



The Squadron



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Events

13 Aug: Annual Squadron BBQ at Joliet Airport, Joliet, Il.

1-3 Sept: Squadron 4 will be hosting EAA's Aluminum Overcast at the Du Page Airport

10 Sept: Regular meeting at Lindenwood Field hosted by Tim Bauer in Lindenwood, Il

7 Oct: Captain Downey has invited Squadron 4 to his home at the Poplar Grove Airport for a fun time and cookout.

12 Nov: Annual Veteran's Forum Courtesy Aircraft will be hosting Our Veteran's Forum in Rockford, Il.

Editor's Note:

In an attempt to make the newsletter easier to download we have gone to a new format. Pictures will still be a part of the letter, but will be reduced in number. Hopefully we can set up a special folder just for Squadron pictures that you can download any one that you like. Those of you who still get the newsletter by mail will receive it just as it is available on the website – in this format.

Tim

From the C.O.s Desk

It's summertime!

In July, it means the Oshkosh Fly-In with its air shows, vendors, classes, and the excitement of being part of the biggest flying event of the summer. Hope you were able to experience it!

In August, it means the Annual Squadron 4 Joliet Bar-B-Q!

Maybe not quite as big as Oshkosh, but sure to be a great day of Warbirds, warbird friends and good food! Mark your calendar--be at the Joliet Airport on August 13th for this fun event! Be there....

In September, it means Labor Day weekend at DuPage Airport with a B-17 Bomber! This is our Squadron 4 members' unique opportunity to help others see and touch? a great piece of WWII history. I expect to see your name on the list of volunteers to make this a weekend to remember and a success for our squadron. Call Stacy to schedule your time slot!!

Keep 'em flying!

Tom Buck

Bannockburn Farm Fly-In

By Art Sereque



Group photo by Ted Koston

On a dreary, bleak June 10th, members and guests of Squadron 4 descended upon Bannockburn Farm in Plano for a joint meeting with Heritage Air Corp.

Upon entering the hangar (with a beautiful wood floor), one encountered Chick Ramsden's neat L-5 Stinson. To its right was Chick's Skylane. To the front center as Roger Paykert and Bob McConnell's sweet Stearman N2S-5.

Stacy Kolls had already arrived with the second most popular item on the agenda: Food!!

As people arrived "Chef" Paykert fired up the grill and started cooking brats and burgers – ummm: medium rare double cheese burgers. Quartermaster Stacy always makes sure the troops are well cared for. The first plane to arrive was Larry Tinker in his beautiful 1944 Stinson L-5 "Ambulance" plane.

Next to arrive was WOA National Director Rick Siegfried in his AT-6 Texan. He was closely (real close) followed by Mike Gillian in his AT-6, decked out in Marine colors. They made several low (very low) passes in a very tight formation, giving the watching crew a very sharp exhibition.

Trailing behind them was Dennis Radwanski in a 1987 Christen Eagle (in

typical Eagle colors). This very nice fully aerobatic plane was built by his father.

Finally, C.O. Tom Buck showed up in his (Ho-Hum) Piper Cherokee 6, with friend George Barbeauld in tow.

Several small groups evolved, with lots of hangar flying.

Ted Koston told some of us about his adventures as a WWII recon. photographer. Ted is such a font of knowledge and has had so many interesting experiences, we most have him give a talk at one of our meetings.

Despite the "blah" weather, the group left after having a very nice time.



photo by Stacy Kolls

4 and 6 = Kenosha

by Art Sereque



Tom Buck introduces Frank Mc Carter
photo by Stacy Kolls

The alarm went off on Sunday June 25th. This writer, hearing the rain pounding on the window merely rolled over.

Arriving at the Kenosha Airport for the joint Squadrons 4 and 6 meeting, we found the crew already eating. Heart pounding and

in a panic, we rushed to the food table. Fortunately, there was plenty of food left. Relieved, we knew we would not waste away to a shadow of his former self.

After the fine dining, C.O. Tom Buck opened the meeting with former C.O. Jim Delaney playing a tape of the National Anthem.

Quartermaster Stacy Kolls started out by bringing us up to date on ‘Operation Shoebox’, her ‘care’ packages for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tim Bauer reminded us of the Squadron 4 merchandise he has for sale.

David Maren then spoke about the upcoming B-17 tour and all the hype necessary to help make it a success.

