

THE AVENGER

The Official Publication of The EAA Warbirds of America Squadron 4



***.warbirdsquadron4.org April 2023 Volume 18 No.1



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TBM REUNION AND SALUTE TO VETERANS



TBM Avenger Reunion! Go to page 4 for Details!

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

THE CO'S DESK



Hello Squadron 4 members,

Welcome to 2023, I would like to thank everyone that attended the Squadron 4 Annual Banquet. Now is the time to start planning what you would like the Squadron to do this year. Any suggestions are welcomed. The TBM Reunion at the Peru Airport on May 19th-20th and the Cavalcade of Planes at Clow Airport on June 3rd-4th are two events the Squadron will be attending. Please consider coming out for one or both days to support the Squadron and the events. When more events are finalized you will be notified and they will be listed on the website.

Butch

BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



I am a little late getting the first newsletter of 2023 out to you. OK, more than a little. No excuses. Just my promise to do better. There isn't a lot of Squadron 4 news for the first few months of 2023 but there are plenty of Warbird events planned.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the annual banquet. The presentations were all interesting and it was good to get warbird info and updates from the owner/pilots.

Sad news for the Squadron this year is that we will not be hosting the B-25, *Berlin Express* for 2023. EAA will be taking her west this summer, so we will keep our bid in for next year. I also placed our bid for hosting the EAAs B-17, *Aluminium Overcast* for 2024. More on that in the next issue.

A couple new Squadron 4 T-Shirts are in the works, along with a new Challenge Coin. We should have them ready for the TBM Reunion and the Cavalcade of Planes. See you out on the ramp!



JOIN US ON THE FLIGHT DECK

TBM Avenger Reunion and Salute to Veterans

Illinois Valley Regional Airport, Peru, IL
19 - 20 May, 2023

Free Admission - Free Parking

Friday 11am to 10pm

Saturday 9am to 4pm

web site: tbmreunion.org

Cavalcade of Planes

Clow International Airport, Bolingbrook, IL
3 - 4 June, 2023

Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Admission \$5 each day. Kids under 5 FREE

web site: www.cavalcadeofplanes.org

No tickets sold on site. Must buy online

EAA Airventure

24 July through 30 July, 2023

Whittman Regional Airport (OSH)

Oshkosh, WI

Lots of Squadron 4 members will be there.

web site: www.eaa.org



WARBIRD SQUADRON 4 ANNUAL BANQUET

by Dave Stevens

Great to get together again!



Lt. Art Leach. Hellcat Pilot



Tim Gillian gave us interesting insight into his aviation experience and announcing for the TBM Avenger Reunion.



Lt. Leach likes a hug.

Warbird Squadron 4 held our annual banquet at the Holiday Inn in Countryside on February 4th - after a two year hiatus. It was great to see so many of our members again. The crowd was a bit smaller than in past years but health concerns are still on peoples minds.

WWII pilot veteran, Art Leach, talked about his days flying F6F Hellcats off the Yorktown. Tim Gillian gave an interesting presentation on the aircraft in his family and being the announcer at the TBM Reunion events. We heard from many of our owner/pilots about thier aircraft and activities. This is not a Squadron where things stand still. There is always something new in the wind, and it's great to catch up on "Flying Stuff". I just kept thinking, *Can't wait for May, Can't wait for May*. Hope to see everyone in Peru at the TBM Avenger Reunion and Salute to Veterans. Keep an eye on the web site calendar.

TBM AVENGER REUNION AND SALUTE TO VETERANS

This annual May event in Peru Illinois is one you will always want to put on the calendar. It's got everything you want to see at an airshow without it being an airshow... and you'll have many opportunities to get close to your favorite aircraft and crews. You may get the chance to meet a few World War Two veterans.

You can even take part in the Salute to Veterans Parade on Saturday morning. Expect Food, Flying and Fun for the whole family.

Admission and Parking are FREE. There's plenty of food and drink and you have some unique evening shows going on after sundown.

Join Warbird Squadron 4 out in Peru for this 8th annual event. If you've never been, *THIS* is the year to go. Stop by our table, pick up some new Warbird Squadron 4 gear and get the summer off to a flying start!



