



# 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 52**

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

**JUNE 2013**

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, vp92association@gmail.com. Please send all newsletter-related correspondence to Marc J. Frattasio, P.O. Box 30, Pembroke MA 02359, marc\_frattasio@yahoo.com.

## **RECCO:**



**ABOVE:** Here's a previously unpublished photograph showing four Consolidated P4Y-2 Privateers at NAS Port Lyautey in what used to be French Morocco during VP-911's annual training cruise in the summer of 1956. Ed Corvi Photo. Got something similar to share? If so, contact Marc J. Frattasio.

## **FINAL FLIGHTS:**

Paul Rood passed away unexpectedly on March 25<sup>th</sup>. He was a hospital corpsman with VP-92 for many years. Stanley Kreider of Dover, MA passed away on March 23<sup>rd</sup> after a brief illness. Kreider was a WW2 veteran who served as commanding officer of VP-911. Charlie Musgrave passed away recently too. He was an AOC in VP-911 during the 1960s.

## **THE VP ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION:**

The VP Association's annual reunion is going to be held on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 to 17:00 at the Weymouth Elks Hall at 1197 Washington Street in Weymouth, MA. This is the same location that we held the reunion at last year. It is just a few miles from old NAS South Weymouth.

The buffet style banquet is \$40 per person. As always, attendance is limited, reservations are required in advance, and will be taken first-come first served. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Please complete and mail the reservation form on the last page ASAP to prevent disappointment and so we can tell the caterer how many people to expect. Directions to the Weymouth Elks Hall follow:

From the North (i.e., from Boston)

1. Take Route 3 south from the Boston area to Route 18 (Exit 16 South).
2. Go south on Route 18 about 1/2 mile to top of hill. At traffic light, turn left on Middle Street.
3. Continue on Middle Street, under Route 3, for about 1 1/2 miles.
4. At traffic light, turn right on Washington Street. Proceed through one traffic light and the Elk's Hall is about 200 yards on the right.

From the South (i.e., from Cape Cod)

1. Take Route 3 North from the Plymouth/ Cape Cod area. Get off Route 3 at Exit 15 (Derby Street).
2. At end of exit, turn left on Derby Street.
3. Drive on Derby Street about 1/2 mile to second traffic light.
4. Turn left at light on Cushing Street.
5. On Cushing Street go about 1/2 mile to next traffic light and turn left at the light on Route 53 (Whiting Street)
6. Stay north on Whiting Street (in Weymouth, it becomes Washington Street). At first traffic light be in the left lane. Go through the traffic light and the Elk's Hall is about 200 yards on the left.

The Holiday Inn at 929 Hingham St. (781-871-0545), the Best Western at 909 Hingham St. (781-871-5660), and the Comfort Inn at 850 Hingham St. (781-982-1000) are all located a few miles away off Exit 14 on Route 3 in Rockland, MA.

We intend to have a guest speaker this year, as we have in previous years. The guest speaker and his/her topic will be announced in the next newsletter. All VP Association members who attend the reunion will also be presented with a special souvenir gift. You'll have to go to find out what it will be.

As indicated above, the Weymouth Elks Hall is just a few miles from old NAS South Weymouth, which is being redeveloped into a mixed commercial and residential community called SouthField. Plan on driving to Weymouth a few hours earlier, visit the base, and take a look at the remaining USN structures as well as the new SouthField apartments and townhouses. As was the case last year, we have made special arrangements with the Association of Naval Aviation Patriot Squadron to have the Shea Naval Aviation Museum open between 9 and 11 AM on the day of the reunion. The museum is located in temporary spaces inside the Shea Fitness Center at 495 Shea Memorial Drive and is normally only open on the second and last Saturday of the month. Admission is free. If you have any naval aviation memorabilia gathering dust at home, especially items pertaining to South Weymouth or Squantum, please consider donating it to the museum! See [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org) for details.

Although dress is officially CASUAL for the reunion, we encourage you to wear your old uniform (whatever you have) or a flight suit if you've got one.

Try to pass the word about the reunion to as many of your old Squantum/South Weymouth/Brunswick reserve VP squadron friends as possible. Don't assume that every former shipmate you're in contact with is affiliated with or aware of this group. Military or civilian guests are welcome to come with you.

