



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:

This issue of the newsletter marks a milestone, it being the 50th one produced to date. All previous issues of the newsletter are available for you to view on the ANA Patriot Squadron's new web site, which was put together and administered by member Jennie Ankney, at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. New ANA Patriot Squadron members, especially, may find it interesting to peruse previous newsletters to see what the group was up to (and in some cases struggling with) in the past.

As of this writing the ANA Patriot Squadron's Shea Naval Aviation Museum has been open to the public for six months. So far, things have been working out pretty well. The word is getting out across the Boston area that the museum is back in operation after so many years of being in a state of limbo. We've been opening the museum to the public on the second and last Saturdays of every month since June and every time we've been open we've had visitors. Many visitors have come back again and a few have been inspired by what they have seen to join the ANA Patriot Squadron. A friendly reminder that we need all the visitors and members we can get, so please spread the word about us whenever the opportunity arises to do so!

Speaking of new members, during the September meeting retired vice admiral and current ANA Patriot Squadron membership director Wally Massenburg challenged every member to “beat the bushes” and try to influence at least one person in his or her circle of family or friends to join the group. Our objective is to increase the membership from where it is today, which is somewhere in the 80s, up to 100 members or more.

We would really like to open the museum on more days beyond the current second and last Saturdays of the month and for a longer duration of time instead of from 9 AM to noon. To accomplish this objective, we need more members to commit to help tend the museum. Again, please get the word out about the museum and let’s see if we can achieve Wally’s membership goal. Also, if you live in the Weymouth area and have not been helping us out with the museum up to this point, please consider taking an active role and commit to spend some time tending the museum.



The image presented above shows a typical example of the kind of things that we do at the museum. On Saturday September 13th members Frank Ward, Robert Michaelski, Steve Cohn, Rita Cavanaugh, and Joseph Muise are shown digging into some Kutchen before opening the museum to the public. Three different varieties of Kutchen (apple, apricot, and plum), which is a type of German cake that is commonly made for Oktoberfest, were freshly baked that morning and brought to the museum by Rita. If you live in the Weymouth area, come join us on open house days at the museum and you too can join in on the fun!



On Monday October 27th the ANA Patriot Squadron hosted a busload of Fairing Way residents at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. The visit was organized by members Rita Cavanaugh, Larry Cole, and Mary-Jean Hickey, who happen to live at the Fairing Way community at Union Point. Member Steve Cohn gave a presentation about the history of NAS South Weymouth while members Gerti Gillen, Joe Muise, and Bill Sargent were there to help.



In the image presented above your newsletter editor is shown speaking at the Boston squadron of the Marine Corps Aviation Association's annual lobster bake, which was held at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation Area in Scituate, MA on Saturday September 13th.

The Marine Corps Aviation Association is a national organization that is very similar in concept to the Association of Naval Aviation. It has nearly identical goals and objectives, but from a Marine Corps perspective. The Boston squadron is composed mainly of people who served in VMA-322, HML-771, MASS-6, and various other Marine Air Reserve commands that were associated with NAS South Weymouth and/or NAS Squantum. The Boston squadron made a very generous financial contribution towards the recent repainting of the A-4B Skyhawk jet at the Shea Memorial Grove. Many individual members of the squadron contributed towards this effort as well. At this year's lobster bake your newsletter editor thanked the members of the squadron for helping to make the A-4B presentable again and told them about the reopened Shea Naval Aviation Museum.

Standing at left in the image presented above is the commanding officer of the Boston squadron of the Marine Corps Aviation Association, Joseph Mahoney, who served as the commanding officer of USMCR ground control intercept squadron MASS-6 at NAS South Weymouth. At right is Patriot Squadron member John Margie, who was in USMCR attack squadron VMA-322 at NAS South Weymouth. To learn more about the MCAA reach out to COL Mahoney at jhmahoney@verizon.net.

Right: MCAA member Keith Buckholt, who was in the USMCR with VMA-322 at NAS South Weymouth along with his late father (who was also at NAS Squantum), gives your PAO some Marine Corps related patches for the museum. Seated at left is Mark Danckert, who was in the USMCR at NAS South Weymouth with VMA-322 and HML-771 and is a member of the ANA Patriot Squadron as well as the MCAA.



Left: ANA Patriot Squadron members Mark Danckert and Faith Frattasio (a veteran of the USNR and VP-92 at NAS South Weymouth) are digging in to their meals at the MCAA lobster bake.

The MCAA's annual lobster bake is a terrific event that is normally held every year at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation area in Scituate, MA on the first or second Saturday of September. Several ANA Patriot Squadron members are also members of the Marine Corps Aviation Association and attend this event. You don't have to be a Marine to be a member. Your newsletter editor was in the Naval

Air Reserve and he is a member of both organizations. The lobster bake is a great time and all Patriot Squadron members are invited to come.



From one end of the culinary spectrum to the other...lobsters to MREs! On Saturday October 25th, at the conclusion of the member's meeting for that month, we had genuine US Military MREs for lunch. For those who are not aware, MRE stands for "Meal Ready to Eat". These bagged meals have a strong Massachusetts connection in that they were (and still are) developed by the US Army's famous Soldier Systems Laboratory in Natick. In the image presented above, members Donald Canaday, Paul Haley, Jennie Ankney, and Gertie Gillen are each shown digging into an MRE at the museum.

