



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:

First up, we'd like to welcome new members Peter Harrington and Vincent Gallagher to the ANA Patriot Squadron. We hope you can make it to our monthly meetings and become active members.

On Saturday March 25th the Patriot Squadron's board of directors conducted the group's annual meeting at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Earlier that day, member Steve Cohn (W1OD) and radio club K1USN members Bob Azanow (KA1KIJ), Warren Dickie (WA1YKF), and Larry Kenney (W1VP) delivered a large quantity of former USN radio communications equipment to the museum. This equipment, which is fully operational, will be put on display and will also be used for various events associated with the museum's ham radio club, W1NAS. If you would like to become involved with W1NAS, please contact Steve Cohn directly at w1od@arrl.net. Ham radio is not only an interesting hobby, it's also a useful skill and capability to have in the event of a disaster such as a severe hurricane or an act of terrorism that brings down the telephone system.

On Saturday April 15th Faith and Marc Frattasio put fifteen more memorial bricks down along the main pathway into the Shea Memorial Grove. We thought that this would complete the memorial brick

project, but it turned out that we miscalculated and there is space in this area for six more memorial bricks. These last six bricks were sold within a day of the announcement and they should be in the ground around the time you get this newsletter, thus concluding this project with a total of 227 bricks in the ground. We will still need help maintaining the bricks. They will periodically need to be cleaned, weeded, have more polymeric sand put down, etc., in order to keep them presentable. Bob Mandeville came by the Grove on Memorial Day Weekend to tidy up the bricks. Thank you Bob!

On Saturday April 29th local author Len Sandler came to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum to give a talk and do a book signing about the subject of his new book, "Because of You We Live", the true story of a downed Army Air Forces B-26 Marauder crew's escape from occupied France during WW2. As you should know, Len previously came to the museum to talk about local Medal of Honor recipient Army SFC Jared Monti and sign copies of the Jared Monti story "See You on the High Ground". Len's presentation was attended by 45 Patriot Squadron members and guests. If you were not able to attend and would like a copy of his book check out <http://becauseofyouwelve.com> on the Internet.

On Saturday May 27th Union Point master developer LStar Senior Vice President Thomas Berkley attended our monthly member's meeting at the museum. He expressed interest in serving as the official liaison between LStar and the ANA Patriot Squadron and said that he'd try to attend our meetings on a regular basis. So, if you happen to be at any of our meetings and see Thomas Berkley there, be sure to introduce yourself and thank him for his interest.

We'd like to give special recognition to member Claudette Shea of the famous Shea family for whom the Shea Naval Aviation Museum, Shea Fitness Center, Shea Memorial Grove, Shea Memorial Drive, etc., was named. Claudette kindly offered to help us frame some of our photos and paintings so we can better display them at the museum. She started off by framing some really nice items that we're going to raffle off at the upcoming NAS South Weymouth and VMA-322 reunion (see more information below) as a fund-raiser for the museum. She framed two very nice original NAS South Weymouth air show posters, a "Save The Base" flyer from the BRAC era, and an official VMA-322 squadron photo. So, if you happen to run into Claudette at the museum please be sure to thank her. Custom framing is an expensive proposition.

Among the artifacts donated to the museum in recent months was an aircraft sextant that was brought in by Mary Breen. The sextant was used by her father, Captain Vincent Breen, who was a navigator in the Pacific during the Second World War. Captain Breen was also a reservist for many years at NAS South Weymouth. Other items recently donated to the museum include an HU-911 squadron patch and a copy of Janet Estes' new book "Lighter than Air" donated by Marc Frattasio, some photos and a VIP pass from an air show at NAS South Weymouth donated by Peter Crone, an official USN personal sewing kit and some official USN air show photos donated by Susan Zimmerman, and an NAS South Weymouth commemorative paperweight, some air show pins, and some other small items that were brought in to us by Doug Folsom but were actually donated by his brother-in-law (whose name we do not know!). The museum always welcomes donations of artifacts associated with the military history of NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum.

COMING UP:

We've been told that LStar intends to perform major rehabilitative work on the Shea Fitness Center building sometime this year, possibly in the summer or fall, but we do not know for certain when this will happen. While work is in progress we may have to restrict access to the museum for an as-yet undetermined period of time. We'll report more about this to you as we learn more about it ourselves.

