



The Squadron



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www.warbirdsquadron4.org

Events

Sunday 11:00, June 26th, 2011 -
Joint meeting with EAA Chapter
790 at the Lake in the Hills Airport
(3CK) Lake in the Hills, IL

Sunday 11:00, August 14th, 2011 -
Annual BBQ @ Joliet Regional

September 2nd - 4th, 2011 -
Squadron 4 will be hosting EAA's
B-17 Aluminum Overcast @ Lewis
University Chicago-Romeoville,
[\(KLOT\)](#)

Sunday 11:00, October 9th, 2011 -
Illinois Aviation Museum @ Clow
Airport, Bolingbrook, IL

Sunday 11:00, November 13th,
2011 - Courtesy Aircraft will be
hosting our Veterans' Forum

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

Memorial Day will soon be here. It is a time to honor those who served our country.

As Warbird Squadron members, we need to seek out the WW2 veterans and listen to their stories.

Bringing them to our Squadron meetings will help us to see and hear history as recalled by these veterans.

I would also like to invite you to submit stories to the newsletter and Tim Dunivan, our Editor, will publish them for all our members to read.

Our freedom to preserve warbirds and keep them flying is a treasure we can attribute to our veterans.

Let us take action this Memorial Day!!

“Keep em flying” and come join us!

Tom Buck

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Buzzing the Airfield

By Tim Dunavin

I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to our newsletter; those articles are the lifeblood of the newsletter!

This month Art Sereque has written about the Squadron events for March and April, I follow with one on the "Day on the Western Front", and Gordon Millerin has given us an article from the Lockport Legend about our "Clancy" Hess.

We have more events coming and with the rising cost of attending these meetings and events, I think it would be a neat thing to express your appreciation to those flying warbirds into the activity. We are very fortunate to have such a nice variety of those vintage aircraft in our Squadron, and it is great to see them flying – I get goose bumps just thinking about seeing them again!

Glen Hill is on the road again with Aluminum Overcast; we had a great visit with him here at the Western Front and wish him a safe trip!

Speaking of the Western Front... We sure had a great time helping Frank McCarter celebrate his 90th Birthday! See the article here in this newsletter. Thanks to all that came out. Despite the cool wet weather, we had a great time and great food.

Also in this newsletter is the notice of the passing of Wild Bill Scanlon. We are losing our WWII veterans at a much faster rate these days – please let them know they are appreciated.

Bill's passing allows me to explain the "Folded Wings" section of the newsletter. This article informs you of those passing away and any information that might be helpful, as well as giving me a platform to pay tribute to those listed.

Veteran's Corner

Ed. Note: This article was sent to me by Gordon Millerin, a reprint here – an article written by Jon Depaolis, editor of the Lockport Legend.

Those that follow the Nobel Peace Prize and nominations for that honorable designation probably know that Wings of Hope was recently nominated.

The group is now based at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, and provides medical air transportation to people in need worldwide. The not-for-profit operates 155 bases throughout the world.

However, those in Lockport might not know the one of the founding members of the group lives in town.

Clarence "Clancy" Hess will be 90 years old in September, and he has been flying since he was 10. A former war pilot, who twice survived being shot down, did all the flying for the group.

"I'm bent, but not broken," he said. "I'm not supposed to be here."

Hess, a member of Aviation Hall Of Fame, founded Wing of Hope along with four others in 1962. Back then, all the participation was voluntary.

Wings of Hope occurred because of a chance encounter of five pilots in Tanzania.

When the pilots were walking down a street, they approached a Catholic nun who appeared to be in need of help. After tending to her, they found out that she was helping the less fortunate, and the pilots felt compelled to help her and then the others too.

Wings of Hope, under Hess, were one of the first responders to the earthquake disaster that struck Guatemala in the 1970s. The group's efforts helped save lives by flying supplies and medical provisions.

"Many thousands of people would have died," he said.

But it wasn't all just flying around with supplies. Hess needed airplanes to make the whole process happen.

We were the first to put out an appeal for airplanes that nobody wanted or were having difficulty selling," he said. "They'd get a tax advantage for donating to us. Some of those [planes] needed some work to fly."

A lot of the airplanes that Hess and the group would be given weren't in proper order, so in order to fix them up, Hess got Lewis University in Romeoville involved.

"When we would pick up airplanes, I'd bring them to Lewis, and the school would help me get them into working condition, or we'd resell them to get planes we really wanted," he said. "In my time, we supplied and furnished 150 airplanes to missionaries."

Chris Lawson, director of the Lewis University Airport met Hess when he was very young, and his father was a teacher at the University.

"Hess is the most energetic communicator I have ever met," Lawson said. "He loves talking to people and he knows everybody. He needs to put that into a bottle and sell it. Anything with wings on it, he knows about."

Lawson was around Lewis, either as a child or when he attended the university, when Hess was doing most of the work for Wings of Hope.

"They were recruiting people with airplanes that would donate, and then would prepare them at Lewis to fly them to whatever continent they would have to fly them to," Lawson said, "whether to get medical teams, food, and supplies to people who couldn't get them otherwise."

Hess said that just being nominated for the Nobel Prize was an honor, and even though he no longer flies around the world for Wings of Hope, he still is an active member of the UFO. For more information on Wings of Hope, visit www.wings-of-hope.org

Folded Wings

It was reported by Mel Shaver that Bill Scanlon passed away in late April. A memorial service is being planned for June 3rd at 1P.M. in Elwood at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Sat. June 4th at the American Legion Post, on Algonquin Rd. in Lake-In-The-Hills from 1PM to 5PM, there will be a memorial service as well.

