



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

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Welcome to the latest edition of the ANA Patriot Squadron and Shea Naval Aviation Museum Quarterly Members' Newsletter. This newsletter is distributed via e-mail on or about the first day of March, June, September, and December. The purpose of the newsletter is to help familiarize members who can't attend the monthly meetings with what's happening within the squadron and at the museum and perhaps inspire everyone to take a more active role in this organization.

RECENT NEWS:

He wasn't a member of the ANA Patriot Squadron/Shea Naval Aviation Museum, but the recent passing of Domenic Fucile in early May is worth noting here. Domenic, who lived in Centerville on Cape Cod, was a member of blimp patrol squadron ZP-11 at NAS South Weymouth during the Second World War and later served with reserve blimp patrol squadron ZP-911 at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. He appears to have been the last person in the local area who actually flew blimps on combat patrols from NAS South Weymouth during the war. In fact, Domenic was on board the very first blimp to touch down on NAS South Weymouth on the day the base was commissioned in March 1942. Some of you may recall that he visited the museum briefly with his son last year and was in the short video that LStar Management recently commissioned for the museum.

On Thursday February 25th we opened the museum up at 6 PM for the members of Weymouth Cub Scout Pack 9 Den 1. The Cub Scouts had a requirement to visit a military installation, past or present, and speak to a veteran. Both requirements were satisfied by a visit to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Six Cub Scouts plus Den Mother Jennifer Camacho and several parents came. As we've indicated previously, if you are involved with a group that would like to come to the museum

or would like a presentation on the history of NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum, contact one of the directors and we will try to accommodate you.

On Saturday March 12th SN Andrew Fonticella, CS1 Pedro Card, AN Desirae Becker, and ADAN Aubrey Garcia from the USS Constitution came to visit the museum. The four sailors often do volunteer work for the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans during their off-duty time along with Patriot Squadron members Frank Ward and Gerald Peron.

Speaking of Gerald Peron, he recently generously donated some ball caps to the Shea Naval Aviation museum decorated with a navy blue airplane graphic and "NAS South Weymouth". These caps are available at the museum in khaki and white for \$20 while the supply lasts. There's a photo of Gerald wearing one of these caps in our photo section on page 8.

On Saturday March 26th the ANA Patriot Squadron conducted its annual meeting. During the meeting, Faith Frattasio was voted in to replace Mark Danckert as Controller and Russ Monaghan was voted in to replace Frank Ward as Membership Director. Peter Jardim was appointed Museum Director, replacing Marc Frattasio in that role. Marc remains on the Museum Committee. Steve Cohn was appointed to the Museum Committee, replacing Faith Frattasio. In addition, Steve was appointed Assistant PAO to help Marc in that role. All other directorships and other positions remain the same as they were.

As some of you may know, Marc Frattasio has been working on a comprehensive illustrated history of NAS South Weymouth for the past eight years or so. This book was completed in late March and is now available in softcover and hardcover editions. The book came out to 739 pages with 828 illustrations. It is similar in format to the book that he previously wrote about NAS Squantum, but is nearly twice as thick. It is most likely the biggest book that you have ever seen except perhaps for the old Boston telephone directory. Several copies were donated to the museum, one to be retained for reference and the others to sell to raise funds for the squadron. However, by the time you read this all the copies that were available for sale at the museum are probably gone. To order a copy of this and other books about NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum on-line go to the "geedunk" link on our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

We were asked not to disclose this to anybody at the time, but the Shea Fitness Center gymnasium was recently rented to a film company making a movie about the 2013 terrorist attack on the Boston Marathon ("Patriot's Day"). As you should know, the Shea Naval Aviation Museum is located in this building. In April the film company built and used a set representing a college dorm room in the basketball court, which is adjacent to the museum area. Due to the film related work we were prohibited from entering the building for the entire month, forcing us to cancel all Patriot Squadron events. The film company was supposed to have exclusive use of the building through the end of May, but they finished early. Thus, we were allowed back into the building in time for the first regular open house in May on May 14th.

