



The Squadron



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www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Events

February, 25th 2012 The Annual Dinner has been scheduled for Saturday 4:00P.M. Dinner cost: Per person - \$40.00 at the door or \$30.00 with called-in reservations by Feb. 11th. Please contact Brian Churchill:

brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org

April 28th, 2012 Saturday
09:00AM, Kellner Restoration Group - B-17E Flying Fortress

May 12th, 2012 Saturday 11:00, - Day on the Western Front

June 24th, 2012 Sunday 11:00, - Joint meeting with EAA Chapter 95 Morris, IL

July 7th & 14th, 2012 Squadron
Work Days at Oshkosh - contact: Jim Delaney (630)438-7338
jim.delaney@warbirdsquadron4.org

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

Jan. 2012

The Holidays have come and gone. I hope yours were enjoyable. George and I are starting to plan the winter maintenance for the TBM. Also Mike Majewski is close to finishing the full scale replica of the Mark 13 torpedo!!! What an added asset for the TBM.

Our annual dinner on Feb. 25th is fast approaching. Check out the website for a new way to pay dues and pay for the dinner. Brian Churchill, Craig Welch, and Chris Millerin have been hard at work on our Social Media Networking. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to pay on line. It will speed up registration at the banquet too!

Butch Bejna has volunteered to head our Young Eagles Program. We appreciate his taking the leadership of this great program.

These are just a few of the things Squadron 4 has planned for you in 2012, to get up close to Warbirds. Come join us and bring a friend!

Tom Buck C.O.

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

Keep'em Flyin

Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

With the new year in full swing, we start our Squadron 4 activities with the annual Squadron dinner. It is an excellent time to renew old friendships and make new ones, as well as being able to participate in a great event.

Our speaker is John Rippinger (see article below), and the usual auctions and raffles will be rounded out by a fantastic meal – not to mention the hangar talk and great time together.

I have also included, as part of the dinner agenda, here in the newsletter, a description of the model that will be auctioned off.

What a great start to our year full of wonder and fun! Next, we are scheduled to go out to Marengo to Kellner's to help with the restoration of a B-17 "Desert Rat" (28 April), followed shortly thereafter by the event on the "Western Front". This year Tim has put a new item on the menu – "Hot Lips" – for you folks who like a spicy kind of "Chicken Lips"!

Two years ago, Whiteside County Airport held an aviation event – "The Last Time" – a roundup of Douglas DC-3s/C-47s. This year they are planning another aviation event, "Warbirds over Whiteside", to be held July 20-22nd. There have already scheduled two C-130s, and it promises to be a great stop-off for those Warbirds flying on to Oshkosh. Food and fuel considerations are in the offering too. As with our other events, volunteers are always needed, but I also realize that there will be a lot of us already at Oshkosh by then too.

This month we take another look at the MK XIII torpedo being built by Mike Majewski for Tom Buck's TBM – won't be long and it will be mounted in the aircraft.

I hope to see you all at the annual dinner in February, and keep safety on top of your to do list.

2012 Annual Squadron 4 Dinner Part I - Speaker

Executive Biography

John F. Rippinger
CLU, ChFC, CFP™, RHU, LUTCF, REBC,
RFC, LTCP, CSA



John F. Rippinger, a successful multipreneur, is president and CVO of The Rippinger Financial Group of Companies, founded in 1984. The firm is the holding company for: Resource Brokerage LLC, Coordinated Benefits Company LLC, InsuranceLook.com LLC, Benefits Partnership LLC, Aileron Aire LLC, Chapter Deux LLC and JSR Holdings LLC. The Rippinger Financial Group of companies has been named as one of the top twenty "Best Places to Work in Illinois" for the last five years.

Rippinger, the founding president of the Northwest Branch of the Chicago Association of Life Underwriters (CALU),

was also past president of CALU as well as director of the North Branch. The association awarded Rippinger its highest honor in 1992, the Distinguished Service Award, for his outstanding contributions to CALU.