As we've done for the past two years, we hope (provided that the Shea Fitness Center building isn't being rehabilitated at that time) to have another public ham radio event at and around the Shea Naval Aviation museum this year on Saturday August 19th. Steve Cohn is organizing this event for the museum's ham radio club, W1NAS, with the help of the members of ham radio club K1USN. As in previous years the ham radio event will commemorate the record-breaking flight of the Navy blimp Snow Goose from NAS South Weymouth to the Arctic Circle while the submarine USS Nautilus cruised under the polar ice cap in 1958. We will hopefully have the museum's permanent radio station operational on that day, our old Navy Collins gear that was donated (on permanent loan) by K1USN. It will be operating on amplitude modulation (AM) frequencies, as did most radios of that era. We'll also hopefully have phone and CW operating from the Museum too. More information will be provided as this event approaches. Feel free to invite anybody you know who might be interested. Also, if you or anybody you know would like to become qualified to operate a ham radio contact Steve directly at n1nqr@verizon.net.

Due to the upcoming NAS South Weymouth and VMA-322 reunion, we're not going to host a guest speaker at the museum on Saturday September 30th, which is the last Saturday of that month. Instead, we will have local author and Patriot Squadron member John Galluzzo come to the museum on Saturday September 9th, which is the second Saturday of that month, to give a talk and do a book signing related to his new book, "Massachusetts Aviation". More information and an event flyer will be distributed as this date approaches. Please note that this event, and all others too, may be cancelled if the Shea Naval Aviation Museum happens to be undergoing renovations at that time.

It looks like we are going to have Tom Pandolfi, who is reputed to have the largest private collection of American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") memorabilia in the world, come to the museum on Saturday January 27, 2018 – provided of course that we are still open to the public. More information will be provided as the date approaches. We are all set for guest speakers through the end of this year and a little beyond. As you should know, we try to schedule guest speakers for the museum on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September when possible. Any constructive suggestions that any of you might have for guest speakers for the last Saturdays in April and September 2018 would be much appreciated.

As you all should know there are three important anniversaries coming up this year, the first of these being the 20th anniversary of the closing of NAS South Weymouth, the second being the 25th anniversary of the deactivation of Marine Air Reserve attack squadron VMA-322, and the third being the 10th anniversary of the disestablishment of Naval Air Reserve patrol squadron VP-92. VMA-322 was deactivated at NAS South Weymouth in 1992 but VP-92, which was based at NAS South Weymouth from 1970 until 1996, was relocated to NAS Brunswick just before NAS South Weymouth was closed and was disestablished there in 2007.

There will be a joint reunion event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the closing of NAS South Weymouth and the 25th anniversary of the deactivation of VMA-322 held in Randolph, Massachusetts on Saturday September 30th. This date is 20 years to the day that NAS South Weymouth was decommissioned on September 30th 1997. Anybody who served at NAS South Weymouth, worked at NAS South Weymouth, or is merely interested in NAS South Weymouth (or VMA-322) is welcome to come. You do not have to be former military to attend and civilians will be made very welcome. Due to space limitations attendance is limited to no more than 230 people. Admission costs \$50 per person. This gets you a nice meal and your choice of one of three different special commemorative polo shirts. There will be a continuous slide show of more than 2,000 historic images, two guest speakers, and a presentation on the history of the base. The guest speakers will be retired Navy captain and former state legislator Paul Haley and retired Marine colonel and VMA-322 commanding officer Andrew Ley. We're hoping to have two and possibly five or more authors present who have

written books about NAS South Weymouth. For more details, the proposed event schedule, and a reservation form please go to our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. You can also obtain a reservation form at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum at the museum. Reservations are required in advance if you want to go to this event. These will be taken first-come first-served until 230 are sold or until August 1st, whichever comes first. No walk-ins will be admitted on the day of this event. All funds collected over the cost of organizing this event will be donated to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. There will also be a sales table and a raffle of base and VMA-322 related memorabilia to benefit the museum. The museum will be open from 9 AM to noon (we hope) and reunion attendees will be encouraged to come and to consider donating artifacts to the museum and joining the Patriot Squadron. Please try to go to this important event if you can. It should be a really good time.

A VP-92 10th anniversary reunion has been scheduled for Friday August 25th through Sunday August 27th in the Brunswick, Maine area. There will be a variety of events scheduled for each day and that weekend happens to coincide with the appearance of the Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team at the Great State of Maine Air Show at former NAS Brunswick. The main event will be a squadron picnic type gathering at the new Flight Deck brewpub located on the old base. This costs \$45 per person. As is the case with the NAS South Weymouth and VMA-322 event described above, reservations are required in advance. For more information about this event and for the reservation form please go to the VP Association's web site at www.vpassociation.org.

HELP WANTED:

We are still looking for help in running this organization and in tending the museum and the Shea Memorial Grove. If you'd like to help, please talk to any director at one of our monthly meetings. Fairly comprehensive descriptions of the kinds of 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 the recent passing of long-time member Leo Lazo leaves two positions in our organizational structure vacant, "Judge Advocate" and "Chaplain". If you are an attorney and would be interested in providing occasional advice to the board of directors on legal matters, then perhaps you might consider becoming our Judge Advocate. If you attend our monthly meetings on a regular basis and would like to conduct the invocation that opens the meetings, then please consider becoming our Chaplain. For more information or to express interest in either position speak to any director at one of our monthly meetings.

