



# The Squadron



An EAA Warbirds of America publication of Squadron 4 July, 2011 Vol. 6 No.4  
[www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

## Events

Sunday 11:00, August 21st, 2011 -  
Annual BBQ @ Joliet Regional

September 2nd - 4th, 2011 -  
Squadron 4 will be hosting EAA's  
B-17 Aluminum Overcast @ Lewis  
University Chicago-Romeoville,  
([KLOT](#))

Sunday 11:00, October 9th, 2011 -  
Illinois Aviation Museum @ Clow  
Airport, Bolingbrook, IL

Sunday 11:00, November 13th,  
2011 - Courtesy Aircraft will be  
hosting our Veterans' Forum

As always please check our web  
site for the most up to  
date information:  
[www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

Warbird Squadrons – pg. 5  
Warbirds of Squadron 4 – pg. 6  
Merchandise – pg. 6

## From the C.O.'s Desk

The summer season of flying is here. Oshkosh is going to be big with the 100 year anniversary of naval aviation. Warbird Alley is a must-see for all Warbird enthusiasts. Try to be a part of the biggest aviation event of the year. Squadron 4 volunteers have been helping to update and make the Warbird area more attractive with mowing, painting, cleaning, etc. We appreciate their hard work. Another event not to miss, is the Joliet Bar-B-Q on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>- be sure to mark this date on your calendar. This is a fun event with great Warbirds and great company! These events help Squadron 4 give our members the Warbird experience they look for. Plan to be there!

Tom Buck

## Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to our newsletter; those articles are the lifeblood of the newsletter!

This month, Art Sereque has written about the Memorial Service for Bill Scanlon and a Flag Day celebration at Capt. Chuck Downey's. This will be followed by Steve

## In this issue:

**From the C.O.'s Desk** – Tom Buck– pg. 1  
**Buzzing the Airfield** – Tim Dunavin – pg. 1  
**Veteran's Corner** – Ralph Bennet – pg. 2  
**“Wild Bill”** – Art Sereque – pg. 3  
**Flag Day** - Art Sereque – pg. 4  
**Lake-In-The-Hills** – Steve Pagels – pg. 4  
**B-17 Tour** – Stacy Kolls – pg. 4  
**Squadron Officers** – pg. 5

Pagels on the Squadron 4/ Chapter 790 event at Lake-In-The-Hills Airport in June.

Oshkosh time is here and for those traveling to the great event – please drive/fly safely.

## Veteran's Corner

### WWII glider restoration project will end with dedication ceremony

12:07 AM, Jul. 8, 2011



Syd Cohen of Wausau holds models of a Waco CG-4A (in his right hand) and a C-47. A World War II-era glider, the Waco often would be towed by a C-47. Between 2005 and 2009, Cohen and other aviation buffs from the area helped restore a real Waco glider. Keith Uhlig/Wausau Daily Herald



Photo courtesy Syd Cohen

The mostly restored fuselage of the Waco CG-4A was loaded on a flatbed trailer in November 2009 for transport to Iron Mountain, Mich. about 2,400 hours during the course of four and half years restoring a World War II-era Waco CG-4A glider.

A retired Mosinee High School industrial arts teacher, Cohen, 68, of Wausau found out about the glider from friend and airplane mechanic Jack Chmiel, who first spotted the bedraggled craft in the parking lot of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation's Museum.

The glider had been built during World War II at a Ford Motor Co. plant in nearby Kingsford, Mich., and when the war ended, it was auctioned off. The owner of the glider used it first as a camper-trailer, then as a hunting shack. Later, relatives of the man donated it to the historical foundation's museum.

After Chmiel learned the museum wanted help restoring the glider, he tapped Cohen for the job. It wasn't long before the glider was moved to the hangar Cohen uses at the Wausau Downtown Airport.

Cohen recruited history and aviation buffs from across the region for help, and all told, the group of 65 put in about 4,600 hours on the craft. In November of 2009, the glider left Wausau to be completed by restorers in Iron Mountain.

The story will come to an end of sorts July 16, when the completely restored glider, and the building in which it will be housed, will be dedicated at a 2 p.m. ceremony at the foundation's museum.

Cohen, of course, will be there.

"I think I'll have a lot of pride. Well, I'll be proud that it's done, (proud of) the fact that we restored history," Cohen said.

The project fit Cohen. He loves working with tools, and the first airplane he restored was a gleaming 1946 Ercoupe two-seater. Aviation has been a passion of his since he was a kid growing up in Duluth, Minn., near a U.S. Air Force base. He and his friends built airplane models, and they wrote to aviation companies for posters of planes. They soaked up any aviation facts they could.

"We were all nuts about flying," he said.

He didn't know much about gliders, but he learned fast.

"I read everything I could about the gliders," he said.

