



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

PO Box 30

Pembroke, Massachusetts 02359

inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org

www.anapatriotsquadron.org

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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. 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 perhaps inspire everyone to take a more active role in this organization.

RECENT NEWS:

As you should know, the ANA Patriot Squadron was originally established as the Boston area chapter of a national organization called the Association of Naval Aviation. Our membership and financial director, retired Navy Vice Admiral Wally Massenburg, was president of the Association of Naval Aviation for a time. Unfortunately, the Association of Naval Aviation has experienced severe challenges associated with declining memberships and high operating expenses in recent years. These challenges have proved fatal, and the Association of Naval Aviation is in the process of being dissolved. Wally Massenburg is working on a transition plan that will preserve local ANA squadrons around the country like the ANA Patriot Squadron and, instead of tying them to the Association of Naval Aviation, will connect them to the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation (NAMF) instead. The NAMF is an organization that is affiliated with the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, FL. The ANA Patriot Squadron's webmaster, Jennie Ankney, who is a member of the Shea family, has generously volunteered to take on the administration of the Association of Naval Aviation's web site, so it will not be lost no matter what happens to the national organization. More information will be provided as this situation evolves.



Wally Massenburg has very busy lately traveling around eastern Massachusetts presenting awards on behalf of the Daedalian Society and the ANA Patriot Squadron to outstanding NROTC and JNROTC cadets at colleges and high schools. In the photo shown above Wally, along with Steve Cohn, are presenting awards to JNROTC cadet Brooke Nitti at Oxford High School in Oxford, MA.



Lockheed P-3 Orions were based at NAS South Weymouth from 1975 to 1996. During that period they were a familiar sight and sound in the air around the base. Recently, Steve Cohn, Bill Sargent, and others organized a P-3 Orion related display consisting of a partial P-3 non-acoustic sensor station console, a partial P-3 acoustic sensor station, a P-3 pilot's seat, and a large poster depicting the flight engineer's view of a P-3 cockpit. Donald Canaday, Steve Cohn, Al Firrohr, and Bill Sargent are shown in the "P-3 Room" at left.



At left, Steve Cohn and Al Firnrohr are shown during a recent work party preparing one of the walls in the room adjacent to the “P-3 Room” with slat-boards so we can hang up more framed photos and other artifacts in there. This room has a large built-in bookcase and may end up as a library and reading room for researchers.

At right, Rita Cavonius is inspecting the handiwork of a nitwit who recently “tagged” the back wall of the museum building with some illegible graffiti marking. We reported this senseless incident of vandalism to the Weymouth police and hope that the perpetrator(s) will eventually be caught. Apparently this cretin has been spray-painting things like this all over the old base.



COMING UP:

A reminder that the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum will hold another NAS Brunswick, ME base reunion at their museum on that old base on Friday and Saturday September 18th and 19th. The events on Friday are low-key and intended to provide an opportunity for people to connect. The main

events of the reunion, including the guest speakers, and the Maine seafood banquet, will be held on Saturday. The organizers of the reunion (one of whom is your PAO) are working on getting the Navy to provide static display aircraft for Saturday, as they have done in the past. The Navy has agreed to provide a P-3 Orion and P-8 Poseidon, operations permitting. Efforts are being made to get a Navy C-130 Hercules, a Canadian CP-140 Aurora, a German P-8 Poseidon and a few Navy training aircraft to come too. There will be get-togethers organized on Friday or Saturday for former VP-8, VP-11, VP-21, VP-23, VP-44, VP-92, VP-MAU, and VPU-1 personnel. One good reason for ANA Patriot Squadron members to go to the NAS Brunswick reunion, even if you had no connection to that base, is to see the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum. They have a well-organized and well-funded operation that is not only worth visiting on its own merits but also presents examples of many things that we could do. For more information and to register for the banquet go to <https://bnamuseum.org>.

The local chapter of the Military Helicopter Aircrew Veteran's Organization will hold an HML-771 reunion on Saturday October 17th at the Marriott Hotel in Quincy, MA. The cost to attend is \$125 per person. If you want to attend, make out a check payable to the Military Helicopter Aircrew Veteran's Organization and mail it to Paul Jennings, 27 Esta Road, Plymouth, MA. 02360-4908. Marine Corps Light Helicopter Squadron HML-771 and its direct predecessor Marine Corps Medium Helicopter Squadron HMM-771 operated H-34 and UH-1 helicopters from NAS South Weymouth. Please note that the Military Helicopter Aircrew Veteran's Organization is a 501C3 non-profit corporation so your reunion payment could be tax deductible.

The Navy's famous Blue Angels flight demonstration team will be coming to old NAS Brunswick to perform at the Great State of Maine Air Show on Saturday and Sunday July 11th and 12th. Please note that this will be their only visit to New England this year. So, unless you plan to travel outside the New England area, the only place you will be able to see the Blue Angels this year is at old NAS Brunswick. You can see their current show schedule at <https://www.blueangels.navy.mil/show/#show>

HELP WANTED:

With the Shea Naval Aviation Museum now open we need more people to commit to staff it and to help clean and maintain the building as required. At this time the museum is only open from 9 AM to noon on the second and last Saturdays of the month (on the last Saturday it is actually only open until 11 AM due to our monthly meeting). We would like to expand to longer hours and more days, but to do this we need more people to commit to help tend the museum. **The ANA Patriot Squadron needs more members.** Wally Massenburg has set a goal of signing up 16 more members by the end of 2026. This would bring total ANA Patriot Squadron membership to 100 people. If you know somebody who might be interested in joining our organization, please reach out to him or to her, as the case may be.

We also need people to organize and participate in fund-raising efforts since we need funds to operate the museum. In the old days, when the museum was operated out of the Shea Fitness Center, all our bills were taken care of, but this is not the case in the museum's new venue. For example, every time we fill the heating oil tank at the museum it costs us about \$800! As some of you may recall, we used to set up fund-raising sales tables at various events in the Weymouth area but have not done so for over a year. We need people to step up so we can continue to do this. We had set a fundraising goal of \$15,000 for 2025 and only came short by about \$600. If you are looking for a tax deduction, the ANA Patriot Squadron is a 501C3 non-profit educational corporation.

As mentioned in the previous issue of the newsletter, storage problems and a recent accident decimated our collection of model aircraft. It would be nice to replace these things with some professionally built display models. Such models, which are generally made of kiln-dried hardwood or

solid plastic resin, cost about \$400 each. For \$3,600 we could have nine models custom built with the markings of our choice: an HS-74 SH-3D Sea King, an HML-771 UH-1N Iroquois, an HSL-74 SH-2F Sea Sprite, a VMA-322 A-4M and TA-4J Skyhawk, a VP-92 P-3B and P-3C Orion, a VR-62 C-130T Hercules, and an NAS South Weymouth UC-12 Huron. These nine models would cover every aircraft type that was on NAS South Weymouth during the ten years before the base closed. These would be the aircraft that most visitors would remember and because of this they would be a great asset to the museum. If you would like to donate towards the acquisition of any of these aircraft models please let us know.

There are several roles within the organization that can use filling. If you would be willing to take a more active role in the group and fill one of these roles, please reach out to any of the directors at any of our monthly meetings.

DID YOU KNOW?



During the Second World War NAS South Weymouth had its own bowling alley located in the so-called “Recreation Building”. The bowling alley did not have automatic pin setting machines so sailors from the base were assigned, as a military duty, to reset the bowling pins after every string. These sailors were known as “pin monkeys”. In the photo presented above, two pin monkeys are shown working their trade at NAS South Weymouth during 1943. They also served, who only stand and set pins?