Tables will be available in the banquet hall to display any memorabilia that you may wish to bring. If you have photos, cruise books, patches, caps, NATOPS manuals, or any other interesting Navy things that you'd like to show off to your friends please plan to bring them with you. Your newsletter

editor is bringing a portable scanner. If you have any NAS Squantum, NAS South Weymouth, or NAS Brunswick-related photos or slides please bring them so they can be scanned for the newsletter.

**ADMIN FUND DONATIONS:**

The VP Association has no dues but voluntary contributions are always welcome to help defray the cost of printing and mailing newsletters to shipmates without e-mail. We'd like to thank Bradford Dickey, Robert Morrissey, and Dick O'Connor for their recent generous contributions to the VP Association's administration fund. Please remember that we operate this group on a shoestring. If you have an e-mail address and are getting this newsletter in paper form through the U. S. Postal Service contact Bill Hanigan as soon as possible so we can begin sending it to you via e-mail.

**LOST CONTACT:**

Be sure to let Bill Hanigan know whenever your street or e-mail addresses change. Note that Al Firnrrohr has a new e-mail address at akamac40@gmail.com.

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Greg Brown  
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VP-92

Kenton Greene  
535 Circuit St  
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kenton.greene@comcast.net  
VP-ML-69, VP-911

Bill Hughes  
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Weymouth, MA  
CGA Unit #46

Bob Morrissey  
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VP-92

**THE VP ASSOCIATION'S MONTHLY MEETINGS HAVE MOVED TO A NEW VENUE:**

The USAF club at Hanscom Field was recently closed. This is the place where members of the VP Association have been holding luncheon meetings on the last Thursday of every month for many years. Until further notice the monthly luncheon meetings will be held at Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub at 94 Hartwell St. in Lexington, MA. Waxy O'Connor's is located near Hanscom Field's Hartwell gate.

**ITS PANCAKE BREAKFAST SEASON AGAIN AT CRANLAND AIRPORT:**

Those of you in eastern Massachusetts should be aware that the Experimental Aircraft Association holds a pancake breakfast and fly-in at the Cranland Airport (Monponset) off Route 58 in Halifax on the third Sunday of the month from April through October. The breakfast costs only \$6 and goes from 8 AM until the food runs out. It's a good deal if you like airplanes. Several VP-92 alumni usually go. Here at Cranland on April 21<sup>st</sup> are clockwise from left to right Faith Frattasio, Susan Zimmerman, Bob O'Brien Jr., Bernadette O'Brien, Bob Mandeville, Lorraine Edwards, Bob O'Brien Sr., and Bill Hanagan. Come join us.



**A NOTE AND PHOTO FROM JERRY LACH (VP-93 AND VP-92):**



I did attend the 2013 Maritime Patrol Association Symposium. Sequestration did impact the symposium as there was only two days of activities, with minimal Navy support. Normally I would not have attended this truncated affair but had other plans in Florida, so I did attend.

On Thursday April 18 there was the Heritage Dinner in Hanger 117. On Friday there was the golf outing and the Flight Suit Social. I found out later that there also was a P-8A tour scheduled on Thursday, but since I was traveling, when the tour was announced, I was unaware of it. This was a disappointment as I would have wanted to take advantage of this tour.

As last year, the Heritage Dinner and Flight Suit were first class affairs and I enjoyed the food and adult beverages.

The only military hardware support I saw was a P-3C and P-8A parked at the Heritage Dinner hanger. Unfortunately neither was open for tours. As with most of these activities I did enjoy talking to fellow VPer, notably a P-2 Jez operator and a Taiwanese liaison officer ( Taiwan is to receive 12 P-3C's).

As far as attendance was concerned I thought the Heritage Dinner and Flight Suit social had slightly reduced participation. I believe the attendance was down about 10%. Not sure about the Golf Outing as there appeared to be many participants. I am enclosing one picture I took at the Dinner.

**LCDR JOHN McCLELLAN HAS RETIRED FROM THE NAVY:**



LCDR John McClellan (left), who was a TAR AW1 with VP-92 before he went LDO, retired from the Navy on the USS Constitution On April 27<sup>th</sup>. At right are former VP-92 AWs Scott Savelle, Rick Caesar, Brian Clougher, Mark Hausler, and Matt Sharpe at John's retirement party.

