



# THE SQUADRON

## EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

July, 2004

Web Site: <http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org/>

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### August 15th Annual BBQ

The next Squadron 4 event will be our highly successful Annual BBQ hosted by Squadron 4 Executive Officer, Tom Buck. The BBQ will be held at his hangar on the grounds of Joliet Regional Airport. This event has drawn a good number of warbird aircraft over the past several years. Weather permitting, this year should be no different from the past. This annual event had rather humble beginnings, being hosted originally by our Founding Father, Will Martin. The event has always been held at Joliet Airport (since Will also hangars his aircraft there, presently and in years past). I indicated the event began humbly, meaning the only warbird aircraft involved in the beginning was Will's P-51 Mustang, in pieces and under restoration. Over the years Tom Buck has increased his aircraft collection and hangar space at the airport, and has become the on-going host. Also over the years, this event has drawn much attention from other warbird aircraft owners at the airport. It has turned into an airport community event with the other aircraft owners opening up their hangars and aircraft for all to enjoy. Not only has warbird and civilian aircraft owners participated in past years, but we have also welcomed antique autos, military vehicles, re-enactors and aviation art and historical displays to the event. The event could be considered the area's largest non-organized gathering of warbirds.

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### Squadron 4 Officers and Board Members

Mark Laatsch, Commander

Tom Buck, Executive Office

Tim Bauer, Adjutant

Bruce Graham, Secretary (Active Military Duty)

Dan Guenther, Financial Officer

Brian Churchill, Communications Officer, Membership and Web Page Editor

Ron Molinets, Recruiting, Membership

Ted Koston, Public Affairs Officer, Squadron Photographer

Stacy Kolls, Quartermaster

Matt Huffnus, Squadron Chaplain

Jim Delaney, Past Commander

Will Martin, Chairman of the Board

David Maren, Matt Olafsen, Chris Huffnus Board Members

This year's BBQ brings us the conclusion of our P-51 Mustang ride raffle. As advertised, Squadron 4 member Vlado Lench has generously donated a ride in his fabulous P-

51 *Moonbeam McSwine*, which the Squadron's board has determined a great opportunity to raise funds for the Squadron. Tickets for the raffle will be on sale up until the time of the drawing, which will be held during the BBQ at Joliet. Please note the winner does not need to be present to win. Come and join us for brats and burgers, good friends, plenty of talking, and lots of airplanes. As usual pilots and crew will be fed courtesy of Squadron 4.

**When: Sunday, August 15, 2004**

**Location: Joliet Regional Airport**

**FAA Identifier: JOT**

**Lat/Long:**

**41-31-04.100N / 088-10-31.900W**

**Time: 11:00 AM 'til?**

**Lunch served around noon.**

### **The C.O.'s Desk**

With 2004 half over, we look back at what has been accomplished this year in Squadron business. Our annual dinner in January included an interesting presentation of racing warbirds (T-6s) at Reno, a couple of very successful raffles (a Cooper A-2 jacket, and three warbird rides), and another fantastic custom built model of one of our member's warbird aircraft, by our resident Model Master. We had a great field trip/meeting at Rudy Frasca's unique warbird museum/collection in Urbana. We explored the new concept of a joint meeting between two Warbird Squadrons at Kenosha, which will flourish into an ever growing and on-going annual event. I envision this will rival our annual summer BBQ at Joliet Airport, which has grown into an unbelievable spontaneous gathering of warbirds for the Chicagoland area. We were intrigued by incredible stories from a fascinating World War II veteran, Wild Bill Scanlon. We are in the process of concluding a raffle for a very generous gift by another fellow member, Vlado Lenocho, of a ride in a beautiful P-51 Mustang, which will enable us to augment the cost of our next annual dinner, thus enabling us to plan a more spectacular event for next January.

For the second half of the year we are looking forward to AirVenture 2004 and our annual BBQ, at which we will draw the winner of the P-51 ride. Additional future events are currently being discussed, with programs featuring more fascinating stories and tails of the experiences of more World War II veterans (the vanishing first hand accounts of some of our greatest heroes from a time in history when warbird aircraft reached a pinnacle of design and application). We continue to plan new and exciting events to involve and challenge our members throughout this and future years of our Squadron's existence.

We have a great deal to look forward to, and I look forward to the growth and expansion Squadron 4 and our continued contribution to the Warbird community.

