



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.

NOTE, CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF ANY U.S. NAVY PATROL SQUADRON ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

ISSUE 90

[HTTP://WWW.VPASSOCIATION.ORG](http://www.vpassociation.org)

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Welcome to another edition of the VP Association newsletter. Please direct all VP Association-related inquiries or correspondence to Marc Frattasio, PO Box 30, Pembroke MA 02339, 781-294-4491, marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

RECCO:



ABOVE: The earliest P2V Neptunes assigned to the reserve aircraft pool at NAS South Weymouth for use by the reserve VP squadrons on the base were painted overall seaplane gray and had orange reserve training markings on their tail sections. In later years their cabin sections were painted gloss white in an effort to reflect the sun's heat away and cool the interiors a little bit. This P2V-5FS was photographed on the East Mat at NAS South Weymouth during the summer of 1960 by Daniel Banash. Got something similar to share? Contact Marc Frattasio at marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

FINAL FLIGHTS:

Gene Rowe, an AE in VP-92 in the 1970s and 1980s who retired to Florida, recently passed away.

THE ADMIN FUND:

The VP Association has no dues but contributions are welcome to help defray the cost of web site hosting, postage, and other expenses. We'd like to thank Jack and Mary Primiano and Dexter Rust for recent generous contributions to the admin fund.

SPEAKING OF THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING NEWSLETTERS...

If you have an e-mail address and get your newsletter in the mail please contact George Driscoll at gnddriscoll@gmail.com ASAP so we can send it to you via e-mail. Remember, we do not charge dues and operate on a shoestring thanks to volunteer labor, memorabilia sales, and donations. If you have an e-mail address and get a paper newsletter it would be better for us to send it via e-mail.

LOST CONTACT:

Be sure to inform George Driscoll at gnddriscoll@gmail.com about home or e-mail address changes.

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

In an event that got very little notice, VP-69 retired its P-3C Orions soon after a ceremony conducted on Friday September 30th. VP-69 is the only reserve patrol squadron remaining on the west coast and is based at NAS Whidbey Island, WA. In fact, VP-69 is one of only two reserve force patrol squadrons left, along with VP-62 at NAS Jacksonville, FL, which got rid of their P-3s in June. Now that VP-69 is transitioning to the P-8, the Navy has retired the P-3 Orion from maritime patrol service. The only P-3s remaining in the US Navy now are a few assigned to test/research squadrons and to VP-30. Its not clear how long the test/research squadrons will continue to operate P-3s but VP-30 only intends to keep their aircraft for a few more years to help train foreign crews in the type. VQ-1 will operate the similar EP-3E Aries for a few years, but they will eventually transition off P-3s too.

JAY WHITE IS WORKING FOR DELTA:

Many of you who were in VP-92 at NAS South Weymouth during the squadron's final years there should remember Jay White. He was a navigator in the squadron in those days. Jay recently reached out to us to tell us that he's now working for Delta Airlines out of Boston. He'd like all of his old Navy friends to stop by the Delta ticket counter and look for him when passing through Logan International Airport. He says that if he's not there, chances are that he's taking advantage of the airlines' generous employee travel benefits. You can reach Jay via e-mail at bkingjay@aol.com.

NEW PATCHES FROM LARRY WHEEDLETON:



Former VP-92 and VP-MAU alum Larry Wheedleton recently commissioned a limited number of embroidered patches with this design. He has a few leftover and will make them available, while the supply lasts, at a modest price. If you'd like one, contact Larry directly at bowtie_9@hotmail.com. Please note that he also has a few VP-MAU patches left over, if anybody out there wants one.

FAITH FRATTASIO HONORS SFC JARED MONTI AND FAMILY:

Faith Frattasio, who was an AK in VP-92 and VP-MAU, recently replaced the SFC Jared Monti memorial tree at the Shea Memorial Grove park at Union Point on what was NAS South Weymouth. SFC Monti was a local US Army Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in action in Afghanistan. His memorial tree at the park did not survive the last winter. After she learned that SFC Monti's father Paul passed away recently, Faith decided to replace the tree herself.



HELP RESTORE THE P-2 NEPTUNE AT OLD NAS BRUNSWICK:



Herman "Nick" Nicols, a former NFO with the VP-MAU and VP-92 who many of you should remember, is presently involved with an effort by the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum to raise \$50,000 to repaint the P2V-5FS / SP-2E Neptune gate guardian parked near the former main entrance to old NAS Brunswick. If you'd like to contribute towards this effort, send a check payable to "Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum" and with "P-2 Restoration Project" written in the memo field to:

Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum
C/O Jim Oikle
179 Admiral Fitch Avenue
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Any amount of money that you might want to contribute towards this effort would be much appreciated. The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum can use all the help they can get. The museum

is a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation. Therefore, all donations should be tax deductible. For tax-deduction purposes the museum's EIN is 29-0926866.



The old Neptune at NAS Brunswick hasn't been painted since before the Navy closed the base. It has been neglected and its appearance has deteriorated greatly in recent years. The photo presented here does not really show the magnitude of the problem. The aircraft looks much worse "in person". Not only are the paint and markings faded and peeling, some of the aircraft's metal structure is also badly corroded. For example, there's a hole in one bomb bay door that you can push your head and shoulders through!

