



# The Squadron



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[www.warbirdsqadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsqadron4.org)

## Events

**Saturday, June 20** Host the Cross Country Military Convoy and Hangar Dance at the Rochelle Airport, IL

**Sunday, June 21** Host a Fly-in/Drive-in pancake breakfast at the Rochelle Airport, IL

**Saturday, July 18** Work Weekend on EAA Warbird Grounds – Oshkosh, WI

**Sunday, Aug 16** Sq4 BBQ - Tom Buck's Hangar at the Joliet Regional Airport (KJOT)

**Sept 3-7** EAA Aluminum Overcast at Lewis University Airport

**Sunday, Sept 13** Fly-in/Drive-in - Tim Bauer's Place - 17050 E Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049

**Sunday, Nov 8** The Veterans' Forum - 5233 Falcon Road, Rockford, IL 61109

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

[www.warbirdsqadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsqadron4.org)

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## From the C.O.'s Desk

Springtime is here, and it is a time for change. Dave Maren, our secretary, is moving to Northern Wisconsin, and we will miss him. He has done an excellent job as secretary and has been an active member as well. We wish him well and hope he comes back to visit often.

We welcome our new secretary, Ted Kowalik. He has been taking pictures at events for the last few years and is performing the secretary job flawlessly. Remember to get involved with some Squadron 4 events:

Hangar Dance at Rochelle

Pancake Breakfast at Rochelle

B 17 Tour stop at Lewis-Lockport

Let's jump into spring and "keep 'em flying".

TOM BUCK

## Veteran's Corner

### Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

With a couple of activities behind us already, we have so much more left to summer 2009! So far we have had a great time, as you can see by the articles written by Art Sereque, and those great photos by Ted Kowalik.

The next thing on our list is the one we will need a lot of help with! On June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> we will be hosting the cross-country convoy of military vehicles, re-enacting the convoy of 1919 by Dwight D. Eisenhower and the U.S. Army, at the Rochelle, IL Airport. Assisting with aircraft traffic, dance preparations, food handling, security, and more means many more volunteers will be needed. The Squadron 4 Hangar Dance committee has worked very hard to bring this event up to speed with plenty of entertainment, food, and making our guests feel welcome. Contact, Tim Bauer, Tim Dunavin, Brian Churchill, Tom Buck, or Willi Goes, as soon as possible, if you would like to help out – PLEASE DO!

Help us make it a big success!

On the 21<sup>st</sup> we will be holding a fly-in/drive in pancake breakfast as well, so plan on staying the weekend. Volunteers will be allowed to camp on the airport grounds, along with the convoy folks.

Recently our good friend, David Maren resigned as the Squadron 4 Secretary, to move on to greener pastures – in the far north. As he leaves us, we wish him all the best and God speed. Thanks, David, for a job well done “above and beyond the call of duty”!

Ted Kowalik has been appointed to the Squadron 4 board, and is now serving as the new Squadron Secretary.

(Editor's note: This story has been going around the internet, through e-mail for some time and was forwarded to me by Ralph Tanis. I had seen it before, and thought it would be of interest here. Photos were taken off one of the many websites posted for this story. )

Look carefully at the B-17 and note how shot up it is - one engine dead, tail, horizontal stabilizer and nose shot up. It was ready to fall out of the sky. (This is a painting done by an artist from the description of both pilots many years later.) Then realize that there is a German ME-109 fighter flying next to it. Now read the story below. I think you'll be surprised.



Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged, and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying the B-17 over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section were severely damaged, and the tail gunner was wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the

fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere.

Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained plane.

BF-109 pilot Franz Stigler



B-17 pilot Charlie Brown



Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to, and slightly over, the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe. When Franz landed he told the CO that the plane had been shot down over the sea and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing but were ordered never to talk about it.

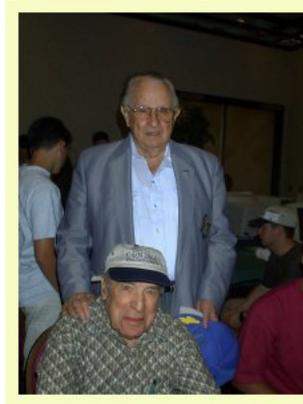
More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired

his guns that day.

(L-R) German Ace Franz Stigler, artist Ernie Boyett, and B-17 pilot Charlie Brown.

When asked why he didn't shoot them down, Stigler later said, "I didn't have the heart to finish those brave men. I flew beside them for a long time. They were trying desperately to get home and I was going to let them do that. I could not have shot at them. It would have been the same as shooting at a man in a parachute."



Both men died in 2008.

### **The Desert Rat – 2009**

By Art Sereque

Photos by Ted Kowalik

On a blustery, rain and hail soaked April day, 15 members and friends of Warbird Squadron 4 gathered at Marengo, IL for their 4<sup>th</sup> annual work day for the "Desert Rat".

