



## 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 latest 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:**

Member Jack Leonard recently passed away. Jack was a decorated WW2 combat veteran and reservist who served in a number of units at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. He was active in the ANA Patriot Squadron and up until about a year ago often came to our meetings with one or more of his daughters. Everybody who knew Jack will miss him.

On Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> the ANA Patriot Squadron had its first meeting in the dark. The company that is redeveloping old NAS South Weymouth, the Starwood Group, cut power to the area surrounding the Shea Naval Aviation Museum that day. Despite the poor lighting conditions, the scheduled open house proceeded as planned (we had a total of eight visitors who decided to come in and look around anyway) and our monthly meeting also proceeded as planned.

Member Susan Zimmerman was recently appointed the First Junior Vice Commander for Disabled American Veteran's Chapter 76 based in Brockton, MA. Susan, who is an active member of our group as well as the DAV, served as an Aviation Storekeeper at NAS South Weymouth with VP-92.

On Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> ANA Patriot Squadron members Al Firnrohr, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Robert Mandeville, and Robert Michaelski worked on the memorial brick project at the Shea Memorial Grove. The work party made cosmetic adjustments to bricks that had been laid previously. On Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> Faith and Marc Frattasio put down an additional 13 memorial bricks at the Grove.

Come on down to the Shea Memorial Grove and check out the memorial bricks if you can. They are located along each side of the main pathway into the Grove. As indicated in the previous newsletter, we estimate that there is space along the pathway for at least 105 more bricks. So, if you want a memorial brick you can still get one. The memorial bricks cost \$50 each and can be engraved with up to four lines of text. Order forms are available at the museum during open houses or you can download an order form from the ANA Patriot Squadron's web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org).

No photos were taken, unfortunately, but at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> ANA Patriot Squadron member Bill Horsch's wife Jennie met up with Gloria Grillo and Gert Carlisle, the widows of two Navy men associated with NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth that she had not seen in over fifty years. The two women showed up at the museum unexpectedly and independently, Gloria to view a memorial brick that she had purchased to commemorate her late husband's military career and Gert to allow the museum staff to scan some photographs that her late husband had taken on NAS South Weymouth during the 1950s. Gloria and Gert recognized each other and asked the museum staff about Bill's wife Jennie. A call was placed to the Horsch residence and shortly afterwards there was a happy reunion at the museum. It just goes to prove that you never can tell what you might find at the museum.

On Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> ANA Patriot Squadron members Marc and Faith Frattasio went to Newport, RI to meet with retired Navy CAPT Robert "Barney" Rubel and active duty Navy CAPT Richard LaBranche, both of the Naval War College. The purpose of the visit was to meet CAPT LaBranche, who is the Director of the Naval War College's Maritime Advanced Warfighting School (MAWS). As you should know, Barney, who is the Dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies at the Naval War College, has presented several lectures at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Unfortunately, Barney is retiring and leaving New England in the early fall. A good friend of the museum, he's set us up with his friend CAPT LaBranch, who it so happens is a former Navy VF and VA pilot and a member of ANA national. CAPT LaBranch is interested in establishing a relationship with the museum and has agreed to present a lecture in January. More details will be provided in the December newsletter.

Peter Crone had a stock of ANA Patriot Squadron membership cards printed up. These attractive full color cards feature a photo of the Shea Memorial Grove on one side. They are "blanks", meaning that you have to fill in your name and membership number. If you have not already done so you can pick your membership card up at the museum. If you can't come to the museum card send a normal sized self-addressed stamped envelope to ANA Patriot Squadron, C/O Membership Card, 495 Shea Memorial Drive, South Weymouth MA 02190 and we will mail one to you.

### **COMING UP:**

Please note that the Shea Naval Aviation Museum strives to host guest speakers on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September. We have scheduled a book signing and lecture by authors Donald Cann and John Galluzzo on Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>. These men put together a book for Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" historical photo album series entitled "Squantum and South Weymouth Naval Air Stations". They will present a lecture about the history of both bases and will have autographed copies of their book available for sale. See the ANA Patriot Squadron's web site and Facebook page for more details during the weeks leading up to this event.

We are going to have a presence on Weymouth Day at the Weymouth farmer's market on Saturday September 6th and at the Weymouth Pumpkin Festival in October. We'll need people to man our tables at these events. If this is something that you would like to do please talk to Bill Sargent or any of the directors at one of the monthly meetings before these events.

