



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:

It looks like the museum building will have a major face-lift in the near future. Our friend Jim Young of the Southfield Redevelopment Authority has indicated that they intend to perform a substantial amount of work on the building during the fall of this year or the spring of next year. The SRA plans to repaint the exterior, replace the roof, and perform various repairs. We intend to approach the SRA and ask them if it might be possible to include some minor alterations to the planned work. For example, we have been talking about re-starting the guest speaker program that was a very popular fixture of the museum in its old incarnation at the former Shea Fitness Center gymnasium building. The main reason we have not re-started the guest speaker program yet is we do not know how to fit the anticipated crowd in the space available. When the museum was in the Shea Fitness Center it was not unusual to have 80 to 100 people show up for guest speaker engagements. We can only fit a fraction of that amount in the space available to us now. But, if certain interior walls could be taken down we might be able to create enough open space for public events such as guest speaker engagements, and also to expand the museum. The upcoming work could provide an opportunity to have the SRA alter the interior of the building to our benefit.



David Demming (shown here with member Marc Frattasio) and his wife Debra visited the Shea Naval Aviation Museum on Saturday August 29th. David's late father, CAPT Raymond Demming Jr., was a long time member of the USNR at NAS South Weymouth and was personally responsible for acquiring the A-4B Skyhawk at the Shea Memorial Grove. David, a retired Navy commander and P-3 NFO, donated several items associated with his father's naval career to the museum. David and Debra also provided a generous financial contribution in honor of CAPT Demming that brought us over our \$15,000 fundraising goal.

Steve Cohn and other Patriot Squadron members recently conducted a survey of the Grumman C-1 Trader cockpit that we acquired a few years ago from the old Quonset Air Museum. The cockpit is presently stored under cover near the museum building. The plan is to spruce up the exterior so we can put the cockpit on a ramp truck or on a trailer and with suitable signage display it in parades and at other local events to help promote the museum. If anybody out there would like to assist with this effort please reach out to Steve Cohn at one of our end of the month meetings at the museum.

