



# THE SQUADRON

## EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

January, 2005

Web Site: <http://www.warbirdsqadron4.org/>

### In this Issue:

- ✦ 2005 Squadron 4 Annual Dinner
- ✦ The C.O.'s Desk
- ✦ Future Squadron events
- ✦ Member News

---

### Squadron 4 Officers and Board Members

Mark Laatsch, Commander

Tom Buck, Executive Office

Tim Bauer, Adjutant

Bruce Graham, Secretary

Dan Guenther, Financial Officer

Brian Churchill, Communications Officer, Membership and Web Page Editor

Ron Molinets, Recruiting, Membership

Ted Koston, Public Affairs Officer, Squadron Photographer

Stacy Kolls, Quartermaster

Matt Huffnus, Squadron Chaplain

Jim Delaney, Past Commander

Will Martin, Chairman of the Board

David Maren, Matt Olafsen, Chris Huffnus Board Members

### 2005 Squadron Annual Dinner

Warbird Squadron 4 announces the 2005 Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday January 22, 2005 at the William Tell Holiday Inn in Countryside, IL (previously mistakenly advertised as LaGrange, IL). The event will commence with reception and cocktails (cash bar available) at 5:00 PM with dinner served at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be followed by a brief review of annual Squadron business, including a recap of 2004 and a preview of 2005 plans and activities. Our Squadron business will be followed by the feature program for this event. We are honored this year to have as guest speaker Lt. Colonel Viv Lock (Ret). Colonel Lock will be presenting highlights and excerpts from his carrier as a pilot flying B-24 and B-29 bombers during WWII, and during the Korean War flying KB-29, and eventually KC-97 and KC-135 air refueling tankers.

### When:

**January 22, 2005, 5:00 to 9:00 PM**

### Where:

**William Tell Holiday Inn  
6201 Joliet Road  
Countryside, IL 60525  
Phone: 708-352-1101**

### Cost:

**\$25.00 per person**

Thanks to the generosity of member Vlado Lench, we are able to offer a reduction in the cost of the annual dinner to members and fiends. This past year, Vlado donated a

ride in his P-51 Mustang, *Moonbeem McSwine*. We were able to use this donation as a fund raising program, with the sole purpose of funds collected to be used as a method of augmenting the total cost of the annual dinner. The cost of this year's dinner will be \$25.00. This by no means should be misconstrued as a reduction in the quality of the event. Quite the contrary as we have a fine buffet dinner at familiar facilities, super prizes and gifts, quality raffle items educational displays, and much more.

### **Lt. Colonel Viv Lock**



**Viv Lock as a young WWII pilot**

Viv Lock was born July 13, 1920 in Kankakee, IL. Graduating in 1940 from Kankakee High School, he initially enlisted in the Illinois National Guard as a communications specialist as a member of HQ Co, 129th Infantry Regime. Mobilized for service in WWII in May 1942, he entered the Army Air Corps Flying Sergeants training program and received his pilot's wings.

During WWII, Second Lieutenant Viv Lock flew 14 B-24 combat bombing missions in the Aleutian Islands against Japanese infantry with the 11th Air Force, 21st Bomb Squad. Later in the Asia Pacific Theater, he promoted to Captain and flew 27 missions piloting B-29s with the 20th Air Force, 330th Bomb Group, from Guam against the Japanese home land. On one daylight raid against the Mitsubishi aircraft company at Tamashima, Japan, Capt. Lock and his

crew lost Number 4 engine in the assembly area, but elected to continue the bomb run. Underpowered with only three engines, they could not keep up with the other planes in the formation and enemy anti-aircraft batteries singled out their crippled bomber with intense fire. However, this did not discourage the crew as they dropped their bombs squarely on the target area. Captain Lock's plane was the last to take off from Guam and the last to land on one of the last bombing missions against the Japan homeland. On V-J Day while flying in an Air Power demonstration, Captain Lock made a low level pass over the Battleship Missouri below the ship's mast, during the peace treaty ceremony, which was recorded on Armed Forces Radio. Captain Lock piloted a Superfortress dubbed "The City of Kankakee" a.k.a. Lucky Strike. After the war Viv Lock returned to civilian status but was recalled to active duty for the Korean conflict in March 1953 flying KB-29 hose and reel tankers.

