



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:

We have good progress to report regarding the Shea Memorial Grove. In March we received a very reasonable quote from R. J. McAuliffe. This is the Massachusetts company that painted the display aircraft at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, MA. At the March meeting we voted to proceed with R. J. McAuliffe. In April he agreed to do the work and he will start when the weather becomes favorable.

Through the efforts of member Mary-Jean Hicky and one of her children, a Weymouth middle school shop teacher named Brian Ash became aware that we want to get the three large blue and gold signs at the Shea Memorial Grove restored or replaced. Brian visited the park on the date of the March members meeting to inspect the signs and attended the meeting afterwards. To make a long story short, he agreed to restore the signs as a class project for the cost of materials. In April some of his students went to the park and measured the signs. So, as you can see, the sign project has started.

We have raised nearly the amount of money for the A-4B and the signs. The funds we raised are in a special bank account earmarked for this purpose. As soon as we get a cost estimate from Brian Ash, we will submit a request to the Weymouth Historical Commission for sufficient funding to bridge the

gap between what we raised and what we need. We hope that the city will provide the funds. However, we will not need much money, only a few thousand dollars at the most. In the event that the city turns our request down, we are prepared to make up the difference from the Patriot Squadron's general funds.

We want to have the aircraft repainted and have the signs restored or replaced during the summer and fall. If everything is ready in time we will have a public rededication ceremony at the Shea Memorial Grove over Veteran's Day weekend in November. Stay tuned for more news to come!

A land auction was conducted at Union Point in late March. Among the parcels sold was 3.5 acres of land that included the old Shea Fitness Center gymnasium. This building served as the Patriot Squadron's headquarters and temporary site of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum for many years. After LStar Ventures forced us to vacate in June 2017 the building was neglected, and it was soon rendered unfit for occupancy. Because of this, the sale of the building has no impact on the Patriot Squadron, since we would never have been able to return there. The purchasers will have to rehabilitate the old building or tear it down. As of this writing, it is not certain what its fate will be.

During the March members meeting Wally Massenburg proposed forming three committees to evaluate three options for the Shea Naval Aviation Museum going forward. These options are:

- An arrangement with the SRA to occupy the old Coast Guard building
- An arrangement with the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum to display Patriot Squadron material
- An arrangement with the USS Salem to display Patriot Squadron material

The only committee that is fully staffed is the one evaluating the Coast Guard building. It is composed of Donald Canaday, Steve Cohn, Marc Frattasio, Bill Sargent, and Frank Ward. The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum committee is composed of Al Firrohr and Wally Massenburg. The USS Salem committee is composed of Paul Haley. We'd like other members to come forward and join the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum and USS Salem committees. The committees are supposed to evaluate their areas of focus and present to the group within the next few months. We'd like to come to a decision regarding the future of the museum by the end of the year.



Before the April meeting several members toured the Coast Guard building. The images above show the Coast Guard building itself (left) and the garage (right) that is located directly behind it. We are looking into an arrangement with the Southfield Redevelopment Authority to rehabilitate and occupy

the Coast Guard building, perhaps in conjunction with the New England Center & Home for Veterans. We would propose to use the office building as a meeting space/club house and for the museum. We would like to use at least a section of the garage for storage.



The image presented above shows members Wally Massenburg, Larry Cole, Allan Gilman, and Robert Michaelski inside the Coast Guard building. This image is representative of the general condition of the interior of this structure. Superficially, it looks pretty good. There's no apparent water damage, signs of mold or mildew, or anything else of any significance that appears out of the ordinary. Even the carpet looks good, all things considered. It appears as if the interior spaces could be put into acceptable condition for occupancy with just a thorough cleaning and the application of some paint. The committee that's looking into the Coast Guard building will be using a tool created by your newsletter editor using MS Excel to model the estimated one-time and reoccurring costs of occupying the building.

As all of you should know, we recently lost member Peter Crone. Peter was an active member who, among other things, served as the manager of the Shea Memorial Grove. During the April meeting Peter's brother James Crone, who is also a long-time member, volunteered to take over Peter's old position. This was voted on and approved during the April meeting. So, James Crone is now the manager of the Shea Memorial Grove.

