



The Squadron



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www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Events

Saturday, April 26 starting at 09:00A.M. - The Home of the Desert Rat - Kellner's Restoration - 21010 Anthony Road, Marengo, IL 60152,

Saturday, May 10 starting at 11:00A.M. - A day on the Western Front - Tim Dunavin's home - 28931 Bell Road, Rock Falls IL 61071

Sunday, June 22 starting at 11:00A.M. - Pick Field - Harry Pick's Place - 9611 N 1700 East Road, Chenoa, IL 61726

Saturday, July 19 starting at 09:00A.M. - Work Weekend on EAA Warbird Grounds - Oshkosh WI

July 27- Aug 3: Airventure

Sunday, Aug 17 starting at 11:00 - Sq4 BBQ - Tom Buck's Hangar at the Joliet Regional Airport (KJOT)

Sunday, Sept 7 starting at 11:00 - Fly-in/Drive-in - Tim Bauer's Place - 17050 E Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049

September 12-14 : B-17 Tour Stop DuPage Airport, West Chicago, IL

Sunday, Nov 9 starting at 11:00 - The Veterans' Forum - 5233 Falcon Road, Rockford, IL 61109

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

We all wish that spring were really here. I've been getting the itch to fly, and I started to reminisce about my start into warbirds. A friend at Poplar Grove Airport invited me to fly an SNJ one beautiful fall day in 1990. That started my warbird flying.

I also experienced a flight with Vlado in his P51 Mustang—what a thrill!! My itch turned into a fever....Next I found an SNJ at Courtesy Aircraft in Rockford. I then had to talk myself and my wife into ownership.

My first solo flight was fantastic, and my heart was in my throat for the landing, but I was hooked, and every flight is still a thrill. The best fun is to share that thrill with others, since I am just the caretaker of this warbird. In Squadron 4, I have found a group of people that are also passionate about warbirds.

Let's make this a year when we really focus on spreading the news to others about the wonders of warbirds and bring new people to our events. I'm counting on YOU!

Tom Buck

Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

With this issue we are starting a new section, "Veteran's Corner", a series of stories from members and friends of Squadron 4. In this issue we are featuring Gordon Millerin, who was in VF-144 and was involved with the F9F-8 "Cougar", in its closing days as a U.S. Navy warbird.

At the Squadron dinner, Dan Guenther was awarded a certificate for a model. He chose a model of the "SPAD" flown by the "Ace of Aces" Eddie Rickenbacker (26 kills). He was a member of the 94th "Hat in the Ring" Aero Squadron during WWI. The model will be presented to Dan at a work-day to be held at Mike Kellner's on the 26th of April (see events list).

Also in this issue we are posting this season's air shows. If you feel this list is not complete, please feel free to contact myself or Brian Churchill.

Listed in the "Events" section is the return of the EAA B-17 Aluminum Overcast. See the details further down. You must have your Squadron dues paid up, and be a full member to be able to volunteer for duty. Our insurance will not cover those not paid up.

Coming up also is the Annual Day on the Western Front, at Tim Dunavin's – out in the weeds of Rock Falls – Hope to see you all there!

Squadron 4 February Banquet

Art Sereque, Gordon Millerin, his son Mike, grandson Christopher, and David Maren were all early arrivals. They immediately set up tables and chairs for dinner ticket sales, raffle ticket sales, merchandise sales and door prizes, and a contribution jar for the Mike Titre Brick Fund. Dan Guenther and his father Lee were in charge of dinner ticket sales; David Maren and Bev Ruda, raffle ticket sales; Tim Bauer, Merchandise sales; and Art

Sereque, Titre Brick Fund contributions. Stacy Kolls also set up her slide show of pictures taken at various events this past year, and ran it until the dinner began.

Members and guests trickled in, until more than 80 people showed up, with hangar flying commenced for about 1½ hours. In the mean time, registration and ticket and merchandise sales were carried on.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, the guests sat down to a family style dinner. At random intervals, drawings were held for door prizes. Robert Emmet was the winner of the flight jacket.

C.O. Tom Buck officially opened the meeting with remarks and messages, including introducing National Warbirds President and Squadron 4 member Rick Siegfried.

Master model-maker Tim Dunavin, the craftsman who built "The Mole", a model of Mike Titre's P-47 Thunderbolt, made introductory remarks about the auction and told a story about one of Mike's missions. After spirited bidding, Roger Paykert became "The Mole's" owner. The model was then presented to Roger by Peter Titre, Mike's brother.



The winning bid was \$160.00, which was placed in the "Mike Titre Brick Fund". Stacy Kolls was the winning bidder on a model of a P-51 Mustang.

