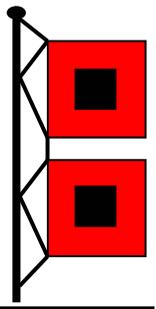


HURRICANE HUNTERS NEWSLETTER



Publisher E.R. Eaton

Volume No. 10

Issue No. 2

Summer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

It's summer time. Time to go on vacation, visit friends and relatives, and enjoy all the sights that AMERICA has to offer.

Time to start making plans to attend the 2015 Hurricane Hunters reunion in Pensacola, Florida. It will be held at the beautiful Crown Plaza Hotel. You will have to make your own reservations for the hotel. Their phone number 850-433-3336. I believe there was some confusion as to what number to call earlier, but this is the one to call.

At this reunion, because it is a year that ends in a 5, we will have the responsibility to elect the Board and Officers of this organization. Our secretary, Mr. James (JJ) Evans has tendered his resignation and his position will have to be filled. Mr. Wayne Ledbetter a member of the Board has also tendered his resignation and his position has to be filled. I know we have some very capable members, and I'm asking that you search your heart and offer your services. The pay and benefits are outstanding, just ask any current sitting volunteer officer.

Gentlemen, this is your organization and I need your support and help.

One of our founding members and former president LCDR Robert (BOB) Fitzsimmons passed away on June 24, 2015. He was our first president and guiding influence for 20+ years. He was dearly loved and respected by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed by this organization. I ask that you all, when upon your bended knee, say a prayer for his family that Almighty GOD keep them in HIS grace. He served 22 years as a Naval Aviator and was Crew Commander of 16

Hurricane missions. He logged over 10,000 hours serving this great country.

I believe that this reunion will be something special this year. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

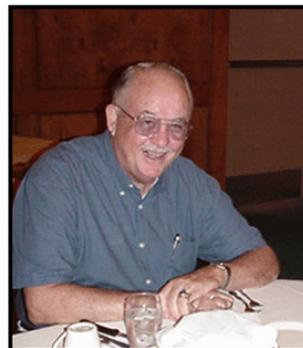
Fair Winds and Following Seas

Ennis R. Eaton
President.

Remembering Bob Fitzsimmons

By H.J. "Walt" Walter

I first met Bob Fitzsimmons when we were both in pre-flight. Bob was in class 28-53 and I was in class 33-53. Because we were in the same



battalion we met and became friends. After pre-flight Bob went to Whiting Field and I went to Corry Field so we didn't see each other very much. When we arrived at Barin Field for Gunnery and Carrier quals we were once again together. On one particular day Bob had an interesting and exciting flight. We were bombing at a target almost on the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico. On the 3rd or 4th run Bob dropped his bomb at 3000' and began his pullout feeling a couple of G's. That's when the engine decided it no longer wished to function and Bob was staring at a stopped prop. With the skill of an experienced aviator, not the novice that he was, he looked around and spotted a

See "Remembering Bob Fitzsimmons" on Page Two

Remembering Bob Fitzsimmons

Continued from Page One

Navy outlying field and headed for it. He made a beautiful glide from the abeam position of the runway and touched down just as sweet as you please on the numbers without even a scratch on the SNJ. Skill as a pilot would be his trademark from then on.

We finished basic training flying link trainers at mainside Pensacola and went on to advanced training at NAS Hutchinson, Kansas. We flew the Beech SNB, Lockheed Neptune and finally the Consolidated PB4Y-2. We graduated and received our coveted gold wings in December 1954. Bob went to VC-5 flying AJ-2s at NAS Sanford, Florida and I went to VW-4 flying the P2V. We still managed to get together occasionally and when he decided to get married we flew the training wing's P2V to his wedding in New Orleans. During our remaining years on active duty we managed to get together but not as much as we would have liked. Of course part of his career was spent in VW-4 at Roosevelt Roads.

After we both retired, the next time we saw each other was at a Hurricane Hunters reunion. It was on base at NAS Jacksonville and was the second meeting. It was a good reunion but the next year no one stepped up to plan and host the reunion. The third reunion was held at the Fleet Reserve Club off base and ham sandwiches were served for Saturday night dinner. I was unable to attend but Bob and I were in touch and I urged him to form the Hurricane Hunters and become an incorporated entity. He said he would only do it if I helped him although as a Florida Corporation I couldn't be an officer on the board. The next year was 1980 and we hosted the reunion at Pensacola. It was quite successful but with a few glitches. The roach motel rooms were uninhabitable and Captain Schuppert and I spent the night in the hotel pool. That's when Bob and I decided to really screen hotels and cities for our reunions. Bob and I communicated almost every week during the next thirty years, planning and scheming how and where we would host a reunion. I published the newsletter and kept the roster while Bob did all the rest. We shared almost all the

responsibilities of reunion chores. Of course Bob was assisted by his beautiful wife Ethel and I by my lovely wife Dolores. The ladies always assisted with the responsibilities at the reunion site.

