



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

September, 2005 Extra

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

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An Invitation from Captain Chuck Downey

Captain Downey, long time friend of Squadron 4, has again invited the Squadron members and friends to his residence for a day of flying (weather permitting), food, fun and guaranteed interesting stories from the Captain.



Photo by Ted Koston

Captain Downey at last year's Veteran's Forum

Captain Downey entered Naval service in October 1942 and participated in carrier training in Lake Michigan on the Wolverine and Sable in 1942-43. He saw combat duty flying the SB2-C in WWII with VB-80 aboard CV-14, the U.S.S. Ticonderoga. In 1944 Captain Downey was credited (along with another bomber aircraft) with sinking a Japanese light cruiser in the Philippines, for which he was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. Captain Downey also

received the Air Medal for the destruction of an enemy hangar on a Tokyo airfield during the first carrier based aircraft attack on Japan (Doolittle's B-25s, were not carrier based aircraft).

Captain Downey served 33 years in Naval Aviation Service and in 1964 became the youngest Naval officer promoted Captain, at that time. Over his career in the Navy Captain Downey received a number of medals and citations during his service in WWII and beyond, thus distinguishing him as a true American Hero and a genuine member of, what Tom Brokaw called, "The Greatest Generation".

As a Warbird and aviation organization, and an organization which prides itself on recognizing and honoring Veterans, Squadron 4 is grateful and honored by Captain Downey's generous invitation to his home.

Please join him and Squadron 4 on October 1 at his residence located at 2822 Stinson Street (in the Poplar Grove Air Park on Illinois Route 76, north of Belvidere, IL). Arrival time is around 11:00 with lunch to follow. The Captain can surely be counted on to tell some amazing and truly interesting accounts of his experiences during WWII.

The C.O.'s Desk

This edition of the Squadron newsletter is a first ever 'Extra' edition. This is for two reasons. First, I neglected to advise our members of Captain Downey's gracious invitation. Second, I most apologize for the numerous mistakes and misinformation published in the last newsletter. Other than numerous spelling and grammatical errors, a couple of very obvious mistakes were, the misspelling of Vic Krause's name, not once, but twice (and two different ways). The other big goof I made was indicating Mike Titre and his guest Ray were WWI veterans, which would imply these guys were about 30 years older than they are (I'm sure they don't appreciate that). I promise to make more of an effort to produce a little better quality newsletter in the future (or as long as I have this position).

Lindenwood 2005 Recap

The annual Lindenwood Fly-in BBQ was held on September 11 at the residence of Barb and Tim

Bauer. Tim opened up his hangar for members to display their military memorabilia (and thanks very much to those members who did bring their treasures). The weather was hot, and ever so slightly hazy, but well within flying conditions. This year's turnout of aircraft was down from previous years (I can't imagine why, with fuel costs these days), but never the less we had a few excellently disguised military aircraft which fooled all but the most shrewd Warbird enthusiast into thinking they were Cessna's and a Piper. There was also a couple 'stealth' aircraft that probably went completely un-noticed. Roger Paykert decided to bring his N2S-5 with no pretence of disguise making and excellent backdrop for photos with a few very nice antique autos brought in by Howard Stahlheber.

Last year's event was crowned by a visit from the Illinois State police (due to our low flying aircraft), which caught everyone's attention when the two cars pulled in. I thought that was all behind us, but as I walked out of Tim's hangar prior to our announced start of activity, in pulled a local fire trunk and EMS vehicle. I thought to myself, "cripes, we haven't even started and we're already in trouble". But much to my relief, it was a few members of the Lynn-Scott-Rock F.P.D., invited by Tim as a tribute to those American Hero's our nation was so indebted to on that date, four years prior in New York City.



Our many thanks go out to Mitch Majeske, Jackie and Bill Birdwell and Mike Moore for bringing the vehicles, and joining in our event.

Dennis McConville did an excellent job of BBQ'ing a great variety of meats, which along

with all the side dishes, no one present could possible have walked away hungry.

Thanks Barb and Tim for another great event.

Addition coverage and photos from this event in the next newsletter.

Member News

Tail Draggers at Frasca Field

On October 15 Squadron 4 member Rudy Frasca will be hosting his annual tail dragger fly in at Frasca Field in Urbana Illinois. This event can be counted on to draw a number of Warbird aircraft of various types. Rudy has an excellent collection of Warbirds which will most likely be featured on display. Frasca Field is located at 1402 E. Airport Road, Urbana, IL.

Salute to Veterans at Poplar Grove Museum

The Wings and Wheels Museum at Poplar Grove Airport held an event saluting several area Veterans on September 17th. The event was covered by WGN and filmed by same. Information and possible photos from the grand event will appear in the next Squadron newsletter.

Support Our Troops

Stacy Kolls is continuing an effort to collect goods and donations to send care packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her continuing efforts (for over a year now) have produced monetary donations for care packages which will bring some of our troops much needed items, which in some cases they are having trouble obtaining. A list of suggested items for the care packages is available by visiting the Operation Shoebox website at www.operationshoebox.com. Let's continue to support this effort. Questions and information requests should be directed to our Quartermaster, Stacy Kolls (815-218-9202).

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.

To nominate a candidate for this important award, describe the qualifications of the nominee(s), and submit the information to a board member before December 30th, 2005.

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

Squadron 4 Merchandise

Squadron 4 merchandise is available for sale. Squadron embroidered logo hats, shirts and jackets are available with prices ranging from \$10 - \$25. Information on special order logo merchandise can be obtained from Tim Bauer at any future meeting meeting.

Squadron 4 – 2005 Calendar of Events

November 13, 2005 - Annual Veteran's Forum - Rockford, IL. Remembering and honoring our Veterans. **(detailed information in next newsletter)**

January 2006 – Annual Awards Banquet, William Tell Holiday Inn, Countryside, Ill **(exact date to be announced in next newsletter)**

Send comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter to me at mjaatsch@csinet.net or you can leave me a message at 773-695-8122.