retracted, is fully enclosed. According to the article, the aircraft featured "split type, manually-operated flaps, mounted on the trailing edge of the wings and making possible steeper glides angle and shorter, slower landings."

Our next two photos are from the Christmas 1945 issue in an article titled "War Heroes Visit Globe." Highlighting Globe's affinity for pairing fighter aces with the post-war GC-1A, the first photo is captioned, "America's top living air ace, Col. Francis Gabreski of Oil City, Pennsylvania, who has 28 planes destroyed in the air to his credit, is shown with the group on the Swift assembly line."



*Army Air Corps ace Colonel Francis Gabreski visiting the Globe plant in late 1945.*

The second photo is captioned, "Col. John D. Landers of Joshua, Texas, who has an enemy plane destruction score of 36 ½ (14 ½ shot down and 22 destroyed on the ground) is shown beside the Swift."

Finally, on a lighter note, from the May 1946 issue we have a photo captioned, "It was his idea – The hub cap name plate which adorns the landing wheels of Globe Swifts was the suggestion of Roy Eichstaedt, Globe distributor at Knox, Indiana. He is shown holding one of the hub plates and kneeling beside a Swift wheel with one in place. Eichstaedt reports many favorable customer reactions after showings of the Swift."



*Roy Eichstaedt shows off a Globe hub cap name plate.*



*Army Air Corps ace Col. John D. Landers with a Globe GC-1A in 1945.*

## **Silent Auction Item Available**

**You have a chance to bid on an item that didn't reach us in time for the  
Swift National 2026 Silent Auction in Granbury.**

**Place your bid for a great price on a set of  
12 Champion Aerospace Massive Spark Plugs**

**Retail price \$1984.00 - Opening Bid \$1000.00**

***Contact SMF Headquarters with your bid. Good luck!***

