



# The Squadron



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[www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

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## Events

**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 (this event subject to change or cancellation)**  
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 website for the most up to date information:

[www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

## In this issue:

**From the C.O.'s Desk** – Tom Buck– pg. 1  
**Buzzing the Airfield** – Tim Dunavin – pg. 2  
**Veteran's Corner** – Ralph Tanis pg. 2  
**Folded Wings** – pg.3  
**B-17 Tour Stop** – Stacy Kolls pg.5  
**Squadron Officers** – pg. 5  
**Help our Troops** – Stacy Kolls pg.6  
**Warbird Squadrons** – pg. 6  
**Warbirds of Squadron 4** – pg. 6  
**Merchandise** – pg. 7

## From the C.O.'s Desk

Summer is here and air shows are thrilling the onlookers. Squadron 4 Joliet Picnic is coming soon; Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to come out.!!!

Soon after that, the B 17<sup>th</sup> tour stop will be coming to Lewis-Romeoville Airport. Don't miss the chance to volunteer! Please email Stacy to let her know when you can help. This is one of the best ways to be up close to Warbirds. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Squadron 4. Tell all your friends and relatives to come out and tour the B 17, or better yet, take a flight!! That is a Warbird experience!!!!!!! Come and bring along a veteran to reminisce about days gone by.

Tom Buck

## Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

As I write this, it is with heavy heart at the loss of a very dear friend, Ted Koston. Ted was the supreme example of humility, kindness, and devotion. A “how can I help you have and enjoyable experience in Squadron 4” kinda guy. His years of service to his country and us will not be forgotten. He always made you feel like it was HIS privilege to know you! Despite his age, he was always at our events and Oshkosh – with his ever-present camera and pleasant smile. He will be sorely missed!

The event at Rochelle – despite some short comings was, by any other standard, a great success! It being our “first of a kind”, we had a lot of growing pains, and the lack of outside help expected from outside sources didn’t hinder us from pulling off an event much enjoyed by those attending, especially the MVPA convoy personnel.

Our volunteers were **GREAT**, hard working, and fun to be with! We met new people and made new friends! A special THANKS to our outstanding Squadron 4 volunteers!

Speaking of volunteers – as editor of the newsletter, I have – with the Squadron 4 board’s approval – set up a “Volunteer of the Year Award” to be presented at our annual dinner this coming winter. If you have noticed someone doing a fantastic job, I would like to hear about it. Just write me an e-mail and nominate your fantastic volunteer! There could be several to receive this award, so don’t be bashful.

Oshkosh this year was great as usual! There were fewer aircraft, but some new ones came on the scene – along with some interesting pilots, and it was the coldest I can remember! As usual our Squadron was well represented, and we received an appreciation award at the dinner on Saturday night.

## Veteran’s Corner

(Editor’s note: Two years ago, I built a model of a YB-40. A good friend, Greg Alexander of Reed Spring, Mo. posted the photo of the model on the 92 Bomb Group 327<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron’s website.



**YB-40 of the 92<sup>nd</sup> BG 327<sup>th</sup> BS**

Not long after it was posted I got an e-mail from a WWII Veteran of the 327<sup>th</sup> BS, who had been a ball turret gunner on “Woolaroc” # 42-5743, Glenn Phillippe of Big Spring, Texas – one of a very rare breed of men who flew on this great warbird. Later, Glenn was assigned to fly on regular B-17s. His first 6 missions were in a YB-40.

He wrote:

“I am honored you would want me to write a few lines for your paper. This will be a new experience for me. As you know, the 327th Sq. of the 92nd bomb group had all the YB40s. We flew with a different group each time. My first 6 missions were in the YB40. On every mission we either flew the Purple Heart corner or Tail-end Charley. Every mission we flew in the 40's, we always came under pretty heavy fighter attack, and I think we only lost one YB 40 during the war. I guess the mission most memorable to me in the 40 was when we were coming back from a mission in

Germany. We were somewhere over France and came upon a B17 several thousand feet below us all alone under heavy fighter attack. I don't remember the group we were flying with that day, but the commander told us to go down and see if we could help him. We did what we were asked to do. When we got down close to him, we also came under attack. I think this took only about 15 minutes and we had rescued a B17, but it seemed a lot longer than that. We shot down 5 enemy fighters in the process and none of us got hurt, just scared. We stayed with him until we got over the English coast and went on home. We really didn't want to do that, but after it was all over we felt good about what we did, and we hoped we didn't have to do it again.”  
Glenn

Thank you, Glenn, for sharing that with us at Squadron 4 and thanks for serving!

### **Folded Wings**

Koston, Ted (see Costopoulos)

(FLAG) Costopoulos, Theodore John  
3-30-23 – 8-2-09

Loving husband of the late Rose. Dedicated and loving father to Kristine and John, both educators who were inspired by their father's love of learning. Also survived by many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. Ted learned to fly in his teens and continued to fly all his life. Ted joined the Navy after Pearl Harbor and served his country in the Pacific during WWII. Upon returning to the states, he set up Koston Studio on Grand Avenue in Elmwood Park; many local families had their wedding pictures taken by Ted. His specialty, however, was air-to-air photography and his

photos have been published around the world. His last flight was at Oshkosh the week before his death. Ted was inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame in 1994. He was also inducted into the EAA Oshkosh Hall of Fame in 2001; many of his pictures are on display in the museum there. Ted was fortunate to have spent a lifetime in a career marrying his two life-long passions, photography and aviation. His love of his work, his zeal for aviation, and his ability to make strangers feel welcome will all be missed.

## **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.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.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

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ADJ. Tim Bauer

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Com. O. Brian Churchill

(847) 356-9056

SEC. Ted Kowalik

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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/>

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/>

**Keep'em Flyin**

Cincinnati, OH Warbird Squadron 18  
Link:  
<http://www.cincinnatiwarbirds.org/>

Indiana Warbird Squadron 3  
<http://www.warbirdsquadron3.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

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 Tim Bauer for details!