



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 the 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:

First of all, we'd like to welcome new member Bob Allen to the Patriot Squadron. Bob was in the Navy Reserve at NAS South Weymouth with VP-92 where he served as a P-3 Orion flight engineer.

We had an interesting visitor at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday August 27th. This visitor, Howard Carter from Brockton, was one of the famous "Tuskegee Airmen" from the Second World War. For those who do not know it, the "Tuskegee Airmen" were members of the 332nd Fighter Group and 477th Bomber Group, which were composed entirely of African-American Army Air Forces personnel. Howard told us a little about his experiences training to fly P-51 Mustangs during the final months of the war. In later years he transitioned from flying actual aircraft to radio-controlled models.

The Patriot Squadron had informational and sales tables at the Boston Chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association's annual reunion and clambake at Fourth Cliff in Scituate on Saturday September 10th. Members Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, and Susan Zimmerman tended this table. We also had a table at South Weymouth Day at the Weymouth Farmer's Market on Saturday September 17th. Steve Cohn, Marc Frattasio, Mary Jean Hickey, and Susan Zimmerman tended the

table there. These events made use for the first time of a pop-up tent generously provided by national Association of Naval Aviation official, Patriot Squadron member, and retired USN Vice Admiral Walter Massenberg.

On Saturday September 24th popular naval aviation author Tommy Thomason came to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum to give a lecture and conduct a book signing. The lecture was about the famous “admiral’s revolt” of 1949 that was a reaction to the Truman administration’s decision to cancel the USS United States class aircraft carriers in favor of the Air Force’s B-36 bomber. Tommy brought copies of his many books to sell, including his new books about the Grumman S-2 Tracker and naval training aircraft. If you were unable to make it to this event and would like to purchase copies of Tommy’s great books you can check them out at www.ginterbooks.com/NAVAL/NF101.htm.

September 24th was a very busy day at the museum. Not only did we have a guest speaker scheduled, but the VP Association (www.vpassociation.org) also held its annual reunion at the Weymouth Elks Hall that day. Many VP Association members visited the museum before they went off to their reunion. VP Association member Paul Dormont donated a magnetometer from an ASQ-10 MAD system, as used on Lockheed P-3A and P-3B model Orions, to the museum in memory of the late Paul Rood, who was a popular TAR hospital corpsman assigned to VP-92 for many years. VP Association members Jack and Mary Primiano also donated a cold weather flight suit to the museum.

On Saturday October 8th the Bay Colony chapter of the International Plastic Modeler’s Society (IPMS) met at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum after the open house that was scheduled for that day concluded. This organization is composed of people who build plastic scale models of aircraft, military vehicles, ships, etc. Patriot Squadron members Peter Jardim, Hal Marshman, and Joe Ravino are also members of the Bay Colony IPMS. For more information about this group go to their web site at www.ipmsbaycolony.com.

On Saturday October 29th 96-year-old Jim Palmieri of the Weymouth Historical Society paid a surprise visit to the museum with his daughter and great grand-daughter. Mr. Palmieri is a WW2 Marine Corps combat veteran who started his military career as a member of the security force at NAS Squantum and was later transferred to the Pacific Theater. He spent about an hour talking to the members of the Patriot Squadron about some of his experiences during the Battle of Okinawa.

Although it has been almost twenty years since NAS South Weymouth was closed, new artifacts for the museum are still being found on the old base. For example, a sign from the base supply department was recently found in a room in the old AIMD building. The wooden sign, which is blue with gold lettering and Aviation Storekeeper (AK) rate insignia, is now on display in the museum. Other items recently acquired for the museum include a matchbook cover from the base CPO Club and two foam display heads donated by Marc Frattasio, an S2F Tracker NATOPS manual, base change of command ceremony program, and 1970 Blue Angels air show program donated by Paula Fulton, and a 50th anniversary for the Naval Air Reserve tie bar donated by Allan Gilman.

The PartyLite Company donated an LCD projector, screen, portable table, and two display easels to the museum. This donation was facilitated by member Faith Frattasio, who works for PartyLite.