Please note that the guest speaker who was supposed to come to the museum on April 30th, Mr. Oscar Orringer of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, will come on Saturday July 30th. His presentation will cover recent Coast Guard efforts to rescue the crew of the sailboat Sedona, which foundered 140 miles off Nantucket during a blizzard and to rescue some duck-hunters who drifted out to sea. Among the many USCG assets that participated in these operations was a Jayhawk helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. An event flyer, which we hope you will pass on to friends and post on local public bulletin boards, will be circulated to the membership in late June or early July.

We had very interesting visitors at the museum on Saturday May 14th. Don Peterson and his wife came all the way from Red Hook, NY. Don was an AT2 with the Naval Air Development Unit at NAS South Weymouth during the late 1950s. He actually helped the late John Yaney with the book that he put together about NADU. This was Don's first trip to old NAS South Weymouth in many years. He's a HAM radio operator (W1SWM) and came to the museum with fellow HAM enthusiast Steve Cohn.

Recent acquisitions for the museum include a presentation case decorated with the old shield-shaped NAS South Weymouth base insignia, a VS-916 squadron plaque, and an NAS South Weymouth shaving mug donated by Marc Frattasio, a porcelain hat stand from the PartyLite Candle Company via Faith Frattasio, several books and some memorabilia pertaining to HSL-74 donated by visitor Francis Foster, and a South Weymouth book donated by John Edwards. Marc and Faith Frattasio also donated a new American flag, POW/MIA flag, and U.S. Navy flag for the Shea Memorial Grove.

COMING UP:

A friendly reminder that the Experimental Aircraft Association chapter that operates from Cranland Airport on Route 58 in Halifax, MA holds a pancake breakfast and fly-in on the third Sunday of every month starting in April and ending in October. This event starts around 8 AM and goes until the food runs out. It's an inexpensive (\$7 per person I think) breakfast composed of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee. In addition, dozens of light civilian aircraft fly in and out of the airfield all morning. A number of ANA Patriot Squadron members go there on a regular basis including George Driscoll, Dan Haff, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Richard LaBranche, Bob Mandeville, Joe Mortland, Bob O'Brien, and Susan Zimmerman. Come on by if you live in the area.

There will be a Town Festival on the soccer field next to the Shea Fitness Center on Saturday June 18th. We intend to have the museum open that day and have a table on the field to sell ball caps, t-shirts, pint glasses, keychains, challenge coins, patches, etc., to raise funds for the museum. Marc and Faith Frattasio and Susan Zimmerman have volunteered to tend the table but we also need people to staff the museum that day. Please note that we will most likely have tables at other events in and around Weymouth as the year progresses (such as Weymouth Day at the Weymouth Farmer's Market) and can use whatever help at these events that we can get.



We ordered more Marine Air Reserve – South Weymouth, MA ball caps to sell at the Town Festival and other events. These should be available soon after you read this. Please note that we only ordered red caps since these proved more popular than the khaki caps the last time we had them.

Steve Cohn will organize another public W1NAS HAM radio event at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum and Shea Memorial Grove on Saturday August 20th as he did last year. We will distribute a promotional flyer in PDF format to all members sometime in July. For more information about this event, go to our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

Author Tommy Thomason, an extremely popular previous guest speaker, will be coming back to the museum on Saturday September 24th to give a presentation and book signing for the first installment in what will be at least two books about the Grumman S-2 Tracker. Several different versions of the S-2 were flown out of NAS South Weymouth between the mid-1950s and late 1970s. These aircraft were flown by the Naval Air Development Unit, several Naval Air Reserve VS squadrons, and also in later years by the base itself for pilot proficiency training and utility purposes. Tommy's new book has 200 pages, 110 drawings, 374 B&W photos, and 14 color photos. It lists for \$46.95. If you can't wait to purchase one from the author at the museum on September 24th you can order a copy directly from the publisher on-line at www.ginterbooks.com/NAVAL/NF101.htm. Tommy will personally autograph all books purchased from him at the museum or brought in from the outside.

