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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:

We've had a VERY BUSY quarter, as evidenced by the double photo section this time around.

But first we have sad news. Dr. Vincent Pattavina MD passed away on Thursday November 12th at the age of 92. Dr. Pattavina was a WW2 veteran and Navy Medical Corps Captain. He was an active member of the ANA Patriot Squadron until a few years ago and had served as the group's flight surgeon.

On Saturday August 15th Steve Cohn, John Edwards, and Marc Frattasio picked up a display case that was donated to the museum by John Milne of Braintree. Mr. Milne is a member of ham radio club K1USN, which as you may recall conducted a public exhibition at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on August 8th. The donated display case has been set up in the museum and is presently being used to hold some of the aircraft instruments recently given to us by our friends at VX-20.

On Thursday September 3rd Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, and Bill Sargent were interviewed by Quincy Patriot Ledger reporter Christian Chiavone for a feature article about the Patriot Squadron and

the Shea Naval Aviation Museum that ran on the front page of the “Ledgerland” section of the newspaper on Saturday September 12th. The same article was also run in the Brockton Enterprise a few days later. Christian Chiavone has been assigned to cover news and events at SouthField. He has written many articles about the old base over the past few years.

On Saturday September 5th Bill Horsch’s family held a 90th birthday party for him at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Approximately 100 family and friends showed up to wish Bill well over the course of the day. Party-goers donated over \$1,000 to the museum. Bill was a WW2 veteran and a stationkeeper at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. He was a founding member of the NAS Squantum/NAS South Weymouth Old Timer’s Association, which eventually evolved into the ANA Patriot Squadron. In addition, Bill was the driving force for getting the Shea Naval Aviation Museum off the ground. In recognition of this, the museum’s temporary exhibition space in the old base gymnasium was named “The Bill Horsch Room” a few years ago. Bill wrote a book about his naval career, which you can check out on the “geedunk” page on the ANA Patriot Squadron’s web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. Bill’s book is very well written and an excellent read.

On Saturday September 12th Marc Frattasio and Mary Jean Hicky operated an informational and sales table for the ANA Patriot Squadron and Shea Naval Aviation Museum, with help from Steve Cohn, during “South Weymouth Day” at the Weymouth Farmer’s Market in the parking lot behind the Weymouth City Hall. That same afternoon Mark Danckert, Faith Frattasio, and Susan Zimmerman represented the Patriot Squadron and the museum at the Boston chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association’s annual lobster bake at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation Area in Marshfield. Note, the next time that you’re at one of our monthly meetings you might want to spend some time talking to Mary Jean Hicky. Believe it or not, she is a physicist who worked for Grumman helping design naval aircraft. Among the many aircraft she worked on were the Cougar and the Albatross.

We also wanted to have a table at the Whole Foods Fall Festival in Weymouth, as we did last year, since that event was very good for us. However, the format changed for this year and we were unable to secure a table. This year the Whole Foods Fall Festival was held inside the store instead of out in the parking lot. Since space was restricted, they had fewer vendors. We did not make the cut.

As you should know, Southfield master developer LStar Communities recently commissioned a company called Greenroom Communications to produce a fifteen-minute video that presents a summary history of NAS South Weymouth. The ANA Patriot Squadron’s Shea Naval Aviation Museum helped out with this effort by providing access to several veterans who were interviewed on camera and by providing many historic images and films that were taken on NAS South Weymouth over the years. The video has been completed and LStar Communities debuted it with a public showing held in the Shea Fitness Center’s basketball court at 7 PM on Tuesday September 22nd.

This event was promoted in several area newspapers including the Brockton Enterprise, Quincy Patriot Ledger, and Boston Globe. LStar Communities did a remarkable job of renovating the Shea Fitness Center for this event. In just a few days they repainted the outside walls, installed new permanent flooring in the lobby, and installed a temporary floor in the basketball court. The basketball court was also temporarily furnished with rows of folding chairs, fabric partitions, a large projection screen and projector, and a raised speaking platform and podium. If you’ve seen how the Shea Fitness Center has deteriorated in recent years, you’d appreciate this incredible transformation.

Nobody was prepared for what LStar Communities had set up for us, and there were many comments to that effect heard throughout the night. There was a live band playing 1940s music in the gymnasium. There was a bar serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in the lobby, there was a seafood bar serving shrimp and oysters on the half-shell in the museum, and there was a cheese,

cracker, and crudités table in the basketball court. Servers brought a wide variety of hors d'oeuvres directly to guests. The food and beverages were plentiful - and free of charge.