**PETE COSTELLO PULLING THE PLUG AT THE END OF JUNE:**

Captain Peter Costello, who served as the C.O. of VP-92 between September 2001 and February 2003, will be retiring from the USNR on board the USS Constitution at the old Boston Navy Yard at 19:00 on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>. If you served with Pete and can make it to Boston on June 29<sup>th</sup> please come by the USS Constitution to see him off.

## **NEW TENNANT ON FORMER NAS BRUNSWICK:**

Bob Wilson sent along this photo of a new commercial structure that was recently completed on former NAS Brunswick. The new building will house a healthcare services company.



## **CHINESE CARRIER PREPARING FOR LONG DISTANCE MISSION (The Telegraph 04/19/13):**



China's first aircraft carrier could make its maiden long distance journey "within the year", state media has announced in a further indication of the country's growing military clout. The 990 ft Liaoning carrier – which was formally brought into service last September – is now preparing for its first major outing, CCTV reported. "A big country cannot do without aircraft carriers," said Zhang Zheng, the carrier's captain, whose first encounter with an aircraft carrier came in Portsmouth, in 2002.

The Liaoning is a former Soviet carrier that was reportedly purchased from Ukraine in 1999 before being refitted at a naval base in northeast China. In March, a Chinese shipping expert, Lan Yun, told state media its first major voyage could take between one and three months and see the Liaoning reach "waters near Japan's Okinawa islands and even Guam".

The high-profile announcement came in a series of reports about the aircraft carrier, timed to coincide with the 64th anniversary of China's navy next Tuesday. "The navy has to protect the security of the country and its economic interests," the China Daily reported in a front-page article headlined:

"China's ocean-going giant." Carriers made "a huge difference to the military capabilities of the countries that had them," the newspaper added, pointing to the Royal Navy's HMS Argus which became the first fully-functional vessel of its type in 1918.

Liu Zhigang, a first officer on the carrier, told the newspaper the carrier could "serve as a guide for the transformation of the Chinese navy, from coastal defense to greater responsibilities in deep oceans." "The Chinese navy needs to reach every place that other countries can reach to support the country's growth. The navy has to be able to compete with any naval force from any country in any area," he said. "We can refit an aircraft carrier and be fully combat-capable much faster than most experts expected."

Beijing's apparent determination to extend its control over the seas with a "blue-water force" comes at a time of increasingly acrimonious maritime disputes with neighboring countries such as Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam. China has also expressed public concern over the United States' "pivot" to Asia, which Beijing views as a direct threat to the country's rise.

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for China's defense ministry said the US' growing presence in the region was "not conducive to the upholding of peace and stability". Reports suggest China is currently developing at least two "home-grown" aircraft carriers and is now moving ahead with plans to build nuclear-powered carriers. Last year, the country's annual defense budget grew to over £65bn, making it the world's second largest.

*The Telegraph Article by Tom Phillips*

#### **US MULLS P-3 MPA SALE TO VIETNAM (Jane's 04/12/2013):**

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is expected to request from the US government the sale of Lockheed Martin P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft (MPA), a senior company official told IHS Jane's on 10 April. Speaking at the LAAD Defense and Security 2013 exhibition in Rio de Janeiro, Clay Fearnow, director maritime patrol programs, said the Vietnamese Navy was keen to buy up to six surplus P-3s to help patrol the country's nearly 3,500 km coastline and 1,396,299 km<sup>2</sup> Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). "The Vietnamese Navy has expressed a lot of interest [in the P-3], and there is [US government] support to move forward," said Fearnow.

According to Fearnow, any P-3s sold to Vietnam by the US would in the first instance be non-weaponised, being fitted exclusively with an MPA mission kit such as forward looking infrared (FLIR) sensors and other systems. However, he noted that as relations between the two countries continue to improve there could be scope for weapon systems to be provided at a later date. Fearnow said Lockheed Martin would recommend they opt for the latter P-3C aircraft, as they are the most advanced and have the fewer airframe hours on them.

*Jane's Article by Gareth Jennings*

#### **KHI GIVES MSDF FIRST P-1 ANTISUB PATROL AIRCRAFT (The Japan Times 03/27/12):**

GIFU – Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. held a ceremony Tuesday in Gifu Prefecture to deliver the first two P-1 next-generation antisubmarine patrol aircraft to the Maritime Self-Defense Force. The two planes will be deployed to the MSDF Atsugi base in Kanagawa Prefecture and will undergo flight tests for two years before engaging in maritime patrol missions.

