



The Squadron



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www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Events for 2010

September 17th – 19th - Squadron 4 will be hosting EAA's B-17 Aluminum Overcast @ Lewis University Chicago-Romeoville, IL
Sunday October 10th 11:00AM - Illinois Aviation Museum @ Clow Airport, Bolingbrook, IL
Sunday November 14th 11:00AM - Courtesy Aircraft will be hosting our Veterans Forum - 5233 Falcon Rd. Rockford, IL 61109-2911

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

www.warbirdsquadron4.org

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From the C.O.'s Desk

Squadron 4 is doing great things this summer! Oshkosh started a little wet but ended strong . Many members are volunteers and really get into the spirit of Oshkosh. This gives us great visibility and adds to our member list. Thanks to all who do such a terrific job at the biggest warbird gathering of the year.

Squadron 4 also had a big turnout at the Joliet picnic. Brad came with his TBM and we launched 2 TBMs to fly over the event. It was great fun.! A T28, Stearman, T6s , Cub, Dornier, L3, T34, and many other planes flew in to make the picnic a true warbird event.

My thanks to all the planes and members who came out to get close to the warbirds.

I enjoyed giving rides in the TBM and wish everybody could experience the thrill. So come next year and you might be the one to ride in a torpedo bomber!!!!

Our B17 tour stop is Sept. 17,18,19 at Lewis – Lockport Airport. This is a must to attend and volunteer at. We all had just toooo much fun at last years' tour stop. Make sure you come and help to" keep em flying". I will see you all there.

Tom Buck

Buzzing the Airfield
By Tim Dunavin

WOW!! What a summer! And we still have The B-17 Tour, meeting at Clow, then our Veterans Forum in November!

My star reporter, Art Sereque, has been absent from most of the activities, so I guess most of the reporting will have to come from me. Fortunately, Ted Kowalik has taken photos of the events and I have been told that" a picture is worth a thousand words". So, I will tell the stories using as many of his photos as possible, without getting this newsletter file size so big that your computers (or mine) can't handle them. And for those that mail this out to – enjoy the thick newsletter.

Just before Oshkosh, Rock Falls was the place to be! Over 30 DC-3s and C-47s arrived to prepare to the formation flight to Oshkosh. Short story here too.

Veteran's Corner this month will feature 2 Vets – An SBD2 and her pilot.

VETERAN'S CORNER
Part I

World War II Helldiver plane lifted from reservoir

By Ed Zieralski, UNION-TRIBUNE

Originally published August 20, 2010 at 9:54 a.m., updated August 22, 2010 at 9:32 p.m.



John Gibbins

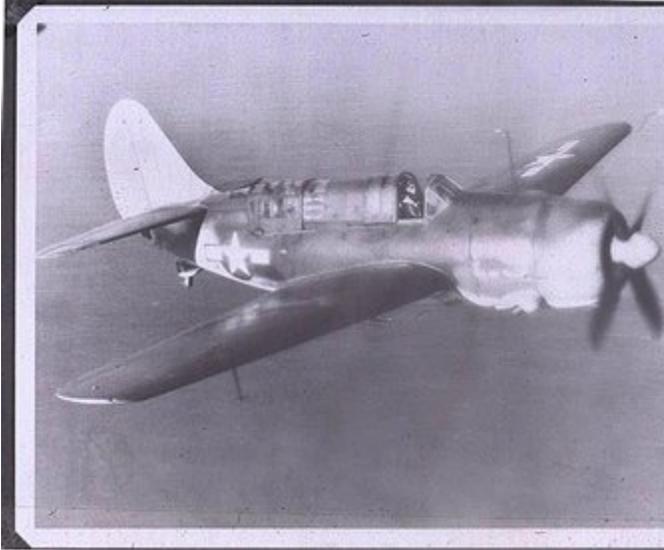
Salvors have successfully raised a navy Helldiver aircraft that crashed into Lower Otay Reservoir in 1945.



Photo by John Gibbins

Robert Kofnovec, left, was the regular Navy gunner on this aircraft, but he let an Army gunner go up the day of the

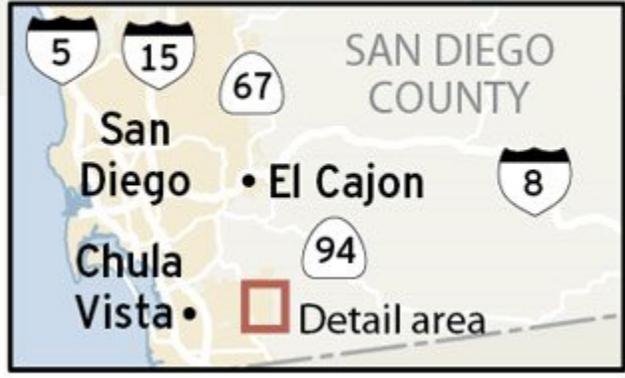
crash. He greets Dick Frazar, the son of the pilot that made the emergency landing into the lake, while waiting to see the aircraft recovered.



