



ANA PATRIOT SQUADRON - SHEA NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the ANA Patriot Squadron and Shea Naval Aviation Museum Quarterly Members' Newsletter. Our intent is to distribute this newsletter via e-mail on or about the first day of March, June, September, and December. The purpose of the newsletter is to help those members who are not able to attend the monthly meetings get an idea of what is going on at the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum and perhaps inspire you to take a more active role in this organization.

RECENT NEWS:

During late February Jim Young and Mary Cordeiro from the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation (SSTTDC), the quasi-government agency that is responsible for overseeing the redevelopment of former NAS South Weymouth, donated a large number of blueprints to the ANA Patriot Squadron's Shea Naval Aviation Museum. The blueprints document many of the Navy structures that have already been demolished on the old base including Hangar One (the gigantic WW2 era blimp hangar and its smaller replacement), the family housing units, the Main Street gatehouse, the ammunition storage bunkers, etc. These unique blueprints are a tremendously valuable addition to the museum's collection. They are now available at the museum for examination by visitors on request.

During mid March Kenneth Johnston and his company GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc. of Norwood, MA donated an Epson LCD projector to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Ken's late father, Al Johnston, was a former Navy pilot and a founding member of the NAS Squantum/NAS South Weymouth Old Timer's Association. This group eventually became the ANA Patriot Squadron. The LCD projector

will greatly improve the museum's guest speaker program. Not all guest speakers have access to an LCD projector. These are expensive devices to purchase or rent, and although in one case we were able to borrow one this is not always possible. The LCD projector that was generously donated by Ken Johnston and his company was used for the first time on April 26th by author Tommy H. Thomason, who does not have access to one of his own. The LCD projector will give the museum greater flexibility in terms of who can serve as guest speakers going forward.

Retired AOC Bill Hanigan recently donated two store display torsos and some Lockheed SP-2H Neptune navigational equipment control boxes to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. The torsos have been fitted out with a CPO's khaki uniform coat and an LCDR's blue uniform coat. Former VP-92 commanding officer retired CAPT David Gilliland recently donated nearly 200 35mm slides that were taken during that squadron's quarter century at NAS South Weymouth. Allan Gilman, also formerly of VP-92, donated two 16mm films that were taken on NAS South Weymouth during 1958.

Bill Payne of Owensboro, KY (270-684-0542), who operates an antique watch and clock repair business, recently donated a standard military aircraft clock to the museum through ANA Patriot Squadron member (and military clock collector) Dan Haff. The clock has been fitted to the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk instrument panel that Assistant Museum Director Peter Jardim acquired for the museum some months ago. The clock, along with several other instruments acquired by Peter Jardim over the past couple of months, has brought the instrument panel much closer to completion.

On Saturday April 26th the Shea Naval Aviation Museum hosted a book signing and lecture by aeronautical engineer, pilot, and aviation author Tommy H. Thomason. Mr. Thomason sold and autographed copies of his many books and presented a lecture on the Bell HSL-1, the world's first helicopter designed specifically for anti-submarine warfare. Although Bell HSLs were never assigned to NAS South Weymouth, the HSL was the ancestor of every ASW helicopter that operated from the base over the years. Mr. Thomason's lecture was based upon the book that he wrote about the HSL, "The Forgotten Bell HSL: U.S. Navy's First All-Weather Anti-Submarine Warfare Helicopter". He is presently working on a book about the Navy's Grumman S2F Tracker and we hope to have him back at the museum for a presentation on that aircraft or on some other topic at some point in the not too distant future. Mr. Thomason would like to hear from anybody who flew or maintained S2Fs. If you'd like to contact him send an e-mail message to tommythomason@scbglobal.net. See the author's web site at tommythomason.com for more details about him and his books.

Much to our surprise, among the 40 or so people who came to Tommy Thomason's book signing and lecture in April was CAPT Robert "Barney" Rubel of the Naval War College and his wife Donna. Barney is a good friend of the museum and he's been a guest speaker on several occasions. Unfortunately he will be retiring from the Naval War College late in the summer and is leaving the New England area. We wish Barney and Donna well, but for selfish reasons would love to have them remain nearby so we could have him present more lectures at the museum.

Over the course of several days during April and May Patriot Squadron member and USNR Seabee EO1 Frank Ward assigned to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 27 Detachment 22 (NMBC-27 DET 22) from Naval Reserve Center Quincy, MA repainted the foyer at the entrance to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. EO1 Ward also organized repairs to the building's roof that have stopped the water leaks that were occurring in the gymnasium recently every time it rained. For those of you who don't know him, Frank and other Seabees from NMBC-27 DET 22 do a substantial amount of work for the museum and the Shea Memorial Grove, very quietly and behind the scenes. We're very happy to have him as a member.

