



The Squadron



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www.warbirdsqadron4.org

Events

Saturday, Oct. 17 Squadron 4 meeting – Illinois Aviation Museum @ Clow Airport, Bolingbrook, Il.

Saturday, Nov. 7 How-to gathering, fabric covering training, Rochelle Airport – see attached flyer

Sunday, Nov. 8 The Veterans' Forum - 5233 Falcon Road, Rockford, IL 61109

As always please check our web site for the most up to date information:

www.warbirdsqadron4.org

Photos and videos of our activities are available on our website.

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From the C.O.'s Desk

What a great summer we've had with all of the Squadron 4 events: Hangar Dance, Oshkosh, Joliet Picnic, B17 Tour Stop, and Chuck Downey's lunch. We have been blessed with great friends and warbirds to make for exciting times. Now is the time to commit to coming to our Fall meetings: Illinois Aviation Museum and the Veterans' Forum. Don't miss out on the Warbird experience. Being able to talk to the WWII Veterans who flew on the Warbirds is really a treasure not to miss. Remember to look at the website pictures! Try to find yourself at one of the events...if not, be sure to participate in the next one! Don't miss out!

Tom

Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

In the last newsletter, I forgot to include an article about the MVPA Cross Country Convoy event at the Rochelle Airport, so I have included it here. Art Sereque had done, a fine job of keeping track of our activities and this month he has several that he is reporting on too. I apologize for the oversight and hopefully won't be distracted again.

Much has happened, with lots going on, and the summer's events are now past – I'm looking forward to our meeting at Clow Airport – Illinois Aviation Museum and the Veteran's Forum at Rockford in November. Another great program is being planned and we hope to see you all there.

As we have in years past, we will be honoring a Squadron 4 member at our annual dinner, with a model of an aircraft that he flew in. Ted Koston was a Navy photographer, and flew many time in TBMs off the U.S.S. St. LO. This was his favorite aircraft, and he flew many times with Tom Buck as well. The model that we are going to auction off will be a TBM with the markings of the TBM of Composite Squadron VC-65.

Sorry, no "Veteran's Corner" this month.

Rochelle Round-Up

By Art Sereque

A beautiful June Father's Day weekend set the scene for the Squadron 4 dinner dance and pancake breakfast at the Rochelle, Ill. Municipal Airport. This was done in conjunction with the National Military Vehicle Convoy, put on by the MVPA.

Several months of preparation were needed to put on this event, with Tim Bauer leading the way.

The military vehicle convoy consisted of 40 to 100 old military vehicles, the count

varying as some dropped out and others joined the convoy. Starting in Washington, D.C., crossing the mighty Mississippi, the convoy would end up on the west coast in San Francisco. John Dann came from Norridge (U.K., not Illinois). Another gentleman came from France.



Re-enactors were on hand, including General George S. Patton who escorted a lovely lady in a vintage Plymouth, whereas General Douglas MacArthur bivouacked for two nights at Tim Dunavin's hotel.

On Saturday at 6:00 P.M. sharp, a fine dinner: salad, veggies, meat, dessert, and beverages, was served to several hundred hungry people.

The program started a little after 6:30, with Tim Dunavin as the M.C. He recognized the Veterans in the crowd and read the words to "Taps". He was followed by General Douglas MacArthur, who gave the farewell speech that was given at West Point. General Patton then gave his famous speech that was given in the movie "Patton".

After the three Generals had had their say, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby – along with Jerry Calona, and several famous young ladies, put on a fine U.S.O. tribute. (This group of actors came to us from Wichita, Kansas).

At 8:00 P.M., Johnnie Kay and his orchestra started playing, almost continuously, until midnight. As they finished eating, couples gathered on the dance floor, swinging and swaying to the

fine music. When the band took breaks, Bob and Bing filled in for continuous entertainment.



At 7:00 A.M. on Sunday morning, pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee were served to over 250 people. Squadron 4 volunteers, most of whom were cleaning up from the dinner until 1:00 A.M., were back on the scene at 6:00 A.M. to prepare breakfast.

Several Squadron 4 members flew in: Tom Buck, Avenger; Keith Birsa, Stearman; Vic Krause, T-6; and Bob (Boris) Fitzpatrick, Yak 52.

Unfortunately only 21 Squadron 4 members volunteered for the weekend's work. Yes, a few members had prior commitments, but where were the rest of you? Bill Brown, just one day shy of his 81st birthday, did yeoman work all weekend. Why weren't you helping? Some complain that just a few of the same old members run the show. If they didn't, who would? If you volunteered, you would be helping to run the show. I know many of you will be scoffing down food Aug. 16th at Tom Buck's fly-in/BBQ. Yet there were only 14 members (and friends) working on the "Desert Rat", 9 at Tim Dunavin's, and now 21 for the dinner dance/pancake breakfast – come on guys (and gals) – Support the Squadron!!

