



A MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF NAVAL AVIATION HISTORY  
THE PBY CATALINA AND THE SEAPLANE BASE AT OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON



Visit our website at: [www.pbyma.org](http://www.pbyma.org)

## ***PBYMF Newsletter #123, March 2009***

**Greetings to all members of the Cat family.....**no matter where you are! We are encouraged every time we get e-mails and letters with the history of your brother, father, grandfather and members who served with Naval aviation. This is one major segment of PBY Memorial we are grateful for, as it fills in parts of the program that make for the total mission. We don't call the PBY Memorial Foundation a "museum" for the simple reason that we are compiling the histories of crews, pilots and their squadron aircraft to memorialize the sacrifice and service they gave to their country. For those who are no longer with us, we want to especially remember them as they were the foundation of our Mission. And for those retirees and veterans still with us, we are honored to have you involved with us in completing our Mission! *(By the way, don't forget to check our website: [www.pbyma.org](http://www.pbyma.org) in the guestbook section. We are constantly getting inquiries from families looking for their father, brother, uncle or other relatives wanting to know if any of our members have information on them and their Navy history).*

**Old Navy, New Navy.....**from veterans to their grandchildren! To make the point, we were honored to have students from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Burlington-Edison School District visit our center recently. It is so inspiring to see these young students show interest in Naval aviation history—especially NAS Whidbey. The tour was brought to building 12 by Tony Popp, Community Relations Director, Public Affairs Office, NAS Whidbey Is. *(Below)*



*Pictured are a few of the 42 students that visited the PBY Memorial historical center  
Tony Popp, photo*

*Adolph Meisch, right, shows students how to fly a PBY on the flight simulator. "They learn quickly", he said*

**Seaplane history of WWII:** What aircraft was considered the most formidable, all-around, attack, bombing, search, long-range and considered aerodynamically superior to all seaplanes in WWII? No, it was not the PBY Catalina (although the Cat did some heroic things and was the best seaplane we had in the early part of WWII).....  
*Look on the back page.*

**Norway and PBYS.....**Most of you have read about the **Resistance Movement** in Norway (1940 to 1945). During the occupation of Norway by Nazi troops, the underground in Norway was supplied by seaplanes running from England with supplies and agents. This clandestine operation helped the Norwegian people sabotage vital operations of the Germans and set plans to overthrow their occupiers. During that span in the war, the secret agent "operations" were conducted with the aid of 3 PBY Catalinas. The agents were brought in by PBYS at night and dropped off in rubber boats with supplies and radios to take to their contacts in secret harbors. This history is illustrated in the new 333 Squadron display at the PBY Memorial Foundation office at building 12. At least 2 of the PBYMF members are related to surviving members of the **Resistance Movement**. (We will have a special program about the 333 Squadron at our April meeting and dedicate the display at the PBY Memorial Foundation office, Building 12, in memory of these valiant heroes). More details to come.



**Memberships and Newsletters.** We are facing increased costs and reduced income in the present economic situation. Postage is increasing in May and it will be more difficult to carry unrenewed membership newsletters. We must review our mailing list which can mean dropping a member who has not renewed for at least 2 years. (If you are government, special service, or lifetime members, please disregard this notice). Also, please let us know if you are a senior with special needs and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, but unable to pay the \$25 membership, so just let us know. We will be glad to make arrangements for you.

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**Museum Tour in April...**we have tentatively scheduled a bus tour to Boeing's new "Future of Flight" exhibit, Wednesday April 15 near Boeing's Everett Plant. Additional tours to the Boeing manufacturing facility can be arranged from the museum. More at the March meeting. Sign up as space is limited to 24! Tours are provided by Whidbey-Seatac Shuttle, thanks to James and Mike!

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**PBYMF Exhibit Progress** is slowly developing....so please be patient. We are making headway. Every week something new is added in each display room. Notice the planes "in flight". More artifacts are coming in and we hope we won't run out of room (just yet).

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Now "for the rest of the story", we welcome back Duane Kemp – after a long medical "furlough". He's back to tell the rest of his tales about his combat experiences in WWII. Don't miss it (those of you near the CPO Club). Remember, Tuesday, April 24, at 11:30. We will also be provided with a brief "Intel Report". Don't miss it! We need to know what 's going on.....Win

**To answer the question on page one:** Kawanishi Type 2, popularly known by the Allies as "Emily". A formidable flying "battleship", the Emily had five 20mm cannons and three 7.7 machine guns. Allied and US pilots were warned to stay clear of Emily unless there were several attacking fighter planes. Emily had a combat range of 2900 miles, a top speed of 290 mph and a crew of 10. The sole survivor is on display in Japan and was once displayed at the seaplane base at NAS Whidbey shortly after WWII!

