

THE AVENGER

The Official Publication of The EAA Warbirds of America Squadron 4



www.warbirdsquadron4.org

February 2020 Volume 15 No.1



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ANNUAL BANQUET-2020



Some of the live auction items from the banquet on February 2nd. We heard from John O'Connor about his aviation experiences and details of his award winning warbirds, including how he came to own and learned to fly them. *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



Happy New Year!!! I just finished shoveling snow. Spring will be here soon. A new Warbird season is starting. I want to thank John O'Connor for a great presentation at our annual banquet. Thanks also goes to the members, friends, and family that attended. Squadron 4 is already planning events for the next few months.

Sunday, March 8 at the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow Airport we will have a speaker giving a presentation. I'm in the process of finalizing the speaker for that day. Saturday, April 18 will be our annual visit to Marengo, IL to assist Mike Kellner with the Desert Rat restoration. Saturday, May 16 Squadron 4 will be at the TBM Gathering /Salute to Veterans in Peru, IL. Squadron emails will be sent out with further details on these events. Volunteers will be needed. I can be contacted by email at jerry.czupryns@warbirdsquadron4.org or cell phone (630) 452-0845. Safe travels to all. Jerry



BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



After 10 plus days of solid overcast (not Aluminum) we get 50 degree sunshine... so the week of -10 degree days is on the horizon for sure. The annual banquet is in the books and 2020 is under way. We are working on the events for spring and the big ones are the TBM event out in Peru in May and of course, hosting the B-17 at Lewis University Airport in August.

The Avenger newsletter will be shorter this year so I can get an issue out every month... or that's the plan. I would like to encourage new members to come to the general meetings and learn about volunteering for events and getting involved. You can help out at The TBM reunion in May. Please also remember we can always use *your* content in The Avenger. *-Can I still Buzz the Airfield?*



2020 ANNUAL BANQUET

continued from p.1

We had 71 attendees at the Warbird Squadron 4 banquet on February 2nd. It's always a good time to catch up with friends and meet new people. We would like to get feedback from the membership about what kind of activities or line up you would like to have at next years banquet.

John O'Connor gave a great talk about his life in aviation and I, for one, learned a lot. I love the old WWII training films. If there is something you want to hear about or experience at the next banquet, please let us know. It belongs to us, the members, so we can make it whatever we want it to be.

Thank you very much for coming. It is great to see so many Squadron 4 members and family in one place.

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JOIN US ON THE FLIGHT DECK

Squadron 4 General Meeting

Sunday - March 8, 2020

Illinois Aviation Museum

Clow International Airport (1C5)

Bolingbrook, IL 60490

Public Invited, Lunch Served 11:00 to 12:00

11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Guest speaker will be **Richard Kolodey**, TBM gunner who served in WWII, via Skype with his friend, Heath Owens. Illinois Aviation Museum

130 S. Clow International Parkway

Bolingbrook IL 60490

Desert Rat Restoration Project

Saturday - April 18, 2020

Kellner's B-17 Restoration

21010 Anthony Rd.

Marengo, IL. 60152

9:00am - 3:00pm. Come out to **Mike Kellner's** and help with the B-17E Desert Rat Restoration Project. Lunch is served and you will be working with fellow squadron mates and the restoration crew to move this massive project forward. Dress warm and bring gloves.

More events on pages 9 and 10

2020 ANNUAL BANQUET

continued from page 2

There are always a ton of donated door prizes. Model aircraft, die cast aircraft, jewelry, books, manuals, prints and more. Something for everyone. Nobody goes away empty-handed.

The Live Auction is a great way to support the squadron because the items are all donated. In spite of our amateur auctioneer, the squadron was able to offset some expenses from your generous bidding. Thank You All!

Hope to see you again next year.



