



VP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AN ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS WHO SERVED WITH THE NAVAL AIR
RESERVE PATROL SQUADRONS BASED AT NAS SQUANTUM MA, NAS SOUTH
WEYMOUTH MA, AND NAS BRUNSWICK ME

ISSUE 32

SEPTEMBER 2008

Welcome to another edition of the VP Association newsletter. As always, please direct all general VP Association-related inquiries or correspondence to William Hanigan, 23 Parkview Terrace, Duxbury MA 02332, 781-585-4950, vpassociation@aol.com. Please send all newsletter-related correspondence to Marc J. Frattasio, P.O. Box 30, Pembroke MA 02359, marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

RECCO:



Recognize anybody here? This official portrait of one of the VP squadrons assigned to NAS South Weymouth's RAW-91 was shot in front of old blimp hangar #1 about 1965. Many thanks to Robert Allen Shelton for this photo. Got something similar to share? If so, please contact Marc J. Frattasio.

FINAL FLIGHTS:

It is our sad duty to report the recent death of Robert Sexias of 11 Adams Drive, Randolph MA 02368. Robert was a fighter pilot who flew F6F-5N Hellcats in WW2 and F9F-2 Panthers in Korea. He was affiliated with various reserve units at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth including FASRON-911 and was commanding officer of the Association of Naval Aviation Patriot Squadron.

ILL SHIPMATES IN NEED OF CHEERING UP:

Verian Beebe (VP-10/VP-92) is recovering from a heart condition at 31 Cumberland Street, Brunswick ME 04011. Andre "Casey" Castellano (VP-92) of 5800 Sweetgum Street, St. Cloud FL 34772 recently broke his hip in an automobile accident. His wife was injured too. Matt Sharpe (VP-92) of 20 Eggmoggin Road, Harpswell ME 04079 is recovering from a recent surgical procedure. Al Warnick (VP-10) of 1710 Narrows Hill Road, Upper Black Eddy PA 18972 is presently undergoing cancer treatments. All would appreciate cards and letters from their old Navy friends.

LAST CALL FOR THE ANNUAL REUNION:

This is your final opportunity to sign up for the VP Association's annual reunion banquet, which will be held at the Officer's Club at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, MA on Saturday September 20, 2008 from 1200 to 1700. **All banquet reservations are required in advance and we must receive them before September 10 to inform the caterer.** Please, if you want to go to the annual reunion you must send your reservation immediately. Time is running out. A reservation form is on the last page.

Hanscom AFB requires a military ID, active or retired, to be presented to the gate guards for entry under normal circumstances. If you do not have a military ID be sure to indicate this on the banquet reservation order form so your name can be added to the base's security access list for the reunion. All persons without a military ID will have to enter the base at the civilian gate, not the Hartwell gate. If you have any questions about this contact Bill Hanigan at 781-585-4950 or vpassociation@aol.com.

Anyone who wants to stay overnight should contact Hanscom AFB directly at 1-888-235-6343 for information regarding accommodations on base or in the local area. Note, a military ID is required to get a room in the BOQ. Guests, military or civilian, are also welcome to attend the reunion. As in prior years tables will be available in a room adjacent to the banquet hall for displays of any memorabilia that you may wish to bring. If you have photos, cruise books, patches, caps, NATOPS manuals, or any other interesting memorabilia that you'd like to show off please bring it with you.

VP-92 POLO SHIRTS

We intend to have custom-decorated polo shirts for sale at the annual reunion as described below:



The polo shirts, which will most likely be light gray, will feature VP-92's "Minuteman" insignia embroidered in red, white, blue, and black as shown here. The price is expected to be about \$30. It would be useful to know how many reunion attendees will buy shirts. If you are interested, please contact William Hanigan at 781-585-4950 or vpassociation@aol.com **immediately** and tell him how many shirts you would like and in what sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL). Time is critical since we need to place an order ASAP to ensure delivery before September 20. If you want a shirt, please contact Bill now. All proceeds from the sale of the shirts will go to the Admin Fund.

ADMIN FUND DONATIONS:

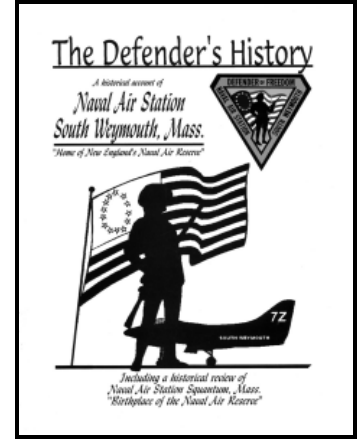
As you know, the VP Association has no dues but voluntary contributions are always welcome to help defray the cost of printing and mailing newsletters to shipmates who do not have e-mail. We'd like to

thank VP-92 alumni Tom Carroll, Charles Daley, Brian Devaney, George Griffin, Bill Hanigan, Paul Harriman, Bob Jones (a VERY BIG “THANK YOU”), Art Ricca, Fred Squires, Francis (Tom) Wall, George Neagle (VP-911), and Lee Sleger (VP-913) for their recent contributions to the admin fund.

