

THE AVENGER

The Official Publication of The EAA Warbirds of America Squadron 4



www.warbirdsquadron4.org

October 2020 Volume 15 No.3



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BOARD MEETINGS ON ZOOM

Even though we can't meet in large groups just yet - It's coming, I promise - the board has been meeting on Zoom. I bet many of you have had Zoom meetings to see relatives, work from home, catch up on family stuff. It takes a little getting used to. I have forgotten that it's not a conference call on the phone and the other people can see you. So some of my "expressive gestures" might not have been appropriate. I'm sorry.

I'm also sorry that I haven't had a haircut and I look a bit like Doc Brown from Back to the Future.



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



It's been awhile since I did one of these. Sorry for the delay. How are you doing during this pandemic? Not much aviation stuff going on. Events just keep getting cancelled. Hopefully 2021 will be a good year. That's all we can hope for. The Squadron 4 board and I have been meeting via Zoom for the last few months. We're thinking about things once this is over and we can get back to some normalcy. One of the ideas that we're pursuing is possibly holding a Zoom meeting for members only. We would have a speaker like in the past but no one would be there except myself and the speaker.

A couple things that I've been doing. Warbird Squadron 4 member David Maren and his wife have permanently relocated to Florida. He's actually going to be a neighbor of

Will Martin (Squadron 4 founder). Prior to moving I met with him a few times. He has donated things to be used as door prizes at our yearly banquet. He will still be a member and would like to help out at the next B-17 Tour stop. Thanks David. *continued on page 2*

FROM THE CO'S DESK *continued*

I also had the opportunity to meet Jim Porter. We met accidentally at the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow Airport a couple of months ago. A really interesting guy. What an aviation background he has. He flew with Lima Lima. We talked for a while at the museum. I also visited him at his house and he donated lots of items to the museum. I asked if he would like to be a speaker at one of our Squadron 4 events. He agreed. I'm working on the details but he will probably be our first speaker using Zoom to talk to the membership. I'll keep you updated. Take care and stay safe.

Jerry

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



Dave Maren with Jerry



Jim Porter with Jerry

BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



As I was working on the newsletter, I got a call from Kristy at EAA in Oshkosh telling me that the B-17 tour stops in August are canceled. I saved the work. Shut down the computer and just stared out the window. I felt like my hero, Clark Griswold, in Christmas Vacation where he gets the "Bonus" letter with his Jelly of the Month club gift. I can usually do that "rant" of his from memory, but I was not into it at all.

There is NOBODY to blame. No Boss. No Mr. Shirley. Call it what you want. We are having the Year that Was. I want to forget all of it so far. Well, at least from March 1st. I have gotten my airplane fix in by helping out with the C-45 project at the Illinois Aviation Museum. Usually only one or two other people in there and now, we can open the hangar. More on that in the next issue. I hope that we can all get together soon. We will let you know. Be Safe.



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 by Jim Porter
Sunday - October 11th, 2020 1100 hrs
Zoom Meeting log-in will be sent to
the membership via E-mail.**

11:00 am, from the IAM, A live Zoom Cast featuring Jim Porter, who has flown on the SR71, helped recover an F4F from Lake Michigan and was a pilot with Lima Lima.
Log-in info to come.

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

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

END OF WWII • 75TH ANNIVERSARY • PEARL HARBOR



Warbirds and crewmen from Squadron 4 made the trip from the midwest to Hawaii to take part in marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in September.

John O' Connor flew his Grumman F8F Bearcat to California where it, and 13 other warbirds, including 2 PBYs, were loaded on the aircraft carrier, USS Essex for the trip to Hawaii and Pearl Harbor.

Jim Klick and Doug Partl also went along to try and keep the details taken care of. I hope to talk with the guys and give you a better story for next month. There will be stories! And Photos! In addition to John's F8F Bearcat, there were 4 T-6 Texans, 2 PBY Catalinas, 1 B-25 Mitchel, 2 Stearmans, 1 TBM Avenger, 1 P-51D Mustang, 1 T-28 Trojan and 1 FM2 Wildcat.

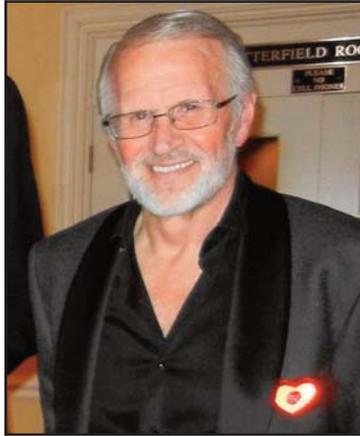
What a sight that must have been. It's amazing that there are owners and pilots of warbirds who are caretakers of history and love to share these planes with the world. We can only say, Thanks! and *Keep 'em Flying!*



some photos by Taigh Ramey



JIM PORTER ON SQUADRON 4 ZOOM GENERAL MEETING



Jim Porter will speak to us on a Membership Invited Zoom Cast on Sunday, October 11th, at 11:00 am from the Illinois Aviation Museum

Mr. Porter was an astrophysicist. He grew up in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas and then earned a master's degree in astrophysics from the University of Iowa. He worked on both the Gemini and Apollo programs and later joined the science and technology division of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In addition to being a Lima Lima pilot, he has flown on the SR-71, which can reach an altitude of 80,000 feet and a speed of Mach 3. He was also involved in the 1993 recovery of the F4F3 Wildcat, BU#12260 from Lake Michigan.