Please note that during the May meeting the members in attendance voted to increase the ANA Patriot Squadron membership fee from \$15 to \$20 per year or from \$40 to \$50 for three years paid in advance. These changes will become effective December 31st. A reminder that the ANA Patriot Squadron is the Boston area chapter of the Association of Naval Aviation. Although we do not require Patriot Squadron members to also be members of the national group, we do highly encourage this. For more information about the Association of Naval Aviation go to www.anahq.org.



Member Wally Massenburg has been very busy presenting awards on behalf of the Order of the Daedalians and the ANA Patriot Squadron to outstanding NJROTC cadets from several Massachusetts high schools in recent months. The Order of the Daedalians is a fraternal and professional organization of American military pilots. The photo on this page shows Wally presenting award certificates and books to NJROTC cadets at the BMC Durfee High School in Fall River. From left to right are LCDR Derrick N. Randle, MSC, USN (retired), BMC Durfee High School NJROTC Commander; Cadet Lieutenant Savannah Ferreira (recipient of the Order of the Daedalians Award for Superior Leadership (sponsored by Flight 15 Hanscom AFB Chapter); VADM Wally Massenburg, USN (retired) ANA Patriot Squadron and Daedalian Flight 15 Member; Cadet Petty Officer Daniel Sian, Recipient of the ANA Patriot Squadron Recognition as the Top Cadet at BMC Durfee NJROTC; Dennis Kilene, ANA Patriot Squadron Representative, and CPO William Squires, USN (retired), BMC Durfee High School NJROTC Naval Science Instructor.



In the photo shown here, VADM Wally Massenburg and CAPT Dan Brennock, both USN (retired), are presenting a framed award certificate to NJROTC Cadet Ensign Hunter LaBier at Quabbin Regional High School in Barre. Wally also made presentations to NJROTC cadets at Oxford High School in Oxford. Wally has been doing this for some time, and he has extended an invitation to any Patriot Squadron member who would like to accompany him to NJROTC award presentations in the future.

COMING UP:

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum will host an NAS Brunswick base reunion over the extended weekend of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday September 13-15. There will be events scheduled for each day of the reunion, with the main one being a classic Maine lobster banquet (lobster, clams, and steak) on Saturday evening. On line registration went live during the first week of April and will be active through early August. Go to <https://bnamuseum.org> for details and to register. The US Navy

and possibly Canadian Forces are expected to bring aircraft for static display. More details will be provided as the event approaches.

HELP WANTED:

We still need somebody to step forward to take on the role of public relations officer. The incumbent PAO (your newsletter editor) has only agreed to continue on a temporary basis. Somebody really needs to step forward to take this on. If you are interested, please talk to one of the directors at one of our monthly meetings.

As previously reported, we've got a missing pulley on the flagpole at the Shea Memorial Grove. It has to be replaced, but the SRA will not allow us to put a ladder on the flagpole due to safety concerns. We have to use something that's self-supporting, such as a scaffold or a cherry picker. If anybody in the Weymouth area has something that could be used to replace the pulley on the flagpole please reach out to us via e-mail at inquiries@anapriotquadron.org or talk to any of our directors at an upcoming meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?



During the Second World War, and for a year or two after the war ended, a secretive Navy command called SPU Cast operated from NAS Squantum. The "SPU" stood for "Special Project Unit" and "Cast" was just a code word that stood for nothing other than to differentiate this particular SPU from others. SPU Cast was associated with the famous MIT Radiation Laboratory. It served to provide flight-testing support for airborne radar projects developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Grumman F6F-3N Hellcat pictured here has an AN/APS-6 radar pod on its port wing. The AN/APS-6 was developed by MIT and flight-tested by SPU Cast. Nearly 800 sets were built during the war. They were used on various night fighters, as shown here. Although there was no lineal connection between the two commands, SPU Cast had much in common with the Naval Air Development Unit (NADU) that operated from NAS South Weymouth between 1953 and 1961. They both provided flight-testing support for MIT related research and development projects.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



HEDRON-11 airship rigger inspecting the cables and other fittings attached to the vertical stabilizer of a ZP-11 ZNP-K type blimp inside NAS South Weymouth's LTA Hangar One sometime during the Second World War. The fins, car, and various other things connected to a blimp's rubberized fabric gasbag were mainly secured by an arrangement of steel cables. Due to the flexing of the gasbags, these cables had to be checked constantly to ensure that they were still taut and in proper alignment.