SPECIAL ADMIN FUND FUND-RAISER:

Did you know that NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth commissioned official souvenir base history books just before they were closed? Well, read on...

Does either of these books look familiar to you? If not, then this is your lucky day. At the immediate right is the front cover of “Squantum Weekend Warriors” while at the far right is the front cover of “The Defender’s History: A Historical Account of Naval Air Station South Weymouth, Mass.” Both books have been long out-of-print and hard-to-find until now.



In 1952 NAS Squantum commissioned a 72-page book called “Squantum Weekend Warriors” in conjunction with the base’s Armed Forces Day open house and air show. This book was later serialized and ran in a number of Boston-area newspapers. In 1996 NAS South Weymouth commissioned a 90-page book called “The Defender’s History: A Historical Account of Naval Air Station South Weymouth, Mass.” in conjunction with the base closure. Both books are large format (8 ½ by 11 inch) softcovers that are profusely illustrated with literally hundreds of rare photographs.

Both books were originally produced in very limited numbers. They were not widely distributed and have been extremely difficult to find...until now. The VP Association has made arrangements via on-demand printer Lulu Press to reproduce both books in an effort to raise money for the Admin Fund. All proceeds from the sale of these books will go to help defray the cost of printing and mailing newsletters to those shipmates who do not have e-mail service.

These books can be purchased over the Internet using your credit card for only \$12.00 each plus shipping. To order go to <http://www.lulu.com> and do separate keyword searches for “NAS Squantum” and “NAS South Weymouth”. Don’t miss this unprecedented opportunity to add two extremely rare books to your personal Navy library and, of course, help support the VP Association in the process.

LOST CONTACT:

Please let Bill Hanigan know whenever your street or e-mail address changes. We need valid contact information for former VP-92 personnel Ryan Armstrong, Phil Baker, Benny Benitez, Scott Budig, Barry Crawford, Mike Donnelly, Tom Doughty, Scott Eckberg, Albert Fagan, John Fitzgerald, James Hayes, Theodore Mysuik, Russ Tupper, and Dell Wilbur as well as Jeff Traenkle of VP-10.

RECENT CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Joe McCann (VP-92)	Paul Harriman (VP-92)
241 Oldham Street	389 Barnes Road, PO Box 1257
Pembroke, MA 02359	Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Please note new e-mail addresses for Jamie Curtis (VP-92) at bluep3fe@yahoo.com, David Flanagan (VP-92) at david.flanagan@biw.com, Larry Mesbergen (VPB-92) at larry@annasworld.com, Ray Ofenbeck (VPB-92) at rofenbeck@wi.rr.com, Steve Winter (VP-92) at libertynh@verizon.net, and Andrew Snowdon (VP-92) at andy.snowdon@navy.mil as well as a new zip code for Gene Buckley (VP-92) at 03229.

NEW MEMBERS:

Ernest Gozdur (VP-92)
76 Paine Street
Worcester, MA 01605

Peter Huke (VP-92)
70 Stonewall Drive
Stafford, VA 22556
321-446-7764
pwhuke@yahoo.com

Bill Pollock (VP-92)
333 Wheeler Road
East Montpelier, VT 05651
802-272-8380
bdpollock@comcast.net

AMY YOUNGER AT OCS:

Officer Candidate Amy Younger, formerly a PS1 with VP-92, wants her former squadronmates to know that she successfully completed STA-21 training at Newport, RI during late July and will begin attending ROTC at Old Dominion University this fall. You can contact Amy at amy.younger@nav.mil.

HELP WANTED:

John Yaney, a civilian member of the VP Association who was heavily involved in the effort to save NAS South Weymouth from being closed by the BRAC Commission, is working on a book about the Naval Air Development Unit, known as "NADU", which many old-timers will remember sharing blimp hanger #1 at NAS South Weymouth with the Naval Air Reserve. John is looking for photographs of NADU aircraft, personnel, and events as well as any personal remembrances of the NADU and its activities. John can use anything NADU-related but is especially interested in any photos of NADU's R4D Skytrain (Douglas DC-3), JD (Douglas Invader), and F9F Cougar. John will scan and quickly return anything you may choose to loan him. If you can help John Yaney or know anybody who can help contact him directly at 81 West Street, Whitman MA 02382, 781-447-2395, jyaney@fsting.com.

AIR SHOW AT NAS BRUNSWICK:

The annual NAS Brunswick air show will be held on Saturday September 6 and Sunday September 7 2008. On both days the gate will open to the public at 8 AM, the air show will begin at 9 AM, the gate will be closed to vehicle traffic at 1 PM (or earlier if base parking capacity is met), and the air show will end at 4 PM. The Navy's Blue Angels will perform on both days, weather permitting, and rumor has it that this may be the last air show before the base is shut down. Don't forget, this may be THE VERY LAST TIME anyone will be able to see the Blue Angels at a Navy installation in New England!