Kawasaki Heavy has cooperated with the Defense Ministry's Technical Research & Development Institute in developing the P-1 turbofan jet to replace the P-3C turboprop aircraft that the firm

produced under U.S. license. However, completion of the new plane was delayed for one year due to fuselage cracks.

The four-engine P-1 is the world's first practical aircraft to use the fly-by-light system that sends signals through fiber-optic cables to control surfaces while preventing electromagnetic waves from the electronic systems from affecting flight control, the firm said. The MSDF plans to replace about 80 P-3Cs with some 70 P-1s.

“The situation has grown severer due to such developments as Chinese government ships sailing into Japan’s territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands,” Senior Vice Defense Minister Akira Sato said at the ceremony. “ I’m confident the P-1 will play a core role in securing safety in Japan and the international community.”

#### **COMMENTS REGARDING THE KAWASAKI P-1 FROM JOE SCRIBELLITO VIA FRAN CRENEY:**



The first two of Japan’s P-1 rolled out - seems to me this would have been a more logical and cost effective answer to the ASW question for the next generations versus the government’s decision to produce the P-8.

Four engines verse two, able to operate at lower altitudes more efficiently, the four-engine P-1 is the world’s first practical aircraft to use the fly-by-light system that sends signals through fiber-optic cables to control surfaces while preventing electromagnetic waves from the electronic systems from affecting flight control. Another plus is a proven air frame - unbelievable but the P-3 airframe has been in production for more than 50 years with very few modifications - the tooling cost of the proven airframe certainly had to count for something.

The navy was so interested in getting a straight jet they seemed to overlook or either forgot the fact that submarines and surface ships are relatively slow - they should have learned something when they replaced the Stouf with the S-3 Viking. you don't need a 500 knt A/C to keep up with a 45 knt sub or a 30 knt surface ship - speed is needed to get you there and get you back the idea to locate and stay on top, if you can't loiter around but a couple of hours you not doing much good or you have to have more platforms

My understanding is the actual P-8 ASW suite is not even ready and won't be for at least another year. And finally, the P-8 will have to have supplemental drones partially due to altitude restrictions and the new sonobuoys that they intend to drop from 20,000+ feet have not proven to be reliable.

### **SHEA NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM NOW OPEN THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH:**

The Association of Naval Aviation's Shea Naval Aviation Museum on old NAS South Weymouth is now open from 9 AM to noon on the second Saturday of the month as well as from 9 to 11 AM on the last Saturday of the month. The extra day is an experiment and will be continued as long as there is sufficient interest to do so. The Shea Naval Aviation Museum is a repository of photos and artifacts associated with the military history of NAS South Weymouth and its Quincy predecessor NAS Squantum. Admission is free. The museum is located at 495 Shea Memorial Drive in the old base gymnasium (Shea Fitness Center) on old NAS South Weymouth. Several VP Association members are active in the ANA Patriot Squadron and typically help tend the museum when it is open. The museum will host a guest speaker, naval aviation book author Tommy Thomson, at noon on Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>. For more details about the museum see <http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org>.

### **OTHER RECENT NEWS OF INTEREST:**

Due to the Sequester the Navy's Blue Angels have had to cancel all scheduled flight demonstrations through the end of 2013. Also, as of June 1<sup>st</sup> the DOD will no longer issue base stickers. Apparently you'll just need to show a valid military ID to drive on base.

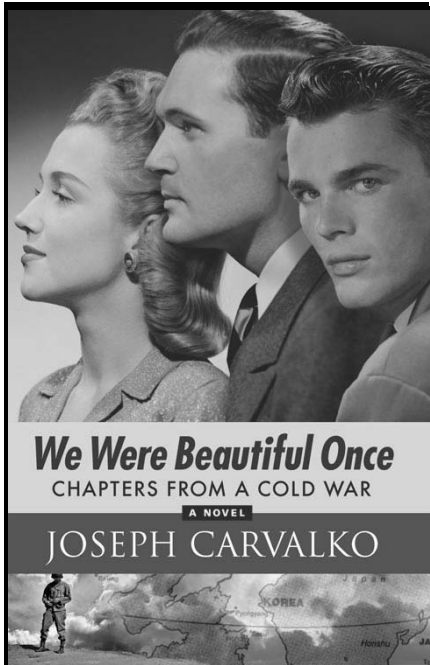
### **FLIGHT JACKET REPAIRS:**

U. S. Wings supplies leather flight jackets to the Navy. They can replace worn cuffs and waistbands and perform other repairs at reasonable prices. For more information see <http://www.uswings.com> or contact Myke Redpath at [myke@uswings.com](mailto:myke@uswings.com).

