



www.warbirdsquadron4.org

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RARE WARBIRDS

On Sunday, November 15, 2020 Squadron 4 will be holding another Zoom presentation. Our speakers will be Warbird Squadron 4 members Bob Coon and Jim Chyicki. They are both Veterans and co-owners of Midwest Aeronautique. They will be talking about their aircraft and other restoration projects. They'll also talk about their recent recovery of a rare 1945 Percival Proctor Mk 5 aircraft. It was recently located on a farm in Lowell, IN. The presentation will start at 11:00 am on Sunday November 15. *more on page 6*



Contribute, comment or add to any part of *The Avenger*. Please send in your stories, photos, ideas or suggestions via email: stevens15@mindspring.com.

FROM THE CO'S DESK



I hope everyone is staying safe. Last month Squadron 4 hosted a Zoom meeting. Our guest speaker was Jim Porter. He's a very interesting gentleman. For those of you who attended via Zoom I hope you enjoyed his talk. He talked about his aviation career, flying in the SR71, visiting Area 51, and recovering an F4F from Lake Michigan and his job with the science and technology division of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I enjoyed my time with Jim. Squadron 4 will be hosting another one of these Zoom meetings on Sunday November 15, 2020 starting at 11:00 am. I hope you can join us. The email invite that was sent out also has a link to dial in by phone and listen to the talk if you don't have internet access.

Take care. Jerry - jerry.czupryn@warbirdsquadron4.org Cell (630) 452-0845



BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



To our many Veterans, Thank You.

This group of Warbird fans is a great bunch of people. I miss you. WE miss you. We want to have Fly-ins and Airshows and picnics at the hangar. Instead we are doing what we are told and keeping apart. Wearing masks. Avoiding large group gatherings. “Scud running” and staying low. But it’s not over. Squadron 4 is not hiding. You have this newsletter (we welcome your contributions to it). You have the web site. You have Our Facebook page.

Warbird Squadron 4 is reaching out to you.

Hook up to one of the Zoom presentations. You received an email about the next one. On the date and time of the presentation, (listed at right) go to that email, click the “Join Zoom Meeting” link, and you’ll be hooked up.

Be safe, See you soon.



Two pilots and an old guy

JOIN US ON THE FLIGHT DECK

We are anxious to get together again. There will be Air Shows. There will be Squadron gatherings. We are just not sure when it could happen...

Here’s something you CAN get into:

Zoom Presentation with Squadron 4 members and co-owners of Midwest Aeronautique Sunday - 15 November 2020 at 1100 hrs
Zoom Meeting log-in will be sent to the membership via E-mail.

11:00 am, from Clow International Airport
Live Zoom Cast featuring Bob Coon and Jim Chybicki and their warbird restoration projects.
Don’t miss this.

Watch your email for log-in info to come.

We will let you know about other Zoom presentations that you can join in on.

- ✓ Check the Squadron 4 web site.
warbirdsquadron4.org
- ✓ Check the EAA Warbird Squadron 4 Facebook page.





PEARL HARBOR EXPLORED

By Butch Bejna

Photos ©Butch Bejna



Ford Island Hawaii

It has almost been a year since I was at Pearl Harbor and 79 years since the attack. Coming into Honolulu on downwind there was a nice view of Ford Island and the final resting place of the USS Arizona and the USS Utah. The Utah arrived on December 5th and was going to stay for a few days. It never left.

Had the honor to attend The Blackened Canteen ceremony on the early morning of December 6th on the USS Arizona Memorial in a light mist. During the bombing raid on June 20, 1945 over Shizuoka, Japan two B-29s collided and killed all 23 crew members. In the wreckage, a smoldering canteen with a handprint etched into it was found. In Japan, that day has been remembered every year to honor all that died that day and started in 1991 at Pearl Harbor. The canteen is filled with Kentucky bourbon whiskey and poured into the hallowed waters above the USS Arizona by dignitaries from the two former foes. Dr. Sugano is the caretaker of the canteen and the ceremony is for peace and reconciliation. Afterward, all in attendance were asked to toss blossoms onto the waters as an offering to the spirits of the fallen. As the sun started to rise you could make out more of the USS Arizona and start to see the oil that still rises to the surface. *continued on page 4*



Bullet holes from December 7, 1941



Blackened Canteen Ceremony



Anchor from USS Arizona

PEARL HARBOR EXPLORED

continued from page 3



USS Bowfin

The USS Bowfin Submarine was next on the tour, then the USS Missouri where the Japanese surrender took place in 1945.

The Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum was next with a great lunch and some very nice exhibits.



USS Missouri

Awoke in the darkness on the morning of Saturday December 7, 2019 to get ready for a day long of activities. During the whole event that was to follow, all I could think about was the movie Tora Tora Tora. Many survivors of the attack were there. Mr. Louis Conter was on the USS Arizona and is one of two members of the crew left. Later he became a PBY pilot with VP-11 Black Cat Squadron. As the ceremony was over it was back to the hotel and time to rest up for the dinner on Ford Island later that evening. The dinner was in Hangar 79 which still has bullet holes in the glass panels from the attack.

The next morning was the dedication of the original control tower that was under construction during the attack and is now a research library on the lower floor. Next up was a documentary movie by Dick Portillo, yes the hot dog guy, about a journey he made to the crash site of Admiral Yamamoto and what he found.

I would like to return again some day and see more places that I did not see.

more photos on page 5



Ford Island Control Tower



Mitsubishi Zero

PEARL HARBOR EXPLORED

continued from page 4



Grumman TBM Avenger



Curtiss P-40



B-17 Swamp Ghost



Kate Torpedo Bomber

RARE WARBIRDS

Bob Coon and Jim Chybicki are co-owners of Midwest Aeronautique based at Clow International Airport in Bolingbrook IL.

On Sunday, November 15, 2020 They will be talking about their aircraft and other restoration projects involving rare warbirds including a 1945 Percival Proctor Mk 5 aircraft. The Zoom meeting will start at 11:00 am on Sunday November 15. An email with the link has been sent to the membership. Just click that link at 11:00 am and you will be hooked up.



ILLINOIS AVIATION MUSEUM



Our Collection

- A4
- T2
- T33
- T33 STUBBY
- Fokker E.III
- Nieuport 11
- Nieuport 12
- Jungster II
- UH-1C "Huey" gunship
- Pazmany PL-1
- Pacific D-8 Glider
- Link Trainer
- Beech 18

PRESERVING THE PAST. ENSURING THE FUTURE



You can help with the Beech 18 (C45) restoration. Just email us!

Illinois Aviation Museum at Bolingbrook 130 S. Clow International Parkway Bolingbrook, IL 60490 * Phone: 630-771-1937
Email: exec@illinoisaviationmuseum.org <https://illinoisaviationmuseum.org>

EAA Warbird Squadron 4 is grateful to IAM for sharing it's facilities with us.

THE FLY-IN THAT WASN'T A FLY-IN

By Mike Hudak

It wasn't a Fly-In, it wasn't the Avenger Reunion and it definitely wasn't Oshkosh, even though I spent two miserable nights in a tent. I guess you could say it was just a coincidence that a bunch of Warbirds happened to show up at the same airport in Terra Haute IN on the same weekend of July 24th.

In dire need of a Warbird fix, as most of us are, events/fun had been cancelled so I jumped at the chance to drive down there for a little Warbird action and I'm glad I did.

It was a little different kind of vibe just as this entire year has been anything but normal. But the airport staff was very friendly and accommodating but it was different because the public was not allowed in to walk around the planes and ask question and talk to the pilots, but they could observe from just outside the fence.

It was great to see my buddy and newly minted Navy Seaman Chase Smith, so I had someone familiar to hang with. Stacey Kolls showed up, bad leg and all, with her crew too.

I really was surprised by the number of Warbirds that did participate, among them was a C-47 that is based there, two P-51's, several T-6's including Tim Gillian's, a group of Yaks, a TBM, an L-Bird, Stearman, two L-39s, and others.

