

SWIFT MUSEUM  
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MCMINN CO. AIRPORT (KMMI)

## 2026—2027 Event Schedule

**Triple Tree**  
Sept. 21-27  
Woodruff, SC

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

**Swift National 2027**  
May 12—16  
Charleston, SC  
Charleston Executive (KJZI)

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 #10

September 2026

*Thank you!*

Once again, you have risen to the occasion in support of the Swift Museum Foundation, Inc. To each and every one of you who stepped up and purchased tickets in support of the Swift, Thank you!

You are the reason we are able to provide parts, promote safety, and preserve the great history of this amazing bird.



**SWIFT MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION**  
ATHENS, TENNESSEE

*Aviation's  
Greatest Little  
Airplane*  
PRESERVE • EDUCATE • INSPIRE

**THE 2026 RESULTS ARE IN!**  
*Congratulations to Our Winners!*

| PRIZE              | WINNER          | AWARD                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GRAND PRIZE</b> | <b>C. Dixon</b> | \$30,000 Engine Overhaul Credit<br>from  <b>OR \$20,000 CASH</b> |
| 2ND PRIZE          | B. Elmore       | \$2,000 CASH                                                                                                                                          |
| 3RD PRIZE          | D. Clark        | \$1,500 CASH                                                                                                                                          |
| 4TH PRIZE          | C. Stanford     | \$750 CASH                                                                                                                                            |
| 5TH PRIZE          | J. Johnson      | \$500 CASH                                                                                                                                            |

*Thank You to Everyone Who Supported  
the Swift Museum Foundation!*  
SUPPORTING AVIATION HISTORY

*Congratulations to all our winners!*

**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

**Executive Director Report**

*By Scott Anderson*

**Swift up for bids:** —Last month I mentioned a very nice late model TEMCO, GC-1B, N2436B that was generously donated by the family of long time member George Dahler. We are now accepting bids for this Swift.



The aircraft is complete except for the original wing-tips. The family reports that it was last flown in the 1980's but the logbooks have been lost. The airframe is very clean on the inside

however there is surface corrosion on the upper surfaces of the outside skins. It is equipped with a Continental O-300-D, also with the logbooks missing. A 9-gallon Temco aux fuel tank and Temco leading edge landing lights are installed.



This Swift could be returned to airworthy condition by the right person, willing to perform an extensive inspection on the airframe and engine. Mr. Dahler purchased N2436B in 1966 and was hangered the entire time in Monterey, California. We are looking for someone that, like us, wants to see this Swift fly again!



If this Swift interests you, contact us here at SMF for more information and place your bid. There is a reserve that must be met. "Low ball" bids will not be considered. We will be accepting bids from current Swift Museum Foundation members only. Bidding will be open for thirty (30) days after the publication of this newsletter.

**2026 Raffle** —We want to express a sincere Thank You to everyone who participated in the 2026 Swift Museum Foundation Raffle!

On an interesting note... Every winner this year is a current SMF member. That has never happened in the history of our raffles. So, please enter again next year. It could be your turn to be a winner!!!

## Swift National 2027 Update

*By Paul Mercandetti*

We have been in communication with Swift member **Peter Boroughs** who has graciously volunteered to host our 2027 Swift National Fly-in & Convention in the beautiful and historic city of **Charleston, South Carolina!** Our host airport will be Charleston Executive (KJZ).

### Save the Dates — May 12—16, 2027

Peter is busy making plans for your arrival next May and all indications point to a fantastic time...You don't want to miss this one! Mark your calendar and make your plans for great time of Swifts, flying, and friends in the Palmetto State!

We will keep you posted as we have more information to share pertaining to lodging, activities, etc. Watch your next newsletters for more details.

### New Members

#### Welcome To The Swift Family!

**Max Schlise — Texas**

**Jeff Parker — Oregon**

**Charles Henry Legasti — California**

**Paul Zemboy — Alaska**

## Formation Committee Report

*By Paul Mercandetti*

A FAST Board of Directors and Check Pilots meeting was held at Oshkosh again this year. Most notable at this meeting was that the FAA will begin their audit of signatories this year. If you have flight documentation you would like to have added to your file please send it in. Other business of note, Michael Rutledge was voted in as Vice President as Scott York is stepping down.

A group of Warbird pilots from Canada are also petitioning to become a signatory in FAST. Something that has not directly affected us but we need to be aware of is mixing cards with ICAS. They do not have the same level of formation training that we have despite their aerobatic expertise. FAST, FFI and ICAS all need to be on the same page to work safely together. If you fly with other entities please be sure to conduct a detailed briefing & debriefing.

At the Check Pilots meeting plans were made for the 2027 NWAK, Sun-n-Fun and Oshkosh events. Some discussion on FF&P verbiage on pilot license vs sport pilot license and medicals. A sport pilot cannot accept fuel for an air-show performance. Once again, someone brought up "FAST is for warbirds all others FFI". Nothing further became of it.

## Board of Directors

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

## Something to Smile About

*By Jim Roberts*

**This story originally appeared in “AirVenture Today,” and is reproduced courtesy of EAA.**

If you spy a sporty little plane with a cheshire-cat grin at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026, chances are it's the “Smiley Face” grill of a Globe Swift. This hallmark of the aircraft, along with sleek lines and leading edge wing slots, seems to say, “Hey friend, let's go have some fun.” And as they celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of their beloved little bird, that's exactly what Swift caretakers are doing.