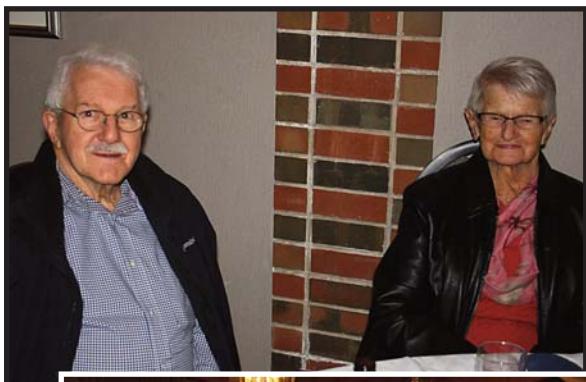
Jim Klick wore his name tag upside down... because he was INVERTED.

Jim will be inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame in 2020. Congratulations Jim!



*Pulling door prize tickets.
It takes Teamwork*

2020 ANNUAL BANQUET



REMEMBERING TED KOWALIK

Ted Kowalik

Warbird Squadron 4 will not forget "Our Ted". He was happiest in an airplane. We will miss turning to see his camera up and the shot taken, then his smiling face, Gotcha!

Serving as secretary to our loosely organized group, Ted switched effortlessly from comedian to curmudgeon and watched our reactions before smiling with another Gotcha. He held us in varied levels of esteem, but always together.



REMEMBERING KEN PACHOLSKI

Ken was taken from us too soon, doing what he loved, and in that we envy him. He was always generous, lending his hangar to the squadron for gatherings or just allowing us to show up and hang out for any reason. Even if it was just to watch his T-33 sparkle in the sun. We thrilled to the fly-bys and we will forever think, "Ken's Plane!" whenever we are lucky enough to see it.



VETERANS FORUM • KENOSHA



On November 10, 2019, we were in Kenosha again. This time for our Veterans Forum, held in the hangar of Steve Jones.

Stacy Kolls prepared lunch and we ate well, as usual. This also happened on the birthday of the Marine Corps so the desert was appropriately themed. Did I mention that we eat well? The forum speaker was our own Glenn Hill. Glenn is an FAA Charles Taylor Master Mechanic and travels with the EAA's B-17, Aluminum Overcast, keeping her flying for the rest of us to enjoy.

Glenn spoke about his service as a Navy Plane Captain/Flight Engineer on Neptune P2V-5 aircraft in the Cold War 1960's.

We learned many details of the P2V aircraft and the fire control/radar jamming and Russian submarine tracking missions Glenn was on from Okinawa to Adak Alaska.

Thank you Glenn, for your service and for sharing your experiences with us.

GENERAL MEETING - A & T RECOVERY



Warbird Squadron 4 held it's general meeting on December 8th at the Illinois Aviation Museum in Bolingbrook Illinois.

Our speaker was Taras Lyssenco, owner of A&T Recovery. They have recovered many WWII aircraft from the bottom of Lake Michigan. Some of those have been quite rare. These aircraft ended up in the lake due to accidents while engaged in Navy carrier training.

We learned about and handled many items recovered from these aircraft. It is interesting to learn how the planes are detected on the lake bed. It is also amazing to see what personal and regulation items are still on board the planes when they are brought to the surface.

Thanks to the IAM, this was a joint event and I think the Squadron grows by doing this. There was a large turn out. We almost ran out of food. There were quite a few books sold.

If Squadron 4 keeps going in this direction, we will certainly grow larger and even more active in 2020.





SCRAMBLE!! LET'S GO!!

There's a lot happening in 2020! TBM Reunion, Work day at Kellners B-17 Restoration, EAA's B-17 at Lewis! Check out the next General Meeting -March 8th at the Illinois Aviation Museum.

Sunday - March 8, 2020
Squadron 4 General Meeting
Illinois Aviation Museum
Clow International Airport (1C5)
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
Public Invited, Lunch Served 11:00 to 12:00

Guest speaker will be Richard Kolodey, TBM Avenger gunner who flew over Guadalcanal and The Solomon Islands in WWII.
 He will speak to us via Skype with his friend, Heath Owens.
 11:00 am to 3:00 pm



**WARBIRD SQUADRON 4
GENERAL MEETING**

TBM Avenger Gunner, Richard Kolodey, who served in the Pacific, will speak to us via Skype with his friend, Heath Owens.

