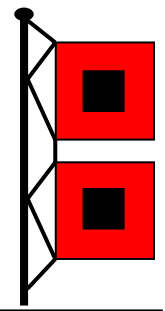


# HURRICANE HUNTERS NEWSLETTER



Publisher Ray Boylan

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SPRING 2007

## Low Country To Host Hunters

Reunion Chairman Steve Coady has been hard at work setting up the 2007 Navy Hurricane Hunter Reunion. Mark the period September 27<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 on your calendar and plan on visiting charming Charleston, South Carolina. In recent years we have convened in October. However, because of a big price jump beginning in October, Steve opted for a little earlier than usual. We'll be meeting at the Ramada Charleston, 7401 Northwoods Boulevard. This is just north of downtown Charleston but convenient to everything the city has to offer. The hotel is offering us group rates of \$79 per night plus taxes (currently 12.5%) for a variety of room types.. Room selections include kings (one-bedded rooms), doubles (two-bedded rooms) and/or queens (one or two-bedded rooms). If a room type requested is not available, the next comparable room type will be reserved for the group rate.

These rates will apply for two (2) days before and after the Reunion. Our block of rooms will be held until 3:00pm, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007. All requests received after this time will be handled on a space and rate available basis. Members should call the hotel at 843-572-2200. To confirm your reservation, members will be required to guarantee their reservations with one-nights prepaid room and tax or with a major credit card. Needless to say, we urge you to commit early by calling in your reservation.

## DVD Clarification...

The three movie DVD disc we are offering has *all three movies* on one single disc. Some folks thought they had to order three discs to get all films. Not so! They are all on one for the inclusive price of \$8.00. Regrettably, the company that provided the discs inadvertently put a small number of discs labeled "Hurricane Hunters" into our inventory but the video thereon was an industrial tutorial named "Mobilefold." If you received one of these let us know and we'll replace it

## Now This Is No.....

*(The following was presented by a member and represents a local television feature story televised and published in May, 2005.)*

When I was the Operations Officer of the Navy Hurricane Hunters in the late 60s, the first flight I made was the initial penetration into "CAMILLE," when the storm was south of Cuba.

We knew that it was going to be an horrific storm. On the radar screen you could see that the 'eye' was pulsating. One sweep would show it to be 20 miles across, the next would show it to be 15 miles, the next 35 miles. It was something that we had never seen before.

As I recall, the total flight time was 12 or 13 hours. We were in the 'eye' of the storm 30 to 40 minutes. Once we got there and gathered our information we didn't want to stay so we got out. I did not know what to expect. I had been told by other pilots and crewmen what it was going to be like, but it was nothing like they had explained to me. After three and a half years flying as a Navy Hurricane Hunter, I came to realize that no two storms were alike. I flew somewhere between 40 to 50 storm missions.

Most of the Navy storm flights were at altitudes between 500 feet and 1,500 feet. These were low-level penetrations. The Air Force flew in at higher altitudes. They flew in at the 700-millibar level, near 10,000 feet. The Navy's low-level penetrations were unique. We flew a planned procedure to let the National Hurricane Center know what was happening at the surface. Reconnaissance missions today are flown with specific patterns at higher altitudes by the Air Force only.

Once we were in the 'eye' our physical location was hard to determine. Today, digital Navigational systems make it much easier.

Probably the best tool we had when we were in the storm was the human eye. The "Super Constellation"

*See "Now This Is No..." on Page Two*

## Now This Is No...

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had a surface radar on the bottom and a height-finding radar on the top. To determine the wind direction and velocity the Metro Officer's 'eye' was the most accurate. He would direct the aircraft into the 'eye' by keeping the wind ahead of the wing and would also estimate the direction and speed of the surface wind.

For communicating storm data to home base we relied primarily on high-frequency radios (HF). For close oral communication we relied on ultra-high-frequency radio (UHF). The Meteorological Officer and his team would make the observation which was transcribed and then transmitted by the radioman via a 'key.' At times this was very long and tiring. In some of the rougher storms we were glad to get into the 'eye' where it was calm and quiet. Until then, we were just hanging on, hoping they had received our transmissions.

