

THE AVENGER

The Official Publication of The EAA Warbirds of America Squadron 4



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TBM REUNION AND SALUTE TO VETERANS

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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,

The Squadron 4 Banquet was a good time and we had the honor of having two World War 2 veterans in attendance. Ted Micci who flew 25 missions as a radio operator in a B-17 out of Chelveston, England with the 305th Bomb Group and Art Leach an F6F Hellcat pilot that flew off of the USS Yorktown. Two events coming up that many Squadron members attend are the TBM Reunion at the Peru Airport on May 17th-18th and the Cavalcade of Planes at Clow Airport on June 1st -2nd. Hope to see you there!

Butch

BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



Finally getting the first newsletter of 2024 out to you. No excuses. Just my promise to do better. There isn't a lot of Squadron 4 news for the first few months of 2024 but there are plenty of Warbird events planned. We hope to see you at some of them.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the annual banquet. The presentations were very interesting and it was good to see our two favorite WWII aviators, Ted Micci and Art Leach there.

I am working on our hosting the B-25, *Berlin Express* for 2024. EAA has put the B-17 in a hangar for walk-through tours for AirVenture. More on that in the next issue.

A new Squadron 4 TBM T-Shirt is in the works. 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
17 - 18 May, 2024

Free Admission - Free Parking

Friday 11am to 10pm

Saturday 9am to 4pm

web site: tbmreunion.org

Cavalcade of Planes

Clow International Airport, Bolingbrook, IL
1 - 2 June, 2024

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

22 July through 28 July, 2024

Whittman Regional Airport (OSH)

Oshkosh, WI

Lots of Squadron 4 members will be there.

web site: www.eaa.org



EAA WARBIRD SQUADRON 4

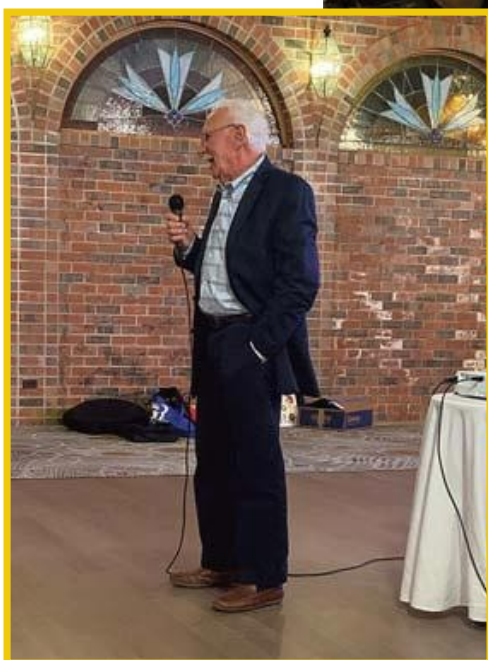
WARBIRDS OF AMERICA - NORTHERN ILLINOIS



WARBIRDSQUADRON4.ORG

WARBIRD SQUADRON 4 ANNUAL BANQUET

by Dave Stevens



Butch Bejna, Vic Krause and Jim Klick gave us updates and left us inspired to do more with Warbird Squadron 4.



On 3 February Warbird Squadron 4 gathered for our annual banquet at the Holiday Inn in Countryside. The crowd has gotten smaller but it is always great to see our fellow members and catch up with everyone.

We were fortunate to have WWII aviation veterans, Art Leach and Ted Micci with us and we heard from our squadron CO, Butch Bejna, about his year as a top Young Eagles pilot and some of his past history in that role. Vic Krause and Jim Klick gave us updates too.

I say this every year but, *I Can't wait for May, I Can't wait for May*. Hope to see you in Peru at the TBM Avenger Reunion and Salute to Veterans in May and then at Cavalcade of Planes in June.

Keep an eye on the web site calendar and please let us know what you want as members of the squadron. It's nothing without you. We want you to enjoy being a part of this great group.

TBM AVENGER REUNION AND SALUTE TO VETERANS

This years TBM Reunion and Salute to Veterans is on May 17th and 18th and will feature the TITAN Aerobatic Team (formerly AeroShell Aerobatic Team). They'll perform their 4-ship aerobatic routine in their T-6/SNJ Texans on Friday Night and also their Day Show on Saturday

Friday Night will feature the famous night-time TBM Avenger Engine Run-Up and the FIRST EVER FIREWORKS SHOW right after that to end the friday night activities.

The Yankee Air Museum's UH-1H Vietnam Era Huey helicopter, *Greyhound* will be giving rides throughout the event.



Warbird Mafia photo



Yankee Air Museum photo



TITAN Aerobatic Team photo

TBM AVENGER REUNION AND SALUTE TO VETERANS



Pick your nose



*Alvin Gould -
TBM Gunner*

Not Just Avengers.
The Greatest Aircraft Event
you will find... and its
FREE.

