



The Squadron



An EAA Warbirds of America publication of Squadron 4 Aug 2012 Vol. 7 No.4
www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Events

August 31 – September 2, 2012

B-17 Tour Stop at Lewis Airport

October 7, 2012 Trip to the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow Airport in Bolingbrook

November 11, 2012 11:00 A.M.

Veterans' Forum at Courtesy Aircraft in Rockford, IL

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

www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Funday – Art Sereque – pg. 5

B-17 Tour Stop – contact info – pg. 6

Oshkosh – photos by Ted K. – pg. 7

Squadron Officers – pg. 8

Warbird Squadrons – pg. 8

Warbirds of Squadron 4 – pg. 8

From the C.O.'s Desk

AUGUST 2012

Warbird Squadron 4 has been busy with improvements for you, our members. Visit our website (warbirdsquadron4.org) and see many new enhancements! The background pictures are great! Many thanks go to Craig and Brian for all their work. We also can now take credit cards at the meetings. Our tech team again has made it easier using a credit card to make purchases and pay dues. The newsletter will bring you up to date on past meetings and future meetings. Be sure to join us in the activities.

The Cottonwood Meeting, Oshkosh, the B29 at DuPage Airport, and Tom's Hangar Picnic were all exciting events to get the Warbird experience, and there's more to come. Thanks to all the volunteers who make these events successful.

Remember the B17 Tour Stop over Labor Day Weekend at Lewis Lockport Airport. Bring your family and friends to experience the living history of a WWII 4 engine bomber!

New members and old: save the dates for Squadron 4 events!

Tom Buck CO

Photos and videos of our activities are available from our website.

Keep'em Flyin'

In this issue:

From the C.O.'s Desk – Tom Buck– pg. 1

Buzzing the Airfield – Tim Dunavin – pg. 2

Veteran's Corner – Art Sereque – pg. 2

Kitten – Butch Bejna – pg. 3

Folded Wings – obituary – pg. 3

Cottonwood – Dave Stevens - pg. 3

Flag Day – Art Sereque – pg. 5

New Members – pg. 5

Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

A lot has happened since I last wrote here, and knowing where to start makes me go over my notes and do a lot of shuffling!

Most noteworthy are the passing of Bob Van Pelt (see “Folded Wings”) and in a conversation with Capt. Chuck Downey, I learned that he is leaving our area to live in Florida year round. (We wish him God Speed and great health – he too will be sorely missed.)

If you missed it, in June – Dave Stevens told us about the meeting at Cottonwood – great article, and Art Sereque covered Flag Day at Capt. Downey’s – another great article as well.

Oshkosh came and went so fast that I’m not sure what happened! It was very hot, most of the week, we had a strong storm on Wed., that did a little damage, but the air shows were great – especially the night fireworks!

That was followed by the BBQ at Joliet – another great event – a lot cooler and didn’t seem to be too greatly affected by the TFRs with President Obama in town, though aircraft numbers were down a bit.

Upcoming, is the B-17 Tour at Lewis University and we are in need of volunteers for the tours and sales – give Stacy Kolls a call if you can be there. We have a great time and help the folks in the Chicago area learn real history!

Also coming up is our meeting at Clow Airport, in October, followed soon after by our annual Veterans' Forum at Courtesy Aircraft in Rockford, IL in November. (See the website for details and directions to these events).

Squadron 4 is growing by leaps and bounds! See the list of new members since our last newsletter and give these folks a “Welcome.”

Congrats to Lou Seno, Sr. for his fifty years of safe flying!! He's an example we could all follow. (See Veteran’s Corner for a nice article by Art Sereque.)

There are fine articles on all these and more so sit back and enjoy your newsletter.

Check out Ted Kowalik’s photo essay on Oshkosh.

Veteran’s Corner

Lou Seno, Sr.