SUNDAY, 8 MARCH 2020
11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
PUBLIC INVITED
LUNCH SERVED 11:00-12:00
ILLINOIS AVIATION MUSEUM
CLOW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
BOLINGBROOK, IL, USA

www.warbirdsquadron4.org • Contact: Jerry Czupryniak: jeremy.czupryniak@warbirdsquadron4.org • cell (830) 452-0845
 Warbird Squadron 4 is 2015/16 Registered Non-Profit

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 and help out with the B-17E Desert Rat Restoration Project.
 Lunch is served and you will be working with fellow squadron mates and the restoration crew to move this massive project forward. Dress warm and bring gloves.



Desert Rat B-17 E Restoration

Saturday, April 18 2020
Kellner B-17 Restoration
21010 Anthony Rd.
Marengo, IL
9:00am - 3:00pm
-Lunch Provided

Here's a chance to get your hands dirty on a real B-17E Bomber. You might drill out rivets, break down old brackets, move engine parts, or clean stuff. Be part of an ambitious B-17 restoration project. Join us!
www.warbirdsquadron4.org
 Jerry Czupryniak: 830-452-0845

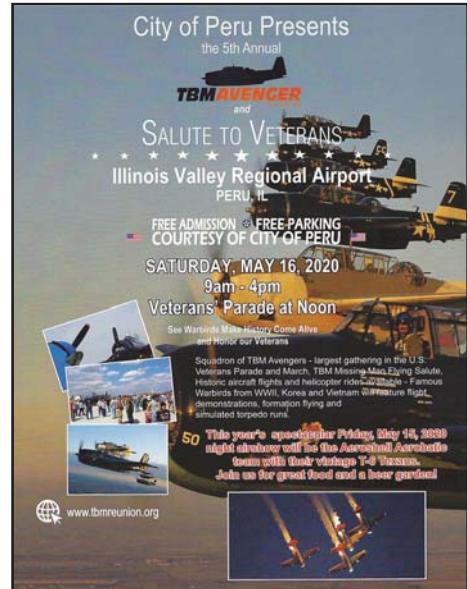


SCRAMBLE!! LET'S GO!!

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 Reunion and Salute to Veterans. Admission and parking are FREE to the public and there is plenty of room to park your aircraft. Some RV hookups are available. There are Food Vendors, Great Displays of Aviation related material and Warbirds! That's just the beginning. Come out 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!

**Get your Limited Edition Commemorative
TBM Reunion Illinois License Plate. Pg.13**



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!



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 work at the tour stop have a chance to fly on the B-17 for free! Details to follow.



YOUNG EAGLES



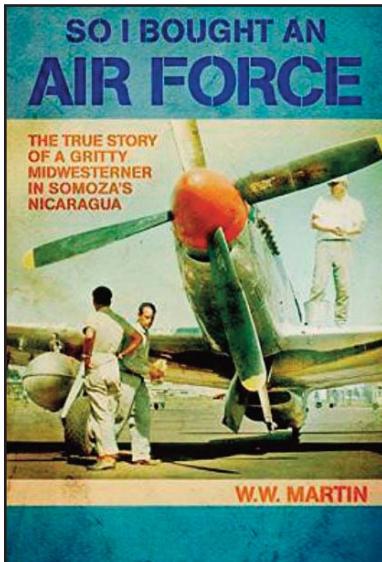
Butch is the NINTH most active Young Eagles pilot in The World! He won't mention that, but we will. 2020 will soon have Butch giving his first ride of the year. If you know anyone between the ages of 8-18 that may be interested in a Young Eagles flight, call Butch @ 630-414-4921.