Guests began arriving around 6 PM and the presentation started a little after 7. By you rnewsletter editor's estimation, which was derived by counting the seats in the basketball court, there were 250 to 300 people there, but there might have been more. Nearly all the seats were filled and many people stood. Several local politicians came. LStar Communities' managing partner Kyle Corkum, Weymouth mayor Sue Kay, Massachusetts Veterans Services director Francisco Urena, and Greenroom Media's Penn Holderness and Zak Ciotti all stood up at the podium and gave short speeches. Once the speeches ended the video was shown on a huge screen. It was very well done.

After the video, guests were invited to help themselves to some free copies of the video that were stacked up on a table in the lobby. There was a mad rush for these and they did not last long. However, anybody who was not able to secure a copy was invited to leave their contact information so that a copy could be sent to them. Once again, free of charge.

The live music, food, and beverages continued until 9 PM. Many people came into the museum and walked around. We made a lot of new friends that night. The museum wasn't really set up for regular visiting as many things had been put away so the space could be used to serve food, but many of the people who came in to have shrimp and oysters said that they would come back on a regular open day. Many said that they wanted to bring friends or family who had been associated with the base. Between the video, the newspaper publicity, and the visitors the ANA Patriot Squadron should benefit going forward. One of our perennial challenges has been to get the word out to the surrounding community about the museum, and this event certainly did that.

LStars' Kyle Corkum, who we have to thank for the video and the event, indicated that he'd like to establish an oral history library for the museum. He said that he wants to bring a videographer to the museum from time-to-time and extend an invitation for local veterans who were assigned to NAS South Weymouth to be recorded telling stories about their experiences on the base. He said that he wants to work with us to make this happen. We'll report more on this as it gets further along. Its great to see that LStar Communities has an interest, as we do, in helping to preserve the history of old NAS South Weymouth. LStar is trying to demonstrate that they are good corporate neighbors and it shows. They certainly have demonstrated that they are friends of the ANA Patriot Squadron. LStar recently agreed to reimburse us for the 2016 annual liability insurance expenditure for the museum.

In recognition of everything that he and LStar Communities does to support the squadron and the museum, the assembled members of the ANA Patriot Squadron voted unanimously to make Kyle Corkum an honorary member during the regular monthly meeting held on Saturday September 26th.

Also on September 26th, Patriot Squadron member and retired loadmaster Michael Wendelin came to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum to give a presentation on Navy C-130 operations with a special emphasis on how these aircraft were employed by VR-62. Michael was in USNR transport squadron VR-62, which operated from NAS South Weymouth for a few years before the base was decommissioned. Over 40 Patriot Squadron members and guests attended this presentation.

On Thursday October 1st LStar Communities took members of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce on a bus tour of historic sites across southeastern Massachusetts. The tour ended at 3 PM inside the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Marc Frattasio and Bill Horsch opened the museum for the LStar and Chamber of Commerce people and showed them the NAS South Weymouth history video that LStar recently produced.

On Saturday October 10th the Bay Colony Chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society had their monthly meeting at the museum, as they have done several times in the past. Patriot Squadron members Peter Jardim, Hal Marshman and Joe Ravino are also members of this group.

On Saturday October 24th the VP Association, composed of former USNR patrol squadron members, and the USMCR helicopter squadron HML-771 alumni association held reunions in the Boston area. The museum was opened for members of both groups that wanted to stop by before going to their reunions. In addition, Patriot Squadron member Marc Frattasio gave a presentation on the history of the Marine Air Reserve in Massachusetts at the HML-771 event. VP Association visitors donated several artifacts to the museum including an older base plaque and a VP-92 sign from Hangar One.

On Saturday November 7th we placed another 14 memorial bricks along the right side of the main pathway into the Shea Memorial Grove. We still have room for about 25 more bricks at this location.

Recently the museum acquired a MAD recorder used on board SP-2E and SP-2H Neptunes and ZPG-2 blimps donated by Marc Frattasio, a blue maintenance coverall with VP-92 patch and rank insignia donated by Russ Monahan, an ejection seat acquired by Peter Jardim, a P-2 smoke marker/PDC control, P-3 radio and intercom control, and an AN/APS-20 radar control unit used on many types of aircraft based at NAS South Weymouth acquired using funds donated by Peter Crone and Marc Frattasio, and an original copy of "German Subs in Yankee Waters" donated by Dan Haff.

Local Navy veteran and author David Banagis recently donated several copies of his memoirs "Twenty-Three Days at Sea" to the museum. Dave spent many years at NAS South Weymouth between the 1950s and 1970s, first with NADU and then with the base itself. He finished his naval career as the base CO's personal yeoman. Dave's book is well worth reading if you have an interest in NAS South Weymouth, as we all do. You can buy a copy at the museum or purchase it on line at <http://www.dbanagis.com/book/>. We also have a link to Dave's book on the "Geedunk" page of our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.



