



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

May, 2004

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 (Active Military Duty)

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

Jim Delaney, Past Commander

Will Martin, Chairman of the Board

David Maren, Board Member

Matt Huffnus, Squadron Chaplain

June 13th Regular Meeting

The June 13 regular meeting for Warbird Squadron 4 will be held at Kenosha Airport in Kenosha, WI at the Majestic Aero Services Hangar. The meeting will be held in conjunction with Warbird Squadron 6 based in Wisconsin. Weather permitting we should expect a good deal of warbird aircraft. The crew of Barbie III, the only flying B-25H in the world, has extended a special opportunity to Squadron 4 and 6 members, offering rides in the bomber at a special reduced price for the day. We are still in the process of confirming a guest speaker for the meeting. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we will have a great day for flying warbirds.

Where: Kenosha Airport
10460 52nd St., Kenosha, WI

Lat/Long: 42-35-44.547N / 087-55-40.092W
Elevation: 743 ft.
TPA: 1743 ft.
VOR to Field: 109.2 ENW

When: Sunday, June 13, 2004
11:00 am - ?



F4U Corsair landing on aircraft carrier - 1943

The C.O.'s Desk

With the advent of summer weather here in the Midwest, comes increased opportunity for airplanes to fly, especially warbirds. Planning fly-in type events is always a crap shoot as to whether favorable flying conditions will exist on the dates which have been pre-determined long before weather predictions could be made (not that that is even close to being any kind of accurate science). When it comes to our Squadron meetings, held during flying season, all we can hope for is the generosity and availability of our warbird owner-members and friends to fly their beautiful machines for others of us to admire and enjoy. The next regular Squadron 4 meeting will be a first in regards to teaming with our fellow Warbird Squadron to the north (Squadron 6 in Wisconsin), held at Kenosha Regional Airport in Kenosha Wisconsin. Lets hope for a great turn out of Squadron 4 and 6 members and friends, as well as some flying from our owner/pilots with their aircraft. Let's continue to keep 'em flying.

A Day on the Western Front

On Saturday, May 15, 2004 member Tim & Betty Dunavin hosted a get together for Squadron 4 members. A handful of members turned out for this event. The Dunavin's served up brats on the grill. It was reported that sky-divers and crop dusters were seen in the area.



Squadron 4 members at the Western Front

Sun 'n Fun 2004

Written by Craig Payne

Warbird attendance at this year's Sun 'n Fun appeared to be down dramatically. However, that did not diminish the fun had by all. My own group, the CJ's and Yaks served a key role in the airshow this year as only a token showing of T-34's were able to participate due to the language and timing of the FAA Final Rule on their wing spars.

Fighters were down in numbers but made up for it by extensive participation in the "main" airshow performances. The Aeroshell T-6 team did a great job both in daily 4-ship routines as well as the Saturday Night acro show. That's right, formation aerobatics at NIGHT with colored lights. Awesome.

I was able to participate in 3 performances; Yaks/CJ's sat out a couple of daily shows. But I didn't mind, as the T-28's put on a great show with a 4-ship flying cover while several more had great fun strafing over the pyro. Wished it was me.



CJ-6 pilots' de-briefing

The best part is always the Leeward Ranch flyout. This year the weather was perfect. As always Jimmy and Dirk Leeward with Bill Rose provided an excellent lunch. The airport is closed to all non-warbirds and an airshow follows after lunch. And what an airshow! One you can watch standing on the edge of the 300 ft runway and see hot warbird action up close and personal. It's all ad-hoc, just clear with Jimmy before flying. Formation low passes are mandatory if you want lunch.

This year my favorite was the PBY Black Cat out of Miami. What a sight, although not fast, the 'cat is maneuverable. Many important covert missions were flown by the Black Cats as well as boring but necessary submarine patrols off our coastlines.



Black Cat at Sun 'n Fun

Oh, I forgot to mention the TP-40N 2-place at Kermit Weeks museum during the warbird awards dinner. Talk about rare.