8th Annual
TBM AVENGER
and
SALUTE TO VETERANS
Presented by the City of Peru
MAY 19th & 20th
at the Illinois Valley Regional Airport, Peru, IL

See Warbirds make history come alive and honor our Veterans!

- ★ Squadron of TBM Avengers - largest gathering in the U.S.
- ★ Veterans' Parade and March
- ★ TBM Missing Man Flying Salute
- ★ Historic B-17 Bomber "Yankee Lady" and helicopter rides available
- ★ Famous Warbirds from WWII, Korea and Vietnam - featuring flight demonstrations, formation flying and simulated torpedo runs.

Visit the Veterans' Expo on Thursday!

Friday ★ 11am-10pm
AIRSHOW TIMES:
1pm-4pm ★ 7:30-9:30pm

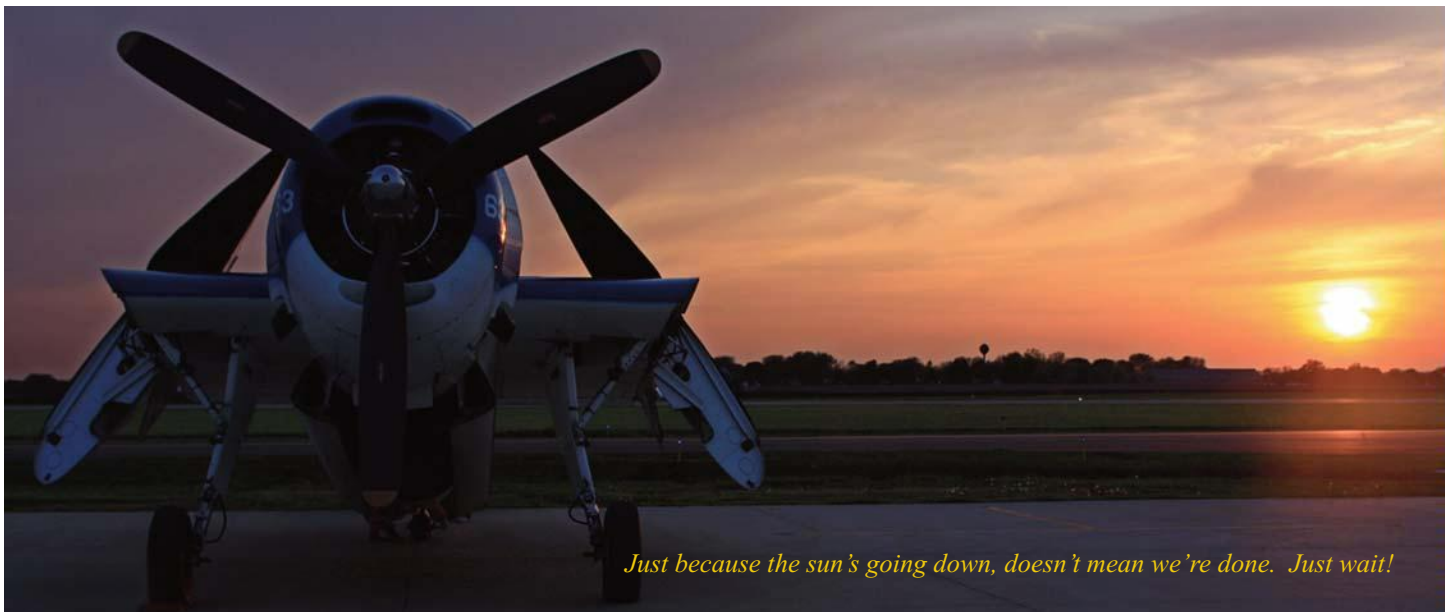
- ★ Matt Younklin Night Airshow, brought to us by Marquis Energy.
- ★ Pyrotechnics and "Wall of Fire"
- ★ Beer garden and live music by "She's a Maybe"

Saturday ★ 9am-4pm
AIRSHOW TIME:
1-4pm

- ★ Flag raising at 9am.
- ★ Veterans' Parade and Flag Ceremony at 11:30am
- ★ Pyrotechnics and "Wall of Fire"

FREE ADMISSION ★ FREE PARKING
COURTESY OF THE CITY OF PERU

  **MARQUIS ENERGY**  www.tbmreunion.org
For show details, visit our Facebook page:
TBM Avenger Reunion



TBM AVENGER REUNION AND SALUTE TO VETERANS

Be a part of it!