On Saturday May 3rd and/or Saturday May 24th ANA Patriot Squadron members James Crone, George Driscoll, John Edwards, Lorraine Edwards, Al Firnrohr, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Dan Haff, Donald Harris, Robert Michaelski, Bill Sargent, Gene Sich, and Susan Zimmerman worked on the memorial brick project at the Shea Memorial Grove. We had also planned to work at the Grove on Saturday May 17th too but had to cancel due to rain. We basically completed laying all the memorial bricks that have been received to date. We will continue to tweak the memorial bricks that we've laid as they settle and will put more down as new orders come in.

So far we have put down 125 bricks memorial bricks along both sides of the main pathway into the Shea Memorial Grove. We estimate that there is space along the pathway for at least 105 more. So, if you want a memorial brick you can still get one. The memorial bricks cost \$50 each and can be engraved with up to four lines of text. The memorial bricks are a fund-raiser for the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Order forms are available at the museum during open houses or you can download an order form from the ANA Patriot Squadron's web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

COMING UP:

Please note that the Shea Naval Aviation Museum strives to host guest speakers on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September. We have scheduled a book signing and lecture by authors Donald Cann and John Galluzzo on Saturday September 27th. The two men put together a book for Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" historical photo album series entitled "Squantum and South Weymouth Naval Air Stations". They will present a lecture about the history of both bases and will have autographed copies of their book available for sale. See the ANA Patriot Squadron's web site and Facebook page for more details during the weeks leading up to this event.

HELP WANTED:

As always, the Shea Naval Aviation Museum needs volunteers to help tend it during the open houses that are scheduled from 9 AM to noon on the second Saturday of the month and from 9 to 11 AM on the last Saturday of the month. As you should know, the ANA Patriot Squadron meets from 11 AM to noon at the museum on the last Saturday of the month and then we normally go out to eat at the nearby Warren's Place restaurant. All members and guests are welcome to attend the meetings and go out to lunch with us.

We also need help with occasional work parties at the museum and at the Shea Memorial Grove. These are generally announced during the monthly meetings or via e-mail. If you'd like to help we'd be happy to have you with us.

We can use donations of any military artifacts (cruisebooks, squadron patches, command ball caps, photographs, films, command coffee mugs, uniform items, geedunk of any kind featuring command or base insignias, etc.) pertaining to NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth for display in the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Photos, slides, and films can be copied and returned to you if you don't want to give them up.

We are always looking for new members and for help in getting them. We can also use help in publicizing the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. A link to a flyer that you can download, print, and post on public bulletin boards is presented on our web site in PDF format. Good places to post these flyers include your post offices, libraries, grocery stores, VFWs, American Legion halls, and civil airports. These places normally have a bulletin board where you can tack a flyer up.

We are probably going to have a presence on Weymouth Day at the farmer's market and at the Pumpkin Festival in Weymouth. If we do, we'll need people to man our tables at these events. If this is something that you would like to do please talk to Bill Sargent or any of the directors at a meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?:

During the late summer of 1946 the Naval Air Reserve Training Command specified special identification markings for all reserve aircraft. The markings consisted of a band around the rear fuselage, large numerals, and the station name. On combat type aircraft, which were painted glossy sea blue, these markings were painted yellow. On transport and utility aircraft, which were finished in natural aluminum, the fuselage band was painted red and the other markings were painted black. On primary training aircraft painted orange-yellow the markings were painted black. On advanced training aircraft finished in natural aluminum with the tops of their wings painted orange-yellow the fuselage band was painted red and the other markings were painted black. In 1947 the reserve marking scheme was changed to an international orange fuselage band and two letter tail codes, white on sea blue aircraft and black on natural aluminum aircraft, indicating the base and the primary mission of the aircraft.



Naval Air Reserve PBX Catalinas, SB2C Helldivers, and FG-1 Corsairs at NAS Squantum during the summer of 1949. Note the orange fuselage bands and two letter tail codes (also on the wings) with the letter "Z" signifying NAS Squantum. This photo was taken by the late Joseph P. O'Neill, who was serving with VP-ML-69 at that time.

SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Blueprint donors Jim Young and Mary Cordeiro from the SSTTDC. **Top Right:** Bill Hanigan with his recent donations to the museum. **Middle Left:** Dan Haff and Peter Jardim examining the aircraft clock donated by Bill Payne. **Middle Right:** EO1 Frank Ward painting the museum foyer. **Bottom Left:** Tommy H. Thomason presenting his lecture. **Bottom Right:** Faith Frattasio, Robert Michaelski, and Susan Zimmerman working on the memorial bricks at the Grove.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



This great photo, taken by Tom Cuddy in 1965, shows an SP-2E Neptune from NAS Glenview, IL at NAS South Weymouth for an air show. The huge blimp hangar, which was a landmark visible from high ground all around the South Shore, was torn down late the following year.

