

THE AVENGER

The Official Publication of The EAA Warbirds of America Squadron 4



www.warbirdsquadron4.org

May 2019 Volume 14 No.1



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SQUADRON 4 BANQUET

2019 started off with a great evening at the Squadron 4 Annual Banquet. The Squadron celebrated it's 25th anniversary! You should already know about the special "25th" patch and T-Shirt that you got just for being a Squadron 4 member. But there was more! We heard from 3 of our past Squadron Commanders and learned the story of the original patch design. Squadron member, retired United Airlines pilot and T-6 Reno official/racer, Rick Siegfried was our guest *continued on page 2*



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

FROM THE CO'S DESK



It's spring time according to the calendar. Hopefully, we're done with the rain and cold. Warbird Squadron 4 has a busy spring, summer and fall planned. We'll have our merchandise tent setup at the TBM Gathering in Peru, IL, on Saturday 5/18/19 and the Cavalcade of Planes in Bolingbrook, IL, on Saturday 6/1/19 & Sunday 6/2/19. If you can, please volunteer some time to help out at these events. It would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for everyone's support of Warbird Squadron 4. Safe travels. I can be contacted by email at nyrs9229@comcast.net or cell phone (630) 452-0845.



BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



This is the first 2019 issue and it's very late. I blame it on my computers... and the dog ate my homework. That's him right there. I will do my best to try and catch up with things as they happen, while showing photos from some of the 2018 events. I'll just say that 2018 was a great year for Squadron 4 gatherings, and I hope everyone was able to attend a few of them. We had some fascinating speakers at our vet forum and general meetings. A lot of people in the squadron go above and beyond to make those meetings happen. We owe them more than you might guess for thier efforts. I hope you will make an effort to join us at the next event. Let us know what you think.



SQUADRON 4 BANQUET

continued from page 1

speaker. Rick has been a Squadron 4 member for a long time. He gave me my very first warbird ride in his T-6. We went formation flying around Romeoville with Tom Buck's TBM and Vlado Lench in Moonbeam McSwine. Rick always donates a ride for our raffles.

continued on page 3



Darin Kolls photo ©2008



JOIN US ON THE FLIGHT DECK

Friday-Saturday- May 17-18, 2019

**TBM Avenger Reunion/Salute To Veterans
Illinois Valley Regional Airport
Peru, IL 61354**

Friday: 4:00 - 10:00pm.

Saturday: 9:00 -4:00pm

Free Admission. Free Parking

Aircraft scheduled are 10 TBM 'Avengers' along with a P-51 'Mustang', F4U-7 'Corsair', Grumman FM-2 'Wildcat', North American F-86 'Sabre Jet', Mig-7, F8F 'Bearcat' and numerous T-6 'Texans' and PT-17 'Stearman'.

web site: tbmreunion.org

Saturday-Sunday- June 1-2, 2019

Cavalcade of Planes

Clow International Airport

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

10:00 -4:00pm

\$5.00 adult advance purchase. \$6.00 on site

Kids 5-12, \$3.00 Under 5, FREE

Tickets on line: <https://bolingbrook-cavalcade-of-planes.ticketleap.com>

Plenty of Warbirds and interesting aircraft.

Purchase a ride on the Ford Tri-Motor, a T-6 or B-25 Mitchell, 'Champagne Gal'.

Go to the Cavalcade of Planes Facebook page to learn more!

...more on pages 9-10

SQUADRON 4 BANQUET

continued from page 2

He probably has a lot of stories. He might even name names.

I found the account of flying the Spirit of Saint Louis replica fascinating. Rick also talked about flying the TBM Avenger, and I know he is playing a big role in the 4th annual TBM Avenger Reunion in Peru this month.

The annual banquet is a great event. It's always an enjoyable way to catch up with old friends, meet new members, and hear about the warbirds we all love watching all year long.

Ted Kowalik's Slide show, which runs through most of the banquet, is always fun. You'll find a lot of people watching and saying, "When was THAT? I missed that!". He does a lot to make that show happen. Make sure you come out to a few events this year. See you in the slide show next year!



