



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

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Welcome to the third 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:

About twenty ANA Patriot Squadron members met at the Abington Ale House restaurant in Abington, MA for the group's traditional annual holiday luncheon on December 14th. The number of attendees was down substantially from previous years due to a snowstorm in the weather forecast that day. It so happened that the storm was less severe than anticipated and the snow did not start to fall until the luncheon was nearly over.

On December 28th Patriot Squadron member Steve Cohn brought about a dozen members of the K1USN Radio Club to visit the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. The K1USN Radio Club is a ham radio operator's club based in the town of Braintree, MA. As its name suggests, the K1USN Radio Club has many members who are Navy veterans. Members have expressed interest in organizing some kind of live radio broadcast event at the museum. See www.k1usn.com for more details about the K1USN Radio Club.

The museum was forced to cancel the open house scheduled for January 11th due to fire alarm system issues. This was the first time since we've started opening the museum to the public that we had to cancel a scheduled open house. Repairs were made and the museum is now fully operational again.

During the last week of January Patriot Squadron C.O. Bill Sargent and USNR Seabees EO1 Frank Ward, EO1 Mark Madden, and UT1 Patrick McMorrow assigned to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 27 Detachment 22 (NMBC-27 DET 22) from Naval Reserve Center Quincy, MA recovered the Meritorious Unit Commendation from the old NAS South Weymouth Base Administration Building. The MUC is now on display in the museum.

On January 25th the museum hosted a lecture about the similarities of the WW2 Battle of Midway and the American Civil War Battle of Gettysburg presented by retired USN Captain Robert "Barney" Rubel. CAPT Rubel, who during his naval career flew A-7 Corsair IIs and F/A-18 Hornets, is presently the Dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. The lecture that he gave at the museum is identical to one presented to students at the Naval War College. More than 80 people attended CAPT Rubel's lecture, making it the most successful speaking engagement at the museum to date. Unfortunately, this event was literally standing room only and at least seven people that we know of left because there were no seats for them. In the future we may try to hold these lectures in the basketball court next to the museum where bleacher seating is available.

As you should know, the museum tries to schedule guest speakers on the last Saturday in January, April, and September. If you or somebody you know can give a presentation on a Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard aviation related subject let us know. We're always looking for suitable guest speakers.

The museum is now selling five different NAS South Weymouth related ball cap designs as a fund-raiser. There are blue NAS South Weymouth command ball caps of the type used on the base during the years before it shut down in 1997, blue and khaki colored caps featuring the older style shield-shaped base insignia that was used between 1958 and 1977, khaki caps featuring the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing insignia (all the Marine Corps Reserve squadrons at NAS South Weymouth were elements of the 4th MAW), and VP-92 command ball caps like those used during the squadron's final years on the base. The caps are adjustable (one size fits all) and cost \$20 each if purchased at the museum or are \$25.60 if purchased through the mail. See the "geedunk" page on the ANA Patriot Squadron web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org for details. If interested in ordering a cap send an e-mail message to inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org to confirm availability before sending the museum any money.

COMING UP:

The museum has aeronautical engineer and naval aviation book author Tommy H. Thomason lined up for a lecture and book signing on Saturday April 26th. Mr. Thomason will present a lecture on the Navy's Bell HSL, 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 will have copies of the book that he wrote about the HSL, "The Forgotten Bell HSL: U.S. Navy's First All-Weather Anti-Submarine Warfare Helicopter", as well as copies of his other naval aviation books available for sale at the museum. See the author's web site at tommythomason.com for more details about him and his books.

Al Firnrohr is interested in putting a group together to visit the Naval War College in Newport, RI at some point in the near future. He has a retired ID card and can get people on the base. If you'd be interested in going contact Al directly via e-mail at akamacs40@gmail.com.

We have about 30 memorial bricks stored at Bill Horsch's house waiting for the warm weather to come so we can place them at the Shea Memorial Grove. We'll probably have a work party on a Saturday in March or April to do this. If you'd like to help watch for the e-mail announcement and show up at the Grove at the appointed date and time. We are holding on to six more memorial brick orders at this time. We need at least four more brick orders before we can actually purchase another batch of bricks from the vendor. So, if you want to have a memorial brick placed at the Grove its not too late to get one. There's an order form on our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

Please note that your 2014 ANA Patriot Squadron dues are past due. This year, we have decided to waive the \$15 ANA Patriot Squadron dues to anybody who joins the national Association of Naval Aviation through the month of July. However, all others need to send a check for \$15 to the address presented at the top of this newsletter to remain a member in good standing of the ANA Patriot Squadron.

