



www.warbirdsquadron4.org

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MARCH MEETING RECAP



Richard Kolodey was 17 when he was flying as a gunner in a TBM in the South Pacific. We were fortunate to be able to talk with him via Skype at our meeting at the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow Airport in Bolingbrook on March 8th . This was our second Skype interview and *continued on p.2*

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



How's everyone doing during these crazy times in the world? My family and I are healthy. Thank God. I'm still working in the office. Trucking companies are an essential business right now. Some of my immediate family members have had their jobs put on hold and salaries adjusted. All people are affected by this virus even if they don't get it. The stay at home order has been extended thru the end of April. Therefore, Squadron 4 events for April are postponed and will be rescheduled. We will get through this pandemic. Hopefully sooner than later. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the first responders and health care people. I'm also thinking about my Squadron 4 family and praying that you are safe and healthy. Looking forward to the day when I can see and hear my beloved Warbirds flying.

Take care.

Jerry I can be contacted by email at jerry.czupryn@warbirdsquadron4.org or cell phone (630) 452-0845.



BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



I don't want this to be the COVID-19 Issue, but there is no denying we have entered uncharted territory. Be safe. You know what to do. Think of others. Don't Panic. Some events may be canceled. Call ahead to see if it's still on. Since we are all home... Take a look at the Squadron 4 website. If you want to see something on the site that isn't there, let us know. We want to make it your source for Warbird Squadron 4 information. www.warbirdsquadron4.org

The next few months have some unique and interesting events planned. The B-17 restoration project will be rescheduled. You can be part of the TBM reunion and Salute to Veterans when it's rescheduled and join us at the Cavalcade of Planes in June (fingers crossed). You don't have to look hard to find Warbird events when you are part of Warbird Squadron 4! Be safe and take care.



MARCH GENERAL MEETING

continued from p.1

I have to say that it works pretty well. Thanks to Cory Sodes from the IAM and Heath Owens in Kentucky for making that work for us.

Richard told us about his training and being sent to U.S. occupied islands in the pacific for combat. He never flew from a carrier. One memorable experience was when he was preparing to bail out with the crew due to a bomb that hung up in the bomb bay. They could not get it to drop. Landing with a hung bomb is not recommended. The pilot made one last high altitude effort to shake the bomb loose and it worked! No bail out needed. Thanks to Richard and all involved in setting the interview up.

Of course we ate well, as we always do. Stacy Kolls made sloppy joes and we watched some of *Midway*

continued on page 3



Dave Stevens Photo

JOIN US ON THE FLIGHT DECK

Desert Rat Restoration Project
Saturday - April 18, 2020
Kellner's B-17 Restoration
21010 Anthony Rd.
Marengo, IL. 60152

9:00am - 3:00pm. Come help with the restoration project and help with the B-17 restoration crew to move the project forward. Dress warmly and bring gloves.



TBM Avenger Reunion - Salute to Veterans
Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, 2020
Illinois Valley Regional Airport (KVYS)
4251 Ed Urban Drive
Peru, IL 61354

9:00am - 4:00pm. 5th Annual TBM Avenger Reunion and Salute to Veterans. Admission is free for the public and the cost of your aircraft. Some food will be available. Come out on the 15th and 16th for the AeroShell T-6 Night Show!



More event info on pages 6-7

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

continued from page 2

while we had lunch.

The IAM is a great place to have meetings because we were surrounded by aircraft and projects and interesting displays that keep changing.

I volunteered to help work on the Beech 18 (C-45) restoration.

Sharon Luksic and Doug Peterson had some of our Squadron 4 merchandise for sale and it reminded me that I need to replace my beat up Squadron 4 hat. I hope you can make it to the next Squadron 4 meeting. Details will follow in the next issue.



Brian Sell and Butch Bejna



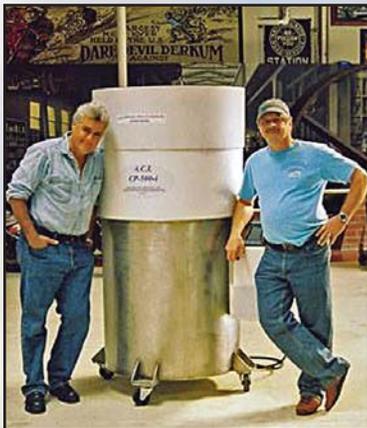
Doug, Stacy and Sharon made sure we were not hungry



The IAM's Beech 18 Project. Call the museum to volunteer on this restoration project. It will be a non-flying display.