2019-feb-3 banquet
Warbird Squadron 4
Ted Kowalik photos
Squadron C.O.s - Past and Present



2019-feb-3 banquet
Warbird Squadron 4
Ted Kowalik photos



2019-feb-3 banquet
Warbird Squadron 4
Ted Kowalik photos



2019-feb-3 banquet
Warbird Squadron 4
Ted Kowalik photos
The Official 25th Anniversary Cake



2019-feb-3 banquet
Warbird Squadron 4
Ted Kowalik photos
Have you paid your dues?



Mr. Ted Kowalik battling the projection screen

SALUTE TO VETERANS/TBM REUNION - 2018

Dave Stevens



© Dave Stevens



One of the greatest gatherings of warbird aircraft happened for the 3rd time on May 19, 2018, at Illinois Valley Airport in Peru, Illinois. What's so great about it? So, you haven't been there, have you?

Lets start with, IT'S FREE! TBM owner/pilot Brad Deckert started this as a nice little birthday celebration and he invited all the TBM Avenger pilots and warbird owners and, oh yes, the entire town of Peru, Illinois. No less than 11 TBMs showed up for the first one and 2018 did not disappoint. More than 10 TBM Avengers came in to celebrate the Salute to Veterans.

SALUTE TO VETERANS/TBM REUNION

Many warbirds showed up and pretty soon the expansive ramp at Illinois Valley was full of almost every kind of WWII aircraft you could imagine. T-33s! Corsairs! F-86s! Migs! Wildcats! Texans! Stearmans! There were hundreds of GA aircraft too! Tom Buck and his crew had the Big Blue Bird out there, and many other Squadron 4 pilots flew in and participated in the formation flying.

If you love WWII aircraft and formation flying, food, fun and just a really great day thanking veterans and being a part of it instead of watching from the far off sidelines, this is the Number One, Top of The Heap, First Big Air Show of the midwest season! I know you will agree with me. Stop by the Squadron 4 tent and pick up a T-shirt at the 2019 event. Now it's 2 days, May 17-18th. check it out at tbmreunion.org.



SALUTE TO VETERANS TBM REUNION



2018 B-17 TOUR STOP - LEWIS UNIVERSITY AIRPORT



Lewis University Airport was kind enough to host us again in July for our B-17 Tour Stop. The crew of Aluminum Overcast brought her in for a fun weekend of rides and Warbird excitement. There were around 100 paid seats sold and the squadron had our tent up selling T-Shirts and Squadron 4 gear. Thursday was our Media/Veterans flight and we never fail to fill that one up with deserving Vets. Our thanks to you all.

The best part of the Media/Veterans flight is talking to the vets and making everyone comfortable before and after the flight. The crew of the B-17 and our Veterans and families are our favorite people and we want to be sure they get whatever they need to make that flight work. A little rain is not going to stop us.



2018 B-17 TOUR STOP - LEWIS UNIVERSITY AIRPORT

Friday through Sunday are filled with B-17 Warbird fun, as the public comes out to ride on Aluminum Overcast. It takes a huge effort to organize the weekend. Many members of the squadron work hard to recruit volunteers for the flight line and if you are one of those volunteers you get a chance to fly on the bomber on its flight to the next stop.

So next time, contact the squadron about helping us make this happen. It's a great chance to fly on a B-17 - just for helping out.



Ted Kowalik Photos





Squadron 4 has many great events coming up in 2019 that you will not want to miss. You should start planning NOW to be at The Fourth Annual TBM Gathering in Peru, May 17-18. Stop by the Squadron 4 tent. Then we'll see you at the Cavalcade of Planes in Bolingbrook, June 1-2. If you like Warbirds, you are going to love this summer!

