



## 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:**

Unfortunately, restrictions on indoor public gatherings remain in place here in Massachusetts in reaction to the "Wuhan Flu". Some Patriot Squadron members have suggested that we try conducting our monthly meetings out in the open at the Shea Memorial Grove while wearing facemasks and maintaining the mandated social distancing protocols. Others suggested that we try to use one of the more popular Internet based virtual meeting services, "Zoom". Your newsletter editor set up an account for this service, and along with members Donald Canaday, Steve Cohn, Faith Frattasio, Bob Muise, and Joe Muise conducted an experimental Zoom meeting on Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup>. The results were favorable enough that we are going to attempt a general members meeting, using the Zoom service, between 11:00 and 11:45 on Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the same time and date that our "regular" members meeting would be scheduled for if we were able to use the SRA meeting room at Union Point for this purpose. The free level of Zoom service restricts us to having meetings of no more than 45 minutes duration. In order to participate, you will need to have an Internet enabled device such as a personal computer, laptop, tablet, etc., with a web browser such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox, and speakers. You will also need a microphone if you intend to say something during the meeting. A URL and the necessary credentials

to join the meeting has already been sent via e-mail to all Patriot Squadron members who have valid e-mail addresses on file and a reminder will be sent just before the meeting. We don't really know how this Zoom meeting will work with a large audience, but without knowing how long the "Wuhan Flu" restrictions will continue, we've got to try something. Hopefully things will begin returning to normal in November, but nobody really knows what the future holds for this fractured country of ours.

We lost two memorial trees at the Shea Memorial Grove in recent months. One tree appears to have just failed to thrive for some unknown reason. The other tree appears to have been struck by an automobile. We intend to replace both trees after the weather becomes cooler and wetter in the fall. The Weymouth Eagles may help us out with this. Member Tom Rizzo has some friends within this organization, and they have expressed interest in performing some volunteer work at the Shea Memorial Grove. Replacing the two trees is a high priority, and we can use all the help we can get to remove the stump of one tree (the other appears to be totally gone), acquiring and planting the new trees, and then ensuring that they get enough water at least until the winter.

There is a new residential development under construction at Union Point on the site of what used to be the old NAS South Weymouth baseball field. The new development is called "Stonebridge", and according to a large sign that's posted at the construction site it will eventually have 45 single-family homes. As of this writing the first three houses are in an advanced state of construction and there are also several foundations in various stages of completion. If you go down Shea Memorial Drive you'll see the new development between the sports complex (the big white inflatable dome) and the Shea Memorial Grove.

### **COMING UP:**

There are no scheduled squadron events planned over the next few months, other than the Zoom meeting previously described. We may have other Zoom meetings at some as-yet undetermined interval, depending upon whether or not the September meeting proves successful and if we have anything worth discussing as a group in this manner.

Unfortunately, at this point we don't know if we'll be able to hold our holiday luncheon in early December as we normally do. We will continue to monitor the situation and get the word out to all of you if conditions change for the better.

Those in the local area may be interested to know that the Experimental Aircraft Association chapter that operates from the Cranland Airport in Halifax, MA has re-commenced their monthly pancake breakfasts and fly-ins. These had been suspended in reaction to the "Wuhan Flu". The remaining events for this year will be held on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> between 8 and 10 AM. A decent breakfast, consisting of orange juice and coffee, pancakes, sausage, and scrambled eggs is served by EAA members for the low price of \$7.00 per person. If the weather is favorable, light aircraft come from all across eastern Massachusetts. If you stay for the entire two hours you should see at least fifty different aircraft come and go. Several Patriot Squadron members generally attend this event, and it's a really good time if you like to watch airplanes.

### **HELP WANTED:**

As mentioned in previous issues of this newsletter, we have the following vacancies within the ANA Patriot Squadron organization that we would like to fill:

- Membership Officer
- Operations Officer (Corporation Organizer)

- Chaplain (Religious Advisor)
- Flight Surgeon (Medical Advisor)

If anybody out there is interested in filling any of these slots, please reach out to us via e-mail at [inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org](mailto:inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org).

Despite having over one hundred members in our organization, so far nobody has expressed interest in taking any of these positions, which is pretty sad. I should not have to remind you that the Patriot Squadron will only survive as long as there are members who are willing to take an active role in it.

A recent inspection of the signs at the Shea Memorial Grove, which as you should know were repainted earlier this year, shows that the paint appears to be holding up much better this time. There was no blistering or peeling apparent, which was the problem the last time these signs were repainted to make them presentable for the Jared Monti memorial dedication ceremony last year. One thing we did observe is that the blue paint appears to be somewhat thin in spots. If somebody out there has the time and interest, it would be great to put another coat of blue paint on these signs. Literally anybody in the local area could do this, at any time. All you'd need to do is wipe down the signs and then apply another coat of blue paint, avoiding the gold lettering. This could be done using either a disposable roller or paint brush, though the roller would probably be quicker and easier. We used "Navy Blue" Rustoleum Painter's Touch water-based enamel paint purchased from the Home Depot in Rockland. One medium sized can of paint will probably do the trick. If somebody decides to do this, just send an e-mail notice to [inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org](mailto:inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org) to let us know. That way we can let everybody know that the job's been done.

### DID YOU KNOW?



The original NAS Squantum "Witch" insignia was derived from a Halloween decoration. The story goes that the base commanding officer in 1928, LT George Haberle, decided that the base needed an insignia. He wanted to use an Indian head, but similar designs were being used by airlines and Army Air Corps commands, so a witch was selected instead. Supposedly the witch was picked because the base had been the site of a "dunking stool" used to test accused witches during the early colonial period, but other sources have claimed that the reason was the base's proximity (?) to Salem. An enlisted station keeper on the base, possibly CMM Lester Miller, copied a cheap paper decoration bought at a local dime store as the model for the base's insignia.

**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left:** Recent overview of the Shea Memorial Grove. **Top Right:** Faith Frattasio with one of the signs at the park that could use another coat of Navy Blue paint. **Middle Left:** This is one of the memorial trees that we need to replace this fall. **Middle Right:** The Jared Monti memorial tree is doing OK. **Bottom Left:** The first three units of the new “Stonebridge” residential development at Union Point. **Bottom Right:** Marc Frattasio testing “Zoom” from his P-3A starboard aft observer seat.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Women security guards at NAS South Weymouth posed with the USMC security detachment's mascot dog during WW2. NAS South Weymouth was the first naval installation to use women as armed security guards. This action was taken by the commanding officer of the USMC security detachment, who was having enormous difficulty finding suitable men to serve as civil service security guards on the base due to the military mobilization effort. The "experiment" with women guards proved so successful that it was subsequently repeated at military installations across the country.

