



The Squadron



An EAA Warbirds of America Publication of Squadron 4 October 2006 Vol. 1 No.2

Events

12 Nov: Annual Veterans' Forum
Courtesy Aircraft will be hosting
Our Veterans' Forum in
Rockford, IL

12 May 2007: Day on the Western
Front – at Tim Dunavin's. Details
and map will be posted on the web
site.

If you have any events planned,
let me know, and I will post them
here!

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From the C.O.'s Desk

Hello Warbird Squadron
members!

A BIG THANK YOU to Stacy and
the many volunteers who did a
great job hosting the B-17 event
at DuPage Airport. The EAA
was very impressed with our
squadron's organization,
friendliness and spirited
hosting of the weekend.

Thanks again to all who made
this such a success!

The fall season is here! Cool
days mean great flying
weather. It's also time to honor
our veterans by attending the
Veterans' Forum at Courtesy
Aircraft Hangar in Rockford on
November 12th. Their
hospitality and many fine
warbirds make the lunch and
meeting a stand-up time to
thank all the veterans for their
service to our country. Be sure
to attend and bring along a
veteran too.

Keep 'em flying.

C.O. Tom Buck

L-39 Ride – Example of the Great Opportunities Presented to Squadron #4 Members



John Morgan (left) takes Squadron #4 Raffle Winner Dan Guenther flying in his L-39

How many people can say they've ridden in both a P-51 Mustang and an L-39 Jet Trainer?

Thanks to the opportunities offered by our squadron, I am proud to say I have!!! On August 14th I took my L-39 ride with John Morgan, president of Pride Aircraft in Rockford, who had very generously donated the ride last year as a raffle prize - to not only help us with raising funds for the squadron, but also offer an exciting opportunity to our members to fly in a military jet trainer.

Every single minute of the ride was spectacular, from the incredible acceleration during take-off, to the nimble movements within the air, all the way to the dead-stick landing (touch and GO landing)! Imagine my surprise when John radios back to me during flight asking, "You're a pilot, right? Take the stick and wiggle it." Once I did that, he put his hands up on the top of the instrument panel and said, "You have the plane". Not only did we do some hard-pullin' turns (ones I'd never think of doing in a Piper or Cessna), but we also did some smooth as silk rolls.

The ride was something I'll never forget. A million thanks to John Morgan for his generosity and the wonderful ride, and also to Squadron #4 for offering this great opportunity!

Dan Guenther – Charter Member – Warbird Squadron #4

Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

This summer has been one of work and fun – gone way too fast!! As reported here by Art and others, you can see that we have had a lot of aviation activities, with a couple left: Capt. Downey's on the 7th of Oct, and our very special Veterans' Forum meeting on the 12th of Nov., to round out the year.

The next big event after the first of the year will be the Squadron dinner (date to be announced soon), which will give us another start to a great year ahead. Please plan to attend this event, as well as the others I have mentioned above.

I would have to say the highlight of my year was the B-17 ride from DuPage to Oshkosh – what a trip! Also to be able to give guided tours through her while she was with us, provided me with memories that will not soon be forgotten. I met several very interesting folks – one of whom finished a story I was telling about 2 B-17s that collided over Germany. The tail gunner rode the tail section to the ground and survived! The gentleman then told me of another survivor - one of the waist gunners, and that his brother had been the navigator on that bomber!



Veterans of various conflicts – most of which were WWII

The BBQ and meeting at Tim Bauer's were neat too, and well worth attending!

Joliet Jamboree

By Art Sereque Jr.



Rudy Frasca and Rick Siegfried exchange greetings. Other Squadron 4 members are pictured here too – having a great time.

What an extravaganza C.O. Tom Buck put on! The August 10th Fly-in BBQ had people- too many to count, and planes- at least 31 on the ground and more, including L-39s flying by.

Jim Read, owner of the Indiana Aviation Museum flew his T-28 Trojan in, while Cathy Harrell flew his Beech Mentor (T-34) in and Kris Kortokrax landed in Jim's T-6.

Will Martin and Rudy Frasca (along with his grandson) also showed up in Mentors. In addition, there were three other T-28s, including two from Kenosha and one flown in by Jeff Clark.

A sweet "Grasshopper" with invasion stripes was next to Tom's Avenger TBM and SNJ.

A Stearman, Beech Bonanza, and an ultra-light were also on the field.