Peter J. Titre gave an eloquent and moving talk on brother Mike's upbringing, career, and hard work. It was a very spiritual talk.

It should be noted that some thought the “fix” was in all sitting at the same table; Art Sereque picked his own door prize number, Cheryl Kellner picked husband Mike’s raffle ticket for a warbird ride, and Pete Titre won the raffle for a flight jacket, which he planned to give to his son.

Roger Paykert won the Cessna ride to the Porter County Aviation Museum in Valparaiso, which he turned in (he actually won several times), but was eventually won by Gordon Millerin. The big prize, a ride in Valdo Lenocho’s P-51 Mustang, was won by Ron Marten.

Art Sereque gave brief remarks concerning contributions to the Titre Brick Fund, as well as a proposed bus trip to Harry Pick’s on June 22nd in Chenoa, Ill. The amount of \$80 was collected for the Titre Brick fund.

Dan Guenther, our Squadron treasurer who is stepping down from the Squadron Board, was awarded a “Certificate of Appreciation” and a certificate giving him the right to choose a model to be built by Tim Dunavin.

David Maren introduced main speaker Vlado Lenocho, a Squadron 4 member. Vlado gave a very interesting and informative talk, ranging from getting aeronautical engineering degree from Purdue University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to travels in his P-51 with wife Mary, to flying “legends” fighters with the latest fighters. His talk was extremely well received, with many questions asked later. Comments later were “Great!”, “Fabulous!”

Following closing remarks, the banquet was adjourned, with even more hangar flying going on.



The Mike Titre Brick Fund

At the Squadron dinner, those making a contribution were:

(C & C = Cross and Cockade membership)
Art Sereque - Squadron 4 and C & C
Frank Bartilotta – Squadron 4
Dan and Lee Guenther - Squadron 4
Bob Van Pelt - Squadron 4
Gordon Millerin - Squadron 4
Peter and Maxine Titre
Cheryl and Mike Kellner - Squadron 4
David Maren - Squadron 4
Tim Dunavin - Squadron 4 (through model construction – donated time)
Roger Payket - Squadron 4 (for bidding on the model)

It should be noted that Art Sereque brought up the brick fund at a subsequent Cross and Cockade meeting. \$90 was contributed by:

Larry Drisoll - Squadron 4 and C & C
Ted Koston - Squadron 4 and C & C
Chuck Brady – C & C
Joe Hauk – C & C
Bob Zilinsky - C & C

Thus, with the anticipated donation of \$160 from the “Mole” auction, \$330 has been raised towards the \$500 cost of the brick.

Veteran's Corner

Fitron 144 Sends last 'Cougar' to Mothballs

A reprint of an article from Gordon Millerin

At the time of his military service in the U.S. Navy, Gordon Millerin was an AMH-3rd class serving with Fighter Squadron 144. This Squadron was flying the Grumman F9F-8 'Cougar'.

"Heads up on the flight deck, we've got a 'Cougar' down wind!" This call over the bullhorns of fleet carriers will no longer herald a fighter squadron's "mission accomplished" in the fleet. Fighter Squadron 144 is the last regular Navy squadron to use the F9F-8 'Cougar.' The squadron was redesignated as Attack Squadron 52 on February 23.

The squadron began a long and successful series of training cycles and cruises to the Mediterranean and the Far East in 1950, after the "Bitter Birds" were called to duty from the reserve status as VF-884 at Olathe, Kansas. During the second deployment of the Korean action, the squadron became a member of Carrier Air Group 14.

The squadron replaced its 'Corsairs' with the Grumman 'Panthers' in 1953. The last deployment with them was in 1955.

A cruise aboard the U.S.S. Hornet was made with the Grumman 'Cougars' in 1957 when VF-144 was commanded by Craig "A" Robinson, USN, who in presently the Naval Liaison Officer at Edwards Air Force Base, in California.

Midway in the 1958 training cycle, the squadron deployed to the East Coast with Air Group 14 where they joined the U.S.S. Ranger for a trip around Cape Horn to join the Pacific Fleet. The South American cruise aboard the Ranger was highlighted by a flight demonstration at Rio de Janeiro for

President Kubitschek of Brazil. The show commenced as aircraft were launched from the deck of the ship while steaming out of the harbor past the "Sugar Loaf."

VF-144 returned to Miramar from its South American cruise with visions of decommissioning; however, the squadron remained intact with Cougars. A changeover to Carrier Air Group Five was made in October 1958 with plans for redesignation to VA-52, and change of aircraft to the Douglas A4D Skyraider.