Brand-new at the museum, key chains shaped like the familiar "remove before flight" streamers that are used to call attention to aircraft landing gear pins, static port plugs, intake covers, etc., that have to be removed during preflight inspections featuring the modern NAS South Weymouth base insignia

and base motto. These are \$5 each if you purchase them at the museum during one of our open houses or are \$6 each via mail order. To order one by mail send a check in the proper amount to cover the number of key chains desired to ANA Patriot Squadron, 495 Shea Memorial Drive, South Weymouth MA 02190. Be sure to include a note indicating that you want a key chain.

One more thing. The next time you visit the museum be sure to notice the nice little placards that Steve Cohn, Peter Jardim, and Bill Sargent have been making up for the various items that we have on display.

COMING UP:

We will hold our annual holiday luncheon at the Abington Ale House on Route 18 in Abington, MA on Saturday December 12th starting at noon. There is no need for you to RSVP. If you want to go, show up at noon, tell the wait-staff that you are with us, and be prepared to order off the menu. As in previous years, we have made arrangements to have several rows of tables reserved for us in the back of the restaurant. All Patriot Squadron members and guests are welcome. This is an open house day at the museum so if you haven't been there lately, please stop by before the luncheon. Patriot Squadron dues for 2016 will be collected by Faith Frattasio at the holiday luncheon. So, if you have not taken advantage of the \$40 three-year renewal option and are still paying your Patriot Squadron membership dues on an annual basis please plan on paying your \$15 dues for calendar year 2016 at the holiday luncheon.

A reminder that the museum will host a presentation by Donald J. Cann and Patriot Squadron member John J. Galluzzo, co-authors of "Camp Edwards and Otis Air Force Base" on the subject of this book on Saturday January 30, 2016. During WW2 what we know today as Otis AFB and the Massachusetts Military Reservation was a Navy auxiliary airfield called NAAF Otis Field. The wartime history of Otis Field is interesting and unusual. When America entered WW2 it was the Army, not the Navy, that was primarily responsible for airborne anti-submarine warfare on the east coast. It was not until July 1943 that the Navy acquired enough aircraft to take the lead in airborne ASW. The Army flew B-18s and other aircraft on ASW missions out of Otis Field until the Navy took over primary responsibility for ASW, at which point the base was given to the Navy. It wasn't until several years after the war that the Navy turned Otis Field over to the Air Force, and then it became Otis AFB. We're sure that you'll hear lots of interesting things from the authors so be sure to mark January 30th on your calendars. Go to <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com> to learn more about the Camp Edwards book and the one that the authors also wrote about NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth, which was the subject of Mr. Galluzzo's presentation at the museum some months ago.

Please note that all current board of director positions within the ANA Patriot Squadron/Shea Naval Aviation Museum will be coming up for re-election during the meeting scheduled for March 26, 2016. If you'd like to take an active role in managing this organization there will be a chance for you to do so. There will be more details about this as March approaches.

On Saturday April 30, 2016 CDR Craig Hall of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will give a presentation, perhaps with other members of the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary, about the effort to rescue the crew of the sailboat Sedona, which foundered 140 miles off Nantucket during one of the bad snowstorms that we had back in February. Among the many Coast Guard assets that participated in the rescue operation was a Jayhawk helicopter based at CGAS Cape Cod.

We are presently holding Saturday September 24, 2016 open for a presentation and book-signing by prolific naval aviation author Tommy Thomason, who we hope will have his book about the Grumman S2F Tracker in print by that time.

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

HELP WANTED:

As indicated in previous issues of this newsletter, there are a small handful of people who do nearly all of the work in this organization. In order for this organization to survive, we need to get more of you actively involved. Some of the directors, your newsletter editor included, are in more than one role. This is not sustainable long-term. We need to spread the workload out among more people.

If you'd like to help, please talk to a director at a monthly meeting. As indicated in the section above, there will be director positions available in March, but if that's too much of a commitment we can find something to do that will fit into anybody's time budget. We can also find things for people to do that won't require you to attend our monthly meetings or even be in the local area. A few examples follow:

- We need somebody to type up the monthly meeting minutes and send them out to the membership via e-mail. This has to be somebody who attends the monthly meetings. We have a small digital voice recorder that is used to record what's said during the meetings. What we need is somebody who can take this recorder home, listen to it, transcribe the important points or facts, and then send it out to the membership.
- We need somebody to take over the memorial brick project. This person would process brick orders through the Bricks R Us web site and ensure that they are paid for, receive the bricks, and coordinate working parties to plant the bricks in the ground at the Shea Memorial Grove and perform periodic maintenance on the bricks (sweep off leaves and debris, renew the polymeric sand as it is eroded, pull weeds, exterminate anthills, etc.).
- We need somebody to handle membership. This would involve processing new membership applications, maintaining the MS Excel membership database (adding new members, removing former members, making changes for moves, new e-mail addresses, etc.), contacting members just before their membership expires to remind them that their dues are due, ensuring that dues are deposited, producing and distributing membership related advertising flyers, etc.
- We need somebody to periodically update the official squadron history. This is an MS Word document that needs to be updated whenever something significant happens with the ANA Patriot Squadron or at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. We also need somebody to attempt to integrate the printed version of the squadron history, which was produced many years ago and covers the group's first ten years or so of existence, with the more recent MS Word document, which covers the last ten years or so.