On a personal note, ole '85' won Sportmans' Class in the Sun 60 production race this year at 185.6 knots. I'll think I'll retire it from racing. Of course I was still behind 5 other warbirds in the "open" class. The top 6 finishers were all warbird trainers: a Socata TB-30, 4 SF-260 Marchetti's, and one Nanchang. A Messerschmidt Bo-209 finished behind me, in front of the U.S. Spam cans.

I miss you guys but not the winter up there! See you at Oshkosh.

US Air Force Museum Review

Written by Mark Laatsch

This was my first trip back to the Museum since the opening of the new hangar, which increased the display area by more than 50%. With the opening of this third hangar area the existing aircraft was re-located, vastly improving the existing display areas in the original hangars. The one drawback to most aircraft museums around the country is a lack of adequate display area, creating a cramped feeling with too many airplanes jammed into too small an area. The new hangar has been dedicated to aircraft of the 'Cold War' era, which resulted in a 'clean out' of the old World War II display area, by moving the giant B-36 and several early jets to the new hangar.

Although I noticed only a few new aircraft, since the last time I was there, new dioramas and non-aircraft type exhibits gave me plenty to look at and enjoy. The new space created a vastly new look to the entire museum; as old existing display areas are now a little more open and easier to view. Overall, I was impressed with the new look of the museum and I feel the change more than justifies another visit. A visit to the museum should always be an ultimate goal for any and all warbird enthusiasts.



Entrance to new Cold War Hangar – USAF

Member News

Squadron 4 Secretary Bruce Graham, who is currently on active duty, sent word he purchased a 1940 Aeronca Chief. Bruce plans on researching the plane to see if it was used by the AAF and also to find an accurate paint scheme to someday paint his new aircraft. Bruce also sent a picture of his new plane. Thanks Bruce.



Bruce Graham's Chief

Trivia

The USAF's OA-10 is more commonly known by its Navy designation?

New Members

Welcome Back to Squadron 4:

Wayne Trefil

Publication of Membership Roster

A few members have requested a copy of Squadron 4's membership roster. We would like to accommodate these requests although we do not want to give out member's phone numbers and email addresses without first checking with our members. If you would **NOT** like your name on the membership roster, to be given to fellow members upon request only, please send an email to Brian Churchill requesting that your name be removed. Brian's email is brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org. Brian can also be reached by telephone at 773-714-3347.

Squadron 4 – Year 2004 Calendar of Events

June 13, 2004 – Regular Squadron 4 meeting. Kenosha Airport, Kenosha, WI.

July 27 – August 2, 2004 - Annual EAA Airventure, Oshkosh, WI

August 15, 2004 – Note new date for Annual Squadron 4 Fly-in/Drive-in BBQ, Joliet Regional Airport, Joliet, IL

September 12, 2004 – Regular Squadron 4 Meeting, Lindenwood Field, Lindenwood, IL

October 9, 2004 – Captain Chuck Downey invites Squadron 4 members to a fly-in/drive-in cook out at his residence at the Poplar Grove Airport.

November 21, 2004 – Veterans Forum, Tentative Location Rockford Airport

Squadron 4 Merchandise

The Squadron presently has the following items for purchase:

Squadron logo patch (3" dia.)	\$5.00 ea
Squadron logo lapel pin (1" dia.)	\$5.00 ea
Squadron golf shirts with embroidered w/Sq. 4 logo	\$25.00 ea
Squadron baseball cap embroidered w/Sq. 4 logo	\$10.00 ea

Also available: T-shirts and sweatshirt embroidered with Sq. 4 logo.



New shirts and hat with embroidered logo

Annual Dues for 2004

A reminder for anyone that has not paid their 2004 membership dues, the 2004 Squadron 4 annual dues remain \$25.00, and can be sent to: Mark Laatsch, P.O. Box 1910, Valparaiso, IN 46384.

Trivia Answer: PBY Catalina



Keep 'em Flying