We've been doing a fairly good job booking guest speakers for the museum. It looks like our own Dann Haff will give a presentation on military timepieces on January 28th and that we will have Len Sandler give a talk and do a book-signing on April 29th next year (2017). Member Dan Haff collects military watches and clocks. He's presently working with Steve Cohn on a presentation centered around his military timepiece collection. Len Sandler, as you should remember, wrote a book about local Medal of Honor recipient Army SFC Jared Monti and gave a presentation at the museum last year. Len is presently finishing up a new book about a downed Army Air Forces B-26 Marauder crew's escape from occupied France during the Second World War. This new book, like his previous book about Jared Monti, is a true story and will be the subject of his presentation in April. There will be more information in future editions of this newsletter about both events as they approach.

Getting back to September 24th, this will be a very busy day at the museum. Not only will we have author Tommy Thomason coming to give a lecture and do a book signing, we also expect to have many members of the VP Association visit that day. The VP Association will hold their annual reunion at the Weymouth Elks Hall starting at noon on that day and as we have done in the past, we will extend an invitation for their members to visit the museum.

A reunion event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the closing of NAS South Weymouth is under consideration for Saturday September 30, 2017, but only if there is sufficient interest to do so. This date marks the 20th anniversary of the base closure ceremony, which was held on September 30, 1997. The proposed event, which would be open to anybody who was associated with or interested in NAS South Weymouth (military or civilian), would be held at a local venue and run from noon to 5 PM. It would include a continuous slide show of historic photos associated with the base, a presentation on the history of NAS South Weymouth, and a buffet dinner. If possible, the event will also feature a VIP guest speaker associated with the base (Ideally, we'd like to get the last base commanding officer, CAPT Dietsch, up from Virginia to talk about his experience closing the base). Each attendee would be presented with a commemorative NAS South Weymouth polo shirt in his or her size. The event would be strictly limited to 300 people and would cost about \$50 per person (we need to get 300 people to commit to go in order to stick to this price). Reservations would be required in advance. The Shea Naval Aviation Museum would be opened from 9 AM to noon for reunion attendees and all proceeds collected over the actual cost of the event would be donated to the museum. The event will only be organized if there is sufficient interest expressed, that being a total of 300 people definitely willing to go. A commitment will be necessary before the end of September this year since it will be necessary to make a deposit on the venue and arrange for the banquet a year in advance. If you would definitely (not maybe) attend this event, please go to the

“NAS South Weymouth Reunion” group on Facebook at www.facebook.com and become a member of this group to get put on the list. There would be a substantial up-front financial outlay required to organize this event, which the prospective organizer (your newsletter editor, actually) will only do if he can be assured of getting his money back. Please respond only if you would definitely attend.

As always, we want to remind you that the ANA Patriot Squadron is an affiliate of the national Association of Naval Aviation. Basically, we are chartered through the Association of Naval Aviation. Your \$15 annual dues (payable by December 31st each year for the next year unless you have taken advantage of the \$40 three year membership option) makes you a member of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum’s support group only. It does not automatically make you a member of the Association of Naval Aviation. This is fine and in fact vital for our survival since your membership dues helps us keep the museum going, but we highly encourage our members to also join the national ANA group. Like the ANA Patriot Squadron, the national ANA group is also a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation. Therefore your \$40 national ANA membership fee, like your \$15 ANA Patriot Squadron membership fee, should be tax-deductible. Membership in the national ANA includes a subscription to their “Wings of Gold” magazine, which is a very interesting publication on its own merits. In addition, according to our bylaws certain leadership and administrative positions within the ANA Patriot Squadron can only be held by people who are members of the Association of Naval Aviation. For more information about the national ANA or to join go to www.anahq.org.