By Art Sereque

The EAA has announced that Lou Seno, Sr. of Downers Grove, IL. will be awarded the prestigious “Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award”. Lou, a member of EAA Chapter 15 at Lewis University Airport in Romeoville, IL. and longtime friend of Warbirds Squadron 4, is EAA member 1472.

He originally planned on obtaining a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. However, his uncle (Sam) changed his plans.

He served with the 14th Air Force (CBI) in India. As a Sergeant, he led a crew of six dedicated airmen repairing B-24s and other planes. They worked in monsoons and 110 degree heat. He said the natives would walk barefoot on the wings in the heat!

Following his discharge, he planned on returning to IIT. However, upon arriving home, his father said he would be working in the family business the next day!

Lou and his wife Ida, lived for many years in “Brookeridge”, a fly-in community in Downers Grove, in a house he built.

Neighbors were WOA President Rick Siegfried (T-6 Texan) and other Warbird Squadron 4 members “Ol’ Bob” Siegfried, and John O’Connor (F8F Bearcat). WOA member Mike Gillian (F4F Wildcat) bought Lou’s Brookeridge home.

Lou built several planes. His Junior Ace is currently on display at the “Wings and Wheels” Museum at Poplar Grove, IL airport, not far from the home of his longtime friend, Capt. “Chuck” Downey, the youngest U.S. Naval Aviator (SB2C Helldiver) in WWII.

Lou made an around the country journey. Being in an open cockpit airplane, he took a duplicate set of sectional maps. Smart move – as one set blew out!

In conjunction with Warbirds Squadron 4 hosting EAA’s “Aluminum Overcast” Labor Day weekend,

also at Lewis University Airport, Lou will be honored Saturday, September 1st in the terminal at 11:00A.M. The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award is given only to those pilots with 50 years or more of accident free flying.

For those of us who know Lou, this is certainly a well deserved honor!

***KITTEN* Found a Home.**

By Butch Bejna

When the silent auction for The Gathering of Eagles was closed, *KITTEN* was going to a new home. It did purr, but only to the man that flew her during 1943-1944. For the past ten years, I have made some models to donate for the Gathering of Eagles Dinner during AirVenture. This year I made a P-51B in the markings of a Tuskegee Airmen by the name of Charles McGee. As the bidding went on, a person saw that McGee's son was the first bid. There were two others who also bid, and she said "McGee should have this". For the last twenty minutes before it closed, she stayed no more than three feet from the model making sure no one bid higher than she did and if they would, she would go higher. The auction was over! She bought the model and said, "Go give this to McGee." I had the honor of presenting Col. Charles McGee with his *KITTEN* that he flew during WWII. Even though the model was 1/72 scale, it almost seemed that he was ready to go on a mission.



Folded Wings

Robert I. Van Pelt,
81, Ret. CFD Capt., U.S. Naval Air Res., former Director of the Edgebrook Community Association, Scouting Coordinator for Boy Scouts of America. Loving husband of Donna A., nee Bengtson; beloved father of Robert S. (Rae Ann), Barbara (Robert) Slotten and James (Melissa); special papa of Elisabeth, Samuel, Kyle, Alec, Alyssa, Carson and Grace; brother of Joann (Albert) Peruzzato; son of the late Irving H. and Lillian C., nee Balder. In lieu of flowers, donations to Edgebrook Lutheran Church or Boy Scouts of America, 1218 W. Adams St., Chicago would be appreciated. Funeral Service was Monday, July 9, at Edgebrook Lutheran Church, 5252 W. Devon, Chicago.

General Meeting, 24 June, with Chapter 22 at Cottonwood Airport, Rockford

by Dave Stevens

Hot? It was so hot... (How hot was it?) It was so hot that I baked a batch of snickerdoodles on the dashboard of my car on the way up to Rockford.

I also have to say that spending time at an airport, inside Chapter 22's nice open hanger clubhouse, looking out at Tom Buck's TBM Avenger and talking about aircraft was a great way to spend a hot summer day.

