



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

RECENT NEWS:

As you should all know, the ANA Patriot Squadron officially reopened the Shea Naval Aviation Museum in the former Coast Guard housing office building at Union Point (old NAS South Weymouth) on Flag Day June 14, 2025.

The museum had been closed since the previous master developer at Union Point, Lstar Ventures, asked the group to "temporarily" vacate the former base gymnasium in June 2017. The move was supposed to have only lasted six to nine months or so until Lstar provided a new venue for the museum. Unfortunately, Lstar developed financial problems and abandoned Union Point, leaving the museum with no place to go.

In late 2024, with the help of Southfield Redevelopment Authority land use administrator Jim Young, the ANA Patriot Squadron entered into a leasing agreement for the former Coast Guard housing office building. For several months Patriot Squadron members worked on Saturdays to get the building in order and on June 14th, after a short ceremony at the Shea Memorial Grove to celebrate the recent restoration of the A-4B Skyhawk and signs at the park, the museum was officially

reopened. Despite rainy weather at least 150 people came to the park for the ceremony and many of them visited the museum afterwards. A few photographs taken on this date follow:



Left: Master of ceremonies AW1 Marc Frattasio (USNR Retired) kicks off the rededication ceremony under the A-4B at the Shea Memorial Grove while VADM Wally Massenburg (USN Retired), Gerti Gillen, Donald Canaday, and Mary-Jean Hickey look on. **Below:** Some of the more than 150 people who turned out on a rainy day to participate in the rededication ceremony at the park.





Above: Weymouth Middle School shop teacher Brian Ash with some of the students who fabricated new blue and gold wooden signs for the Shea Memorial Grove. **Below:** Robert McCauliffe and two of his painting crew. These are the guys who repainted the A-4B Skyhawk for us late last year.





Above: Spectators assembled at the Shea Memorial Grove in the rain.

Left: Shea family member (grand-daughter-in-law) Jennie Ankney sings the national anthem while Donald Canaday, AW1 Marc Frattasio, and CAPT Gene Sich (USNR Retired) salute.



Above: Jennie Ankney helps member and Fairing Way resident Mary-Jean Hicky with the invocation.



Above: Keynote speaker VADM Wally Massenburg addresses the crowd while AW1 Marc Frattasio and CAPT Gene Sich look on.



Above: VADM Wally Massenburg presents Shea family member Claudette Shea with a bound copy of the rededication script. **Right:** Weymouth Town Council President (now Acting Mayor) Michael Molisse addresses the crowd.





Above: Mary-Jean Hickey brings the ceremony at the park to a conclusion with a benediction while VADM Wally Massenburg and AW1 Marc Frattasio look on. And yes, VADM Massenburg, ever the gentleman, is holding his umbrella over Mary-Jean. Despite the rain over 150 turned out at the park!



Above: The Shea Naval Aviation Museum in its new venue at Union Point, the old Coast Guard housing office building. **Below:** The ceremonial ribbon-cutting that officially reopened the museum.





Above: Bill Sargent and visitors at the grand reopening of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. **Below:** Visitor Richard Tucceroni shows off a balsa and tissue model of an FG Corsair in Squantum markings that he built and donated to Shea family members Jennie Ankney, Claudette Shea, and Christy Pitts.





Above: VADM Wally Massenburg speaking with relatives of the late Bill Horsch. Bill Horsch was one of the founding members of the ANA Patriot Squadron and was instrumental in establishing the museum. **Below:** CAPT Paul Haley (USNR Retired) purchasing a book from author Wayne Miller.





Above: Faith Frattasio and Gerti Gillen tending the museum's sales table. **Below:** Rita Cavanaugh and Mary-Jean Hickey tending the bake sale table inside the museum.





Above: Visitors at the museum. **Right:** CAPT Paul Haley with Lorraine Edwards, widow of late Patriot Squadron member John Edwards.





Above: AMS1 Alan Gilman (USNR Retired) and Donald Canaday showing Donald's daughter some of the artifacts in the museum.