Cohen was a bit frustrated when the museum decided to finish the glider in Iron Mountain. There was some wiring to be done and control cables to be installed, but that eased when Cohen realized how much time he was spending on the glider.

"It was a kind of a relief when I realized that I didn't have to go down to the hangar and work on the glider every day," he said.

Now he's happy to see the glider and its history preserved, but he's not sitting around. Cohen is restoring another Ercoupe airplane.

Source:

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110708/WDH04/107080435/Uhlig-column-WWII-glider-restoration-project-will-end-dedication-ceremony>

## **Good Bye, "Wild Bill"**

By Art Sereque

In May, Squadron 4 member and friend "Wild Bill" Scanlon escaped the surly bonds of earth one last time, to fly forever with his comrades in the Eagle Squadron.

On Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, a memorial service was held for Bill at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. As the honor guard raised their rifles and fired, Tom Buck flew overhead in his SNJ. When told that the plane was a WWII plane, his family was thrilled!

Bill joined the Eagle Squadron and flew Spitfires in North Africa. When the U.S. entered the war, Bill was drafted. However government representatives were sent across the pond to bring Bill back. During his military career, Bill was only shot down 6 times.

Following the service, I was invited to Bill's home and shared time with Christine, Patrick and Janice, as well as grandchildren and friends. Bill's bedroom was quite a "mancave" with photos and all sorts of mementos.

Having met Bill's family, I could see what a great job he did bringing them up.

The day ended a fitting tribute to a patriot, "Wild Bill" Scanlon.

## **Flag Day Celebration**

By Art Sereque

The home/hangar of Squadron 4 member Capt. "Chuck" Downey, at the Poplar Grove, IL Airport was the scene of his 31<sup>st</sup> annual Flag Day celebration. Originally held at his home in the Downer's Grove, IL-Brookeridge fly-in community, he has continued the tradition to honor veterans, flag and country.

Approximately 40 friends gathered; some arrived by car, some by air. (Remember the poem: One if by land and two if by air?) Three Beechcraft flew in – a "V" tail, a

straight tail, and the Weber family's 6 passenger ship. Two homebuilt Lance Airs showed up – one pressurized!!! National Warbirds President and Squadron 4 member Rick Siegfried's parents, Bob and Thelma flew up from Brookeridge in their Stearman PT-17, while their neighbor, Arnie Zimmerman, arrived in his "Breezy". Of course, Chuck's beautiful Meyer OTW was on display.

Chuck certainly did not forget his friends, as there was a plentiful supply of pizza, salad, and desserts, as well as all types of liquid refreshments.

With all the veterans there, there was much camaraderie and hangar flying.

It was another great tribute from our host, the youngest Navy pilot in WWII.

#### **Warbird Squadron 4 & Chapter 790**

Lake in the Hills ( 3CK ) A summary by Steve Pagels

It was a joint meeting between Warbirds Squadron 4 and EAA Chapter 790. Tom Buck, Warbirds Squadron 4 C/O opened the event with remarks about the CAF looking for help with the B29 at DuPage Airport on July 23-24, reminding everyone about work days at Oshkosh (July 9, the 16 & 17), and that the Squadron 4 BBQ was moved to August 21. Elton Eisele of Chapter 790 welcome all to Lake in the Hills. He also shared a piece of history, a German Flag from WW II. Warbirds President Rick Siegfried and Warbirds Secretary Bill Miller came over in Rick's T-6 . Rick gave an insight into AirVenture 2011 and the improvements to the Warbirds grounds. There was a short appearance before the meeting by Rick's dad, Bob, picking up some friend that had mechanic problems with their airplane. The program was given by Tim Dunavin on RAF 617 Squadron. The targets of this group were two dams, causing flooding and loss of

power. The bomb was designed to bounce over the water hitting the dam, sinking, then exploding like a depth charge. Tim brought a bomb aiming device.

A picnic style lunch was provided and refreshments were served.



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

WHAT: B-17 Tour Stop

WHERE: Lewis Airport (KLOT, [www.flylot.com](http://www.flylot.com)), Lockport, IL

WHEN: 02-04 September 2011

Warbird Squadron 4 has secured a stop on EAA's 2011 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 16 July 2011. Remember, the names of all volunteers will go into a drawing for a ride to the next tour stop 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

## **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) 501-1468

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-aea.org/>

### **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/>

### **Cincinnati, OH Warbird Squadron 18**

**Link:**

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

### **Indiana Warbird Squadron 3**

<http://www.warbirdsquadron3.org/>

### **Florida Warbird Squadron 24**

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

## **WARBIRDS OF SQUADRON 4**

Spit Fire	Rudy Frasca
P51 Mustang	Vlado Lench
F8F Bearcat	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
L5	Larry Tinker
T34	Will Martin
T34	Rudy Frasca
Wildcat	Rudy Frasca
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 Brian Churchill for details!

Photos and videos of our activities are available from our web site.

Keep'em Flyin