Joliet Jamboree By Art Sereque

A hot Sunday, August 16th saw well over 140 friends and members of Squadron 4 arrive at C.O. Tom Buck's hangar at the Joliet Park District Airport for his annual BBQ/Fly-In. Headlining the list of attendees was National President Rick Siegfried, arriving in his T-6 Texan, and National Director Tom Wise, who left his beautiful blue early '70's Cutlass convertible at home. Sadly, renowned photographer, EAA'er and Squadron 4 member, friend and mentor Ted Koston was missing, having "gone west" 2 weeks earlier. Also missing was Squadron 4 member and former "Flying Tiger" Capt. Frank McCarter, who was recuperating from a nasty fall.



The 3 Amigos – Col. Guess, Tim Dunavin & Clancy Hess

On the plus side, C.O. Buck displayed his Navy blue SNJ, as well as his Grumman TBM Avenger, which was parked alongside Brad and Jane Deckert's TBM. How often will you see one Avenger, let alone two, at a single Fly-in?

Mike Kellner left his restoration project, the B-17 "Desert Rat" at home, arriving in a Piper Cherokee. Keith Bursa displayed his very nice duo, an Aeronca L-4 and Stearman PT-17. Keye Kait showed off his Pitts, Brian Lemke arrived

in his Swift and Squadron 4 founding member Will Martin took out his T-34 Beech Mentor from his nearby hangar. These were just a few of the beautiful planes on display.

Food was once again a focal point and once again Harry Pick's wife, Marife sent her outstanding fried chicken and potato salad, while son Harry Jr. got up at 6 A.M. to make his great rib tips. Ummmmm, good!!

During a brief business meeting, Squadron 4 member Art Sereque announced he was soliciting donations for a brick to be placed at EAA's Compass Hill in the memory of Ted Koston.

Every year member Vlado Lench donates a ride in his P-51 Mustang "MoonBeam McSwine". A raffle for the ride is held to raise money, and this year Ron Micek was the winner. He took his ride Labor Day weekend, and word is his feet are still not touching the ground.



Clancy Hess, Tom Buck

Two T-28 Trojans that normally visit from Kenosha, WI did not show, as the pilots were concerned about impending foul weather. Sure enough, about 3:00 P.M. the skies opened up. However the rain in no way put a damper on a great day!!

Fantastic B-17 Tour

By Art Sereque

Once again, Chairman Stacy Kolls led WB Sq.4 on a hugely successful B-17 Tour. At the Lewis University (Joliet Port Authority) Airport in Romeoville, Ill., "Aluminum Overcast" arrived late on Thursday, Sept 3rd, the start of the Labor day weekend. Friday morning started out with a media flight, followed by "paid" passenger flights. So many people (165) signed up for flights that ticket sales for the ground tours were cut off on Sunday, so two extra passenger flights could be made. So many tickets for ground tours were made, that the entry line was over two hours long!!

National Warbirds President, and Squadron 4 member, Rick Siegfried (T-6 Texan), Squadron 4 C.O. Tom Buck (TBM Avenger), and Squadron 4 member Vlado Lench (P-51 Mustang), thrilled a large number of people who were lucky enough to be given rides in their planes. This included Ron Micek who won the raffle drawing for a ride in Vlado's P-51.

Also thrilling the crowd was a second P-51 Mustang and another T-6 Texan, as well as a couple of neat Pitts showing off.

Among the WWII Veterans present were; Morrie Reinke, a B-17 pilot with the 15th Air Force, Capt. Frank MaCarter, a P-40 and P-51 pilot with the "Flying Tigers" (14th Air Force, Clancy Hess, a special services pilot who flew many planes, including P-38 Lightning and F4U-Corsair, and Sgt. Lou Jen0, a B-24 crew chief with the 14th Air Force in India. Another friend of Squadron 4 was Lt. Paul Perlongo, resplendent in his WWII uniform. Paul trained as a tail gunner in B-24s and B-17s before being sent to MIT to study radar. He then flew missions with the 509th Composite Group (yes, Tibbett's and the atom bombs) from Tinian Island in the Marianas.

Also present was Sgt. Joe Belman who survived 35 missions as a waist gunner on B-17s with the “Mighty Eighth”. Twice forced to land, he once avoided injury from German flak, due to a frozen orange stuffed in a side pocket! Arriving home, he was awarded the “Air Medal”. Earlier this year a friend found out that Joe had not received several other medals, including the Bronze Stars that he deserved. Thus a few days after the B-17 left, a special ceremony was held and Joe received the medals and thanks he so richly deserved.

Squadron 4 member, Bill Miller brought his old fashioned – and old – motorized “OldeTime Diner”, serving brats, burgers, pop, etc. to Squadron 4 members and the hungry throngs.

Local Ford dealer Rick Backer, whose father fought combat in WWII with the Marines in a Corsair, provided a beautiful Ford Flex as a courtesy car for the B-17 crew. They were so pleased with it that they returned it with a full tank of gas! Rick Backer’s father was a combat veteran, so Rick was proud to be a supporter of Squadron 4, EAA and “Aluminum Overcast”.

Due to the large crowds, the volunteers selling merchandise reported extremely high sales volumes on all days.

Capping such a successful weekend, several lucky volunteers flew back to Oshkosh in the B-17.