### **Re-cap of June 13 Meeting**

On June 13th Squadron 4 held a regular membership meeting at Kenosha Airport in Wisconsin. The meeting was attended by better than 40 Squadron members and friends of Warbird Squadrons 4 and 6. This meeting marked the first, in what should be an annual event, with the two squadrons. The facility for this meeting was the Majestic Aero Services' new spacious hanger. Following lunch, those present were treated to the heroic and spectacular exploits of William "Wild Bill" Scanlon. Bill captivated the audience with a chronology of his life in military service, beginning with his enlistment in the Calvary at age 15. Bill joined the Canadian Air Force, prior to the U.S. entering World War II, to fly Spitfires against the Nazis in North Africa. After scoring aerial victories flying Spitfires, Bill's fighter pilot days came to an end with a fiery plane crash, but he was not out of the game. Bill continued in the Royal Air Force serving as a tail gunner in Wellington and Sterling bombers. Bill flew over 60 night missions against the German home land. Bill told of being hunted by the US Government for draft evasion, but eventually transferring to the US Army Air Force to serve as a replacement gunner aboard B-17s. Bill's final mission ended

when he was severely wounded being blown out of a fatally crippled B-17, only to be captured by the Germans. Bill was then rescued by the French Underground, who returned him to England. Bill's story is indeed fascinating and spectacular, so much so, that a book has been published detailing his fantastic deeds, written by Kristen Gilpatrick. Bill autographed copies of his book for those who wished to purchase a copy.

Ray Hillson and the Weary Warriors brought their B-25H, 'Barbie III' to the event and offered rides for sale at a reduced rate for any member of Squadron 4 or 6. Squadron 4 members Stacy Kolls and Tim Bauer were treated to rides (via a drawing for all those attending the meeting) on the bomber courtesy of the Weary Warriors and Squadron 4. Tom Buck and crew brought the TBM Avenger from Joliet. We also had a Yak-52 and a T-6 join the gathering. During the meeting Josh and Crystal Dale made the MAS Cessnas available to Squadron 4 members and friends to experience a discovery flight at a reduced rate.

Thanks to all who brought us another successful meeting and thanks also to the members of Squadron 6 who attended this first annual joint event.

### **Member News**

Squadron 4 has added two new members to the Board of Directors, Matt Olafsen and Chris Huffness. Matt is a commercial airline pilot who also serves in the CAF flying their B-24 and B-29 between air shows. Chris is a dedicated member who will serve the Squadron as Director for historical events and re-enactor coordination (although he may not realize it until he reads this announcement). Congratulations to both Matt and Chris.

Join the OX-5 Illinois Wing for a luncheon at the Palwaukee Inn on July 24. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) David Stokes will be the guest speaker at the event. Colonel Stokes served two tours of duty and logged over 1500 hrs. flying combat mission in F-4 Phantoms over Southeast Asia.

For additional information, contact Carol Thompson at (847) 397-2179

### **New Member**

Welcome Robert Edwards to Squadron 4

### **Squadron 4 – Year 2004 Calendar of Events**

**July 27 – August 2, 2004** - Annual EAA Airventure, Oshkosh, WI

**August 15, 2004** – Annual Squadron 4 Fly-in/Drive-in BBQ, Joliet Regional Airport, Joliet, IL

**September 12, 2004** – Regular Squadron 4 Meeting, Lindenwood Field, Lindenwood, IL

**October 9, 2004** – Captain Chuck Downey invites Squadron 4 members to a fly-in/drive-in cook out at his residence at the Poplar Grove Airport.

**November 21, 2004** – Veterans Forum, Tentative Location Rockford Airport

### **Squadron 4 Merchandise**

Squadron logo patch (3" dia.), Squadron logo lapel pin (1" dia.) at \$5.00 each. Golf shirts, T-shirts and sweatshirts (in various colors). Also baseball caps, all embroidered with Squadron 4 logo. \$10.00 - \$25.00.

### **Ride in the only flying B-25H**

Squadron 4 member Ray Hillson and the Weary Warriors offer rides in *Barbie III*, the only airworthy B-25H in the world. Rides are available departing Aurora Airport in Sugar Grove, on various weekends throughout the summer. For more information on this opportunity of a lifetime, contact Ray at (630) 654-2951, or e-mail: rhillsonB25@earthlink.net.

### **Annual Dues for 2004**

A reminder for anyone that has still not paid their 2004 membership dues. Help the Squadron remain strong. D \$25.00 dues can be sent to: Mark Laatsch, P.O. Box 1910, Valparaiso, IN 46384.