



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

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Welcome to the second 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:**

ANA Patriot Squadron member Robert Forand passed away on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>. Forand served at NAS South Weymouth during WW2 as a blimp pilot with ZP-11. He affiliated with the USNR for many years afterwards with ZP-911 at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth, retiring as an LCDR. Those members who attend the meetings at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on the last Saturday of the month may recall that Robert Forand was often there with his daughter Donna.

On Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> the ANA Patriot Squadron opened the Shea Naval Aviation Museum for visitors from the VP Association who were in the local area to attend their annual reunion. The VP Association is composed mainly of veterans of the various Naval Air Reserve patrol squadrons that were based over the years at NAS Squantum, NAS South Weymouth, or NAS Brunswick. However, the group accepts as members anybody who served in any USN or USNR patrol squadron or has an interest in maritime patrol aviation. There are no dues. To join you just have to have been a member of a USN or USNR patrol squadron or have an interest in maritime patrol aviation. For more information about the VP Association see <http://www.vpassociation.org>.

The Shea Naval Aviation Museum hosted a lecture and book-signing by aviation author Tommy H. Thomason on Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Thomason, a retired aeronautical engineer from Connecticut, has written several books on naval aviation related subjects including “U.S. Naval Air Superiority”, “Strike from the Sea”, and “Scooter: The Douglas A-4 Skyhawk Story”. Thomason presented a lecture on the A-4 Skyhawk attack jet, an aircraft used by the USNR and USMCR at NAS South Weymouth for many years. More than 60 ANA Patriot Squadron members and guests turned out for this event. It was literally standing room only. For more information about author Tommy Thomason or his books see <http://tommythomason.com>. The museum tries to schedule guest speakers on naval aviation related subjects on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September.

On Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> Patriot Squadron members John Edwards, Marc Frattasio, Faith Frattasio, and Bill Sargent placed 80 memorial bricks at the Shea Memorial Grove park on the SouthField real estate development at old NAS South Weymouth. Fifty of these bricks were generously purchased for the group by Shea Memorial Grove director Peter Crone to help get the project started. The memorial bricks were placed in a row along the left side of the main pathway into the park where visitors can view them. The brick-laying was covered in the Quincy Patriot Ledger newspaper the following week. There’s still plenty of space at the Shea Memorial Grove for more bricks. In fact, we need 10 more bricks to completely fill the row we started. If you’ve been thinking about ordering a brick now is the time to do it. The bricks, which cost \$50 each and are a fund-raiser for the ANA Patriot Squadron, can commemorate a ship, squadron, or other command, a base, or a person’s military service. For more information about the memorial brick program or to download an order form go to our web site. Please note that we have to order bricks in batches of no less than ten.

Members of a local model building club called the IPMS Bay Colony Modelers held a meeting at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> after the scheduled open house on that date concluded. The IPMS Bay Colony Modelers is a local chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society. Normally they meet monthly at a member’s home but they decided to hold their October meeting at our museum instead. Club members Peter Jardim, Hal Marshman, and Joe Ravino are also active members of the ANA Patriot Squadron and support the museum in many ways such as by building and donating model aircraft. For more information about the IPMS Bay Colony Modelers see their web site at <http://www.ipmsbaycolony.com>.

On Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> Weymouth High School freshman Brendan Danna came to the museum to do some cleaning work to help satisfy the school’s annual community service requirement. Each freshman has to perform at least ten hours of community service to be promoted to the tenth grade.

ANA Patriot Squadron member David Banagis recently published his Navy memoirs, “Twenty-Three Days at Sea”. Dave was a yeoman who spent three tours at NAS South Weymouth. He started out as a YNSN with NADU in 1959 and finished up as a YNC in the base CO’s office in 1979. In between his time at NAS South Weymouth he served in a Seabee unit based at “Gitmo Bay” in Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis and at NAS Detroit, MI. However, most of the book involves his time at NAS South Weymouth. Dave’s book is not available in stores and can only be purchased on-line directly from the publisher. There’s a link to the book on the “Geedunk” page of the Patriot Squadron’s web site. Dave is the second ANA Patriot Squadron member to publish a book about his military career. Bill Horsch, who served at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth, did the same thing a few years ago. There’s also a link to Bill’s book on our web site’s “Geedunk” page .