The Special Forces Black Daggers Skydiving Team was also there. They jumped out of the C-47 and put on two great shows a day. A cool bunch of guys and most of them are combat veterans.

Chase and I lobbied them hard for taking us up for a tandem jump but apparently their policy is that they only take young single women up. So we were out of luck again! That would of been a blast to jump out of that C-47! *continued on page 8*



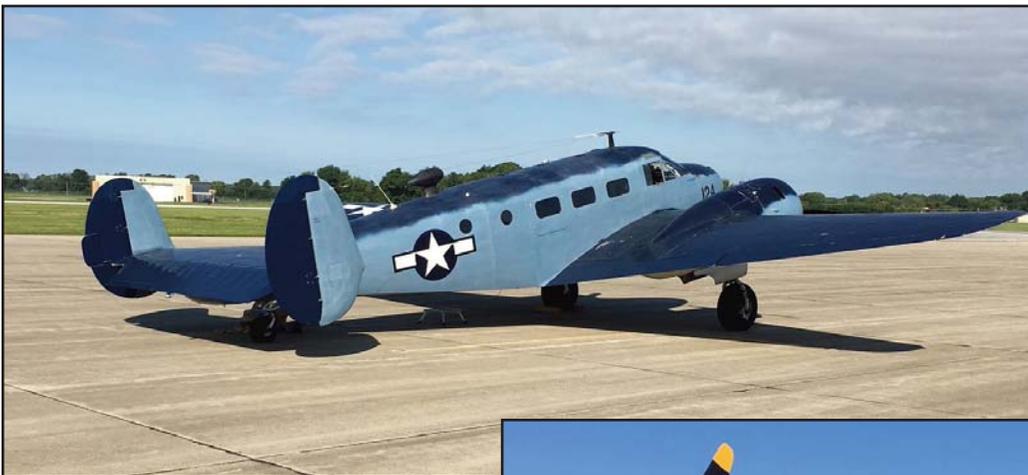
all photos ©Mike Hudak

THE FLY-IN THAT WASN'T A FLY-IN



But the guys were great about letting us hang out in the LZ and take videos and talk with them. It was interesting listening to them communicating with the jump plane to coordinate the mission as it was happening. Real pros!

The bonus was that there was plenty of food and drinks for everyone every day and a party in the evening and it was all on the house, well worth the trip!



all photos ©Mike Hudak



YOUNG EAGLES

By Butch Bejna



Butch Bejna



2020 marks Butch's 24th year of giving Young Eagle Flights. EAA is starting a new program for young aviators but it is still being formed. We will let you know when it is active.

When we can fly together again, If you know anyone between the ages of 8-18 that may be interested in a Young Eagles flight, call Butch @ 630-414-4921.



YOUR SQUADRON 4 DUES... ARE NOT DUE

Over the past eleven months we have seen our share of lockdowns and cancelled events – almost the entire aeronautical calendar has been marked with a **Big Red ‘X’**.

The Board unanimously wanted to let you know that they appreciate your membership and patience during these difficult times, and that the year of 2021 will be entirely dues-free, as a thank-you for your support and tolerance of the previous year’s disappointments.

If you have already paid your dues for 2021, it will be moved up to 2022.

As we move through the final months before entering the next year, we hope to see everyone again soon - healthy, safe and ready to share, once again, our collective love of aviation!



A CHALLENGE TO MEMBERS TO SHARE THE GIFT OF EAA

By David Leiting

EAA Membership Development Manger

The flying club I am a member of shut down operations for 90 days as we evaluated how we could safely operate amongst the COVID-19 pandemic. It pained me to stay out of the cockpit for more than three months. This was the first time since I passed my private pilot check ride that I was out of my 90-day currency! Additionally, my local EAA chapter put all of our events on hold. Although we were able to conduct virtual gatherings and board meetings, it wasn't the same as our usual in-person events.

This lack of aviation activity caused me to reflect on my passion for aviation, and remind myself how easy it is to take for granted the aviation opportunities afforded by EAA. Like many of you, much of what I use to fuel my passion for aviation has come from EAA. EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, my Young Eagles flight, the relationships built through my local chapters, and the educational opportunities. Without EAA, I am not quite sure where I would find myself on my aviation journey.