One last thing regarding news. Proposed zoning changes and government funding for a water pipeline may make it possible for construction activity to be renewed at Union Point during 2026. Previous zoning rules restricted the number of residential units that could be built on the old base to 2,855 units. The current master developer, Brookfield Properties, wants to build more than 6,000 residential units in addition to the 1,300 that have already been built. They also want to build more than 2 million square feet of commercial space on the old base. So, keep your eye on Union Point. Things may start happening there again during 2026.

COMING UP:

The ANA Patriot Squadron will hold its annual holiday luncheon on Saturday December 13th at the Abington Ale House restaurant. It will start around noon and end around 3 PM. The Abington Ale House is on Route 18 in Abington a few miles west of old NAS South Weymouth. No need to RSVP. If you want to go, just show up and be prepared to order something off the restaurant's menu. Guests are welcome. As we have done in the past we will reserve a couple of tables in the main dining room near the fireplace. Please note that Saturday December 13th is an open-house date at the museum. We'll start the holiday luncheon after we close up.

As you should know, ANA Patriot Squadron dues renewal season is upon us. Our membership dues are \$20 pre year or \$50 for a three-year period. If your membership expires at the end of this year Wally Massenburg will reach out to you soon. We are asking all members who need to renew, and who will be going to the upcoming holiday luncheon, to consider renewing in person while there.

A reminder that the ANA Patriot Squadron is the Boston area chapter of a larger organization called the Association of Naval Aviation. The "ANA" in ANA Patriot Squadron stands for the Association of Naval Aviation. Although we do not require ANA Patriot Squadron members to also be members of the national organization, we encourage you to do so. Membership in the Association of Naval Aviation provides a number of benefits, including four issues of their fine "Wings of Gold" magazine. To learn more about the Association of Naval Aviation go to their web site at www.anahq.org.

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum will hold another NAS Brunswick, ME base reunion at their museum located on that old base on Friday and Saturday September 18th and 19th in 2026. That's next year. As was the case in previous years, the events on Friday will primarily provide an opportunity for people to connect. The main events, including the Maine seafood banquet, will be held on Saturday. The organizers (one of whom is your PAO) will try to get some static display aircraft for Saturday, as they have done in the past. Efforts will be made to get a P-8 Poseidon, CP-140 Aurora, P-3 Orion, C-130 Hercules and some training aircraft to come. There will be command mini-reunions on Saturday for former VP-8, VP-MAU Brunswick, and VP-92 personnel.

There's more news regarding old NAS Brunswick, which unlike old NAS South Weymouth remains an active (albeit civilian) airfield. The Navy's famous Blue Angels flight demonstration team will be coming there to perform at the Great State of Maine Air Show on Saturday and Sunday July 11th and 12th 2026. Old NAS Brunswick is only about three hours north of Boston and its well worth the drive. If you go up for the air show, don't forget to check out the Brunswick Naval Aviation museum on the old base. It's a lot like our Shea Naval Aviation Museum, but larger.

HELP WANTED:

Now that the Shea Naval Aviation Museum is open we need more people to commit to staff it on a regular schedule and 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 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. 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.

All members should have received 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 nearly \$11,000 from several generous members and organizations, which is over two-thirds of the way towards achieving our goal for this year. The end of the year is rapidly approaching and we really need to meet this financial goal. The ANA Patriot Squadron is a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation so all donations to the museum should be tax-deductible. Need a tax write off for next year? If so, please consider donating to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Remember, the museum has to be self-supporting in order to succeed. If you'd like to contribute towards this effort, please 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.

Here's just one example of what we can use money for. We had a recent accident at the museum that resulted in the severe damage or destruction of many model aircraft in one of the display cases. One thing that we can use funds for is to replace these things, which are fragile and even before the accident many of them were missing parts and falling apart, with some professionally-built display models. Such models, which are generally made of kiln-dried hardwood or solid resin, cost about \$400 each. For \$2,800 we could have seven models custom built with the markings of our choice: a VP-92 P-3C Orion, a VR-62 C-130T Hercules, a VMA-322 A-4M Skyhawk, an HML-771 UH-1N Iroquois, an HSL-74 SH-2F SeaSprite, an HS-74 SH-3D Sea King, a NAS South Weymouth UC-12 Huron. These seven models would, with the exception of a VMA-322 TA-4J Skyhawk and VP-92 P-3B Orion (which would cost another \$800 bringing the total up to \$3,600), cover all the aircraft types that were on NAS South Weymouth during its final decade. These things would be the aircraft that most people would remember. 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?



In 1928 NAS Squantum adopted a cartoonish image of a witch flying on a broom across the moon as its insignia. The design was created by Chief Machinist's Mate Lester A. Miller, a full-time stationkeeper assigned to the base, who used a paper Halloween decoration as a guide. The first aircraft to wear the witch insignia was a WW1 surplus Bristol Bullet fighter rebuilt on the base by reservists as a training exercise. The aircraft was actually the personal property of LT George C. Haberle, who was the base's commanding officer at that time, not a Navy aircraft! Many other aircraft wore this insignia over the years, such as the USNR Chance-Vought SBU-2 shown here circa 1940.



A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Here is a view from the front side of the NAS Squantum administration building looking across Dorchester Bay towards the South Boston shoreline sometime during the late 1940s. Note the wooden lounge chairs positioned on the lawn and facing the water. It was small touches like this that inspired the active duty Navy and Marine Corps Reserve station keepers assigned to NAS Squantum to refer to the base as “the Country Club of the Navy” and compelled many of them to complain incessantly after the reserve training program was transferred from there to NAS South Weymouth in December 1953.

