



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:

During the past several months, ever since the leasing arrangement with the Southfield Redevelopment Authority was signed, Patriot Squadron members have been hard at work preparing the former Coast Guard Building at Union Point for our use. Many members including Donald Canaday, Rita Cavanaugh, Steve Cohn, Larry Cole, Al Firnrohr, Allan Gilman, Marc Frattasio, Robert Mandeville, Joe Muise, Wally Massenburg, Bill Sargent, and Frank Ward have been working at the Coast Guard Building nearly every Saturday between 9 AM and noon. During the Saturday work parties these members have cleaned out the interior of the building, have painted most of the interior walls, and they have started moving elements of the museum collection from storage.

Our intention was to get the Coast Guard Building ready enough to support holding our monthly members' meetings there starting in January. We accomplished this goal and our first meeting was held at the Coast Guard Building on Saturday January 25th. Unless you hear otherwise, please plan to meet at the Coast Guard Building instead of at the SRA meeting room for our monthly meetings on the last Saturday of the month. Note, we did meet at the SRA meeting room on Saturday February 22nd, but only because the Coast Guard Building parking lot was dangerously covered in ice that day.



ABOVE: The Patriot Squadron's first meeting at the Coast Guard Building on Saturday January 25th.

BELOW: Al Firnrohr, Larry Cole, Bob Mandeville, and Bill Sargent preparing some of the museum's collection in storage for relocation to the Coast Guard Building during one of our Saturday morning work parties.





ABOVE: Donald Canaday, Bob Mandeville, and Larry Cole loading a car with museum artifacts from storage. **BELOW:** Bob Mandeville and Al Firnrh carrying boxes into the Coast Guard Building.





ABOVE: Frank Ward (with Bob Mandeville in the background) setting up the bell from the old NAS South Weymouth quarterdeck in the Coast Guard Building. **BELOW:** Al Firnrrohr with the P-3 Orion pilot's seat that was removed from storage and brought into the Coast Guard Building.





ABOVE: A friend of Paul Haley, Paul Haley himself, Al Firnrohr, and Frank Ward setting up some of the decorative quarterdeck runners salvaged from old NAS South Weymouth at the main entrance to the Coast Guard Building. **BELOW:** Paul Haley's friend, Larry Cole, and Paul Haley admiring these things. Admittedly they are filthy from their time on the floor in storage, but as soon as the weather gets warmer we'll pressure wash them and then they will look great.





ABOVE: Rita Cavonius hanging some curtains that she thoughtfully donated for the Coast Guard Building. **BELOW:** Steve Cohn and Bill Sargent painting a wall inside the Coast Guard Building.