Plan to go to Peru IL, and
take in a whole bunch of
aviation fun that you won't
find in the same place any-
where else. Be a part of it!
tbmreunion.org



Dutch Meyerpeter



Tim Gillian



Fighter Town

Dave Stevens photos

CAVALCADE OF PLANES

by Dave Stevens

Cavalcade of Planes at Clow International Airport in Bolingbrook, Illinois on June 1 and 2 will be the great family show that it has always been. There will be many Squadron 4 aircraft on display. The 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. Flight simulators and pedal plane rides for kids run all day. 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. Be sure to stop by the Warbird Squadron 4 tent to say hello!



CAVALCADE OF PLANES



Dave Stevens photos



Come on out to Clow International in June.
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

When asked if the Young Eagle Program really does produce new pilots, just read below! Received this during December.

Subject: First Solo Flight

*Hi Butch,
Hope all is well and that you are enjoying your holidays. It's been just over a year since I took my discovery flight with you. I thought you would like to know that I took my first solo flight on Sunday out of KPWK. It was just as awesome as first taking the controls of your 150. I've been accepted to Florida Tech and UND and I'm waiting to hear back from 3 other schools, but am heavily leaning toward Florida Tech. I'm joined in this photo with my CFI, Bob Schmelzer whom I believe you know. We started flying together in July.*

Please let me know how you're doing.

Thanks a lot,

So far two flights have been given during 2024 and brings the total flown to 2,600 for me.

Looking forward to nice weather and more flights.

Flights will be starting soon and looking forward to giving 100 flights during 2024.

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/eaawarbird-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!



front



back



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/eaawarbird-squadron-4 **\$25.00**

AIRMAN (AEAN) CHASE SMITH



AEAN Chase Smith (center)

Warbird Squadron 4 has at least one member on active duty! Chase Smith is a plane captain/AEAN (Airman, Aviation Electricians Mate Striker) currently serving aboard ship working on F-18s. He's come a long way in a short time and we could not be prouder of him. *Stay Safe Buddy!*



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**

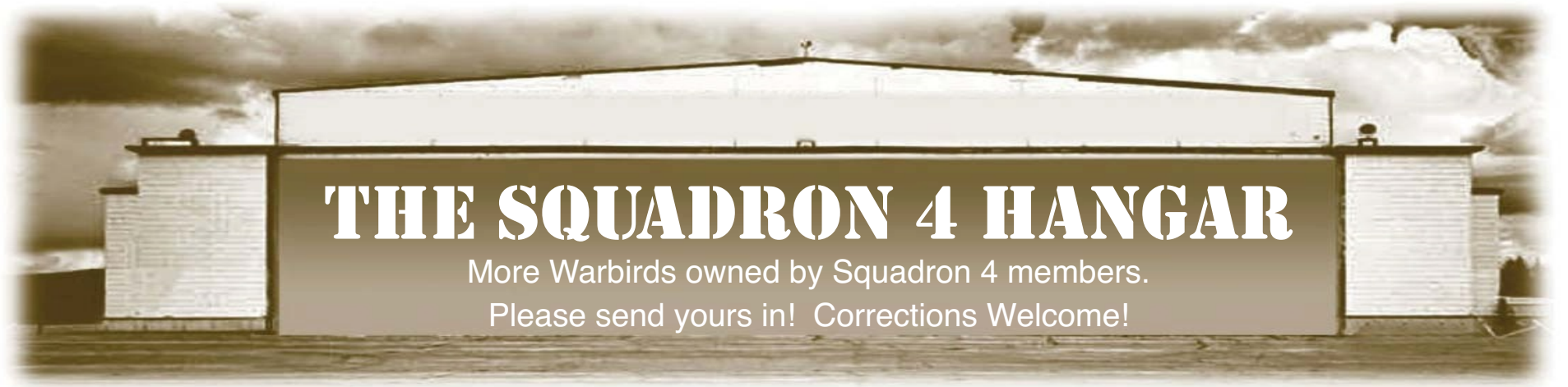


**Tim Gillian
North American
SNJ**



**John O'Connor
Consolidated
PB5A**

more Warbirds, next page



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

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!



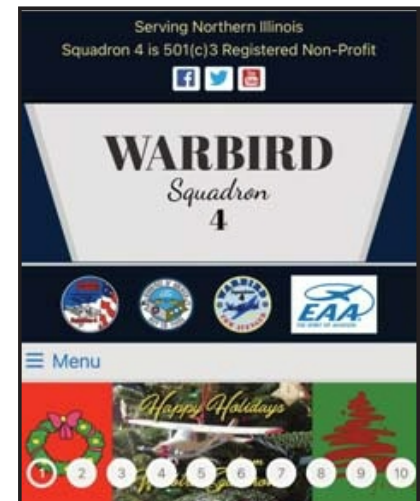
NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS



*New Members help us build
a Better Squadron!*

*Welcome Our
Newest Memembers*

*Timothy Keating
Brian Eltherington*



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-eaa.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/