The leadership of the VP Association has made a \$1,000 donation towards this effort on behalf of all members and in memory of Bill Hanigan and Herb Tallent. For those of you who do not know it, Bill and Herb started the VP Association. Both men were maintainers and aircrew on P-2 Neptunes based at NAS South Weymouth who often flew to NAS Brunswick during weekend drills and annual training periods. In addition to the donation made on behalf of this group by its leadership, your newsletter editor also made a personal donation in the same amount in memory of Bill Hanigan, Herb Tallent, and everybody else in the VP Association who was involved with P-2 Neptunes.

As of today the BNAM has raised about \$18,000 for this effort. Several hundred people read this newsletter, some with deep pockets. There aren't many Neptunes left, and few of them are wearing US Navy colors and markings like the one at old NAS Brunswick. Please make a contribution, if you can, to help the BNAM put this aircraft back into presentable condition.

THE 2023 NAS BRUNSWICK REUNION:

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum intends to hold another reunion at old NAS Brunswick, ME over the weekend of Friday through Sunday September 15-17 in 2023. Although we were unable to get enough interest to have a VP Association reunion in the Weymouth area this year, your newsletter editor intends to organize a combined VP-92 and VP-MAU "mini reunion" at Brunswick on Saturday September 16th 2023 in conjunction with the base reunion, like we did in 2021. The last time we did this about fifty VP-92 people and about thirty VP-MAU people came. So, if you'd like to meet up with some of your old VP-92 or VP-MAU shipmates at old NAS Brunswick next September please mark that date on your calendar and plan to come to Maine. No promises, but we'll try to have something special to give away to VP-92 and VP-MAU alumni, while the supply lasts of course, just like we did in 2021. More information will be provided about this event as the date approaches. In the interest of full disclosure, your newsletter editor is a member of the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum and is on their reunion committee. Kevin Cahill, who many of you will remember from VP-92, is involved too. Those of you who were at the last NAS Brunswick reunion know that this

event had the full support of the Navy, which sent two P-3 Orions, a P-8 Poseidon, and two T-6 Texan 2s. No promises, but the reunion committee hopes to have a P-3, a P-8, and a Canadian CP-140 Aurora at next year's event. Please make plans to come if you can. It will be a great time and if you attend you will not be disappointed.

RUSSIAN SUB WITH "DOOMSDAY" WEAPON DISAPPEARS FROM HARBOR (Fox News 10/3):

A top-of-the-line Russian nuclear-powered submarine has gone missing from its harbor in the arctic along with its rumored "doomsday weapon," according to multiple reports. NATO has reportedly warned members that Russia's Belgorod submarine no longer appeared to be operating out of its White Sea base, where it has been active since July. Officials warned that Russia may plan to test Belgorod's "Poseidon" weapons system, a drone equipped with a nuclear bomb that Russia has claimed is capable of creating a "radioactive tsunami," according to Italian media.

The drone can be deployed from the submarine at any time and detonated at a depth of 1 kilometer near a coastal city. Russian state media has claimed the device can create a 1,600 ft. wave that smashes into the coast and irradiates it. The 600-ft. submarine was delivered to the Russian Navy in July as part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's top-secret program that aims to develop and operate a series of a new class of "super weapons."

Strategic intelligence expert and author of "Putin's Playbook" Rebekah Koffler warned that Russia's use of such a weapon would only come as a last resort "in the event that Russia and the US are in a direct kinetic war and Russia is losing." Koffler says the device is likely not to be operational until 2027, but Putin may be testing it as a means to intimidate both Ukraine its NATO allies in the West. Putin has warned that Russia's potential use of nuclear weapons is "not a bluff."

Belgorod's location remains publicly unknown as of Monday, a situation that is not particularly surprising to Koffler. She says Russian submarines have some of the best stealth capabilities in the world and have even entered U.S. waters undetected in the past. "There have been times when Russian nuclear-powered attack submarines, armed with long-range cruise missiles, operated undetected for weeks close to U.S. shores," Koffler told Fox News Digital.

One incident in the early 2010s saw a submarine get detected only when it was leaving U.S. waters. "My colleagues from the Office of Naval Intelligence got a serious dressing down by a 4-star general" following the event, Koffler said.

Fox News article by Aders Hagstrom

RECOMMENDED READING:

Here is something new and unusual. The Naval Institute Press, the same people who publish Proceedings magazine, have published a book about cats in the Navy called "Cats in the Navy". Yes, up until fairly recently it was not usual for naval vessels to keep cats on board, not just as working animals to help control rats and mice, but also as pets and mascots. This profusely illustrated hardcover book has 176 pages and will be of great interest to anybody in this organization who happens to like cats. The ISBN is 978-1682478387 and you can purchase on-line or through any decent bookstore.



ON THE INTERNET:

Your newsletter editor put together several different slide shows pertaining to NAS South Weymouth and uploaded them to YouTube on Friday September 30th to commemorate the closing of that base. There are four slide shows in all. The first one consists of over 1,200 images of the base taken between 1941 and 1997, with a few later photos to bring things up-to-date. The second is basically a tour of the base from the original main gate at White Street to the airfield during the Second World War. The third is a similar tour of the base composed of photos taken in 1960. The fourth is a tour of NAS South Weymouth, starting from the “new” main gate on Route 18, taken during the base’s final few years. The slide shows are set to music and will run automatically from start to finish when you trigger them. Please note that the first slide show takes about an hour and a half to run while the other three take about twenty minutes each. To check them out go to YouTube and do a keyword search for “NAS South Weymouth 25th anniversary”.

PARTING SHOT:



ABOVE: VP-911 P2V-5FS/SP-2E Neptune flight crew at NAS South Weymouth during the early 1960s. Have something similar to share? Contact Marc Frattasio at marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.



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