I will always remember Bob's dry wit and quick responses to people who thought they were pinging on him. He was a great friend and will be missed by those of us who knew and worked with him over the years. Bravo Zulu Bob, fair winds and following seas.

Election Of Officers

Election of officers will be the main order of business at this year's annual membership meeting to be held Saturday morning, October 24, at the 2015 Hurricane Hunters' Reunion in Pensacola, Florida. Of the current slate of officers, James J. Evans, Secretary, and Wayne Ledbetter, Director, have notified President E.R. Eaton of their intentions not to stand for re-election.

Positions to be filled at this year's election are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors. Elections will be by paper ballot with the names of those seeking election or re-election printed on the ballot with space at each position for write-in candidates announcing their intentions at the membership meeting. All candidates must be active, dues-current members of the Hurricane Hunters, Inc. organization

Any member wishing to place his or her name in nomination should contact E.R. Eaton at 39 Riva Ridge Lane, Newman, Georgia 30263-6709, by phone at (770) 251-9088, or by e-mail at ereaton77@aol.com. This will ensure that your name will be printed on the ballot.

TAPS

It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of the following members:

LCDR Robert (BOB) Fitzsimmons June 24,
2015 He served as XO and 1st Officer of Crew 5

See "TAPS" on Page Three

TAPS

Continued from Page Two

Marge Harris May 26, 2014 Wife of Charlie Harris. Reported by Jay Bondgren

Thelma Stokes December 11, 2014 Wife of Jesse Stokes Reported by her granddaughter Dawn Monroe. Passed at the age of 89 as the result of a stroke.

Francis Himelick March 23, 2015 Wife of former CO Vic Himelick. Reported by CAPT Walt Reese

HURRICANE HUNTERS, INC. A non-profit Florida corporation 501.c.19	
OFFICERS	
PRESIDENT	E.R Eaton
VICE PRESIDENT	Juan Blanco
SECRETARY	James Evans
TREASURER	Byron Biddle
DIRECTOR	Wayne Ledbetter
DIRECTOR	Paul Siverly
DIRECTOR	Paul Tilson
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Paul Tilson
<p>Newsletter is published three times annually. Association dues are \$25.00 annually payable on January 1st or thereafter. Association address: Hurricane Hunters, Inc. P.O.Box 506 Vernon, Florida 32462</p>	

Reservations must be made before October 1, 2015, in order to secure one of the blocked rooms at the Hurricane Hunters’ special room rate.

The Crowne Plaza Grand offers an on-site restaurant open from 6:30 am to 2:00 pm for breakfast and lunch and again from 5:00 pm until 10:00 pm for dinner. Room service is available continuously from 6:30 am until 10:00 pm. The hotel’s CAVU Lounge is open from 2:00 pm until late (TBD).



Crowne Plaza Grand Hotel Pensacola

On the second floor, the hotel swimming pool is open from 8:00 am until 10:00 pm. The fitness center, also on the second floor, is free to hotel guests and is open 24 hours per day.

Free Internet access is provided through Wi-Fi. Password access is provided by the front desk at the time of check-in

For those needing a midnight snack, a Waffle House and a What-A-Burger are open 24 hours per day a short ¼ mile east of the Crowne Plaza.



Pensacola’s Crowne Plaza Grand’s main lobby.

Crowne Plaza Grand Hotel Site Of Pensacola Reunion

Our planning team for the 2015 Hurricane Hunters’ Reunion has arranged a block of rooms at the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel at the special rate of \$109.00 per night plus 11.5% tax for the nights of October 22 through 24 with the possibility of early arrival on October 21. Make your reservation by calling (850) 433-3336 or online at www.crowneplaza.com/cppensacola, using code HHR.

U.S. NAVY HURRICANE HUNTERS
Pensacola, Florida
October 22nd - 24th, 2015

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 _____

	Price	Number	Total
Registration Fee per attendee	\$25.00	_____	\$ _____
Wine & Cheese Party (Oct 22)	\$18.00	_____	\$ _____
Beach Party Lunch (Oct 23)	\$18.00	_____	\$ _____
Banquet Dinner Selection (Oct 24):			
Sliced Roast Baron of Beef	\$33.00	_____	\$ _____
Chicken Marcella	\$33.00	_____	\$ _____
Crab Stuffed Flounder	\$33.00	_____	\$ _____
Check Total for all Reunion costs			\$ _____

Dues \$25.00/year (Please enclose a separate check) \$ _____

Make all checks payable to: Hurricane Hunters, Inc.

Mail this form and checks by September 15, 2015 to:

Hurricane Hunters, Inc.
P.O. Box 506
Vernon, FL32462