



The Squadron



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www.warbirdsquadron4.org

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Upcoming Events

October 12, 2014 Sunday 11:00 – Trip to the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow Airport in Bolingbrook.

November 9, 2014 Sunday 11:00 - Veterans' Forum at Courtesy Aircraft in Rockford.

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

www.warbirdsquadron4.org

From the C.O.'s Desk

By Tom Buck

Lewis University was the host for an Airfest for the Boy Scouts of Northern Illinois with camping, camp fires, realistic flight simulators and actual collection of planes. It was a great way to introduce the scouts to Aviation as a hobby or career.

I flew the TBM to Lewis-Lockport Airport to be one of about 30 airplanes that they could learn about and actually talk to the pilots. A varied group of planes was on hand to view, classic, homebuilt, warbirds, helicopters, and the Lewis training fleet. It was great to watch the faces of scouts and see their reaction to the many planes. Of course the TBM was “very big”, and “neat”, according to the scouts. They questioned “how many guns did it have” and “how fast does it go”? This is what the organizers had hoped for.

What a great way to introduce the young minds to Aviation and flying. The next generation will soon be our warbird pilots! So “let’s keep ‘em flying”!!!

Buzzing the Airfield

By Jerry Czupryn

Hello Warbird Squadron 4 members. My name is Jerry and I'm the new editor of the Squadron newsletter. Many of you know me as the Squadron 4 Warbird Raffle Chairman. I've been selling raffle tickets for rides on Warbirds for the last two years. When the opportunity came up to take over the newsletter I asked if I could do it. Tim Dunavin had done an outstanding job as editor over the years. I would like to thank him for all his effort and work as editor.

As the new editor I will be looking for articles from Squadron members. You don't have to be an expert writer or journalist. I'm looking for articles on aviation places you've been, aviation topics, or aviation interests. The articles don't have to be large or a certain amount of words. If you don't want to write please send me some pictures and a brief description. Anything that you think your fellow members would enjoy seeing.

I'll be making some cosmetic changes to the newsletter along with some new ideas I have about topics you might enjoy. This is the Warbird Squadron 4 newsletter not the Jerry Czupryn newsletter. It's been awhile since a new newsletter has been generated this year. I'm going to try real hard to get these out more frequently.

If you have any questions, suggestions, articles, pictures, or stories please send them to me at nyrs9229@comcast.net.

A T-33 Ride at Oshkosh

By Ted Kowalik

There I was at Oshkosh, working as a volunteer, when Carl Schwerman approached me and said, “want to go for a ride?”. Sure, I said, not knowing what I was in for. What I was in for was the ride of my life. Carl was piloting one of two T-33 jets owned by John Swartz and they were going up to rehearse their routine for the air show. John had told Carl to find a volunteer and give him a ride as thanks for the work we do. Talk about a thrill. Carl put me into a parachute and showed me how the oxygen worked. The T-33 has a speed of 600 mph and there were times I felt like we were doing the max. Loops and figure eights, formation and precision flying and everything else that goes into a jet review at Air Venture. From take-Off to landing we were up for over 90 minutes and the weather was perfect. At low level and above the clouds, we just continued to put those planes through their paces. Karl kept checking on me to make sure I was o.k. and I was just shooting as many pictures as I could. With air conditioning and oxygen, it was one of the smoothest rides I’d ever had. I thanked both Carl and John for the opportunity, knowing this chance could never come again. I did remember what Carl had told me when he put me into the parachute. “Remember, if I shout eject, eject, eject, the canopy flies off and THE PILOT GOES FIRST”.





Ted Kowalik Photography



Ted Kowalik Photography



Cavalcade of Planes

By Jerry Czupryn

The 15th Annual Cavalcade of Planes took place June 7 & 8 2014. Thousands of aviation enthusiasts attended the two day event at Clow International Airport in Bolingbrook IL. The weather was perfect both days and there was plenty of Warbirds flying. The new attraction this year was the travelling movie theater sponsored by the Commemorative Air Force (CAF). Put yourself in the cockpit and soar above the clouds in your own P-51C Mustang as you step inside a traveling immersion exhibit featuring the original film, RISE ABOVE, on a 160-degree panoramic screen in a 30-seat temperature-controlled movie theater. The RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit highlights the courage and determination of the Tuskegee Airmen, who overcame obstacles to train and fight as U.S. Army Air Corps pilots, and what it means to us 60 years later. If this exhibit comes to your area I highly recommend seeing it. There were many things to see and do at the airport. It's a great time for families to experience aviation up close. One exhibit I stopped to check out was the restoration of a 1943 Fairchild that served during WWII with the RAF. It was found in a barn near Springfield IL. Midwest Aeronautiques LLC has been working on this restoration project since 2001. They are hoping to have it flying this fall of 2014.

I was there both days selling Warbird raffle tickets as a fund raiser for Squadron 4. I met new and old friends that weekend. We talked about Warbird Squadron 4 and warbirds in general. Ticket sales were very good. I would like to say thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and good luck in the drawing. Special thanks goes to two Squadron members Dan Czupryn and Bruce Hawkins who helped me sell tickets that weekend. They did an outstanding job considering it was their first time doing it.

