



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



The PBY Memorial Foundation Newsletter

138th Edition, June 2010

*Original Command Building dedicated 68 years later to honor
Admiral Cyril T. Simard, first Skipper of NAS Whidbey*



"Setting the watch" Sept. 21, 1942

June 12, 2010 was a new day in the annals of NAS Whidbey Island history as the building once commissioned as the administration building on September 1942 was named after the first Commander of the Base. Captain Cyllil T. Symard a veteran of the Midway campaign was CO of the Naval Air Station at Midway. Under his leadership, he was instrumental in a plan that located the Japanese



Simard Dedication June 12, 2010
OHFD Photo

carriers that gave American airmen a 2 hour response advantage. From the Midway Air Station PBY Catalinas were deployed in a search pattern blanketing hundreds of miles of ocean. It was a PBY that reported the positions of the Japanese carriers and was to be the event that helped turn the tide of the war at Midway. The rest is History!

Captain Gerral David declared Building 12 to be named "Cyrill T. Simard Hall" an appropriate tribute to a great hero of American Naval aviation. Captain David introduced the granddaughters of Cyrill Simard, Vicki Lucas, who came all the way from Germany, and Lesli Appleby who flew in from Texas. Lesli's daughter, Shannon and her friend Frances were also in attendance for the dedication. (It was reported later that Shannon and her friend Frances tried "cutting a rug" in the PBY Memorial' canteen to the boogie woogie of Tommy Dorsey and cheered on by a number of WWII "rug cutters")!

July 9 is our Special Project Seaplane/Silent Auction Luncheon at the CPO Club, Ault Field, Oak Harbor. Captain Gerral David is our speaker. For reservations, please call Jim at 360-279-1753 or leave a message at 360-240-9500 WE DEDICATE THE PBY AT SIMARD HALL (Building 12) PARKING LOT, SATURDAY JULY 10, 1300!

Honored guests included Dr. Allison Brooks of the Washington State Historical Preservation Organization whose team is working to help preserve NAS Whidbey's legacy; and City Council member Jim Palmer representing Mayor Slowik signifying the partnership of Oak Harbor with NAS Whidbey Island. Appropriately, a low flying P-3 patrol aircraft electrified the crowd at the peak of the ceremony!



Pre-flight...getting the PBY ready to “fly” home takes almost as much work as getting it flyable! The outer wing panels were initially removed to be prepared for transport to the “site” where the PBY will finally be displayed. In the photo below, members of Chugach Industries posed for a “photo-op” (well deserved) following the placement of the outer wing panels on a flat bed. The crew engineered special jigs, padding and tiedowns prior to the move from Skagit airport area via Hi-way 12 over Deception Pass to Building 12 (Simard Hall) parking lot on the Seaplane Base, Oak Harbor.



Our thanks to Deputy Project Manager John Ball, Chugach Industries for the great job they have done for “Project Seaplane!” Photo at left are, L to R: Mark Thompson, Jeff Harala, Brad Trumbull (Supervisor in charge), Everett Seeley, Kerry Porter, Mike McGill (standing on trailer) and Jug Bernhardt. Not pictured – Keith Johnson. Right photo: Wings are lifted from the trailer and stowed on the Simard Hall parking area till the PBY arrives. When they will be attached to the center wing section, the total wingspan of the PBY will be 104'. (Just FYI, the PBY wingspan is the same as a B-17). *ED HAMMOND PHOTOS*



Finally the PBY gets a “lift”. A large mobile crane from SICKLESTEEL CRANES, Mount Vernon arrived for a test lift with the new harness made for CHUGACH by WOODS LOGGING. The harness proved to be as designed and made especially for lifting aircraft.. The weight was recorded for COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS at 18,500 pounds — far below design limits. Photo at right: Bruce Biddle of PBY Memorial Foundation attaches a line to a stay on the vertical fin securing the elevator batten. This is to prevent “flopping” of the control surfaces while the plane is air lifter by the helicopter. *ED HAMMOND PHOTOS*

“A bunch of the boys were whooping it up” – Yes, again we were honored to have the members of ANA’s Olympic Squadron tour the PBY Memorial Display and Command Center. We are always glad to see them brave the tidal swirls on the Straits. Headquarters are Port Ludlow, Washington on the Olympic Peninsula, under the command of Capt. John Payne, USN, (Ret.) in photo, right front. Members joined The ANA Whidbey Is. Squadron for lunch at the ‘O Club, Ault Field for their annual get-together.



NOTE: The PBY CATALINA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION will hold their 23rd Annual Reunion in Denver, Colorado, September 29 to October 3, 2010 at the Double Tree Hotel. For more information and reservations, call (303)321-3333 or (800)222-8733.

We are honored to have **Commander Kimberly J. Schulz** as our guest speaker at the June meeting, Tuesday, the 22nd at the CPO Club, 11:30. Commander Schulz is currently serving as Commanding Officer of Fleet Readiness Center Northwest on Whidbey Island, Washington. Her Navy experience began in 1982 in Avionics and continued her education with advanced degrees and began a long colorful career with the Navy. In 1995, she joined the Electronic Attack Warfare Squadron VAQ-135 at NAS Whidbey making two deployments to the Persian Gulf aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63). Commander Schulz attended Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, CA and earned a Masters Degree in Material Logistics in 2002. Following several deployments aboard carrier divisions and land-based assignments, she was selected for the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Head aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in 2007. She led her department in an extremely successful OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM deployment where the department earned a Black “E” award for Maintenance Excellence. We could say her theme is READINESS, and we want everyone in the vicinity of the CPO Club to hear her first hand! See you Cats Tuesday, June 22, 11:30, CPO Club, Oak Harbor!!..... *Win*