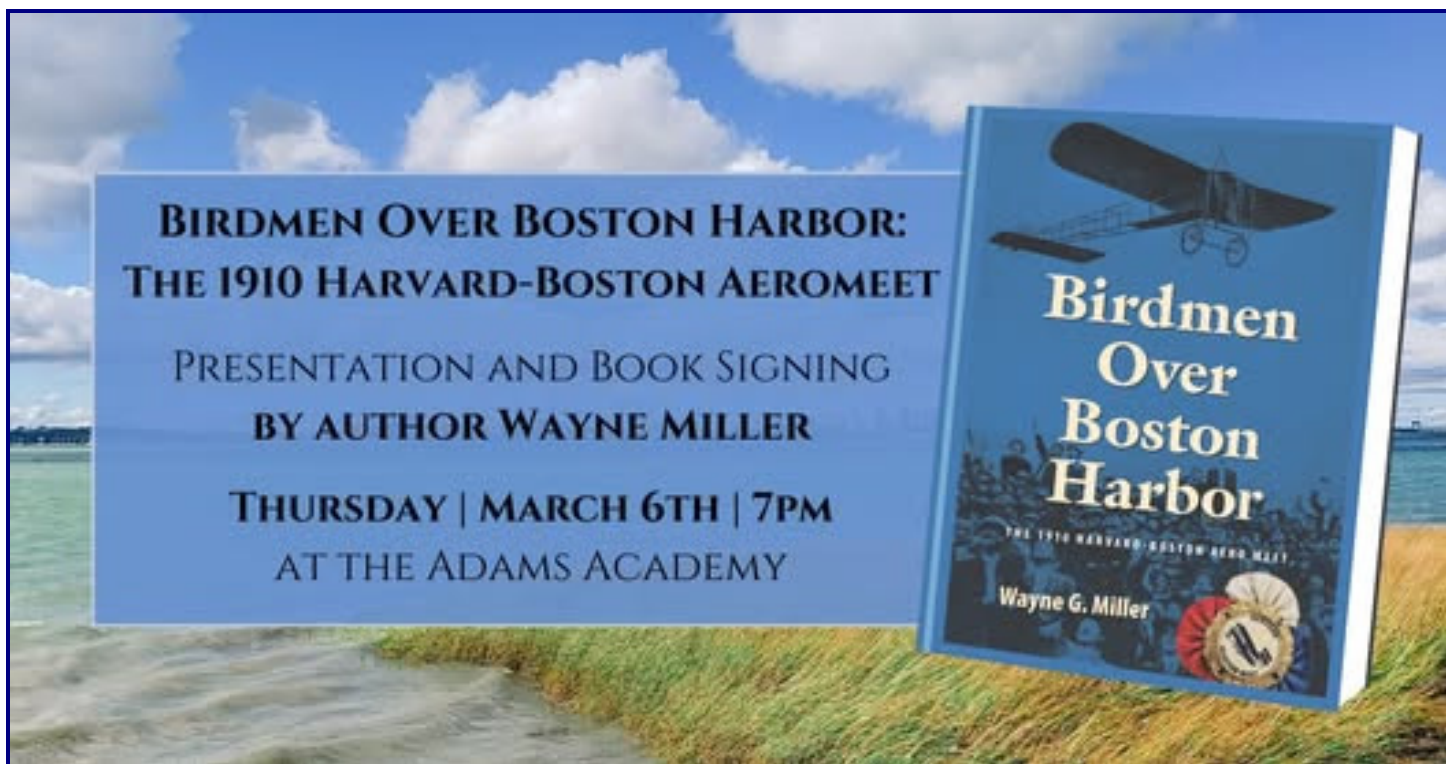


We expect to continue working at the Coast Guard Building on Saturday mornings to prepare for the museum's Grand Reopening in June. All members are welcome to join us there from 9 AM to noon on Saturdays until further notice. If you come, be sure to dress appropriately for potentially dirty work.



The images presented directly above were taken at the ANA Patriot Squadron's annual holiday luncheon, which was held at the Abington Ale House restaurant on Saturday December 14th. Twenty members and their guests attended this event, which as always, was a lot of fun.

COMING UP:



On Thursday March 6th the Quincy Historical Society will host a free public lecture and book-signing event presented by local historian and author Wayne Miller about the 1910 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet. The event starts at 7 PM and will be held at the Adams Academy at 8 Adams Street in Quincy, MA. Copies of the author's book, "Birdmen Over Boston Harbor", will be available for purchase there.

The 1910 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet, which was held at the Harvard Aeronautical Field in the Squantum section of Quincy, MA, was one of the first public air shows in the world. Hundreds of thousands of people including prominent government, military, and industrial leaders attended the Aero Meet and over a million more watched from vantage points surrounding the airfield. The Aero Meet has great historical significance. Among other things, US Navy observers decided, for the first time, that aircraft had practical military applications while watching them perform there. From the perspective of the Patriot Squadron, the primary significance of the 1910 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet was that the establishment of the Harvard Aviation Field at Squantum for the event led directly to the establishment of Naval Air Station Squantum on the site a few years later. All members in the area are encouraged to attend this event. It should be very interesting.

Membership director (and retired vice admiral) Wally Massenburg is involved with the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) programs at several Massachusetts high schools. Over the next few months he will present awards to outstanding cadets on behalf of the Daedalians (an association of military pilots) and the ANA Patriot Squadron. If you'd like to participate in these presentations, contact Wally at wallymassenburg@comcast.net.

As you should know, we intend to reopen the Shea Naval Aviation Museum by Saturday June 14th. This is Flag Day, and if we are ready in time we will organize a public rededication ceremony for the A-4B Skyhawk jet at the Shea Memorial Grove and a grand reopening event for the museum on that date. We intend to have the rededication ceremony at the park between 11 AM and noon and invite people to come to the museum afterwards. Mayor Hedlund of Weymouth has already agreed to come and other local VIPs may attend as well. More details will be provided as the date approaches.

HELP WANTED:

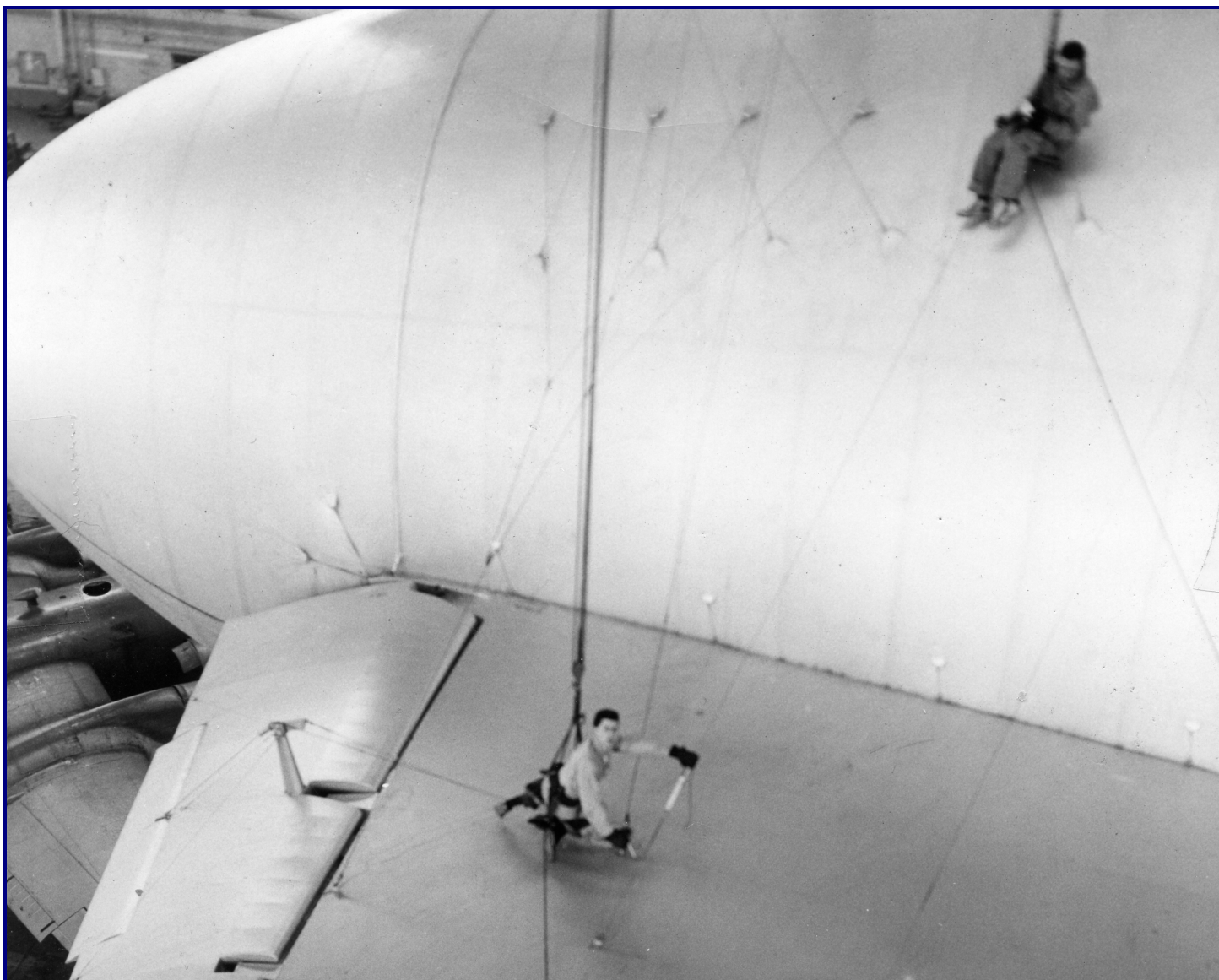
Again, we are holding regular work parties at the former Coast Guard Building between 9 AM and noon on Saturdays. If you'd like to help, just show up. Unless it's a holiday weekend, the building will be open and somebody will be there to let you in. If you want to be certain that somebody will be there, you can reach out to Steve Cohn at w1od@arrl.net or Bill Sargent at sargetwoway@aol.com.

We have a large number of plastic model airplanes from the Shea Naval Aviation Museum's previous incarnation that have become damaged and need to be repaired if possible. If you build model airplanes, or know somebody who does, we can use help fixing these things before the museum opens in June. This is something that could be done during one of the regular Saturday work parties or you could take the models home with you and fix them there.

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.

One more thing. 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?



The tail fins, cars (gondolas), and certain other objects attached to a Navy blimp's gasbag were supported and braced by a complicated network of steel cables. These cables expanded and contracted with temperature changes, or just from tension, and could become dangerously loose over time. To keep them tight, the cables were constantly checked and tightened as required by personnel in the Airship Rigger rate. Due to the enormous size of the blimps, tensioning work frequently required airship riggers to be suspended on ropes from cranes, or in the case of the Naval Air Development Unit men seen here working on a ZPG-2 type blimp inside LTA Hangar One at NAS South Weymouth in the late 1950s, from the arches of the blimp hangar.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Naval Air Development Unit ZPG-2 type blimp being ground-handled on the airfield at NAS South Weymouth during early 1954. Note the PBY Catalina flying boats in the background. These were all replaced by P4Y-2 Privateers by the late spring or early summer of 1954. A Patriot Squadron member, the late John Yaney, wrote a terrific book about the Naval Air Development Unit. You can purchase a copy at www.lulu.com. Just search on "John Yaney" and it will come up in hard cover and paperback versions. All proceeds from the sale of John's book go to the Patriot Squadron.

