



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

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**Issue #15      A 501c3 Non-Profit Educational Organization      MARCH 2017**

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:**

On Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> member Marc Frattasio gave a presentation on the history of NAS South Weymouth at Fairing Way on Union Point. Fairing Way is a residential community for people over 55 years old that recently opened on the old base. Over 45 Fairing Way residents attended this presentation and Marc also donated an autographed copy of his book about NAS South Weymouth to the Fairing Way library. If you belong to a local organization that would like a presentation on the history of NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum, we can do this for you. Talk to Marc Frattasio or any other director at the museum anytime that it is open to the public.

During the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Marc and Faith Frattasio put down ten more memorial bricks at the Shea Memorial Grove. We were pushing it from a weather perspective since the ground was cold and wet. The polymeric sand did not adhere well and these bricks, as well as the others, will have to be tidied up after the weather warms up. The memorial brick project is nearing the end. As of now there are 206 memorial bricks along both sides of the main pathway into the Shea Memorial Grove, 13 orders pending, and only room for 2 more bricks. That's probably going to be it for memorial bricks unless somebody else wants to take over and put more somewhere else.

Our annual holiday luncheon was held on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Abington Ale House restaurant. Nearly 30 Patriot Squadron members and guests turned out for this event. Local author and Patriot Squadron member John Galluzzo, who had family matters to deal with that day, came for a short time to autograph copies of his new book, "Massachusetts Aviation". As mentioned in the previous issue of this newsletter, you can order a copy of John's new book on-line through a link on the "geedunk" page of our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org).

On Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> Patriot Squadron member Dan Haff gave a lecture on military timepieces to a full house of members and guests at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Dan collects military watches and clocks and put together a terrific PowerPoint presentation with the help of member Steve Cohn. As you should know, we try to host guest speakers at the museum on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September. If you or somebody you know would like to give a presentation on a relevant subject (ideally involving NAS South Weymouth, NAS Squantum, military history, or current military) please speak to one of the directors at any of our open houses.

In 2016 we began to sponsor national ANA memberships for all the colleges in Massachusetts that host NROTC or similar programs. LT Liam Hickey, who was the OinC of the Naval Science Department at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, was recently reassigned and replaced by LT Michael Ragusa. So, welcome aboard the Patriot Squadron LT Ragusa! While we are at it, we would also like to welcome another new member, Wendel Rushton.

As some of you may know, the Quonset Air Museum that operated out of a hangar at former NAS Quonset Point, RI recently folded (although there is hope that it may be reconstituted somewhere else). ANA Patriot Squadron Museum Director Peter Jardim and museum committee members Russ Monaghan and Steve Cohn have engaged officials associated with the Quonset Air Museum about acquiring some of their assets for our Shea Naval Aviation Museum. The Quonset Air Museum people have been receptive to this and we have been given an opportunity to acquire one or more aircraft and/or major aircraft components (see below) of significance to NAS South Weymouth. We're going to need a lot of help to make this happen, for example, we will need help moving and possibly storing the things we take from Quonset Point. If you'd like to be involved with this please contact Peter Jardim directly at [zorak36@hotmail.com](mailto:zorak36@hotmail.com).



**Far Left:** Membership Director Russ Monaghan with a Grumman C-1 Trader (COD version of the S2F) cockpit that was offered to us by the Quonset Air Museum. **Left:** The back end of the C-1. We think that we can cosmetically restore the cockpit and turn it into a "hands on" display that people can climb into and sit inside.

Please note that our friends at LStar Communities recently reimbursed us for the cost of annual liability insurance for the museum for 2017. As some of you may know, annual liability insurance is our biggest fixed cost, so the LStar donation was a big help for us. If you happen to run into any of the LStar people at the museum or anywhere else please be sure to stop them and thank them for this and for everything else they do to support the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum.

The museum's collection of artifacts continues to grow. Items recently donated to the museum include an NAS South Weymouth Air Traffic Control patch from GCA Unit 48 from Marc Frattasio and a Blue Angels T-shirt and VP-92 T-shirt from Susan Zimmerman.

### **COMING UP:**

Member Robert Michaelski would like you all to know that a free luncheon for veterans who are 65 years old or older will be held at the Whipple Senior Center located at 182 Green Street in North Weymouth on Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to attend, please contact Michelle or George in advance at 781-340-2405 so they can put your name on the guest list. You can bring one family member to this event if you wish.

Member Paul Keane would like you all to know that you can have your veteran status added to your Massachusetts driver's license at any time for free. This was previously something you could only do when you renewed your license. Also, he'd like you to know that you can now pre-arrange burial at the military cemetery in Bourne on Cape Cod. Check with your local veteran's agent for details.

Our next guest speaker will be local author Len Sandler. Len will be coming to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> to give a talk and do a book signing. As you may recall, 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 latest project, "Because of You, We Live", is a true story about a downed Army Air Forces B-26 Marauder crew's escape from occupied France during WW2. See <http://becauseofyouwelive.com> on the Internet for more details about Len's new book.

