

SWIFT MUSEUM
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

2026 Event Schedule

Hopkinsville, KY (KHVC)
May 30th
Dustin Hollis 601-718-7575
Swifts Welcome!

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 #6

May 2026

Executive Director Report

By Scott Anderson

Exciting parts news! We are expecting to have our **#1400-1 Bulkheads**, **#3230-1 Bulkheads**, **#1392-900 L&R Longerons**, and our **#2792-7 Longerons** in stock soon. These are the long awaited belly parts that are commonly damaged in gear up accidents.

For years it has been necessary to cobble together repairs to these parts in order to get aircraft flying again. Now, we will be able to perform proper repairs with replacement parts making the airframe as good as new. Our vendor for these parts is again AirCorps Aviation. We have worked with AirCorps before and they always provide the highest quality parts as per our approved factory data. We hope to have these on the shelf by the end of this month.

The next project we are working with AirCorps on is the Swift **heat muff assemblies**. These are for the straight stack exhaust on the Continental C-125/C-145 engines. There has been great demand for these and AirCorps believes making them for us should not be a problem. Hopefully, this will eliminate difficult repairs to badly worn out muffers or having to search for replacements that are just "better than what you have"....Nothing beats new stuff!

Finding capable vendors that can properly produce parts for us is extremely difficult. AirCorps has been excellent to work with. I, for one, would like to have them provide as many of our needed parts as they are willing to make.

We have just received new **original style and flat replacement style instrument panels** from our vendor in Wichita. These have been a long time coming and unbelievably, no price increase! Both styles in stock. Order now and we can get them right out to you.

We have placed an order for more of the new style welded **actuator arms** made for us by McFarlane Aviation. Landing gear items continue to be a major focus for us to keep your Swifts flying. No matter if you need them for normal wear and tear or for damage replacement, let us know what you need. We're working hard to stock these vital items that can keep your Swift grounded.

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

Another run of **beaded wing skins** are also on order. These should be ready within the next month or two.

The Swift Museum Foundation is investing a great deal in order to make these parts (as well as many others) available to our members to support your Swifts. So, please remember to contact SMF/Swift Parts with all your parts and maintenance needs. Whether its parts, polishing materials, or even Swift Merch (shirts, hats, etc.), contact us. We may just have what you need. We appreciate your support...That helps us keep supporting you!!!

Swift National 2026 Fly-in & Convention Report

by Paul Mercandetti

What a ride!!! Another successful Swift National under our belts thanks to Barb and Steve Wilson and their excellent team. How exciting to celebrate 80 Years of our amazing Swifts!

We had a great turnout from both the east and the west, as well as many points in between. If you weren't able to join us, you missed a great one.

As always, Barb did a fantastic job in making sure that we were treated to some of the best Texas food and fun in the Lonestar state! The venue on the water, along the Brazos River, was excellent and was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. I feel everyone will agree, the camaraderie with Swift friends was the icing on the cake. We are proud to be, most definitely, a Swift family!

Flying during Swift National was a bit of a challenge. As they say, "if you wait for the wind to die down in Texas you'll never get a chance to fly"—and windy it was. Despite the wind we were able to get a few flights in. Other than a little wind, the weather could not have been better—Not too hot, not too cold. As a bonus, getting there was a breeze from the east or the west.

One of the highlights of our Saturday evening banquet was the annual Missing Man Formation pass. This is always a very special part of our Swift National event when we honor those who have "gone west" during the past year. This is a way for us to honor and say a final thank you to those who have faithfully cared for the Swift and supported this organization.

The "Tactical Route" event was a hit for those of us who dared to try our luck at primary navigation. I think we are all a little rusty and spoiled with our modern electronic gadgets. But it was great fun embarrassing ourselves. It could be a good challenge to refresh your navigation skills the "old fashioned way".

As always, it was a joy to see our fellow "Swifters" congregated together to celebrate 80 years of this wonderful little airplane. Whether you were just hanging out sharing Swift stories, spending some flying time, attending forums, or enjoying some good Texas food, all can agree... it was a great event. Thanks again, to our Texas team! You have set the bar high for Swift National 2027!

Swift National 2026 Award Recipients

Grand Champion Original — N78171 - Shane LoSasso (AZ)

Reserve Gr. Champion Original — N2397B - Keith Cochran (CA)

Grand Champion Modified — N78012 - Jim Roberts (TN)

Reserve Gr. Champ. Modified — N3783K - Nate Andrews (NM)

Tie: N3876K - Steve & Barb Wilson (TX)

Grand Champion Super Custom — N80973 - Dan Williams (NE)

Reserve Gr. Champ. Super Custom — N3389K - Bruce Kaufman (WI)

Most Original — N78171 - Shane LoSasso (AZ)

Best Interior — N78204 - Wade & Terry Gillaspie (TX)

Best Panel — N3389K - Bruce Kaufman (WI)

Best Paint — N3783K - Nate Andrews (NM)

Best Polish — N3315K - Jerry Bauerle (LA)

Ladies Choice — N90CM - Jim King (OR)

Greatest Distance by Swift - Ernie & Jeanne Hansen (WA)

Greatest Distance by auto - Vicky Moore (MN)

(Awards photos to follow in your June Newsletter)

Swift National 2026 — Celebrating 80 Years of the *Swift* Granbury, TX



Photo courtesy of Jim Roberts

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

Swifts, Swifters, and Fun Moments of Swift National 2026 — Granbury, TX



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Photo courtesy of Barb Wilson



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Formation Committee Report by Paul Mercandetti

We were able to conduct an initial ground school at GDJ during Swift National 2026. Several new members participated as well as some old timers sitting in to refresh their memory. We put up several flights and issued 2 new formation cards. Fortunately, they came well prepared, with prior formation time, and a lot of experience, so we were able to advance quickly. Many thanks! Being well prepared makes all the difference.

We conducted a couple of fly-by's in addition to the Missing Man Formation for the Saturday night banquet. The "Missing Man Formation" downtown, along the Brazos River, in front of the Convention Center, was a bit of a challenge due to the limited area to work. But it went well and I think the towns people enjoyed it as much as we did. At least no one complained, YET. Great job by all involved. The videos were proof positive that it went well.

Any Interest in New Swift Fiberglass Cowls? Submitted by David Wigley

James Aircraft, who manufacture fiberglass cowls for Vans RV aircraft, is in negotiations with Alturair to produce fiberglass cowls for the Swift. Alturair owns the STC and molds for various cowls. Before moving ahead, James Aircraft would like to get some idea of the demand. If you are interested, please contact: **Jimmy Cox at James Aircraft — 512-429-8749 or info@jamesaircraft.com**



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A Very Special Museum Donation

Thank you !

John and Julie Kennedy

**More about this, one of a
kind, part of Swift history in
your next newsletter.**