



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

September, 2005

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

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September Regular Meeting

Our next regular Squadron event will be held at the residence of Squadron member Barb and Tim Bauer, in Lindenwood Illinois. The Bauer's have been hosting a BBQ fly-in on their property for the past several years, and this event has grown tremendously over those few years to rival the Joliet fly-in, if not in the number of aircraft attending then surly in the attendance by members and friends. Barb and Tim have produced an outstanding event over the years making use of the grass landing strip suitable for various single engined aircraft from SNJ/T-6 to Stearman, to Yaks and Nanchangs, to any number of civilian types and crop dusters. Tim has also arranged for several antique cars to be displayed at the event.

Last year, the Squadron announced a new idea for an event program, namely "Memorabilia Day" in which members and friends brought their WWII/Aviation memorabilia and historical collectables to turn Tim's hangar/barn into a mini museum. The event was so successful every spare table and wall space was used to display some truly incredible things. This year we again invite our members and friends to bring in their treasures for all to enjoy and learn from for the day. Tim has indicated that due to the successes of last year's exhibits, he has acquired more tables and area for display.

Over the past few years, Barb, Tim and Denny McConville have produced a fantastic BBQ for all to enjoy, ensuring no one would go away hungry, and indeed, there has been plenty to eat.

Come and join us again this year on Sunday September 11 at Lindenwood Field. Barb and Tim's place is located at 17050 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL. (see directions and map included).



Displays from last year's meeting in Lindenwood



The C.O.'s Desk

Last month we held our annual fly-in/drive-in at Joliet Airport, and for the third year in a row I estimated the attendance at around or above 100 people. The weather played a significant roll in the number of aircraft attending (fewer that we had hoped), but for me at least, it was well understood. We are extremely grateful for those pilots who did bring their aircraft, considering the potential risk. Now we face another adversary to those aircraft owners and operators in the form of sky rocketing fuel costs. I wonder, as I pump \$40.00 worth of gas into my auto, which consumes maybe 4 to 5 gallons an hour, what it would be like feeding an aircraft that consumed 10 to 15 times that much fuel per hour. The burden seems to becoming greater and greater to operate an aircraft built at a time when the cost of the fuel consumed was not as much a consideration as the quantity needed to carry it 100 times farther that they are flown today. Still, the fuel is just one of the more visible and immediate factors associated with flying the

planes in this present time. My hat is off to those among us willing to operate their aircraft, flying them to our gatherings for all to enjoy in one form or another. Therefore, I wish to extend my personal thanks to the owners and pilots willing to fly their planes for us these days.

Joliet 2005 Recap

Over the past few years, Squadron 4 has been extremely lucky when it came to the weather on the date of the annual BBQ/fly-in. Due to the very nature of aviation events, weather is an overall decisive factor regarding the success of that event. Not only the weather at the location of the event, but weather conditions in the vicinity of and along the route of incoming aircraft.

Despite the threatening weather, several brave pilots brought planes from some far distances. The Indiana Aviation Museum of Valparaiso, Indiana brought in their T-28, T-34 and T-6, flown by Jim Reed, Cathy Harrell, and Kris Kortokrax. Sam Tabor brought in his L-5 from East Troy, Wisconsin. Brian Olofsson brought his Stearman from Kankakee, Illinois. Vic Kraus brought his beautiful SNJ, Roger Paykert brought his N2S-5, Bob Fitzpatric brought his newly cleaned and waxed Yak-52, and then the lite rain started (Bob, don't you know the same rules apply to airplanes as cars, you wash and wax it and it rains). Tom Buck's TBM and Keith Birsa's PT-17 didn't have to travel to the event (being hangared on the airport), nevertheless, they flew the airplanes thrilling the crowd and attracting a lot of attention. Several attendees of the event flew in civilian aircraft as well. Steve Applebaum and Ken Fukuyama flew in a Mooney M-20F. Mike and Cheryl Kellner flew in their Cessna 140. Bill Miller brought in his V-35 Bonanza. Howard Livingston and Bobby Green brought in another Bonanza, Tim and Diana Root flew in their 1954 Be-35, and I know there was a couple more aircraft that I didn't get a chance to identify pilots and owners, but thanks for bringing them to the event.

Mark Adamic had his usual, extremely impressive display of genuine WWII historical photos and military pieces collected from Veterans, along with example of his most excellent artwork. Tim Bauer set up a table with a variety of Squadron 4 merchandise which included specially embroidered and printed t-shirts to commemorate the event. We have excellent food to feed the troops and another job well done be Stacy and

Darin Kolls for helping with the preparation and service of the food.

