

THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4 News

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

May, 2005

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

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A Day on the Western Front

Squadron 4 Model Master Tim Dunivan has invited members and friends of Squadron 4 to his residence in Rock Falls, Illinois for a "Day on the Western Front" on May 14th. Join Tim for a day for fun and food (Brats, dogs and fix'ns) and a tour of the Master's model building facilities. Tim's warbird museum in miniature contains several interesting and rare aircraft to view and enjoy. Tim takes great pride in presenting his fabulous skills building warbird aircraft to exacting detail. Tim has been commissioned to build several replicas of Squadron 4 member's aircraft (given away at our annual dinner), as well as, specifically marked special aircraft for many of our member's private collections. Tim also produces digitally enhanced photos of his work placing the models in life like settings, some of which are amazingly realistic.

Tim's residence is located at 28931 Bell Road, Rock Falls, Illinois, 61071. Weather permitting, a grass landing strip is located adjacent to Tim's property and transportation will be happily arranged with a little advance notice (see detailed insert for more information).

Tim is graciously opening his home from 11:00 till 5:00 on Saturday the 14th. Come and visit the Model Master for a day sure to interest all.

Pride Aircraft Hosts Warbird Fly-in

Pride Aircraft, located on the Rockford Airport, is hosting a Warbird gathering on May 21 and 22. This event should prove to be the first annual event hosted by Pride Aircraft, North American Aviation and Squadron 4. Pride has graciously opened their doors again (last November's highly successful Veteran's Forum was hosted by Pride featuring L-39s and a P-51 Mustang as a backdrop) to the public for a weekend of flying

food and warbirds displays. Our hosts are encouraging any and all warbird related activities for those who wish to participate, including formation flying, warbird and aviation related displays static displays as well as flying exhibitions. An L-39 warbird ride will be raffled off at the event.

Pride Aircraft and Squadron 4 are looking for any and all willing participants for this event. With the facilities of Pride and the Rockford Airport available, this event could grow to become a significant annually scheduled warbird gathering.

Come out and support our Squadron and Warbird effort for the Chicago region. For more information call 815-969-7743. This should prove to be an exciting time, especially if you will a ride in the L-39 Russian training jet.

Re-cap Of Bannockburn Regular Meeting

Our regular April meeting was held at Bannockburn Field on April 17, 2005. The meeting was hosted by The Heritage Air Corps, lead by Roger Paykert (a contributing Squadron 4 member). Even though the weather seemed to turn for the worse a day or so before the 17th, Tom buck flew in the Avenger and Keith Bursa brought in a Cherokee, handling the short grass strip in a stiff cross wind with ease. There was no guest speaker planned for this meeting as the weather was supposed to have cooperated and all the airplanes and pilots were to have been the program, but alas, that did not materialize so the few brave souls that did so up were forced to listen to me ramble on for the better part of an hour. Colonel Viv Lock did rescue me with a brief story of a frightening encounter he and the crew of his B-29 had with a Japanese secret weapon on one particular bombing mission. The story was well received and my thanks to Col. Lock for yet another interesting piece of WWII aviation history.

The troops were well fed (as usual) by Stacy and Darin, and since the turnout was somewhat less than expected, there was plenty of food to go around. Our hosts, Roger and his mother Emilia were very gracious indeed ensuring everyone was greeted and made to feel at home. Roger made an extremely generous offer to Squadron 4 in the form of a possible satellite home for us to hang our shingle (if we have one made). Roger has acquired the last hangar at Poplar Grove Airport and will be setting up Heritage Air Corp at the facility in the near future. Roger has offered to allow Squadron 4 a

shared existence possibly giving us and actual facility to use as at temporary home base. I'm sure that the Squadron and Roger will talk about the logistics of such a possible venture in the near future.

The hangar at Bannockburn was a great setting for a fly-in and gathering and I for one hope that the facility is not sold and it continues to be an available choice for future meetings and fly-ins. Thanks you Roger Paykert and Heritage Air Corps.

Member News

Meritorious Service Awards

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE SQUADRON 4 "MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD"

The board of directors of Squadron4 is pleased to announce that it will honor members of our Squadron for their achievements, enthusiasm, commitment and participation in Squadron 4 and related EAA activities. This will be an annual award beginning with 2005 and open to the entire membership.