FOLDED WINGS

REMEMBERING FREDERICK "RICK" DIEKMAN



Jay Leno and Rick



Rick Diekman was a charter member of EAA Warbird Squadron 4. He was a great fan of anything involving military aviation. He had retired to Florida and along with his brother Chris, was a collector of Pierce-Arrow Automobiles.

He had worked for Fel-Pro in Illinois and as a pioneer in Cryogenic metal treatment, started his own company, CTP - Controlled Thermal Processing, which has several locations today. We lost Rick on December 24th, 2019

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.

GET THE WORD OUT



EAA Warbird Squadron 4 has a mission for you.

It won't take up too much time and you will help us get Squadron 4 noticed.

Just click on this link: warbirdsqadron4.org

Look around the Squadron web site. If you are not a member, you can join by clicking on the Membership link. We would love to have you! Check out the calendar for upcoming events. Come on out to one of them and see what we're up to.



Then **click on the Facebook icon** in the upper right corner of the web site.

You will go right to the **EAA Warbirds Squadron 4** Facebook page.

Leave a comment or post a photo of your favorite aircraft, or "Like" one.

Share a post on Facebook.

That's it. Done. A couple of clicks, and you will have helped Warbird Squadron 4 improve the website, our social media presence and increase it's exposure to aviation fans and the world.





SCRAMBLE!! LET'S GO!!

There's still a lot happening in 2020! TBM Reunion, Cavalcade of Planes, EAA's B-17 at Lewis! Check out coverage at the March General Meeting at the Illinois Aviation Museum. Page 1-3. -Work day at Kellners B-17 Restoration will be rescheduled.-

IMPORTANT NOTE!
Due to temporary, possible cancelations/reschedulings, always check to be sure that events here are still on.

Saturday - April 18, 2020
Desert Rat Restoration Project
Kellner's B-17 Restoration
21010 Anthony Rd.
Marengo, IL. 60152

9:00am - 3:00pm. Come out to Mike Kellner's B-17E Desert Rat Restoration Project. No experience necessary. Lunch is served and you'll be working with fellow squadron mates and the restoration crew to move this massive project forward. Dress warm and bring gloves.
(815) 568-9464

-POSTPONED-
WATCH THE WEBSITE
FOR NEW DATE



Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, 2020
TBM Avenger Reunion - Salute to Veterans
Illinois Valley Regional Airport (KVYS)
4251 Ed Urban Drive
Peru, IL 61354

9:00am - 4:00pm. This is the 5th annual TBM Avenger Salute to Veterans. Admission and parking are FREE. There is plenty of room to park your aircraft. Some hangar space is available. There are Food Vendors, Great Displays of Aircraft material and Warbirds! That's just the beginning. Come on the 15th and watch the AeroShell T-6 Night Show! This is a grass roots show that has grown so fast we brought out the Jets! Don't miss it!
(815) 223-2003

-POSTPONED-
WATCH THE WEBSITE
FOR NEW DATE





SCRAMBLE!! LET'S GO!!

Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, 2020
Bolingbrook Cavalcade of Planes
Clow International Airport (IC5) Bolingbrook IL

The Bolingbrook Cavalcade of Planes is a two day event that has a lot going on! Lots of aviation going on for kids and adults. Food and drink is everywhere and Warbirds are on display as well as flying formations. Some very interesting Fly-bys too. The EAA's Tri-Motor will be operating both days!
 (630) 378-0479



IMPORTANT NOTE !
 Due to temporary, possible cancelations/reschedulings, always check to be sure that events here are still on.

Friday through Sunday, August 21-23, 2020
Aluminum Overcast B-17 Tour Stop
Lewis University Airport (LOT) Romeoville IL

Fly The Fortress! She's back and we are EXCITED! Members who volunteer to help out at the tour stop have a chance to fly on the B-17 for free! Contact Stacy Kolls to volunteer. Email: warbirdfan72@yahoo.com Phone: (815) 218-9202



JOIN THE FLIGHT!
MISSION HEART

Climb aboard EAA's B-17G Aluminum Overcast for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fly in one of World War II's most vital aircraft.

Romeoville, IL - Lewis University Airport
August 21-23, 2020

FLIGHT EXPERIENCE PRICING AND TIMES		Special price for EAA!	GROUND TOURS PRICING AND TIMES		
EAA MEMBERS	NONMEMBERS		INDIVIDUALS	FAMILIES	VETERAN/ ACTIVE MILITARY
\$435	\$475	Flights available 10 am. to 1 pm. Ground tours available 2 to 5 pm.	\$10	\$20	FREE
<small>Includes all PPE and one-way ground transportation</small>			<small>Includes all PPE and one-way ground transportation</small>		

Visit B17.org or call 800-359-6217.