We have another batch of eleven memorial bricks scheduled to be shipped on or about June 1st that will be placed in the ground at the Shea Memorial Grove as soon as possible after they arrive. Marc Frattasio will most likely install the bricks in the ground himself. However, we will need some help throughout the summer and fall cleaning up the bricks. This would involve using a broom to brush sand and debris off the bricks, making adjustments to bricks that have settled, re-doing the polymeric sand, weeding, spraying insecticide, etc. This is something that could be done by anybody at any time. Please note that after the latest batch of bricks go into the ground there will probably still be room for another 30 bricks or so. Thus, if you or anybody you know would like to have a memorial brick at the Shea Memorial Grove its not too late to do so, but the memorial brick project will definitely be winding down at some point in the near future. As of today, we have one new brick order pending but need nine more to actually place an order with the vendor.

HELP WANTED:

We are still looking for help in running this organization and in tending the museum and Shea Memorial Grove. If you’d like to help, talk to any director at one of our monthly meetings. Fairly comprehensive descriptions of the things we need help with have been published over and over again in previous issues of this newsletter. You can check out all the issues that have been produced to date on line on our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

Please note that Faith Frattasio has agreed to take over the recording secretary role from Bob Muise. Starting on Saturday June 25th Faith will begin taking notes during the monthly meetings and will type them up for distribution afterwards.

We are always looking for military artifacts such as cruisebooks, squadron patches, command ball caps, photographs, films, command coffee mugs, base newspapers, uniform items, geedunk of any kind featuring command or base insignias, etc., pertaining to NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth to display in the museum. Photos, slides, and films can be copied and returned to you if you don’t want to give them up. The museum can basically use anything associated with the military history of NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth. Remember, the ANA Patriot Squadron/Shea

Naval Aviation Museum is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization so the cash value of anything that you donate may be tax-deductible.

The museum can always use cash donations too. As indicated above, we are a 501c3 non-profit educational organization and cash donations can be written off on your income taxes as charitable contributions. The museum literally operates on a shoestring and we can use any financial help that we can get. Your \$15 per year annual membership dues and the little money that we get from the museum's donation jars and sales of memorabilia is stretched very thin. If you're looking for a tax write-off, please consider the ANA Patriot Squadron.

Note, due to some recent uniform donations we now need more manikins and display torsos. For a while there we thought we had enough of these things, but now we can use more of them. For the benefit of new members, we acquired four male manikins and four male display torsos some months ago from the J. C. Penny store at the Hanover Mall when it closed. If you happen to see a clothing store or department store that's closing, please go in and ask the store manager if he or she has any manikins that they can give to the museum. We mainly need male manikins and display torsos, but we can use a few female ones too. We've been promised a Second World War vintage WAVE's working uniform. This item has not materialized yet, but we're confident that it will walk in the door someday! Note, the manikins and torsos obtained from J. C. Penny were originally priced at \$200 each. We asked the store manager if she'd consider donating them to the museum, which is a 501c3 non-profit educational operation. She told us that she was not authorized to give anything away, but compromised by allowing us to buy eight of these things for a total of \$200. The bottom line, it never hurts to ask.

We really need a pop-up type tent for when we set up a table at local events such as the Town Festival, Weymouth Farmer's Market, etc. So far we have been able to borrow one from one of Marc Frattasio's brothers, but we can't always depend on this. We need a pop-up tent that is sized to cover a standard eight-foot folding table. If anybody would like to donate one of these things to the group, you can write the expenditure off on your income taxes as a charitable donation to a 501c3.

Here's something else we can use some help with. We have a lot of photos, posters, maps and other such things that really should be framed for display and protection. If you've got some cash burning a hole in your wallet perhaps you might consider framing one or more items for us.

We are always looking for new members and help in getting them. We can also use help in publicizing the ANA Patriot Squadron and 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 public bulletin board where you can put a flyer.

We need help promoting our guest speakers and other special events. We will send flyers to all members with e-mail addresses in PDF format a few weeks before these events and put a link to the flyer on our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. If you can do so, please print a few flyers after they appear via e-mail or on the web site and post them locally where people can see them. Civilian airports, libraries, grocery stores, and post offices usually have public bulletin boards. Places that veterans frequent such as the VFW or American Legion are good places too.

