



# The Squadron



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

## Events

Coming events for 2013 – more details later:

**Sept.6-8** – B17 Tour Stop Lewis University Airport

**Oct.13** – Sq 4 at Clow

**Nov.17** – Veterans’ Forum

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

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

## From the C.O.’s Desk

Thanks to all participants at the Joliet Squadron 4 Picnic! We viewed a great and varied group of airplanes: Civilian, Liaison, Primary Trainers, Basic Trainers, Advanced Trainers, and the TBM. The Military Vehicles also were a great addition. Thanks to Mark for sharing his WWII Memorabilia. Great collection! Thanks to all who brought their WWII treasures.

The B-17 Tour Stop is September 6, 7, and 8 at Lewis Airport! Be sure to come out and volunteer. Talk to friends and family, encouraging them to see this amazing piece of history!

We are also looking for MISSION DESTINATIONS. So far we have visited the Wildcat from Lake Michigan and Sam Tabor’s shop with a Corsair restoration. Let us know if you have any suggestions that relate to Warbirds!

CO Tom Buck

## Keep’em Flyin

### Buzzing the Airfield By Tim Dunavin

This month our report may be a little smaller than usual. Our star reporter, Art Sereque has been under the weather and out of circulation for sometime. We hope Art will be back in action soon – with a full recovery!

There are others with some health issues that we have not seen at recent events and we miss them too; most notably, Frank McCarter and his family.

I, too, have not been immune to some serious

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things going on in my life. The night before I was to leave for Oshkosh a young lady decided to run a stop sign and “T-boned” us while in route to town. The van was totaled and I had to be cut out. My poor wife suffered 4 broken ribs, a separated shoulder, and badly bruised leg, but we are on the mend – albeit slowly. There was no trip to Oshkosh for me this year – I had a broken finger and was bruised up too. Someone was really looking out for us though!

This month, Butch Bejna has a fine article on the Young Eagle program, and Mike Hudak tells us about the BBQ at the Joliet Airport.

Gordon Millerin has given us an update on Jack Bally’s 1/3 scale B-17 project. I have seen this aircraft in its early stages – a marvel to behold!

Don’t forget the B-17 event at Lewis this year – in fact that is only a week away. Volunteers are always needed, and you will have a great time doing it too!

We have a lot of new members too! A big WELCOME to them!

Our October meeting at Clow and the Veteran’s Forum in Rockford are just around the corner as well. We have a great time and fantastic speakers – so come on out and enjoy the time together!

## **Young Eagle Program**

by Butch Bejna

I was at AirVenture and attended the Young Eagles Meetings. During the Gathering of Eagles Gala a new Chairman was introduced for the Young Eagle Program. Sean D. Tucker replaces Captain Sullenberger and First Officer Skiles as Chairman. I had a chance to meet Sean at Gary, Indiana during the Chicago Air and Water Show a few weeks ago. That’s another story for another time.



Jack Bally's MANNED 1/3 Scale B-17 Nearly Ready To Fly!



Jack Bally's incredible 1/3 scale B-17 next to a Cessna 140! (photo: [Facebook](#))

Some new pictures surfaced last evening on the [Bally Bomber Facebook page](#) showing Jack Bally's incredible 1/3 scale B-17 replica fully assembled and sitting next to a Cessna 140. Wow! The mind is really tied up in a knot trying to process what's seen there... It looks like a model but sooo big - but then it looks like a real B-17 but sooo much smaller!

This project, coming to life in Dixon Illinois, has to rank as one of the most fascinating homebuilt aircraft projects of all time. It's the kind of idea that weird people like me dream up but rarely does anyone actually follow through. With an estimated 20,000 hours of labor required to build this cute little beast, it's understandable why. With a 34ft 7in wingspan, estimated 1,800 pound weight and four 60hp engines for a total of 240hp, the Bally Bomber

is just pure awesome! Be sure to check out the hundreds of pix from the build process along with additional info at [TheBallyBomber.com](http://TheBallyBomber.com)



The not-so-big cockpit really shows the overall scale! (photo: [theballybomber.com](http://theballybomber.com))

The project was started back in 1999 and is just now nearing completion. The airframe is all scratch built (of course) and made out of aluminum. The main gear retracts just like the real B-17, and has proven to be the most complicated part of the project. The engines are the Hirth 3002 4-cylinder 2-stroke that usually have a reduction unit and make about 80hp. Jack chose this engine because of its size... It was small enough to fit inside a properly scaled nacelle. However, to make it fit properly, the reduction unit is removed which will bring the power down around 60hp each, with the engines spinning the 46.4" diameter props at about 3,300 rpm.



One of four 2-stroke Hirth 3002 (formerly F-30) engines (photo: [theballybomber.com](http://theballybomber.com))

Even though the airplane looks finished, I noticed in

a Facebook comment last night that says there's still some wiring, plumbing and detail work yet to complete. It would appear that the first flight is still off in the future a bit. Mostly that means that there's little hope of seeing the Bally Bomber at Oshkosh in a few weeks. There's little doubt in my mind that whenever this fabulous piece of work gets to Oshkosh, she'll be the Queen for the entire week!



The accuracy in the scale shaping is simply fantastic! (photo: [theballybomber.com](http://theballybomber.com))

The accuracy of the shapes and scaling look excellent on this project. I remember back in the 70's there were several scaled-down military one-of-a-kind replicas, but most all failed to get the profiles, proportions, or prop scaling correct... The Bally Bomber appears to be getting it done right. Bravo!