One last piece of news. We’d like to call your attention to two new books featuring content that should interest you. The first book, “Massachusetts Aviation”, was co-authored by member John Galluzzo. This is a photo-book in the famous Arcadia Press “Images of America” series that presents a general survey of the history of aviation in Massachusetts. There’s coverage of NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth of course. The second book, “Lighter Than Air”, is the memoirs of a Second World War blimp pilot named Donald Venton who was a member of ZP-11 at NAS South

Weymouth. He was on the blimp K-34 when it crashed off the Massachusetts coast with the loss of two crewmembers. You can order both books via links on the geedunk page of our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. The holidays are coming and these books would make terrific gifts.

COMING UP:

As you should know, we try to host guest speakers at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September. Our own Dan Haff is scheduled to give a presentation on military timepieces on January 28th. We expect to have author Len Sandler give a talk and do a book signing on April 29th. Dan collects military watches and clocks and his presentation will be based in upon his collection. Len previously came to the museum to talk about local Medal of Honor recipient Army SFC Jared Monti. Len's latest project is the true story of a downed Army Air Forces B-26 Marauder crew's escape from occupied France during WW2. We hope that Len's new book will be ready by April, but if it is not we will push his presentation out to a later date and perhaps have John Galluzzo do a presentation about his new book instead. Please note that we will probably not have a guest speaker at the museum on Saturday September 30th. Details presented directly below.

Next year brings two important anniversaries associated with NAS South Weymouth. June 30th will be the 25th anniversary of Marine Corps Reserve attack squadron VMA-322's deactivation on June 30, 1992 and September 30th is the 20th anniversary of the closing of NAS South Weymouth on September 30, 1997. A reunion event to commemorate both anniversaries will be held on Saturday September 30, 2017 at the Elks Hall in Randolph, Massachusetts. This is a nice modern venue with lots of parking around it. The reunion will run from noon to 5 PM. It will include a memorabilia display, a continuous slide show of historic images, a presentation on the history of the base, and a buffet meal. We expect to have two guest speakers. Each attendee will be presented with a commemorative embroidered polo shirt. Everyone will be encouraged to visit the museum, which will be open anyway from 9 AM to noon that day, before heading to the reunion and will be asked to consider donating squadron or base related memorabilia to the museum. All Patriot Squadron members are encouraged to attend. The reunion will cost \$50 per person and will be limited to 230 people. Tickets must be purchased in advance and none will be sold at the door. We'll start selling them sometime in the spring of 2017. Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis and once we hit 230 that's it. All funds collected over the cost of organizing this event will be donated to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. More information will be provided as the date approaches. For more information go to the "NAS South Weymouth Reunion" group on Facebook at www.facebook.com.

We will hold our annual holiday luncheon at the Abington Ale House restaurant on Route 18 in Abington starting at noon on Saturday December 10th. This date is a scheduled open house at the museum so we encourage members who have not been there lately to come before going to the luncheon. As in previous years, we have reserved several tables at the restaurant. No reservations are necessary. If you want to come, just show up and be prepared to order off the restaurant's menu.

Once again, we want to remind you all that the ANA Patriot Squadron is an affiliate of the national Association of Naval Aviation. Basically, we are chartered through the Association of Naval Aviation. Your \$15 annual dues (payable by December 31st each year for the following year unless you have taken advantage of the \$40 three year membership option) makes you a member of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum's support group only. It does not automatically make you a member of the Association of Naval Aviation. This is fine and in fact vital for our survival since your membership dues helps us keep the museum going, but we highly encourage our members to also join the national ANA group. Like the ANA Patriot Squadron, the national ANA group is also a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation. Therefore your \$40 national ANA membership fee, like your \$15 ANA Patriot Squadron membership fee, should be tax-deductible. Membership in the national ANA

includes a subscription to their Wings of Gold magazine, which is a very interesting publication on its own merits. In addition, according to our bylaws certain leadership and administrative positions within the ANA Patriot Squadron can only be held by people who are members of the Association of Naval Aviation. For more information about the national ANA or to join go to www.anahq.org.

Please note that ANA Patriot Squadron membership dues for 2017 are payable before December 31st. If your Patriot Squadron (not your national Association of Naval Aviation) membership is going to expire at the end of December membership director Russ Monaghan will contact you via e-mail or Bob Muise will send you a note via the U.S. Postal Service. You can pay your dues by sending a check for \$15 for one year or \$40 for three years made payable to the ANA Patriot Squadron to the mailing address presented at the top of this newsletter or you can pay in person at the museum or at the upcoming holiday luncheon.