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



Join the mission for EAA Warbird Squadron 4

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

Just click on this link: warbirdsquadron4.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. Thank You!

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. 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.**



Squadron member, Bruce Hillyer gets some great shots of commercial aircraft and I think the timing on these two qualifies them as "On A Stick". The Antonov 124 is used by the Russian Airforce, so there's the Warbird angle. It's a stretch but so is the 240 foot wingspan of the giant Antonov. It is one of only 55 made..

The 747-400 (with a petite 211 foot wingspan) was on it's last commercial flight into ORD. Built in 1993, It's next flight was to the desert to be scrapped.

YOUNG EAGLES

By Butch Bejna



Butch Bejna

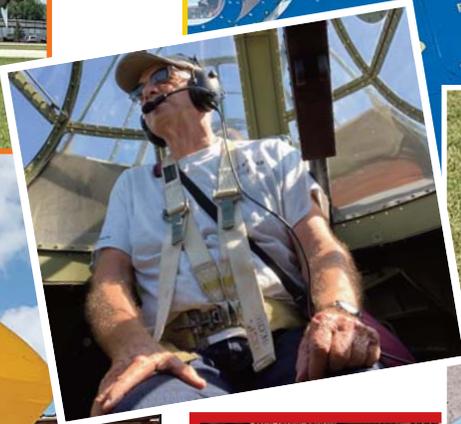


2020 marks Butch's 24th year of giving Young Eagle Flights. EAA is starting a new program for young aviators but it is still being formed. We will let you know when it is active.

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



When we flew together



WWII HELLCAT PILOT VISITS THE TBM HANGER



Tom Buck and Bruce Hawkins hold the ladder while Art Leach hops into the SNJ



Steve Pagels photos

WWII F6F Hellcat pilot, Art Leach from Odell, IL., with Tom Buck at the TBM hangar in Joliet. Art got a ride in the SNJ and flew from the #2 seat like he did it every day.

“Can’t I sit up front?” was what 100 year old Art Leach said when he threw his leg into the #2 seat in Tom Bucks SNJ. Mr. Leach flew F6F Hellcats off the USS Yorktown in the Pacific during WWII.

Art had flown a TBM as well as many other aircraft while serving in the Navy’s VF-3 Squadron.

He mentioned lots of action over China and Japan but said much of the Japanese air power was gone by that time in WWII. That didn’t keep him from being shot at... and shooting back. When the war was over, Art got some time in Jet fighters as well.

Having a 100 year old WWII veteran dropping in at the TBM hanger is not the kind of occasion that you take lightly. Especially when the guy is an experienced fighter pilot. The TBM crew stood by to help him into the SNJ for a ride. Turns out he didn’t need much help. Like a lot of air war veterans, he still had his moves down and climbed into the plane without any trouble. Most people need a little help knowing where to put hands and feet when getting into the SNJ, or any warbird. Not Art. Once you buckle in, you don’t forget. Even at 100.



VF-3 Insignia “Felix The Cat”



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**

CHASE GOES TO BOOT CAMP

Warbird Squadron 4's former secretary, Chase Smith, has enlisted in the United States Navy and he started basic training in August with hopes of working on aircraft electronics. At this writing, **he has graduated!** We are proud of you Chase, and wish you nothing but great adventures. Thank you for choosing to serve.



*Dave Stevens, Chase Smith and Brian Sell at Mike Kellners
B-17 Desert Rat Restoration Project*



FORTRESS AGAINST THE SUN: THE B-17 FLYING FORTRESS IN THE PACIFIC

PRESENTATION BY THE AUTHOR, GENE ERIC SALECKER

Article By Michael Vieira

One of the great benefits of belonging to Squadron 4 has been the opportunity to listen to some excellent aviation authors who have kindly come in to speak to our group.

On 14 October 2018 at Bolingbrook's Clow International Airport, we were honored to have Mr. Gene Salecker come in to talk with us about the B-17 in the Pacific (1941 to 1943). Mr. Salecker has written four books of under-appreciated topics concerning the Pacific Theater: the aforementioned book on B-17s, US Army tank battalions, airborne operations (both American and Japanese) and the 1944 Pearl Harbor West Loch disaster (the "Second Pearl Harbor").

