



THE SQUADRON

EAA Warbird Squadron 4 News

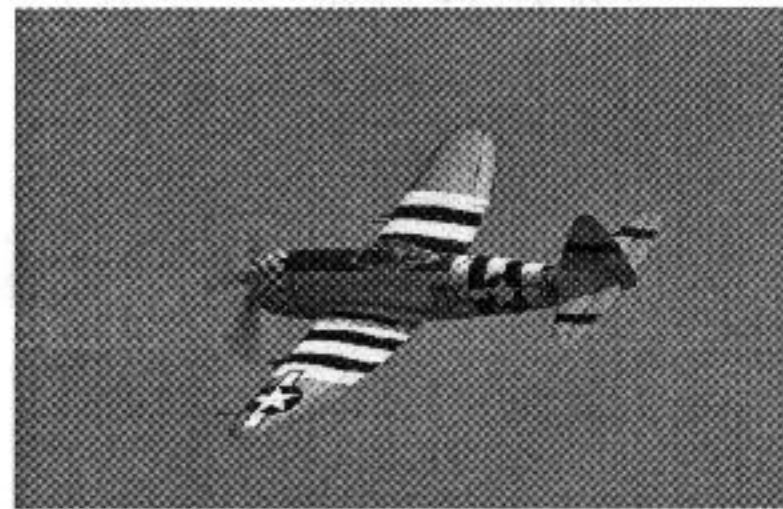
A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

November, 2003

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

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Squadron 4 Meeting Sunday November 16

Join us for our next regular meeting at Poplar Grove Airport (C77), on Sunday November 16 at 11:00 AM. Located on IL route 76, the meeting will be held in the Poplar Grove Airmotive hanger. As with previous years, we are inviting veterans of military aviation service as we honor those who have served our country. We expect to have a forum of Veterans, some of which are among us as members, some guests, all honorable individuals who deserve our gratitude and thanks.

If you know a Veteran, bring them along. Regardless of the branch of service in which they served, they are welcome.

Where: Airmotive Hanger
Poplar Grove Airport
Poplar Grove, IL

FAA Identifier: C77

Lat/Long: 42-19-22.300N / 088-50-10.700W

42-19.37167N / 088-50.17833W

42.3228611 / -88.8363056

Elevation: 858 ft.



The C.O.'s Desk

Due to its proximity to November 11, Veteran's Day, the November Squadron 4 meeting again brings us to that time when we salute our Veterans of military service. We have traditionally assembled a forum of Veterans, each sharing a little of their past roles and duties in military service as well as some memorable experiences. The Squadron is fortunate to have in its ranks several members who themselves have served our country in the military. This, as with previous years, we invite all those who have served our country, in peacetime or war, at home or abroad. To all those veterans of the military, we salute you and honor you.

This year, let us remember one of our own members, Bruce Graham, who will not be with us this year, due to his present active duty in military service.

September Regular Meeting Re-cap

The September meeting, held at Lindenwood Field, was well attended with not only members and guests, but also aircraft, both in the air and on the ground. Lindenwood Field located on the property of Squadron 4 member Tim Bauer. Tim and Barb Bauer provided a great BBQ meal with plenty of food for all.

The grass strip proved adequate for five aircraft to land and take part in a great meeting. Aircraft in attendance (on the ground) were a pair of Cessnas, an Aircoupe, a Weatheryly, a Donier 27 and an SNJ. Attendees to the event were treated by several aerial displays including fly-bys and aerobatic demonstrations by Tom Carleson in his T-28A and Bob Fitzpatrick in his Yak. Other aerial sights included a formation of Stearmans and a lone unidentified B-25 off in the distance. Barb Bauer and Frank Bartilotta received rides in Tom Buck's SNJ.

Squadron member Joe Naebe provided an excellent presentation consisting of his TG-4A glider project and a great display of the history of the glider type in military service. Joe spoke briefly about his project and plans for the rebuild of the rare glider. The display provided a clear illustration of the amount of effort required to restore a 60 plus year old aircraft of this type.

