



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 our monthly meetings with what's happening within the squadron and perhaps inspire everyone to take a more active role in this organization.

RECENT NEWS:

As reported in the previous issue, many Patriot Squadron members have been working on Saturdays between 9 AM and noon for the past several months to get the old Coast Guard housing office building at Union Point in order so we can hold the grand reopening event for the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday June 14th. As of this writing, this date is only a few weeks away.

The plan for June 14th is to hold a public ceremony at the Shea Memorial Grove from 11 AM to noon where we will rededicate the repainted A-4B Skyhawk jet and the restored blue and gold signs at the park. At the conclusion of the ceremony we will invite everyone to come to the old Coast Guard housing office building to see the museum. As of this writing final preparations are being made to put a selection of artifacts on display that will be interesting and attractive for the grand reopening.

This will not be the final configuration of the museum. At this time we are just trying to organize a display of artifacts that looks interesting and attractive. As time goes on we'll make adjustments to what we have on display.



In the image at the top of this page Steve Cohen and Frank Sargent have finished mounting a large NAS South Weymouth sign that came from one of the old buildings on the base in the foyer at what will be the main entrance to the museum. At above left Rita Cavanaugh is polishing a punch bowl while Joe Muise checks out a display case and at above right Gerti Gillen is cleaning some framed pictures.



At top left Joe Muise is doing a little carpet-cleaning while at top right Larry Cole is working on filling a display case. In the image presented directly above Joe Muise, Al Firnrohr, and Steve Cohn are taking inventory of artifacts that were taken out of storage in preparation for putting them on display.

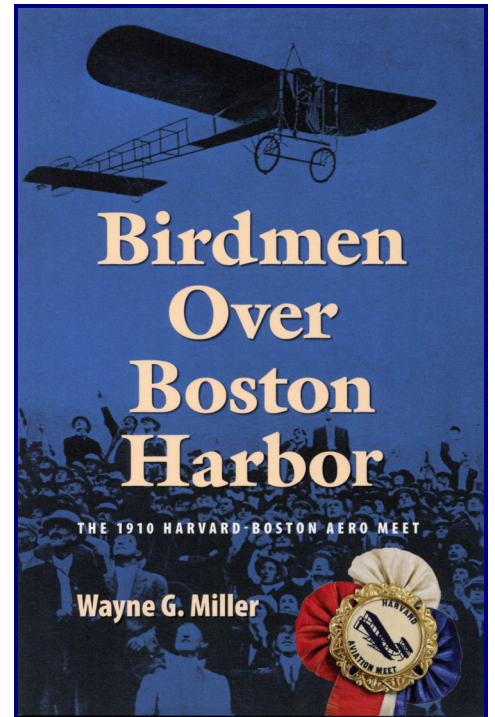


In the top image Steve Cohn, Al Firnrohr, Wally Massenburg, Joe Muise, Gene Sich, Donald Canaday, and Bill Sargent strategize about opening day. At above left Larry Cole, Al Firnrohr, Donald Canaday, Steve Cohn, and Gene Sich inspect a display case set up by Larry Cole. At above right Steve Cohn and Al Firnrohr check out digital slide shows that will be shown on opening day.



As part of the museum project, several Patriot Squadron members including Donald Canaday, Allan Gilman, Wally Massenburg, Joe Muise and Gene Sich have been preparing the C-1A Trader cockpit stored in Gene Sich's barn for relocation to the Coast Guard housing office building. The move to Union Point is supposed to happen on Saturday June 7th. Here are Gene Sich and Joe Muise posed with the cockpit after they replaced the wheels on the wooden frame.

Membership director Wally Massenburg has been busy in recent months presenting awards to outstanding JNROTC cadets at various high schools in eastern Massachusetts. In the image presented at right Wally and Patriot Squadron member Dennis Kilene are presenting awards on behalf of the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Daedalian Society to an NJROTC cadet at the BMC Durfee High School in New Bedford on Tuesday May 20th.