C.O. Tom Buck brought up the AirVenture ‘Training Command’, which was mentioned in our last newsletter, and the need for volunteers. More on this later in the newsletter.

Brian Churchill talked about the annual pre-Oshkosh work party July 8th and the need for volunteers.

Frank McCarter: Chapter 2

Last year at Kenosha meeting Frank McCarter spoke about his 60 missions flying P-40s and P-51s in China. It was so well received, we brought him back again this year.

He was training in 1942 and 1943 and in combat in China from 1943 to 1945. He started out in the South East Training Command (east of the mighty Mississippi) Flying PT-17s, BT-13s, AT-6s, and finally 10 hour in a P-40. He was then transferred for more P-40 training, where returning pilots from North Africa taught the students some tricks they had learned.

After training, they flew in a B-24 Liberator to Karachi, India (now Pakistan). Here they found a huge former blimp hangar. Planes were off loaded, brought to the hangar and assembled for combat.

He spoke about his many exciting, poignant, and even sad experiences in China, as well as his bout with jaundice (now know as Hepatitis).

What an interesting talk!!

Due to bad weather, the only plane to fly in was Tom Buck (again Ho-Hum) Cherokee, with George, Bob Adamec, etc., along for the ride.

Other news

By Art Sereque

The big coming event will be when Squadron 4 hosts the B-17 ‘Aluminum Overcast’ Labor Day weekend. Friday through Monday, Sept. 1-4, Typically, the first day is a public relations day, with local celebrities and media flying in the aircraft. The next three days, we need volunteers, volunteers, volunteers.

This event has the potential to be a HUGE money maker for the Squadron. Last year, the Fox Valley Sport Aviation Ass., EAA Chapter 579 made over \$3500 sponsoring the B-17 ‘Fuddy Duddy’ at Aurora (AAR). Eight Chapter members even went on a long flight of the B-17.

So re-arrange your schedule – Squadron 4 needs you!

WWII Training Command AirVenture Oshkosh

By Art Sereque

As noted in the past newsletter, Warbirds of America will have an area dedicated to training aircraft. This area will also include a tent with tables and chairs, coolers, tv and DVDs. The DVDs will show a variety of training aircraft and related information. Volunteers will change the DVDs as necessary.

Depending upon the number of hours worked, free AirVenture passes will be available. Complimentary parking in the Warbirds area should also be available.

I’ll be in touch with Rick Siegfried and keep you posted with updates on all the above.

I want all of you to read Tim Bauer’s article on volunteers over again. When you consider Brain’s work party, the Warbirds parking detail at Oshkosh, Training

Command, and “Aluminum Overcast”, we need volunteers.

Do we have the greatest squadron in the country? I think so. Now lets prove it!

Another Joint Meeting?

By Art Sereque

It is possible the Squadron 4 may have a joint BBQ meeting with Cross & Cockade & the OX-5 Pioneers of America at Chuck Brady’s 2600’ grass strip in Dwight. This would possibly be either the third Saturday in September or the fourth. Typically, 100 people and twenty planes show up. A really nice outing.

Details are being worked out.

Buzzing The Airfield

by Tim Dunavin

With Oshkosh now behind us, we have a smorgasbord of activities ahead! The next 4 months (including Aug.) are fill with things for Squadron members to be involved with and really (if you put into it) enjoy the events. Fun times and working together to make it happen, are what it’s all about. (see the events calendar on the front page).

Hopefully this new format in the newsletter will aid in getting it out to more of you by internet. Printing and postage are items we can afford, but at the same time we must try to keep our expenses under control – we can’t live above our means.

One event not listed is one that Rudy Frasca told me about at Oshkosh – his fly-in will be the 1st weekend in Oct, but he was going to confirm that later. More to come.

Another item that needs our attention – Stacy Kolls is putting together her “ShoeBox” things for the troops. Christmas is not far away and items for the troops will be greatly appreciated. I heard that at Christmas it is a special gift to the troops if they get phone cards to call home with.

Tim Bauer has “T”shirts with “2006 Oshkosh” on them – neat and not expensive. See Tim for details.

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(Partial listing – see web site for full board)

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Merchandise available!

We are implementing a new idea in merchandise, a commemorative series of “T” shirts based on WWII War Bond Posters. We have 2 now in stock and more to come next year. For men, sizes small – 2X. For women, sizes small – ex. Large. (limited number of ladies shirts available).