With more than 40 years of experience in the insurance industry, Rippinger has received designations as a Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, Certified Financial Planner, Registered Health Underwriter, Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow, Registered Employee Benefits Consultant, Registered Financial Consultant, Long Term Care Professional, and Certified Senior Advisor. John is currently working towards receiving the Chartered Healthcare Consultant designation from the American College.

In 2008 John was recognized by Harper College as the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award and had the honor to speak at the college's commencement ceremonies that year.

John lives with his wife, Susan, and stepson, James, in Schaumburg, IL. An avid aviator, Rippinger, who has been flying for over 48 years, was the co-pilot of the gas balloon "Chicago" which won the 1981 U.S. National Gas Balloon Championship.



He now flies his yellow T-34 Navy Trainer in the #6 position on The Lima Lima Flight Team which is the only civilian six aircraft precision aerobatic team in the world.



John is also a member of MIA Hunters, Inc. which is a non-profit group that goes on expeditions to Papua New Guinea in search of the remains of WWII aviators still listed as missing in action. Other activities include golf, photography, scuba diving, bicycling, motorcycles, and skiing.

2012 Annual Squadron 4 Dinner Part II – Auction Model

This year's model is also to commemorate the 100th year of Naval Aviation. Built by Tim Duanvin, this 1/48 scale model of the SB2C will be up for auction at the annual Squadron 4 dinner, on February 25th at the Countryside Inn.



The SB2C Helldiver was a replacement for its predecessor, the Douglas Dauntless (SBD). The model is mounted in the diving position, with dive flaps open – all dive flap perforations have been drilled out.



Another view.

In past years we have had a lot of excitement during the auction and the funds go to help with the cost of operating the Squadron. Come have a good time and enjoy the company of great people.

TORPEDO! **A photo story**

Some time back we told about the torpedo warhead built by Tim Dunavin for a torpedo being built by Mike Majewski for Tom Buck's TBM Avenger. Excellent progress has been made and here are a few photos to show what has been done. It won't be long and the TBM will be armed!



The tail section and warhead are seen here. The fins were made of metal and welded in place using plywood guides.



Tail ring in place on the fins.



Propellers have been connected – note countertrading sets.



All we need now is a final paint job and a TBM!

Veteran's Corner

If you know a Veteran about whom we can write an article, 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 2012. So make sure you don't miss a thing. The dues are to be in by 31-January-2012.

You can now pay your dues on our web site www.warbirdsquadron4.org. It is fast and easy, so give it a try.

Help Squadron 4 Support Our Troops!

We are still collecting donations to send care packages to our troops overseas. Started in September of 2004, our care package drive has collected items for an average of 4 care packages every year, including special Christmas packages. Donations can be brought to any Squadron meeting. A list of approved items for care packages is posted on the Squadron website (www.warbirdswardron4.org). Monetary donations help to fill out the packages with needed items that have not been donated. It's easy to remember our servicemen and women on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. We need to let them know they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Kolls, Squadron 4 Quartermaster, at 815-218-9202. Please help us support our troops!

Squadron 4 Officers

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

Commanding Officer: Tom Buck (815) 726-5059
 Adjutant: Tim Bauer (815) 501-1468
 Financial/Communications Officer: Brian Churchill (847) 356-9056
 Secretary: Ted Kowalik (603) 289-2785
 Quartermaster: Stacy Kolls (815) 544-1223

Warbird Squadrons

Listed below is the text for the links.

Warbirds of America Link:

<http://www.warbirds-aea.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	Rudy Frasca
P51 Mustang	Vlado Lench
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
OW Meyers	Chuck Downey
T34	Will Martin
T34	Rudy Frasca
Wildcat	Rudy Frasca
PQ-14B	Harry Pick

MERCHANDISE

We have the new Squadron 4 hats – 2 styles to choose from!

You can help the Squadron and look great too! See our web site for all the details.

Keep'em Flyin