



## **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 at the museum and perhaps inspire everyone to take a more active role in this organization.

### **RECENT NEWS:**

It is our sad duty to report that Phill Nussbaum recently passed away in California. Phil had been a member of the ANA Patriot Squadron for many years but had let his membership lapse in recent years. His father Lester was an enlisted Naval Aviation Pilot (NAP) who happened to be the first HTA pilot assigned to NAS South Weymouth during the Second World War.

On a happier note, we'd like to welcome LT Patrick Ahern to the Patriot Squadron. As you should know, we sponsor membership in the national Association of Naval Aviation for all the NROTC units in Massachusetts. LT Ahern recently replaced LT Monica Mondloch as the commander of the NROTC battalion at Boston University. LT Ahern is a Navy helicopter pilot. We'll be sending him our quarterly newsletters and other e-mail communications and extend an invitation to him and his cadets to participate in Patriot Squadron activities.

As you should know, the Shea Naval Aviation Museum is closed and will remain closed until LStar Ventures, the master developer at Union Point (old NAS South Weymouth) prepares our new quarters. Until further notice we will meet from 11 AM to noon on the last Saturday of the month in

the LStar meeting room in the former base housing office on Union Point. This is the white building located next to the Shea Memorial Grove park. If you live in the local area we strongly suggest that you try to attend the monthly meetings, especially while the museum is in this state of transition.

Over several weekends from late November until early January members Steve Cohn, Charlie Collins, George Driscoll, Marc Frattasio, Albert Firnrohr, Alan Gilman, Peter Harrington, Peter Jardim, Robert Mandeville, Robert Michaelski, John Margie, Russ Monaghan, and Bill Sargent, along with Janet Quigley, packed the museum's collection up for temporary storage. Janet Quigley is not a member of the Patriot Squadron but is the late Albert Johnston's daughter. Al was a captain in the Naval Air Reserve who was a founding member of the Patriot Squadron.

On Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> a total of 27 Patriot Squadron members and guests went to the Abington Ale House restaurant for our annual holiday luncheon. Attendance was down a bit this time due to a snowstorm that day but everybody who went had a good time anyway.

Dave Barney, the Navy's caretaker on old NAS South Weymouth, recently donated an American and Massachusetts state flag on portable poles to the ANA Patriot Squadron. The American flag is presently in the LStar meeting room, where it replaces the colored paper flag that we had taped on the wall for the Pledge of Allegiance ceremony at our monthly meetings!

During the month of February members Steve Cohn, Mark Danckert, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Allan Gilman, Peter Harrington, Peter Jardim, John Margie, Robert Mandeville, Robert Michaelski, and Bill Sargent began moving the museum's collection from the Shea Fitness Center to the temporary storage location provided in Building 140. So far, this work has been performed between 8:30 and 11 AM on Saturday mornings. As of this writing we still have several weeks work to do.

Although the museum has been closed since June people are still donating things to the museum's collection. Gloria Hughes gave us a VIP pass from the last air show held at NAS South Weymouth in June 1996, the Black family provided us with a copy of the wartime "Weymouth Blimp" base newsletter, and Henry and Betty Erskine sent us a program for the first air show held on the base during the postwar era in May 1954.

We recently provided a digital image of a NADU ZPG2 type blimp that will be prominently displayed in the main lobby of the new "Mastlight" apartment complex at Union Point. As you know, the purpose of the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum is to ensure that the military history and heritage of NAS South Weymouth (and its predecessor NAS Squantum) are not forgotten as the old base is transformed into the Union Point community. It would be great, and in support of our mission, if every new building at Union Point had some kind of remembrance of the old base.

If you build plastic model airplane kits it may interest you to know that a British company called Hannants LTD has recently released decal sheets in 1/72 and 1/48 scale covering many aircraft based at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. For more information about these decals go to <https://www.hannants.co.uk>.

### **COMING UP:**

The Navy will be commissioning a new guided missile destroyer named after Massachusetts Medal of Honor recipient Thomas Hudner in Boston sometime in September. The date of this event has not been determined at this time. Hudner was an honorary member of the ANA Patriot Squadron. He was a Navy pilot who purposely crashed his Corsair in enemy territory in an effort to rescue a squadron-mate, Jesse Brown, who was shot down during the Korean War. Tickets are required to

attend the ship's commissioning ceremony. These are free, and apparently available for the asking. To obtain them, go to <http://www.usshudnerddg116.org/commissioning-tickets>.

Since we really do not know for sure how long it will take for the museum to reopen in its new location (the latest goal is Veteran's Day - November 11th), we're thinking about organizing periodic "field trips" to military museums such as the Seabee Museum at Quonset Point, RI, the Bradley Air Museum at Windsor Locks, CT, the USS Massachusetts museum in Fall River, MA, etc. We'll probably schedule something when the weather warms up as an experiment.

Member Peter Harrington suggests that some of you might be interested in participating or watching the Marine Corps Honor Run in Boston on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a 3K road race that starts at Carson Beach in South Boston at 9 AM and benefits the USMC Scholarship Foundation. For more details go to <http://www.mchonorrund.com>. At least two members are going to try to run that day.

There will be a memorial wall display at Union Point sometime in late July. We'll report more on this event as the date approaches.

### **HELP WANTED:**

We still need a cover to protect the Lego blimp hangar model that was donated to the museum by member Vincent Gallagher. As mentioned in the previous issue of the newsletter, the model is 41.5 inches square by 18 inches high. This is definitely something we will need before the museum opens again. If this is something that you want to do for us, please contact Vincent Gallagher directly at [vgallagh@icloud.com](mailto:vgallagh@icloud.com). Remember, you can write-off expenditures made for the Patriot Squadron as charitable deductions on your income taxes...

The wooden sign from the old Patriot Inn galley needs to be restored. Basically, somebody needs to repaint the sign dark blue and white and needs to fabricate and paint a plywood replica of the "Minuteman" base insignia and glue it to the sign. Somebody pried the original base insignia off the sign while it was still mounted on the side of the galley. If you're a woodworker and think that this is something that you'd like to take on as a project, talk to Marc Frattasio at one of our meetings.

### **DID YOU KNOW?:**

Canadian and British naval aircraft routinely operated out of NAS Squantum during the Second World War for training and operational purposes. The aircraft shown below is a Royal Canadian Navy PBX Catalina (known as a "Canso" in Canadian service) moored off NAS Squantum in early 1942. This aircraft is floating in the area of the present-day Marina Bay marina area, which is located within the rectangular "footprint" of the old Victory Plant shipyard's "wet basin" ship construction building.



**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left and Right:** Two views of the museum's collection being packed up for the move. **Middle Left and Right:** Patriot Squadron members at the annual holiday luncheon. **Bottom Left:** John Margie manhandling part of the museum's collection. **Bottom Right:** Bill Sargent, Faith Frattasio, Robert Michaelski, and Mark Danckert on the first moving day.

## A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



A friendly reminder to all that the Patriot Squadron is dedicated to preserving the military history and heritage of NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. Here's an official photo of USNR fighter squadron VF-917 members posed with an F6F Hellcat at NAS Squantum during the summer of 1953. A few things to note about this photo, which came from Florida member Wendell Rushton. Hellcats were reintroduced to NAS Squantum for a time after a several year absence when most of the reserve's Corsairs were taken away for service in Korea. Also, check out the WAVE crouched at the center of the photo. Women were not allowed to serve in regular Navy tactical squadrons until the 1980s, but in the reserve things were different. Women were included in almost every type of USNR and USMCR unit almost from the start of the postwar air reserve training program at NAS Squantum.