Keep the Planes!® ©2020 EAA

YOUNG EAGLES

By Butch Bejna



Butch Bejna



2020 will be my 24th year of giving Young Eagle Flights. As I look back on my first flight at Meigs Field, it seems as if it was yesterday. Sadly the airport is gone and so are many friends that once volunteered as pilots or ground help. With each new flight for this year, it would be great to think that 1 out of every 15 flights will bring a new pilot. Time will tell, so let's get more kids in the air this year! Now, if we can get Mother Nature to cooperate with us it should be a good year for flying. If you know anyone between the ages of 8-18 that may be interested in a Young Eagles flight, call Butch @ 630-414-4921.

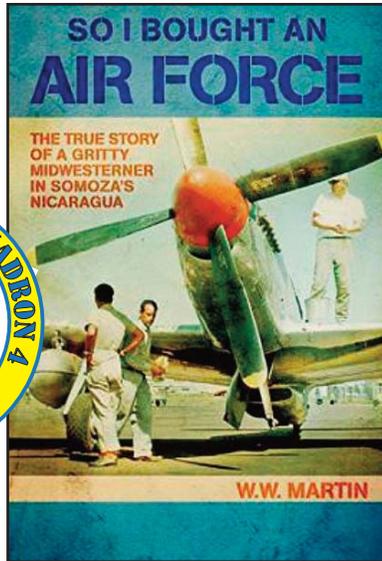
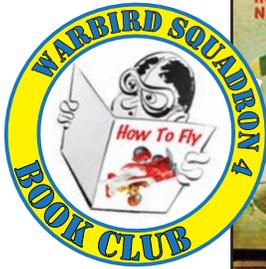


SQUADRON 4 STORE

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!



So I Bought An Air Force -by Will Martin
Will is a past CO of Warbird Squadron 4. If you know Will, you will not be surprised by his adventures flying old warbirds. **\$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**



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 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



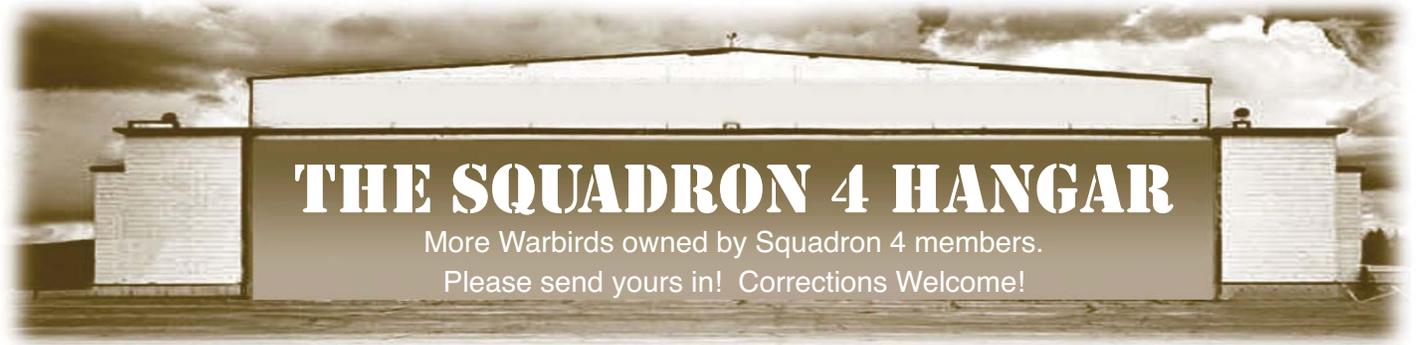
Tim Gillian
SNJ



Rick Siegfried
T-6



Karl Vacek
PT-17 Stearman



Scott Delawder
N2S Stearman



Keith Birsa
PT-17 Stearman



Bob Coon
Fairchild Argus III



Stuart Glenn
T-34A Mentor



Dwight Davies
Supermarine
Spitfire Mk 26B

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. Chase Smith chasesmith445@gmail.com
(224) 280-1647

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



NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS

Welcome! New Squadron 4 Members:



Great to have you on board!



www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Check out the New Website and Our Facebook Page!



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-eea.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/>