Because of our group's interest in warbirds, I think most of us came into this talk with a rudimentary understanding of B-17s, and their role in the war – and, as Mr. Salecker pointed out, the majority of attention and post-war writing has justifiably concentrated on the Eighth Air Force's accomplishments in Europe (much to the detriment of the Pacific and Mediterranean Theaters). If you were unable to join us, this was an excellent introduction to The Flying Fortress's role in the early stages of the Pacific War in World War 2.

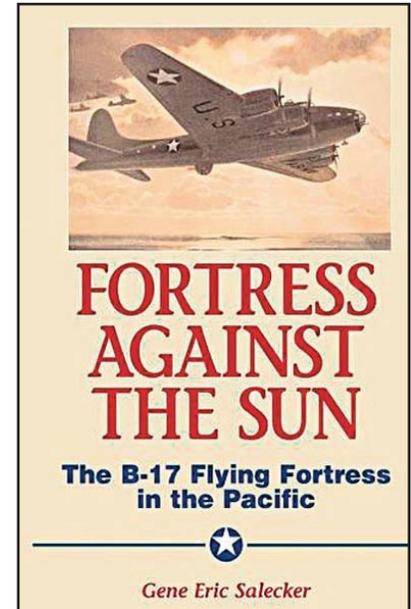
The author went over the pre-war development of the B-17, and then showed how the C, D, E and F models were introduced (he also brought a group of models of all the major variants, and some notable camouflage schemes). Mr. Salecker described the deployment and makeup of pre-war US Army bomber forces in the Pacific (primarily in the Philippines), and his description of the ill-fated B-17 group that flew into Pearl Harbor on the morning of 7 December 1941, expanded on a subject most of us are familiar with, but the details were fascinating. I, for one, did not know that the skip-bombing technique had first been introduced by B-17 units. By 1943, the Flying Fortress was being phased out as an active combatant in the Pacific (replaced by the B-24, with its greater range and bomb load), but one of the last parts of Mr. Salecker discussion was showing some examples of Medal of Honor missions conducted by B-17 crews, and some of the impressive mission tallies performed by some notable aircraft.

These Squadron 4 events are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities – if you are not attending these, you are missing out on not only engaging with your fellow squadron mates, but learning some amazing things about aviation topics not regularly discussed in the greater Warbird community.

I look forward to seeing more of you in the future!

V/R

Michael Vieira



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



Tom Buck
SNJ



John O'Connor
F8F Bearcat



John O'Connor
F4U-7 Corsair



John O'Connor
SNJ



Rick Siegfried
T-6



Vic Krause
SNJ



Ol' Bob Siegfried
N2S Stearman



Doug Mahall
L-3 Aeronca



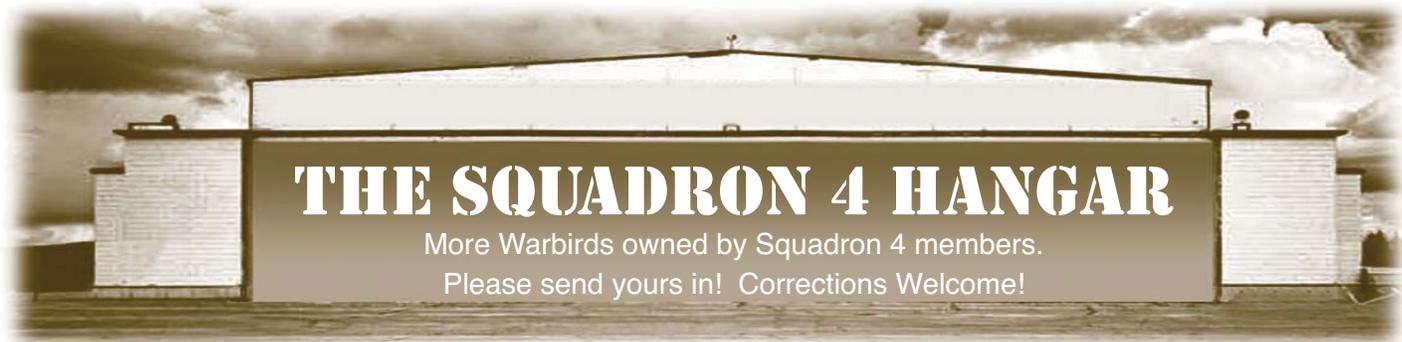
**Jim Turcich
& Jim Klick**
L-16A



Tim Gillian
SNJ



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)

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

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

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



NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS

Welcome! New Squadron 4 Members:



Michael Vieira (new Board Member)

Great to have you on board!



Check out the Website and Our Facebook Page!



www.warbirdsqadron4.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@warbirdsqadron4.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/ |