E.D. Frazar shown flying an SB2C-4 Helldiver. Photo courtesy of Richard Frazar



Navy pilot E.D. Frazar before he boards an SB2C-4 Helldiver. Frazar was the pilot of the Helldiver that ditched into the Lower Otay Reservoir on May 28, 1945. Photo courtesy of Richard Frazar



UNION-TRIBUNE

years on the muddy bottom of Lower Otay Lake, was brought to the surface.

With a crowd of hundreds on shore, many applauding the sight, the SB2C-4 World War II Helldiver, which crashed into Lower Otay on May 28, 1945, finally was lifted from its muddy grave. Hundreds of people had gathered at the lake all week as the long and tedious process of raising the plane took longer than expected and involved more equipment. The plane was known as "The Beast" because pilots struggled to control it, and it was a monster to retrieve from Otay's mud.

When the plane finally surfaced and was lifted off the lake by a Brewer Crane & Rigging Terex crane out of Lakeside, two days later than the initial estimate, there was lots of emotion from the surviving family and relief for the crew that recovered it.

SOUTH COUNTY — As the bent prop of the wounded, but still intact Helldiver bomber slowly emerged from Lower Otay Reservoir Friday afternoon, two F-18 Navy Hornets buzzed the lake.

Coincidence or tribute? No one was sure, but it sure looked like the new Navy was paying tribute to the men who fought before them, to a pilot's plane that finally, after more than 65

The engine was bashed and blackened, the tail was chewed up, but the plane still looked every bit the war machine it was during World War II. It was hard to believe such a plane could lay on the bottom of Lower Otay Lake in 85 feet of water for that long and go undetected.

(Ed. Note: Because of the length of this story part II will appear in the next edition)

KEEP'EM FLYIN

Lake-In-The-Hills

By Tim Dunavin

Photos by Ted Kowalic

A windy day in June, we held our regular meeting with the Local EAA Chapter 790 at the Lake-In-The-Hills Airport. After a good meal served by Stacy Kolls, we held our meeting and then had a double program.



Next up was Ole Sinburg, to tell us about the Prescott Pusher he had built and his aircraft was a focus of much attention, as it was parked out by the meeting building.



Tom and Tim greetings from Gobbler's Knob



Ole Sinburg telling about the Prescott Pusher – seen below with B.C.

Tim Dunavin, in full flight suit and helmet, went through a routine day in the life of a fighter pilot during WWII. The day started off with the usual breakfast, mission briefing, and aircraft check out. The mission was described and methods and formation used to protect bomber groups part way to their assigned target. On the return trip, targets of opportunity were on the menu, but today we hit the airfield of JG26 – a German Fighter Group.



“Last Time”

By Tim Dunavin

On the weekend of July 24th, 25th, and 26th the biggest gathering of DC-3s and C-47s took place at Rock Falls, Illinois. This historical event was planned to help celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this great aircraft and act as a staging area for the final leg of their journey to Oshkosh.



It was hoped to get at least 40 examples on the airfield, but bad weather and other delays kept the numbers down. When I left the airport Saturday evening, there were 28 on hand.

They had a great time and lots of people there to view the big birds, and Sunday night they had the “Last Supper” for the gathering of pilots and guests.



Takeoff for Oshkosh got under way in the early afternoon, on Monday, and their arrival at Oshkosh was a sight to behold – in full formation. About 30 aircraft actually

made it to Oshkosh – leaving 2 on the ground back at Rock Falls, with mechanical problems.

One of the pilots talked with me at Oshkosh and said that they were really glad the event took place and that they had a great time!



Slosh Kosh 2010

By Art Sereque

Arriving at Oshkosh Sunday afternoon, I immediately inquired at the WB HQ where Training Command was located. Nobody knew! Fortunately, Squadron 4 member and National WB Director ED Finnegan heard me and gave me the straight scoop. After getting my wristband, I headed to my motel.

Monday A.M. I arrived at the north 40 planning on taking pix of the hundreds of planes parked there. Due to the rain, there were just two!



Sloshkosh – indeed!!

During my week at Training Command, I saw at least two dozen Squadron 4 members,

friends from Cross and Cockade, OX-5, and Air Classics Museum.