There's a lot going on out in Peru on the 19th and 20th of May. Vintage Aviation rarely seen all at one time will feature Warbirds in a way you've never seen before. It's gatherings like this that make being in Warbird Squadron 4 exciting. You won't forget it!



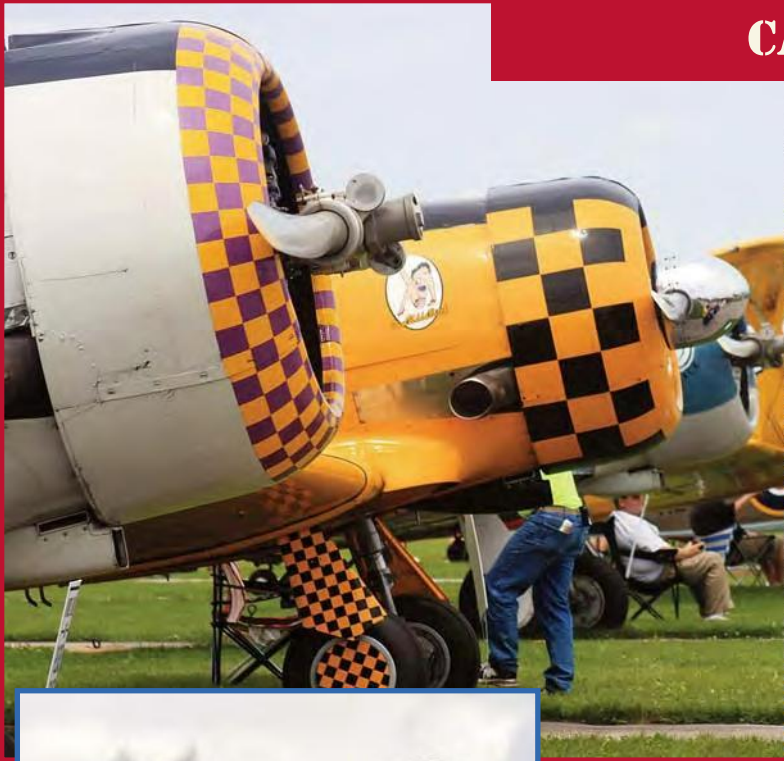
CAVALCADE OF PLANES

by Dave Stevens

The Cavalcade of Planes at Clow International Airport in Bolingbrook, Illinois on June 3rd and 4th is a great show. There will be many Squadron 4 aircraft on display and flying. The Ford Tri-motor is always there giving rides all day. Every hangar has something going on.

The Illinois Aviation Museum is open and its aircraft are all on display. There are flight simulators and pedal plane rides for kids. It's truly a family event.

You'll see formation flight demonstrations and static displays of many WWII era aircraft that have been beautifully restored. There are food and drink vendors everywhere. You might need two days to experience it all. Be sure to stop by the Warbird Squadron 4 tent for some of our new gear.



CAVALCADE OF PLANES



Come on out to Clow International in June. You'll be amazed at what these aircraft owners and pilots can do with vintage aircraft. Get your tickets **ONLY** on line at www.cavalcadeofplanes.org. Kids under 5 are Free. Daily admission is \$5.00. The best bang for your buck if you love air planes!

YOUNG EAGLES

By Butch Bejna



Butch Bejna



Almost 2.3 million Young Eagles have taken flight since the program started. Last year AeroEducate was launched during AirVenture.

On February 11, I flew up to Galt Airport, home of EAA Chapter 932, to hear a guest speaker they were having. Paul Maloy is the Director of Education for EAA and gave a very informative presentation on the online resource program. It is for kids from kindergarten to high school ages.

