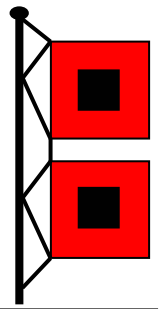


HURRICANE HUNTERS NEWSLETTER



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From the President's Desk

Hoping that each and everyone of you had a great Holiday Season.

Our 2018 reunion will be held in September from Wednesday 26th thru Sunday 30th. It will be at the Doubletree Hotel on the Riverwalk in Jacksonville, Florida. Details and registration sheets will be in our end of June, 2018 Newsletter.

I have received numerous suggestions from the membership that we should hold the 2019 reunion site up for discussion and voted on as in the past. Even though we had a majority vote to hold all reunions in Jacksonville, Florida. I have decided to open the floor, at our annual all-hands meeting, for any suggestions as to where it should be. Our Vice President Mr. Juan Blanco is working on a location for the 2020 reunion, which will not be in Jacksonville. In case you want to make a early reservation you can call the hotel at 800-222-8733 To get our discount rate please let them know that you are with the US Navy Hurricane Hunters group. It is already set up to take early reservations.

I want each and every member to keep in mind all our members who may be having health issues when upon bended knee in devotion to Almighty GOD. We are not as young as we once were and a lot of the membership is having issues. Just saying.

If anyone has anything they want posted in the upcoming Newsletter please contact our editor CAPT Paul Tilson at paultilson@aol.com.

Please be kind to one another.

Ennis Eaton
President
US Navy Hurricane Hunters

Naval Aviation History

The Blue Angels



At the end of World War II, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, the Chief of Naval Operations, ordered the formation of a flight demonstration team to keep the public interested in Naval Aviation. The Blue Angels performed their first flight demonstration less than a year later in June 1946 at their home base, Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Florida. Flying the Grumman F6F *Hellcat*, they were led by Lt. Cmdr. Roy "Butch" Voris.

Only two months later on August 25, 1946, the Blue Angels transitioned to the Grumman F8F *Bearcat* and introduced the famous "diamond" formation.

By the end of the 1940s, the Blue Angels were flying their first jet aircraft, the Grumman F9F-2 *Panther*. In response to the demands placed on Naval Aviation in the Korean Conflict, the team reported to the aircraft carrier *USS Princeton* as the nucleus of Fighter Squadron 191 (VF-191), "Satan's Kitten", in 1950.

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The Blue Angels

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They were reorganized the next year and reported to NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, where they began flying the newer and faster version of the *Panther*, the F9F-5. The Blue Angels remained in Corpus Christi until the winter of 1954 when they relocated to their present home at NAS Pensacola, Florida. It was here that they progressed to the swept-wing Grumman F9F-8 *Cougar*.

The ensuing 20 years saw the Blue Angels transition to two more aircraft, the Grumman F11F-1 *Tiger* (1957) and the McDonnell Douglas F-4J *Phantom II* (1969).

In December 1974, the Navy Flight Demonstration Team began flying the McDonnell Douglas A-4F *Skyhawk II*, a smaller and lighter aircraft with a tighter turning radius allowing for a more dynamic flight demonstration, and was reorganized into the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. This reorganization permitted the establishment of a commanding officer vice a flight leader, added support officers, and further redefined the squadron's mission emphasizing the support of recruiting efforts. Cmdr. Tony Less was the squadron's first official commanding officer.

aircraft including the Douglas R4D Sky Train, the Curtiss R5C Commando, the Douglas R5D Skymaster, and the Lockheed C-121 Super Constellation. In 1970 the team received the Lockheed Martin C-130, affectionately known as "Fat Albert."

On November 8, 1986, the Blue Angels completed their 40th anniversary year during ceremonies unveiling their present aircraft, the sleek McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 *Hornet*, the first dual-role fighter/attack aircraft now serving on the nation's front lines of defense. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have flown for more than 260 million spectators.

TAPS

It is with a heavy heart that we post the following:

AT2 Jerry Hedspeth February 23, 2018 Jerry was the designated radio tech that did all the work for the SARAH equipment we had installed on the planes in support for John Glenn's orbits around the planet. He was in VW-4 '61-'63



AGC Karl Loeper March 22, 2018. Karl was in the VW-4 the last five years of it's existence. He was the calm during the storm. He kept his cool when penetrating a hurricane, except for an occasional "Holy Frealdenhoven" or some similar exclamation

Karl moved to The Villages 12 years ago after retiring from the National Weather Service and soon became the voice of AM-640 WVLG's weather forecasts, where he put weather-weary listeners at ease through the worst of Florida weather.

"He had a great way of assuring people, because of
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In 1949, it became necessary for the Blue Angels to operate a support aircraft to move personnel and equipment between show sites. These support

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his knowledge, that everything will be OK,” said WVLG station manager Kathleen Kane.

Karl died Thursday morning March 22, at The Villages Hospice House months after suffering a stroke. He was 75. He is survived by his wife Patty, two sons Karl and Michael, and three grandchildren.