Our joint meeting, hosted by Chapter 22, had a light turnout but was enjoyable all the same. There were about eight Squadron 4 members and seven chapter 22 members in the hangar. Tom was good enough to give a talk on the TBM and having it sitting right out there 30 yards away, while we relaxed in the shade of the open hanger, made it even better. I actually learned a few things about the airplane affectionately known as "The Turkey" by WWII carrier pilots. "Here kid, you get the biggest, slowest, heaviest single engine airplane we have."

You only get one torpedo and, oh yea, they mostly just fall in the water and don't explode. Good Luck."



Stacy Kolls fed us all and no one left the hangar hungry. She even had cookies so I didn't have to eat any of the ones I baked in the car. I burned them anyway.

Sam Kelso, from Poplar Grove, landed his 1946 Aeronca Champ and came over, but having flown from breakfast to breakfast all morning he was anything but hungry.



Tom, George and Steve took some of the chapter 22 guys up onto the TBM for a close inspection. The Avenger always attracts a crowd. It makes its presence known out there on the grass.

There was some discussion of the Labor Day B-17 tour stop and the Tri-Motor stop that Chapter 22 had done. We talked about some "Corporate Ride" ideas to boost the seat count before Aluminum

Overcast arrives. If you have an idea, maybe you work for a warbird fan, a "motor head" or history buff type of boss, let us know. We will get you a corporate presentation folder with all the flight information. If you would rather have the package sent, just let me know who to send it to and where. I will handle the mailing. The goal is to get 100 corporate folders out by mid August.

Before I knew it, Tom was warming up 33 gallons of oil in the TBM (see? I was paying attention) and Gordy Millerin was buckling into seat #2. George and Steve walked the wing tips out to the grass strip and then scrambled in for the ride back to JOT. The nice thing about Cottonwood is we had a great, close look at the Avenger as Tom made a short field take off and then gave us a nice fly-by before heading home.

If I had been home, working fences or pulling weeds or painting the garage, I would have been miserable, but instead I enjoyed the long drive home, oven mitts at 10 and 2, and smelling freshly burnt snickerdoodles.

Squadron 4 gatherings are always educational and fun. See you at the next one.

Optional material:

--Attendees, as best I can determine from sign-up sheet and photos:

- Glenn Hill, Sqn. 4
- Gordon Millerin, Sqn. 4
- Dave Stevens, Sqn. 4
- Tom Buck, Sqn. 4
- Steve Pagels, Sqn. 4
- George Barbauld, Sqn. 4
- Stacy Kolls, Sqn. 4
- Paul Latham, Sqn. 4
- Doug Norr Ch 22
- Alexa Knorr Ch 22 – ok I'm pushing the body count here
- Melissa Stevens Ch 22
- *Kenn Gall, Ch 22
- *Jeff Bonaguro Ch 22 (Ch 22 Pres.)
- *Doug Corrigan Ch 22 (Ch 22 VP)
- *not signed in but identified thoughtphotos taken and compared to Ch 22 web site photos on-line.

Flag Day An Outing at Capt. Downey's

By Art Sereque

Squadron 4 members Jerry and octogenarian significant other, Bill Brown scurried about like crazy, (as they always do) getting the food table ready.

Bob Rieser, the director of Aurora Regional Airport Authority, talked at length about “doings” there.

Sadly, Chuck announced he would be selling/leasing his home and would be staying in Florida permanently, due to health reasons.

Food was served and the afternoon was spent with more hangar flying.

Thanks again, Chuck, for a great day!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

**Bill Harrison
Chip Burger
Harold Cannon
Jerry Czupryn
Greg Karris
Mark Martin
Ron McElroy
Doug Partl
*Fred Hug
Stuart Glenn
Linda Glenn
John Schulz
*Jack Majdrick**

*Fred Hug and Jack Majdrick have rejoined the Squadron

Funday – Sunday in Joliet

By Art Sereque
Photos by Tim Dunavin

Sunday, August 12th, was a day when there was finally relief from the recent searing heat. As a result, well over 100 Squadron 4 members, family,

and friends (not counting many others who wanted to see the planes on display) arrived at Squadron 4 C.O. Tom Buck's hangar at the Joliet (IL) Park District Airport. Because President Obama was in Chicago, local airports at Aurora, DuPage, and Schaumburg were in the “No Fly Zone”.

