



The Squadron



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www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Events

February, 8th 2014 The Annual Dinner has been scheduled for Saturday 4:00P.M. Dinner cost: Per person - \$55.00 at the door or \$45.00 with called in reservations by Feb. 1st. Please contact Brian Churchill:

brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org

April 26th, 2014 Saturday 09:00A.M.- Kellner Restoration Group - B-17E Flying Fortress

May 10th, 2014 Saturday 11:00, - Day on the Western Front

June 22th, 2014 Sunday 11:00, - At Waukegan Airport

July 28th – Aug 3rd 2014 EAA Airventure

As always, please check our web site for the most up to date information:

www.warbirdsquadron4.org

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From the C.O.'s Desk

Greetings and HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are having an old fashioned winter with much cold and snow! Now we have time to prepare for the coming flying season.

There is much news in the aviation world: finding a replacement aviation gas, eased requirements for aviation medical exams, GPS and weather in the cockpit, and glass panels are some of the many complex and interesting topics which our EAA is helping to further advance and implement in partnership with the FAA. Get involved and share your opinions. We're looking forward to seeing you on February 8th, at 4P.M. at our Squadron 4 banquet hosted by the William Tell Restaurant in Countryside.

Enjoy a great speaker, raffles, silent auction and the camaraderie of fellow warbird fans!

Tom Buck C.O.

Photos and videos of our activities are available from our web site.

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Keep'em Flyin'

Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

This will be a short newsletter this month. January has been a good month to hibernate – just plain “stay in the cave”! So you

would think that with all this time on my hands, this one would be a very large undertaking. The truth is, January has been a very busy month for me, not to mention being chief cook and bottle washer! But that isn't all bad.

We have some really nice activities coming up this year (check the web site for a full calendar), and we will get out of them what we put in.

First up is the annual dinner. Unlike other years, I have not built a model to be auctioned off. Instead we are going to auction off a model of your choice (single engine) – you decide what you want me to build – if you win the auction. We didn't have any special event to mark, or anyone in particular to honor with a model, so we decided to do it this way. It should be fun! I think that it would be good to be delivered at the "Day on the Western Front" in May, so plan on attending that event too.

I hope to see you all at the dinner.

Our new reporter, Bruce Hawkins, has made another great contribution to the news letter, with his report on the Veteran's Forum, and Ted Kowalik with another great photo.

Our old reporter, Art Sereque, is recovering from knee surgery and is doing fine.

Veterans' Forum - November 17, 2013

By Bruce Hawkins

The Veterans' Forum, hosted by Warbirds Squadron 4 at Courtesy Aircraft in Rockford, IL, on November 17th, was a great success. The weather certainly could have been better though. Dangerous storms and numerous tornados marched across Illinois and caused serious damage and loss of life in several small towns not very far

from Rockford. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the terrible storms. The forum kicked off a little late due to the weather situation. None-the-less, a pretty good gathering of Squadron members, friends, and our keynote speaker braved the storms for the event.

Our day started out with a wonderful lunch of soups and sandwiches thanks the great cooking of our quartermaster Stacy Kolls. A shout also goes out to Courtesy Aircraft for allowing us the use of their hangar. They had four beautiful planes on display. Check out their website - www.courtesyaircraft.com. They have some great stuff on it.

After lunch Tom Buck brought things to order, and we got to hear our keynote speaker, Doug Thomas. Doug's great-uncle, Charles "Bob" Berg was a flight engineer on B-24's. Bob flew in the 376th Heavy Bomb Group (HBG) 512th Squadron. Doug took us through his great-uncle's military career from enlisting through B-24 schools and had a great presentation mapping out each step of the process. Bob flew several missions before they were assigned to the mission on December 28, 1943. On that date, seventeen B-24's from the 376th HBG headed for the railroad yards in Vicenza, Italy. About ten minutes from the target, they were attacked by forty to fifty German fighters.



The fighters came in three and four abreast, firing rockets at one thousand yards and then coming in for the kill with 20mm cannons. The 512th Squadron trailed the rest of the formation, so they were hit first. All six planes from their squadron were lost. A total of ten B-24s went down that day. Doug took us through what he was able to attain from the survivors of his Great-uncle Bob's plane. One account stated, "I saw Bob leave the aircraft, but he was bleeding badly, and I am not sure he made it to the ground alive." Doug continued his research spending nearly ten years on it and was able to get a very good accounting of the day's events. During his research Doug even had some people from Vicenza contact him about the crash site and what research they had done. Eventually Doug went there in 2011, and they had a dedication ceremony on December 28th, where a plaque was placed. They also presented Doug with a piece of the actual B-24 his Great-uncle was on. What a moving experience! Thanks to Doug's tenacity, his Great-uncles' story and sacrifice were uncovered and memorialized.



All in all, despite the weather, we had a great time at this year's Veteran's Forum. As always, our thanks go out to all who came, both to speak and to listen to our wonderful veterans.



Veteran's Corner

If you know a Veteran whom we can write an article on, please feel free to do so, and submit it to Tim Dunavin. Thanks.

Squadron Dues

It is that time of year again; time to pay your Squadron 4 dues. We are all looking forward to another great year for the Squadron in 2014. So make sure you don't

miss a thing. The dues are to be in by 31-January-2014.

You can now pay your dues on our web site www.warbirdsqadron4.org; it is fast and easy so give it a try.

Squadron Officers

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

C.O. Tom Buck

(815) 726-5059

ADJ. Tim Bauer

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Com. O./Treasurer Brian Churchill

(847) 356-9056

SEC. Ted Kowalik

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Q.M. Stacy Kolls

(815) 544-1223

Warbird Squadrons

You can find all of these links on our site under the "WOA Squadron" button.

Listed below is the text for the links.

Warbirds of America Link:

<http://www.warbirds-aaa.org/>

Seattle, WA Cascade Warbird Squadron

2 Link: <http://www.cascadewarbirds.org/>

Eugene, OR Warbird Squadron

13 Link: <http://www.squadron13.org/warbirds/>

Chino, CA Warbird Squadron 16 Link:

<http://www.warbirdsusa.org/>

Cincinnati, OH Warbird Squadron 18

Link:

<http://www.cincinnatiwarbirds.org/>

Florida Warbird Squadron 24

<http://www.floridawarbirds.org/>

WARBIRDS OF SQUADRON 4

Spit Fire

P51 Mustang

F8F Bearcat

TBM Avenger

T6

SNJ

T6

T6

T6

SNJ

Yak

OW Meyers

L5

T34

T34

Wildcat

PQ-14B

Rudy Frasca

Vlado Lench

John O'Connor

Tom Buck

Rick Siegfried

Vic Krause

Clyde Zellers

Rudy Frasca

John O'Connor

Tom Buck

Bob Fitzpatrick

Chuck Downey

Larry Tinker

Will Martin

Rudy Frasca

Rudy Frasca

Harry Pick

Keep'em Flyin