### **VP ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE:**

Bill Hanigan has limited quantities of VP Association "Two Turning, Two Burning" (P-2) and "Four Turning, Four Burning" (P-3) ball caps, VP Association "Four Turning, Four Burning (P-3) polo shirts, and VP-92 guillotine patches available for sale. The challenge coins are gone. If you're interested in any of this stuff contact Bill directly at [vp92association@gmail.com](mailto:vp92association@gmail.com) or 781-585-4950.

### **RECOMMENDED READING:**



Jerry Perone, a VP Association member who served in VP-10 between 1957 and 1960 recommends "We Were Beautiful Once". This is a novel that was recently written by a friend of his. The book is about an attempt to discover the fate of an American MIA from the Korea War. You can check the book out on-line at the Sunbury Press web site at <http://www.sunburypressstore.com/We-Were-Beautiful-Once- Chapters-From-a-Cold-War-9781620061718.htm>



### **ON THE INTERNET:**

- We put a USN report on the P-8 on the VP Association web site at <http://www.vpassociation.org>.
- Check out <http://www.joebaugher.com> for information about naval aircraft bureau numbers.
- <http://thailandaviation.blogspot.com/2008/07/history-secret-us-navy-squadron-at.html> is a web site about the P-2s used in Vietnam to monitor Vietcong traffic passing over the Ho Chi Min Trail.
- <http://www.naus.org> is a web site with information of interest to military retirees.
- You can order DD-214s on-line at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.
- A YouTube video featuring P-2s and P-3s is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzWhZdxPKGE>.

### **MONTHLY MEETING:**

Don't forget that we will be meeting for lunch on the last Thursday of every month at Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub at 94 Hartwell St. in Lexington, MA from 11:30 to 13:30 until further notice. This is a new location since the USAF club on Hanscom Field was closed. Please join us if you can. The pub is just outside the Hanscom Field Hartwell gate.

### **PARTING SHOT:**



*This photo provided by Ed Corvi shows a VP-911 inspection at NAS Squantum just before the USNR moved to NAS South Weymouth. Plan on attending the VP Association's annual reunion in Weymouth on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>. You never know which of your old shipmates will show up...*



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



VP ASSOCIATION 2013 ANNUAL REUNION  
WEYMOUTH ELKS HALL, 1197 WASHINGTON ST., WEYMOUTH, MA  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 FROM 1200 TO 1700

*Appetizers and Cash Bar between 1200 and 1300, Dinner at 1300, Music between 1200 and 1630*

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): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

***If you haven't been to a VP Association reunion before, how about joining us this year?***

***Don't assume that everybody you know from your Navy Reserve or regular Navy patrol squadron days is aware of the VP Association or the annual reunion banquet. Spread the word about us to your Navy friends and former shipmates.***

***Dress is CASUAL. However, if you would like to wear a uniform (any kind) or flight suit to the reunion that's fine.***

***We expect to have a guest speaker and will provide complete details in the next newsletter. Tables will be available for displays of any Navy memorabilia that you may wish to bring. If you have photos, cruise books, squadron or crew patches, squadron ballcaps, NATOPS manuals, or any other interesting memorabilia that you'd like to show off to your friends and former shipmates at the reunion banquet please bring it with you and we'll find a table for you.***

***As was the case last year, the ANA Patriot Squadron's Shea Naval Aviation Museum in the Shea Fitness Center at 495 Shea Memorial Drive on old NAS South Weymouth will be open from 9 to 11 AM on the day of the reunion. Come see the old base and visit the museum. Admission is free! If you have any old photographs, films, or Navy memorabilia associated with NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth tucked away gathering dust consider donating it to the museum.***