



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

November, 2004

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

In this Issue:

- ✦ 2004 Annual Veteran's Forum
- ✦ The C.O.'s Desk
- ✦ Re-Cap of Capt. Chuck Downey's BBQ
- ✦ Re-Cap of Heritage Air Corp Fly-in
- ✦ Member News
- ✦ Future Squadron events

Lunch will be served at 11:30 followed by our program.

Pride Aircraft is located on the Southwest cargo ramp of Rockford Airport at 6028 Cessna Drive. Please see the detailed directions flyer insert.

For any questions, contact Mark Laatsch at 773-695-8122 or e-mail at mllaatsch@csinet.net.

2004 Annual Veteran's Forum

Squadron 4 presents our annual Veterans Forum on Sunday November 21 at the Pride Aircraft hangar in Rockford Illinois. This meeting will bring together numerous Veterans who have all honorably served our country in times of war and peace. We have gathered a diverse cross section of Veterans from World War II and more recent eras. Our guests have fought and served from the Pacific, European and African Theaters of conflict, in WWII, in the Korean, Vietnam, and the Middle Eastern wars. Join us to honor those who have served our country over the past 60 years.

**Where: Pride Aircraft Hangar,
Rockford Airport**

**When: November 21, 2004 beginning
at 11:00 AM**

Squadron 4 Officers and Board Members

Mark Laatsch, Commander

Tom Buck, Executive Office

Tim Bauer, Adjutant

Bruce Graham, Secretary

Dan Guenther, Financial Officer

Brian Churchill, Communications Officer, Membership and Web Page Editor

Ron Molinets, Recruiting, Membership

Ted Koston, Public Affairs Officer,
Squadron Photographer

Stacy Kolls, Quartermaster

Matt Huffnus, Squadron Chaplain

Jim Delaney, Past Commander

Will Martin, Chairman of the Board

David Maren, Matt Olafsen, Chris Huffnus Board Members



Directions to: Pride Aircraft, 6028 Cessna Drive, Rockford, IL

From I-39 North, exit at Baxter Road and go west to route 251. Cross 251 and continue west, the road turns into Beltline Road which will bring you to the south end of the north-south runway. At this point, signs will list the businesses on the cargo ramp. Pride is the third building on right, the first is BAX GLOBAL, the second is DHL and the third is Pride Aircraft. The building is white with the entrance on the south side of building.

From I-90 West take I-39 south and take the first exit which is Baxter Road and go West, following the directions above.



A Tribute to Our Veterans



Admiral Chester Nimitz R5D on Guam March 1945.

Photo by Ted Koston



B-24J and P-51s

Photo by Ted Koston



Squadron 4 Board Members (missing, Ted Koston, Ron Molinets, Matt Olafsen)



Mike Titre listens as Capt. Downey tells his story



George Gay, sole survivor of the battle of midway, Kathy Oberman, with Chicago Public affairs, and Capt. Chuck Downey, at Midway Airport, 1992, for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

Photo by Ted Koston



Captain Chuck Downey's Fly-in



Roger Paykert arrives at Capt. Downey's in the Stearman

The C.O.'s Desk

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th Armistice Day. In 1938 the day became a national holiday. In 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day by Congress. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law for this day "to honor veterans...a day dedicated to world peace."

Squadron 4 has dedicated our November meeting to the Veterans as a way to respect and honor the courage and patriotism of all men and women who have served in the armed services. Since we are an aviation organization, our affections have naturally leaned toward those Veterans who have served in the aviation arms of each branch of military service. We invite all Veterans to be recognized for their service and to help keep alive the memory and history of their accomplishments and deeds through the oldest form of knowledge transfer known to mankind, the spoken word. We as an organization are eager to learn and cherish the shared experiences of those we respect the most, the Veterans who have served our great country and helped preserve our way of life. To all the Veterans, and the soldiers of today, we salute you.

