

## ***“Thanks Ed”***



This year's 2012 RRSW Fredericksburg, Texas gathering had several special themes. Our first was to thank our valued newsletter editor, Ed Lloyd, for his generous contributions to our RRSW and the Swift community. Ed has been fighting some vision issues and reluctantly sold his Swift since he did not feel comfortable with his vision changing. This past year he advised us that it was becoming more and more difficult to produce our newsletter and alerted us to be on the lookout for a replacement. Ed has left big shoes to fill but Todd Bengtson stepped up and said "I'll do it." Todd is a tremendous photographer and loves his Swift and all types of aviation. He grew up in an aviation family and now owns a Swift and a Cessna 310 which he flies regularly.



Stacy, Todd, Liz, and Robert

The weather for our 2012 event was perfect. 25 Swifts and a Bonanza made the event and most were still on the ramp for the Saturday eve. banquet.



We filled the ramp with Swifts.



Just a little threat of weather Fri. eve

Fredericksburg has a very unique flight line with the hotel and restaurant both being directly on the ramp. Breakfast was available on Friday and Saturday at the Airport Diner, the 1950's décor restaurant, and the "Officer's Club" provided the after supper activity. We were allowed use of the media room just off the O-Club bar and played several DVD's during our Thursday and Friday night social sessions. Alan Dicker's Alaska video was a hit along with his Grand Canyon adventure DVD. We also played Karl Johanson's DVD featuring 2012 Swift Nationals and several other West Coast events. This was another great piece of work. Thanks Alan and Karl. One of my favorite flicks was the "Dawn Patrol" DVD which features the World War 1 era aircraft that Mark Holliday is involved with. We played this several times.



The Officer's Club porch



Airport Diner Logo



The ramp, hotel, restaurant



Carolyn



Fellowship at the Officers Club



Swifts in the Media Room



What a great place



Keith and Sherri



Thursday was an arrival day for many and our evening meal was enjoyed at a local restaurant just off the airport property called “The Cabernet.” 26 Swifters attended and we enjoyed a great time, followed by a retreat to the Officer’s club for our evening social time. Friday yielded a formation refresher clinic in the morning, formation flying throughout the day for some of us and the evening meal at the downtown “Brewery” restaurant. We’ve eaten there before and it’s always great.



The Brewery gang



Brian and Phyllis

Saturday was another busy day. We flew a ten ship touring flight over the Texas hill country and saw several unique sites including the LBJ ranch and Luckenbach, Texas. The afternoon flying yielded Wade Gillaspie completing his four ship formation lead check flight and much more flying. By now we had 25 Swifts on the field and many drive-ins.

Five o’clock was the beginning of happy hour at the Officer’s club followed by our banquet/meal in the Quonset Hut. 61 Swifters for supper followed by a program which included our Appreciation for Ed Lloyd, The Alaska Swifter adventurers (Gillaspies and Wilsons), the world domination of the Swift briefing by Perry Sisson, the history of the RRSW by Phyllis Moses and the awards. The RRSW each year presents a special Gloria

Warden Memorial Award which each year goes to a very special person. This year Terri Gillaspie was selected for her outstanding contributions to the RRSW and our fellow Swifters.



Terri Gillaspie

Other awards included:

Viewer's choice to Perry Sisson

Viewer's choice runner up to Brad Babb

Longest Distance – Chris Chicouene from France

Longest Distance in a Swift – Craig Layson from Mich.

Appreciation Award – Perry Sisson

Appreciation Award – Wade Gillaspie

Special President's Appreciation award to Ed Lloyd

Our special part of the evening then began with a short conversation with Mark Holliday. We attempted to use a cell phone on speaker next to the P.A. mike to let everyone talk to Mark. All 61 attendees broke into a cheer and applause as they encouraged Mark to keep up the great work with his recovery. We were all moved at hearing Mark's voice.

Our next item was to do a fund raiser where we dedicated our auction proceeds to Mark's recovery effort. I had a number in mind that I had hoped we would take in with another number that would be a blue ribbon goal. The RRSW group came through and doubled my blue ribbon goal. You guys are the greatest. Thanks for the donated items and for stepping up and thinking of Mark.

Next year we will give Ed a rest from Fredericksburg and have been invited back to Pecan Plantation in Granbury, Texas by Steve and Barb Wilson. This is another great area where we met one other time but the weather really messed with us. For the few Swifts that made it there it was fantastic.

Everyone fly safe and thanks for supporting the RRSW at Fredericksburg 2012.

Stan