Another book worth seeking is “Guppy Pilot” by Dr. Roger Smith. Dr. Smith was a naval aviator who flew AD-5W Skyraiders with an airborne early warning squadron based at NAS Quonset Point during the mid to late 1950s. After he left active duty he went to medical school in Boston and affiliated with USNR ASW squadron VS-915 at NAS South Weymouth. The two chapters in the book that cover his

experiences at NAS South Weymouth make the book well worth reading. You can check it out via a link on our web site's "Geedunk" page too.

The Shea Naval Aviation Museum now has authentic NAS South Weymouth ball caps in stock. These look just like the ones worn by military personnel assigned to the base during its final two decades. The navy blue caps are made of soft cotton and one size fits all. To purchase a cap either visit the museum between 9 AM and noon on the second or last Saturday of the month or (US and FPO/APO addresses only) send a check for \$25.60 to Shea Naval Aviation Museum, 495 Shea Memorial Drive, South Weymouth MA 02190 and one will be mailed to you. Be sure to include a note with your check indicating that you want an NAS South Weymouth ball cap so we'll know what the check is for. We have a surprising variety of NAS South Weymouth and NAS Squantum related souvenirs such as command patches, window decals, refrigerator magnets, T-shirts, books, etc., for sale at the museum. You can see some of what we have in stock pictured on the "geedunk" page of our web site. There's also a link to the company that sells ANA (national) polo shirts on our web site.

### **COMING UP:**

The ANA Patriot Squadron will hold its annual holiday luncheon on Saturday December 14th. As we have done over the past couple of years this event will be held at the Abington Ale House restaurant on Route 18 in Abington, MA, just a few miles away from old NAS South Weymouth. The luncheon will begin at 12:30 PM and will last until 2 or 3. No reservations are required. If you want to attend the holiday luncheon just show up at the Abington Ale House at 12:30 PM on December 14th and be prepared to order something off the restaurant's regular menu. All members of the ANA Patriot Squadron and their guests are welcome to attend. Please note that the Shea Naval Aviation Museum will be open that day from 9 AM to noon. Feel free to stop by and visit before the luncheon if you like.

Mark Saturday January 25, 2014 down on your calendar. If all goes according to plan we'll be hosting retired USN Captain Robert "Barney" Rubel of the Naval War College as a guest speaker at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum starting at noon on that date. As some of you may recall, CAPT Rubel gave a lecture at the museum on the challenges faced by the Navy during the transition from propeller driven aircraft to jets in April that was very well received. He has tentatively agreed to present a lecture in January on the Battle of Midway, personal scheduled permitting. See the Patriot Squadron web site or Facebook page for more details as this date approaches. We hope to have things firmed up with CAPT Rubel by the end of December.

We also believe that we'll be bringing back author Tommy H. Thomason to give a lecture and do another book-signing at the museum on Saturday April 26, 2014. At this time the subject of Thomason's lecture has not been decided. More information will be provided in the March newsletter.

### **HELP WANTED:**

The Shea Naval Aviation Museum always 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. As you should know, 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. Please consider becoming more active in this group. We can use help tending and maintaining the museum and the Shea Memorial Grove and working on various projects such as the recent brick-laying. The ANA Patriot Squadron is an all-volunteer group. You can literally do as much or as little as you want. There's little pressure to do anything that you don't want to do. Come to one of our meetings and talk to anybody there to find out what you can do.

