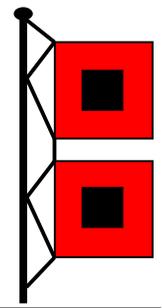


# HURRICANE HUNTERS NEWSLETTER



Publisher E.R. Eaton

Volume No. 3

Issue No 1

Winter 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Our 32<sup>nd</sup> reunion held in Charleston, S.C. was a great success, and I would like to extend a hearty "WELCOME ABOARD" to all the Shipmates that attended for the very first time. I hope it exceeded all of your expectations. The Annual Reunion and Meeting was called to order by President Ray Boylan. After reading and approving the minutes of the last meeting, the floor was opened for New Business.

A motion was made by Ennis Eaton to raise the annual dues to \$25.00 to cover the ongoing expenses of the Hurricane Hunter, Inc. organization. After some discussion and clarification as to what the increase would cover, the motion was passed by majority vote.

Mr. Bill Martin then gave a brief rundown on what he had put together for our next reunion, which will be held October 9<sup>th</sup> thru October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in Branson, Missouri. More details will be in a future newsletter when all the plans are finalized.

The next order of business was selecting a new slate of officers. Our newly elected Secretary is Mr. James Evans. Mr. John Dillingham graciously agreed to remain as Treasurer. Mr. Pete Groff also will remain as Vice President. Our new President is Mr. Ennis Eaton.

Our banquet went extremely well. Our thanks to the Reunion Committee of Mr. Frank Schatzle, Mr. Steve Coady, and Mr. Bill Denni for putting together a wonderful entertainment package. For the evening at the Banquet, Mr. Danny Stirling and troupe put on a tribute to Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley. The sightseeing tours and trips around Charleston were enjoyed by many.

Please continue to send Annual Dues to:

Hurricane Hunters, Inc.  
482 West River Road  
Palatka, FL 32177-8009

Please make checks payable to Hurricane Hunters, Inc. as they are deposited into a separate account. We are trying to get as many members as possible to sign on as E-Mail Subscribers. Some members updated their e-mail addresses at the reunion. If at all possible, I'm requesting that all members that haven't updated in awhile please do so at the following address: [JohnDill@gbso.net](mailto:JohnDill@gbso.net)

Getting the Squadron Roster updated with all the correct e-mail addresses will expedite the Newsletter tremendously. Of course, for those members that don't own or operate a computer, the Newsletter will continue to be sent via 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail.

I am looking forward to working with each of you. If you have any issues or concerns, please contact me at [ereaton77@aol.com](mailto:ereaton77@aol.com)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and all who came forth offering their support and assistance in my new presidency. With so much talent and expertise offered so generously, I expect that my job will not be as difficult as I first imagined. I am still engulfed by a sea of butterflies thinking about all the prospects ahead. I am sure with everyone's support, I shall encounter smooth skies ahead.

Fair winds to All,

E. R.. Eaton

## Thank You, Hunters

For the past two years you have permitted me to be your President. I can say without reservation that it has been a rewarding experience. Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet many of you from periods of service that differed from my own. As President, the chance to get to know many of you better has solidified for me the knowledge that from whatever era you served you have all worn the mantle of "Navy Hurricane Hunter" with pride, confidence, competence and valor.

It was important for me to limit my term of service to you to emphasize to all that a constant flow of new blood is imperative. This "changing of the guard" will keep the organization vibrant and alive. Please consider serving *your* organization in some capacity.

My term was made infinitely easier because of the efforts of some of your shipmates. The efforts of John Dillingham as your Treasurer have been invaluable. Ray Hennessey served as Secretary and Paul Tilson has done wonders with the "Newsletter." However, all of us on the Board salute you, the members, for making it all worthwhile.

"ER" Eaton assumes the reins now and I feel sure you will give him the same support that I have enjoyed. Gail and I are still here to serve and look forward to the future. "Bravo Zulu" to you all.