Friday/Saturday- May 17-18, 2019
TBM Avenger Reunion/Salute To Veterans
Illinois Valley Regional Airport
Peru, IL 61354

Friday: 4:00 - 10:00pm.
 Saturday: 9:00 - 4:00pm
 Free Admission. Free Parking
 Aircraft scheduled are 10 TBM 'Avengers' along with a P-51 'Mustang', F4U-7 'Corsair', Grumman FM-2 'Wildcat', North American F-86 'Sabre Jet', Mig-7, F8F 'Bearcat' and numerous T-6 'Texans' and PT-17 'Stearman'.
 Trust me. Don't Miss This!
 web site: tbmreunion.org



Saturday/Sunday- June 1-2, 2019
Cavalcade of Planes
Clow International Airport
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

10:00 - 4:00pm
 \$5.00 adult advance purchase. \$6.00 on site
 Kids 5-12, \$3.00 Under 5, FREE
 Tickets on line: <https://bolingbrook-cavalcade-of-planes.ticketleap.com>
 Plenty of Warbirds and interesting aircraft.
 Ride on the Ford Tri-Motor, a T-6 or B-25 Mitchell, 'Champagne Gal'.
 Go to the Cavalcade of Planes Facebook page to learn more!





SCRAMBLE!! LET'S GO!!

Quad City Air Show
June 29 - 30, 2019
Davenport Municipal Airport
Davenport, IA 52803

Gates open at 8:00 am.
 Main airshows: 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm
 Gates close at 5:00 pm

Scheduled to perform: US Navy Blue Angels. Aeroshell Aerobatic Team. Kirby Chambliss. Red Bull Sky Drivers. Red Bull Helicopter Shetterly Squadron. Class of 1945 - F4U-5 Corsair and P-51 Mustang USAF A-10 Warthog Demo. USAF Heritage A-10 & P-51. USN Legacy T-45 & F4U-5. WWII Demos and Static - including a P-38J. Military Static. AfterShock Jet Truck.
www.quadcityairshow.com



Thunder Over Michigan
August 3-4, 2019
Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, MI

Just about every type of warbird is represented at this show. There are 12 Corsairs scheduled to be there. That's Amazing! 6 P-51 Mustangs. 3 B-25 Mitchells. You can ride in a UH-1H Iroquois (Huey) or a AH-1F Cobra! You can fly on the B-17 or the B-25D Mitchell. Watch the F-16 Demo Team too! You're gonna need all day. www.yankeeairmuseum.org



WARBIRD CHALLENGE

by Mark Laatsch

It's rather challenging trying to identify warbird aircraft from cropped photos or a photo taken from such an angle that tell-tale signs are obscured, but that's what makes it fun. Right?

From the last newsletter, the first cropped photo showed the forward most part of a fuselage with a conventional (stepped) nose and cockpit construction. The glass nose would logically indicate a WWII bomber design and with two propellers visible, it could also be assumed to be a twin-engined medium bomber. The lack of a nose wheel and the angle of nose as photographed would also indicate a tail dragger. The aircraft is the sole Stearman XA-21, and in fact the nose/cockpit configuration was actually a re-design of the original prototype, which was built with a "step-less" streamlined, well-framed greenhouse nose/canopy arrangement, similar to most German WWII bombers designed. First flown in 1938, the XA-21 was a competitor in a USAAC competition for a twin-engined attack aircraft, but lost out to the Douglas A-20 Havoc, the Martin A-22 Maryland and the North American B-25 Mitchell.

The second challenge showed, again, the nose and canopy section of what would again appear to be a bomber (based on the glass nose). From the cropped photo, the forward part of the fuselage would indicate a much larger aircraft than a medium bomber, and in fact was the four-engine prototype Boeing XB-15. Designed in 1934 and first flown in 1937, it was the most massive aircraft built in the US at the time. The aircraft was huge, with a wing thickness sufficient to allow a crawlway tunnel used by flight engineers to enter the wing and make adjustments/repairs to the engines in flight. With a 5000 mi range and a flight time of 33 hours, at cruising speed, the airplane also had a sizable crew compartment equipped with bunk-beds, a galley and a lavatory allowing the crew to work in shifts. The aircraft pioneered features such as an autopilot, deicing equipment and two auxiliary power units, independent of the main engines, powering the 110-volt electrical system. The bomber never saw active duty as a bomber and in 1943 the aircraft was converted to a transport aircraft designated XC-105. The aircraft was scrapped at Kelly Field, TX shortly before the end of the war.



