

# THE AVENGER

The Official Publication of The EAA Warbirds of America Squadron 4



[www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

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*Join us for  
The Squadron 4  
Annual Banquet*



*I couldn't find a good scotch/rocks photo*

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

## THE CO'S DESK



Hello Squadron 4 members,

Our CO, Jerry Czupryn, stepped down as commander of Warbird Squadron 4 in October. He served the Squadron well for many years and I feel that he moved us forward in everything we did. We built a great relationship with the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow Airport under Jerry's tenure and I know that will continue. He was always discovering new contacts among veterans, interesting aviation people and events. Stepping up to fill his shoes will be our own Butch Bejna. Butch has been a Squadron board member for many years and is one of the top 10 Young Eagles pilots in the world. We are looking forward to the new year with Butch.

I also have to mention 2 other board members who had to step down. Sharon Luksic and Doug Peterson were our promotions co-chairs and seemingly appeared out of nowhere at events, set up the merchandise tables and promoted Squadron 4 in every way possible. We will miss you. Our thanks to Jerry, Sharon and Doug for your many years of service to Warbird Squadron 4. You are already missed.

# BUZZING THE AIRFIELD

By Dave Stevens



As the holidays line up for the perfect landing right behind the big red sleigh, a new year is on the horizon and Warbird Squadron 4 is making roster changes. I know the future will be great for the Squadron. We are already planning events for 2023. Some will be familiar. Some will be new. Keep an eye on the Squadron 4 web site ([warbirdsquadron4.org](http://warbirdsquadron4.org)) for upcoming events.

That brings me to the Annual Banquet and I hope it brings YOU too. Get your tickets for the banquet on the website now. Let's fill the place!

Three of our hardest-working, board members have stepped down and we will miss having thier help with the business of the Squadron... But they are still members of Warbird Squadron 4 and we value that above everything else. The way we value every Squadron member. You make us the best squadron around. Thank You! Have the Greatest, Most Enjoyable Holiday!



## JOIN US ON THE FLIGHT DECK

### Squadron 4 Annual Banquet

February 4, 2023

\$45 per ticket

Purchase tickets ONLY on the Squadron 4 web site: [www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

4:00 pm to 9:00 pm

William Tell Restaurant

6201 Joliet Rd.

Countryside, IL 60525

*See page 9 to order tickets*



# B-25 TOUR STOP AT KARR - AURORA

by Dave Stevens



B-25 pilots check out Tom's TBM



J.A. Air Center hosts us when we come to KARR. They treat us like we owned the place.



A future pilot checks out the ladder to the B-25 cockpit.

If you didn't make it out to the Aurora Airport in Sugar Grove in August, make sure you watch the web site for the 2023 Tour Stop and come on out. You can even help us with Flight Line, Safety or Merchandise. We had about 11 flights at this event plus the media flight on thursday. CBS-Channel 2 came out, flew on the bomber and interviewed our own Ted Micci, our 101 year old B-17 radio man. Ray Moore, 99 year old B-17 veteran from Aurora, drove himself over to see the B-25 for the second year in a row. We are so lucky to still have WWII veterans who are in great shape and love to come out to these Warbird events.

John O'Connor had the PBY out on the ramp all weekend and Tom Buck flew the TBM in on Sunday. The more Warbirds, the better.

Rod Baker Ford provided a car for the B-25 crew as usual, and they also bought rides for some employees. Thier continued support has always been very much appreciated.

## B-25 TOUR STOP AT KARR - AURORA



Some Rod Baker Ford crew members get ready to fly



Past CO, Jerry Czupryn with Dinah Spadoni, part of our new promotions team



Sharon Luksic and Doug Peterson, Our former Merchandise/Promo Team

You can learn a lot by watching the B-25 operate. It lifts from the runway and kind of levels off while the air speed increases. There is no rush to gain altitude. Then as the speed builds she climbs right out. I can only imagine trying to fly one off of an aircraft carrier. Full of fuel in every corner and unarmed. Our sincere thanks to all of our veterans and to the EAA for maintaining this amazing WWII era aircraft. Did I mention that it was one of the planes used in the movie, *Catch 22*? She is painted in her colors from that film. Come out and join the fun.

# JOLIET AIRPORT FESTIVAL



Sharon and Doug worked the Squadron 4 merchandise table, which was "swamped" most of the day.



The Joliet Airport Festival on September 18 was off, then on again, off, on again without the car show, then WITH the car show! Finally! We had a spectacular day! Weather was great. Joliet turned out to see everything and the show cars came as they always do. If you were in the right place at the right time, you might get a ride around the grounds in a model T, thanks to Karl Vacek. Its an event that just won't quit and with the food, fun and flying, there's no reason to stop.