Bob and Nancy Fitzpatrick brought their '93 Yak 52, which they have owned for six years. They are the third owner of the plane, which is all original except for paint and altimeter. They have also added a transponder to comply with FAA regulations.

A very nice Christen Eagle flew in along with Squadron 4 member Rick Siegfried's "SST" – Simply Stock Texan!!

During a brief meeting, it was announced that Rick is now the National Warbird's President. Congrats, Rick!

We were also honored by the presence on National Warbird's Director, Tom Wise.

As usual, Quartermaster Stacy Kolls kept the troops well supplied with grub: Italian beef, pasta and potato salads, as well as fruit salads.

On top of this, the event was blessed with an absolutely beautiful summer day.

What a great day!

ALUMINUM OVERCAST

By Art Sereque Jr.

Char Lady – oops- Chair Lady, Stacy Kolls and co-chairman Jim Delaney put in many hard hours of work as, on short notice, Squadron 4 sponsored a tour stop of the WWII B-17 Aluminum Overcast at the DuPage Airport – Labor day weekend. Due to their efforts, the weekend was a resounding success. A large contingent of Squadron members contributed to this success.

The B-17 flew in on Thursday; at which time media members and WWII veterans were given complimentary flight.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings the public was able to purchase flights on the B-17. In the afternoon, walk-on tours were offered. In the meantime members sold Squadron merchandise, as well as B-17 merchandise. Well over 100 flights were sold.

Prior to boarding the plane, passengers were advised not to touch overhead cables. These were the planes control cables, and the pilot would be very upset if someone tries to fly the plane from the fuselage. Unprotected as they were, it is easy to see how the B-17s could be shot up and fall from the skies.

Of course Stacy kept the volunteers and B-17 staff well fed.

C.O. Tom Buck flew in on Friday with his TBM avenger, while National Warbird's

President, Rick Siegfried and son-in-law, Mitch, flew in on Saturday in Rick's Texan.



Veterans and press getting ready for a great adventure!

During the weekend, the Squadron was fortunate to have B-17 Veterans stop by and talk about their experiences.

One waist gunner told how the ball turret and tail gunner did not go to their cramped positions until the plane had crossed the English Channel and reached altitude of 10,000 ft. In the meantime, he checked his guns and the bombs in the bomb bay.

Another job he had was to make sure all the bombs had dropped. If not, he had to take his colt .45 and shoot open the shackle holding the bomb. Not for the faint of heart!

Second Lieutenant Paul Perlongo of Downers Grove arrived in the same uniform he wore 60 years ago! Paul was a tail gunner in B-24s and B-26s, with 50-60 hours in the tail of the B-26! He also took 1 transition flight in a B-17. Later on, he was sent to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study new radar systems. Upon completion, he transferred to Tinian Island with the 509th Composite Group (read Atomic Bomb). He flew 4 missions as the radar operator on B-29s. Of course he met all the pilots, including Paul Tibbits and Squadron 4's late friend Fred J. Olivi who was a pilot on "The Great Artiste" – the instrument plane for Aug 6, 1945 and on Bockscar, 3 days later.

A flight was scheduled for Monday morning, depending upon weather. It turned

out to be VFR conditions, so the flight was made.

Oshkosh was the next destination for Aluminum Overcast. Six hard-working Squadron members were invited to fly along, plus one lazy bum, whom rumor has it tried to grease Stacy's palm.

Brian Churhill was kind enough to drive to Oshkosh to pick up the lucky 7. More could be said about the long drive home. However, what happens in Wisconsin stays in Wisconsin.

Sept. Meeting at Tim Bauer's

By Tim Dunavin

A picture is said to be worth a thousand words, so I will keep my words short and paste a picture.

We did have 4 new members sign up: Mary Weed, Keith Krasemann, Dennis Tomaszewski, and his wife Linda. Welcome to them all!!!



Mary Weed and Stacy Kolls



Despite the wet weather, the friendship and food were great!

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

Squadron Officers

(Partial listing – see web site for full board)

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Ron, Tim, and Matt



The reason for all the hubbub



Will Martin, Jim Delaney, Mark Laatsch,
and Tom Buck

☆ **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 we have sizes small – 2X, and for women sizes small – XL with a limited number of ladies’ shirts available.

Keep’em Flyin!!