Since his WVLG debut in 2005, Karl left his mark on anything and everything having to do with weather in The Villages. Beyond forecasting, he also formed a team of volunteer weather spotters who use equipment such as rain gauges, digital lightning detectors and weather stations to identify weather phenomena. He used the data from those observations in his daily forecasts and monthly and yearly climatology outlooks. Karl’s meteorology career began with his 20 years’ service in the U.S. Navy, which included five years of flying with the Hurricane Hunters. Karl made multiple penetrations of 15 named hurricanes while in VW-4. “He was telling us where to go in the storm, so we had to trust him and like him,” said Gary Polletta, of Jacksonville, who served with Loeper in the Navy’s Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Four. “We ended up loving him.”

Karl remained close with fellow veterans on his squadron and attended annual Hurricane Hunter reunions. At the 2009 reunion, he encouraged fellow Hurricane Hunters to donate to *Operation Shoebox*, the Villages-based nonprofit group whose volunteers pack and ship care packages for troops overseas. Hurricane Hunters, Inc. at the annual membership meeting donated \$1,000 to *Operation Shoebox*, one of Loeper’s favorite causes. He spent most Monday afternoons volunteering with the nonprofit.

A community weather asset Loeper — who held the title of staff meteorologist with the radio station — kept residents informed about weather phenomena in the community that impacted their lives. He was there for routine seasonal events like heat and cold spells, and he was there for destructive storms like the Groundhog Day tornado in 2007, and Hurricane Irma last year.

“He would get up at 3:30 a.m. to get the most up to

date information on the weather, be on the air from 6 to 10 a.m., and then he’d call again in the afternoon,” Kane said. “Especially with the past hurricane. He and I were together that day in the studio. He was reporting exactly what was happening.”

Loeper’s work might not have been possible without the army of volunteer weather spotters he organized, now more than 70 Villagers strong. He made sure his spotters were appreciated. He worked hard to recognize the people involved in this volunteer activity, showcasing them on the radio and recognizing their birthdays on the radio.

Following the Groundhog Day tornado, Karl worked to improve the reception of the National Weather Service’s Sumter County transmitter.

Karl was a highly experienced, knowledgeable, and recognized professional in his field. He made countless appearances as a guest speaker at various clubs and neighborhood group meetings in The Villages and elsewhere, where he spoke about severe weather in Florida.

This outreach proved valuable for educating the public on why preparing for severe weather events is important, said Dan Noah, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Ruskin. Noah worked alongside Loeper for four years at the weather service. Loeper also helped Noah get involved in his own outreach to Villagers. They both appeared regularly at The Villages’ annual Hurricane Expo, which presents information on preparing for hurricanes and other severe weather events. “Once you leave the National Weather Service, you don’t stop loving weather,” Noah said. “And Karl loved weather.”

CDR. Andrew Nathansen July 02, 2017. CDR Nathansen flew into every major storm in '64-'68. Joined the Naval Reserve and became a pilot for Northwest Airlines. He rose to Capt of 747-400.

LT Dale Eggers March 24, 2018. Lt. Eggers was a talented Navigator who flew with VW-4 in the early 1970's.

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His family announced Dale Egger's passing after a four-year battle with cancer at the age of 71 years. A native of Finley, Washington, Dale attended Eastern Washington University and joined the Navy shortly thereafter. He was a proud member of the Navy Hurricane Hunters. After his Naval service, Dale put down roots in Orange Park, Florida.

He was an entrepreneur and owner of several businesses, the first opening in 1972. Dale served on the board of numerous organizations, including the Clay County Chamber of Commerce, the Orange Park Rotary, The Florida Retail Federation, and the American Cancer Society. He is survived by his wife of 51 years Karon, sons Rory and Kyle, and his granddaughter Haley.

In addition, Dale will be forever remembered by his brother Budd, sister Judy, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends. A Celebration of Dale's life was held on Monday, April 2, 2018, at St. Johns Country Day School in Orange Park.

Early Reservations For The 2018 Reunion Encouraged

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront, will once again be the site of our 2018 Hurricane Hunters' reunion. The management of the

hotel has arranged and set up for early registration for our convenience.

Early registration is convenient as it is just one more thing you don't have to worry about slipping through the cracks. It is also a big help for those thankless souls who are making the arrangements for our reunion so that they will have a better idea of the number of Hunters to prepare for.

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront management has continued to offer us rates and amenities that are quite generous considering the lack-luster turnout we have shown the past two years

Advanced reservations may be made by telephone (available 24 hours a day) at 1-800-222-8733. Be sure to ask for "Hurricane Hunters" rate or Group Code **HUR**.

For those Hunters who are computer savvy, the Internet booking link is:

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/dt/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=JAXJRDT&spec_plan=C DTHUR&arrival=20180923&departure=20181002&cid=O M,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINK DIRECT

The reservation cut-off date to receive our special Hurricane Hunters' rate is August 31, 2018.

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