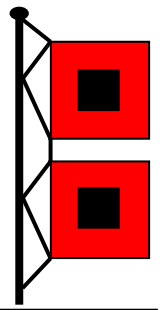


# HURRICANE HUNTERS NEWSLETTER



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## HUNTERS ROCK LaPLAYA

They arrived in groups small and large but largely snuck up on Daytona Beach in conservative fashion. On departure there was no doubt that the Navy Hurricane Hunters had been in town. Some Hunters began the week early and others waited until Banquet night to spread their wings. However long or short the visit, the spirit of brotherhood and fun permeated the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, and the weather was nothing less than spectacular.

Twenty-five Hunters and their Hunted took the bus trip to the NASA Visitors Center while others gathered at the Ready-Room and quarterdeck to renew old acquaintances, and in some cases, make new ones. The "Wine & Cheese Party" on the Gazebo Deck was very successful.

Saturday morning the all-hands muster and meeting resulted in a decision to hold next year's reunion in Charleston, S.C. Steve Coady has graciously accepted the role of reunion Chairman. It was also decided to hold the 2008 reunion in Branson, MO. That meeting will be chaired by Bill Martin. A nominating committee was formed to introduce a slate of candidates for election to the Board at next years meeting.

This year's banquet dinner was held in the ballroom of the hotel. A "Happy Hour" preceded a delicious dinner, and we were more than entertained by Major Brian LeTourneau, an aircraft commander with the Air Force Reserves 53<sup>rd</sup> Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. Brian brought along the "Hans Brinker Silver Skate Award." He gave a presentation of how storm penetrations are accomplished today and paid praise to the crews of yester-year who pioneered storm reconnaissance. As a pilot with Delta Airlines, Brian presented our President with a bottle of vodka direct from Mother

Russia.

There were more than 160 members and guests at this year's reunion. LCDR Bud Horn even wore his green flight suit (which still fit him).



Major LeTourneau with his lovely bride holding a WP-3A picture presented to him by President Ray Boylan.

## CWO4 Al Johnson Succumbs At 78

Horace Albert "Al" Johnson passed away January 10, 2007 following a lengthy illness. An accomplished yachtsman and past Commodore of the Navy Jax Yacht Club, he retired from the Navy after 28 years of distinguished service during the Viet Nam era. He is survived by his wife, Reba, two sons, two step children, 12 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

## Now This Is No.....!

*In the last Newsletter we invited members to offer comments, essays or letters on their experiences in the various squadrons. The following e-mail addressed an article in the last Newsletter:*

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

## Now This Is No...

*Continued From Page One*

“ I just wanted to quibble with whoever wrote the article about hurricane penetrations in a recent Newsletter. I was a CICO in VW-4 for 4 years, 1960-1965 and made many hurricane penetrations. The statement that the radar would black out and not see the entire eye structure of the storm is flat wrong. Ten mm radar cannot be blinded by water droplets. There isn't enough diffractive backscatter due to the dipole moment of the hydro-meteor. I put a small stepper relay on the radar in one plane and measured rainfall rate in the Gulf of Panama and my measurements were consistent with NOL Corona's system of counting the drops of rain impinging on a drum head installed on the nose of the aircraft. When the data were reduced, the two systems (mine and NOL's) agreed within a small differential, including the size of the rain drops. I used radar measurement calculations by Dr. Louis Batten at the University of Arizona.

I also disagree with the notion of putting the wind on the port wing during penetration. I witnessed on where this was followed and it resulted in the loss of both wing tips and seven feet of one wing of the aircraft. I reduced the radar data from a Hurricane Research project DC-6 and determined that the plane got sucked into the right front quadrant where it encountered five waterspouts. Walt Reese will remember this one! As a CICO I vectored the pilot so that we crabbed into the eye on a track that would present the least problem. Also by keeping the wind ahead of the wing we entered the eye facing into the counter clockwise rotation of the wind near the calm eye. During a penetration of hurricane Flora in 1963 or 1964 we had to maintain a rather steep angle of bank in order to stay in the very small eye. I did have a copy of the radar photography but during one of my moves it got lost.

