



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4 News

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

March, 2005

Web Site: <http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org/>

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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

April Squadron Regular Meeting

The Squadron 4 next regular meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 26, 11:00 AM, at Bannockburn Field in Plano, IL. Bannockburn Field is the present home of the American Heritage Aircorp. Although this meeting will not have a scheduled guest speaker, our membership has grown recently to include several WWII veterans who seem more than willing to share their past with all interested in listening and learning their rich history. As we focus on the beginning of the 2005 flying season let's hope the weather cooperates, to allow a gathering of member's and friend's aircraft. American Heritage Aircorp invited Squadron 4 members to a late season fly-in last October, which due to excellent flying weather, was a great success.

Bannockburn Field is located at 1207 Little Rock Road about 1 1/2 miles south of Chicago/Galena Road and about 1/2 mile north of Miller Road, or about 3 1/2 miles north of Ogden Road (Route 34). Little Rock Road crosses Ogden about 1 mile east of down town Plano, IL. A detailed map is posted on the Squadron web site www.warbirdsquadron4.org

3000' grass long, 150' wide runway. If flying, beware of wires at East end of field. Lunch will be served, so plan on spending the day with friends and airplanes and you never know what other possibilities there may be.

2005 Squadron Annual Dinner Re-cap

The 2005 Annual Dinner event experienced the first ever postponement and re-schedule. As I'm sure all of you are aware, the snowstorm which struck the Chicago area on January 22 (our originally scheduled date for this year's Dinner) resulted in a last minute decision to cancel the event. The Dinner was rescheduled and held on February 19. We had our largest attendance of this event with close to 70 members and friends at the William Tell Holiday Inn. The evening was crowned with an outstanding presentation by our guest speaker Lt. Colonel Viv Lock, who gave us an excellent account of one of his many bombing missions of the Japanese homeland, specifically, a mission to Osaka. Colonel Lock not only gave us the account of his part in that mission but also told of the fate and events experienced by other crews and aircraft on that and like missions during the late days of WWII. Colonel Lock's presentation was accompanied by numerous photographs from his missions, some of which were quite striking and astonishing in context of the story he told. His presentation culminated with the presentation of Mark Adamic's original drawing of the B-29 Colonel Lock flew during the war, *The City of Kankakee* a.k.a. *Lucky Strike*.

As part of the Dinner's planned inclusions, several raffles, auctions, and door prize give aways were conducted throughout the evening. A warbird ride of choice (aircraft to be determined) was won by Kathleen Drago. A leather G-1 jacket was raffled (similar to last year's A-2 raffle) won by Roger Paykert. Tim Dunavin's beautiful reproduction model of Vlado Lench's P-51 was won by Tony Rericha. An exquisite signed limited edition, air to air, photograph of Tom Buck's TBM (donated by photographer Ted Koston) was auctioned off to Roger Paykert. A nice wood desk model of a PT-17 was sold to high bidder Dan Tanis.

This year, thanks to one of Squadron 4's true benefactors, Vlado Lench, we also have another incredible opportunity to win a

ride in his P-51, *Moonbeam McSwine*. Early raffle ticket sales for the P-51 ride were brisk but, with the drawing to be held at the annual BBQ in August this year, there is still ample time to get in on this fantastic opportunity (see enclosed flyer). However, as if the possibility to win such a coveted ride in Mustang weren't enough, Vlado has increased his generosity even more by offering another exceptional warbird ride in his T-33. We will also use this most generous opportunity to raffle this ride with all proceeds slated for next year's Annual dinner, which at this point should prove to be extremely fruitful for all who attend.

In conclusion, although it appears as though 2005 was off to a rocky beginning for Squadron 4, with the postponement of the Annual Dinner, the event proved to be our most successful, and can only be seen as the beginning of even greater things to come.

The C.O.'s Desk

I'm proud to report that this year's annual dinner boasted the largest attendance ever. The highlight of the event was indeed the excellent presentation given by Lt. Col. Viv Lock on his experiences as a B-29 pilot flying missions over the Japan homeland at the end of WWII. As usual I rambled on about what a great 2004 Squadron 4 had re-counting our many successful events we had over the course of the year. As always I never seem to convey all of the real pertinent information that I should when I address the Squadron membership. This event was no exception. I would therefore, like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all those who helped this event as successful as it was. I would also like to convey my deepest appreciation to the members of Squadron 4 who donated the many door prizes we were able to give away throughout the evening. Thanks also to Tim Dunavin, our Model Master for building another fine example of one of our member's aircraft, Vlado Lench's P-51 Mustang, *Moonbeam McSwine*.

As much as I've emphasized the Squadron's commitment to the recognition

of Veterans, I failed to mention the return of our own member from active service, Bruce Graham. Bruce returned last fall from his call to active duty, as a result of the war efforts in Iraq. Although he did not serve in a combat role, nor did he leave the U.S., he did serve our country in military service as part of our armed forces, and thus deserves our respect and gratitude as do all who have served and are serving this great country we live in.