You can view many more photos taken at the Shea Memorial Grove and Shea Naval Aviation Museum on June 14th on the Shea Naval Aviation Museum's Facebook page at www.facebook.com. The plan as of now is for the museum to be open from 9 AM to noon on the second and last Saturdays of the month. This is the same schedule we had when the museum operated from the Shea Fitness Center. At some point we'd like to restart our guest speaker program.

We'll need people to help tend the museum. We'll also need people to continue to set up the museum. The current configuration of the museum is not intended to be its permanent setup, but just a temporary expedient measure to allow us to get the museum up and running as soon as possible. If you would like to help out come show up at the museum on one of the open days or at one of our monthly members' meetings and talk to any of the directors there.

We need to raise money to operate and maintain the museum going forward. Our fund-raising goal for this year is \$15,000. We have already made a significant dent in this goal but are a long way from achieving the total amount. If you'd like to contribute, any sum will be much appreciated. Contact Wally Massenburg at wallymassenburg@comcast.net for details. If you have practical fund-raising ideas, and are willing to help carry them out, we're open to consider almost anything you propose.

On Saturday June 7th ANA Patriot Squadron members brought the Grumman C-1 Trader cockpit that we have had in storage in member Gene Sich's barn at his home in Walpole, MA to Union Point. The old Quonset Air Museum gave the cockpit to the ANA Patriot Squadron around the time the Shea Naval Aviation Museum shut down and it has been at Gene Sich's place ever since.

The C-1 is the dedicated utility transport version of the S-2 Tracker carrier based anti-submarine aircraft. Although no C-1s were ever assigned to NAS South Weymouth, the type flew into the base often and nearly identical US-2s were based there during the 1970s. The US-2s were used as light transports and multi-engine pilot proficiency trainers. Some of you may recall that a US-2B assigned to NAS South Weymouth crashed in Rockland, MA due to engine trouble in 1978.

Member Alan Gilman arranged for the donation of transport services from Bailey's Tri-Town Service of East Bridgewater, MA. These people provided an invaluable service to the ANA Patriot Squadron, absolutely free of charge, in pulling the cockpit out of Gene's barn, bringing it to Union Point, and putting it into one of the garage bays behind the museum building. If you need work done on your car or truck, you could not do better than to bring it to Bailey's Tri-Town Service. They are located at 60 Franklin Street in East Bridgewater. Their telephone number is 508-690-1511 and you can check them out on the Internet at <https://baileystritownservice.com>.



Above: Michael Allen of Bailey's Tri-Town Service offloads the C-1 cockpit at Union Point.

Following Page Top: Patriot Squadron members watch the cockpit slide down the ramp into the garage behind the museum building. **Following Page Bottom:** The cockpit resting in the garage.





Above: Member Paul Haley inspects the C-1 cockpit. Paul is a retired Navy Captain who flew Grumman F-14 Tomcat fighters on active duty and commanded VR COMP 691 at NAS South Weymouth as a reservist. He was a Massachusetts state representative and as Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee was responsible for obtaining funding to build the Shea Memorial Grove park before NAS South Weymouth closed in 1997.



Membership director Wally Massenburg was busy throughout the late spring presenting awards to outstanding JNROTC cadets across eastern Massachusetts. In the photo presented here VADM Wally Massenburg (left) is at the College of the Holy Cross with Midshipman Catherine Harrison (center) and Captain Dan Hopkins (right). CAPT Hopkins is a professor of military science at the school.

In the photo presented at right ANA Patriot Squadron XO Steve Cohn (left) is helping VADM Wally Massenburg (right) present an award to Cadet Ensign Chloe Gabis of Oxford High School. This is something that Wally has been doing for many years during the late spring timeframe. If you would like to accompany him to one of these award events reach out to Wally at one of our monthly member's meetings.



