



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

July, 2005

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

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June Regular Meeting Recap

The weather was perfect for the second annual joint Squadrons 4 and 6 BBQ meeting event held at Kenosha Regional Airport. This year's event was crowned by a most interesting presentation by Frank McCarter, a P-40/P-51 pilot who served in the 14th Air Force in the CBI theater during World War II.



Frank tells his many tales of history during WWII

Tom Buck flew in with the TBM followed by Paul Walter and Jeff Clark in a pair of beautiful T-28s.

Members and friends attending this meeting were treated to a Tennessee style BBQ, with all the fix'ns. Preparation of the meal was done by Jim Szalacinski, wife Donna and several members of Squadron 6. The meal was fantastic, a real first class BBQ. Jim went

through a lot of preparation for this one starting in the wee hours of the morning.

After our great lunch, all who were present were treated to pieces of history as told by Frank McCarter. Frank gave a very conscientious and heart felt account of his experiences, from the time he entered the service, his initial training through his deployment to China, serving in the 14th Air Force, and taking over for the AVG in China. Frank held the audience's attention with tales of flying the P-40 and P-51 and his encounters with (although brief some were) the likes of General Claire Chennault and Tex Hill. Frank told of strafing missions, assignments against the Japanese and having the Allison engine in his P-40 stop and staring at a motionless propeller in mid flight.

Frank's presentation was genuine and modest. He thanked us for welcoming him into our midst, but it is we who must thank him for the job he did 60 years ago, and for continuing to share pieces of his personal history with us. Frank you truly are a member of "The Greatest Generation", and we are proud to count him as a member of Squadron 4.

The C.O.'s Desk

The season for Oshkosh and AirVenture, and the height of air show and flying is again upon us and in full swing. This year AirVenture is advertising the appearance of four B-17s, the world's only flying B-29 and 'Glacier Girl', the P-38 retrieved from under 260 feet of ice in Greenland, after having first landed with five other P-38s and two B-17s in 1942. Warbirds of America has also committed to a renewed effort to promote the Squadron concept to the general public with a new emphasis on recruiting members. The 'Squadron' tent will be moved next to the "Warbirds in Review" area. There are planned displays from Squadrons from around the U.S. to promote their individual Squadron activities and membership. Squadron 4 can proudly boast a presence in the 'Squadron tent' every year since the conception (some years more of a presence than others). I would invite all Squadron 4 members planning on attending AirVenture to visit the tent and volunteer a few hours of your time to man our display, greet the public and promote the values of joining a Warbird Squadron. Anyone willing

to help out in this effort should stop by the tent and talk to myself and or various other Squadron 4 Officers and Board members at our display. See you at Oshkosh.

Joliet 2005

On August 14th Squadron 4 will continue a growing tradition with our annual fly-in/drive-in event at Joliet Regional Airport. As with any aviation and or outdoor event, weather will play a huge role in the success of this event. We have been extremely lucky over the past few years with great flying weather and many aircraft and huge member participation. The plans for this year's event continue in the scheme to expand and grow this event into the area's largest informal fly-in for the Warbird community. We have been fortunate to have had a fabulous variety of Warbird, vintage and civilian type aircraft in the past and this year will be no exception. We are expecting everything from WWII fighter/bomber aircraft, to pre and post war trainers, to vintage and modern civilian types. This year we will also have a display of military vehicles along with military re-enactors. Our Warbird aircraft ride raffles (P-51 and T-33, see following Member News) will be drawn at the event. Some lucky few members will also receive rides in various warbird aircraft at the event.

Volunteers are needed to help marshaling aircraft and with food preparation duties.

This year's event is shaping up to be the best ever, so don't miss this one. The Joliet Airport (KJOT) is located at:

4000 W JEFFERSON JOLIET, IL 60435 (just east of I-55 on IL-52)

For those who fly:

**Lat/Long:
41-31-04.1000N / 088-10-31.9000W
41-31.068333N / 088-10.531667W
41.5178056 / -88.1755278**

CTAF/UNICOM: 122.7

**Time: 11:00 AM 'til?
Lunch served around noon.**

For further information, contact Mark Laatsch at 773-695-8122 or via e-mail at mLaatsch@csinet.net.

Member News

New Members

Warbird Squadron 4 welcomes the following new members:

George Barbeauld

My sincere apologies to Mark Adamic, who joined the Squadron back in April, but through negligence on my part, was not acknowledged.

L-39 Ride Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Dan Guenther, the winner of the L-39 jet Warbird ride, generously donated by Pride Aircraft of Rockford.

Meritorious Service Awards



NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE SQUADRON 4 "MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD"

The board of directors of Squadron4 is pleased to announce that it will honor members of our Squadron for their achievements, enthusiasm, commitment and participation in Squadron 4 and related EAA activities. This will be an annual award beginning with 2005 and open to the entire membership.

The board will accept nominations for this prestigious award until December 30th, 2005. The award will be presented at our annual dinner every year. This will be the highest honor bestowed by Squadron 4 of Northern Illinois to recipient members.

Those nominated will have a history of exceptional work, volunteerism and participation in Squadron 4 events and related EAA and other Warbirds of America activities.

The nominees must display an outstanding patriotic spirit and enthusiasm for promoting the goals and activates of these warbird organizations.

To nominate a candidate for this important award, describe the accomplishments of the nominee(s) in two pages or less, and submit the information to a board member before December 30th, 2005. We encourage you to solicit additional letters of recommendation for your nominee(s) from other Squadron 4 members and non-members.

Thank you for your participation in this most important achievement award!

Warbird Ride Raffles

Time is running out. Don't miss these once in a lifetime opportunities.

Through the generosity of Squadron 4 member Vlado Lench and Pride Aircraft of Rockford, we have three fantastic warbird rides to raffle off the members and friends. Vlado had donated a ride in his pristine P-51 Mustang and a ride in his T-33 trainer jet. The winning tickets for the P-51 and T-33 rides will be drawn at our annual BBQ at Joliet Airport August 14. Tickets may be obtained right up to the time of drawing at the event, or prior to the event by contacting Mark Laatsch at 773-695-8122 or via email at mLaatsch@csinet.net.

Squadron 4 – Year 2005 Calendar of Events

July 26-August 1, 2005 – AirVenture in Oshkosh, WI

August 14, 2005 - Annual BBQ Fly-in/Drive-in, Joliet, IL. **Don't miss this one!!**

September 11, 2005 - Regular Meeting, Lindenwood, IL. Fly-in/drive-in at Tim Bauer's residence. (Program to be announced)

November 13, 2005 - Annual Veteran's Forum - Rockford, IL. Remembering and honoring our Veterans.