Tim Dunavan gave a brief account of the building of a TBM scale model to be raffled off at the Squadron's upcoming annual dinner in January. As many of our members can attest, Tim did an excellent job of building a scale model of the B-25H Barbie III which was raffled off at last year's annual dinner.

All in all, it was another fantastic fly-in event for Squadron 4 members with excellent weather, good food, great friends and of course airplanes.

2004 Squadron 4 Events

January 17, 2004 – Annual Squadron 4 Dinner, William Tell Holiday Inn, LaGrange, IL

March 21, 2004 – Regular Squadron Meeting, Frasca Field, Urbana, IL

June 13, 2004 – Regular Squadron Meeting, Location TBD

August 8, 2004 – Annual Squadron 4 Fly-in/Drive-in BBQ, Joliet Airport, Joliet, IL

September 12, 2004 – Regular Squadron 4 Meeting, Lindenwood Field, Lindenwood, IL

November 21, 2004 – Veterans Forum, Location TBD

Re-cap of Special Event with General Borling



Squadron 4 held its first 'Special Event', featuring guest speaker Major General John L. Borling (ret). I refer to this as a special event in that this was not part of our regular meeting schedule and it was originally intended as a membership recruiting opportunity. Invitations were sent out to a vast number of members of the Warbird community in an attempt to attract potential members for Squadron 4. Although we did not attract the potential attendees for recruiting, the event proved to be a unique and rewarding experience for those who did attend. General Borling shared experiences from his military career in aviation that were humorous, interesting and deeply moving. During his service as a fighter pilot in the skies over Vietnam in 1966, a then Lieutenant John Borling, was shot down by ground fire. Although seriously injured John told of his ill-fated attempt to escape enemy territory, only to be captured and spend 6 and a half years as a POW. John recalled accounts of life as a POW and also some subtle side effects of being cut off from significant events, such as Man traveling to the Moon and back, and the formative first years of his daughter's life (she was only 6 months old at the time of his capture). John reflected on how he was able to survive solitary confinement and torture by "writing" poetry in his head and the mental exercise which was vital to his eventual emergence from his ordeal as a sane person who would return to active duty as a highly rated fighter pilot, commander of the famed "Hat in the Ring" squadron, an Air Division commander for Strategic Air Command, and finally ending his military career as Chief of Staff of NATO's Headquarters North. John commented on a few of the many strategic and tactical aircraft he piloted including the F15 Eagle (his favorite), F4 Phantom, the SR71 Blackbird and the U-2.

John is currently Chairman for the S.O.S organization, a national, patriotic organization advocating one year of universal military service for America's young men (and young women who volunteer). John is actively running for election to the U.S. Senate in Illinois, and although briefly touching on his political platform, the event was not campaign centric. In conclusion, the event was a success in many ways for the Squadron, as it was what I hope to be the first of many future such events which will promote Squadron 4, Warbird aviation and expand quality programming for our membership.



Re-cap of Gathering at Captain Chuck Downey's



For the past few years, Captain Chuck Downey has graciously invited Squadron 4 members to his residence, at the Poplar Grove airport, for a day of friends, food and airplanes. The weather was great and Captain Downey had his Meyer OTW parked outside the hanger. Squadron 4 members, along with neighbors and friends of Captain Downey's, enjoyed great conversation and fabulous food. We had hoped for more airplanes, but alas, with great weather they were probably out flying. In the end, it was a good day thanks to our kind host, Captain Downey, who was already talking about scheduling the event a little earlier in the year for next time. Thanks again Captain, we appreciate your generosity and friendship and look forward to next year.

Miscellaneous

Look forward to the return of color centerfolds in the Squadron News, coming in the next issue.

Squadron 4 patches and lapel pins are now available for purchase. See our web site for details, or call Mark Laatsch 773-695-8122. Look for additional Squadron 4 merchandise to be available soon.