We're going to have local author and Patriot Squadron member John Galluzzo come to the museum on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> to give a talk and do a book signing related to his new book, "Massachusetts Aviation" (see reference in the holiday luncheon section above). As you know, we normally host guest speakers on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September but Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> is the date of the NAS South Weymouth and VMA-322 reunion (see below). If there is enough interest we will ask John to speak at the museum on the second Saturday in September instead. If you or somebody you know would like to talk about a subject of interest to ANA Patriot Squadron members at the museum please speak to any of the directors at our monthly meeting.

Museum Director Peter Jardim would like to open the museum from 9 AM to noon on every Saturday of the month, not just the second and last Saturdays of the month. To do this, we will need to have some people commit to help tend the museum on those days. If this is something that you would like to help out with, please contact Peter directly at [zorak36@hotmail.com](mailto:zorak36@hotmail.com).

Peter is also interested in ideas for ways to help raise money for the museum. One idea might be to host periodic public "movie nights" at the museum to show naval or military movies or documentaries for a modest suggested donation for admission. If you'd like to be involved in a fund-raising committee or have some practical ideas for fund-raising, please contact Peter (e-mail above).



As you should know, NAS South Weymouth was closed 20 years ago on September 30, 1997. Also, Marine Air Reserve attack squadron VMA-322 was deactivated at NAS South Weymouth 25 years ago on June 30, 1992. A reunion to commemorate both events will be held on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5 PM at the Elks Hall at 21 School Street in Randolph, Massachusetts. The reunion will include a memorabilia display, a continuous slide show of historic images, two guest speakers, a presentation on the history of NAS South Weymouth, and a meal. Everybody who attends the reunion will receive a commemorative embroidered polo shirt. Attendees will be invited to visit the Shea Naval Aviation Museum, which will be open anyway from 9 AM to noon that day, before going to the reunion and they will be encouraged to donate squadron or base related memorabilia to the museum. The reunion, which is open to anybody military or civilian who wants to go, costs \$50 per person. Reservations will be required in advance (no tickets will be sold at the door) and will be limited to the seating capacity of the Randolph Elks Hall, which is 230 people. There is also a cutoff date, August 1<sup>st</sup>, beyond which no more reservations will be taken to allow the vendor sufficient time to produce the commemorative polo shirts. All proceeds collected above the cost of organizing this event will be donated to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. More information and a reservation form will be provided very soon via our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org). Please note that reservations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. If you want to attend this event please print out and mail in your reservation form as soon as it appears on our web site to avoid possible disappointment (an e-mail alert will be sent out to all of you when this happens). We must stress that this event will be limited to the first 230 people who mail in reservations before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **HELP WANTED:**

We still need help running this organization and tending the museum and Shea Memorial Grove. If you'd like to help, please talk to any director at our monthly meeting. Specific descriptions of what we need help with have been published in previous issues of this newsletter. You can check out all the newsletters produced to date on line on our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org).

We are always looking for military artifacts like 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 use anything associated with the military history of Squantum or South Weymouth. Remember, the ANA Patriot Squadron/Shea Naval Aviation Museum is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization so the value of whatever 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.

Here's something else we can use help with. We have many photos, posters, maps, etc., that should be framed for display and protection. If you've got cash burning a hole in your wallet perhaps you might consider framing one or more items for us. Once again, we are a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation so what you donate can be written off on your income taxes as a charitable donation.

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](http://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?:**

Many people are unaware that NAS South Weymouth was literally at the front lines of the Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War. German submarines sunk many ships off the New England coast during the war and ZNP-K type blimps from NAS South Weymouth's airship patrol squadron ZP-11 spotted a number of submarines. For example, on June 9<sup>th</sup> 1942, just six days after the squadron was formed at NAS South Weymouth, the crew of the ZP-11 blimp K-3 saw the Norwegian freighter SS Kronprinzen struck by two torpedoes fired by the German submarine U-432. The torpedo hits were observed as the blimp was approaching the ship's convoy about 80 miles east of Gloucester, Massachusetts. Another blimp from NAS South Weymouth's ZP-11, the K-82, was an element of the naval force that sunk the last German submarine lost during the war, the U-853, about seven miles east of Block Island on May 6<sup>th</sup> 1945.



**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left:** Marc Frattasio presenting NAS South Weymouth history lecture at Fairing Way. **Top Right:** Questions and answers at Fairing Way. **Middle Left and Right:** Patriot Squadron members at the annual holiday luncheon. **Bottom Left:** Member John Galluzzo signing copies of his new book, Massachusetts Aviation, at the Abington Ale House for John Margie and Mark Danckert. **Bottom Right:** Member Dan Haff giving his presentation on military timepieces at the museum.

## A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Here's something for our Marine Corps friends, a Bell UH-1E Iroquois from HML-771 parked outside NAS South Weymouth's Hangar Two sometime during the mid 1970s. HML-771, the "Hummers", started out as helicopter transport squadron HMR-771 in 1958 operating Sikorsky HSS-1 Seabats and was then redesignated medium helicopter transport squadron HMM-771 operating Sikorsky UH-34D Seabats in 1963. The squadron became light helicopter squadron HML-771 operating Bell UH-1Es in 1971. In later years the squadron operated the similar but more powerful twin-turbine UH-1N. Called up for active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the squadron was deactivated in 1994.