One of the great pillars of EAA is the opportunity to give back, and pass the torch to future members. Perhaps you have given a Young Eagles flight that led to a career aviator, or lent a helping hand to a friend building their own aircraft. There is also a great chance that you have benefited from the generosity of a fellow EAAer. It is the lifeblood of our organization! We all remember our mentor who introduced us to aviation and are forever grateful for the gift they gave us. That mentor may still be a close friend of yours within your EAA chapter. EAA is now asking you to join us in helping to preserve the legacy of EAA Founder Paul Poberezny, and of all our past and current members, by gifting an EAA membership to someone you feel will continue to carry on EAA's mission within The Spirit of Aviation.

It is EAA members such as yourself that can bring aboard the next generation of members. Your involvement in your local chapter is even a greater reason to introduce them to EAA. Chapter members are the most engaged and passionate members you'll find within EAA. There is no better group than a local chapter to welcome a newcomer to EAA. Once you identify whom you'd like to sponsor, simply visit www.EAA.org/Legacy to register EAA's newest member. After you gift this membership, invite the individual to your chapter, and show them the opportunities and community that exist in their own backyard. By gifting a membership and becoming a Legacy sponsor, you will receive a Legacy sponsor pin and patch.

EAA cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the organization, and especially of your local chapter. Chapters are the lifeblood of EAA, and without them the impact of EAA would be fraction of what it is today. Enjoy your holiday season, and we hope to see you in Oshkosh this July!



SQUADRON 4 STORE

There's a lot of Squadron 4 merchandise to choose from in our on-line store
Click the STORE button on the web site. (<https://squareup.com/market/eaa-warbird-squadron-4>).
Show your support for Squadron 4. We usually sell gear at the events we go to as well, so come on out and stop by the Squadron 4 tent. We can always use help at these events too, so volunteers are welcome!



Boonie Hats

These are very popular, especially at hot, sunny air shows. If you want to stay cool, order one now and avoid being disappointed.

Beat the heat!

\$20.00



The Baseball cap. Navy and Khaki. Adjustable. These are great quality and adjust to fit almost everyone. Squadron 4 logo is stitched onto the front. WARBIRDSQUADRON4.ORG on the back. Also available in all Khaki. **\$20.00**



EAA MEMBER PROFILE: RICK SIEGFRIED

EAA Warbirds of America has put together a bunch of interesting videos that are definitely worth watching. You probably get the emails about them. I would like to suggest that you take a few minutes and watch some of them. They are well done and if you are like me, you will most likely learn something new.

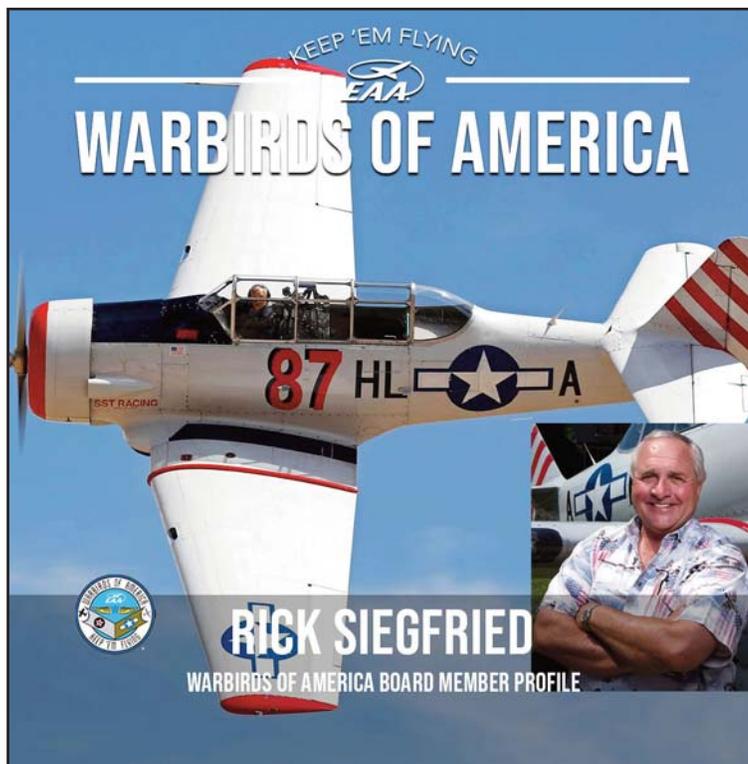
I watched the profile about our own Rick Siegfried and despite knowing about Rick's career and EAA activities, I learned new details about his life and family and really enjoyed watching the video. I did not know he flew the EAAs Paul Poberezney P-64. It is the only one flying and a magnificent Warbird. The video showed some great air to air shots of it.

