



# THE SQUADRON

## EAA Warbird Squadron 4

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

November, 2005

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

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### Squadron 4 Officers and Board Members

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Dan Guenther, Financial Officer

Brian Churchill, Communications Officer, Membership and Web Page Editor

Ron Molinets, Recruiting, Membership

TBD, Squadron Photographer

Stacy Kolls, Quartermaster

Matt Huffnus, Squadron Chaplain

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Will Martin, Chairman of the Board

David Maren, Matt Olafsen, Chris Huffnus, Bruce Graham, Ted Koston Board Members

### 2005 Annual Veteran's Forum

Squadron 4 announces our annual Veteran's Forum event for 2005. The event will be held on Sunday November 13th at Courtesy Aircraft located on the east end of the Greater Rockford Airport. The address is 5233 Falcon Road, Rockford, IL 61109-2911.

Squadron 4 has traditionally used our November regular meeting as a venue to recognize and honor the Veterans we all hold so dear. Being an aviation organization, we naturally focus on the Veterans who have served in the aviation branches of service, but we do not discriminate in regards to branch of service or duties performed, or for that fact, the country or nationality of military service (case in point, our good friend Joe Heinlein who served in Germany). They all "did their job" serving in military service and lived to tell their story. For that, we recognize the duty and respectfully honor those individuals.

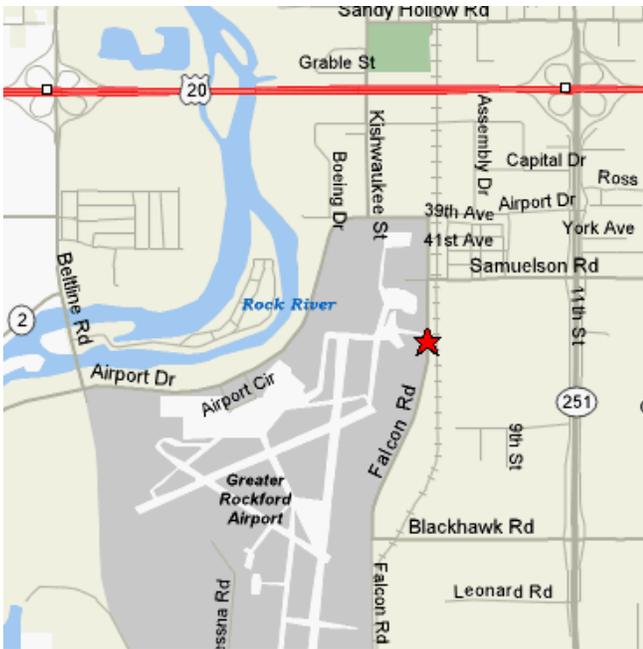


2004 Veteran's Forum honored members

Last year we were fortunate to have had a great group of guys who attended our Forum and told us a little about themselves, and for that we are grateful. We cherish, respect and honor those who have served and we are eager to learn of the history and experiences of those individuals. Our Forum is open to all veterans and I hope those Veterans who have honored us with their presence in the past, will once again join us this year.

Join us for this day of remembrance and recognition and salute those in our ranks and all our new participants in this honorable event. The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM on Sunday November 13. Lunch will be served.

This event is open to all Veterans, so if you know of a Veteran of military service, please bring them along. They are all our honored guests.



From Chicago, take **Interstate 90 West**. Merge onto **I-39 S / US-51 S** toward Rockford. Merge onto **US-20 West**. Merge onto **IL-251 S / 11TH ST** toward Rochelle. Turn **RIGHT** onto **Samualson Rd**. Turn **LEFT** onto **Falcon Rd**.

### The C.O.'s Desk

November 11 has been designated as a day of remembrance for all Veterans of military service

as a way of recognizing those individuals for the commitment and resolve in the performance of duties to their country and the ideals for which it stands. Squadron 4 has maintained a long (pretty much as long as our existence) tradition of dedicating the November regular meeting to the Veterans, as a way of recognizing and honoring those among us who are Veterans of military service, and to bring together as many as possible, to not only remember and honor, but also to learn from these folks of their commitment, sacrifice and duty each and every one of them performed. All too often during my conversations with Veterans, I have heard a recurring comment or statement from these individuals, "I didn't do anything special. I was just doing my job". Their 'job' may have been flying aircraft in combat, loading armaments on aircraft, manning a gunner's position, navigating their aircraft through missions, serving on the ground as ground fighters, commanding the troops, sitting at a desk, attending to medical needs, feeding the soldiers, or giving spiritual guidance. They may have been pilots, mechanics, gunners, cooks, generals, photographers, adjutants, drill instructors, communications personnel, nurses, or engineers. They may have served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard. They may have served in regular service, reserves or guard. They may have served in the U.S. or other countries. The bottom line is, Veterans, all Veterans, deserve our recognition, respect and honor.