HELP WANTED:

The Shea Naval Aviation Museum always needs volunteers to help tend it during the open houses 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.

Please consider becoming more active in this group. If you have not attended meetings for a while you would not believe how the museum has been improved in recent months through display cases, more artifacts on display, etc. We now have something that's really worth visiting and the recent extension of Shea Memorial Drive, which has dramatically increased traffic through the area, is bringing more casual visitors into the museum. We can use help tending and maintaining the museum and the Shea Memorial Grove and working on various projects. The ANA Patriot Squadron is an all-volunteer group. You can literally do as much or as little as you want. There's really no pressure to do anything that you don't want to do. Come to one of our meetings and talk to anybody there to find out what you can do.

We're also looking for people who would like to assume leadership roles in the ANA Patriot Squadron. The X.O. (must be a member of ANA national), the Membership Director (must be a member of ANA national), the Operations Director, and the Squadron Liaison to Southfield are presently open and must be filled. We are also looking for somebody to take over the squadron membership database and handle the e-mail communications presently done by Bob Muise. If you are interested in taking over one of these positions contact Bill Sargent at sargetwoway@aol.com before the meeting on Saturday March 29th.

The directors and other people in official positions within this group serve for a specific period of time and then come up for re-election. Nobody can stay in a leadership role forever and so we need to develop a "bench" of talent that can be prepared to succeed incumbents as required. Many incumbents can use one or more assistants and this can help to prepare individuals who would like to progress into a leadership role to move into such a role. If you would like to eventually move into a

leadership role in the ANA Patriot Squadron please talk to any of the directors during a meeting and we'll try to find some way to accommodate you.

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 also need complete male manikins or torsos (with heads) to use in the museum to display uniforms and jackets. We recently had two torsos donated to us (thank you Bill Hanigan). We can use more of these things and also some full-body manikins. Display heads for hats would also be appreciated too. If you know anybody who works in a clothing store or see a clothing store that's going out of business please check and see if they'd be willing to donate any male manikins, torsos, or display heads to the museum. Remind them that the museum is a 501c3 charitable organization and the donations they make may be tax-deductible.

We can also use an LCD projector and a projection screen to support our guest speaker program. Up to this point we've been dependent upon the guest speakers bringing their own projector and screen and on one occasion we've been able to borrow these devices. It would be much better if we had an LCD projector and screen of our own.

Those members who build model aircraft should consider building a model of something that was based at NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth and donating it to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. A few members have already done this and the models donated have made very nice displays. If you'd like to do this, talk to museum director Marc Frattasio. He can provide you with photos of specific aircraft that were based at NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth for reference.

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.

There's been some interest expressed in setting up tables at various events local to the Weymouth area and participating in parades to promote the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Such things only make sense if we can find enough people who are willing to participate. If this is something that you would like to do please talk to Bill Sargent or any of the directors at a meeting. Remember, we're not just looking for ideas, we're looking for people who can carry ideas through to completion.

DID YOU KNOW?:

A small group of Coast Guard Reservists known as the "Coast Guard Detachment" were assigned to NAS South Weymouth during the 1950s. These men flew Naval Air Reserve Catalinas and Privateers drawn from the base's reserve aircraft pool. The Coast Guard Detachment was either disbanded or transferred elsewhere shortly after the Naval Air Reserve patrol squadrons on the base transitioned from the Privateer to the Neptune.

SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Annual holiday luncheon at the Abington Ale House. **Top Right:** K1USN Radio Club members visiting the museum on Saturday December 28th. **Middle Left:** EO1 Frank Ward, Bill Sargent, and the MUC recovered from the Soweay admin building. **Middle Right:** The cap designs we sell at the museum. **Bottom Left and Right:** Robert "Barney" Rubel's lecture on January 25th.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Consolidated P4Y-2 Privateers and Douglas R5D Skymasters from the base reserve aircraft pool parked out on the East Mat at NAS South Weymouth during the summer of 1956. The Privateers were flown by the reserve VP squadrons and the Coast Guard Detachment from 1954 to 1957. The Skymasters were flown by the reserve VR squadrons from 1954 to 1970.

