



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

June, 2005

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

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June Regular Meeting

Warbird Squadron 4 proudly announces the second annual joint meeting/event with Wisconsin Warbird Squadron 6. The event will be held at the Kenosha Airport, in Kenosha Wisconsin, just north of the Illinois/Wisconsin border. As stated, this event continues a coordinated effort by two of the Midwest's prominent Warbird Squadrons to jointly host a fly-in/drive-in meeting during the height of the flying season.

We are honored to have as a guest speaker at this event Frank McCarter, a World War II Veteran who served in the USAAF as a P-51 pilot in the CBI theater. Frank flew for the 14th Air Force, 16th Fighter Squadron, 23rd Fighter Wing and served under General Claire Chennault, flying missions out of China. Frank began flying in the CBI theater shortly after the breakup on the AVG (American Volunteer Group) also commonly known as the Flying Tigers. Frank entered the military service in October 1942 and after receiving flight training from the South East Training Command, mostly in South Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama, was assigned to the 14th AF and shipped to Western China in early 1944. Frank flew dive bombing, fighter escort (for B-25 and B-24s), skip bombing and strafing missions before being shipped back to the US in

early 1945 for advanced gunnery training. While stationed in New York waiting to his orders to return overseas in August 1945, the Japanese surrendered and Frank was out of a job.

As some of you may remember, Frank was one of the members of last November's Veteran's Forum. At that meeting, Frank gave us just a taste of some of the many stories he is willing to share with our group, however, this time he is prepare to present what I feel will be one of the most fascinating accounts of historical WWII aviation stories we will ever hear. Frank, like so many of those from that time in history, who serviced our country, is an extremely modest man who doesn't think he did anything special, but in reality lived during one of our most poignant times in modern history and more importantly to us, was involved with warbird aircraft at the peak of piston driven military aviation, which can only be experienced today by a fortunate few, as the once multitude of such airplanes become rarer and rarer.



Frank McCarter in the cockpit of Chuck Greenhill's P-51

This year's meeting proves to have the makings of a spectacular event with Squadron 6 members supplying lunch in the form of a fantastic Tennessee style BBQ. The menu will consist of slow cooked pulled pork served with BBQ sauce over fresh hand baked buns (well the fresh baked buns might be a stretching it a little). Jim Szalacinski will be cooking his Tennessee specialty starting very early in the morning to prepare his most excellent meal. The sandwiches will be accompanied by baked

beans, BBQ slaw and potato salad. A suggested \$10.00 donation for lunch to cover food costs would be greatly appreciated by our hard working partners in the event. **In an attempt to estimate the amount of food required for the BBQ, please RSVP to Mark Laatsch via phone: 773-695-8122 or via e-mail: mlaatsch@csinet.net.**

Bring your Warbirds to this event

Date and Time:

June 26, 2005 beginning at 11:00 AM

Event location:

**Kenosha Regional Airport
Sunshine Aircraft Repair hangar
10460 52nd St
Kenosha, WI 53144**

FAA Identifier: ENW

Lat/Long:

42-35-44.5470N / 087-55-40.0920W

42-35.742450N / 087-55.668200W

42.5957075 / -87.9278033

(estimated)

Elevation: 743 ft. / 226.5 m



Directions:

Take I-94 to exit 342, then east on Hwy. 158. Turn left on Ruth Harman Dr and into hangar area on west end of field. Look for Warbird Squadron 4 banner on the far west hangar.

The C.O.'s Desk

On May 30, a little over two weeks ago, our Nation observed Memorial Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery, and was originally known as Decoration Day. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May. Over the years it came to serve as a day to remember all U.S. men and women killed or missing in action in all wars. As Squadron 4 recognizes our living Veterans for the service they have given our Country, let us also remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom, not only on Memorial Day, but always as we enjoy what they have help to give us.

Re-cap from the Western Front

On May 14th Squadron 4 member Tim Dunavin hosted fellow Squadron members to his residence in Rock Falls for a day of socializing, bratwurst BBQ and a tour of his miniature aircraft museum and model manufacturing facility. The Model Master received several members including a couple of aircraft flown in for the invitation, and treated them to some good food and a first hand look at the Master's workshop. Captain Chuck Downey attended to take delivery of a custom built F4U which Tim assembled in his usual expert fashion. A very favorable report was received from all who attended. Our thanks to Tim for opening his home to fellow members again for a great time.