Never assume that people know about the ANA Patriot Squadron or Shea Naval Aviation Museum. If you have friends who were associated with NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum or know anybody who is interested in military history or aviation please tell them about us. In order for this group to continue we need to attract new members, especially those who want to take an active role.

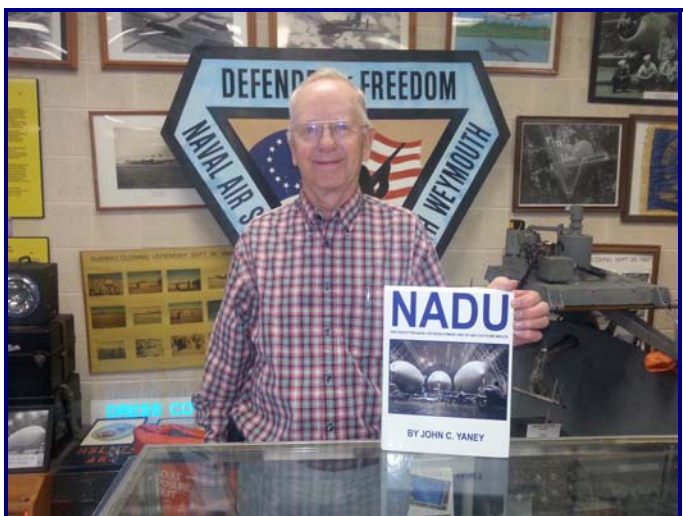
If you've been away from the ANA Patriot Squadron for a while, come visit the museum during one of our open houses and check out what we've been doing while you've been away. You will be pleasantly surprised with what we've accomplished. A few months ago we had business cards printed up with the museum's hours of operation and our web site's URL. Stick some in your wallet and hand them out when the opportunity presents itself. Remember, this is OUR group and its up to all of us to pitch in and make it what we want it to be.

DID YOU KNOW?:

During the Second World War most able-bodied young men were drafted or volunteered for military service, creating a shortage of men suitable to work as civilian security guards at NAS South Weymouth. Thus, a force of armed women guarded the base during the war. Initially resisted by the Navy Department but championed by Major Chester Knowles of the base Marine Detachment, the women worked out so well that they were later used at other naval installations. The photo below shows some of these women carefully checking out a car that's leaving the base via the old main gate on White Street. Note that one woman is standing in front of the car with her shotgun at the ready while another is up on the heavily sandbagged observation platform on top of the guard shack.



SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Marc Frattasio with Cub Scouts. **Top Right:** USS Constitution crew at the museum. **Middle Left:** Retired Seabee CPO Gerald Perron with new ball cap. **Middle Right:** We could not meet at the museum on April 30th but a few of us went to Warren's Place for lunch anyway. **Bottom Left:** Ex-NADU museum visitor Don Peterson with the late John Yaney's NADU book. **Bottom Right:** Bob Mandeville with Blackhawk helicopter at recent pancake breakfast at Cranland airport.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



This rare color photo shows ZP-911 personnel with a reserve ZNP-K type blimp at NAS Quantum sometime during the early 1950s. ZP-911 was formed at NAS Quantum in 1950. Since Quantum did not have a hangar large enough to house a blimp, the squadron borrowed one on drill weekends from the Naval Air Reserve Training Unit at NAS Lakehurst, NJ. Weather permitting, a ZP-911 crew would be flown to NAS Lakehurst on board an R4D on Friday night, stay overnight at Lakehurst, and then fly a blimp from Lakehurst to Quantum on Saturday morning. On Sunday a different ZP-911 crew would fly the blimp back to Lakehurst and return to Quantum that night via R4D. When the reserve program moved to NAS South Weymouth, which had a blimp hangar, the ZP-911 people were supposed to get a blimp of their own. However, the Naval Air Development Unit, which operated the much bigger ZPG2 type blimps, would not release sufficient hangar space to ZP-911 since it was unknown how many blimps they might need to operate to support Project Lincoln. Thus, ZP-911 had to borrow blimps from NARTU Lakehurst until the squadron was disbanded in 1958.