The board will accept nominations for this prestigious award until December 30th, 2005. The award will be presented at our annual dinner every year. This will be the highest honor bestowed by Squadron 4 of Northern Illinois to recipient members.

Those nominated will have a history of exceptional work, volunteerism and participation in Squadron 4 events and related EAA and other Warbirds of America activities. The nominees must display an outstanding patriotic spirit and enthusiasm for promoting the goals and activates of these warbird organizations.

To nominate a candidate for this important award, describe the accomplishments of the nominee(s) in two pages or less, and submit the information to a board member before December 30th, 2005. We encourage you to solicit additional letters of recommendation for your nominee(s) from other Squadron 4 members and non-members.

Thank you for your participation in this most important achievement award!

June Meeting in Kenosha

Keep our June meeting in mind as this will be an event worth attending. Our guest speaker, Frank McCarter will be telling about his experiences as a P-51 pilot in the CBI theater shortly after the dissolve of the American Volunteer Group, commonly known as the Flying Tigers. Frank has indicated he has a great deal to talk about so be prepare for first hand WWII aviation history that I'm sure you will enjoy. More details regarding this meeting will be published in the next newsletter, prior to the event.

Squadron Member at Art Institute

Squadron 4 member Ted Koston has agreed to participate in a witness program for an upcoming exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago. The Art Institute exhibit, "Creativity and Crisis: Chicago Architecture and Design of the World War II Era" will be featuring related programs including "witnesses" giving a personal voice to some of the subjects presented through the exhibition in free, informal talks. Ted will be among several guests to relay personal experiences pertaining to a most significant time in Chicago and American history. Ted will be featured, along with John Crawford, Navel Intelligence and Elaine Zold Koepke, USO entertainer on Tuesday June 12 at 1:00 PM. Throughout the year on each Tuesday, at the Museum, various guest speakers will be available for listening and discussion, many of which have WWII aviation ties, including; Margaret Ringenberg, WWII WASP and author of "Girls Can't Be Pilots" on May 17, Bev Dunjill and Shelby Westbrook, Tuskegee airmen on August 2, and Captains Chuck Downey and Grant Young on September 20. Several other WWII Veterans and subjects will be featured at these Tuesday events. I encourage all to check these out.

Support Our Troops

Stacy Kolls is continuing an effort to collect goods and donations to send care packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A list of suggested items for the care packages is available by visiting the Operation Shoebox website at www.operationshoebox.com. Let's continue to support this effort. We are also looking for those interested in becoming pen pals with vets deserving of a little support and contact from home. Questions and information requests should be directed to our Quartermaster, Stacy Kolls (815-218-9202).

Warbirds at Waukegan

The Commemorative Air Force will be bringing a few of there extremely rare warbirds to the Waukegan Airport July 12 – 17. The aircraft include 'FIFI' the only airworthy B-29 in the world, their B-24 'Diamond Lil', the Ju-52 and C-47. Tours and flights in the B-24 will be offered during the stay. Squadron 4 would like to have a presence at this event at least during the weekend days (July 16 & 17). Anyone interested in volunteering for a few hours during these days to man a table and hopefully recruit a few new members for the Squadron can contact me by leaving a message at 773-695-8122.

Come out and see these rare aircraft as this opportunity doesn't happen very often.

Annual Membership Dues Time

A friendly reminder, it's that time again to renew your membership. Annual dues are \$25.00. Renew your membership in Squadron 4 and help support our efforts for the preservation and continued operation of warbird aircraft, and the recognition of our Veterans.

Squadron 4 2005 Calendar of Events

(Check our web site for advanced details)

May 14, 2005 – A Day on the Western Front, Tim Dunavin's residence, Rock Falls, IL.

May 21-22, 2005 – Warbird gathering, Greater Rockford Airport (KRFD), Rockford, IL.

June 26, 2005 - Regular Meeting, Kenosha, WI

August 14, 2005 - Annual BBQ Fly-in/Drive-in, Joliet, IL

September 11, 2005 - Regular Meeting, Lindenwood, IL

November 13, 2005 - Annual Veteran's Forum - Rockford, IL



Keep 'em Flying