HELP WANTED:

We are still looking for help in running this organization and in tending the museum and the Shea Memorial Grove. If you'd like to help, please talk to any director at one of our monthly meetings. Fairly comprehensive descriptions of the kinds of things we need help with have been published over and over again in previous issues of this newsletter. You can check out all the issues that have been produced to date on line on our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

We are always looking for military artifacts such as cruisebooks, squadron patches, command ball caps, photographs, films, command coffee mugs, base newspapers, uniform items, geedunk of any kind featuring command or base insignias, etc., pertaining to NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth to display in the museum. Photos, slides, and films can be copied and returned to you if you don't want to give them up. The museum can basically use anything associated with the military history of NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth. Remember, the ANA Patriot Squadron/Shea Naval Aviation Museum is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization so the cash value of anything that you donate may be tax-deductible.

The museum can always use cash donations too. As indicated above, we are a 501c3 non-profit educational organization and cash donations can be written off on your income taxes as charitable contributions. The museum literally operates on a shoestring and we can use any financial help that we can get. Your \$15 per year annual membership dues and the little money that we get from the museum's donation jars and sales of memorabilia is stretched very thin. If you're looking for a tax write-off, please consider the ANA Patriot Squadron.

Note, due to some recent uniform donations we now need more manikins and display torsos. For a while there we thought we had enough of these things, but now we can use more of them. For the benefit of new members, we acquired four male manikins and four male display torsos some months ago from the J. C. Penny store at the Hanover Mall when it closed. If you happen to see a clothing store or department store that's closing, please go in and ask the store manager if he or she has any manikins that they can donate to the museum. We mainly need male manikins and display torsos, but we can use a few female ones too.

Here are a few specific things that we can use for the museum. We'd like a khaki flight suit of the type that was used by the Navy and Marine Corps during the 1950s and early 1960s. These were made of cotton and had pointed collars and button-down flaps over the pockets. We have a really nice 1950s vintage parachute harness that would look really nice with one of these khaki flight suits. We can also use a yellow "Mae West" type life preserver with "USN" printed on the back of the type used during the 1950s and 1960s. We are also looking for an LPA/LPU type integrated life preserver

and survival vest of the type worn by Lockheed P-3 Orion crewmembers during the 1980s and 1990s. We have a similar survival vest, but what we really need to go with a green Nomex flight suit display that we have set up is the integrated life preserver with survival vest.

Here's something else we can use help with. We have many photos, posters, maps, etc., that should be framed for display and protection. If you've got cash burning a hole in your wallet perhaps you might consider framing one or more items for us. Once again, we are a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation so what you donate can be written off on your income taxes as a charitable donation.

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 public bulletin board where you can put a flyer.

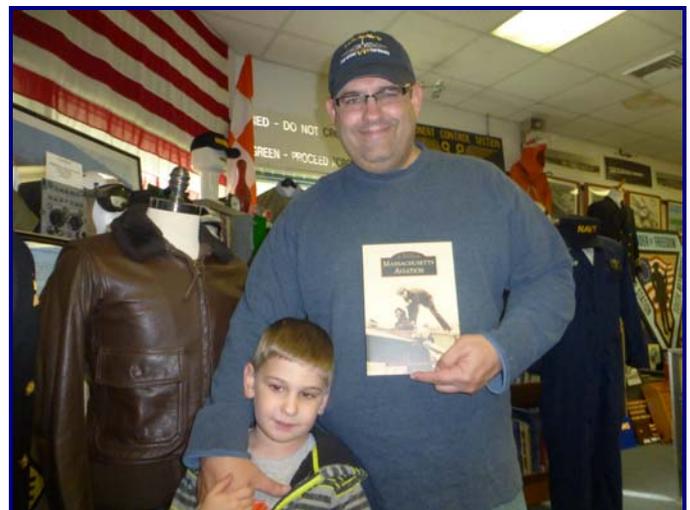
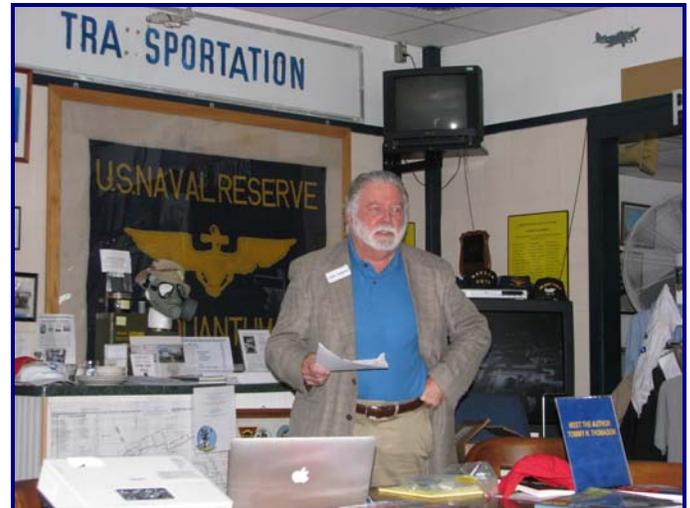
We need help promoting our guest speakers and other special events. We will send flyers to all members with e-mail addresses in PDF format a few weeks before these events and put a link to the flyer on our web site at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. If you can do so, please print a few flyers after they appear via e-mail or on the web site and post them locally where people can see them. Civilian airports, libraries, grocery stores, and post offices usually have public bulletin boards. Places that veterans frequent such as the VFW or American Legion are good places too.