*One of our non-flying members offered this personal article from the "Flying Midshipman's Log." of a few years ago:*

“...After returning to the states, I was ordered to the Fleet Weather Facility (FWF) Miami. One of my duties was coordinating forecasts in the

Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean with the National Hurricane Forecasting Center (NHFC) and getting information on them from the famous Navy Hurricane Hunters. The NHFC & FWF Miami were both in the same high rise 1920's type stucco building. One night while on duty a category three hurricane made landfall at Miami with the eye crossing town and our old building. The high wind blew out the windows on the northeast side and flooded our transmitter room disabling the transmitter we used for communication with the Hurricane Hunter aircraft. We took all the mattresses from the bunk room and shored up the windows.

As the eye was over us (20 mile diameter) I couldn't resist going to the top of the 10 story building and observing. The first thing that amazed me was the plaintive wails and cries from all the birds that were trapped inside the eye. There wasn't much noise except for the cries. I could hear the high winds in the eye walls which were several miles away and see continuous lightning in the eyewalls. Also with the descending air in the eye there was much more heat. As the distant wind noise got closer I decided it was time to go below! It slowly passed us that night with no more damage to the facility.

### HURRICANE HUNTERS, INC.

A non-profit Florida corporation 501.c.19

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## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK***

This is our first formal communication since the very successful reunion in Daytona Beach, Florida last October. The holidays are now behind us and we begin 2007 in earnest. Steve Coady has already begun the arduous task of putting together the reunion in Charleston, South Carolina. It would appear that the available dates in Charleston will be the 27<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2007. Charleston is a popular spot for reunions in October and selections and prices in October were prohibitive. More will follow both in "Newletters" and online at the website [www.navyhurricanehunters.com](http://www.navyhurricanehunters.com)

Don Cone has advised that he learned of the passing of Ed Bergeron recently. No other details were available at this writing.

We have received our sales tax exemption for the state of Florida and the LaPlaya Hotel has returned the taxes we paid for the convention last October. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you'll find two articles from shipmates that we hope will be a regular feature in future editions but that depends on your submissions. Again, they don't have to be professionally written, just musings of the past for all to enjoy. It is a new year and dues for 2007 are due for most of us. Your check for \$15 keeps you current. Keep in mind the slate of candidates for Office to be elected at the reunion in September. Keep well, do well and we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Warmly,  
*Ray Boylan*

## **Hurricane Hunter Movie DVDs Are Available At A Bargain Price**

Over the years there were three motion picture films produced by the Navy that highlighted the "Navy Hurricane Hunters." The first was produced during the late 1950's and presented the P2V Neptune and squadron personnel. The second was produced in the early to mid 1960's and starred the WC-121-N, Super Constellation and crew members of that era. The first two were in black and white. The final motion picture was produced in 1968 in

color and again starred the "Connie." It was produced by Bray Studios in New York and was provided to us in its original 16mm film format by former Skipper, Howie Summers. We have had them all converted to DVD format and on one single disc.

We have arranged for mass production of the disc's and make them available to members of the Hurricane Hunters. We are not looking to make this a money-making project but to provide them to you at cost plus handling and postage. Just send your check for \$8.00 for each disc ordered to Treasurer John Dillingham 482 West River Road, Palatka, Fl., 32177-8009.

## **Charitable Giving Decided At "All Hands" Muster**

At the "All Hands" muster and membership meeting of the 2006 reunion, question of charitable giving by Hurricane Hunters, Inc. was once again brought up. Much of the discussion revolved around the appropriateness of charitable giving in general and whether it might get out of hand with each member demanding donations to his pet charity. It was finally decided that military service-related donations would be proper, if kept under control, and that it would probably be viewed favorably for maintaining our non-profit status

By vote of the membership, it was decided that the Hopehaven Home, Biloxi, MS; the Armed Forces Retirement Center; and the Museum of Naval Aviation Foundation would each receive one-time gifts of \$1,000.

## **Sales Tax Exemption Granted By The State of Florida**

Forever seeking ways to save money for the membership, the officers of Hurricane Hunters, Inc. have diligently pressed the State of Florida to grant us an exemption from the state sales tax. They have been successful, which translates into savings on our purchases and services. They have also obtained a determination that dues payments can be deducted from our Federal income tax.

## Candid Shots From The 2006 Reunion