Member News

Welcome New Members

Squadron 4 welcomes the following new members:

Lee Groharind
Joseph Heinlein
Frank McCarter
Jack Mejdrich
Jim Mulvihill
Bill Scanlon

June Meeting in Kenosha

Mark your calendars for the June event in Kenosha WI. Our Board members have confirmed the location for our June meeting on the Kenosha Airport, as well as the initial commitment of our guest speaker, Frank McCarter. Frank was part of our Veteran's forum this past November and peaked the interest of all who were there with a taste of some extremely interesting stories of his experiences as a P-51 pilot in the CBI theater shortly after the dissolve of the American Volunteer Group, commonly known as the Flying Tigers. Frank has indicated he has a great deal to talk about and I am positive this event will be one you will not want to miss. There will be more information in future newsletters, so watch for this one.

Squadron 4 Merchandise

Squadron 4 merchandise is still available. Embroidered hats and shirts and sweatshirts are available with prices ranging from \$10 - \$25. Jackets available by special

order. The items will be available at future Squadron 4 events or by contacting Mark Laatsch at 773-695-8122 for more information.

Support Our Troops

Stacy Kolls is continuing an effort to collect goods and donations to send care packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A list of suggested items for the care packages is available by visiting the Operation Shoebox website at www.operationshoebox.com. Let's continue to support this effort. We are also looking for those interested in becoming pen pals with vets deserving of a little support and contact from home. Questions and information requests should be directed to our Quartermaster, Stacy Kolls (815-218-9202).

Annual Membership Dues Time

A friendly reminder, it's that time again to renew your membership. Annual dues are \$25.00. Renew your membership in Squadron 4 and help support our efforts for the preservation and continued operation of warbird aircraft, and the recognition of our Veterans.

Squadron 4 2005 Calendar of Events

(Check our web site for advanced details)

May 14, 2005 – A Day on the Western Front, Tim Dunavin's residence, Rock Falls, 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

Don't miss this incredible opportunity



Photo by Ted Koston

Win a ride in this fantastic P-51 Mustang.

Tickets still available, but quantities are limited. The drawing will be held on August 14, 2005

Squadron 4 member Vlado Lenoč has generously donated a ride in his pristine P-51 *Moonbeam McSwine*.

The raffle is open to members and non-members alike. Total tickets sold will be limited to 150 at a cost of \$10.00 per ticket for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Tickets are available via this mail in request form, or at the annual BBQ at Joliet Airport on August 14, 2005. You need not be present to win and arrangements for the ride will be made with Vlado for a mutually convenient date on or after the 14th. With odds of winning no worse than 1:150, don't miss this chance.

All proceeds from this raffle will be used to offset member's costs for our next Annual dinner in 2006.

For tickets and or questions, write to Mark Laatsch, P.O. Box 1910, Valparaiso, IN 46384, or call 773-695-8122, or see us at one of the upcoming Squadron events.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Number of tickets _____

Ticket numbers will be recorded in the event of ticket loss. You need not be present to win.



Keep em' Flying



Here's another incredible opportunity



You can't win a ride in this Lockheed T-33, but you could win a ride in one of this aircraft type.

Tickets still available, but quantities are limited. The drawing will be held on August 14, 2005

Squadron 4 member Vlado Lenoč has generously donated a ride in his T-33

The raffle is open to members and non-members alike. Total tickets sold will be limited to 150 at a cost of \$10.00 per ticket for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Tickets are available via this mail in request form, or at the annual BBQ at Joliet Airport on August 14, 2005. You need not be present to win and arrangements for the ride will be made with Vlado for a mutually convenient date on or after the 14th. With odds of winning no worse than 1:150, don't miss this chance.

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Keep em' Flying





Photo by Tony Rerica



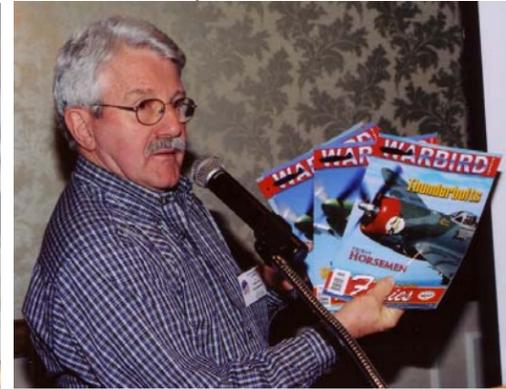
Photo by Bill Bartilotta



Photo by Bill Bartilotta



Photo by Bill Bartilotta



Photos Left to Right:

Row one

1. National Anthem is played to start of the event.
2. Lt. Colonel Viv Lock.
3. Col. Lock appreciated for his presentation.
4. Model Master Tim Dunavin presents winner Tony Rericha with P-51 model
5. Col. John Geuss and wife

Row Two

1. Col. Lock describes bombing mission over Osaka, Japan
2. David and Beverly
3. Col. Lock receives original drawing of his B-29 from artist mark Adamic
4. Dan Guenther attempts to prep the C.O.
5. Tim Dunavin, Frank McCarter and Frank Bartilotta

Row Three

1. Matt Huffnus holds model P-51 as Tim Dunavin explains the construction process.
2. Matt Huffnus auctions off PT-17 held by David Maren.
3. Col. Viv Lock addresses members of Squadron 4.
4. Dave Faibrother introducing Squadron 4 members to a new Warbird publication.
5. Two lucky door prize winners

Row Four

1. Squadron 4 members pose for camera man Ted Koston.
2. Stacy and Bev work the ticket table.
3. Regina Kania hold the newest member of the Delaney family as Matt Huffnus and David Maren look on.
4. Tony Rericha, Col. Viv Lock, Matt Huffnus and James Lock discuss and model airplane similar to one flown by the Colonel