Flights will be starting soon and looking forward to giving 100 flights during 2023.

I can be contacted at:
rcbejna@gmail.com
or 630-414-4921 to schedule a flight.

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/ea-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. Volunteers are welcome!



2023 Challenge Coin

Our own two inch diameter challenge coin. It features the C-150 of our Squadron C.O. on one side, and the traditional logo on the other.

\$10.00 ea



Annual Membership

If you need to pay your Warbird Squadron 4 membership dues, here's an easy way to do it.
 *****squareup.com/market/ea-warbird-squadron-4
\$25.00



***RodBakerFord.com

815-436-5681

13921 S. Route 59 • Plainfield, IL 60544



Rod Baker Ford has been a generous sponsor of our B-17 and B-25 tour stops for many years. Providing crew vehicles and buying seats on the bombers. We could not do it without them!

Essential Auto Photography©

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**



**Tom Buck
North American
SNJ**



**John O'Connor
Grumman
F8F Bearcat**



**John O'Connor
Vought
F4U-7 Corsair**



**John O'Connor
North American
SNJ**



**John O'Connor
Consolidated
PB5-5A**



**Vic Krause
North American
SNJ**



**Ol' Bob Siegfried
Boeing/Stearman
N2S**



**Doug Mahall
Aeronca
L-3**

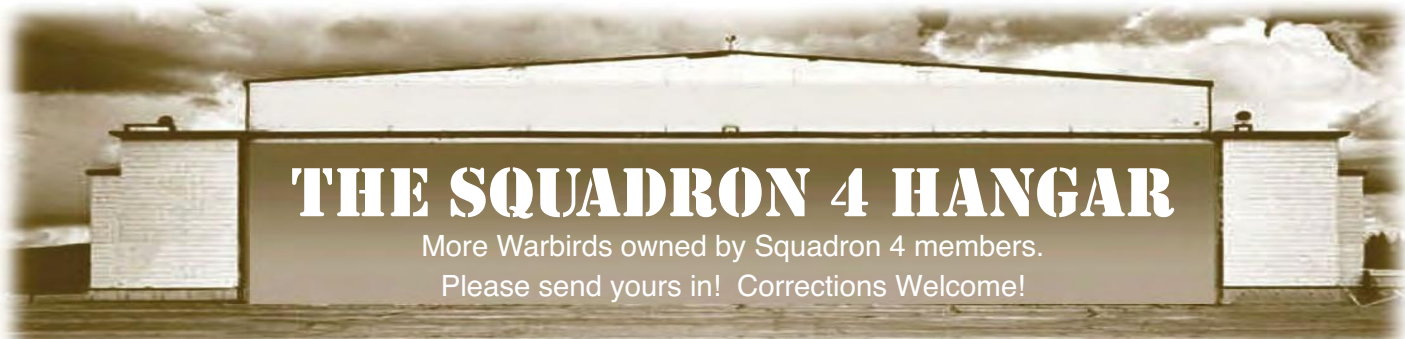


**Jim Turcich
& Jim Klick
Aeronca
L-16A**



**Tim Gillian
North American
SNJ**

more Warbirds, next page



THE SQUADRON 4 HANGAR

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



Karl Vacek
Stearman
PT-17



Dwight Davies
Supermarine
Spitfire Mk 26B



Scott Delawder
Boeing/Stearman
N2S



Stephen Jones
Lockheed
T-33



Bob Coon
Fairchild
Argus III



Stephen Jones
NAF
N3N



Keith Birsa
Stearman
PT-17



Stephen Jones
Nanchang
CJ-6a



Stuart Glenn
Beechcraft
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!



NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS



*New Members help us build
a Better Squadron!*

*Squadron 4 is always
looking for
New Memebers*



Check out the Website and Our Facebook Page!

SQUADRON OFFICERS

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

C.O. Butch Bejna rcbejna@gmail.com

(630) 414-4921

X.O. David Stevens stevens15@mindspring.com

(630) 624-6618

TRE. Brian Churchill brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org

(847) 356-9056

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/>