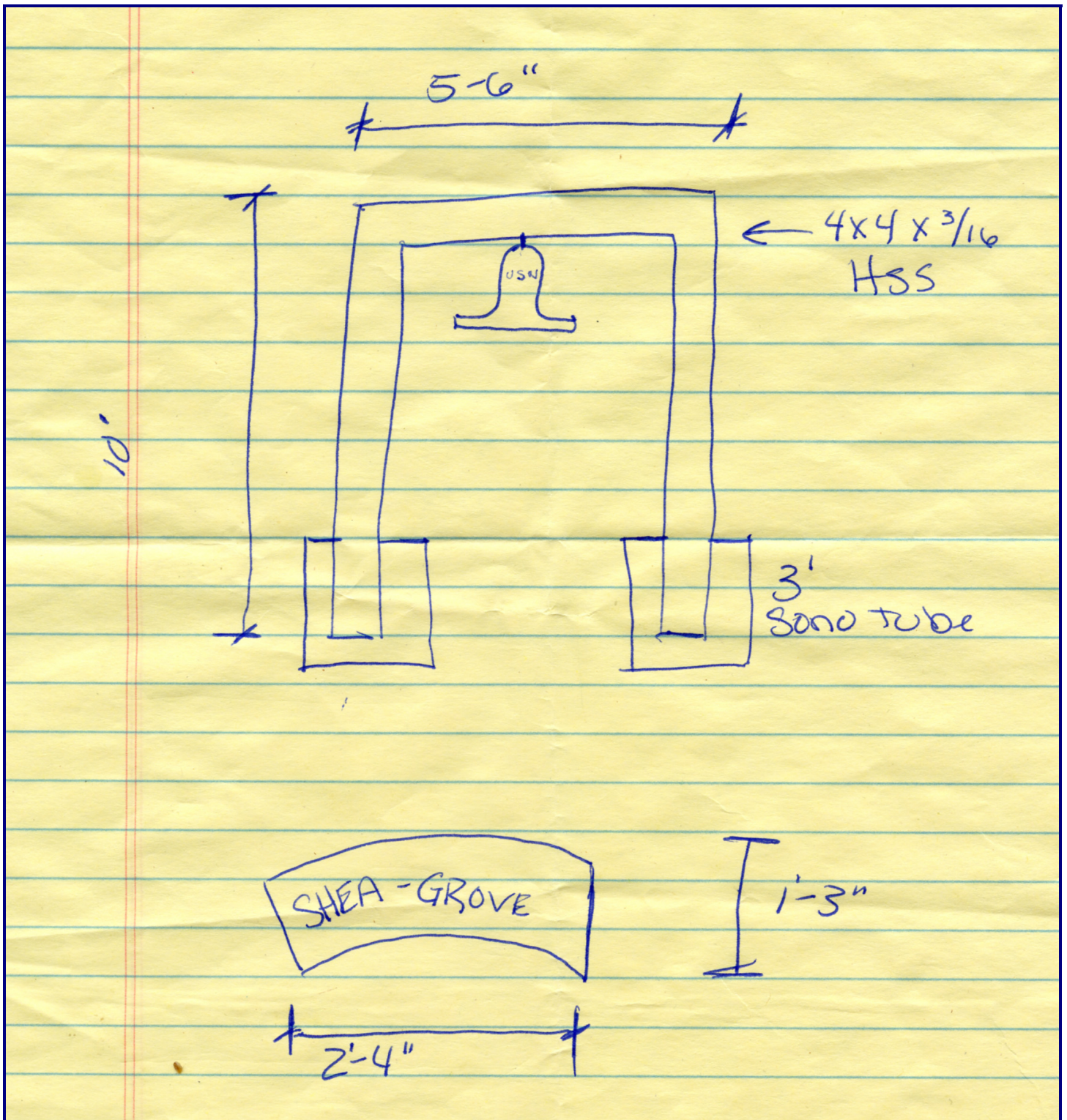




If you have not already seen it, members Marc and Faith Frattasio recently acquired a restored 1942 Ford GPW Jeep and had it painted up to represent a vehicle operated by Blimp Patrol Squadron Eleven (ZP-11) at NAS South Weymouth during the Second World War. The GPW is the Ford version of the famous Willys MB Jeep. The GPW and MB are identical, with Ford building the design under license because Willys-Overland did not have the manufacturing capacity to build the amount that the government wanted. The GPW is shown in the photo presented above parked outside the museum during a recent open house. Like the C-1 cockpit, the Jeep will be displayed in parades and other local events to help promote the museum.

In the photo shown here at right, Marc Frattasio is taking a group of Civil Air Patrol cadets who recently visited the museum for a ride in the Jeep. The cadets were part of a much larger group of visitors from the CAP squadron associated with the aviation science program at Bridgewater State College.





Member Donald Canaday has contacts in the ironworker's union who have expressed interest in fabricating a new steel frame to hold the bell at the Shea Memorial Grove. The image presented above is a sketch produced by one of Donald's contacts that shows what they propose to build. If they end up doing this for us, we'll only be responsible for procuring and applying the finish coat of paint. They are proposing to handle everything else, including setting the holder up at the park and mounting the bell. We'll report out on this as the situation evolves. As of this writing we are still in the planning stages of this effort. If all works out according to plan, we may have the bell back up at the park in time for Veterans Day (November 11th).



Rita Cavonius, a member who lives on old NAS South Weymouth at Union Point's Fairing Way community, continues to surprise us at our monthly meetings with various treats prepared from the Navy's official Second World War recipe book. In the photo presented above, which was taken at a recent meeting, Rita is shown cutting slices of genuine US Navy banana cake for the members in attendance.

