

Swift Nations – 2016 - A “WOW” Experience

The RRSW was again active with its presence at the 2016 Swift Nationals. Our members were seen in all areas with regard to shirt sales, ticket sales, judging, formation flying, forums, and most any other activity imaginable. The theme this year was the 70th anniversary of the Swift and Paul Barnett put the exclamation point on this thought and gave over 70 airplane rides in his T-35 Buckaroo. What a guy. Paul was also the recipient of our RRSW Gloria Warden award for the Love and Dedication to the Swift Community. Great job Paul.



Ed Lloyd gave a presentation about how the Swift has been a part of his life and then donated a beautiful painting of his beloved Swift, which is now in France.



The new Swift Museum facilities are first class and a lot of thought and organization has been put into the entire area. The parts department is beautifully organized and the museum artifacts are professionally displayed throughout the facility. We owe a great deal of thanks to all who have been working on this so hard. I won't attempt to name names since I would forget someone, but they have built a fantastic Swift Museum facility. All of our meals, including the banquet, were held on site and it was a grand event.



The hangar itself is much taller than I had expected and is designed to be able to support several aircraft from the ceiling at some time.



Ken Couglin was again volunteering in the parts department and has helped the organization out with his knowledge and hard work.



The flying and fellowship was tremendous with perfect weather and an atmosphere of family reunion that made everyone feel welcome. Great food, great fellowship and great flying. How do you improve on that?



A highlight for many of us was watching Ed Lloyd get his ride in a P-51. Robert Dickson Jr. had their family Mustang at the event and Ed had been lusting over trying to con a ride in a Mustang ever since I first met him. Well, it happened and Ed had a grin from ear to ear for most of the day.



Ed and his P-51 ride - Thanks Robert

It was a wonderful event and everyone needs to visit the new museum, if they were not able to attend this event. We have a facility that would make any Type Club jealous. Thanks to all of the RRSW gang who made the journey and for all the help in assisting with the fly-in.

Fly Safe.

Stan