Mark your calendar for next June 2015 and plan on attending the Cavalcade of Planes.









Warbird Raffle Recap

I would like to say thanks again to everyone who purchased raffle tickets this year. This was the second year for me and I had a great time again! I got to meet new people and talk about Warbirds with them. A HUGE thanks goes out to the pilots of the Warbirds that we raffled rides for. Without their continued support the Squadron wouldn't be able to do this. Thanks also go out to Aviation Universe and Warbird Pinup Girls for their support with the raffle again this year. I would like to thank the Squadron board for all their support and assistance with the raffle.

Raffle Tickets Sold - 142

Raffle Ticket Winners

Vlado Lenocho (Aerobatic ride in his T-6 Texan) – Leslie Lule

Keith Birsa (PT-17 Stearman) – Jamie Wallace

Rick Siegfried (T-6 Texan) – Aras Lintakas

Bob Siegfried (Stearman) – Mike Loukis

John O'Connor (Navy SNJ) – Annie Mandzirens

Aviation Universe (P-51 Mustang Die-Cast Display Model) – Julia Czupryn

Aviation Universe (\$20 Gift Certificate) – Ron Micek

Aviation Universe (\$10 Gift Certificate) – Jay Spitzer

I'm looking forward to another successful year selling raffle tickets for a chance to get a ride in a Warbird.

Thanks again,

Jerry

Jerry Czupryn
EAA Warbird Squadron 4
Warbird Raffle Chairman

Warbird Squadron 4 offers five chances to ride in a Warbird!

Buy tickets on-line at: <http://warbirdsquadron4.org>

A Warbird Saturday in Late April

By Jerry Czupryn

This past Saturday April 26, 2014 turned out to be a great weather day with the temps in the upper 50's and plenty of sun. What a great day to attend two Warbird events in northern Illinois.

The first event was the Squadron 4 annual visit to Marengo, IL to help Mike Kellner and his Desert Rat B-17 Restoration Project. This event is very hands on and you will get dirty. I attended this event last year for the first time and I had a blast. This year didn't disappoint me. We had approximately 25 people this year. Half of them were affiliated with Squadron 4. Mike Kellner broke the group up and assigned the different groups to different projects. He had one of his regular guys assist each group and be available for assistance when needed. One group with Glen Hill was working on the tail section. They were removing rivets and the attached skin. Late in the afternoon they had replaced the skin. Two other groups were assigned to work on the right wing. Gordie, Chris, and Mike Millerin were busy disassembling the wing on one side while another group was on the other side doing the same thing. I was in the latter group with Mike Hudak, Frankie Bartilotta, and Richard Griessmeyer. We were removing wiring and hydraulic lines from the wing. It was a lot of fun getting down and dirty with this piece of military history. Other Squadron 4 members assisted with other duties when needed. Huge thanks to Stacy for another great lunch of Sloppy Joes with chips and cookies. I talked to Mike afterwards and he was very appreciative of the help from Squadron 4. A lot got accomplished on Saturday. He's come along way with the restoration. He told me he's a few years away from seeing this bird fly. I can't wait.

After working on the B-17 a few Squadron 4 members took the drive to Peru, IL to attend Brad and Jane Deckert's TBM Avenger Spring Fling Cocktail Party. The Deckert's know how to throw a party. They usually have one during the Christmas Season but the TBM was out of town getting enhancements done to it. So they decided to have one in April to kick off the start of another busy air show season. When I got down there the party had already started and there were Warbirds flying over the airport. What an awesome sight to see. Besides the TBM there were a few T-6s, a Stearman, and other planes. The highlight of the evening was a sunset flight consisting of three T-6s. A lot of great stories were told at the table I was sitting at which had a handful of the pilots. It was a very enjoyable evening with good friends, food, and beverages.

It felt good to attend two Warbird events in one day. After the terrible winter we had and having to stay in the house when not shoveling snow. I was ready to do something outside in somewhat warmer weather. I can't wait to attend my first airshow this spring. It's been way too long not hearing the sound of those great Warbirds in the sky.

Squadron Officers

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

C.O. Tom Buck (815) 744-1263	5bucks@sbcglobal.net
E.O. David Stevens (630) 323-6619	stevens15@mindspring.com
SEC. Ted Kowalik (630) 289-2785	thaddeusk@ameritech.net
TRE. Brian Churchill (847) 356-9056	brian.churchill@warbirdsquadron4.org

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-aaa.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/>

Squadron 4 Warbirds

Spit Fire	Rudy Frasca
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	Rudy Frasca
Wildcat	Rudy Frasca
PQ-14B	Harry Pick

Merchandise

Visit the website for more information.

www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Keep'em Flyin

EAA Warbirds of America Squadron 4 is dedicated to the appreciation of military aviation, its people and its history. EAA Warbirds of America fosters an environment that celebrates all past and present members of the U.S Armed Services.