Capt. Matt Quy, U.S.A.F., displayed a beautiful Stearman PT-17, dedicated to the Tuskegee Airman, at Training Command. Matt is currently a “Reaper” pilot, but previously flew the B-52. He took the time to explain to Gordon Millerin’s grandson Chris, the difficulties in refueling the B-52 in the air.

Also visiting Training command was Felix Scheck, who was Francis “Gabby” Grabeski’s Crew Chief (56th Fighter Group). Felix just turned 90 and recalled how Garry would bring his P-47 back all shot up!

Tuskegee Airman, Col. Leo Gray and Welton Taylor, PHD also stopped by. Dr. Taylor received his doctorate in microbiology from the University of Illinois. He said if you could see something without a microscope, he wasn’t interested!! He surprised me when he said he flew Grasshoppers at Guadalcanal.



Color Guard honoring Veterans

A Friday morning breakfast, evening BBQ, and Saturday banquet were all parts of tributes to those receiving bricks or plaques at Compass Hill and Memorial Wall.

There was a brunch Sunday morning, prior to the Memorial Wall ceremony. Among those attending from Squadron 4 were Bill and Jerry Brown, Bob and Sue McSorley, Tim Dunavin, Ted Kowalic, and Art Sereque.

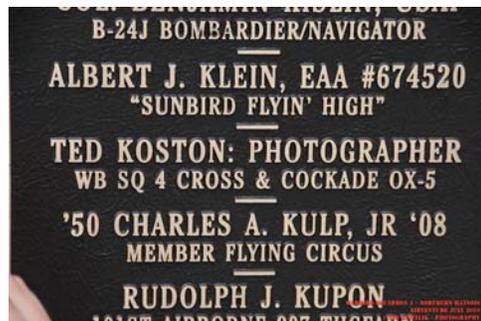
A very nice ceremony was held at Memorial Wall, with EAA President Tom

Pobresny reading the names of all with plaques in their honor for 2010. Our own Ted Kosten was one of those honored, with son John and daughter Kris in attendance. Following the ceremony, John met Tom and had a very nice chat.

Despite the “Slosh”, AirVenture turned out to be one of the best ever.



Ted’s bricks on Compass Hill



Plaque on Compass Hill

Honoring Ted
By Art Sereque

The many friends of Ted Kosten contributed so much money, we were able to sponsor two bricks and a bronze plaque in his honor at AirVenture.

AC = Air Classics Museum; CC = Cross and Cockade; OX – OX-5; WB = WB Squadron 4

Those contributing, in no particular order were:

Steve Pagels	WB
Art Sereque	AC-CC-WB
Bob Van Pelt	WB

Rick Diekman	WB
Larry Driscall	CC-WB
J.J. Geuss	WB
Bill Churchill	WB
Frank Bartilotta	WB
Dave Fairbrother	WB
Regina Kania	WB
Mike Hudak	WB
Bill and Jerry Brown	WB
Evan Roberts	CC
Gordon Millerin	WB
Tim Dunavin	WB
Tom Buck	WB
John Vlasic	OX
Dave and Jan Stadt	OX
Frank McCarter	WB
Dick Bennet	CC
Mel Shaver	CC
Jim Waters	CC
Joe Hauk	CC
Ralph Sales	CC
Al Kitch	CC
Bob Zilinsky	CC-OX
Rick Principato	CC
Jim Izzo	CC
Placiqo Anatra	CC
Bob Sheldon	CC
Lou Seno, Sr.	CC
Lou Seno Jr.	
Mike Lumin	AC
Brad Brady	CC
Chuck Brady	CC

Squadron 4 BBQ

By Tim Dunavin

Another great event took place at the Joliet Airport, on Aug 15th. It was well attended by members, guests, and aircraft.

Noted absence this year of some of our Veterans – and my star reporter – Art Sereque! We had a great time.



People.....



planes.....



And FOOD!

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

WHAT: B-17 Tour Stop
 WHERE: Lewis Airport (KLOT, www.flylot.com), Lockport, IL
 WHEN: 17-19 September 2010

Warbird Squadron 4 has secured a stop on EAA's 2010 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 2010. 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

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.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) 393-3932

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-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/>

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
FG-1D Corsair	John O'Connor
TBM Avenger	Tom Buck
T6	Rick Siegfried
SNJ	Vic Krause
T6	Clyde Zellers
T6	Rudy Frasca
SNJ	John O'Connor
SNJ	Tom Buck
Yak	Bob Fitzpatrick
OW Meyers	Chuck Downey
L5	Larry Tinker

T34
Wildcat
PQ-14B

Will Martin
Rudy Frasca
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!

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