On Thursday March 6th your newsletter editor represented the ANA Patriot Squadron at a lecture and book-signing event held at the Quincy Historical Society's museum in Quincy, MA to debut author Wayne Miller's new book, "Birdmen Over Boston Harbor". The book is about the Harvard-Boston Aero Meet that was held in Quincy's Squantum neighborhood in September 1910. This event is historically significant from a number of perspectives, one being that it was the very first public air show held in New England. Another is that the airfield built by Harvard University to support the Aero Meet later became the site of NAS Squantum. In the image presented above left, your newsletter editor is shaking hands with Wayne Miller. The image at right shows the cover of Wayne Miller's new

book. Wayne Miller will be selling and signing his book at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday June 14th. If you can't make it, you can purchase copies through Amazon or any decent book store. Note, the jacket that your newsletter editor wore to the lecture and book-signing event is a WW2 Navy M422 flight jacket with original Chenille NAS Squantum patch that was given to him many years ago by the late Francis MacIntire. Francis was a WW2 veteran who served as an active-duty station keeper at NAS Squantum during the immediate post-war era. He helped re-establish the reserve training program at Squantum after the war and then helped move it to NAS South Weymouth in 1953. Francis had a very interesting military and civilian career. In the Navy, he was a crew chief or flight engineer on transport and patrol aircraft. After he left the Navy he worked as a corporate pilot for Gillette.

COMING UP:

To reiterate, we will hold a rededication ceremony at the Shea Memorial Grove and a grand reopening for the Shea Naval Aviation Museum at Union Point on Saturday June 14th. Pass the word to anybody you think might be interested in coming. All members are encouraged to come. If you are able to do so, please wear a uniform. The day's activities will commence at 11 AM at the Shea Memorial Grove park where we will rededicate the recently repainted A-4B Skyhawk jet and the recently restored blue and gold wooden signs at the entrance to the park and along Shea Memorial Drive. As you should know, ANA Patriot Squadron members raised over \$24,000 to have the R. J. McCauliffe Painting Company repaint the jet late last year. The signs were recently restored by Weymouth Middle School students under the direction of shop teacher Brian Ash as a class project. Membership director Vice Admiral Wally Massenburg (USN Retired) will be the keynote speaker at the ceremony at the Shea Memorial Grove. We expect Weymouth Mayor Robert Hedlund, State Senator Patrick O'Connor, and several other local VIPs to attend. After the ceremony concludes, everybody will be invited to come to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum at its new venue in the former Coast Guard housing office building. This is a small white cinder block structure located directly behind the soccer fields at the Union Point Sports Complex. To get there from the Shea Memorial Grove, head towards old Hangar Two and take a left at the Sports Complex. The soccer fields will be on your right. Head past them as far as you can go and you can't miss the building.

HELP WANTED:

After we reopen the museum we will need people to commit to staff it on a regular schedule and also to help clean and maintain the building. We will also need people to organize and participate in fund-raising efforts. We will need funds to operate the museum. As some of you may recall, we used to set up fund-raising sales tables at various events in the Weymouth area but have not done so for over a year. We will need people to continue doing this going forward. If you know anybody who you think might want to help with the museum, please tell them about us.

All members should have received a fund-raising solicitation from membership director Wally Massenburg. Our fund-raising goal for this year is \$15,000. As of this writing we are about one third of the way towards achieving this goal. At some point we would like to pursue grants and can use help from anybody out there who might be experienced with grant-writing.

There are several roles within the organization that can use filling. If you would be willing to take a more active role in the group and fill one of these roles, please reach out to any of the directors at any of our monthly meetings.

DID YOU KNOW?



Following the Second World War the Naval Air Reserve organized many reserve carrier air groups composed of reserve fighter and attack squadrons assigned to reserve light carriers (CVLs) and escort carriers (CVEs). The reserve carrier air groups were embarked on their reserve aircraft carriers during the reservists' two-week annual training periods. The reserve carrier air groups were disbanded in a reorganization of the Naval Air Reserve that took place in 1949. For a time afterwards the Naval Air Reserve attempted to maintain carrier qualifications for pilots of carrier type aircraft. This photo shows reservists from NAS Squantum embarked on board the light carrier USS Monterey (CVL-26) for carrier qualifications in February 1952. Unfortunately, the demands of carrier aviation proved to be a bit much for pilots who flew off ships for only a couple of days every few years and so the reserve stopped requiring periodic carrier qualifications. The lack of carrier qualified reserve pilots exposed problems in the reserve training program during the reserve call-up in response to the capture of the technical research ship USS Pueblo (AGER-2) by North Korean military forces in January 1968. This led to another reorganization of the Naval Air Reserve in 1970 that was intended to ensure that reservists received the same kind of training and maintained the same qualifications as their regular Navy counterparts.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Reserve FG-1 Corsair parked in front of the aircraft overhaul shop at NAS Quantum sometime during the early 1950s. The aircraft overhaul shop was one of several structures at NAS Quantum that was re-purposed by reservists, led by the famous John J. Shea, from structures that were originally built as part of the First World War Bethlehem Steel "Victory Plant" shipyard.