Butch Bejna was the only one to respond, and correctly identified both warbirds.

CHALLENGE #9



STEARMAN XA-21

WARBIRD CHALLENGE *continued*

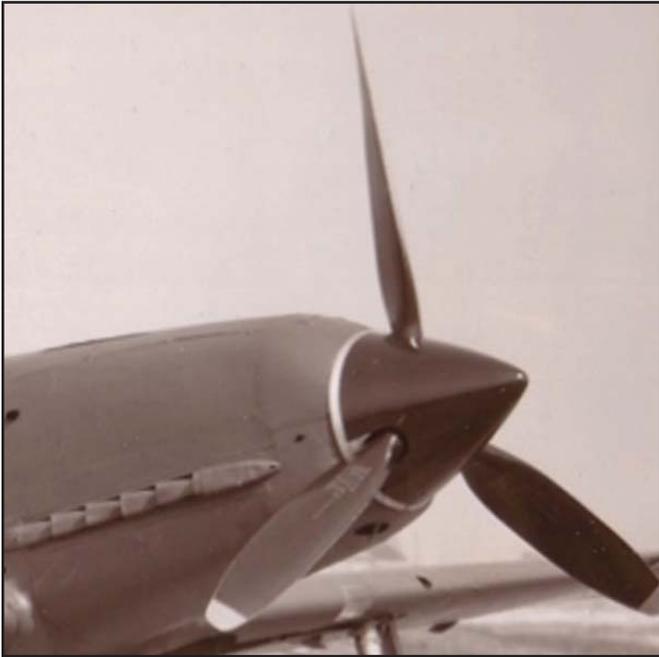


CHALLENGE #10

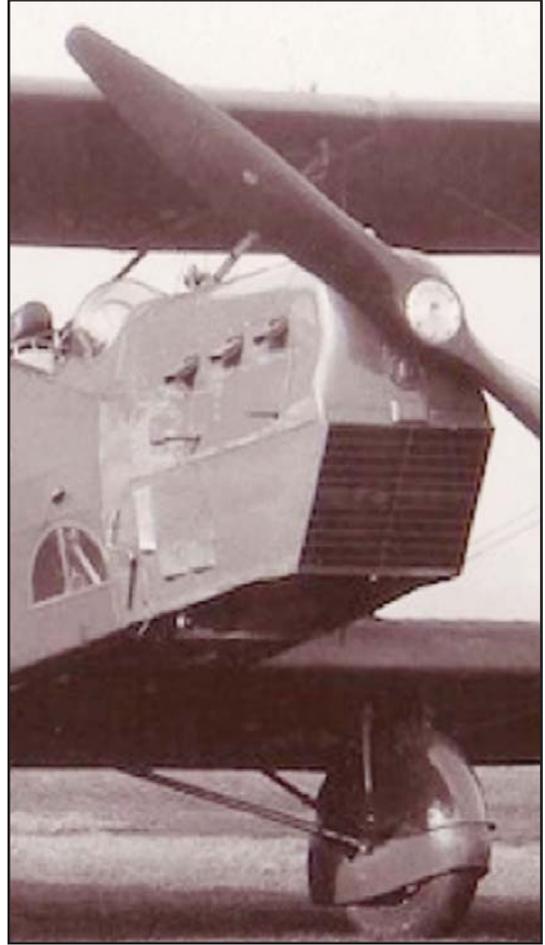


Boeing XB-15

THIS MONTH'S WARBIRD CHALLENGE PHOTOS



CHALLENGE #11



CHALLENGE #13



CHALLENGE #12

Good luck.

Squadron 4 members can submit replies to me through my Mystery Warbird e-mail, mysterywarbird@hotmail.com, or wait until our next Squadron 4 newsletter, at which time I will publish the complete photo of the aircraft from which each photo was cropped.