Captain Lock was next assigned to the 98th Air Refueling Squad where he flew KC-97 tankers and was Chief of Standardization for 5 years. Promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1963, Viv Lock transitioned to KC-135 tankers as an Aircraft Commander. He flew tankers for 15 of his 29 year Air Force career. His last assignments included duties as safety officer. In 1968 he retired in his hometown of Kankakee, IL.

### **The C.O.'s Desk**

With 2004 behind us and a new year ahead, I look forward to building on the successes from this past year and improving on our ability of this organization to serve the interests and desires of the members of Squadron 4. Over the past couple years we have accomplished great success in growing our membership. We continue to thrive with our core ideals and goals. We have planned new activities and programs, implemented a few and are working toward grand ideas to involve more members in the integrate workings of this organization and to keep the interest of all who belong to the Squadron. I feel this year will be off to a great start with this year's annual dinner and

our planned schedule. I am confident that we will continue to grow within the Warbird and Veteran's community.

### **2005 Annual Dinner Extras**

All those who attend the annual dinner this year will have an opportunity to participate in another great raffle for a quality leather G-1 flight jacket. Tickets will be sold at \$1.00 each for this fantastic opportunity. As last year's raffle for a Cooper A-2, the winner of the raffle will supply us with the required size and we will have the jacket delivered to his or her front door.

Tim Dunavin, our Squadron Model Master has painstakingly reproduced another of our member's warbird aircraft. This year he has built a 1/32 scale P-51D Mustang in the markings of Vlado Lench's *Moonbeam McSwine*. Tim adds a good deal of extra detail to the standard model kit, including a DC motor to turn the prop. The model is 100% hand painted (no decals) and truly is a work of art. One lucky person at the dinner will take this beauty home.

There will be plenty of door prizes and goodies given away throughout the night, and maybe a last minute surprise or two, but you must be present to win.

### **Member News**

#### **Squadron 4 Merchandise**

Squadron 4 merchandise is still available, mainly consisting of patches, pins and clothing. Embroidered hats and shirts and sweatshirts are available with prices ranging from \$10 - \$25. We also plan to expand our offering of logo merchandise in the near future. The items will be available at this and future Squadron 4 events or contact Mark Laatsch at 773-695-8122 for more information.

#### **Event by Committee**

**Squadron 4 Wants You**, to become more involved. To involve more of our regular members in the operations of Squadron 4,

we are creating committees, made up of a group of Squadron members, responsible for the planning and coordination of our regular meeting events. The concept would be to form multiple committees, each responsible for a single event. These responsibilities would include arranging for facility logistics (tables, chairs, speakers requirements) and working with our Quartermaster, Stacy Kolls and other Squadron officers. Anyone interested in assisting in this effort can contact me by leaving a message at 773-695-8122 or an e-mail at [mLaatsch@csinet.net](mailto:mLaatsch@csinet.net), or by talking to any of the Squadron's officers. **Help us out, get involved.**

### **Annual Membership Dues Time**

It's that time again to renew your membership. Annual dues are \$25.00 and can be paid at the annual dinner, or information is available on our web site at <http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org>. Renew your membership in Squadron 4 and help support our efforts for the preservation and continued operation of warbird aircraft.

### **Squadron 4 – Year 2005 Calendar of Events**

**April 24, 2005** - Regular Meeting, Bannockburn Field, Plano, IL

**June 26, 2005** - Regular Meeting, Kenosha, WI

**August 14, 2005** - Annual BBQ Fly-in/Drive-in, Joliet, IL

**September 11, 2005** - Regular Meeting, Lindenwood, IL

**November 13, 2005** - Annual Veteran's Forum - Rockford, IL



**Keep 'em Flying**



Cuero, TX – late July 1942. Viv Lock sits on the landing gear of a PT-19 Photo courtesy Ted Koston



Crew of K-16, *City of Kankakee*, Captain Viv Lock standing, far left



*City of Kankakee*, being nursed along by CAP Vivian Lock, as she has lost No. 4 over the Empire of Japan



Viv Lock (far left) with KC-97 refueling crew in October 1959

Photo courtesy Ted Koston



Viv Lock 2004

Photo by Ted Koston