



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

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A 501c3 Non-Profit Educational Organization

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Welcome to the first 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:

The ANA Patriot Squadron has had a busy summer. The Shea Naval Aviation Museum, which has been open on the last Saturday of the month for the past two years, opened on the second Saturday of the month starting in June. So far this has been successful enough that the group intends to maintain two open houses at the museum per month for as long as volunteers are available to tend it.

The museum made two important acquisitions over the summer. The first being an actual control panel from a Douglas A-4C Skyhawk jet, which was obtained by Peter Jardim. The control panel is a significant acquisition for the museum since A-4Cs were operated from NAS South Weymouth during the 1970s by Marine Corps Reserve attack squadron VMA-322. The museum is missing some instruments to complete the control panel, including a clock and a radar scope. Please examine the photograph of the actual instrument panel for details. If any reader has any of the missing instruments and would like to donate them to the museum please contact us using the contact information provided in the last paragraph of this narrative. The museum is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization and the value of donations may be deductible from your income taxes.

The second important acquisition for the museum was five large display cases. These were donated to the museum by Patriot Squadron member Alan Gilman and Country Cupboard gift shop owner Lisa Irwin. Ms. Irwin recently closed her retail store and is now doing business exclusively at craft shows and on the Internet at www.thecupboardlady.com. The display cases not only provide a more professional appearance, but have allowed the museum to increase the number of things on display.

In an effort to support the membership goals of the national ANA organization, the Patriot Squadron's board of directors recently voted to waive the group's \$15 annual membership fee to any new member of the Association of Naval Aviation who joins between July 4th 2013 and July 4th 2014. In other words, anyone who joins the Association of Naval Aviation between the specified twelve-month interval who also wants to join the Patriot Squadron can become a member for free. Further details and an application form are on the membership page of our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

During June the Patriot Squadron's Shea Naval Aviation Museum joined the popular Facebook social networking site thanks to the efforts of Peter Jardim. The museum's Facebook page is www.facebook.com/SheaNavalAviationMuseum. Going forward you will be able to find out what's happening at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum, such as coming events like lectures, out on Facebook. Peter Jardim recently became assistant admin officer and assistant museum director.

On Thursday July 18th Patriot Squadron C.O. Bill Sargent presented a lecture on the history of NAS South Weymouth to residents and guests at the Fairing Way at SouthField. Fairing Way, which is intended for people over the age of 55, is one of several residential communities established on the old base in recent years. Museum director and PAO Marc Frattasio presented a similar lecture to the members of the Weymouth Rotary Club at their monthly dinner meeting on Monday August 5th.

On Saturday July 27th Peter Jardim donated a 1/72 scale model of a Consolidated PBY Catalina to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. The model is finished to represent an actual aircraft flown by reserve squadron VP-ML-69 based at NAS Squantum during the late 1940s. Peter is a member of the IPMS Bay Colony Modelers, which is a local affiliate of the International Plastic Modelers Society.

On Tuesday August 14th the landmark red and white checkerboard painted water tower that stood next to Hangar One since WW2 was knocked down. You can view a video of this sad event on the NAS South Weymouth Alumni page on Facebook at www.facebook.com. On Monday August 19th the new Bill Delahunt Parkway was opened on SouthField. The new road, which was known as the East-West Parkway while under construction, goes through the area where Hangar One used to be.

In recent months Patriot Squadron membership director Millie Carpenter and Shea Memorial Grove director Peter Crone made arrangements with local access cable television channels in several towns surrounding Weymouth to help promote the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Check out your cable access TV channel and you might see an advertisement for the museum.

COMING UP:

On Saturday September 21st the ANA Patriot Squadron's Shea Naval Aviation Museum will open from 9 AM to noon for members of the VP Association, which is having its annual reunion in Weymouth that day. The VP Association is a group composed mostly of veterans who served in the Naval Air Reserve patrol squadrons based at NAS Squantum, NAS South Weymouth, and NAS Brunswick but anyone who served in a regular Navy VP squadron or who has an interest in maritime patrol aviation is welcome to join. Membership is free. See www.vpassociation.org for details.

On Saturday September 28th the museum will host a guest speaker and book signing by aviation author Tommy H. Thomason. Mr. Thomason has written about a dozen books on aviation related subjects including "Scooter: The Douglas A-4 Skyhawk Story". Mr. Thomason will give a lecture on the history of the A-4 Skyhawk, an aircraft that was used for many years at NAS South Weymouth by the Navy and Marine Corps reserve. Copies of Mr. Thomason's books will be available for sale before and after the lecture and he will autograph copies of his books that are bought from him at the museum or that you may bring with you from home. For more details go to the ANA Patriot Squadron web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org or see Mr. Thomason's web site at tommythomason.com.

Please be aware that the Shea Naval Aviation Museum will be open until further notice 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. We can always use volunteers to help tend and maintain the museum. If you would like to help out just show up at the museum on one of the days that it is open or send an e-mail message to museum director Marc Frattasio at marc_frattasio@yahoo.com to find out what you can do.

The museum has a batch of new NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth related squadron patches and NAS South Weymouth ball caps on order. These items are expected to arrive at the museum by the time you get this newsletter. We have genuine flight suits, Navy chambray shirts, pea coats, utility jackets, squadron and base patches, window decals, and many other souvenir type items available for sale at the museum. Come check out what we've got on the "geedunk" page of our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org or at the museum.

HELP WANTED:

The museum needs volunteers to help tend it on open days 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. 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. We also need male manikins or torsos (with heads) to use in the museum to display uniforms and jackets. 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 or torsos to the museum. Remind them that the museum is a 501c3 charitable organization and that donations may be tax-deductible.

The ANA Patriot Squadron is making plans to begin laying the memorial bricks that have been purchased so far at the Shea Memorial Grove. Tentatively we intend to start doing this on Saturday October 19th. If you know how to lay bricks and would be interested in helping show up at the Shea Memorial Grove at 9 AM that day. If you'd like to buy a memorial brick its not too late to do so. Go to our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org and download the memorial brick order form. Complete ordering information is on the web.

Membership director Millie Carpenter is looking for new members and for help in getting them. If you can help contact Millie at NanaCarpenter@ymail.com. We can also use help in publicizing the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. A link to a promotional flyer that you can download, print, and post on public bulletin boards is on our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

DID YOU KNOW?:

The reserve VP squadrons at NAS South Weymouth were the last to use the Consolidated P4Y-2 Privateer in the maritime patrol role. When VP-911 and VP-912 gave them up in December 1958 these aircraft went to the scrapyard, to the Coast Guard, or were blown out of the sky as test targets.

SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Display case donated by Lisa Irwin. **Top Right:** Linda Olson and Jack Leonard at the museum during recent open house. Linda is modeling a flight suit available for sale at the museum. **Middle Left:** A-4 Skyhawk control panel that we need instruments for. **Middle Right:** Bill Sargent giving lecture at Fairing Way. **Bottom Left:** Peter Jardim with the PBY model he built and donated to the museum. **Bottom Right:** Crowd at recent lecture given by retired USN captain Barney Rubel.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



This aerial view of NAS South Weymouth was taken during an air show held sometime in the early to mid 1960s. The Blue Angels are flying Grumman F-11 Tigers. Note the huge Second World War vintage blimp hangar, LTA Hangar One, and the smaller and more recently built (1956) HTA Hangar Two. Look at all the cars parked out on the East Mat. NAS South Weymouth's air shows were always popular events. Today, the new SouthField residential development is located near the end of the runway visible at top right.