We're also looking for people who would like to assume a leadership role in the ANA Patriot Squadron at some point. The directors and other people in official positions within this group such as the commanding officer, administrative officer, financial officer, legal officer, museum director, membership director, etc., serve in those roles for a specific period of time and then come up for re-election. Nobody can remain in a leadership role forever and so we need to develop a "bench" of talent that can be prepared to succeed the incumbents. Many incumbents can use one or more assistants and this can help prepare individuals who would like to progress into a leadership role to eventually move into such a role. If you would like to eventually move into a leadership role in the ANA Patriot Squadron please talk to any of the directors during a meeting and we'll try to find some way to accommodate you.

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 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 the donations they make may be tax-deductible.

Those members who build model aircraft should consider building a model of something that was based at NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth and donating it to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. A few members have already done this and the models donated have made very nice displays. If you'd like to do this, talk to museum director Marc Frattasio. He can provide you with photos of specific aircraft that were based at NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth for reference.

Any NAS Squantum old-timers out there have an original Squantum witch decal that they'd be willing to donate to the museum? During the early 1950s the aircraft assigned to NAS Squantum were all marked, usually below the cockpit, with a circular decal perhaps ten inches in diameter depicting a cartoon witch flying across the moon on a broomstick. We'd love to acquire one of these things for the Shea Naval Aviation Museum.

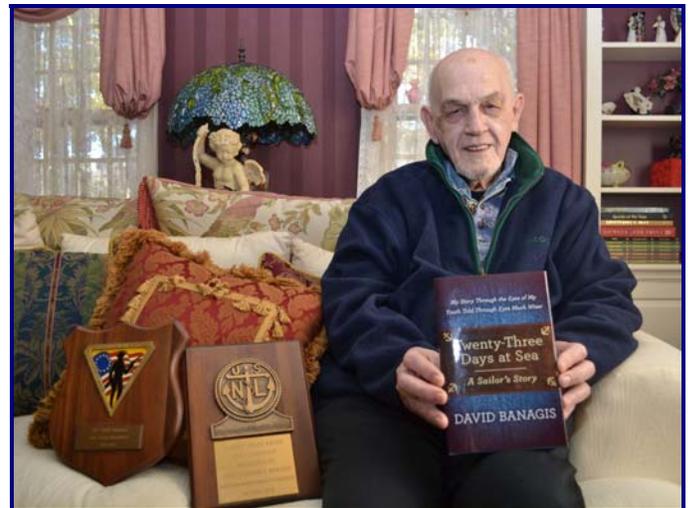
We are always looking for new members and for help in getting them. We can also use help in publicizing the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. A link to a flyer that you can download, print, and post on public bulletin boards is presented on our web site in PDF format. Good places 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.

There's been some interest expressed in setting up tables at various events local to the Weymouth area and participating in parades to promote the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Such things only make sense if we can find enough people who are willing to participate. If this is something that you would like to do please contact us at [inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org](mailto:inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org).

### **DID YOU KNOW?:**

The Navy commissioned NAS South Weymouth as an LTA (lighter-than-air) base on March 1, 1942. This was largely an administrative exercise since the airfield at NAS South Weymouth was not completed at that time. The base did not begin to support actual flight operations until four months later in June 1942.

**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left:** VP Association's Bob Mandeville and Fran Creney visiting the museum. **Top Right:** Susan Zimmerman and Faith Frattasio show off our new NAS South Weymouth ball caps. **Middle Left:** Author Tommy H. Tomason presenting his lecture. **Middle Right:** John Edwards, Bill Sargent, and Faith Frattasio laying bricks at the Shea Memorial Grove. **Bottom Left:** IPMS Bay Colony Modelers meeting at the museum. **Bottom Right:** Dave Banagis and his book "Twenty-Three Days at Sea".

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



ZP-11 ZNP-K type blimp K-11 secured to a mobile mooring mast and being ground handled on the snow-covered airfield in front of LTA Hangar One at NAS South Weymouth during February 1944. Airship Patrol Squadron 11 flew Goodyear ZNP-K type blimps such as this on operational ASW patrol and convoy escort missions out of NAS South Weymouth from June 1942 to May 1945.