The sporty craft was born in 1946 when Globe Aircraft Corporation rolled out the GC-1A Swift. Shortly after, Globe replaced the 85-HP GC-1A with the 125-HP GC-1B, and orders poured in. To keep up with demand Globe issued a production subcontract to TEMCO (the Texas Engineering and Manufacturing Company). Later beset with dwindling demand and financial challenges, Globe went bankrupt in 1947; TEMCO bought the assets and continued production until August 1951. Ultimately 911 Swifts came off the Globe line, and 586 were built by TEMCO, for a total of 1,497 aircraft.

Today, “Swifters” (the self-proclaimed moniker for Swift owners) are supported by the Swift Museum Foundation (SMF), which owns the type certificate and provides parts and expertise to keep the airplanes flying. SMF members number over 600, representing nearly 450 aircraft worldwide, including aircraft in Europe, South America, Canada, South Africa, and even Russia.

It's said that, “Swifts are like snowflakes; no two are alike.” Some have been modified to include higher horsepower engines, control sticks to replace the original wheels, and a sliding bubble canopy. Many cherish the originality of a stock Swift, and some owners, like my wife and I, have found a “sweet spot” between originality and high-performance; our bird is mostly original while concealing a 210-HP Continental behind a modified nose.

Swifts of all varieties can be found at AirVenture this week, and I'd like to introduce some of my friends and their airplanes.

Paul and Sandy Mercandetti's 1946 GC-1B is parked with “The Class of '46” across from the Vintage Aircraft Association Red Barn. Paul acquired the Swift in 2000 as a project and recalls, “We took a



basic airframe and found a wing from one airplane, a wing from another, tail feathers from another. Found an engine in a box, pulled it out, mounted it up, and used it to set all the baffling and cowling, and built an instrument panel.” The restoration included a 210-HP Continental that Paul artfully fit behind the original “Smiley Face.” Paul and his wife Sandy enjoy formation flying in their Swift, and they're both check pilots with the Swift Formation Committee.

***Sandy and Paul Mercandetti with the 1946 GC-1B Swift that Paul restored.***



Doctor Bruce Kaufman is a retired pediatric neurosurgeon, so the gent's got some smarts; his immaculately-polished 210-HP "Super Swift" reflects that. Sporting dual control sticks, a sliding bubble canopy, 210 -HP Continental engine and a 21<sup>st</sup>-century glass panel, the plane is a real traveler. Bruce says, "This year's project is trying to hit all 48 states and I've got 31 down."

*Dr. Bruce Kaufman and his "Super Swift."*

Like Bruce, Terry and Wade Gillaspie love traveling with their Swift, having flown the plane nationwide; even to Alaska. Wade gets impressive speed out of the 145-HP engine, typically cruising at 150 MPH. He explains, "I think the aerodynamics have a lot to do with it. I've spent a whole lot of time working on engine baffling and cowling and fit trying to get all the cooling air drag off of it." The couple have become lifelong friends with other Swifters, and Terry remarks, "It's a true blessing to be with all these people, and they fill my heart. We have more young guys and girls coming into the program and we're excited about that."



*Terry and Wade Gillaspie with their traveling Swift.*



*The Swift is a favorite of Evan Pearce and copilot Paige Bishop.*

Twenty-four year-old Evan Pearce is one of those young folks. He first spotted his Swift in Columbus, Indiana while getting maintenance done on his Cessna 120. Evan recalls, "I saw the Swift and I said, 'I have to own that airplane.'" After selling the Cessna and pooling his resources in 2022, the Swift was his. Evan says, "It's been an incredible airplane. It's vintage...The ramp appeal's all there... It's a 110 - knot airplane... it's economical. And if I want to go out and have fun I can do light aerobatics. So it doesn't do any one thing perfectly, but it does a little bit of all of them."

Evan and his favorite copilot, Paige Bishop, met in college and now fly for the airlines. When asked how she likes the Swift, Paige enthuses, "Oh my gosh, it's just so responsive and so much fun to just

go out and fly, even on long trips. We've taken it to the Bahamas." She adds, "I don't think there's anybody that could take better care of that Swift. He polishes it every year. I helped last year doing everything under the airplane." To which I replied, "Evan, she's a keeper!"

*Evan Pearce's panel combines the heritage of the Swift with modern conveniences.*



*Jack Albright's grin is almost as wide as his Swift's.*

Jack Albright is all smiles when talking about the Swift he bought in 2022. He says, "I'm on the constant search for all the possible upgrades I can get. I've done the gear doors, the diamond-treaded vintage tires. Just did a whole engine rebuild and I want to put skylights in the top. Got some new radios; anything that's available, it's got to go on. And it's cool, and it's affordable to buy and operate. I've been in and out of 1,200 foot grass strips with it, and I can bring all sorts of stuff. I mean, it does everything."

Jack represents the new generation of Swifters, and he's part of a young group unofficially known as "The Whippersnappers." They include Evan Pearce, Ray Brown, Daniel Probst, and Drew Stewart. I tell Jack they're the future of the Swift and he says, "We're trying our best." Now that's something to smile about.

## **Silent Auction Item Still Available**

You have a unique chance to bid on and win this item that didn't make the Swift National 2026 Silent Auction.

Place your bid today for a fantastic deal on a set of  
**12 Champion Aerospace Massive Spark Plugs**

**Retail —\$1984.00 - Minimum Bid —\$1000.00**

*Don't miss out on a great deal. Contact SMF Headquarters with your bid. Good luck!*





*Sun-n-Fun  
2026*

*Just sharing a few great  
Swift photos by  
Sparky Barnes*



*Thank you  
Sparky!*





**Gleaming Swift smiling in the sun!  
We hope you're enjoying some nice fall days flying your Swift.**