- We need somebody to maintain the inventory of artifacts in the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. This is an MS Excel spreadsheet. It needs to be updated when new artifacts are acquired or when existing artifacts are moved around the museum.

Longer term, we'd also like somebody to take over the job of coordinating and publicizing guest speakers and special events, updating the web site and Facebook, producing this newsletter and quarterly articles for Wings of Gold magazine, and handling correspondence. As always, we need people to help open and tend the Shea Naval Aviation Museum during the open houses on the second and last Saturdays of the month as well as on special occasions that can come up on any day of the week. We also need people to help us tend the informational and sales tables that we set up at events in the Weymouth area during the summer and fall months.

Although the Shea Naval Aviation museum is normally open from 9 AM to noon on the second and last Saturday of the month, we can open it on off-days for groups on request. If you are a member of a group that would like to have the museum opened for it on an off-day, contact us at inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org. We also have a few members who can give lectures about the history of NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth, and thanks to the kindness of Ken Johnson we have an LCD projector that we can use to help illustrate these lectures. If you are involved with a group that would like a lecture send a request to inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Anybody live in the Washington DC area? We'd like somebody to go to the Naval History Office at the Washington Naval Yard and obtain, if possible, copies of the official command histories and insignias of Navy and Marine squadrons and other units assigned to NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth.

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. We can use an "Ez-Up" type tent for various outdoor public events that we set up at. We need one big enough to fit over a standard 48" long folding table. An eight foot "Ez-Up" type tent would be perfect. From an artifact perspective, we can use an Indian Orange flight suit of the kind used in the early 1960s and a yellow MK-2 life vest to go with it. We'd also like one of the early green flight suits of the type used in the late 1960s and an orange MK-2 life vest to go with it. This particular type of flight suit had a Velcro closure at the neck and was a lighter shade of green than the later olive green (sage green actually) flight suits. A khaki flight suit of the kind used during the 1950s would be great, as would be one of the early gold flight helmets with separate goggles. These are just suggestions. 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.

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 especially 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 either 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 with the interest and ability 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 might be pleasantly surprised with what we've accomplished recently. A few months ago we had business cards printed up with the museum's hours of operation and our web site's URL. Stick a few 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?

The first helicopters assigned to NAS South Weymouth were a handful of Hiller HTE-2 Ravens that were transferred from NAS Squantum during December 1953. These tiny helicopters could hold two passengers plus a pilot on a bench seat. They were mainly intended to provide primary helicopter flight training and lacked the speed, range, and lifting power for other practical purposes. Flown by members of USNR helicopter utility squadron HU-911, the HTE-2s were replaced by larger and more capable twin-rotor Piasecki HUP-2 Retrievers before the end of 1954.



SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Steve Cohn, John Milne, and John Edwards moving donated display case. **Top Right:** Marc Frattasio with Patriot Ledger reporter Christian Chiavone. **Middle Left:** Bill Horsch with birthday cake. **Middle Right:** Overview of crowd at Bill Horsch's party. **Bottom Left:** Mary Jean Hickey and Marc Frattasio at the South Weymouth Day event. **Bottom Right:** Susan Zimmerman, Mark Danckert, and Faith Frattasio at the USMC Aviation Association's annual lobster bake at Fourth Cliff.

SOME RECENT PHOTOS (CONTINUED):



Top Left: Seafood bar set up in museum for LStar NAS South Weymouth video presentation. **Top Right:** The first showing of the LStar video in the gymnasium's basketball court. **Middle Left:** Guest speaker Michael Wendelin giving his presentation in the museum. **Middle Right:** Bill Horsch and Marc Frattasio with South Shore Chamber of Commerce members. **Bottom Left:** IPMS meeting in the museum. **Bottom Right:** VP Association reunion attendees visiting the museum.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



VMA-322 personnel assembled for a group photo with the USMCR attack squadron's Douglas A-4M Skyhawks behind NAS South Weymouth's Hangar Two in 1991. The squadron was deactivated the following year. There's a local chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association that, among other things, hosts a reunion and lobster bake every September at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation area in Marshfield, MA. If interested in joining, contact John Margie at jomargie@comcast.net.