The VP Association, a group composed mainly of veterans who served with the Naval Air Reserve patrol squadrons based at NAS Squantum, NAS South Weymouth, and NAS Brunswick, will hold their annual reunion locally at the Weymouth Elks Hall on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. As we have done in previous years, we will open the Shea Naval Aviation Museum from 9 AM to noon that day so that VP Association members can visit the museum before their reunion starts. If you're a former VP squadron member you should consider joining this group. See [www.vpassociation.org](http://www.vpassociation.org) for details.

The Bay Colony chapter of the International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS) will once again hold a meeting at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will start at noon after the scheduled open house and will run until 4 PM. The Bay Colony IPMS is a group of people who build plastic scale model aircraft, ships, etc. Any ANA Patriot Squadron member interested in building plastic models is welcome to stop on by and check the group out. For more information about the Bay Colony IPMS see their web site at [www.ipmsbaycolony.com](http://www.ipmsbaycolony.com) or speak to ANA Patriot Squadron and Bay Colony IPMS members Peter Jardim, Hal Marshman, or Joe Ravino at any of our own meetings in the museum.

The Experimental Aircraft Association holds a pancake breakfast and fly-in at the Cranland airport off Route 58 in Halifax, MA starting at 8 AM on the third Sunday of the month from April through October. The breakfast, which includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, and coffee costs \$6 per person. There's typically 50 to 100 light aircraft that show up between 8 and 11 AM. Many ANA Patriot Squadron members including George Driscoll, John Edwards, Lorraine Edwards, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Dan Haff, Bill Hanigan, Patrick Kelly, Bob Mandeville, Joe Mortland, and Susan Zimmerman have been meeting there as time permits. Why don't you plan on joining us?

Member Steve Cohn wants everybody in the ANA Patriot Squadron to know that there is a world-class WW2 museum located in Natick, MA. It is private and open by appointment only. Check it out on-line at [www.museumofworldwarii.com](http://www.museumofworldwarii.com).

We now have 16 ounce pint glasses imprinted with the later (1977 to 1997) NAS South Weymouth base insignia in full color, as shown here at right, available for sale at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. These are very high quality beverage glasses similar to what you'd find in a bar or restaurant. The NAS South Weymouth pint glasses will be available at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum while the supply lasts for \$10 each. Unfortunately, due to the special handling required (we'd have to stock special packing material and shipping containers to prevent breakage), we are not in a position at this time to ship the glasses. If you would like a glass you will have to pick it up at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum at one of our open houses on the second or last Saturdays of the month. As is the case with everything we sell, the funds that are raised help us to operate the museum.





## HELP WANTED:

The Shea Naval Aviation Museum needs volunteers to help tend it during the open houses that are scheduled 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. Anybody who'd like to help the regular crew tend the museum during open houses is welcome to come on by. Basically, we clean the museum, put things out for display, keep an eye on visitors, answer questions, record sales, and then close the place up. You can stay as long or as little as you like. The ANA Patriot Squadron meets from 11 AM to noon at the museum on the last Saturday of the month and then we normally go out to eat at the nearby Warren's Place restaurant. All members and guests are welcome to attend the meetings and go out to lunch with us.

We need help with occasional work parties at the museum and at the Shea Memorial Grove, such as was the case during the recent memorial brick laying efforts. These events are generally announced during the monthly meetings or via e-mail. If you'd like to help we'd be happy to have you with us.

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 for display in the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Photos, slides, and films can be copied and returned to you if you don't want to give them up. We are especially interested in obtaining display torsos and full body male manikins. We recently acquired more foam display heads for caps. We can use an officer's and CPO's combination cover and officer's garrison caps (khaki and aviation green). Remember, the ANA Patriot Squadron is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization. Your donations to the museum may be tax-deductible.

If anybody has the ability and interest to create a DVD, it would be useful to produce a short history of NAS South Weymouth and/or NAS Squantum that we could distribute. At least one of the real estate companies at SouthField has asked about such a thing for prospective customers and we've had a number of visitors to the museum who have also asked if we have a history DVD available for sale. We've got plenty of digital images depicting various aspects of the history of both bases. A photomontage type of thing with transitions between images accompanied by music and a narration probably would not be too difficult to produce on a home PC by somebody with the right multimedia software. This is the kind of thing that middle and high school students do these days and routinely post on the Internet through U-Tube. Perhaps a member connected with a local school might approach the multimedia department and ask if such a thing could be taken on as a student project?

