

SWIFT MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
223 COUNTY ROAD 552  
ATHENS, TENNESSEE 37303

423-745-9547

EMAIL:  
SWIFTMUSEUMFOUNDATION  
@AOL.COM

WEB SITE:  
SWIFTMUSEUMFOUNDATION  
.ORG

MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

## 2026 Event Schedule

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

**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 #7

June 2026

## Executive Director Report By Scott Anderson

**SMF Board of Directors:** There are five Swift Museum Foundation Board of Directors terms expiring in 2026. Those Board members are Paul Barnett, Chairman, Paul Mercandetti, Vice Chairman, Scott Anderson, Executive Director, Mark Holliday and Sam Swift. Due to the timing of Swift National 2026, all of these Board members have agreed to extend their terms until Swift National 2027 when a new slate of appointees could be nominated and voted on during the annual Business Meeting.

According to the SMF By-Laws, Board member terms are four (4) years or until their successor is elected. If no new members are interested in serving on the Swift Museum Foundation Board, these current Board members have agreed to continue to serve for another term. "Members of the Board shall manage the affairs of the Foundation. Directors shall have the general management and control of the business and affairs of the Foundation and shall exercise all powers that maybe exercised or performed by the Foundation, under Statutes, the Certificate of Incorporation, and the Swift Museum Foundation By-Laws. Nominees for the Swift Museum Foundation Board of Directors must be members of the Foundation, in good standing."

If you or anyone you know may be interested in serving on the Board, please let us know. A full and complete copy of the SMF By-laws can be provided on request. This document will cover the requirements expected from a member to be an effective Director. These are not positions of special recognition but are to have qualified members to represent and work for the Swift Museum Foundation, Inc. in the best interest of the Swift membership.

Having a knowledgeable group of Board members, well versed in business, and the Swift aircraft, all working together, is vital to the long term future of the Swift Museum Foundation.

Be sure to say "thank you" to any of your Board members when you see them for all of their willingness and efforts that they provide to make our organization one of the best aviation groups ever to exist!

**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

**New Swift Parts Available**

Your Swift Part Department has in stock new PMA approved parts for your Swift! Below are just a few of the items we have available to you as a SMF member.

- #2591 — Flat Instrument Panel
- #3624 — Original Instrument Panel
- #16084 — Adel Gear Strut
- #16085 — Adel Gear Strut Bushing
- #2953-1 — Bulkhead—Landing Gear L&R
- #2952-1 — Bulkhead—Landing Gear L&R
- #2301 — Landing Gear Link
- #2302-1 — Actuator Arm
- #2302-2 — Idler Arm/Crank

Remember to check with YOUR Swift Parts Department when you need parts for your Swift....We may be able to help. We stock a full line of Seal Kits as well as Bolt & Bushing Kits for your Swift and these kits supply rebuild for both right and left sides where applicable. There are numerous other items in our stock so check with us first!

We also stock a full assortment of Nuvite Polishing products as well as our own, specially manufactured, Polishing Cloth. So buy it direct from us and support your organization.

We constantly strive to provide you, the membership, with approved, quality, Swift parts. Due to the length of time and costs involved, we invest our efforts in the most needed parts for your Swift.

*A few photos from just a small portion of the Swift Parts department.*



Please come visit and see your facility whenever you have the opportunity.

Swift treasures abound!

## Welcome To The Swift Family!

**Greg Hougen — Colorado**  
**Fabian Schouten — Germany**  
**Evan Levesque — Washington**  
**Ed Burke — California**  
**Allen L Goodwin — Kansas**  
**Willie Cove — Washington**  
**John Reid Howell — Texas**  
**Christopher Delbart — France**  
**Brandon Henderson — California**  
**Andrew Malousek — Colorado**  
**Dustin Hollis — Kentucky**  
**Qualiutair — Germany**  
**Baxter Keller — Connecticut**  
**David Green — South Carolina**  
**David Bertus — Texas**  
**Adam Shelton — Iowa**  
**Mark Lynn — Michigan**  
**Andrew Skallerup — Wisconsin**  
**Wil Goette — Georgia**  
**Dana Thomason — Texas**

## In Memory Charles Hopkins



We are saddened to learn of the passing of long time Swifter and friend Charles Hopkins of Waushougal, Washington. Charlie had been a Swift member since March of 1972. He was always very active with and supportive of the Swift organization and will be greatly missed.

To our knowledge no services have been planned at this time. However, there may be something at Grove Field later in the summer. We will keep you posted.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Phyllis and his entire family and many friends. Godspeed dear friend.