The squadron relinquished custody of its Cougars reluctantly. They served in many operations and gained the familiar feel of old shoes for all the pilots and crew who worked with them.

Attention! Attention!

**All Squadron 4 Personnel
And Other Interested Parties**

Official Briefing

**We have received official confirmation
from EAA headquarters.**

WHAT: B-17 Tour Stop

WHERE: DuPage Airport

**(www.dupageairport.com) West Chicago,
IL**

WHEN: 12-14 September 2008

Warbird Squadron 4 has secured a stop on EAA's 2008 Tour of the B-17 Aluminum Overcast, and we are currently looking to get our volunteer team organized. This year's tour stop will be held 12-14 September, at the DuPage Airport in West Chicago, IL. We will be needing volunteers to help with merchandise sales, ground tours, crowd control, and greeting the public. If you are interested in helping out, please let us know! If you helped out on either of our previous stops, you know how much fun it is! If you haven't made it for either of our previous stops, COME ON OUT!!!

Last year we had a great showing of Veterans and Warbird aircraft, thanks to our members. If you know of a Veteran who would be interested in coming out, please let us know! Ground tours are free for all Veterans. If you are interested in bringing your Warbird, let us know about that, too! We will provide crowd control to help keep your aircraft safe while allowing the public to get a better look.

Remember, this fundraiser directly supports Warbird Squadron 4.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Stacy Kolls, Warbird Squadron 4 Tour Stop Chairman

Email: stacy.kolls@warbirdsquadron4.org

Phone: 815-218-9202

We will need the following information:

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email Address

T Shirt Size

Dates and Times You Are Available

End of Briefing

That is all.

Squadron Officers

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

C.O. Tom Buck

(815) 726-5059

EX.O. Frank Bartilotta

(773) 763-4659

ADJ. Tim Bauer

(815) 393-3932

Com. O. Brian Churchill

(847) 356-9056

SEC. David Maren

(708) 352-6220

Q.M. Stacy Kolls

(815) 544-1223

Treasurer Jim Delaney

(847) 713-0808

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-aea.org/>

Tennessee Warbird Squadron 1 Link:

<http://www.geocities.com/Nashville/7348/twb.html>

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/>

Kennesaw, GA Warbird Squadron 17

Link: <http://www.warbird17.com/>

Cincinnati, OH Warbird Squadron 18

Link:

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

WARBIRDS OF SQUADRON 4

Spit Fire

P51 Mustang

P51 Mustang

TBM Avenger

T6

SNJ

T6

T6

T6

SNJ

Yak

OW Meyers

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

Stearman	Roger Paykert
Stearman	Keith Birsa
L3	Keith Birsa
L5	Larry Tinker
T34	Will Martin
T34	Rudy Frasca
Wildcat	Rudy Frasca
B25	Ray Hillson
CJ-6	Craig Payne

Air Shows for 2008*

April 20 – April 20 8th Annual U of I Flight Team fly-in breakfast Rantoul, IL.
 May 20 - May 21 Illinois Aviation Conf. Champaign, IL.
 May 23 - May 25 Southern Wisconsin AirFEST Janesville WI.
 June 6- June 8 Chanute Air Festival Rantoul, IL.
 June 7 - June 8 Rockford Airfest Rockford IL.
 July 28 - Aug 3 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh WI.
 Aug 16 - Aug 17 City of Chicago Air & Water Show Chicago IL.
 Aug 30 - Aug 31 Morris SkyFest Morris IL.
 Sep 1 – Sep 7 37th Annual Stearman Fly-in Galesburg, IL.
 Sep 6 - Sep 6 Waukegan Regional Air Show Waukegan IL.
 Sep 20 - Sep 21 Scott Air Show 2008 Scott AFB IL.

This is a partial listing of events in our area.

There are several more fairly close by (like the Quad City Air Show in late June) that are not listed here. There are also local EAA Chapter fly-in breakfasts that we also could attend, check your local Chapter for info.

Please send in updates

MERCHANDISE

We have the new Squadron 4 T- shirts available at a reduced price. They come in 2 colors – green with tan lettering, and tan with green lettering (“Squadron 4 was here” Kilroy-type). This reduced price is for a short time only. Next batch will be sold at the regular price.

You can help the Squadron and look great too! See Tim Bauer for details!

Next Issue

Workday at Kellner’s
 Day on the Western Front
 Veteran’s Corner – Frank McCarter P-51 story

Keep’em Flyin

Remember – there are more aircraft in the ocean, than there are submarines in the air.



Shackleton Taildragger