Bill served with the RAF during WWII, (shot down only 6 times) and was a member and friend of Squadron 4. He will be remembered for his stories and highly detailed models of heavy artillery.

March: To the Museums

By Art Sereque

A raw rainy March day saw more than 30 WB Squadron 4 members and friends meet at the Air Classics Museum of Aviation at the Aurora, IL Airport. Dodging intermittent rain showers, the group was able to climb in and around a great array of warbirds. A Skyhawk, an F-86 Saber Jet (Korean conflict), F-4 Phantom and F-105 "Widow maker" (Vietnam), and an A7E Corsair (Gulf War) were among those planes on display. A "Huey" was open for those who wished to (in their imagination) fly it.

Also on display were full scale exact fiberglass replicas of a P-40 – complete with Flying Tigers' shark's teeth, a P-47 Thunderbolt, a Red-tailed P-51 Mustang, and an ME-109.



Inside, the group saw many model airplanes, uniforms, tributes to the Tuskegee Airmen and the Polish Air Force, as well as a collection of jet engines.

After touring Air Classics, the group traveled a few miles to the home of Spencer Reese, who has what is considered one of the five finest private museums in the country! Due to the rain, Spence's wife Mary strongly suggested that all visitors remove their shoes (or else they would spend time cleaning carpet!) Spence has over 8000 artifacts, all neatly marked with the appropriate name tags. Spence even has an exact reproduction of a P-61 Blackwidow, which he built himself.



Quartermaster Stacy Kolls brought sandwiches and refreshments for the gang, which they consumed in the comfort of the Reese's home.



Following lunch, the group went to Spence's hangar, where they saw more artifacts, including a jeep, half track, firearms, and a 1/2 scale airplane (editor's note: A P-47), and a P-39 Aircobra cockpit, Spence also built.



Then, Lt. Col. Dick Allen gave a very interesting talk on his 25 missions as a B-17 pilot in Europe, including his first encounter with flak, and his 30 missions as a B-29 pilot over Korea.

Despite the weather, it proved to be a great day for the Squadron.

Desert Rat

By Art Sereque

Once again, Squadron 4 members traveled to Marengo, IL to do restoration work on the WWII era B-17E "The Desert Rat". Mike and Cheryl Kellner are the principals of the "Kellner Restoration Project". Mike found the plane in an auto junkyard in Maine, literally hacked apart with an axe.



For the 5th year now, Squadron 4 members joined in to buck rivets, move parts, and do all kinds of "grunt" work on the plane. More than 20 members of the Squadron showed up to help.

Quartermaster Stacy Kolls and Dean Stanley joined forces in grilling "burgers and brats" for lunch, during which time there was much "hangar" flying.



After closing shop for the day, the Kellners and members Jay Spitzer and Art Sereque, went to Broadview, IL for a Polish buffet and an extremely interesting talk on the WWII Ploesti Oilfield raids, featuring the B-24 Liberator. The speaker indicated he would be willing to speak at a Squadron event. Unfortunately, he lives in Virginia!!

Day on the Western Front

By TimDunavin

Photos by Ted Kowalik

It started out cool and wet, but as the BBQ pit warmed up, the day got better – inside anyway. The Squadron members started to arrive about 11 A.M., with Mel Shaver bringing a WWI Officer’s field desk. Mel knew of my working on the WWII version, and found the Irish Guards unit owned by Capt. H.F.S. Law emcee at an antique store in Rockford. What a nice start to the day, and it got even better!



With brats and (my favorite) “chicken lips” on the grill, others arrived – hangar talk and good conversation began and the party was off and running.



“Got those “lips” done yet?”



Mel, Brian, Stan, Glen, and Bill



Happy Birthday, Frank!

Our special guest, Frank McCarter, arrived with his wife and two of their daughters, about 11:30. After our feast, we pulled out a beautiful birthday cake with Frank’s P-51B picture on it, and 2 candles – a “9” and a “0”. Upon singing “Happy Birthday” we were treated to the Polish version sung by Ted Kowalik and Stan Jewula.



Even Ted got into this one



Fun had by all

All in all we had a great time – enjoyed by 15 members and guests - on a wet, cool day in May – a day on the Western front.

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: 02-04 September 2011

Warbird Squadron 4 has secured a stop on EAA's 2011 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 16 July 2011. Remember, the names of all volunteers will go into a drawing for a ride to the next tour stop 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

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.warbirdswuardron4.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!

WARBIRDS OF SQUADRON 4

Squadron Officers

(Partial listing – see website for full board)

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ADJ. Tim Bauer

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Brian Churchill

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SEC. Ted Kowalik

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Q.M. Stacy Kolls

(815) 544-1223

Spit Fire

P51 Mustang

TBM Avenger

T6

SNJ

T6

SNJ

OW Meyers

T34

T34

Wildcat

PQ-14B

Rudy Frasca

Vlado Lench

Tom Buck

Rick Siegfried

Vic Krause

Rudy Frasca

Tom Buck

Chuck Downey

Will Martin

Rudy Frasca

Rudy Frasca

Harry Pick

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/>

Indiana Warbird Squadron 3

<http://www.warbirdsquadron3.org/>

Florida Warbird Squadron 24

<http://www.floridawarbirds.org/>

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 Brian Churchill for details!

Photos and videos of our activities are available from our website.

Keep'em Flyin