## Board of Directors

### Chairman

**Paul Barnett**  
 P. O. Box 546  
 Brookhaven, MS 39602  
 pbarnett@pbniisan.com

### Vice Chairman

**Paul Mercandetti**  
 4716 Buffat Mill  
 Knoxville, TN 37914  
 mercandettipaul@gmail.com

### Scott Anderson

779 Highway 39 East  
 Athens, TN 37303  
 swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com

### Norm Fox

1138 Hitchhike Trail  
 Maryville, TN 37803  
 norm.fox99@gmail.com

### Mark Holliday

P. O. Box 243  
 Lake Elmo, MN 55042  
 markh85@aol.com

### Jim Roberts

P. O. Box 11744  
 Knoxville, TN 37939-1744  
 jim.roberts7804@outlook.com

### Sam Swift

702 Mickelson Way  
 Lebanon, TN 37087  
 flyboycpa@aol.com

### Roger Weber

757 Luscombe Street  
 Independence, OR 97351  
 rogermichaelweber@hotmail.com

### Steve Wilson

9606 Taxiway Drive  
 Granbury, TX 76049  
 stevewilson@aol.com

### Executive Director

**Scott Anderson**  
 779 Highway 39 East  
 Athens, TN 37303  
 swiftmuseumfoundation@aol.com

### Honorary President

**Jim "Frog" Jones**  
 1061 Devon Drive  
 Madison, GA 30650  
 jim@dixie-industrial.com

### Historian

**Jim Roberts**  
 P. O. Box 11744  
 Knoxville, TN 37939-1744  
 jim.roberts7804@outlook.com

Founded —1968 by  
 Charles E. "Charlie" Nelson

## The Fellowship of the Swift

*By Jim Roberts*

As the muddy Mississippi slides by a mile below, the Continental hums happily while the sun glints off “Silver Belle’s” wings. Up ahead at one o’clock, Don and Alpha Abbott in Swift N767DK lead the way. Not far behind in my 5 o’clock, Paul and Sandy Mercandetti in Swift N84799 faithfully follow along. My copilot, (with his Swift down for maintenance) Jerry Kirby, rounds out our cadre. The “Tennessee Pterodactyls” are bound for Texas.



*The Tennessee Pterodactyls: (L to R) Don Abbott, Jim Roberts, Paul Mercandetti, and Jerry Kirby.*

As we sail along in the smooth blue sky, I’m buoyed by the sight of my traveling companions and honored by their friendship. Don was an Air Force C-130 aircraft commander, later retired as a Boeing 777 captain with American airlines, and is based in Gallatin, Tennessee. Paul, my Knoxville hangar mate, flew the UH-1 “Huey” in Vietnam and saved over 1,500 lives flying “Dustoff” medevac missions. He retired as a captain with US Airways. Jerry Kirby, with over 9,000 flight hours, is a member of the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame. Jerry was an accomplished air show pilot and remains a staunch advocate of general aviation, having flown over 500 Young Eagle missions. He flies

his Swift and a J-3 Cub from his grass airfield near Westmoreland, TN. Then there’s me; twenty-one years in the USAF, twenty years at American airlines, and, eclipsing those timelines, twenty-eight years as a “Swifter.”

So why “The Tennessee Pterodactyls?” Jerry came up with that, because, as he explains, “We’re all over 70 years old, we’ve all been flying over fifty years and are FAA master pilots, and we fly 80 year old airplanes.” Yep,

seems to fit. Despite the fanciful moniker, we take formation flying seriously, practice frequently, and often fly for civic events in Tennessee and Kentucky, performing flybys and missing man formations.

Our formation group follows a pattern begun nearly thirty years ago when I lived in California and flew from



*Paul Mercandetti and N84799*

Sonoma Skypark, north of San Francisco. Denis Arbeau, Tom Numelin, and Jim Robison kept their Swifts at nearby Schellville Airport, and we began “Formation Thursday,” joining together almost weekly for flights over Sonoma and Marin Counties, often venturing over the Golden Gate Bridge. The debrief almost always included good food and adult beverages.



**Gerry Hampton with his Super Swift, N78057**

Besides flying with my Schellville buddies, I often joined up with Gerry Hampton and Wally Boeck (both based near Sacramento), and Don Bartholomew from Nevada. We'd meet at Rancho Murieta Airport, brief the flight, go wring ourselves out, and land for lunch at Auburn Airport, north of Sacramento. Sadly, Tom, Wally and Don have flown West, but they live on in memories of those golden afternoons.



**Marine Colonel Wally Boeck, with “Maximus”.**



**Don Bartholomew in his element.**

Do you see a thread here? It's all about the gift of flight and the fellowship of the Swift; a blessing to us all that will grace the skies for years to come. Come join us in Oshkosh to celebrate the Swift's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. You'll be glad you did.

**Don Abbott over the green dot at Oshkosh**





**Billy Budd's Swift N191K** at Swift National 2026, Granbury, TX sporting its sharp USA themed paint job! Especially fitting during our great country's 250th birthday celebration. *Photo copyright Sparky Barnes.*