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 bulletin board where you can tack a flyer up.

We especially need help promoting the lecture scheduled for Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>. There's a link to the special flyer put together for this event on our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org). If you have the ability to do so, please print a few flyers and post them locally where people can see them.

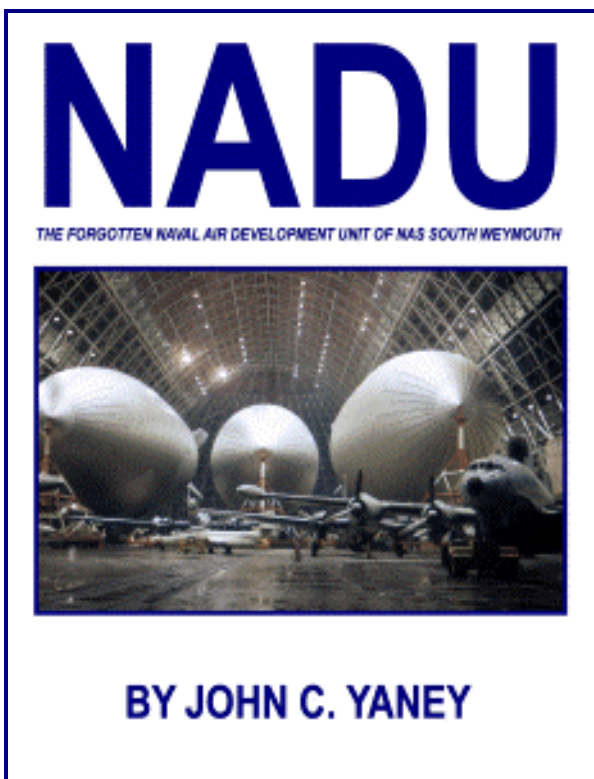
Don't assume that people know about the ANA Patriot Squadron or the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. If you have friends who were Navy or Marine Corps veterans associated with either NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum contact them and let them know about us. If you know anybody who is interested in military history or aviation let them know about us.

## **DID YOU KNOW?:**

Until recently (the Navy is has been testing a small commercial blimp off-and-on at NAS Lakehurst, NJ for the past few years) NAS South Weymouth was one of the last places where the Navy operated blimps. The Naval Air Development Unit (NADU), which provided flight-testing support for military research projects associated with the MIT Lincoln Laboratory and various defense contractors, operated blimps from NAS South Weymouth until the summer of 1961.

The late John Yaney, who was an active member of the ANA Patriot Squadron, wrote a comprehensive illustrated history of the Naval Air Development Unit called "NADU: The Story of the Forgotten Naval Air Development Unit of NAS South Weymouth". Copies of this book can be purchased on-line directly from the publisher via a link on the "geedunk" page on our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org). The Shea Naval Aviation Museum also stocks NADU command patches. All proceeds from the sale of the NADU book and patches benefit the ANA Patriot Squadron's Shea Naval Aviation Museum.

Please note that John's NADU book was recently reviewed very favorably in the summer 2014 edition of the Naval Airship Association's quarterly magazine, "The Noon Balloon". For more information about the Naval Airship Association, which is a group composed of U.S. Navy LTA program veterans and enthusiasts, see [www.naval-airships.org](http://www.naval-airships.org).





**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left:** Meeting in the dark on May 31<sup>st</sup>. **Top Right:** Susan Zimmerman on motorcycle at museum. **Middle Left:** Al Firnrrohr, Faith Frattasio, Robert Michaelski, and Robert Mandeville laying bricks at Shea Memorial Grove. **Middle Right:** Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, CAPT Robert "Barney" Rubel (USN retired), Kathy LaBranche, and CAPT Richard LaBranche discussing Patriot Squadron. **Bottom Left:** Lunch at Warren's Place. **Bottom Right:** Bob Mandeville at Cranland.



A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



This unusual photo is not really a photo at all. It's a frame enlargement from a 16mm film acquired by member Alan Gilman that shows a Naval Air Development Unit Goodyear ZPG-2 Seafarer blimp weathervaning on a Type IV mobile mooring mast out on the East Mat sometime during the late 1950s. This photo was taken from Union Street during the Runway 08/26 expansion project. The film was recently transcribed to DVD and is presently available for viewing at the museum on request.