Never assume that people know about the ANA Patriot Squadron or Shea Naval Aviation Museum. If you have friends who were associated with NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum or know anybody who is interested in military history or aviation please tell them about us. In order for this group to continue we need to attract new members, especially those who want to take an active role. If you've been away from the ANA Patriot Squadron for a while, come visit the museum during one of our open houses and check out what we've been doing while you've been away. You will be pleasantly surprised with what we've accomplished. A few months ago we had business cards printed up with the museum's hours of operation and our web site's URL. Stick some in your wallet and hand them out when the opportunity presents itself. Remember, this is OUR group and its up to all of us to pitch in and make it what we want it to be.

DID YOU KNOW?:

Marine Corps Reserve attack squadron VMA-322 was deactivated at NAS South Weymouth on June 30, 1992. This unit was originally activated as VMF-322 on July 1, 1943 and was a regular Marine Corps fighter squadron that fought the Japanese during the Second World War. On November 30, 1949 VMF-322 was deactivated. It was then reactivated at NAS Squantum as a Marine Air Reserve fighter squadron on July 6, 1951. VMF-322 moved to NAS South Weymouth in December 1953 when NAS Squantum was closed. The squadron was reformed and redesignated attack squadron VMA-322 in May 1958. Over the years VMA-322 operated Grumman F9F Cougars, North American FJ Furies, and Douglas A4 Skyhawks. The Navy and Marine Corps disband squadrons in different ways. Generally speaking, the Navy establishes and disestablishes its squadrons. When a Navy squadron is disestablished, it basically ceases to exist and its history ends on the date that it is disestablished. The Marine Corps, however, generally activates and deactivates its squadrons. A Marine Corps squadron that is deactivated can be reactivated at a later date. The reactivated Marine Corps squadron is considered to be the exact same squadron that was deactivated, with the same history, traditions, insignia, etc. Thus, although all the Navy Reserve squadrons that were based at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth are gone forever, it is possible that old VMA-322 may be reactivated at some point in the future.

SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Russ Monaghan, Steve Cohn, Howard Carter, Peter Jardim, and Bill Sargent. **Top Right:** Former VP-92 AKs Susan Zimmerman, Gerald Brown, and Faith Frattasio with new NAS supply department sign. **Middle Left:** Steve Cohn, Susan Zimmerman, and Mary Jean Hickey at Weymouth Farmer's Market. **Middle Right:** Tommy Thomason's presentation. **Bottom Left:** Surprise guest WW2 USMC veteran Jim Palmieri. **Bottom Right:** John Galluzzo and son Ben with the new book.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Beech UC-12B Huron Bureau Number 11161499, shown here parked outside Hangar One for an air show sometime during the early 1990s, was the very last aircraft assigned to NAS South Weymouth. It served as a pilot proficiency trainer for Navy and Marine aviators assigned to desk jobs in the Boston area, general utility and light transport, and was also basically the base commanding officer's personal aircraft when not required for other purposes. This aircraft left the base just before the runways were closed on September 30, 1996. It went straight to the "bone yard" at Davis Monthan AFB and was later scrapped.