Last but not least regarding recent news, check out our new web site, which was created by member Jennie Ankney, at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. The new web site, which employs up-to-date technology, has features that would be impossible to incorporate into the old web site (created sixteen years ago). For example, you can view the new web site on a computer, tablet, or a smart-phone. Please note that the new web site is still a work-in-progress and some aspects are "under construction". For the record, Jennie is a member of the famous Shea family, as in CDR John J. Shea, for whom the Shea Memorial Grove, Commander Shea Drive, the Shea Naval Aviation Museum, and many other places across southeastern Massachusetts are named.

Although Jennie Ankney is setting up and administering the new web site at no cost to the ANA Patriot Squadron, the hosting service and framework that she is using for this purpose has a reoccurring annual fee associated with it. A Patriot Squadron member, who wants to remain

anonymous, has agreed to contribute \$1,000 to be put towards future web site fees *provided that the membership matches this amount*. After this member's generous proposal was presented at the August meeting, we raised \$460 from members in attendance. If you would like to contribute towards this effort reach out to Wally Massenburg at wallymassenburg@comcast.net. Be sure to let him know that your contribution is to be put towards the \$1,000 match if that is your desire.

COMING UP:

The Boston Chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association will hold their annual lobster bake at the 4th Cliff Military Recreation Area in Scituate, MA on Saturday September 13th. The MCAA is a sister organization to the ANA. The Boston Chapter is composed mostly of Marines who served in the various USMCR commands at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. All Patriot Squadron members are encouraged to go to this event. For details reach out to Joe Mahoney at jhmahoney@verizon.net. Reservation forms were sent out to all members via e-mail in late July. All reservations have to be in by no later than Monday September 8th. Time is short as of this writing, so if you want to go, contact Joe Mahoney as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Please note that the Navy's famous Blue Angels flight demonstration team will be coming to old NAS Brunswick, ME to perform at the Great State of Maine Air Show on Saturday and Sunday July 11th and 12th 2026.

HELP WANTED:

Now that we have reopened the Shea Naval Aviation Museum we need people to commit to staff it on a regular schedule and also to help clean and maintain the building as required. At this time the museum is 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) but this may change. We need more members. Wally Massenburg has set a goal of signing up 16 more members by the end of next year (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 her.

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, we recently had to replace a lock on an external door, and this cost us about \$1,500. 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 continue to do this.

All members should have received several fund-raising solicitations from membership director Wally Massenburg over the past few months. Our fund-raising goal for this year is \$15,000. As of this writing we have collected about \$10,000 from several generous members and organizations, which is nearly two-thirds of the way towards achieving our goal for this year. The end of the year is approaching and we really need to meet this financial goal. Remember, the museum in its current venue has to be self-supporting in order to succeed. If you'd like to contribute towards this effort, reach out to Wally directly at wallymassenburg@comcast.net. At some point we would like to explore the possibility of obtaining grants from various sources and we can use help from anybody out there who might be experienced with grant writing.

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?



Throughout the 1970s NAS South Weymouth used Grumman US-2A and US-2B Trackers as light transports and multi-engine pilot proficiency trainers. This type was the utility version of the anti-submarine S-2A and S-2B, which were also used on the base for many years by reserve VS squadrons and the Naval Air Development Unit or “NADU”. Two US-2s were normally assigned to NAS South Weymouth at a time. They were assigned directly to the base as station aircraft, not to any specific squadron. For this reason, they were marked with the base’s identification code “7Z” instead of squadron markings. One of these aircraft, a US-2B, crashed in Rockland, MA in 1978 due to engine trouble. The crew of two perished and the aircraft came close to hitting a housing development. US-2s replaced Beech UC-45 Kansans in 1971 and were subsequently replaced by Beech UC-12 Hurons in 1981.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Here is an aerial view of NAS Squantum as it was during the mid-1930s. Visible here are the base administration building, seaplane ramp, hangar, and overhaul shop. Several base facilities at NAS Squantum were re-purposed by reservists, led by the famous John J. Shea, from structures that were originally part of the First World War "Victory Plant" shipyard, which was built by Bethlehem Steel as an adjunct to the famous Fore River shipyard.

