



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



Visit our website at: www.pbyma.org

PBY Memorial Foundation Newsletter #133, December 2010

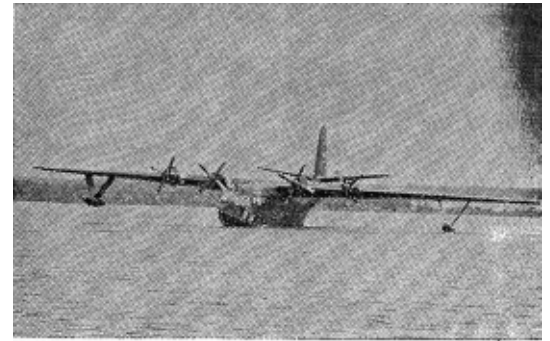
Welcome to 2010.....now that most of the decorations are packed away, we begin a new year and another challenge ahead to make 2010 a milestone for the Foundation and Whidbey Island. We have already experienced the response our community showed when an aircraft from the past returned to the Seaplane Base. It was history enacted all over again. The milestone we are referring to is what our Project Team has been working on for these many months — a permanent static display of the plane the Seaplane Base was built for.....

***"Project Seaplane"** fund-raising drive "kick-off" got off to a great start! The returns from the flyer are continuing to come in.....and keep up the good work! We plan to post a "thermometer" in the office, so let's really raise the temperature. Any amount is welcome, but we have received several \$1000 checks, already! We will publish a sheet with the names of all donors and post it in our office. We'll update it on a regular basis. Those donating \$1000 or more will have an engraved nameplate on the bulkhead of the PBY. Though we are experiencing a downturn in our economy, you folks are sacrificing to reach the goal of the "mission" — in preserving the legacy of the "Old Cat". Remember, we are putting every donation dollar designated to "Project Seaplane" in a special account just for the "Old Cat"! Our fund-raising program goes beyond the PBYMF Membership as we are on a drive to get support from a variety of sources, and it is encouraging as we have located grants available for history projects such as ours. They will award a grant more readily as they see the total grow within the membership. So keep up the good work! Remember to mark on the memo line of your check, "Project Seaplane".*



PBM Mariner floats recently donated to the PBY Memorial Foundation are getting restored, courtesy of members, Ed Hammond and Bruce Biddle as shown in the photos taken by Ed. (The rest of the plane is still out there somewhere). This is just the beginning of our restoration program. As significant aircraft parts "arrive", they will get TLC, thanks to these Cat members. Both Ed and Bruce are members of the *Whidbey Cruisers*, collectors of antique and "muscle cars". There's lots of similarity in restoring cars and planes. *We are hoping to get more Mariner parts even if we don't find the whole aircraft.*

Martin Mars was a visitor to NAS Whidbey, 24 July 1956 carrying 60 members of Patrol Squadron VP-50! The Mars, the Navy's largest flying boat and with the 60 squadron members, carried personal gear and some 12,000 pounds of squadron support equipment. Patrol Squadron 50, once a reserve unit based aboard NAS Sand Point, Seattle was returning to Washington State from it's last home port, NAS Alameda. Moored in Crescent Harbor, Squadron 50 members disembarked from the Mars and were "ferried" to the seaplane Base aboard a landing craft. According to the annals of Mars history, it was not uncommon for the giant Navy seaplane to carry more than 300 personal and their gear. Averaging 150 pounds each, this would make a payload of 45,000 pounds or more than 20 tons. (Mars could carry a fully loaded PBY at that rate). FYI: The JRM Mars has a wing span of 200', 2" and has a range of over 5700 miles! *Article above, from the "Prop Wash", NAS Whidbey's official news publication and was found in the archives by Tony Popp, NAS Public Affairs Office. Thanks, Tony! (P.S. There is a Mars Museum at Sproat Lake, Vancouver Island, B.C.).*



THE MARTIN MARS lies in Crescent Harbor, tied to a buoy, just after arriving at the Seaplane Base with 49 crew-members of VP-50.



Brandon Hammond, son of Board member Ed Hammond, was "caught" flying a PBY on the simulator at PBY Memorial's office/display center recently. Brandon graduated from Oak Harbor High in 1990, received an appointment to the Naval Academy, earned his wings in 1997, trained in F-14s, flew with the Back Knights during the Gulf War and made the transition to F/A-18E Super Hornet with VFA-122. He made 2 deployments with VFA-41 Black Aces flying sorties in Iraq and Afghanistan. Last, but not least, he became an instructor/pilot and was assigned to Commander Strike Fighter Wing as Fleet Project Team in charge of all F/A-18 **simulators** at LeMoore. *Wonder how he liked flying slow and low in a PBY simulator?*

ATTENTION ON DECK: *We have two new docents who will escort visitors to the PBY Memorial displays. They are: Ed Hammond and Bill Stein.....We just received 230 DVD's "In Defense of Their Nation" —they are still a big seller!.....Bob Biddle and Adolph Meisch are invited to speak at the Oak Harbor High School Jr. ROTC by Naval Reserve Captain Black and will talk on PBY history. Students and their parents will be in attendance.....In March, the PBY Memorial Foundation will present a scholarship check to the Coupeville HS history class. (their students have won national awards for their creative programs in a variety of history subjects).....Bill Stein "deftly" dusted the models in the display cases. He used a static feather duster.....on the Board of Directors vacancies, Ed Hammond will fill Bob Biddle's unfinished term and Jim Siggins fills Cyndi Garner's position. One other vacancy of a completed term will be filled at the Board's Annual election following the January 26 meeting. Speaking at the January lunch-meeting is our very own Inga Johnston. She was a nurse in the German Army and a German war bride in WWII. **See you all there, Tuesday, Jan 26, @ 1130, CPO Club.***