It would have been great to get to watch the Arsenal of Democracy flights with Rick at the controls of the TBM, but weather did not favor the flyers this time.

If you tend to dismiss or skim over some of the EAA emails, I encourage you to explore some of the links. I know you will find some very interesting and entertaining information.

The Profile videos, made by FLYINGtv, are archived on the EAA Warbirds web site so you can watch them any time.

Keep 'em Flying!
Dave Stevens



all screen captures ©FLYINGtv and EAA

THE SQUADRON 4 HANGAR

Here are some of the Warbirds owned by Squadron 4 members.
Please send yours in if we don't have it! Corrections Welcome!



Tom Buck
Grumman
TBM Avenger



Vic Krause
North American
SNJ



Tom Buck
North American
SNJ



Ol' Bob Siegfried
Boeing/Stearman
N2S



John O'Connor
Grumman
F8F Bearcat



Doug Mahall
Aeronca
L-3



John O'Connor
Vought
F4U-7 Corsair



**Jim Turcich
& Jim Klick**
Aeronca
L-16A



John O'Connor
North American
SNJ



Tim Gillian
North American
SNJ



Rick Siegfried
North American
T-6



Karl Vacek
Stearman
PT-17

THE SQUADRON 4 HANGAR

More Warbirds owned by Squadron 4 members.
Please send yours in! Corrections Welcome!



Scott Delawder
Boeing/Stearman
N2S



Dwight Davies
Supermarine
Spitfire Mk 26B



Bob Coon
Fairchild
Argus III



Stephen Jones
Lockheed
T-33



Keith Birsa
Stearman
PT-17



Stephen Jones
NAF
N3N



Stuart Glenn
Beechcraft
T-34A Mentor



Stephen Jones
Nanchang
CJ-6a

SQUADRON OFFICERS

(Partial listing – see website for full list of board members)

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X.O. David Stevens stevens15@mindspring.com
(630) 624-6618

SEC. Brian Sell nasgame@sbcglobal.net
(331) 240-5327

TRE. Brian Churchill brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org
(847) 356-9056



NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS

Squadron 4 is Always Searching
for New Members:



Check out the Website and Our Facebook Page!



www.warbirdsquadron4.org



EAA Warbirds Squadron 4

We are always looking for new members to join the Squadron.

We have some great experiences and opportunities for you.

For more information please contact

Bruce Hawkins at (815) 274-1752 or bruce.hawkins@warbirdsquadron4.org

WARBIRD SQUADRONS

All EAA Warbird Squadron links are available by clicking the WOA logo in our web site header.

Then scroll down to Squadrons.

- Warbirds of America Link: <https://www.warbirds-aea.org/>
- Seattle, WA Cascade Warbird Squadron 2 Link: <https://www.cascadewarbirds.org/>
- Eugene, OR Warbird Squadron 13 Link: <https://www.squadron13.org/warbirds/>
- Chino, CA Warbird Squadron 16 Link: <https://www.warbirdsusa.org/>
- Cincinnati, OH Warbird Squadron 18 Link: <https://www.cincinnatiwarbirds.org/>
- Florida Warbird Squadron 24 Link: <https://www.floridawarbirds.org/>
- Oshkosh, WI Warbird Squadron 32 Link: <https://www.facebook.com/OshkoshSquad/>