With warbirds buzzing the field, numerous cars stopped to find out what was happening. Adults and children alike were thrilled with the flying and marveled at being able to inspect the aircraft up close and personal on the ground. All in all, the event would have to be classified as a success. Although we didn't have as many aircraft as we planned, the crowd turnout was tremendous and all who attended seemed to have a good time. Our warbird ride raffles drew brisk ticket sales right up to the drawings which yielded winners for the two rides most generously donated by Squadron 4 member Vlado Lench.

This year we had a few new additions for the event in the form of military vehicles brought to us courtesy of the Chicago Military Vehicle Club. Five members of the CMVC, Mark Hector, Vic Metias, Philip Urban, Allen Foley and Ken Thompson, drove in some excellently restored examples of vintage military vehicles ranging from 1942 Ford Jeep to a 1976 M886 ambulance. This event has been growing larger and stronger over the years and I extend my deepest gratitude to our host Tom Buck, who seems to have more of a job with this thing every year. Thanks also to Tom Buck, Keith Birsa, and Roger Paykert for giving the following people rides in their aircraft: Kathleen Drago, Kurt Hoffman, Rhonda Tesch, Steve Huffnus, Tim Dunavin, Jenny Tesch, Ken Fukuyama, Bruce Graham, Chris Passoudy, Frank Bartalotta, Darin Kolls, Jack Mejdrich and Ron Molinets (I apologize if I missed anyone). Thanks to all who came to the event and we can look forward to next year and hope for good flying weather, which will definitely produce an even bigger event.

Member News

New Members

Since the last newsletter Warbird Squadron 4's membership has grown tremendously. Squadron 4 welcomes the following new members:

Glenn Hill, Kurt Hoffman, Michael and Cheryl Kellner, Steve Applebaum, Richard Blaskie, Ken Fukuyama, Brian Olofsson, Jim Krieger, and Bill Kinsella

P51 and T-33 Ride Raffle Winners

Congratulations to Dan Guenther, the winner of the P-51 Warbird ride, and George Sheehey winner of the T-33 Warbird ride. Both Rides were generously donated by Vlado Lench.

1945 Exhibit at Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute of Chicago is presently running and an exhibit called "1945: Creativity and Crisis". The exhibit itself focuses on the significance of the year 1945 and how that year was so pivotal in the influence of architecture and design. Why would that exhibit interest members and friends of Squadron 4? Well, maybe it wouldn't, but in an effort to convey the significance of the year 1945, the exhibit features a weekly program of witnesses, in a brief (45 minutes to an hour) discussion of what their lives were like in 1945. Several of these witnesses are people who should interest members and friends of the Squadron. Scheduled this month are featured members of US aviation military services to recall their experiences during the time. The program is held every Tuesday at the Art Institute at 1:00 PM. Tuesdays are free days at the Institute (no fee for admission to the museum) and the featured speakers for Tuesday September 6 are Bev Dunhill and members of the Tuskegee Airmen. September 20 will feature the friends of Squadron 4, Captain Chuck Downey and Captain Grant Young. If possible, make your way down town to the Art Institute to experience this program, then tour the museum while you are there.

Bavarian Festival Is Here Again

The Fox Valley Oktoberfest 6th anniversary is scheduled for September 16 – 18, 2005. Located 5 miles south of I-90 and 1.5 miles south of Route 20 (Lake Street) on the Festival grounds at the intersection of Randall Road and College Green Road in Elgin. For information call 630-896-7315 or visit the web site at <http://www.germanfun.org>.

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 monetary donations 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).

Special Mention

Let us all keep Steve Huffnus (son of our Squadron Chaplain, Matt Huffnus and brother to fellow member Chris Huffnus) in our hearts, minds and prayers. Steve will be soon be, if not already, serving in the US Marine Corps service in Iraq.

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!

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.

Squadron 4 – Year 2005 Calendar of Events

September 11, 2005 - Regular Meeting, Lindenwood, IL. Fly-in/drive-in at Tim Bauer's residence. (Program to be announced)

November 13, 2005 - Annual Veteran's Forum - Rockford, IL. Remembering and honoring our Veterans.

January 2006 – Annual Awards Banquet, William Tell Holiday Inn, Countryside, Ill (**exact date to be announced**)



Keep 'em Flying