Tim Dunavin and Capt. Chuck Downey



Squadron members and friends on the Western Front

WW-II All Over Again by Craig Payne

Recently, I participated in a WW-II re-enactment at the Ft. Pierce FL, Wings & Wheels show. This was the first re-enactment that I flew in as well of the first I've seen that combined Infantry, Armour, Artillery, Aviation, and Pyro. So how many Nanchangs flew in WW-II? Well none of course, but how about a Mocke-Wulf? That's "mock", not Focke-Wulf. Two of us 'Changers were outfitted with large German Swastikas and Crosses. My airplane was partially stripped for a re-paint so it was perfect for decals.



Craig's CJ-6 in disguise

An American Armoured group out of far-away Kentucky opposed a Panzer Gruppen in a 40-minute show with blank ammo and brass flying everywhere, lots of pyro, complete with an L-2 Grasshopper and P-51, as well as those "Mocke-Wulfs". The crowd loved it; they ate it up. Of course the P-51 drove us off trailing smoke from getting shot during our staffing runs, but he missed us during the Saturday show. The '51 driver was used to T-6 "Germans" and wasn't ready for how quickly the Nanchangs went from a 120 knot peel-off to 200 knots over show center in only ½ runway length from the start of the dive.

Prior to the re-enactment part of the show, we had a warbird fly-around but this was different from Oshkosh flying. We flew 4-stacks with the top stack at 800 feet; try THAT at Oshkosh. At 50 feet were 2 seaplanes doing a dogbone pattern. An HU-16 and a SuperCat PBY. Nanchangs and Yaks held at 200 feet, T-6's at 400, and T-28's scrapping the sky at 800 feet. As the same guys all fly together at the Florida airshows, we are a bit more comfortable than at the big shows with guys from all over North America.

By the way, I flew that Super Blackcat down in Miami over the Bay! The same one I

reported about before. R-2600's in your ears, 500 feet over the crystal clear water, Miami skyline under the wing. Retirement sure is tough work!

Between shows I toured the rival encampments and was amazed by the quality of detail in their equipment as well as the level of detail in the battle plan briefing. The "Yanks" even gave us a ride in a WW-II Stuart Tank and let me traverse the gun as we flew by airport management hollering at us for marking up the taxiway with the tracks. Oh well, it was my fault but oh what fun!

Indiana Aviation Museum Starts 5th Year

On May 1st this year, the Indiana Aviation Museum, in Valparaiso, Indiana, opened the hangar doors to the public for its fifth season. The museum, located on the Porter County Airport, in Valparaiso, is built around James Read's excellent collection of warbird aircraft. All of the aircraft in the museum's collection are in flying condition and the museums' pilots do just that. They fly them. Presently, the museum has nine 'warbird' aircraft as well as a couple of nice civilian models. The inventory includes a P-51D Mustang, an AT-6G Texan, T-28B Trojan, T-34B Mentor, PT-17 Stearman, A-37 Dragonfly (the museum's only jet aircraft), L-2 Grasshopper, and the museum's most recent acquisition, a DHC Mk22 Chipmunk. The museum has one additional aircraft, taking its place as the pride and King of the collection, the F4U-5 Corsair. From the big and powerful F4U-5 Corsair to the little Taylorcraft L2 Grasshopper, all the aircraft are maintained in airworthy condition and flown throughout the year.

The museum founder and president, Jim Read served in military service then he entered the United States Marine Corps as a Naval aviator in 1953. In military service, Jim flew such aircraft as the SNJ and T-34 trainers, the AD Skyraider, FJ2 Saber jet and the F9 Panther. Jim was qualified for carrier launches and landings, and his

passion for flying has continued since his departure from the Marine Corps.

Jim's first warbird aircraft was the T-34 Mentor, which he restored from a 'basket case' to its present pristine flying condition, in 1992. After flying the trainer for a few years, Jim decided to acquire a little more powerful aircraft and purchased a 2,500 hp F4U-5 Corsair, from an owner in England, and brought the airplane to the States in early 1998. Around the same time Jim purchased a P-51 Mustang, and from there, I think Jim was bitten by the 'warbird' bug, acquiring half a dozen more warbird aircraft within the next few years, up to the most recent addition to the collection, the Canadian deHavilland Mk22 Chipmunk. Eager to share his proud collection with the public, the Indiana Aviation Museum was incorporated in September 2000 and opened the doors to the public for the first time the following summer.