Squadron 4 members who live in Brookridge, a fly-in community in Downers Grove, IL, could fly out from their home/hangars but had to get permission to fly back!!



Harry Pick displayed his awards that he won at Oshkosh for the restoration of his PQ-14

C.O. Tom Buck had his TBM Avenger on display, along with Peoria area resident Brad Deckert's TBM. Immediate past National WOA President Rick Siegfried (T-6 Texan), his father “Ol Bob” Siegfried (N2S Stearman – but legally a Boeing-Jones model 75, serial number 27), and John O’Conner (F8F Bearcat), all Squadron 4 members, and Brookridge residents, flew in.

“Boris” Fitzpatrick arrived in his neat Yak 52. Keith Birsa displayed his L-3 Grasshopper and his PT-17 Stearman. A very nice L-19 was also on display. Vlado Lench buzzed the field in his P-51 Mustang. Prominent members and friends present were National WOA Directors Ed Finnegan, Bill Miller, Sgt. Lou Seno, ground crew chief, 14th Air Force in India, Capt. Frank McCarter, 14th Air Force, (combat missions with the Flying Tigers) and Lt. Charles Mueller, navigator on B-17s Tangerine and Mon Tete Rouge, Mighty 8th and a guest of a guy named Adolf in Stalag Luft III!

Along with some Big military vehicles, Squadron 4 Chaplin Matt Huffnus brought a contingent of High School ROTC members

Giving Quartermaster Stacy Kolls a break, Dean Stanley grilled more than 100 burgers for the hungry horde – using “real” charcoal in the grill. The burgers went along with the complement of other BBQ fare – salads, chips, and beverages. Kathy Buck, Charlotte Millerin, Sue McSorly, and Kathy Costerisan did yeoman work serving the food.



The McCarters enjoy a nice lunch

Videographer Chuck Derer was present with his video camera. Chuck has a “You Tube” TV program and has interviewed a number of Squadron 4 members on a work day in Marengo, IL helping Squadron 4 members Mike and Cheryl Kellner on their B-17 restoration project, “Desert Rat”! We hope to see more of his Squadron 4 videos in the near future.

One of the day’s highlights had Rick Siegfried and Tom Buck giving rides in their planes. With the Avenger slurping close to 100 GPH on take off, rides like this are very, very generous.

The other highlight were drawings for 4 different airplane rides, Vlado, Rick, and “Ol Bob” gave rides in their planes, whereas Keith chose his Stearman and John – no – not his Bearcat – but his SNJ, will also give rides to the lucky winners.

It is members like these that make Squadron 4 (in my not so humble opinion) the best Squadron of all!!



Clancy Hess – a great man to visit with and glad to see him out too.

Hangar flying and socializing finished out a great day.

B-17 Tour Stop Aug 31 – Sept 2

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Stacy Kolls, Warbird Squadron 4 Tour Stop Chairman

Email: 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

Oshkosh – a picture story
Photos by Ted Kowalik





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/>

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 | Rudy Frasca |
| T6 | John O'Connor |
| SNJ | Tom Buck |
| Yak | Bob Fitzpatrick |
| OW Meyers | Chuck Downey |
| T34 | Will Martin |
| T34 | Rudy Frasca |
| Wildcat | Rudy Frasca |
| PQ-14B | Harry Pick |

Keep'em Flyin'

Squadron Officers

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

C.O. Tom Buck
 (815) 726-5059

ADJ. Tim Bauer
 (815) 501-1468

Com. O./Treasurer Brian Churchill
 (847) 356-9056

SEC. Ted Kowalik
 (603) 289-2785

Q.M. Stacy Kolls
 (815) 544-1223

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.