



# The Squadron



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[www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

## Events

Upcoming events for 2013 – more details later:

**Feb. 2** - Annual dinner 4P.M.–9P.M., William Tell Inn, 6201 Joliet Rd. Countryside, IL

**Apr. 27** - Work day at Kelner's, 21010 Anthony Rd., Marengo, IL

**May 18** - Day on the Western Front 28931 Bell Rd., Rock Falls, IL

**Jun. 22** – Air Classics Museum of Aviation open house

**July 29- Aug. 4** – Oshkosh

**Aug.18** – BBQ at Joliet, Joliet Regional Airport

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

[www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org)

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## From the C.O.'s Desk

Happy New Year to all! What better way to start the new year than to attend Squadron 4's Annual Dinner on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. With friends, good food, and warbird conversation, you need to come to the William Tell Restaurant. One new addition is a silent auction of warbird memorabilia, a great way to get a tax deductible donation and help Squadron 4 bring you more warbird experiences. Be sure to go to our website --[warbirdsquadron4.org](http://warbirdsquadron4.org)—and see all the pictures, and keep up with all Squadron 4 events. Remember you can register online! See you at the dinner and be sure to bring a friend.

Tom Buck C.O.

Keep'em Flyin

## Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

This year is off to an early start, with the Squadron dinner in early February! Lots of great activities are planned and we hope that you will be able to participate in as many as you can.

This year's dinner will include the auction of a model B-25 painted as Col. Doolittle's aircraft that was used in the Raider's famous Tokyo bombing mission in April, 1942. It will be depicted in the moment the aircraft's front wheel has left the deck of the Hornet. It is a model that I have been working on since early fall. (no photo yet, but I'm

getting close to that point – maybe I can get one to Brian before the dinner for you to see.)

We have some great articles this month, as usual, with some new contributors – enjoy.

In our last newsletter, we had an article about Lou Seno, Sr. receiving the Master Pilot Award. This time we are proud to announce that Lou has joined Squadron 4 too! Welcome, Lou!

These photos come from Jerry Czupryn. His son's girlfriend visited a museum in California and thought that Jerry would like them.



Also this month, we have an article from Jerry about his helping work on the TBM owned by Brad Deckert, and a TBM restoration being done down in Ohio by Charlie Cartledge – a good friend of Tom Buck.



### **My First Time Working on a TBM Avenger** by Jerry Czupryn

I became Facebook friends with Brad Deckert last month. Brad owns a TBM Avenger, and it's based in Peru, IL. He posted on Facebook that he was going to be doing his yearly maintenance on his TBM Avenger between Christmas and New Year's and was looking for any volunteers to help out. I sent him a post asking what days and times. He came back saying they were going to start on Saturday, December 22 around 9:00 A.M. I found out where in Peru, IL they were located. I got up bright and early that morning and headed to Peru, IL.



When I got there, I met Brad and his two friends, Greg and Bill. Greg and Bill have assisted Brad over the years with work on the TBM. Brad asked if I have any experience or expertise working on planes. I said I had none but I was willing to learn and do whatever they want me to help out. They put me with Greg and with his directions, I started disconnecting a scope in the cockpit.



Then the four of us removed the 200 pound torpedo from the plane. That was exciting. The next project I got was to remove the air cooling unit from the front of the plane under the propeller. That was a challenge and fun. While I was doing that, Brad and Greg hooked up this hose connection to drain all the oil from the plane. There was a bit of oil all around the front of the plane. I told them the next time I change my oil on my car it will be boring compared to all of this. While Bill was removing rivets from the front of the plane, I was removing nuts and bolts from two shelves that hold the plane's batteries. I learned a lot from working with Bill on the front of the plane. Next Greg asked if I would help him out at the back of the plane. He said that's the cleaner working area. Greg and I together took off one of the elevators. That was kind of neat working in the tail area of the plane. I told Greg I didn't know how those guys did this in the 40's on a carrier bouncing in the ocean. While we were doing this work, Brad was supervising the whole project. He joked and said this was like ground training school.



Late in the afternoon, Brad called it a day. We got a lot accomplished. We had a nice beverage before we left. Brad asked me if I was coming back out the next Saturday for the TBM Christmas party. I said I would. I drove back out to Peru, IL for the party. It was a good time had by all. I got to see Brad, Greg, and Bill again. I talked to Brad's wife Jane and was introduced to Molly one of the TBM girls. While talking to Molly about the squadron and the Warbird raffle, she bought a ticket from me. I met a lot of very nice people at the party. Rick Siegfried and Bill Miller were also in attendance at the party.



I will always remember my first time working on a TBM Avenger. It was a super experience. Thanks again Brad, Greg, and Bill for teaching me a lot about the plane and giving me the chance to get down and very dirty. Hopefully, I'll get another chance. I loved it.

**Charlie Cartledge's TBM**  
A contribution from TomBuck

For the past 13 years, Charlie Cartledge and some dedicated volunteers have been restoring a TBM Avenger.

Charlie got his parts from a variety of places. The engine (a Wright R-2600-20) came from an auction at Moses Lake, Washington – in a can – found to be in good condition.



Charlie has painted his TBM in the tri-color camouflage and has just recently done a run-up on the engine. A full story can be seen on Charlie's website. More pictures and a video can be seen there.

His hangar is located at the Wadsworth Municipal Airport in Ohio.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**  
**Lou Seno Sr.**

**Squadron Officers**

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

C.O. Tom Buck  
(815) 726-5059

ADJ. Tim Bauer  
(815) 501-1468

Com. O./Treasurer Brian Churchill  
(847) 356-9056

SEC. Ted Kowalik  
(603) 289-2785

Q.M. Stacy Kolls  
(815) 544-1223

**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-aea.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/>

## WARBIRDS OF SQUADRON 4

Spit Fire MKXVIII	Rudy Frasca
T33	Vlado Lenocho
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
T34	John Rippinger

**Keep'em Flyin**