The "Desert Rat" is a Boeing B-17E Flying Fortress that saw service in North Africa during WWII. Mike Kellner, the force behind the restoration effort, found the plane in an auto junkyard in a state of decay in the state of Maine.



Every year, Squadron members volunteer to do “grunt work”- moving boxes, chipping paint, sweeping floors, bucking rivets – anything that will help move the project along – no Silver Stars are awarded, although in some cases a jar of back liniment would be appreciated.

Of course Q.M. Stacy Kolls made sure the crew had sufficient food and libation to get them through the day.



Glen Hill, Frank Bartilotta, and Bill Brown work on a section of “Desert Rat”

Those helping, listed in no particular order, were:

Dick Edwards  
 Jerry Brown  
 Art Sereque  
 Ted Kowalik  
 Frank Bartilotta  
 Bill Brown  
 Glen Hill  
 B. McGarth  
 Stacy Kolls  
 Emily Ellezian  
 Harry Ellezian  
 Roger Paykert  
 Pam Kruse  
 Ron Liebman  
 Ray Ferriss

And of course, Mike and Sheryl Kellner

### All Quiet? on the Western Front

By Art Sereque

Photos by Ted Kowalik

On a beautiful May day, a congenial group descended on Squadron 4 member Tim Dunavin’s home, several of whom drove well over 100 miles to far, far west Rock Falls, IL. The purpose was a day of lively conversation, hangar flying, and to sample Tim’s famous “Chicken Lips”. Tim fired up the grill, took the “chicken lips” out of his secret marinade, and shortly after that the crew was filling their mouths with the tender delicacy – along with hot dogs, brats, potato salad, and other picnic delights. The group was soon no longer famished. One member, who shall remain anonymous, thought the brats were no good and would make everyone sick. He therefore decided to sacrifice his body, by eating as many as possible, to save the others.



Hangar talk around the grill

Tim Bauer arrived late, claiming he had to chase down one of his horses. Capt. Frank McCarter (Flying Tigers) talked about his flying experiences, while his wife, Charlotte and Jerry Anne Brown held court around the kitchen table. Of course, other than the “chicken lips”, the highlight of the day was looking at all of Tim’s fantastic airplane models.

Nobody flew in, which was a good thing, as the landing strip was quagmire of mud.

Time passed too quickly, and before you knew it everyone had gone, tummies full,

leaving Tim and his sweetie (Betsy) to clean up.

Tim, being a nice guy, called everyone to make sure they arrived home safely. Unfortunately, he called one member in the middle of the night – he had just gone to bed!! (Editor's note: 9AM is nearly lunch time Art!)



Nice work, Ted! Took the photo and got himself in it too!!!

### **Folded Wings**

James W. Delaney, father of Jim Delaney, passed away in early May. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Jim and his family.

### **Attention! Attention! All Squadron 4 Personnel And Other Interested Parties**

#### Urgent Briefing 19 March 2009

We have received official confirmation from EAA headquarters.

WHAT: B-17 Tour Stop  
WHERE: Lewis Airport (KLOT, [www.flylot.com](http://www.flylot.com)), Lockport, IL  
WHEN: 04-06 September 2009

Warbird Squadron 4 has secured a stop on EAA's 2009 Tour of the B-17 Aluminum Overcast. We are currently looking to get

our volunteer team organized. We will be scheduling for 3 shifts each day, so we can work you in even if you can only work a part day. We need 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 by 17 July, 2009. Remember, the names of all volunteers will go into a drawing for a ride to Oshkosh on the B-17!

If you know of a Veteran who would like to come out, please let us know! Ground tours are free for all Veterans.

If you are interested in bringing your Warbird aircraft to display, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can schedule volunteers for 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](mailto:stacy.kolls@warbirdsquadron4.org)

Phone: 815-218-9202

We will need the following information:

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email Address

Dates and Times You Are Available

#### End of Briefing

That is all.

## 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](http://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 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. Ted Kowalik  
(603) 289-2785  
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-eaa.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	Rudy Frasca
P51 Mustang	Vlado Lench
P51 Mustang	John O'Connor
TBM Avenger	Tom Buck
T6	Rick Siegfried
SNJ	Vic Krause
T6	Clyde Zellers
T6	Rudy Frasca
T6	John O'Connor
SNJ	Tom Buck
Yak	Bob Fitzpatrick
OW Meyers	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
PQ-14B	Harry Pick

### **MERCHANDISE**

We have the new Squadron 4 hats – 7 styles to choose from! Lots of new items coming soon!

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

**Tickets are now available from any member of the Squadron 4 “Convoy” Committee – Tim Bauer, Brian Churchill, David Maren, Willi Goes, or Tim Dunavin, for the June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – Hangar dance, banquet, Bob Hope/Bing Crosby show, and Sunday morning breakfast! There are great military vehicles, equipment, and warbirds to check out as well as a fun time to have. See you there!**

## **Keep'em Flyin**