The amazing Bally Bomber is almost ready to fly! (photo: [theballybomber.com](http://theballybomber.com))

Can you even imagine how cool it would be to see this 1/3 scale B-17 in the air! No doubt the videos of the first flight will be a huge Internet sensation... Stay tuned to the [Bally Bomber Facebook page](http://Bally Bomber Facebook page) for

updates on the first flight... This might be as big a deal as the full-scale Mosquito last fall!

## Tom Buck's Open Hanger/Fly-In

By Michael F. Hudak

The annual fly-in at Tom Buck's hanger in Joliet once again was well attended as the crowd of aviation enthusiasts were thrilled at the sight of dozens of vintage warbirds.

Warbird owners arrived from far and wide to display and fly their classic machines much to the delight of all. Many took to the air after lunch demonstrating just a fraction of the capabilities of these beautiful birds that amazed the hundreds of warbird aficionados. The adoring crowd was brought to their feet cheering the amazing feats of flying expertly performed by their intrepid pilots. In fact I am still being questioned by some of the locals as to what was going on at the airport last Sunday. I just reply, "You'll just have to come out next year and see for yourself."

I often say that if it wasn't for the generosity of the owners of these planes, we wouldn't have much of a squadron. But it is also true that it is the character of all the people and friends of Squadron 4 that keeps everyone coming back for more.

This year we were lucky enough to have three WWII veterans in attendance, all B-17 vets: Bill Headliner, Pilot/Co-Pilot, Ted Micci, Radioman, and my good buddy Charlie Mueller, Navigator. One thing I hear about Ted is that if you are ever on a B-17 flight with him, DON'T sit down in front of the radio as he makes it crystal clear that that is HIS position!

As far as the warbird pilots go, we want to thank all of them for their efforts. I'll start with the T-6s and SNJs. We had T-6 Rick Siegfried, Tim Gillan, Doug Partle, John O'Conner, Jamie Wallace, Vic Krause, Tom Buck, and Walt.

Next are the Stearmans: Keith Birsa and Old Bob Siegfried, the L- Bird: Keith Birsa, a very nice BT-13 owned by Stu Miller, Jim Klick's L-16, Steve Matter chipped in with his cool little Smith Mini and Keye Kaites showed off his classic Pitts that he flew beautifully. I believe we also had a 182 and a Luscombe, and of course there was Tom's Big Machine that I always confuse with that Piper Cub that flew in.

Plus I can't forget Butch Bejna and his good work giving Young Eagles their first hop and introducing them to aviation. Also I am very envious of Butch getting a thrill ride from none other than Sean D. Tucker, but I am happy for you, Butch; you really deserve it.

Once again the food was very good as the chefs, Dean "The Dream" Stanley and Ron Liebman, did yeoman like work cranking out 166 burgers in the hot sun without burning a single one. In fact they were so busy that Ron and Smilin' Jack Medjrich only had time for an abbreviated Liar's Club session. However they did agree to reconvene at Lewis next month when Aluminum Overcast arrives for more good natured banter....AKA Lies.



We can't forget all the lovely ladies that served the lunch, and they are: Vanna Barbeauld, Charlotte Millerin (of the famous flying Millerin's), Sue McSorely, Gloria Devience, my mom Donna, and most of all Kathy Buck who puts up with all the insanity that we enjoy so much!

Plus we had a great turn out from Doug Mayhall and all the fellows from the MVPA that came with a tremendous amount of heavy metal. It's plain to see that these men put a lot of time and effort into their machines getting all the details correct. Their dedication shows, and we are glad to have them on board.

We also conducted our annual drawing for the warbird rides, and we thank Jerry Czupryn for his effort in making it such success.

All of us were happy to see Tim "Colonel" Dunavin as he is well on the road to recovery from the horrible accident and we wish all the best to his wife Betty in her struggle to recuperate.

I hope all of you visited "Adamic's Corner" to see Mark's terrific display of military memorabilia that spans WWII to Vietnam. Mark not only has a great collection but posses a wealth of knowledge of military history. Thanks go out to collectors like Mark who are preserving this part of American history that otherwise might be lost for future generations.

Sadly Art Sereque was a no show, and a lot of people were asking "Where is Art?" Well, I have some news for you! My sources tell me that Art is being held at an undisclosed location by the Department of Defense. Being the Patriot he is, Art has agree to divulge the secrets of his barbequed rib recipe (which by the way is more tightly guarded than Colonel Sanders 7 spices) to the military. These super secret ribs will be used as a subversive weapon in the war on terror to convert the enemy over to our side. I figure if we throw in some Cole slaw and a cold beer, the war will be over in about two weeks. Way to go, Artie!



All in all, thank you Tom Buck and your loyal crew chief George Barbeuld and anyone else I may have missed for a great day. I can't wait for next year!

### **Folded Wings**

In our last newsletter we welcomed a new member, LeRoy Strzelecki. Birth date: August 15, 1939, Death date: July 18, 2013. Our sympathies go out to his family.

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Aras Lintakas  
Izzy Padron  
David Kennerly  
Richard Griessmeyer

### **Squadron Officers**

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

C.O. Tom Buck  
(815) 726-5059

ADJ. Tim Bauer  
(815) 501-1468

Com. O./Treasurer Brian Churchill  
(847) 356-9056

SEC. Ted Kowalik  
(603) 289-2785

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-eaa.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 MKXVIII	Rudy Frasca
T33	Vlado Lenocho
F8F Bearcat	John O'Connor
TBM Avenger	Tom Buck
T6	Rick Siegfried
SNJ	Vic Krause
T6	Rudy Frasca
T6	John O'Connor
SNJ	Tom Buck
Yak	Bob Fitzpatrick
OW Meyers	Chuck Downey
T34	Rudy Frasca
Wildcat	Rudy Frasca
PQ-14B	Harry Pick
T34	John Rippinger

**Keep'em Flyin**