We need to do some cosmetic work on the A-4 Skyhawk jet at the Shea Memorial Grove. Specifically, we will need to wash the aircraft and touch up the paintwork. We will need help with the washing operation, surveying and recording what needs to be touched up, and doing the actual paintwork. We'd like to do this sometime during the summer or early fall period when the weather is favorable. We also need to repaint the benches at the Grove and do some other painting there. A committee was formed to get this done and if you'd like to get involved please talk to Marc Frattasio, Peter Jardim, or Bill Sargent at one of our monthly meetings at the museum.

We previously mentioned that we have an opportunity to get some aircraft and major aircraft components such as a Grumman C-1 Trader cockpit from the recently closed Quonset Air Museum. If we go forward with this we will need help potentially with the disassembly, transportation, storage, reassembly, and cosmetic restoration of anything we end up taking. This will require both labor and cash. If you'd like to help out contact Peter Jardim directly at zorak36@hotmail.com. Please note that we have to make a decision on the acquisition of the aircraft no later than the end of June. We recently reached out to our friends at LStar to see if anything can be done to secure space to

temporarily store and permanently display these aircraft. We are hoping to have an answer from LStar by the time of our next meeting at the museum on Saturday June 24th and take a vote on this matter. If you have any feelings either way regarding this project that you'd like to have heard contact Peter Jardim at the e-mail address presented above and if you can please be sure to attend the meeting on June 24th.

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 donate to the museum. We mainly need male manikins and display torsos, but we can use a few female ones too.

Here are a few specific things that we can use for the museum. We'd like a khaki flight suit of the type that was used by the Navy and Marine Corps during the 1950s and early 1960s. These were made of cotton and had pointed collars and button-down flaps over the pockets. We have a really nice 1950s vintage parachute harness that would look really nice with one of these khaki flight suits. We can also use a yellow "Mae West" type life preserver with "USN" printed on the back of the type used during the 1950s and 1960s. We are also looking for an LPA/LPU type integrated life preserver and survival vest of the type worn by aircrew during the 1980s and 1990s. We have the survival vest part, but what we really need to go with a green Nomex flight suit display that we have set up is the integrated life preserver with survival vest.

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?:



On the morning of March 15, 1944 a ZNP-K type blimp from NAS South Weymouth's ZP-11, the K-9, accidentally dropped a live MK-47 depth bomb over a thickly settled residential section of North Abington, Massachusetts. The depth bomb, which was filled with the high-explosive substance Torpex, came to rest on the ground between two occupied homes on Plymouth Street (Route 58). Luckily for the people living in those two houses as well as in the nearby area, the bomb did not explode. It was safely disarmed on site by Navy explosive ordnance disposal personnel from the Boston Navy Yard. This photo, which came from the National Archives in College Park, MD, shows the depth bomb just before it was disarmed.

SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Bob Azanow, Steve Cohn, and Larry Kenny with radio equipment. **Top Right:** Marc and Faith Frattasio putting more memorial bricks down at the Shea Memorial Grove. **Middle Left and Right:** Members at a recent luncheon at Warren's Place. **Bottom Left:** Author Len Sandler's presentation at the museum. **Bottom Right:** Claudette Shea with an NAS South Weymouth air show poster that she framed for us to raffle off as a fund-raiser for the museum at the upcoming reunion.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Long before VR-62 was transferred from NAF Detroit to NAS South Weymouth in 1994 to operate Lockheed C-130T Hercules aircraft during the final few years before the base closed, there were several other Naval Air Reserve transport squadrons at the base. VR-911 and VR-912 were moved from NAS Squantum to NAS South Weymouth in December 1953 and operated Douglas R4D Skytrains for a few weeks before transitioning to larger Douglas R5D Skymasters. In 1956 VR-913 and VR-914 were established on the base. By 1968 VR-913 and VR-914 had been disestablished and VR-911 and VR-912 had been redesignated VR-62Z1 and VR-1Z2 respectively. By the end of 1970 both squadrons had been disestablished as part of a general reorganization of the Naval Air Reserve that also resulted in NAS South Weymouth losing its remaining HS, VA, and VS squadrons. The photo presented above shows C-54P (R5D) BuNo 50865 from NAS South Weymouth's reserve aircraft pool sometime in 1970, not long before the type and the VR squadrons that flew it, were removed from the base. Note the "new" Hangar One in an advanced state of construction in the background. The hangar looks basically complete (it was opened in November 1970) and it appears that the shingles are being put down on the roof.