Capt. Downey’s Fly-In/Get together

By Art Sereque

Saturday, September 26th was the date of Capt. Chuck Downey’s annual Squadron 4 – Combat Airman – picnic at his Poplar Grove, Ill. airport home. More than 60 people showed up to share stories, friendship, pizza, and sundry other epicurean delights.

The featured guest was a vivacious, outgoing, bubbly lady, Pat Robertson, whom the Captain met when he flew his Meyer OWT to California earlier this year. Pat drove solo from her home in Arizona, approximately 1450 miles, to Poplar Grove, on her HARLEY!! What a gal!



Capt. Downey, Pat Robertson, and guest

Art Jacobson, a B-24 Flight Engineer with the “Mighty Eighth”, thanked Lou Seno, a B-24 Crew Chief with the 14th Air Force, for his wartime service. Although in different theaters of operation, Art, who flew combat missions, knows first hand the value of a crew chief’s work to “Keep ‘em Flying”.

Along with Chuck’s Meyer, an experimental trike gear “Sidewinder”, an Aeronca Champ, and Squadron 4 C.O. Tom Buck’s TBM Avenger, there was also a very rare Brunner Winkel Bird bi-plane.



What a great way to relax and share stories on a nice autumn day.

Help Squadron 4 Support Our Troops!

We are still collecting donations to send care packages to our troops overseas. Started in September of 2004, our care package drive has collected items for an average of 4 care packages every year, including special Christmas packages. Donations can be brought to any Squadron meeting. A list of approved items for care packages is posted on the Squadron website (www.warbirdswuardron4.org). Monetary donations help to fill out the packages with needed items that have not been donated. It's easy to remember our servicemen and women on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. We need to let them know they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Kolls, Squadron 4 Quartermaster, at 815-218-9202. Please help us support our troops!

Squadron Officers

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

C.O. Tom Buck
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ADJ. Tim Bauer
(815) 501-1468
Com. O. Brian Churchill
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SEC. Ted Kowalik
(603) 289-2785
Q.M. Stacy Kolls
(815) 544-1223
Treasurer Jim Delaney
(847) 713-0808

Warbird Squadrons

You can find all of these links on our site under the "WOA Squadron" button.

Listed below is the text for the links.

Warbirds of America Link:

<http://www.warbirds-eaa.org/>

Seattle, WA Cascade Warbird Squadron

2 Link: <http://www.cascadewarbirds.org/>

Eugene, OR Warbird Squadron

13 Link: <http://www.squadron13.org/warbirds/>

Chino, CA Warbird Squadron 16 Link:

<http://www.warbirdsusa.org/>

Cincinnati, OH Warbird Squadron 18

Link:

<http://www.cincinnatiwarbirds.org/>

Indiana Warbird Squadron 3

<http://www.warbirdsqadron3.org/>

WARBIRDS OF SQUADRON 4

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Spit Fire | Rudy Frasca |
| P51 Mustang | Vlado Lench |
| P51 Mustang | John O'Connor |
| TBM Avenger | Tom Buck |
| T6 | Rick Siegfried |
| SNJ | Vic Krause |
| T6 | Clyde Zellers |
| T6 | Rudy Frasca |
| T6 | John O'Connor |
| SNJ | Tom Buck |
| Yak | Bob Fitzpatrick |
| OW Meyers | Chuck Downey |
| Stearman | Roger Paykert |
| L5 | Larry Tinker |
| T34 | Will Martin |
| T34 | Rudy Frasca |

Wildcat
PQ-14B

Rudy Frasca
Harry Pick

MERCHANDISE

We have the new Squadron 4 hats – 7 styles to choose from! Lots of new items are also coming soon!

You can help the Squadron and look great too! See Tim Bauer for details!

FOLDED WINGS

Famed German Ace Gunther Rall Passes
EAA Warbirds of America has learned that Gunther Rall, the third ranking fighter ace of all time, died on Sunday, October 4, 2009 after suffering a heart attack on Friday, October 2. Rall recently attended EAA AirVenture 2009 and was a featured speaker during the popular Warbirds in Review Program. Attendance at his presentations during EAA AirVenture 2007 and 2009 were “standing room only”. His autobiography, “My Logbook”, remains as one of the best-selling books in the EAA Warbirds of America inventory.

Rall was born in 1918 and joined the German army in 1936. Eventually, he began flight training in the Luftwaffe, qualifying as a pilot in 1938. He participated in aerial battles over France, Great Britain, Crete, the Eastern Front, and the final defense of Germany. The vast majority of his 275 aerial victories were achieved against Russian aircraft on the Eastern Front. For the most part, he flew the Messerschmitt 109 in combat. In the closing months of the war he also flew the FW-190 and ME-262. Gunther was shot down eight times

and severely wounded several times; he was finally captured by the Americans near the end of the war. Eventually, he was freed and went to work in the civilian world. When the Luftwaffe was re-formed in 1956, he joined and was involved with the F-104 program. He also served as Inspekteur der Luftwaffe der Bundeswehr. Rall was later a German military liaison to NATO. He closed out his military career in the mid-1970's and was a popular speaker in his retirement years. EAA Warbirds of America sends their condolences to the family and friends of Gunther Rall.



Gunther Rall and Tim Dunavin –
Oshkosh 2007

Keep'em Flyin