## GENERAL MEETING AT IAM - WITH ART LEACH

Art Leach, from Morris Illinois, has been a good friend of Warbird Squadron 4 for quite a few years. He has been to the TBM reunion and has flown in Tom Bucks SNJ. At our general meeting in October, at the Illinois Aviation Museum in Bloingbrook, we got to hear about his WWII service and more. He flew F6F Hellcats off of the Yorktown in the Pacific, where he became a decorated combat pilot. He went on to train and fly jets over Southeast Asia. Whenever the squadron is lucky enough to have a WWII vet speak to us, I invite you to come and listen. It is always interesting, we feed you, and you will meet a great group of people.



F6F Hellcat on CV-10 Yorktown



Ted Micci and Art Leach. Just a couple of 100+ year old WWII aviators

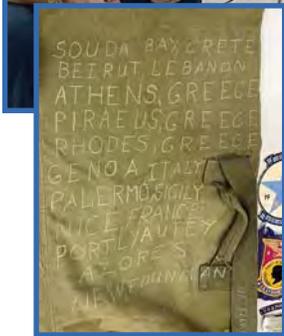
# VETERANS FORUM AT KENOSHA

by Dave Stevens



Dan Fluck

Steve Tindall



November brought us up to the Kenosha Airport for the Veterans Forum. We were lucky to have 2 Navy vets, Dan Fluck and Steve Tindall, come and tell us about thier service and life aboard ship. Steve is over 6 feet tall and the bunk photos told the story about how uncomfortable that had to have been. It was interesting to hear how firing solution computers “worked” on ships in those days. He brought his books, *My Life as a Giant* and *Underway*, and the Navy photo of his dad, which he carries to all his events. Dan told us about life and travels on the Forrestral, CVA-59, and brought some very interesting memorabilia from the many ports he stopped in. He also told us about his work on hospital ships and working in operating rooms aboard ship. Something I never thought about, but very necessary on a carrier or any “float-ing city”. Stacy Kolls fed us well and it was great to have this event in Steve Jones hangar again. If you have not been to a Veterans Forum, I invite you to check out the next one.

# YOUNG EAGLES

By Butch Bejna



*Butch Bejna*



2022 has been a good year for Young Eagle flights. Flights began in April and rides were given at 4 airports. So far 109 flights have been recorded by EAA and a few more are still waiting. After 26 years of giving flights, some ask why do you still do them? On November 26th the question was answered. *Mr. Bejna - Congratulations on leading so many young people into the beautiful skies. Thank you for helping Ryder make his first move toward a life of aviation. Your involvement is invaluable to his development. Sincerely - Judi & Rich.*

Ryder is 17 and did study up on the Cessna 150 before his flight. I let him have the controls and he did just fine on his 30 minute flight. His parents were watching us on FlightAware. After the flight I gave him a Sectional and Terminal Chart that was just out of date. Waiting to hear from him in the future about his achievements in Aviation.

# 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!



### Annual Banquet Tickets

NOT available at the door, but you can get Squadron 4 Annual Banquet tickets by clicking [here](#). Hope to see you there.

\$45.00 ea



### Annual Membership

If you need to pay your Warbird Squadron 4 membership dues, here's an easy way to do it.

<https://squareup.com/market/eaawarbird-squadron-4>

\$25.00



[www.RodBakerFord.com](http://www.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-24 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**

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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](mailto:stevens15@mindspring.com). Thanks! We will get it into the next Newsletter!



# NEW SQUADRON MEMBERS



Squadron 4 is Always Searching  
for New Members



*Welcome New Members*

*Danica Murphy*

*John Ruby*

*Patty Mayo-Katsion*

*Bryan Blakemore*



*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](mailto:rcbejna@gmail.com)

(630) 414-4921

X.O. David Stevens [stevens15@mindspring.com](mailto:stevens15@mindspring.com)

(630) 624-6618

SEC. Brian Sell [nasdgame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nasdgame@sbcglobal.net)

(331) 240-5327

TRE. Brian Churchill [brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org](mailto: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](mailto: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:	<a href="https://www.warbirds-aea.org/">https://www.warbirds-aea.org/</a>
Seattle, WA Cascade Warbird Squadron 2 Link:	<a href="https://www.cascadewarbirds.org/">https://www.cascadewarbirds.org/</a>
Eugene, OR Warbird Squadron 13 Link:	<a href="https://www.squadron13.org/warbirds/">https://www.squadron13.org/warbirds/</a>
Chino, CA Warbird Squadron 16 Link:	<a href="https://www.warbirdsusa.org/">https://www.warbirdsusa.org/</a>
Cincinnati, OH Warbird Squadron 18 Link:	<a href="https://www.cincinnatiwarbirds.org/">https://www.cincinnatiwarbirds.org/</a>
Florida Warbird Squadron 24 Link:	<a href="https://www.floridawarbirds.org/">https://www.floridawarbirds.org/</a>
Oshkosh, WI Warbird Squadron 32 Link:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OshkoshSquad/">https://www.facebook.com/OshkoshSquad/</a>