RECOMMENDED READING:

The American Aviation Historical Society published a terrific article on the history of Naval Air Station South Weymouth in their quarterly magazine, AAHS Journal Volume 33 Number 4, during the winter of 1988. The eight-page article features 32 photographs of South Weymouth-based aircraft, including (but not limited to) P4Y Privateers, P-2 Neptunes, and P-3 Orions. The good news is that this particular issue of the AAHS Journal, although it was produced twenty years ago, is still available in quantity from the AAHS's official magazine distributor, APT Collectibles. To order a copy of this special South Weymouth-related issue send \$6.00 plus \$1.80 per copy for shipping and handling to APT Collectibles, PO Box 788, Bonsall CA 92003-0788. Alternatively, you can order copies on-line using your credit card at <http://www.apcollectibles.com>.

NEWS OF INTEREST:

Have you heard the news that every enlisted person in the Navy who flies is going to be forced to change rate to AW? It's true. The AW rating will be renamed "Naval Aircrewman" but will retain the

“AW” abbreviation (at least for the near term) since “AC” is already taken by the Navy’s air traffic controllers. All E-6s through E-9s will convert to AW on October 1. All E-5s and below will convert on April 1, 2009, completing the process. The plan is to subdivide the “new” AW rate into five specialties, AWR, AWS (both are helicopter crewmen), AWO (P-3 sensor operators), AWF (flight engineers, crew chiefs, load masters, etc.), AWV (in-flight technicians, in-flight communicators, EP-3 EWOs, etc.). Rumor has it that Naval Aircrew wings will be replaced by warfare qualification pins, five different styles one for each specialty, similar in concept to the air warfare specialist “lead wings”.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is reviewing all military retiree accounts affected by the new “Paid-Up SBP Law”. Under this law, retirees who are at least 70 years old and who have paid at least 360 months of premiums on October 1, 2008 will have their monthly premiums terminated. This change will be reflected in the November 2008 pay statements. If a retiree does not meet the eligibility criteria on October 1 the premium will stop when the retiree has met both criteria – reach the age of 70 and paid SBP premiums for 360 months. Eligible retirees will be notified by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service via mail regarding the status of their account and premiums.

The new “Post 9/11 GI Bill” will soon be heading for the President’s desk. This new benefit will give service members and veterans who have served on active-duty since September 11, 2001 an education benefits package worth up to around \$3,000/month. The same legislation includes a change to the current Montgomery GI Bill that will increase the monthly payment to \$1,321/month for a total benefit of more than \$47,000. The new law also allows service members to transfer benefits to dependents. For more information go to http://www.military.com/new-gi-bill/?ESRC=gibill_alert.se.

SQUADRON GRAPHICS VP-92 P-3C PRINT:

In preparation for its decommissioning ceremony last October, VP-92 made arrangements with a company called Squadron Graphics to create a full-color limited-edition artwork print of the very last aircraft assigned to the squadron, P-3C Orion “Lima Yankee 127”, Bureau Number 161127. The print includes VP-92’s commissioning and decommissioning dates, a brief historical narrative about the squadron, images of the squadron’s original guillotine and later Minuteman insignia, as well as naval aviator, NFO, and aircrew wings. It’s really a beautiful piece, which can be purchased separately or with a wide variety of matting and framing choices available at various prices. You can view and purchase the print on-line at <http://www.squadrongraphics.com/p-1326-p-3-orion.aspx>. All VP-92 alumni should visit the company’s web site and give serious consideration to purchasing a copy. Your newsletter editor has one hanging in his home office. It brings back many happy memories.

The small grayscale image reproduced at right does not even come close to showing the beauty, color, and detail of this special limited-edition print. As indicated in the narrative above, the “LY 127” print is available with a wide variety of matting and framing choices at various price points. The basic print itself, without a mat or a frame, is available directly from Squadron Graphics for just \$26 plus a modest shipping fee.



ON THE INTERNET:

The Naval Historical Center located in the Washington Navy Yard in Washington D.C. has been making an ever-increasing amount of aviation-related material available to the public via their web

site at <http://www.history.navy.mil>. If you have a high-speed Internet connection you can access an amazing variety of documents including photographs, squadron histories, annual aircraft allocation summaries, and every issue of Naval Aviation News from the beginning of time.

MONTHLY MEETING:

Don't forget that we meet for lunch on the last Thursday of every month at the Officer's Club at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, MA from 1130 to 1330. Please join us if you can. If you don't have a military ID (base stickers are no longer required) contact Okie O'Connell at 781-335-0553 or Bill Hanigan at 781-585-4950 so your name can be added to the base's security access list. Note, all persons without a military ID are required to enter the base at the civilian gate, not the Hartwell gate.

Note, we will meet for lunch on November 13 and December 18 instead of the last Thursday of those months due to Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Until Next Time, Lose Not Thy Speed In Flight Lest The Earth Rise Up And Smite Thee – "Frat".



----- Please Detach Here -----

VP ASSOCIATION 2008 ANNUAL REUNION
HANSCOM AFB OFFICER'S CLUB BEDFORD, MA
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2008 FROM 1200 TO 1700

BANQUET RESERVATION ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Squadron Affiliation(s) and Years: _____

Number in Party: _____

Guest's Name(s): _____

Military ID (Yes or No): _____

Amount Enclosed (\$40 Per Person): \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to **"The VP Association"** and Mail to William Hanigan, 23 Parkview Terrace, Duxbury MA 02332.