



**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:

Although the Shea Naval Aviation Museum remains closed, we are trying to be as active as we can be under the circumstances. For example, on Saturday September 8th members Faith and Marc Frattasio set up a table to sell NAS South Weymouth related souvenir items to benefit the museum at the Boston chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association's annual lobster bake, which was held at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation Area in Marshfield, MA. A total of \$352 in sales was generated for the museum at this event. In addition, Stevens Goldsmith donated some USMC related photographs and a CD ROM video of VMA-322's deactivation ceremony to the museum. The Boston chapter of the MCAA seeks new members. If you were involved with or are interested in Marine Corps aviation please consider joining. Contact John Margie at jomargie@comcast.net for details.

On Saturday September 22nd we also operated a museum sales table at the Patrol Squadron Association's annual reunion, which was held at the Sons of Italy Hall in Weymouth. The table was tended by members Faith Frattasio and Mark Danckert. A total of \$309 in sales and \$44 in donations were obtained for the museum at this event.

On Tuesday October 9th members Charlie Collins, Marc Frattasio, Peter Jardim, and Joe Muise met with Gerry Kavanaugh, the recently appointed Division President of LStar's Boston office, at LStar's facility in Hingham. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that Gerry is familiar with the ANA Patriot Squadron, familiar with the Shea Naval Aviation Museum, and to try to determine what's going on with LStar's future plans for the museum. As you all should know, we vacated the space that we had been using for many years in the Shea Fitness Center in December 2017 so this building could be renovated and returned to its original purpose as a gymnasium, put the museum's collection into temporary storage, and are waiting for new quarters for the museum to become available. With the recent management shake-up at Union Point, and other news involving the real estate development, we've been concerned about the museum's future. Gerry Kavanaugh and Tom Berkley assured us at the meeting that LStar's plans for the museum, though delayed, have not changed much. LStar still intends to move the museum into the barn-like former "Welcome Center" building and co-locate it with the Shea Memorial Grove park near the main entrance to Union Point off Route 18. The two men told us that LStar's new goal is to get this accomplished sometime during the spring or summer of 2019. About the only substantive change in the plan is that LStar is now leaning towards having the museum share the "Welcome Center" building with another organization, possibly the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation/Southfield Redevelopment Authority. We'll give you more information as this situation develops.

Until further notice we will continue to meet from 11 AM to noon on the last Saturday of the month in the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation meeting room in what was formerly the NAS South Weymouth base housing office at Union Point. This is the small white building located next to the Shea Memorial Grove and is, in fact, the last structure built by the Navy on the old base. If you live in the local area we strongly suggest that you attend our monthly meetings, especially while the museum is in this period of transition from where it was to where it is going to be.

COMING UP:

We are planning to hold our annual holiday luncheon on Saturday December 8th. As in previous years, this event will be held from noon to 3 PM at the Abington Ale House restaurant, which is located on Route 18 in Abington. Please note that this place is located about a mile south of old NAS South Weymouth. No advance reservations are required. If you want to attend the holiday luncheon, just show up at the restaurant at the appointed date and time and plan to order a meal for yourself off the regular menu. We'll have about thirty seats reserved for us at tables close to the fireplace. Hope you can make it!

Patriot Squadron annual membership dues expire at the end of December. If your membership is going to expire this year, you should have been contacted by membership director Russ Monaghan by now. If you are in this situation and are planning to attend the annual holiday luncheon on December 8th you can bring a check made out to the ANA Patriot Squadron and give it to Russ there. As you should know, ANA Patriot Squadron dues are \$15 for one year and \$40 for three years. Your continued support during these difficult times for our organization are much appreciated.

Please note that our next regular member's meeting will be held on Saturday January 26, 2019. Due to the holiday season we will not hold our end-of-the-month meetings during November or December.

HELP WANTED:

As we've stated previously, with the Shea Naval Aviation Museum closed and our collection in storage, the most important thing that you can do to help the ANA Patriot Squadron at this time is to

remain engaged, interested, and enthusiastic. If you live in the Boston area, please try to attend our monthly meetings.

DID YOU KNOW?:

NAS South Weymouth's VP-911, VP-912, and VP-913 were the very last patrol squadrons in the US Navy to employ the Consolidated P4Y-2 Privateer in its intended role as a maritime patrol aircraft. The Privateer was a Navy adaptation of the more commonly known Army Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber. Although it had many features in common with the Liberator, the Privateer was a completely different aircraft. After the last Privateer departed NAS South Weymouth for the boneyard in December 1957, the Navy used the remaining aircraft of this type as radio-controlled targets in guided missile tests.



SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left : Doug Folsom, Mark Danckert, and Faith Frattasio with Linda Berthold at the USMC lobster bake sales table. **Top Right:** Stevens Goldsmith presenting Marc Frattasio with photos for the museum at this event. **Middle Left:** Faith Frattasio closing a sale at the VP Association reunion. **Middle Right:** Faith Frattasio and Mark Danckert with a customer. **Bottom Left:** Joe Muise, LStar's Gerry Kavanaugh, Charlie Collins, and Peter Jardim. **Bottom Right:** Members at Warren's Place.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



This rare color photo shows a P4Y-2 Privateer from NAS South Weymouth over North Africa during VP-911's historic July 1956 annual training deployment to NAS Port Lyautey in French Morocco. This event, which was supported by R5D transport aircraft flown by VR-911 crews, marked the very first time that reserve units from NAS South Weymouth were sent outside the continental United States for annual training.