The return flight home usually was uneventful and relaxing compared to the chaos of the storm penetration. During the 35 years of flying into storms the squadron lost one aircraft. Considering all the storm penetrations this was quite an accomplishment. The squadron was never fully recognized for this. I would like to "Bravo Zulu" well done to all the Hunters and I will see you in the fall.

## Taps For Some Hunters...

CDR Ed Mayfield: Following a hospital stay and lengthy rehabilitation, Ed passed away in March, 2007. Along with "Hunter" duty, Ed served in lighter than air and carrier aviation

Norwood "Woody" Barfield: Harold Knudsen has notified us by mail that "Woody" had passed away earlier this year. "Woody" served with VP-23

Henry Barber: Henry's daughter, Gail Barber Shealy notified us of her Dad's passing on January 2, 2007 from a heart attack at 87 years. Henry served in the late '40's and early '50's.

Russell R. Vitense: Russell, one of the early "Hunters" from the 1940's passed away in February of this year in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

Miller Lee Bell Jr.: Miller's daughter, Sally shared his obit with us recently. After serving in WWII, Miller joined the "Hunters" in the early '50's and retired in 1969.

## From The President's Desk...

With the 'official' announcement of this years' reunion, this issue also should underscore the importance of this years General Membership meeting. The Nominating Committee will be offering us a slate of members for office. Of course, nominations will be entertained from the floor as well. It's easy to hide in the audience and not become involved with the mechanics of our group and let "someone else" take care of business. In truth, we need periodic change and diversity to keep the group cohesive and energized. If you are an interested member, contact one of the members of the nominating committee and put your name in the hat for one of the rewarding positions available. The committee consists of:

Frank Schatzle, Steve Coady and Bill Denni

Payment of dues has been quite successful in recent weeks. Remember to make the check out to "Hurricane Hunters Inc." and not to the treasurer. If you haven't 'fessed up' your dues yet. Let this serve as your reminder. The mailing address is in the Officers block.

### HURRICANE HUNTERS, INC.

A non-profit Florida corporation 501.c.19

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Ray Boylan
VICE PRESIDENT	Pete Groff
SECRETARY	Ray Hennessey
TREASURER	John Dillingham
DIRECTOR	Wayne Ledbetter
DIRECTOR	Al Roby
DIRECTOR	Paul Siverly

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Paul Tilson

Newsletter is published three times annually. Association dues are \$15.00 annually payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> or thereafter.

Association address:  
Hurricane Hunters, Inc.  
482 West River Road  
Palatka, Fl., 321770-8009

## **“Navy Hurricane Hunters” Schedule Of Events**

### **Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007:**

- 1400 Open Ready Room for Registration**
- 1400 Meet and greet**
- 1900 Dinner on your own**

### **Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- 0900 Ready Room open, Registration continues**
- 0900 Bus Tour Charleston & Patriots Point departs**
- 1400 Bus Tour returns**
- 1700-1900 Wine & Cheese party with cash bar**
- 1900 Dinner on your own**

### **Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- 0900 Ready Room open, Registration continues**
- 1030 General Membership Meeting, All Hands**
- 1800-1900 Cocktail Reception, Cash Bar**
- 1900 Sit-Down Dinner**
- 1915 Announcements**
- 1930 Entertainment and music**

### **Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- 0900 Ready Room Open**
- 1100 Check-out and goodbyes**
- 1105 Launch the Primary (MH-3 and Crew 1)**

*(See Registration Form on the next page)*

**U.S.NAVY HURRICANE HUNTERS**  
**Charleston, S.C.**  
**Sept 27th-Sept. 30th, 2007**

Registration form

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron(s) served in and years \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Selection:	Price	Number	Total
Sliced London Broil	\$24.00	_____	\$_____
Chicken Francaise	\$22.00	_____	_____
Carolina Crab Cakes	\$24.00	_____	_____

Wine & Cheese Party Friday, 1700-1900:

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Trip to Patriots Point (Sat.) \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Leaves Motel 9:00am. Lunch CPO mess on USS Yorktown  
Bus returns at 2:00pm.

(Check payable to: Hurricane Hunters Inc.)

Check Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form by August 27, 2007 to:

Hurricane Hunters Inc.

482 West River Road

Palatka, Florida, 32177-8009