As you should all know, the ANA Patriot Squadron was originally chartered as the Boston area chapter of a national organization called the Association of Naval Aviation. Unfortunately, the ANA has been dissolved and no longer exists, but due to the efforts of our own Wally Massenburg and Jennie Ankney pieces of the organization persist. Wally, who at one time served as the president of the ANA, has managed to preserve the ANA squadron structure and is working on bringing some aspects of the old organization under the National Aviation Museum Foundation. Jennie has agreed to take over the ANA's web site (anahq.org) so it will not disappear.

Keep a close watch on the news regarding Union Point, the real estate development on old NAS South Weymouth. In recent weeks the majority landowner, Washington Capital, sold out to a joint venture of Brookfield Properties and New England Development for \$65,000,000. The two real estate development companies say that they intend to build 6,500 housing units along with about 2M square feet of commercial and office space. Major infrastructure work is expected to kick off in the fall of this

year. There is also some talk that Union Point, which as some of you may recall started out as SouthField, may be re-branded again as “The Base”.

COMING UP:

The Boston Chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association will hold their annual lobster bake at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation Area in Marshfield, MA on Sunday September 13th. This is a fun event, which runs from about 11 AM to 3 PM, that's well-attended by Marines who were assigned to old NAS South Weymouth and NAS Squantum. Several ANA Patriot Squadron members are also members of the MCAA, including your newsletter editor. All Patriot Squadron members, regardless of whether they were in the Marines or are members of the MCAA, are welcome to come to the lobster bake. Five meal options are available (A - two lobsters, B - lobster and BBQ chicken, C - sirloin steak, D - BBQ steak tips and chicken, E - swordfish) for \$95 per person. If you want to go, send a check for the desired number of meals plus your meal choice to Colonel Joe Mahoney, PO Box 151, West Falmouth MA 02574 before September 8th. For more information, you can contact Joe directly via e-mail at jhmahoney@verizon.net.

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum will hold an 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 mainly intended to provide an opportunity for people to connect. The main events, including the guest speakers and the banquet, will be held on Saturday. The Navy will provide static display aircraft, including a P-3 Orion and a P-8 Poseidon. Get-togethers have been organized on Friday or Saturday for former VP-8, VP-10, 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 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 details and to make banquet reservations go to bnamuseum.org. Please note that all banquet reservations need to be in by the end of the day on September 4th.

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.

HELP WANTED:

We need more people to help run and maintain the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. At this time the museum is only open from 9 AM to noon on the second and last Saturdays of the month. We would like to expand to longer hours and more days, but to do this we need more people. **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 a good prospective member please reach out to him or to her about joining us.

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. Also, it is worth noting that if you are looking for a tax deduction, the ANA Patriot Squadron is a 501C3 non-profit educational corporation.

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?



Jeeps were used out on the airfield at NAS South Weymouth during the Second World War to help coordinate airship ground handling operations. In the photo presented above, which was taken on February 11, 1944, a Jeep is assisting with preparations to launch the ZP-11 ZNP-K type blimp K-11 on the section of the airfield between LTA Hangar One and LTA Hangar Two. The large red flag mounted on the front of the jeep was probably intended to show the blimp's pilots the wind direction so they would know in which direction to take off. "Follow Me" flags generally had a checkerboard pattern and were mounted on the rear of the vehicle. Blimps, being governed more by the rules of aerostatics rather than aerodynamics, were more sensitive to air currents than conventional aircraft. For this reason, the airfield at NAS South Weymouth originally had no runways so blimps could take off and land in whatever direction made the most sense.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



On July 20th 1942 a mother cat and her kittens were discovered in an aviation clothing storage room at NAS Squantum. This is one of a number of photographs labeled "Squantum Cat Story" found in the First Naval District Files at the National Archives in Washington DC. Though the details are unknown to your newsletter editor, a story about the cats was probably run in the base newspaper "The Squantum Witch" and a press release was probably also sent to Boston area newspapers.