### Lindenwood 2005 Recap

By: Art Sereque Jr.

Lindenwood, IL was the place to be on 9-11-05, as Tim and Barbara Bauer once again opened their doors for the annual Squadron 4 meeting/picnic at their airstrip. The meeting was opened with pres. Mark Laatsch leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance (including "under God"). This was followed by a prayer and solemn soliloquy on 9-11 and freedom by Chaplain Matt Huffnus. Finally, Stacy Kolls updated us on her on going efforts to send goodies to our troops in Iraq.

A short (for once) meeting was held after which the members and guests gobbled down the brats, burgers and chops which were waiting for them. Executive Officer Tom Buck was "slumming" that

day, as he flew his Cherokee in. Unfortunately, his SNJ was grounded due to an A.D. Member Roger Paykert came in his Stearman and thrilled several people with rides. The only other warbird present was a heavily camouflaged stealth bomber pictured here:



Because of the date, a group of local fire fighters were invited, along with two of their vehicles. A friend of Tim's once again brought his 1929, '30 and '31 Model A Fords for display. Ted Koston announced his retirement as Squadron Photographer. Guest Dennis Edwards volunteered to help out as available.

All in all, a great day, thanks in no small part to Tim and Barbara.

### **Captain Downey's BBQ**

By: Art Sereque Jr.

Great weather, a great crowd and especially great food were the order of the day for Captain Downey's annual BBQ for Squadron 4. Quartermaster Stacy Kolls, using Capt. Downey's "secret" recipe for beer brats, was the heroine of the day with her fine cooking guaranteed!! No one left hungry.

Captain Downey introduced several guest including Grant Young, Maj. Mike Titre, and RAF pilot "Wild Bill" Scanlon. Chucks friends, the "Harley Gals" rode in again on their "hogs". As a finale to a great day, Tom Buck made several passes with his Avenger.

#### *Note:*

*As an addition to Art's recap, we had only a single aircraft fly in for the event (not counting Tom Buck's fabulous fly-over, because he didn't land), a Stinson flown by Martin Blanc, accompanied by Squadron member Ken Fukuyama. Several Squadron members attended the event given by our most gracious host, who even supplied some door prizes for his guests. Captain Downey also donated two rather large displays of warbird aircraft photos, which I had to*

*leave in his garage due to limited space in my car (I promise I'll come and get them soon, Captain). As stated by Art, the weather was great and as always the company of friends couldn't be better. Thank you, Captain Downey.*

### **A Salute to World War II Combat Aviators**

By: Art Sereque Jr.

The Poplar Grove Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum was the site for a "Salute to World War II Combat Aviators" on September 17.

The event was started by a fly-over of Stearmans. Fourteen aviators were speakers, whereas many more in attendance were honored. Squadron 4 member Chuck Downey and Frank McCarter were two of the featured speakers, who included pilots, gunners, and navigators. Squadron 4 who was honored included Ted Koston, Mike Titre, and Grand Young. Squadron 4 members in attendance included Tom Buck, who stole the show flying his big bird (TBM) in, Roger Paykert, who drove due to technical problems with his Stearman, Rudy Frasca, and Art Sereque.

Four of the speakers were POWs in the notorious Stalag Luft III, which was made famous by the (erroneously named) Steve McQueen film, "Stalag 17".

One of the Stalag Luft III POWs told how accurate the movie was, with regard to making clothes, forging documents, etc. He told how he was held in the British compound, where some of the Brits had been held for five years. One day the Gestapo inspected the camp. The Brits picked their pockets, copied their documents, and returned the wallets (unbeknownst to the Gestapo) in two hours!!! The speaker escaped and when questioned, said he was an American POW. Nobody believed him!!!

Separately, Grant Young told that before releasing a torpedo in the Avenger he flew, he had to fly at 200' above the deck and fly straight and level for 10 seconds before releasing the torpedo. This was to allow the gyro to stabilize so the torpedo ran true. Can you imagine flying 10 seconds with all those tracers coming at you? C.D. Mayer recounted meeting Fred Olivi. Fred said, "I flew a B-29. What did you fly?" Replied C.D., "A B-29". That was their total conversation!

Along with antique cars, there were numerous aircraft. An "L" Bird with invasion stripes, Vultee BT-13, Fairchild PT-19, Ryan 21 trainer reconfigured to a Ryan 22, and of course, several Stearman. Gerald Miller came in a beautiful 1955 Pilatus P-3. Of 74 built, only 30 are flying in the States. This was built for the Swiss Air Force. In competition with the T-34 mentor, it completely out flew it but the U.S. decided to buy American. The P-3 was designed for instrument and aerobatic training and gunner and attack duties. It was also the last plane pilots flew before transitioning to Vampire jets. A really neat plane! A great day! A great program! And great people!