Ray Boylan

### "Now This is no...."

*( The following article was submitted by a fellow "Hunter" for our enjoyment and reminiscence.)*

#### Operation Redlight

We were, on occasion, tasked to do things other than fly storms. I was ordered to take part in a joint Atlantic Fleet exercise known as "Operation Redlight." The mission entailed temporary duty at Kindley Air Force Base in Bermuda and involved other patrol squadrons, ships and submarines of the Atlantic Fleet.

We were to try to detect ships and/or submarines attempting to "slip through" our radar shield or picket lines. We flew night and day hops at low-level with radar scanning the horizon. I was an air crewman at the time. One morning at about 0200 hours, some 200 miles or so east of Bermuda, our starboard engine failed and had to be shut down. We were flying at an altitude of only 1,000 feet scanning the horizon with radar and visually observing the ocean for phosphorescent trails in the light of the moon. The Air Force scrambled a B-29 carrying a droppable radio-controlled lifeboat under its' belly to meet us and escort us back to Kindley AFB where crash crews, fire trucks, etc. awaited our arrival. Our aircraft commander, a cool and proficient pilot, brought us back on the remaining engine and executed a perfect landing. We spent an extra 30 days in Bermuda waiting for a new engine to arrive. Once it showed up we installed it and returned to Jacksonville NAS.

<b>HURRICANE HUNTERS, INC.</b>	
A non-profit Florida corporation 501.c.19	
<b>OFFICERS</b>	
PRESIDENT	E.R Eaton
VICE PRESIDENT	Pete Groff
SECRETARY	James Evans
TREASURER	John Dillingham
DIRECTOR	Wayne Ledbetter
DIRECTOR	Al Roby
DIRECTOR	Paul Siverly
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Paul Tilson
<p>Newsletter is published three times annually. Association dues are \$25.00 annually payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> or thereafter.</p> <p>Association address: Hurricane Hunters, Inc. 482 West River Road Palatka, FL, 32177-8009</p>	

### Taps For Some Hunters...

A letter to John Dillingham from Denise Butler, daughter of LT Dan Gregorio, informed us of the passing of her father on May 27, 2007.

Ray Boylan informs us that Edyth Sapp, widow of LCDR Earl Sapp passed away at the age of 92 on November 25, 2007 in Orange Park, Florida.

## 2008 Reunion Set for 9-11 Oct. In Branson, Missouri

Mark your calendars for the 2008 Hurricane Hunters' Reunion on 9-11 October, 2008. Fellow Hunter Bill Martin has been working tirelessly to put together a great reunion for us. Bill has made arrangements for us at the Branson Windmill Inn located at 76 Country Music Boulevard in the heart of Branson surrounded by scores of attractions such as shows, shops, and restaurants.

Bill Martin reports that Branson is very good to the military and military reunions, and in fact Branson claims to be the nation's reunion capitol. Bill has negotiated very good room rates for us and also reports that many of the theaters in Branson give good military and group discounts. There will be

more information on attractions and discounts in the upcoming Spring Newsletter.

The Windmill Inn is a 323 room hotel that features 24 connecting family rooms, 80 double queen rooms, 8 king suites with two adjacent double queen rooms, 8 rooms with Jacuzzis, 8 loft rooms with spiral stairs to the second bedroom above, 18 balcony rooms, and 6 rooms for the physically handicapped. Many of the rooms contain microwave and refrigerators. The hotel also features a 6,000 square foot convention center that should well-serve the Hurricane Hunters.

The Windmill Inn is not yet ready to begin accepting Hurricane Hunter reservations, but advises that they should be ready in March. If you would like to get an advanced preview of the Windmill Inn and nearby attractions, you can go to the Hurricane Hunters web page at [www.navyhurricanehunters.com](http://www.navyhurricanehunters.com) and click on the Windmill Inn link at the bottom of the page.

## 2007 Reunion in Charleston, South Carolina