Pilots for the museum's aircraft include, Cathy Harrell, Jim Bowers, Kris Kartokrax, David Thompson and Dale Snodgrass. The museum's fighters and advanced trainers regularly participate in air shows around the Midwest during the summer months. The driving forces behind the museum's operations are Jim Read and Cathy Harrell. Together with around 40 dedicated volunteers, the museum operates from the first of May through the end of October. Open to the public on weekends (Saturday 10:00 to 4:00 and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00) and other days by appointment, its located at the Porter County Airport, 4601 Murvihill Road, Valparaiso, Indiana (near the junction of US Hwy 30 and State Rd 49). The museum is one of very few 'all flying' museums in the US and the only 'Warbird' museum in the Chicago land area. Even with the I-80/94 road construction around the Illinois/Indiana border, the museum is only about a two hour drive from most of the Chicago suburbs. The museum is well worth the drive and it should be noted that Jim and Cathy are friends and supporters of Squadron 4.

Additional information about the IAM is available via a link on our own Squadron 4 web page www.warbirdsquadron4.org



Cathy Harrell and Jim Read with the Chipmunk



Jim Read departing for flyover of Buckley Homestead WWII re-enactors battle.



Tom Buck Brings the TBM to the Museum's opening

Member News

New Members

Warbird Squadron 4 welcomes the following new members:

Kathleen Drago
James Lock
Larry Wagner

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. Her continuing efforts have produced over \$120.00 and four care packages which will bring some of our troops much needed items, which in some cases they are having trouble obtaining. 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. Questions and information requests should be directed to our Quartermaster, Stacy Kolls (815-218-9202).

Squadron 4 Merchandise

Squadron 4 and Squadron 6 will have merchandise available for sale at the June meeting, mainly consisting of patches and clothing. Squadron 4 embroidered logo hats and shirts are available with prices ranging from \$10 - \$25. Information on special order logo merchandise can be obtained from Tim Bauer at the meeting.

New Squadron Events

On May 21 and 22, Pride Aircraft in Rockford hosted a L-39 jet and warbird fly-in. Pride asked Squadron 4 to partner with them in what was to be the first of an annual warbird event at their facility. Pride Aircraft supplied all food and facilities and has donated a ride in an L-39 (tickets are still on sale and the winning ticket will be drawn at our June meeting in Kenosha) for our

Squadron to raffle off with all proceeds going to Squadron 4. Although the event was planned with little lead time, short notice and possibly the event date may have contributed to the rather dismal turnout. Pride has made a great commitment to Squadron and Warbird community with this offer to host yet another warbird related fly-in event in the Chicago land area. Although Pride Aircraft had wished to make yet another outstandingly generous offer to hold a fly-in event later this year, the Board and Officers of Squadron 4 have decided to take up Pride's offer for an additional event on our calendar next year.

Warbirds at Waukegan

The Commemorative Air Force will be bringing a few of these 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. The aircraft will arrive on Monday the 11th and depart Monday 18th, so if you want to see the B-29 and the others flying, these will be the only days. Rides in the B-24 will be offered for July 17. Squadron 4 member Matt Olafsen will be one of the pilots of the B-24 giving the rides. Seats are still available for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Cost of the B-24 ride is tax deductible. For more information call 847-287-5820.

Annual Membership Dues Time

This is a friendly reminder for those who still have not renewed your membership to this fine organization. Help Squadron 4 support our efforts for the preservation and continued operation of warbird aircraft. Help us also recognize and preserve the history of the machines, and more importantly, the people who have been and are associated with these machines, especially the Veterans who served this country, to preserve our rights of freedom and the ability to enjoy these machines today and in future years to come.

Annual Dinner Raffle Winner



Squadron 4 member Roger Paykert receives his G-1 jacket.

We have not forgotten those who have won warbird rides through various raffles. Coordination will be made to ensure those who have won a ride, will receive it.

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!

Warbird Ride Raffles

Through the generosity of Squadron 4 member Vlado Lench and Pride Aircraft of Rockford, we have three fantastic warbird rides to raffle off the members and friends. Vlado had donated a ride in his pristine P-51 Mustang and a ride in his T-33 trainer jet. Pride has also donated a ride in a L-39 jet. The winning L-39 ride will be drawn at the June event, so tickets will be available at the event or by contacting Mark Laatsch at 773-695-8122 or via email at mLaatsch@csinet.net, prior to the event. Depending on the weather, the L-39 may be at the Kenosha in June, if not, the ride will be coordinated. The winning tickets for the P-51 and T-33 rides will be drawn at our annual BBQ at Joliet Airport August 14. Tickets may be obtained at all event prior to that date of by contacting Mark Laatsch.

Squadron 4 – Year 2005 Calendar of Events

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