Veterans Honored, Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum Photo: Ted Koston

### **A Warbird Raffle Winner's Account**

By: George Sheehey

I met with Vlado at Lewis-Joliet Airport to take a ride in his 1951 T33 Jet. Everything went as good as it possibly could. Before I tell you about the flight, I have to extend my gratitude to Vlado. He is the nicest person and he is defiantly a class act. He was very nice to me and my family and just after few minutes of talking with him I felt like I knew him my whole life. He made the whole experience very enjoyable, one that I will never forget.

I met Vlado at 4:00 pm where he keeps his jet parked. He had the jet pretty much ready to go when I arrived. He had me sit in the back and he helped me get strapped in, and after 20 minutes of pre-flight checks we were ready to go. We took off down the runway at around 155 MPH (I think it was MPH and not knots) and then turned west towards the Mississippi river near Iowa.

From there we flew over Rockford and I would have to say we were flying pretty fast, about 480

MPH at about 14,000 ft. Vlado treated me to a couple of barrel rolls, inverted climbs, and left and right banks, all of which was exhilarating! (At times it made me feel like I was on a roller coaster).

He let me take the stick for awhile which was the part of the ride that made me the most nervous, but was also very exciting. The plane responds extremely well. Any little movement in the stick (from left to right) and the plane responds instantly!

We were in the air for about 45 minutes. The time went bye very fast. As we were getting closer to the Lewis-Joliet Airport, Vlado requested a fly over.

This was the best. We were pretty low to the ground (maybe 150-200 ft) and flew along the path of the runway at a very high rate of speed. I'm not sure how fast, but I'm thinking we were going about 200- 250 MPH. When you're in the plane at that level and speed, everything goes by extremely fast. It makes it hard to focus on just one thing on the round because you fly bye so fast. It was really cool. My wife who was watching us near the runway said it was reminiscent of the Air Force jets at the Air & Water show! She said it was incredible.

I can't thank Vlado enough, not only for the experience of a life time, but for his generosity and professionalism. I also want to extend my thanks to Warbird Squadron 4 for hosting the Joliet fly-in and making all of this possible.

### **Member News**

#### **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](http://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).



Attendance at Vintage Wings & Wheels to Honor Veterans



Stearman fly/over salute to Veterans at Poplar Grove



Captain Chuck Downey



Frank Federici 8<sup>th</sup> AF B-24 Navigator



Tom Buck, Bruce Muench, and Capt. Grant Young



Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum, Poplar Grove



Salute to Combat Veterans, Poplar Grove



Frank McCarter autographs his sheet for a young attendee



Model warbirds and the real thing



Fly over salute to combat Veterans



Roger Paykert flies over Lindenwood Field



Howard Stahlheber and his antique vehicles



Roger Paykert gives Stacy a ride



Squadron 4 members and friends at Lindenwood



Tom Buck, George Barbeault, David Maren



Host Capt. Downey (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and guests



Tom Buck flies over Captain Downey's house



Chuck Downey, Grant Young, Mike Titre and Bill Scanlon



Annual BBQ Fly-in Joliet - 2005

Photo Credits:

- Top row; Ted Koston
- Second row; Kendra Helvey
- Third row; Stacy Kolls
- Ted Koston
- Fourth row; Ted Koston

## Link Trainer

Squadron 4 is in the process of obtaining a WWII era Link trainer. The trainer has been in storage (for an unknown time) and has badly in need of rescue before it was lost to the ravages of time and the elements. Efforts are being made presently to bring the trainer from the Green Bay Wisconsin area, and will be temporarily stored by Squadron member Tim Bauer. Plans are also underway to organize a restoration effort. Anyone interested in joining the effort or would like more information regarding this project, contact Tim Bauer at [timbauer@rochelle.net](mailto:timbauer@rochelle.net) or 815-393-3932

## 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

**February 18, 2006** – Annual Awards Banquet, William Tell Holiday Inn, Countryside, Ill

**April/May 2006** – Desert Rat (B-17E) restoration, Marengo, IL (**exact date TBD**)

**June 25, 2006** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Joint Squadron 4 and 6 meeting, Kenosha, WI

**July 24 – 30, 2006** – EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI

**August 13, 2006** – Annual BBQ/Flying Joliet, IL

**September 10, 2006** – Lindenwood, IL Fly-in/BBQ

**November 12, 2006** – Annual Veteran's Forum, (**location TBD**)

Send comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter to me at [mlaatsch@csinet.net](mailto:mlaatsch@csinet.net) or you can leave me a message at 773-695-8122.



**Keep 'em Flying**