WARBIRD ON A STICK

Here's a chance to add your favorite warbird "Standing Guard" photo to THE AVENGER. Send in your photos of warbirds on poles, buildings, abandoned, anywhere. Include your name and the location of the display. Give us the aircraft type and if you know anything special about it. If you can't identify the aircraft, we can guess. We have more than a few experts who see these aircraft in their sleep! We can be flexible about the strict Warbird category and if its up on a cement stand instead of a pole, that's OK too. If you sent one in, THANK YOU very much. Be patient. We will get it in. If you haven't sent in anything - **Let's see what you've found.**



John L. Cecilia found this newly-mounted F-111, 63-9767, the centerpiece of the new, as yet incomplete Lake County Veterans Memorial at KUGN, Waukegan National Airport.

This aircraft was relocated (rescued) from the Chanute Aircraft Museum, and restored by a group from EAA Chapter 414 and other interested groups at the airport.

Thanks John!

YOUNG EAGLES



Butch Bejna reports:

Butch is at it again in 2019! 2018 saw our own Young Eagles pilot taking 74 young aviation enthusiasts up for first flights. Butch has been flying Young Eagles for 23 years and his total flights puts him 10th most active Young Eagles pilot in The World! Nine rides so far in 2019. If you know anyone between the ages of 8-18 that may be interested in a Young Eagles flight, call Butch @ 630-414-4921



Butch's Cessna 150

SQUADRON 4 PX

There's a lot of Squadron 4 merchandise to choose from in the PX on-line (warbirdsquadron4.org). Show your support for Squadron 4. We usually sell it 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!



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**



There's a new TBM Avenger T-Shirt from Squadron 4 and you can get one before anyone else if you come to the TBM Reunion in Peru! It's Light Gray with full color art on the back showing the 5 TBMs from Flight 19. Small to 3X. Womens V neck sizes too! **\$20.00**

SQUADRON 4 KIDS

Wanna see pictures of my grand kids? Or kids? SURE! If they're in a Warbird! Here's your chance to include the Junior Warbird fans in the family. Send in a shot of kids or grand kids in or around warbirds or other aircraft. We'll get 'em in. Please include where the shot was taken and who's in it. Include aircraft info if you have any. **Lets see those future Squadron 4 members! This could be a HUGE section! Send 'em in!**

Email images and info to stevens15@mindspring.com



Bruce Hawkins grandson, Lincoln, checks over Tom Bucks SNJ during preparations for the annual. "BaPa, can I use the "Snoopy" tool? I think there's one Dzus that I missed."

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
TBM Avenger



Vic Krause
SNJ



Tom Buck
SNJ



Ol' Bob Siegfried
N2S Stearman



John O'Connor
F8F Bearcat



Doug Mahall
L-5



John O'Connor
F4U-7 Corsair



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



John O'Connor
SNJ



Tim Gillian
SNJ



Rick Siegfried
T-6



Karl Vacek
PT-17 Stearman



**Scott Delawder
Fairchild PT-19**



**Keith Birsa
PT-17 Stearman**



**Bob Coon
Fairchild Argus III**



**Stuart Glenn
T-34A Mentor**

We know there are many other Squadron 4 Warbirds that we have not included here. We need your help in getting them into the Hangar! Please send a photo of yours to stevens15@mindspring.com. Thanks! We will get it into the next Newsletter!

SQUADRON OFFICERS

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

C.O. Jerry Czupryn nyrs9229@comcast.net

(630) 452-0845

X.O. David Stevens stevens15@mindspring.com

(630) 624-6618

SEC. Ted Kowalik thaddeusk@ameritech.net

(630) 289-2785

TRE. Brian Churchill brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org

(847) 356-9056

**We are always looking for new members to join the Squadron. For more information please contact
Bruce Hawkins at (815) 274-1752 or bruce.hawkins@warbirdsquadron4.org**

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/
Florida Warbird Squadron 24 Link:	http://www.floridawarbirds.org/

NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS

Welcome! New Squadron 4 Members:



Brianna Borrego

Deanna Elias Close

Dan Collins

Charles Flood

Bruce Hillyer

Julie Hoffman

Ray McConnell

Tim Nealey

Jerry Ossowski

Gary Otto

Robert Packert

Will Saloga

Brian Sell

Frank Trupes

Great to have you on board!