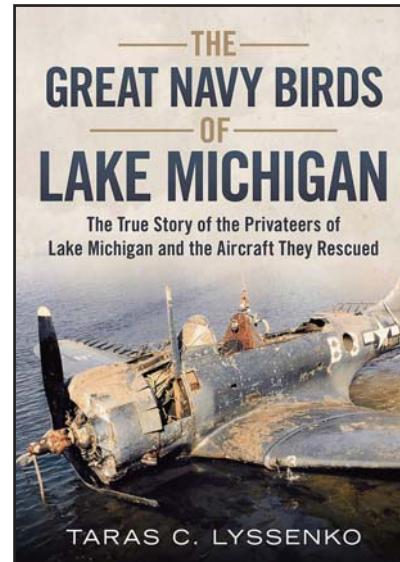
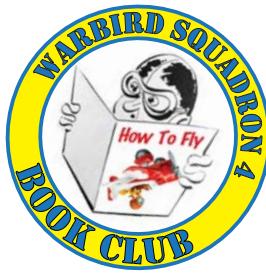
SQUADRON 4 STORE

There's a lot of Squadron 4 merchandise to choose from in our on-line Store
(<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 Great Navy Birds of Lake Michigan -by Taras C. Lyssenko. Lots of details about WWII aircraft on the bottom of Lake Michigan.
Drain the Lake! **\$23.00**



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**

Order Yours Now!

HELP SUPPORT THE TBM REUNION/SALUTE WITH A LIMITED EDITION COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATE



(Eligible vehicles: passenger vehicles, B-trucks, motorcycles and RVs weighing 8,000 lbs or less.)

Salute our Veterans!

These State of IL issued plates may be used on vehicles starting March 15 and removed after the last day of the event, May 16.

A \$50 tax-deductible donation to TBM Veterans Reunion Assoc., Inc. will reserve your plates. All proceeds to be used for the event.

Plates will be available for pickup from the IL Valley Regional Airport in Peru on March 13.

ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER WILL BE ORDERED! HURRY AND RESERVE YOURS NOW!

Commemorative plates must be ordered in advance at the IL Valley Regional Airport in Peru. You will need to provide a copy of valid registration for vehicle displaying plate, contact phone number, and prepayment of \$50.

For more information, or to reserve your plate, contact Linda - (815) 223-2003.



MAIL ORDERS TO:
TBM Veterans Reunion Assoc. Inc.
c/o IL Valley Regional Airport
4251 Ed Urban Drive, Peru, IL 61354

FOLLOW US ON
@TBM Avenger Reunion



OR VISIT US ONLINE: TBMREUNION.ORG

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-5



Jim Turcich
& Jim Klick
L-16A



Tim Gillian
SNJ



Karl Vacek
PT-17 Stearman

more Warbirds, next page

THE SQUADRON 4 HANGAR

More Warbirds owned by Squadron 4 members.

Please send yours in! Corrections Welcome!



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 Czuprynski 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:

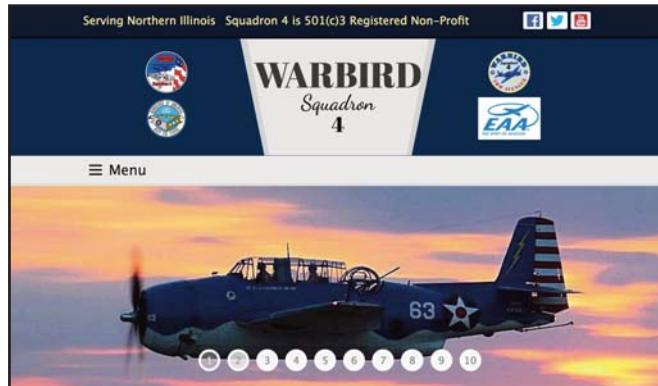


Mitch Mariotti

Brian Sell (new Board Member)

Chase Smith (new Board Member)

Great to have you on board!



Check out the New Website!

<https://www.warbirdsquadron4.org>

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

All of these links are on our site under the "WOA Squadron" button in the header, then scroll down to Squadrons.
Listed below is the text for the links.

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/