Re-cap of Capt. Chuck Downey's

On October 9 this year, Captain Chuck Downey again graciously invited the members and friends of Squadron 4 to his residence on the Poplar Grove Airport, for a day of flying and socializing. The day was fantastic for flying and thus several of our members took this opportunity to fly their airplanes to the event. Captain Downey began the annual event several years ago as a way to say 'Thank You' to the members of Squadron 4 for their efforts in the

Warbird community and for our ongoing efforts in perpetuating the history and memory of the aircraft and Veterans.

There were many interesting stories told by the Captain, including his induction into a very exclusive group of flyers. Those of us attending the September meeting at Lindenwood Field, heard Captain Downey proudly profess that he was a UFO. The title UFO refers to the United Flying Octogenarians. As amazing as this achievement may be, the Captain told of a friend of his who was still flying well beyond this milestone.

All in all, with good weather, good food, and good friends, the day at Captain Downey's was a delightful success. We would like to thank the kind Captain for his hospitality. He is indeed a treasured and revered friend of the Squadron.

Re-cap of the Fly in at Bannockburn

One September 17th, the Heritage Air Corp and Roger Paykert held a fly in at Bannockburn Air Field. With the fate of the airfield un-determined at this time, Roger decided we might as well use the field while we can and invited Squadron 4 members to yet another very successful fly-in this year. Several members flew into the event including Tom Buck in his SNJ and Rudy Frasca in his T-34. Sam Tabor and Chic Ramsdon flew in their Stinson L-5s while Lord Peter Palumbo flew the Air Corps L-4 and of course Roger Paykert had the Stearman out. There were a few Pitts Specials present as well as several civilian aircraft. Brats and burgers were served to a crowd of around 40 people. Willi Gohs brought liquid refreshments and all present had a great time.

Thanks to Roger and the Heritage Air Corps for the invitation to this great air

field. Although the future fate of the field is uncertain, the Heritage Air Corps is working hard to keep and maintain the classic field for possible future events to be enjoyed by our members. We have tentatively scheduled our April meeting to be held at the field, and we look forward to this and many others event to be held at this fine field.

Member News

EAA B-17 Restoration

The EAA is looking for volunteers to assist in the effort involved in the restoration and repair of their B-17, *Aluminum Overcast*. Volunteers are needed in Oshkosh on various dates (TBD). Anyone interested can contact Ron Twellman at (920) 426-5917 or rtwellman@eaa.org.

Support Our Troops

Stacy Kolls has spearheaded an effort to collect goods and donations to send care packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her efforts will culminate at our November Veterans Forum meeting at Rockford Airport on November 21, 2004. A list of suggested items for the care packages is available by visiting the Operation Shoebox website at www.operationshoebox.com or by calling our Quartermaster, Stacy Kolls at 815-218-9202. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase additional items and cover shipping costs.

Squadron 4 Merchandise

Over this past year we have introduced a line of Squadron 4 merchandise, mainly consisting of patches, pins and clothing. The clothing items have expanded from hats and t-shirts with an embroidered Squadron 4 logo to polo shirts and sweat shirts. We have also expanded the merchandise line to

include, on a limited basis, specialty designed shirts commemorating significant events including the Oshkosh fly-in and our annual BBQ at Joliet. Regular embroidered hats and shirts are available with prices ranging from \$10 - \$25. The items will be available at all Squadron 4 events or contact Mark Laatsch at 773-695-8122 for information.

Squadron 4 – Year 2005 Calendar of Events

January 22, 2005 - Annual Dinner, William Tell Holiday Inn, Lagrange, IL

April 24, 2005 - Regular Meeting, Bannockburn Field, Plano, IL

June 26, 2005 - Regular Meeting, Kenosha, WI

August 14, 2005 - Annual BBQ Fly-in/Drive-in, Joliet, IL

September 11, 2005 - Regular Meeting, Lindenwood, IL

November 20, 2005 - Annual Veteran's Forum - Rockford, IL



Keep 'em Flying